



Board of Commissioners

PRESS RELEASE

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John Plecnik Takes Office for Second Term as Lake County Commissioner

PAINESVILLE, Ohio—On January 6, 2023 – Commissioner John Plecnik rejoined the Lake County Board of Commissioners after a month-long hiatus in between two nonconsecutive terms for the annual organizational meeting and first regular meeting of the year. Plecnik joins Commissioners Clarence A. Hine (1915 – 1917 and 1919-1922) and Roger E. Smart (1957-1964 and 1969-1972) as the third Commissioner since Lake County was founded in 1840 to serve multiple nonconsecutive terms. Plecnik was sworn in for his first term by Justice Pat DeWine of the Ohio Supreme Court on February 11, 2021, after his appointment by the Lake County Republican Party Central Committee to fill a vacancy. Plecnik received 79 votes from the Central Committee to become the 79th Commissioner in the history of Lake County. After his election by a 16.92% margin on November 8, 2022, Plecnik was sworn in for his second term as Lake County Commissioner by Judge John Eklund of the Ohio 11th District Court of Appeals on December 29, 2022 to also become the 82nd Commissioner of Lake County.

“I am humbled to have earned the trust and confidence of my neighbors to continue as their Lake County Commissioner for four more years. It is a blessing to return to the Board of Commissioners, and I am excited for the good works we will achieve together,” said Commissioner Plecnik.

Commissioner John Plecnik is very active with local nonprofits. He volunteers as a Board Member of the Slovenian American Cultural Association, which publishes the Slovenian American Times newspaper. John Plecnik is also a member of St. Vitus Church, SNPJ (Slovenian National Benefit Society), KSKJ (American Slovenian Catholic Union), Fairport Harbor Slovenian Club, North Coast Lions, the Lake County Retired Teachers Association, Willoughby Hills Historical Society and the High Note Society of the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame.



“We are grateful to welcome Commissioner Plecnik and his experience and community involvement to the Commissioner’s Office. He cares deeply about our local community,” said Commissioner Richard J. Regovich.

Commissioner Plecnik holds degrees in accounting, law and tax. He earned his Bachelor of Arts, *summa cum laude*, in Accounting from Belmont Abbey College, where he graduated co-valedictorian. He earned his Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, from Duke University School of Law, where he co-founded the Duke Journal of Constitutional Law & Public Policy. He earned his Master of Laws in Taxation from New York University School of Law. Plecnik was also awarded the Certificate in Business Excellence by the Graduate School of Business at Columbia University and is a graduate of the Ohio State University Public Leadership Academy.

“Commissioner Plecnik gives voice to his constituents’ perspectives and opinions with fervency and zeal. I look forward to working with Commissioners John Plecnik and Richard Regovich in the new year,” said Commissioner John Hamercheck.

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