



Board of Commissioners

PRESS RELEASE

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John T. Plecnik Elected President of the Lake County Board of Commissioners

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, January 4, 2024– Commissioner John T. Plecnik was elected President of the Lake County Board of Commissioners at the Organizational Meeting on January 4, 2024. Commissioner John T. Plecnik has served as both the 79th and 82nd Commissioner of Lake County after his appointment to Commissioner in 2021 by the Lake County Republican Party Central Committee and election to a second term in 2022.

“I would like to thank Commissioner Hamercheck for his leadership of this Board for so many years as President. I am confident Commissioner Plecnik will keep Lake County the best place to live, work, retire and raise a family,” said Commissioner Richard J. Regovich.

In the past, Commissioner Plecnik served as Vice President of Council, Chair of Finance and Councilman-at-Large for the City of Willoughby Hills, where he personally negotiated and drafted the tax abatement that brought over 300 good-paying jobs and the single biggest employer in the last decade to Lake County. He also served as Vice President of the Board of Trustees for Willoughby-Eastlake Public Libraries and Chairman of the Willoughby Hills Recreation Commission.

“I am humbled to lead the Lake County Board of Commissioners as President for 2024, and deeply honored by my colleagues trust in me. This is an exciting time for Lake County. Although the wider world is beset with unprecedented challenges, your local leaders have cooperated to grow our local economy and community together. We are taking concrete steps to increase access to and responsibly develop our lakefront. We are giving real support to our law enforcement through the COPS Grant, Lexipol’s training platform, the Sheriff’s new training facility in Painesville Township, and our continued work on the new Public Safety Center in Painesville. Most importantly, we recognize the increased pressures of inflation on our seniors. That is why we implemented the 25% discount on Lake County water and sewer fees for low-income seniors. The government must stop taxing seniors on fixed incomes out of their homes. That is also why we are 100% committed to balance our budget without raising taxes each and every year,” said newly elected Commission President John T. Plecnik.

“It has been a great honor to serve this board as President the last 5 years and I know Commissioner Plecnik will excel in this role,” said Commissioner John R. Hamercheck.

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

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. Commissioner 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.

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