

CONTACT:
Robin Yocum
614.378.3286

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rankey Lauds Commissioners for Tax Cuts; Says Employees Still Need Hardship Bonus

DELAWARE, Ohio (July 28, 2022) – Delaware County Treasurer Donald E. Rankey Jr. applauded today’s move by the Commissioners to cut both sales and property taxes in the county, but says their work isn’t done.

The Commissioners voted to reduce Delaware County sales tax by a half of a percent and cut real property taxes by 10 percent.

“This was a move that I have been advocating for,” Rankey said. “I’m glad to see the Commissioners move on this. The country is in a recession and we need to look for ways to ease the financial burden on our citizens. With that said, their work isn’t done. I strongly believe we need to provide a one-time hardship bonus to our county employees.”

Rankey sent a letter to Commission President Barbara Lewis on June 22, in which he requested that all non-union, full-time employees and all full-time, part-time employees would be eligible for a one-time, \$1,500 hardship bonus.

Rankey said the request is needed to help county employees offset the U.S. inflation rate of 8.6 percent.

“Our employees only received a 4-percent raise in our current budget cycle, and at the same time their healthcare insurance premium increased by 14 percent,” Rankey said. “Our dedicated county employees lost money simply by remaining in their jobs, and now they’re struggling to purchase food, gas and other necessities. How is that fair?”

Rankey pointed out that the U.S. inflation rate for the 12 months ending in May was 8.6 percent, the largest increase in more than 40 years, according to the U.S. Labor Department.

The Treasurer’s Office oversees all the interim funds held by the county, which average about \$315 million. Chief Investment Officer Rick Karr is projecting \$3.6

million in interest earning in 2022, an increase of \$1.3 million over the original budget forecast of \$2.3 million, and a 195-percent increase over 2021.

That increase would virtually cover nearly all of the hardship bonuses. Rankey said 756 county employees would receive the bonus at a total cost of just over \$1.36 million.

“In my estimation, Delaware County has some of the finest public servants in the state of Ohio,” Rankey said. “We ask 100 percent of them every day, so we need to stand up and do what is right on their behalf.”

Donald E. Rankey was elected Delaware County Treasurer in 2020. He is the county’s chief investment officer and responsible for collecting more than \$660 million in annual property taxes from more than 90,000 parcels. His office also oversees an investment portfolio in excess of \$325 million.

###