



# OHIO ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL/COUNTY COURT CLERKS

April 19, 2024

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## IN SUPPORT OF AN INCREASE TO MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY COURT CLERK COMPUTER FEES:

On September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013, House Bill 59 took effect within RC §2303.201 authorizing the clerk of the court of common pleas the ability to “charge an additional fee, not to exceed twenty dollars, on the filing of each cause of action or appeal, on the filing, docketing, and endorsing of each certificate of judgment, or on the docketing and indexing of each aid in execution or petition to vacate, revive, or modify a judgment...” after the “court of common pleas of any county determines that, for the efficient operation of the court, additional funds are required to make technological advances in or to computerize the office of the clerk of court...”.

At that time, the Ohio State Legislature chose not to include the Ohio Municipal and County Courts in the fee structure increase within ORC Title 19 (Courts: Municipal, Mayor’s, County).

Now, ten additional years have passed and with those years, the financial drain on Municipal and County Courts has dramatically increased. Revenue from computer fund fees no longer meets the cost of the technology that our courts are required to maintain. This has been caused by changes with the law enforcement structure, the adverse effects during and now after our years with COVID 19, coupled with the continued changes with technology and the costs incurred therein. Courts struggle to keep up with increasingly costly computer maintenance and upgrades.

We, the Ohio Association of both Municipal and County Court Clerks, respectfully request your compassionate consideration to allow us, as you allowed the Common Pleas Courts in 2013, the ability to increase the allowed maximum fee for technology and computerization to \$20 as stated above, within RC §1901.261, so that the courts may collect the much needed funds for our ongoing need to maintain as well as upgrade all things technological, including basic case management systems, improved telephone systems, much needed security systems, and the array of various software improvements that this additional funding will allow us to implement.

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