

# RESIDENTS' GUIDE 2025



Franklin County  
**BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS**

Service. Progress. Excellence.



# Board of Commissioners



**JOHN O'GRADY**



**KEVIN L. BOYCE**



**ERICA C. CRAWLEY**

## Welcome Message

I am pleased to present to the residents of Franklin County the 2025 Residents' Guide to the Approved Budget. While fiscal challenges appear on the horizon, the 2025 Approved Budget, along with the dedication of our employees, will be able to meet these challenges by following the vision and actions of the Board of Commissioners as outlined by our Core Principles. This will allow us to maintain the County's strong financial position at the same time we provide innovative programming to enable every resident, every day to share in the progress and growth of our community.



**KENNETH WILSON**  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

# About Franklin County

Franklin County is one of the region's most diverse in socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity, and educational attainment. Home to the City of Columbus, which serves as the County seat, Franklin County benefits from a broad base of industries, including trade & logistics, finance, education, healthcare, and government. The Franklin County Board of Commissioners governs in an environment of continual growth and must consider this impact while developing the annual budget.

As Ohio's most populous County, one of every nine residents in the State of Ohio call Franklin County home. The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission estimates that the 15-County Central Ohio region will see growth of 726,000 people by 2050, which equates to 272,000 additional households and 357,000 additional workers. Almost half of that growth expected to be absorbed by Franklin County, resulting in a 26% increase over the current population

While Franklin County has seen population growth and increasing opportunities, not everyone in the community has benefited. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the poverty rate for all people in Franklin County was 15.0% last year, slightly higher than the 13.5% before the pandemic. Even more distressing are the racial and other disparities—almost one in four African Americans and one in five children in Franklin County are living in poverty.

## Franklin County

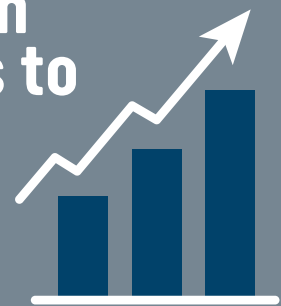
Centrally located

Home to the City of Columbus

Franklin County residents have diverse backgrounds

## Population Continues to Grow

Central Ohio will grow by an estimated 726,000 people by 2050.



## Nearly

# 50%

Of this growth will be in Franklin County



# Franklin County Governance

The Board of Commissioners is Franklin County's taxing, budgeting, and purchasing authority. While the Commissioners establish the County budget, the independent agencies largely determine how they will spend it. The Commissioners have oversight of departments that provide building and zoning, human services, employment services, economic development and planning, water and sewer services, and environmental services.

Franklin County is governed by a complex organization of elected officials. Executive and fiduciary powers rest with a three-member Board of Commissioners. Eight other elected officials perform Ohio Revised Code mandated administrative functions as leaders of their respective offices. Other elected officials serve on the judiciary and independently appointed boards. An appointed County Administrator runs the County's daily operations, administers board directives, and prepares the County's operating and capital budgets with the support of the Office of Management & Budget. In addition, Administration is responsible for leading agency directors, coordinating county entities, and ensuring the Board's contractual obligations are properly performed.

[County Agencies Org Chart](#) 

# People of Franklin County



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Animal Care & Control  
Child Support Enforcement  
Community Partnerships  
Economic Development & Planning  
General Services\*  
Human Resources  
Job & Family Services  
Office of Justice Policy & Programs  
Office on Aging  
Public Facilities Management  
Sanitary Engineer



## ELECTED OFFICIALS

Auditor  
Coroner  
Engineer  
Prosecuting Attorney  
Recorder  
Sheriff  
Treasurer



## COURTS & CLERK OF COURTS

Appeals Court  
Clerk of Courts  
Court of Common Pleas  
Domestic & Juvenile Court  
Municipal Court  
Municipal Court Clerk  
Probate Court



## BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Alcohol, Drug, & Mental Health Board  
Board of Developmental Disabilities  
Board of Elections  
Children Services Board  
Data Center  
Emergency Management & Homeland Security  
Law Library  
Public Defender Commission  
Veterans Service Commission

\*General Services includes the Purchasing Department, Fleet Management, and the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Every resident, every day.

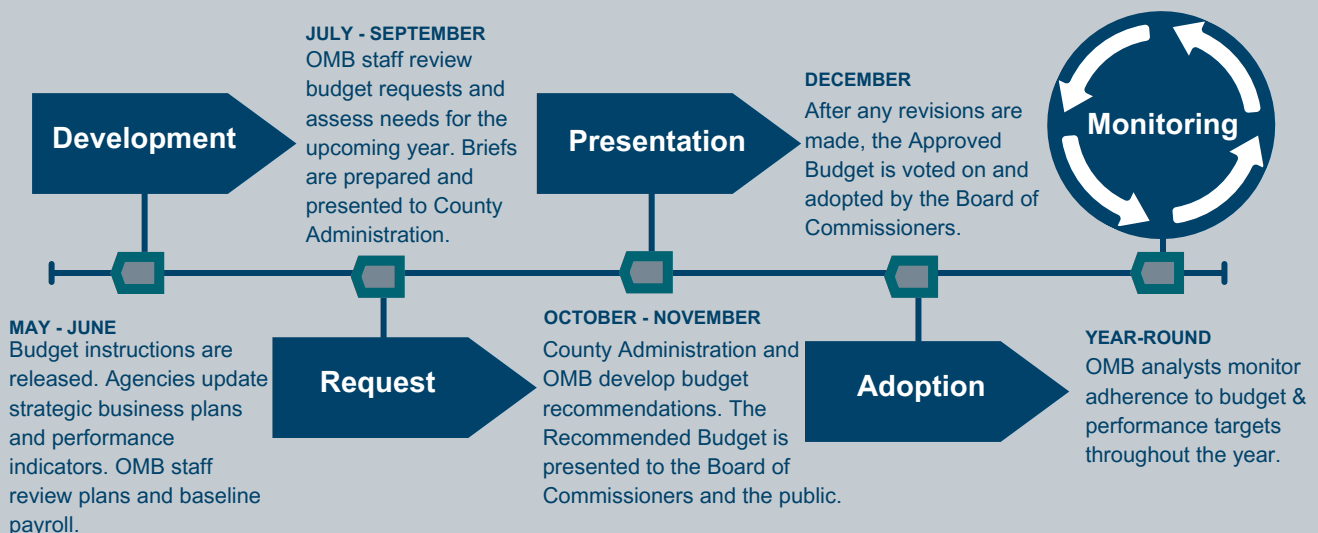
# Franklin County Budgeting

## Structure

Budgets are organized by funds. Funds can incorporate one or many programs across one or more agencies. There are 98 funds with appropriations in the 2025 Approved Budget. The General Fund is the chief operating fund for the County and includes all revenues unless they are required to be accounted for in another fund. Special Revenue Funds receive revenues from tax levies, grants, and federal and state social service programs – the largest of which are the Board of Developmental Disabilities Fund, the Children Services Levy Fund, the Public Assistance Fund (Job and Family Services), and the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Levy Fund. Other Funds include Capital Project Funds (which pay for the acquisition or construction of major capital items), Debt Service Funds (which pay the principal and interest on County-issued bonds), and Internal Service & Enterprise Funds (which support business-like activities for internal and external customers).

Budgets are further separated by 35 agencies and divided into programs, which group together the revenues and expenses to provide a particular service or type of service. Line items (object codes) are grouped into roll-up categories with other similar expenses, such as Personal Services, Fringe Benefits, and Materials & Services. Appropriations, or the authority to make expenditures for specified purposes, are made at the fund/agency/roll-up level, which means that an agency has some flexibility in spending across programs to meet changing needs during the year, as well as between the line items within the category. Additions to or transfers between the categories require the approval of the Board of Commissioners.

## Process

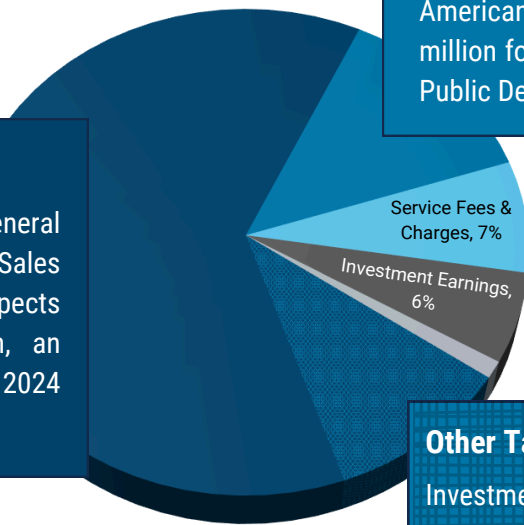


# General Fund Revenue

2025 General Fund Budget  
\$665 million

## Sales Tax | 62%

The largest portion of General Fund revenue remains the Sales Tax. The 2025 Budget expects collections of \$414 million, an increase of 3.2% from the 2024 projection.



## Intergovernmental Revenue | 13%

Includes \$26 million in reimbursements from the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act and \$24 million for reimbursement from the State Public Defender's Office.

## Other Taxes | 10%

Investment Earnings are expected to remain strong at nearly \$40 million; however, this is \$10 million less than the 2024 projection.

Federal COVID reimbursements support initiatives such as:



Healthy Homes Program at  
Nationwide Children's Hospital



Franklin County Digital  
Equity Coalition

# General Fund Appropriations

General Fund Expenditures  
\$677 million



## How is My Dollar Used?

Justice & Public Safety, 59%

Reserves & Debt, 12%



Facility & Capital  
Projects, 1%

General Government &  
Economic Development, 21%

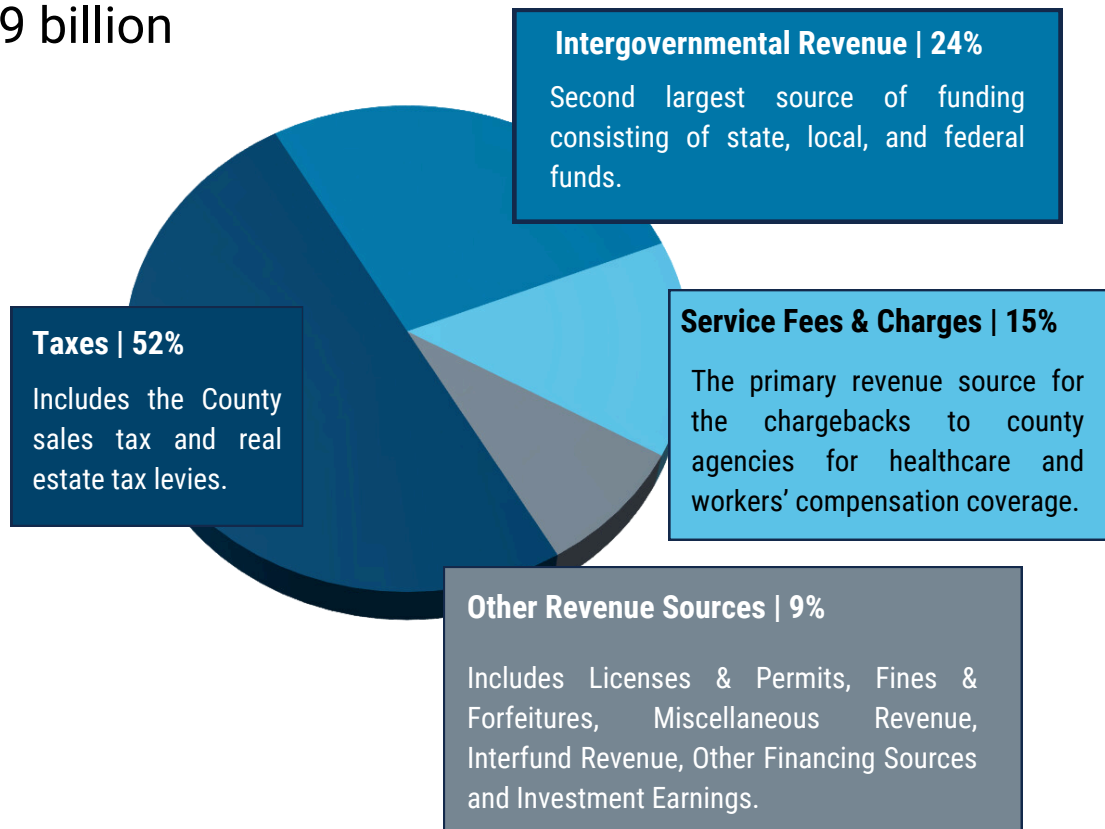
Social & Human  
Services, 7%

Every resident, every day.



# All Funds Revenue

2025 All Funds Budget  
\$1.9 billion



## About Tax Revenue

Taxes include the County sales tax and real estate tax levies. All levies in Franklin County are assessed on residential, agricultural, commercial, and industrial properties. Current Franklin County property tax levies provide services related to mental health and substance use disorder, senior care, child welfare, and people with developmental disabilities.

Every resident, every day.

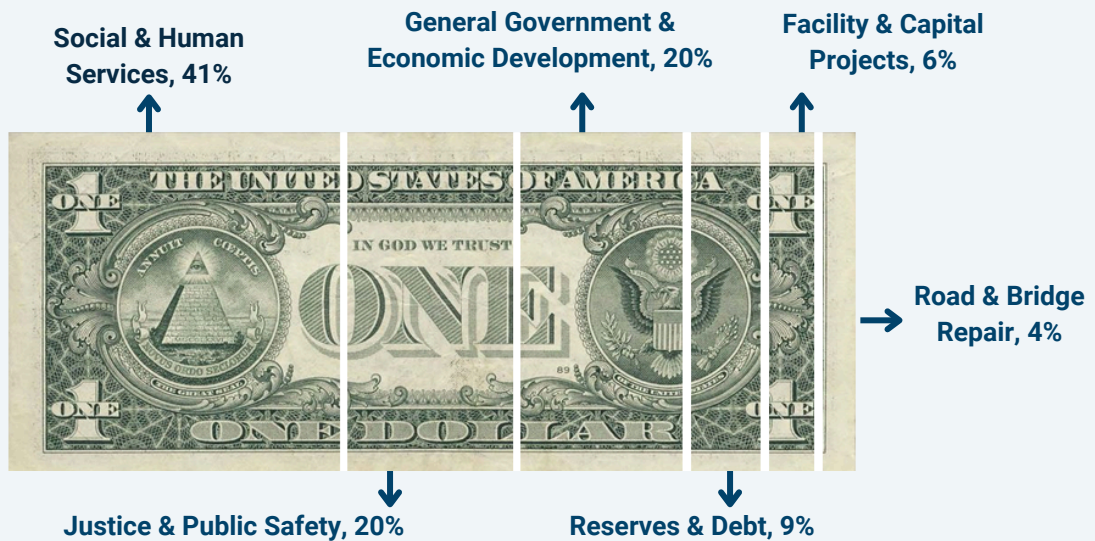
# All Funds Appropriations

All Funds Expenditures  
\$2.2 Billion

The largest portion of the all funds budget is dedicated to Social & Human Services.



## How is My Dollar Used?



Every resident, every day.



# Franklin County's Core Principles



**Community Safety & Security**

**Racial Equity**



**Health & Human Services**

**Environmental Sustainability**



**Fiscally Responsible Government Operations**

**Job Creation & Economic Development**



# Community Safety & Security

The 2025 Budget for Community Safety, Security, and Effective Justice is \$459 million or 20% of the all-funds budget. The Sheriff's Office budget is the largest portion at \$243 million, followed by court operations at \$140 million and non-court agencies (such as the Coroner and Animal Control) at \$76 million.

## Investments in Smart Justice

### TAP IN CENTER

The Tap in Center provides an alternative solution for individuals facing non-violent misdemeanor warrants and legal issues. The program leverages community-based solutions to reduce the impact of minor legal infractions.

### Batterer's Intervention Program (BIP)

The budget includes nearly \$500,000 to support the BIP. This program addresses the underlying causes of intimate partner domestic violence and promote long-term behavioral change.



## Updating Emergency Infrastructure

Several important emergency management investments are slated to begin in 2025:

- Warning siren replacements
- Contract renewal supporting ALERT Franklin County mass notification system
- Prepare for Next Generation 911 implementation



Every resident, every day.

# Racial Equity

Franklin County's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ODEI) has been a key driver in advancing racial equity within the County. ODEI's activities continue to embed equity principles within the organizational DNA of all BOC agencies.

## Recruitment

The County endeavors to reflect the community we serve. Hires in 2024 represented all zip codes within the County. Human Resources continues to diversify recruitment strategies to reduce barriers and broaden applicant pools.

## Training & Development

In 2024, ODEI assigned required trainings that include Implicit Bias, Cultural Fluency, and Pronouns and Inclusive Language. ODEI continues to offer Lunch & Learn sessions for ongoing education and awareness.



## Equity Plans

In 2024, all BOC agencies completed equity plans. Progress monitoring will commence in 2025.

## Community Engagement

The 2025 Budget includes \$2 million to establish the Every Resident, Every Day program which will provide grants to amplify diverse communities, bring awareness through community engagement, celebrate differences, and address inequities.



Franklin County  
Board of Commissioners  
**OFFICE OF DIVERSITY  
EQUITY & INCLUSION**

# Health & Human Services

The 2025 budget continues to invest in supportive Health & Human Services that are designed to reduce barriers and streamline access.



## ONE DOOR INITIATIVE

One Door unites the County's Health and Human Services (HHS) agencies to provide residents with access to multiple services in one location. Progress continued in 2024 with the renovation of space in the County's downtown complex to serve as a new One Door location. In 2025, HHS agencies will leverage data to identify community-specific needs and provide tailored case management services.

## MOBILE UNITS

One Door case management services are enhanced through the use of the County's mobile offices. HHS agencies have access to two RVs and one sprinter van which are used to bring benefits and services to the communities that need them.



## EARLY LEARNING

Franklin County RISE continues to serve as a cornerstone of our early learning strategy, offering grants and incentives that increase childcare affordability and improve quality. Approximately \$18 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds remain earmarked for RISE through 2026. In addition, the County is in the beginning stages of planning for the Early Learning Center which will be built on the site of the decommissioned downtown jail.

Every resident, every day.

# Environmental Sustainability & Civic Engagement



## Early Voting Center Expansion

In 2024, Franklin County Public Facilities Management completed an expansion of the early voting center on Morse Road in advance of the election. Facility improvements will continue in 2025 with the addition of nearly 90,000 square feet of space from adjacent buildings. Renovations will provide training classrooms, storage rooms, break rooms, a multi-purpose space, and a board room.

## Print Shop Operations & Expansion

Starting in 2025, the Print Shop, managed by the Franklin County Purchasing Department, will be expanded by 9,000 square feet to accommodate staff growth and larger equipment. The new space will allow for enhanced printing support for the Board of Elections and increased services to various County agencies.



## Eliminating Pockets of Pollution

In 2024, the Sanitary Engineering Department completed the Kanawha Rosslyn Sanitary Sewer Collection System project providing 120 homes with access to centralized sanitary sewers. This project remediated the last pocket of pollution identified by the Water Quality Partnership. Capital improvement projects continue in 2025 with N. Hague Avenue sanitary sewer improvement project and S. Greener Avenue sanitary sewer main replacement project.

# Sustainable Government Operations

## Fiscal Sustainability

Due to stagnating revenue and increasing costs, the 2025 Budget includes a \$12 million draw from unrestricted cash reserves. Despite the use of these reserves, the 2025 Budget keeps the cash balance above the median levels of other counties rated triple-A by Moody's and Standard & Poor's. When including the County's Economic Stabilization Reserve or Rainy Day Fund, which remains untouched at \$92 million, along with certain reserve and pledge funds, the projected General Fund ending cash balance would be at 38.6% of expenditures.

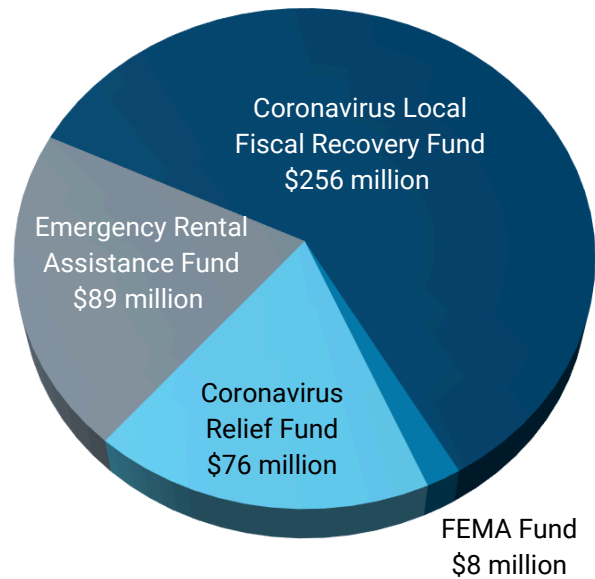
## Federal COVID Support

The County has maintained its General Fund cash balance with the help of federal support. Beginning with the CARES Act in 2020 and the subsequent support from the American Rescue Plan, the County has received nearly \$430 million in direct federal support.

Through the end of 2024, the County will have utilized approximately 85% of this funding, providing rental, food, employment, and other assistance throughout the community, while avoiding the need to utilize cash reserves.

The 2025 Budget includes the remaining \$56 million remaining from the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund to be expended before the end of 2026 and the final \$9 million from the Emergency Rental Assistance Program that must be expended by September 30, 2025.

## Federal Support by Source



Federal funding has been crucial to preserving and funding policy initiatives, however the County must prepare for the time when these funds will no longer be available. In 2024, Franklin County leadership refined the strategic goals associated with each of its core principles. By providing direction and intention to the County's day-to-day operations, this revised strategic direction ensures investments align with priorities.





# Collaborative Economic Development

## Affordable Housing Investment

Over \$22 Million  
Disbursed

Over the  
past 4  
years



**2,185**  
Affordable  
housing units  
constructed

The County continues to make investments in affordable housing to tackle the challenges of population growth.

In 2005, the Board approved Resolution No. 998-05 authorizing a transfer fee of \$1 per \$1,000 of the sale amount on each deed conveying real property or manufactured home in Franklin County. This fee is expected to generate \$7.7 million in 2025, with half of the amount going to the Community Shelter Board and other half to the Affordable Housing Trust for Columbus and Franklin County.

A thriving economy also requires investments in businesses and workers.

## Investing in Businesses

Franklin County is investing in minority-owned, small, and emerging businesses to support a thriving economy.

In 2025, the Purchasing Department and the Office of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion continue to diversify suppliers who provide the County with essential goods and services. In addition, this team will enhance support resources available to small and emerging businesses to promote their growth and development.

## Investing in Workforce

Franklin County invests in the the local workforce by supporting programs that assist residents in earning a livable wage. County agencies are engaging younger adults to invest in their futures with programs like Achieve More & Prosper and grant-supported efforts such Charting a Course for Economic Mobility & Responsible Parenting through the Child Support Enforcement Agency. In addition, County programming prepares residents for in-demand technology careers through programs such as:

**Broadband Futures** ● **Ready 2 Earn** ● **Tech Women of Color**

Every resident, every day.



“

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



**County Administrator**

Kenneth N. Wilson

**Deputy Administrators**

Kris Long

Joy Bivens

**Office of Management & Budget**

Zak Talarek, Director

LaGrieta Acheampong

Curtis Brown

Rachel Buske

Bob Byrne

Gary Collins

Madeline Gresham

Mary Jane Harper

Ashley Harris

Lorie Hedges

Derick Sorrell

Brittany Stricklen-Hillyard

Juan Torres