



# Board of Commissioners

## *PRESS RELEASE*

---

[lakecountyohio.gov](http://lakecountyohio.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 3, 2023  
**County Contact:** Jason W. Boyd  
440.350.2745  
[jason.boyd@lakecountyohio.gov](mailto:jason.boyd@lakecountyohio.gov)

### **Lake County Treasurer's Office Reports Record First-Half Property Tax Collection**

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, March 3, 2023– The Lake County Treasurer's office first-half property tax collection exceeded approximately \$256 million dollars. The collection surpassed last year's first-half collection by over \$7 million. Considering the County has not changed property valuations since the last collection period and there were few new levies passed since 2022, the increase in the collection is attributed to many internal factors.

The Treasurer's office implemented new procedures in 2022 such as upgrading online payment options including the use of QR Codes. (A user-friendly online payment platform is in the works). Treasurer Michael Zuren and Auditor Christopher Galloway offered free presentations at senior centers and libraries discussing tax reduction programs, grant programs and escrow payment options.

"Treasurer Zuren and his staff do an incredible job to ensure residents of Lake County are getting the greatest service possible. Thank you for all the work you've done and continue to do," said Commission President John R. Hamercheck.

These efforts resulted in a huge increase of homeowners signing up for the property tax escrow payment option, which saw a 20% increase in 2022. The Treasurer's office researched the long-term issues with returned and undeliverable mail by meeting with the Postmaster, collecting phone and email contact information and comparing mailing addresses to other documents with mailing addresses for homeowners. These efforts greatly reduced and cleaned up the undeliverable mail issues. Homeowners will soon be able to opt into a new feature coming to the Treasurer's office where their property tax bill can be received via email or text. This option will not only create better communication but also reduce cost.

"We offer our highest thanks to Treasurer Zuren and his staff for improving collections in Lake County and making them more convenient for taxpayers. In particular, when you see a year-on-the-year \$1.5 million reduction in delinquencies, we see the net result of your hard work and effort in promoting the Save the Dream program to help people save their homes. We see the powerful impact of directing taxpayers to state resources and payment plans so that they're able to afford to stay in their own homes. The Treasurer's office is to be commended for putting Lake County residents first. For all this, we say thank you," said Commissioner John Plecnik.

In 2022, the Treasurer's Office saw a decrease in property tax delinquencies, which decreased by nearly \$1.5 million compared to 2022. There are many factors that have contributed to the lower delinquency ratios. Treasurer Zuren believes the numbers have been influenced by the Treasurer's office concerted

efforts to reach homeowners who are delinquent on their property taxes through mailings, social media, and presentations throughout the County detailing grant programs and repayment options.

“We commend and applaud the entire Treasurer’s office as it took outstanding efforts to make such great improvements since last year’s first-half collection,” said Commissioner Richard J. Regovich.

The Lake County Treasurer’s office is dedicated to greater communication with taxpayers with more options to receive tax bills and programs beneficial to residents. The office is constantly researching, developing and implementing easier and more cost-effective options for tax payments. For questions about property taxes, property tax reduction programs or grants for delinquent property taxes, please call the Treasurer’s office at 440-350-2516.

###