

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Fairfield County Clerk of Courts

BRANDEN C. MEYER
CLERK OF COURTS



THE CLERK'S OFFICE

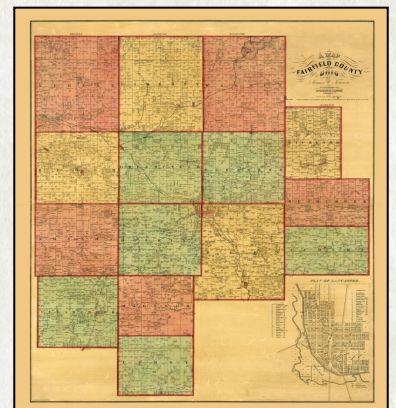
The function of the Clerk of the Common Pleas Court is to satisfy more than 1,000 state statutes and court rules. Among the responsibilities of the office are to: Provide public access to the records of the Common Pleas Court and the 5th District Court of Appeals; be the first stop in initiating any court action in civil, criminal or domestic relations court matters; collect and disburse court-ordered fees, fines, victim restitution in an expedient manner; receive, distribute and preserve official court documents; and be responsible for issuing and maintaining all motor vehicle and watercraft titles in Fairfield County. The Clerk of Courts office is made up of the following three departments: Administrative and Fiscal, Legal and Title.

MISSION

The Fairfield County Clerk of Courts Office is honored with the responsibility of serving the public by maintaining the records for the Common Pleas Court, the 5th District Court of Appeals and issuing/preserving all motor vehicle and watercraft titles in Fairfield County. Through our continuous quality improvement efforts, our team is dedicated to providing efficient, courteous and professional customer service.

VISION

The vision of the Clerk is to anticipate, meet and exceed the expectations of our customers. We vow to remain compliant with the law, promise to hold our fiduciary responsibility to the highest possible standard and pledge to honor the trust bestowed upon this office with the utmost integrity, pride and respect.



A HISTORICAL LOOK AT THE CLERK'S OFFICE

In Ohio, the Clerk of the Common Pleas Court, which was established by State Constitution in 1802, serves the citizens, the legal community, and the Common Pleas Court. The office was created by the state's founders to be responsive to the public, mindful of the taxpayers, and independent of the court itself.

In 1851, under the State Constitution, the position became an elected position for a three-year term and was extended to a four-year term in 1936. William Henry Harrison, ninth President of the United States was the Hamilton County Clerk of Courts when he was elected President in 1840. The first Fairfield County Clerk of Common Pleas Court was Hugh Boyle who was appointed in 1803. The Clerk serves as the official record keeper of the court and acts as a safeguard and processor of all monies collected.

THE PRESENT

Today, Clerk of Courts Branden Meyer and his staff serves one of the fastest growing counties in the state. The office is committed to quality customer service, technological improvements for more efficient service and being fiscally responsible. The office has four locations to serve the public throughout the county; the legal offices are located in the Hall of Justice, the Fairfield County Records Center both located in downtown Lancaster and two title offices, one in Lancaster and one in Pickerington.





Branden C. Meyer
FAIRFIELD COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS

Hall of Justice • 224 E. Main Street • Lancaster, Ohio 43130

Dear Fairfield County Citizens and The Public We Serve:

I am extremely proud to present you with the 2025 Annual Report of the Fairfield County Clerk of Courts Office.

In this report you will read about the various departments within the Fairfield County Clerk of Courts Office and the productive ways we are assisting the public we serve. Through the many statistical charts and analysis, you will notice examples of how we are increasing productivity, listening to our customers, advancing technological efforts and finding creative solutions for meeting the needs of the public. And finally, you will find strong examples of how our dedicated employees continuously strive to improve the quality of our services.

With all the achievements highlighted in this report, we constantly recognize that there is always work to be done to ensure that:

- All the records for the Common Pleas Court and the 5th District Court of Appeals are properly maintained and secured;
- All motor vehicle and watercraft titles in Fairfield County are issued in the most efficient, lawful manner and preserved according to current provisions of the Ohio Revised Code;
- All financial functions and statutory fiduciary duties of the office are performed in the most transparent, ethical, and respectable manner; and
- All legal matters, including but not limited to civil, criminal, and domestic relations issues, are discreetly processed in order to form a foundation of trust, security and alliance with the customers we serve.

Because many of the employees of the Fairfield County Clerk of Courts office live in the same community as the people they serve, you will find a sense of tremendous pride and enormous commitment in every aspect of their work.

I trust that, through this year's report, you will find that we take a serious approach to our commitment to transparency, fiscal responsibility, and vision for the future.

Sincerely,

Branden C. Meyer

Fairfield County Clerk of Courts

2025 STATISTICS

continued

Administrative & Fiscal Department

The Clerk of Courts' Administrative and Fiscal Department provides integral support to both the Legal and Title Departments by overseeing all budgetary matters and performing the statutory fiduciary duties of the office by allocating funds, disbursing payments, and issuing bond, restitution, garnishment and refund checks. The office performs all financial functions and administrative related duties, including the processing of bills and payroll.



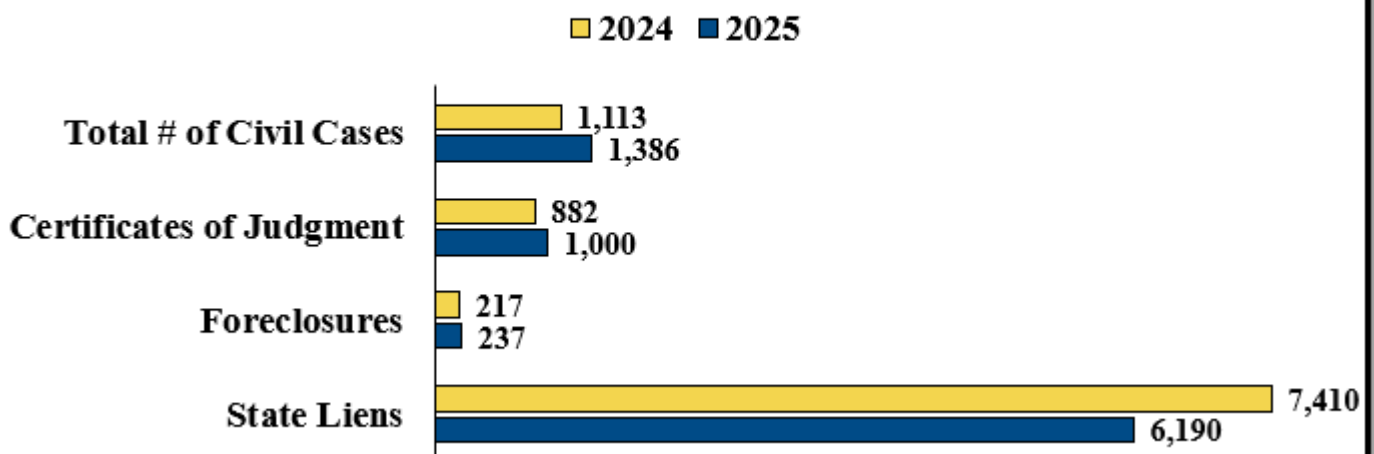
Legal Department

The Clerk of Courts' Legal Department handles documents or filings for five separate areas: the Civil Division, the Criminal Division, the Domestic Relations Division, the Court of Appeals Division and the Records Division. The Court of Common Pleas serves as a trial court for all civil, criminal, and domestic relations cases that occur within Fairfield County.

Civil Division

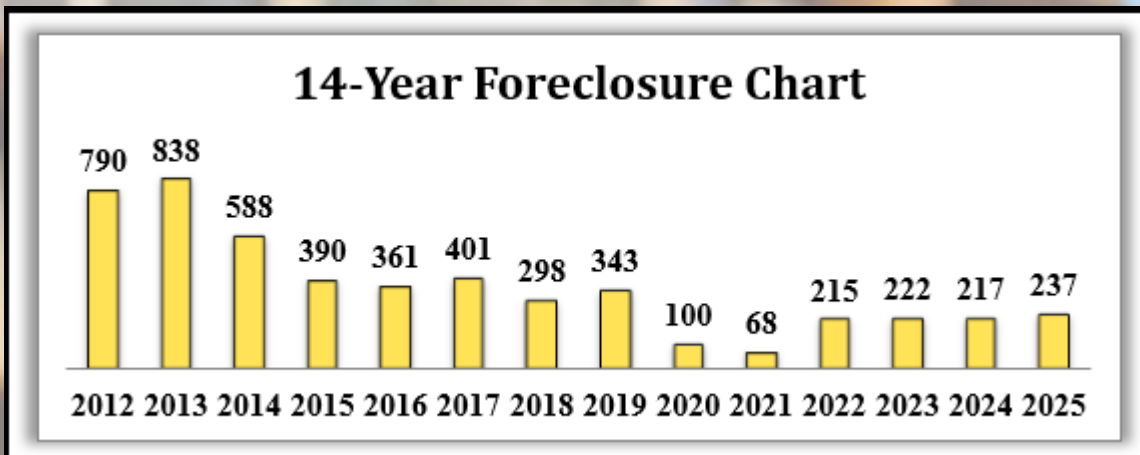
The Civil Division docket all pleadings in foreclosures, money judgments, garnishments, and other miscellaneous civil actions. The Civil Division also issues and files summonses, subpoenas, writs, Certificates of Judgment, and all other related service in civil cases.

Civil Division Statistics



2025 STATISTICS

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Criminal Division

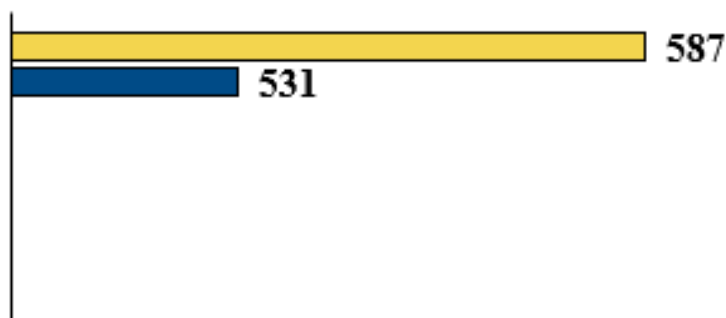
The Criminal Division files and docket all pleadings in felony criminal cases bound over to the grand jury and all grand jury indictments. The Criminal Division also issues summonses, subpoenas, warrants, capias and all other related service in criminal cases.



Criminal Division Statistics

■ 2024 ■ 2025

Total # of Criminal Cases



2025 STATISTICS

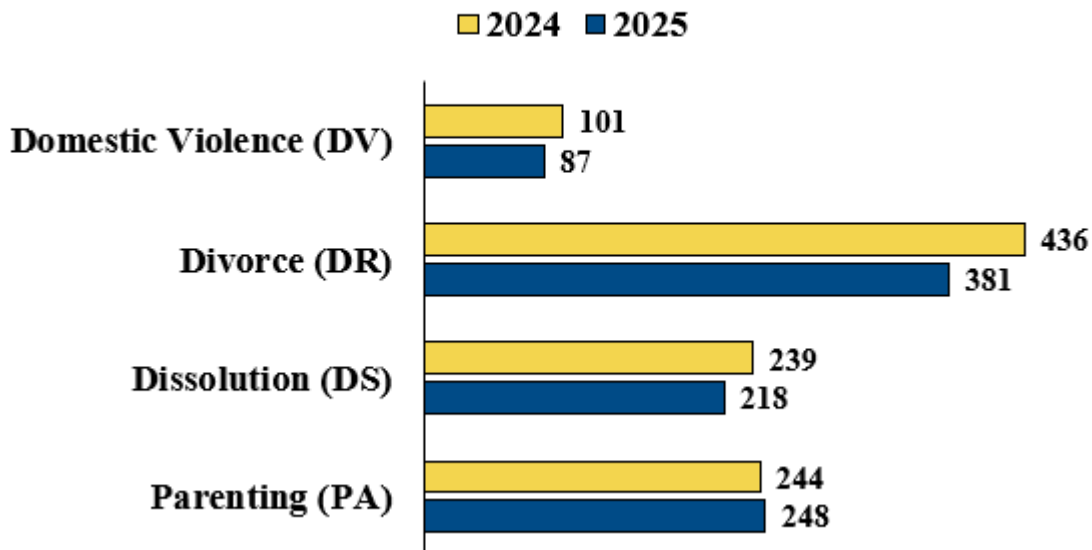
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Domestic Relations Division

The Domestic Relations Division files and docket all pleadings in divorce, dissolution, parenting, and other miscellaneous domestic actions. The Domestic Relations Division also issues and files summonses, subpoenas, capias, and all other related service in domestic cases.



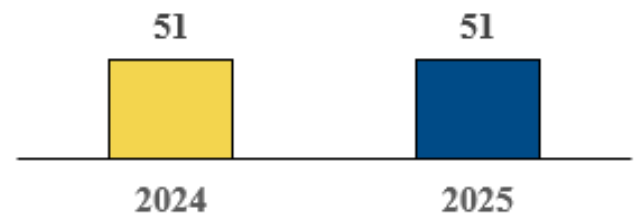
Domestic Relations Division Statistics



Court of Appeals Division

The Court of Appeals Division receives all filings and manages all paperwork relating to cases which have been appealed to the 5th District Court of Appeals. This includes any appeals from the Common Pleas Court, Juvenile/Probate Court, and the Municipal Court in Fairfield County. In 2025, the number of Court of Appeals cases filed remained the same, with 51 cases being filed in 2024 and also in 2025.

Court of Appeals Cases



2025 STATISTICS

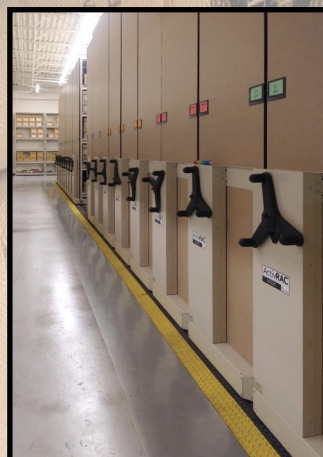
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Records Division

The Records Division of the Clerk's office is responsible for protecting, preserving, and disseminating official records in accordance with the records retention schedule according to state archival standards and state and federal law. The Records Division also provides public access to records for the Common Pleas Court manages public records requests and maintains over 22 million pages of documents for both the Legal and Title Departments. Records staff work in both the Hall of Justice and also at the Fairfield County Records Center.

Fairfield County Records Center

In 2019, the move of the Clerk of Courts records which consisted of 3,456 boxes and 3,736 journals to the new Records Center was completed. Clerk of Courts staff re-boxed all files and assisted the other county departments on their individual moves to the new facility that included 6,658 boxes and 8,710 journals. The 16,320 square foot facility houses the records for nearly all county departments. In addition to records storage, the building houses offices for county departments and a training room that is used for trainings and meetings.



2025 STATISTICS

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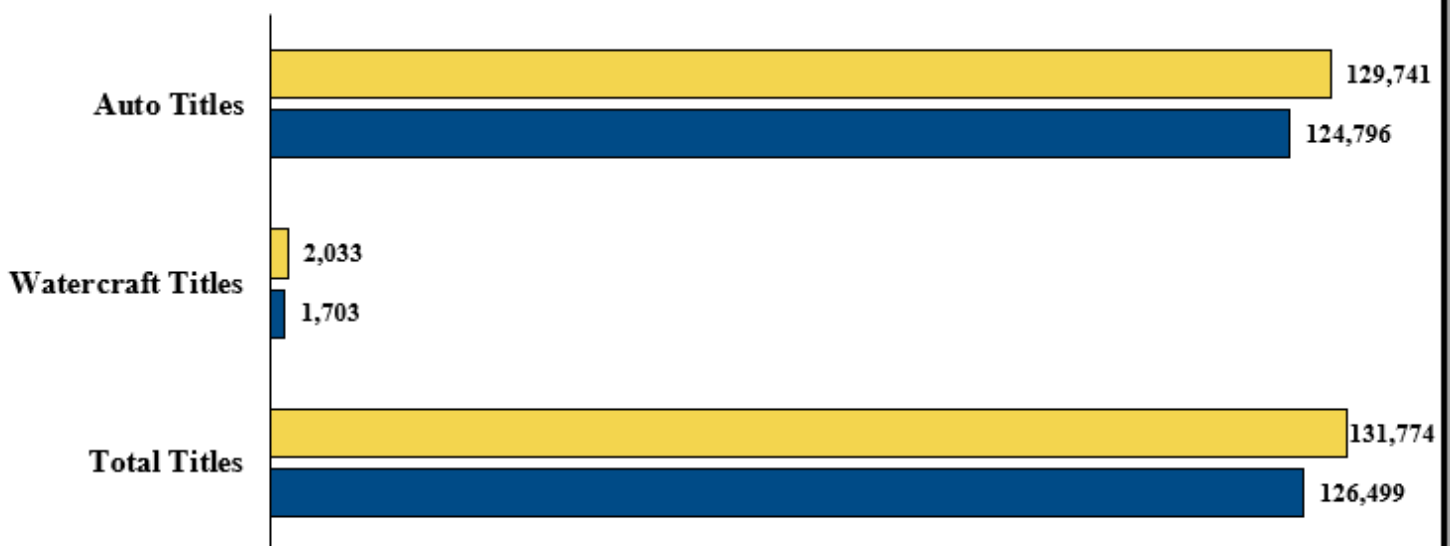
Title Department

The Title Department is responsible for issuing and maintaining all motor vehicle and watercraft titles in Fairfield County. This includes handling trailers, campers, motor homes, boats, and boat motors, all-terrain vehicles (ATV), off-highway motorcycles, wave runners, and jet skis. The Title Department also issues duplicate titles when the original has been lost or stolen, titles for new Ohio residents, and mobile home titles as well.

The Title Department processed 124,796 auto titles in 2025 compared to 129,741 in 2024 and processed 1,703 watercraft titles in 2025 compared to 2,033 in 2024. There were 126,499 total titles processed in 2025, compared to 131,774 in 2024, a decrease of 284 titles.

Auto Title and Watercraft Title Statistics

■ 2024 ■ 2025

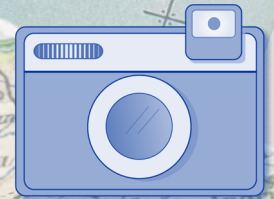


2025 STATISTICS

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Passports

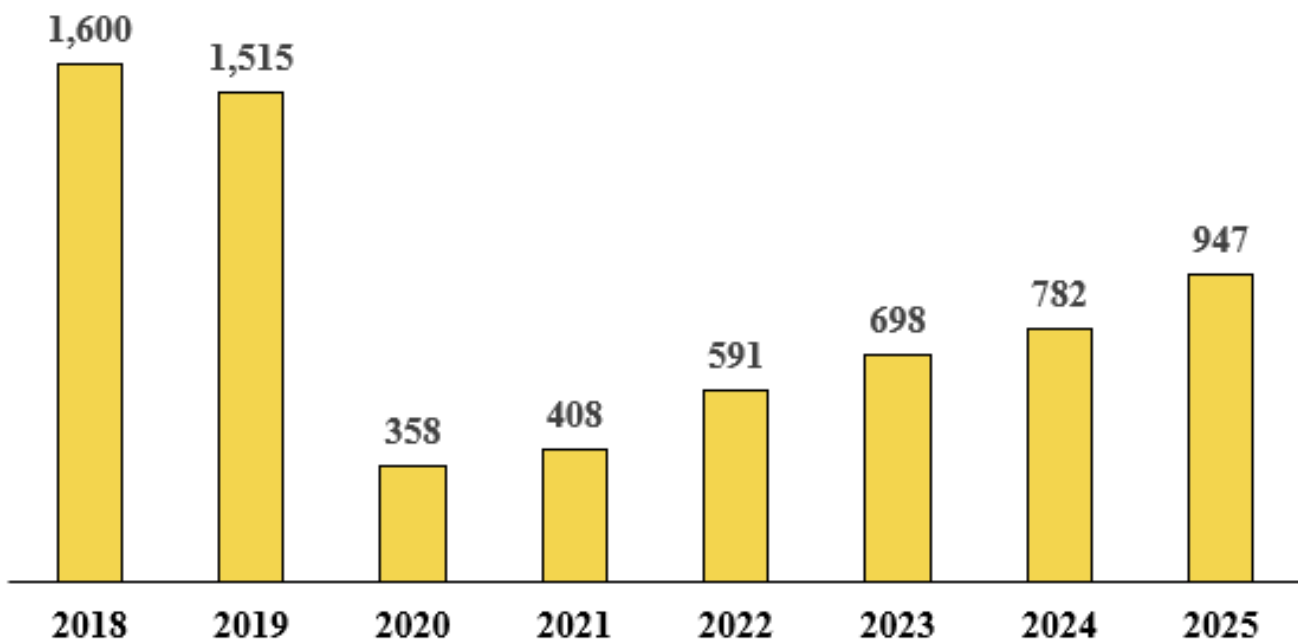
The Fairfield County Clerk of Courts has been designated as an authorized passport acceptance facility by the U.S. Department of State. Passport processing was temporarily suspended by the U.S. Department of State during 2020-2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 947 passports were processed within the title offices in 2025, compared to 782 passports in 2024. Both title offices maintain a 100% passport inspection grade from the U.S. State Department during the most recent inspections in 2024.



Passport Fees Collected

Passport Applications	\$33,145.00
Passport Photos	\$5,985.00

Total Passports Processed



2025 STATISTICS

continued

DRIVER'S EXAM STATION (PICKERINGTON TITLE OFFICE)

	TOTAL TESTS ISSUED	ROAD TEST - PASS	ROAD TEST - FAIL	MANEUVER - PASS	MANEUVER - FAIL	FULL TESTS	PARTIAL TESTS	EQUIP FAILURE	NO SHOW	CANCELED - OPEN APPTS	REFUSED TO TEST	WALK-IN
January	322	226	52	226	60	256	66	234	79	9	0	0
February	248	193	28	176	35	197	51	192	49	7	0	0
March	303	227	47	222	45	246	57	235	64	4	0	0
April	344	231	78	236	70	273	70	234	107	7	78	15
May	308	191	84	193	59	230	78	196	105	7	61	6
June	231	149	63	150	49	182	49	143	87	3	24	4
July	186	121	41	112	54	145	41	4	26	25	7	1
August	172	113	40	114	32	127	45	11	25	15	7	1
September												
October	140	95	34	98	30	118	23	96	20	34	3	0
November	135	106	27	94	22	104	31	1	12	17	0	10
December												
TOTAL	2,389	1,652	494	1,621	456	1,878	511	1,346	574	128	180	37

**Driver's Exam Fees
Collected in 2025**

\$90,962.00

LEGAL HELP CENTER



- Give limited legal advice
- Help complete and review legal paperwork
- Family Law: Divorce, Dissolution, Child Support, Custody
- Protection Orders
- Garnishments and Debt Collection
- Expungement and Sealing of Records
- Notary Services
- Other civil legal issues

Opened on
June 2nd!

LEGAL HELP CENTER

CONTACT US



740-652-7070



www.FairfieldCountyClerk.com



Onsite hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
9:00 a.m.-noon, 12:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
Appointments encouraged, walk-ins welcome



In June, the Clerk of Courts in partnership with Legal Aid of Southeast and Central Ohio (LASCO) opened a Legal Help Center located in the Hall of Justice. The attorneys are able to give free limited legal advice, assist with legal matters including family law issues, protection orders, completing forms, garnishments, and notary services.



LEGAL HELP CENTER

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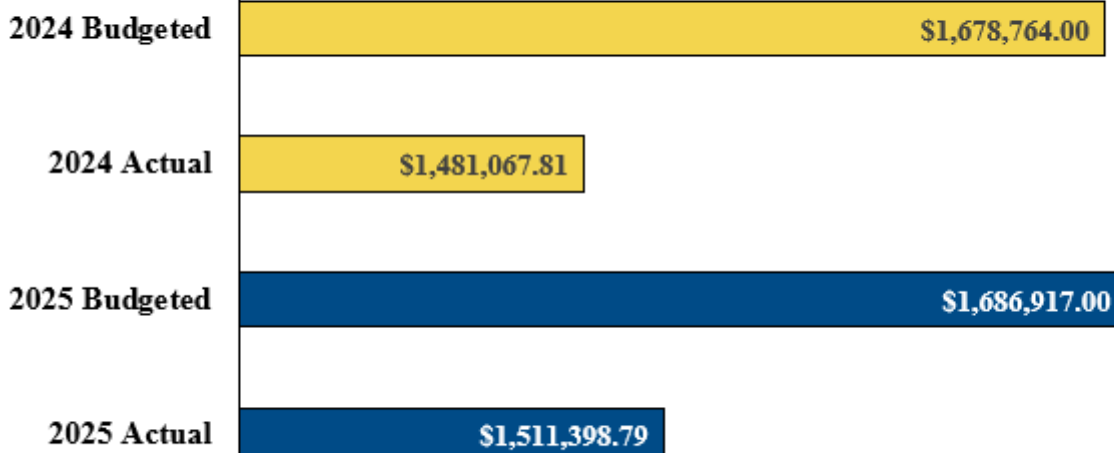
Case or Issue Type (June 2025-December 2025)	Individuals Assisted
Custody/Visitation	122
Divorce/Separation/Annulment	60
Domestic Abuse	27
Other Miscellaneous	15
Other Family	12
Wills and Estates	11
Support	10
Collections/Repo/Def/Garnishment	7
Advanced Directives/Powers of Attorney	3
Homeownership/Real Property (Not Foreclosure)	2
Mortgage Foreclosures (Not Predatory Lending/Practices)	2
Contract/Warranties	1
Adult Guardianship/Conservatorship	1
Name Change	1
Paternity	1
Mortgage Predatory Lending/Practices	1
Criminal Record Expungement	1
Total visits (This does not include legal information only inquiries)	277



2025 BUDGET ANALYSIS



Clerk of Courts- Legal (General Fund)



Clerk of Courts- Title (Certificate of Title Fund)

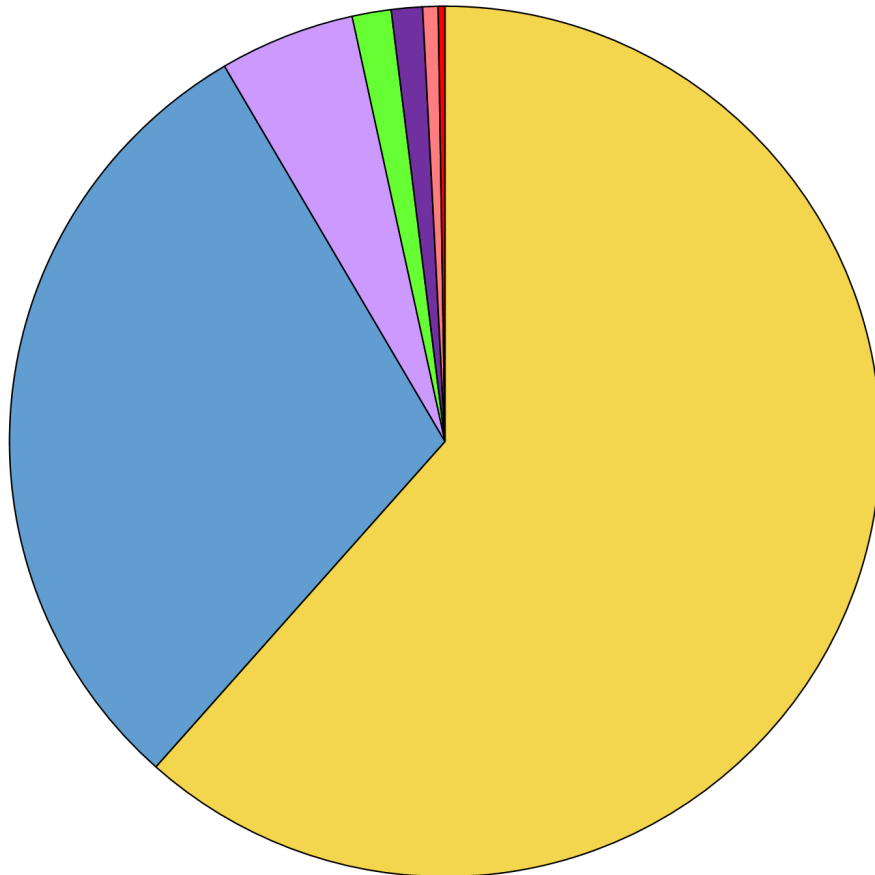


The legal operation is funded by a General Fund appropriation and the title operation is funded by the Certificate of Title Administration (CTA) Fund. The CTA Fund (See O.R.C. 4505) is generated from title fees and not included in the General Fund budget.

2025 EXPENSES:

Legal Department (General Fund)

Clerk of Courts- Legal (General Fund)



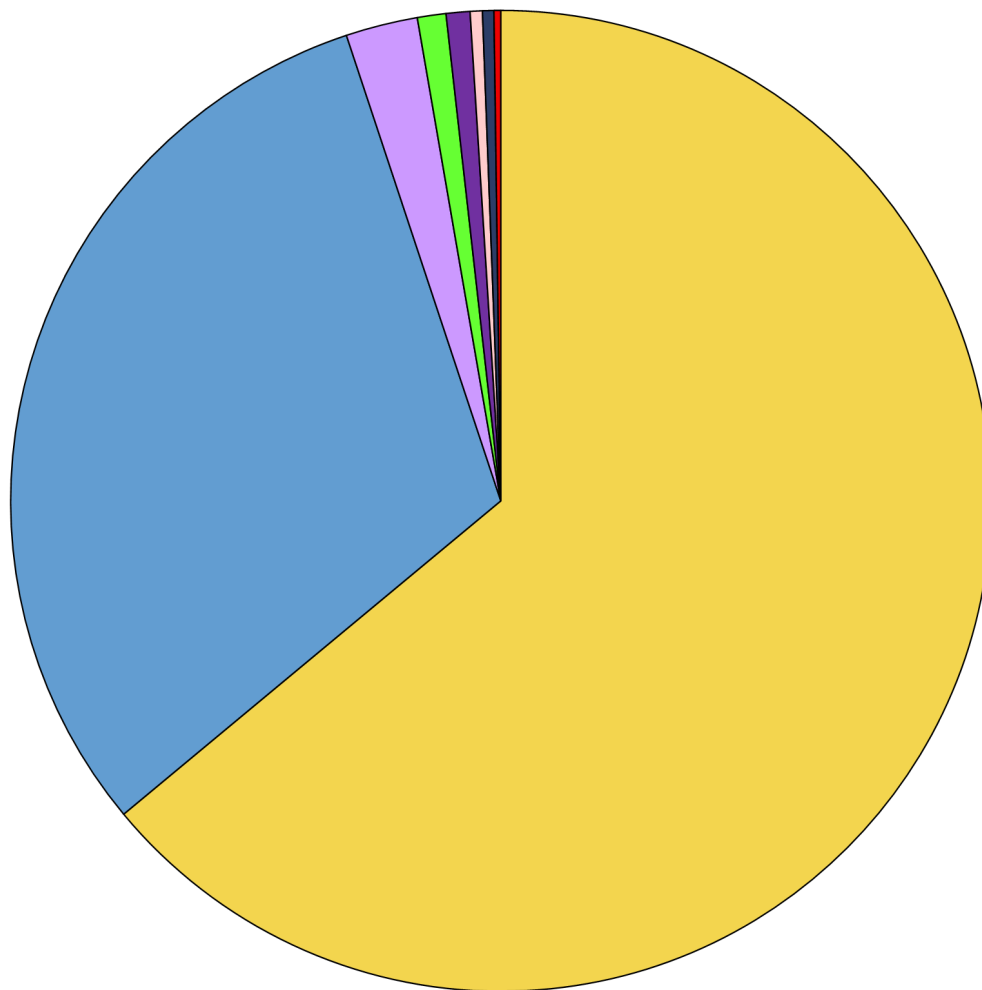
- Employee Salaries- \$928,423.28
- Employee Benefits- \$452,364.97
- Contract Services- \$75,822.50
- General Office- \$21,865.00
- Furniture & Fixtures/Building Improvements- \$17,392.00
- Training/Workshops/Travel/Fuel- \$8,640.98
- Vacation/Sick Payout- \$3,737.98

(Line items totaling less than \$2,500 omitted from chart)

2025 EXPENSES:

Title Department (Certificate of Title Fund)

Clerk of Courts- Title (Certificate of Title Fund)



- Employee Salaries- \$861,936.45
- Employee Benefits- \$416,706.31
- Replacement Vehicle- \$31,985.00
- Contract Services- \$12,687.72
- General Office/Equipment- \$10,591.41
- Vacation/Sick Payout- \$5,421.65
- Training/Workshops/Travel/Fuel- \$5,036.36
- Overtime- \$2,998.19

(Line items totaling less than \$2,500 omitted from chart)

MONIES COLLECTED: GENERAL FUND AND CERTIFICATE OF TITLE

LEGAL: GENERAL FUND

Account Distribution	
Clerk Fees Collected	\$659,171.11
Computer Fund	\$187,277.16
Garnishment Deposit Received	\$785,808.93
Deposit Money Received	\$3,048,972.17
Bond Money Collected	\$320,175.00
Probation Fees Collected	\$227,163.90
Other Misc. Fees and Fines Collected	\$795,800.13
Total Monies Collected and Distributed	\$6,024,368.40

TITLE: CERTIFICATE OF TITLE FUND MISC. FEES COLLECTED

Account Distribution	
Passport Applications	\$33,145.00
Driver's Exams	\$90,962.00
Passport Photos	\$5,985.00
Total Monies Collected	\$130,092.00

MONIES COLLECTED: CERTIFICATE OF TITLE FUND

TITLE: CERTIFICATE OF TITLE FUND

County Remittance Summary			
	Amount collected and remitted to County	Amount collected and remitted to State	Total amount collected and remitted
Total Vehicle Fees:	\$1,227,636.50	\$370,538.00	\$1,598,174.50
Total Vehicle Taxes:	\$804,177.73	\$80,517,508.08	\$81,321,685.81
Total Vehicle Fees and Taxes:	\$2,031,814.23	\$80,888,046.08	\$82,919,860.31
Total Watercraft Fees:	\$21,900.00	\$5,913.00	\$27,813.00
Total Watercraft Taxes:	\$12,261.00	\$1,201,699.55	\$1,213,960.55
Total Watercraft Fees and Taxes:	\$34,161.00	\$1,207,612.55	\$1,241,773.55
Grand Total Fees:	\$1,380,312.10	\$376,517.00	\$1,756,829.10
Grand Total Taxes:	\$816,438.73	\$81,719,207.63	\$82,535,646.36
Grand Total Fees and Taxes:	\$2,196,750.83	\$82,095,724.63	\$84,292,475.46

TITLE: MONIES COLLECTED

Monies Collected by Payment Type	
Total ACH Payments	\$72,349,710.91
Total ADA Payments	\$46.50
Total Cash Payments	\$1,559,545.02
Total Check Payments	\$9,262,658.16
Total Credit Card Payments	\$2,200,024.16
Total EFT Payments	\$24,555.00
Total Monies Collected by Payment Type	\$85,396,539.75

FUN FACTS

1,971=
most titles
processed in
one day
(June 6, 2016).

22,007=
most titles
processed in
one month
(March 2016).

1780=
the oldest document in
our historical archives is
a land document from
Thomas Jefferson
(July 12, 1780).

223,586=
Most titles
processed in
one year
(2016).

1803=
the year the first
Fairfield County
Clerk of Courts was
appointed
(Hugh Boyle).

6,777,676=
total website
hits in 2024.

\$7,800,0000=
Total amount
transferred (2014-
present) from the
Certificate of Title Fund
to the county's
General Fund.

37=
the number of
employees in the
Clerk of Courts
office.

2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Implementation of eFiling

The Clerk of Courts Legal Department implemented eFiling through its case management system to enhance efficiency and accessibility. This went live to the public on June 23, 2025. The system allows users to submit documents online, track the status of their filings in real time and receive instant confirmations of those submitted filings.



Legal Help Center

In June, the Clerk of Courts in partnership with Legal Aid of Southeast and Central Ohio (LASCO) opened a Legal Help Center located in the Hall of Justice. The attorneys are able to give free limited legal advice, assist with legal matters including family law issues, protection orders, completing forms, garnishments, and notary services.



Driver's Exam Station

The Fairfield County Clerk of Courts in partnership with the Ohio BMV has opened a Driver's Exam Station at the Pickerington Title Office as part of the Ohio BMV's Third Party Class D Program. Both the Driver's Skills Test and Maneuverability began being offered in March 2024. One or both of these tests may be scheduled online. The office conducted 2,389 drivers exams in 2025.



**Bureau of
Motor Vehicles**



Continuation of the AG Debt Collection Program

The total 2025 collections received from partnership with the Ohio Attorney General's Office Debt Collection Program is \$100,630.93 as of December 31, 2025 (Domestic, Civil, and Criminal). Total amount collected since participation in the program began is \$575,372.04. Collections began at the end of calendar year 2015.



STAFF RECOGNITION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

EMPLOYEE NEWS:

Brianna Ramella, Brittany Walters, and Jennifer Whitt joined the Title Department as Deputy Title Clerks.

Tiffany Daniels, from the Commissioners Office joined the Records Division as a Records Clerk.

Charles Rispress, a retired Common Pleas Court Bailiff was hired as a Driver's Examiner.



**Fairfield County's Annual
Employee Recognition Event:
Kourtney Enyart (15 years),
Britney Lee (20 years),
Clerk of Courts Branden Meyer (20 years),
along with Chief Deputy Michelle Carper
Not pictured is Karen Butcher (25 years).**

*"A company's employees are its greatest
asset and your people are your product."*

- Richard Branson

OFFICE LOCATIONS



Administrative & Fiscal Department
Legal Department
Hall of Justice
224 E. Main Street
Lancaster, OH 43130



Records Division
Hall of Justice and
Fairfield County Records Center
138 W. Chestnut Street
Lancaster, OH 43130



FAIRFIELD COUNTY
CLERK OF COURTS
BRANDEN C. MEYER



Title Department
Lancaster Title Office
982 Liberty Drive
Lancaster, OH 43130



Title Department
Pickerington Title Office
12945 Stonecreek Drive
Pickerington, OH 43147

STAFF DIRECTORY

Clerk of Courts
Branden C. Meyer

Chief Deputy
Michelle Carper

Court Deputy/Bailiff
Deputy Jerry Seipel

Clerk/Court IT Director
Eugene McCollough

Administrative/Fiscal Department
740-652-7356

Britney Lee, Fiscal Manager
Ashley Arter, Fiscal Specialist
Jessica Murphy, Fiscal Specialist
Cassie Strickler, Special Projects Director

Legal Department

Erin Robinson, Manager (CV/CA)
Civil/Criminal/Court of Appeals Divisions
740-652-7360

Betsy Thompson, Supervisor (CA/CR/CV)
Amanda McCrady (CR)
Angel Miller (CV)
Wendy Tharp (CR)
Colyn Weaver (CR/CV)
Jan Webb (CV)

Domestic Relations Division
740-652-7357

Ashley Bevard (DR/DS/DV)
Carie Fragoso (PA)
Traci Less (DR/DS/DV)
Regina Long (PA)

Records Division
740-652-7358

Christy Barker
Helen Berens
Brandy Brooks
Tiffany Daniels

Title Department

Lancaster Title Office
740-652-7540

Kourtney Enyart, Supervisor
Angela Kempton
Skyler McRae
Steve Sessler
Sandy Sharp
Brittany Walters

Pickerington Title Office
614-835-2610

Katie Wilkerson, Supervisor
Angela Blackburn
Karen Butcher
Valli Delaney
Patience Martin
Brianna Ramella
Jennifer Whitt
Charles Rispress, Drivers Examiner

General inquiries may be sent to
ClerkofCourts@FairfieldCountyOhio.gov

www.FairfieldCountyClerk.com



FAIRFIELD COUNTY
CLERK OF COURTS
BRANDEN C. MEYER

