



Proponent Testimony before the House Ways and Means Committee
House Bill 458 – Delinquent Tax Notices
Dennis Kennedy, Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer
November 27, 2018

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Scherer, Ranking Member Rogers and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, my name is Dennis Kennedy and I am the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer. I am requesting your favorable support of House Bill 458 that simply would require the second required public notification of a county delinquent tax list to be placed online if the first notice is published in a newspaper of general circulation.

Cuyahoga County spends nearly \$700,000 a year on public notices that appear in newspapers across the county. While we fully support the intent of these public notices to ensure that government is transparent, we believe House Bill 458, by requiring these notices to be placed both in the newspaper and then on the World Wide Web, increases that transparency.

It is true that not everyone has Internet access, but it is also true that not everyone subscribes to a newspaper. By having the delinquent tax list appear in both places makes sense and makes sure that as many people across the state as possible have access to the information, while at the same time preserving taxpayer dollars.

The legislature passed a law in 2012 that created this process for competitive bid notices that is working well (see ORC 307.87). In fact, we support House Bill 458 as the “next step” by addressing delinquent tax list notices, but we would also support expanding this process in the future to include notices of foreclosures and sheriff’s sales that account for a large percentage of our county public notice spending.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony. We urge your support of House Bill 458.