



# Board of Commissioners

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** November 16, 2023

**County Contact:** Jason W. Boyd  
440.350.2745  
[jason.boyd@lakecountyohio.gov](mailto:jason.boyd@lakecountyohio.gov)

### Commissioners Proclaim Geographical Information Systems Day in Lake County

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, November 16, 2023—At the Commissioner’s Meeting on Thursday, November 16, 2023, the Board of Commissioners, in and for Lake County, Ohio, proclaimed November 15, 2023, as Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Day.

The board recognizes that an understanding, use and application of geospatial technology is crucial to operating infrastructure, sustaining natural resources, and stimulating economic growth, thus benefitting the welfare of the general public throughout.

“I would to thank the Lake County Commissioners for commemorating this day in Lake County as well as the GIS Board, Dave Phares and Ryan Barshick for their unwavering support since I arrived. This Department would not be where it is today without their knowledge, experience, and advocacy throughout the years. Lastly, I would like to thank the Lakeland Community College Geospatial Department for their invaluable partnership. GIS is a field in constant motion, and our collaboration with the College has helped us keep up as new technology develops. It is truly an honor to receive this recognition, and we are proud to be a part of Team Lake County,” said GIS Director Caroline Petersen.



*From the left: Commissioner John Plecnik, GIS Technician Ryan Barshick, GIS Director Caroline Petersen, GIS - Senior GIS Application Specialist David Phares, Commissioner Richard J. Regovich, Commission President John R. Hamercheck.*

A Geographic Information System is a computer system for the input, editing, storage, maintenance, management, retrieval, analysis, and output of geographically referenced information. GIS supports applications such as emergency dispatch, land planning, emergency management and Homeland Security, property appraisal, civil engineering, natural resource monitoring, transportation planning, monitoring crime and accidents, public health and environmental analysis, economic development, census analysis, and much more. GIS technology allows us to see and model complex relationships and patterns to more intelligently respond.

“We acknowledge those that have chosen GIS as their profession or as part of their discipline to improve the lives of our citizens,” said Commission President John R. Hamercheck. “We also recognize and support the efforts of nonprofits who work on activities to improve conservation, human services, and various humanitarian efforts to better our community.”

“There is a vast need to promote Geographical Information Systems awareness, education and technical training in order to use this rapidly developing technology to its full potential,” said Commissioner John Plecnik. “One day of

recognition is never enough. If you have an interest in the GIS field, don't hesitate to reach out to Lakeland regarding educational opportunities."

"GIS technology is a crucial tool and should be more utilized by the general public. Having this day to bring awareness to it is a necessity," said Commissioner Richard J. Regovich.

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