



**ERIE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
ERIE COUNTY**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE
Independent Auditor's Report	1
Prepared by Management:	
Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis) All Governmental Fund Types For the Year Ended December 31, 2024	5
Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2024	6
Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis) All Governmental Fund Types For the Year Ended December 31, 2023	9
Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2023	10
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	13

This page intentionally left blank.



65 East State Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov
800-282-0370

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Erie County Regional Planning Commission
Erie County
2900 Columbus Avenue
Sandusky, Ohio 44870

To the Members of the Commission:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Unmodified and Adverse Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of Erie County Regional Planning Commission, Erie County, Ohio (the Commission), which comprises the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions which Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit, described in Note 2.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Commission, as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, or the changes in financial position thereof for the years then ended.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Commission, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 2 of the financial statements, the financial statements are prepared by the Commission on the basis of the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C), which is an accounting basis other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), to satisfy these requirements. The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 2 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Commission's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Commission's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated January 14, 2026, on our consideration of the Commission's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Commission's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State



Tiffany L. Ridenbaugh, CPA, CFE, CGFM
Chief Deputy Auditor

January 14, 2026

This page intentionally left blank.

Erie County Regional Planning Commission
Erie County
Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and
Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)
All Governmental Fund Types
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

	General	Special Revenue	Combined Total
Cash Receipts			
Fees Charged to Subdivisions	\$34,377		\$34,377
Charges for Services	1,000		1,000
County Contributions	502,296	\$25,859	528,155
Intergovernmental		251,245	251,245
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>537,673</u>	<u>277,104</u>	<u>814,777</u>
Cash Disbursements			
Current:			
Economic Development:			
Contracts - Services	34,377		34,377
Project Fund Disbursements		256,592	256,592
Audit Expenses	2,296		2,296
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>36,673</u>	<u>256,592</u>	<u>293,265</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	501,000	20,512	521,512
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>19,695</u>	<u>2,969</u>	<u>22,664</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$520,695</u></u>	<u><u>\$23,481</u></u>	<u><u>\$544,176</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

Erie County Regional Planning Commission

Erie County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 1 - Reporting Entity

Erie County Regional Planning Commission, Erie County, Ohio (the Commission) is a body politic and corporate established to exercise the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. A twenty-one-member Board governs the Commission. The Board consists of representatives from participating political subdivisions, the county commissioners, and appointed citizens. The Commission formulates and reviews plans affecting long and short-term social, economic, and governmental development within the region. The participating subdivisions are:

City of Huron	City of Sandusky	City of Vermilion
Village of Bay View	Village of Berlin Heights	Village of Castalia
Village of Kellys Island	Village of Milan	Berlin Township
Florence Township	Groton Township	Huron Township
Margaretta Township	Milan Township	Oxford Township
Perkins Township	Vermilion Township	

Public Entity Risk Pool

The Commission participates in the County Risk Sharing Authority (CORSA) public entity risk pool through its fiscal agent (See Note 2). Note 3 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity.

The Commission's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Commission is financially accountable.

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The Commission's financial statements consist of a combined statement of receipts, disbursements, and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for all governmental fund types which is organized on a fund type basis.

Fund Accounting

The Commission uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The funds of the Commission are presented below:

General Fund The General Fund accounts for and reports all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund. The General Fund balance is available to the Commission for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio. This includes money from Erie County for the purpose of economic development, including financial assistance for permanent public improvements.

Erie County Regional Planning Commission

Erie County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Special Revenue Funds These funds account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes. The Commission had the following significant Special Revenue Fund:

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Grant Fund This fund receives federal and state transportation funds as well as required matching funds from Erie County in order to provide the information, tools and public input needed for improving transportation system performance.

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Commission recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit.

Deposits and Investments

As the Ohio Revised Code permits, the Erie County Treasurer holds the Commission's deposits as the Commission's custodian. The County holds the Commission's assets in its investment pool, valued at the Treasurer's reported carrying amount.

Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the Commission must observe constraints imposed upon the use of its governmental-fund resources. The classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable The Commission classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact. For regulatory purposes, nonspendable fund balance includes unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the Commission and the nonspendable portion of the corpus in permanent funds.

Restricted Fund balance is *restricted* when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions.

Committed The Board can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The Commission must adhere to these commitments unless the Board amends the resolution. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed to satisfy contractual requirements.

Assigned Assigned fund balances are intended for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as *restricted* or *committed*. For regulatory purposes, assigned fund balance in the General Fund is limited to encumbrances outstanding at year end.

Erie County Regional Planning Commission

Erie County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Unassigned Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the General Fund and includes amounts not included in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit balance.

The Commission applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

For regulatory purposes, limited disclosure related to fund balance is included in Note 5.

Note 3 - Risk Management

Risk Pool Membership

Erie County (the County) maintains comprehensive insurance coverage as a member of a pooled insurance agreement with the County Risk Sharing Authority (CORSA). The County purchases excess insurance to supplement the pooled funds. The Commission's real property is fully insured after a \$2,500 deductible per occurrence is paid by the County.

Property and casualty settlements did not exceed insurance coverage for the past three years, and the Commission has not had a significant reduction in coverage from the prior year.

Note 4 - Contingent Liabilities

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the Commission are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor, principally the federal government. The grantor may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

Note 5 - Fund Balances

Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilitate effective cash planning and control. At year end the balances of these amounts were as follows:

<u>Fund Balances</u>	<u>General</u>
Outstanding Encumbrances	<u>\$499,954</u>

The fund balance of Special Revenue funds is either restricted or committed. In the General Fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

Erie County Regional Planning Commission
Erie County
Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and
Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)
All Governmental Fund Types
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	General	Special Revenue	Combined Total
Cash Receipts			
Fees Charged to Subdivisions	\$36,522		\$36,522
Charges for Services	325		325
County Contributions	1,927	\$28,726	30,653
Intergovernmental		228,694	228,694
Miscellaneous		998	998
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>38,774</u>	<u>258,418</u>	<u>297,192</u>
Cash Disbursements			
Current:			
Economic Development:			
Contracts - Services	69,319		69,319
Project Fund Disbursements		275,303	275,303
Audit Expenses	1,927		1,927
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>71,246</u>	<u>275,303</u>	<u>346,549</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(32,472)	(16,885)	(49,357)
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>52,167</u>	<u>19,854</u>	<u>72,021</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$19,695</u></u>	<u><u>\$2,969</u></u>	<u><u>\$22,664</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

Erie County Regional Planning Commission

Erie County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 1 - Reporting Entity

Erie County Regional Planning Commission, Erie County, Ohio (the Commission) is a body politic and corporate established to exercise the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. A twenty-one-member Board governs the Commission. The Board consists of representatives from participating political subdivisions, the county commissioners, and appointed citizens. The Commission formulates and reviews plans affecting long and short-term social, economic, and governmental development within the region. The participating subdivisions are:

City of Huron	City of Sandusky	City of Vermilion
Village of Bay View	Village of Berlin Heights	Village of Castalia
Village of Kellys Island	Village of Milan	Berlin Township
Florence Township	Groton Township	Huron Township
Margaretta Township	Milan Township	Oxford Township
Perkins Township	Vermilion Township	

Public Entity Risk Pool

The Commission participates in the County Risk Sharing Authority (CORSA) public entity risk pool through its fiscal agent (See Note 2). Note 3 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity.

The Commission's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Commission is financially accountable.

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The Commission's financial statements consist of a combined statement of receipts, disbursements, and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for all governmental fund types which is organized on a fund type basis.

Fund Accounting

The Commission uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The funds of the Commission are presented below:

General Fund The General Fund accounts for and reports all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund. The General Fund balance is available to the Commission for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

Erie County Regional Planning Commission

Erie County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Special Revenue Funds These funds account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes. The Commission had the following significant Special Revenue Fund:

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Grant Fund This fund receives federal and state transportation funds as well as required matching funds from Erie County in order to provide the information, tools and public input needed for improving transportation system performance.

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Commission recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit.

Deposits and Investments

As the Ohio Revised Code permits, the Erie County Treasurer holds the Commission's deposits as the Commission's custodian. The County holds the Commission's assets in its investment pool, valued at the Treasurer's reported carrying amount.

Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the Commission must observe constraints imposed upon the use of its governmental-fund resources. The classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable The Commission classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact. For regulatory purposes, nonspendable fund balance includes unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the Commission and the nonspendable portion of the corpus in permanent funds.

Restricted Fund balance is *restricted* when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions.

Committed The Board can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The Commission must adhere to these commitments unless the Board amends the resolution. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed to satisfy contractual requirements.

Assigned Assigned fund balances are intended for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as *restricted* or *committed*. For regulatory purposes, assigned fund balance in the General Fund is limited to encumbrances outstanding at year end.

Erie County Regional Planning Commission

Erie County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Unassigned Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the General Fund and includes amounts not included in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit balance.

The Commission applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

For regulatory purposes, limited disclosure related to fund balance is included in Note 5.

Note 3 - Risk Management

Risk Pool Membership

Erie County (the County) maintains comprehensive insurance coverage as a member of a pooled insurance agreement with the County Risk Sharing Authority (CORSAs). The County purchases excess insurance to supplement the pooled funds. The Commission's real property is fully insured after a \$2,500 deductible per occurrence is paid by the County.

Property and casualty settlements did not exceed insurance coverage for the past three years, and the Commission has not had a significant reduction in coverage from the prior year.

Note 4 - Contingent Liabilities

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the Commission are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor, principally the federal government. The grantor may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

Note 5 - Fund Balances

The fund balance of Special Revenue funds is either restricted or committed.



65 East State Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov
800-282-0370

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER
FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS
REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

Erie County Regional Planning Commission
Erie County
2900 Columbus Avenue
Sandusky, Ohio 44870

To the Members of the Commission:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023 and the related notes to the financial statements of Erie County Regional Planning Commission, Erie County, Ohio (the Commission) and have issued our report thereon dated January 14, 2026, wherein we noted the Commission followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 and Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(C) permit.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Commission's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Commission's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

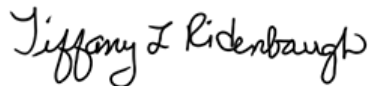
Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Commission's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Commission's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State



Tiffany L. Ridenbaugh, CPA, CFE, CGFM
Chief Deputy Auditor

January 14, 2026

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



ERIE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

ERIE COUNTY

AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report, which is required to be filed pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in the Office of the Ohio Auditor of State in Columbus, Ohio.



Certified for Release 1/27/2026

65 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
www.ohioauditor.gov