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Treasurer Donald E. Rankey Jr. Announces Bid for Re-election

DELAWARE, Ohio (Dec. 31, 2023) – Delaware County Treasurer Donald E. Rankey Jr. today announced his bid for re-election as the county's chief investment officer.

The first-term Republican office holder said he plans to continue looking out for the taxpayers of Delaware County.

"It's been an absolute privilege to serve Delaware County in my first term," Rankey said. "We've made an incredible amount of progress in transforming the treasurer's office from a staid county office to one that operates like an efficient business. I've worked hard to defend the rights and tax dollars of the citizens of Delaware County.

"My first term was all about the 'ups.' I was the upstart candidate. I took over an office that badly needed upgrades and updates. The upswing started the day I took office, and in the process, we created an upbeat operation that State of Ohio Treasurer Robert Sprague has called a model for every county treasurer in the state."

Rankey has been endorsed for re-election as Delaware County Treasurer by Lt. Gov. Jon Husted, Ohio State Treasurer Robert Sprague, State of Ohio Auditor Keith Faber, Ohio State Senator Andrew Brenner, Ohio State Representative Brian Lorenz, U.S. Senate Candidate Bernie Marino, and the screening committee for the Delaware County Republican Central Committee.

High on Rankey's list of achievements was the creation of an investment division and the hiring of Chief Investment Officer Rick Karr. Over the course of his first term in office, Rankey and Karr will have helped bring in at least \$26.3 million in investment income to Delaware County.

“The investment portfolio is already guaranteed to deliver \$7 million in interest income for 2024,” Rankey said. “Our additional investments and cash management throughout next year should equal the total of 2023, with no loss of investment principal. Under my predecessors, the average yearly investment income was between \$2 and \$4 million. Rick’s expertise is invaluable in helping me make investment decisions that benefit the citizens of Delaware County. Hiring Rick was a sound investment that has helped return huge dividends for the taxpayers.”

Another move that has returned dividends to the county was the creation of a Revenue Recovery Division to collect delinquent property taxes. When Rankey took office in 2021, there were more than 1,390 delinquent parcels in Delaware County that owed more than \$13 million. Some parcels had been delinquent since 2007.

“We had parcels that had been delinquent for 14 years, and nobody was going after that tax money,” Rankey said. “We hired Jeff Jordan to head that division and we quickly, but fairly, began collecting delinquent property taxes that our schools and fire departments rely on for operating funds. The delinquencies are now less than one percent, which is a historic low for Delaware County.”

Rankey’s other notable accomplishments included:

- Modernizing the security of the office;
- Transitioned bank services to JP Morgan Chase, the county’s largest employer.
- Creation of a safe process for transporting funds to the bank; and
- Completing a badly needed reorganization of staff and upgrade of salaries.

“Since 2000, Delaware County has been one of the fastest growing counties in the country,” Rankey said. “We estimate our county’s population to be 226,296. Between 2010 and 2023, the population increased by 30 percent. We have more than 94,000 parcels today, and that figure is projected to reach nearly 105,000 by 2028. I have installed the mechanisms to handle that increased workload without a significant increase in personnel.”

Rankey also made it easier for Delaware County property owners to pay taxes, establishing a variety of payment options and lowering payment fees.

Rankey noted that he has been a strong advocate for repealing, or at least delaying, the triannual property tax increase that is going to greatly impact Delaware County's senior citizens. He also has advocated for an increase in the Ohio Homestead Exemption to help ensure seniors can stay in their homes amid climbing tax rates.

"At a time when Delaware County is growing significantly, the treasurer must be a leader in the community," Rankey said. "I have not been the kind of treasurer who just sits in his office at the county building all day. I've actively met with developers and business leaders so that the treasurer becomes a valuable resource to the community."

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