



STATE OF UNION COUNTY

RESILIENCY THROUGH
PARTNERSHIPS



BOARD OF UNION COUNTY COMMISSIONERS 2020

Commissioner Charles Hall

Board President

Commissioner Steve Stolte

Board Vice President

Commissioner Christiane Schmenk

UNION COUNTY FACTS

POPULATION: 59,844

- In the past 30 years Union County has seen a 50% increase in population.
- We project the same 50% increase over the next 30 years

COUNTY SEAT: Marysville; population 24,505.

CITIES: Dublin; population 3,990 (Union County)
50,593 total.

VILLAGES (5): Magnetic Springs, Milford Center, Plain City, Richwood,
Unionville Center

TOWNSHIPS (14): Allen, Claibourne, Darby, Dover, Jackson,
Jerome, Leesburg, Liberty, Millcreek, Paris, Taylor, Union,
Washington, York

UNION COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS

	Union County	United States
High School Diplomas	93.4%	90%
Bachelor's or Higher	35.5%	32.1%
Labor Force Participation	66.1%	63.1%
Caucasian	90.5%	76.3%
Asian	4.9%	5.9%
Black/African American	2.7%	13.4%

	Union County	Franklin County
Median Household Income	\$86,715	\$61,305
Poverty	5.4%	13.5%
Owner-occupied Housing	78.5%	53.4%

HOW DID UNION COUNTY REMAIN STRONG DURING A PANDEMIC?

- ▶ We relied on all of our existing partnerships and found ways to create new opportunities to address this strange year by working with others, including:
 - ▶ Our local businesses
 - ▶ Area non-profits
 - ▶ Area health organizations
 - ▶ Other local political subdivisions
 - ▶ Our Union County employees

AID TO AREA BUSINESSES DURING THE PANDEMIC



Worked with our Chamber of Commerce and our Economic Development Partnership to establish a small business assistance grant program (3R Program).



Worked to promote and secure local businesses to participate in the Governor's small business assistance program. Nearly \$1M grant dollars were reinvested into small business.



Fostered a business-friendly environment while incentivizing economic growth and collaborating to help those in need

WORKED WITH OUR AREA NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

- ▶ Worked with the Union County United Way and the Union County Foundation to provide assistance to residents in need
- ▶ Provided CARES Act Funding to these agencies:
 - ▶ The Marysville Ministerial Association (dba The Hope Center)
 - ▶ The Union County Family YMCA

The Union County Emergency Management Agency worked closely with the Union County Health Department and Memorial Health to establish and manage COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites.

CARES Act Funding was provided to the Health Department to support their response to the COVID-19 crises.

The City of Marysville Fire Division and other area fire and EMS providers assisted with the COVID-19 vaccination program.

The availability of the Union County Fairgrounds was critical to the success of the COVID-19 vaccination program.

"The Board of Commissioners commend these entities and their dedicated employees for their hard work and exemplary service during the Covid-19 pandemic. Their service helped Union County remain relatively well, both physically and financially."

PARTNERED WITH AREA HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS



Worked with our local government partners to find ways to more efficiently provide essential services.

Union County is a member of two Councils of Governments, one with the City of Marysville and the Marysville Exempted Village Schools and a second one with the Cities of Dublin and Marysville.

Collaborated with JobsOhio, Governor's Office, DSA, City of Marysville, and Starlink to establish the first satellite broadband project in Ohio to 100 residents and businesses in the County.

We are rebranding the US 33 Council of Governments as The Beta District to allow for more flexibility in addressing new programs and opportunities.

Regional and State Partnerships

- ▶ Work closely with One Columbus, JobsOhio, and DSA to promote job creation and retention, investment, and community development.
- ▶ Partner with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission on various mobility, environmental, economic, and infrastructure plans and projects.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH EMPLOYEES

- ▶ In 2020, COVID safety protocols and procedures were adopted to keep employees and the residents we serve safe
- ▶ Remote work policies were implemented, and employees were authorized to telework, as needed and when possible
- ▶ Benefit offerings and training platforms were adjusted to ensure that employees had access to high quality medical care, health education, and job-related training
 - ▶ Medical and mental health telehealth visits were offered with \$0 copay
 - ▶ Onsite health evaluations were administered
 - ▶ Numerous webinars about COVID-19, coping with stress, teleworking, managing a remote workforce, and adjusting to uncertainty were offered



OUTSTANDING PANDEMIC RESPONSE FROM UNION COUNTY AGENCIES

The Health Department provided second to none leadership and public health services to our community, including COVID-19 testing, around the clock contact tracing, and health education. Vaccination planning efforts were also in full force.

Emergency Management managed the County Emergency Operations Center, distributed PPE and other supplies throughout our community, and worked tirelessly to ensure Union County residents and businesses could withstand the challenges brought on by the pandemic.

The County Facilities Department deserves special recognition for equipping county buildings and facilities with personal protective equipment and for maintaining safe and sanitary workspaces to minimize the spread of Covid-19 among the public and our employees.

The Sheriff's Office and Coroner's staff continued to respond to emergencies and non-emergency situations, despite new risks facing them with each public encounter.

OUTSTANDING PANDEMIC RESPONSE FROM UNION COUNTY AGENCIES CONTINUED

The Courts adjusted their procedures and proceedings to include virtual court hearings and limited, socially distanced in-person activities.

Human Services met the demand for increased services and continued to serve families of Union County. Applications for Ohio Works First increased 104% from the previous year. Children Services and Adult Protective Services never stopped providing home visitation services.

Other offices implemented contactless drop-off/pick-up procedures or other unique methods to ensure all public services were provided in a safe, reliable and efficient manner.

Resource Pooling
provides premium
savings and
enriched safety
and benefit
programs to
Union County
and our
employees.

- ▶ **CORSA:** The County Risk Sharing Authority provides comprehensive property and liability coverage and high quality risk management services at a stable and competitive cost.
- ▶ **CEBCO:** The County Employee Benefits Consortium of Ohio currently serves 40 counties in the group purchasing of superior programs in health insurance and wellness advocacy.
- ▶ **CCAO Group Retrospective Workers' Compensation:** An alternative rating program offered by the Ohio BWC that allows employers to join together to earn refunds based upon the collective performance of the group.

COMMITMENT TO EMPLOYEE HEALTH



- ▶ Elected Officials support employee health and well-being, and embrace wellness initiatives in the workplace
- ▶ In 2020, Union County was recognized for outstanding wellness achievements and the health education and activities that are available to employees and their families
- ▶ Healthiest Employer of Ohio (winner for medium sized employers)
- ▶ Healthy Workplace Gold Award Winner
- ▶ CEBCO Wellness Awards
 - ▶ Top Engagement in Screenings
 - ▶ Outstanding Efforts

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The Board undertook critical budget decisions during 2020 related to the COVID-19 pandemic

- Delayed Capital Improvements
- Delayed filling new positions
- Delayed new programs

Maintained County workforce with a focus on continuing to provide essential County services.





County Debt Management Policy

- ▶ The Union County Board of Commissioners recognizes the importance of proper long-range planning in order to meet capital improvement financing needs as they arise without experiencing dramatic increases in operational cost or debt service. The Board also recognizes there are no absolute rules or easy formulas that can substitute for a thorough review of all information affecting Union County's debt position. Debt decisions should be the result of deliberative consideration of all factors involved.
- ▶ As part of Union County's Financial Philosophy and in conjunction with Union County's Strategic and Capital Improvement Plans, this policy identifies the decision-making process, provides guidance to staff and demonstrates a commitment to long term financial planning objectives. In addition, this Debt Management Policy allows for an appropriate balance between establishing debt parameters while maintaining the flexibility to respond to unforeseen circumstances and new opportunities

Financial Year 2020 General Fund Operating Budget Summary

- ▶ The County received and was able to utilize \$3,150,522 in CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act) dollars; \$2,296,820 of which was directed to the County's General Fund. The \$2,296,820 in CARES dollars were accounted for by direct reimbursements primarily for safety services, consequently lowering the County's actual expenditures for 2020.
- ▶ In addition to CARES dollars, the County General Fund also received additional one-time revenue from the following:
 - ▶ Ohio BWC (Bureau of Workers Compensation) that totaled approximately \$1,200,000.
 - ▶ Net estimated increase of internet sales tax totaling approximately \$172,000.
 - ▶ Notable increase in property conveyance and recording revenue that totaled approximately \$403,000.

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act 2020

The County successfully utilized its \$3,150,522 CARES federal government allocation on various projects, for example;

Improved Wi-Fi and fiber connectivity for various departments throughout the County so that some employees could work from home while still serving the public.

Assisted the County Recorder with digitizing public records to increase remote access for the public, during and after the pandemic.

Provided PPE and COVID safety measures to County entities as well as detention facilities that partner with Union County.

Assisted the Union County Office of Economic Development by supporting local businesses that suffered losses during the pandemic and with bolstering workforce development services to assist in reducing unemployment possibly caused by the pandemic.

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act 2020 Continued

Assisted Union County Mental Health and Recovery Board by providing dollars to help with mental and physical health assessments and related services necessitated by the pandemic. Supported housing stability efforts to decrease homelessness to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Assisted Union County Developmental Disabilities by providing dollars to help with PPE, contract services, supplies, and equipment.

Assisted the Union County YMCA with funding for healthy activities to residents of Union County.

Assisted the Marysville Ministerial Association (dba The Hope Center) with funds to help with providing food, rental assistance and utility assistance to County residents in need during the pandemic.

Grant Awards



Community Development Block Grant Critical Infrastructure grant 2020 award

Will assist the Village of Richwood with a Critical Infrastructure project to reconstruct Franklin Street. This project will improve drainage in the service area and will benefit their 2,270 residents.



Community Development Block Grant Program grant 2020 award

Will assist the Village of Magnetic Springs improve their Neighborhood Facility and the Village of Richwood improve their sanitary sewer facility



Construction Projects

- ▶ Completion of the new Union County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.
- ▶ Completion of the Union County Justice Center Entryway.

KEY INITIATIVES FOR OUR FUTURE

- ▶ Addressing the dynamic projected growth of the County.
- ▶ Promoting smart sustainable business and residential growth in a manner which recognizes the County's agricultural heritage and encourages the preservation of farmland and open spaces.
- ▶ Developing and implementing a thoughtful and deliberative process to use State and Local Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Funds received pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

FUTURE GROWTH-UNION COUNTY THROUGH 2050

- ▶ 30,000 new residents
- ▶ 10,000 new housing units
- ▶ 20,000 new workers
- ▶ 10.8 M sf of new industrial space
- ▶ 3.7 M sf of new commercial space



CONCLUSION

In spite of a global pandemic, Union County remained strong in 2020 due to its partnerships

Outlook for the County remains optimistic due to its balanced and healthy economy, history of collaboration and strong work ethic

Population growth in the County provides opportunities to provide new services to the public while maintaining a high quality of life for its residents

