



Auditor
Charles E. Walder
Chief Fiscal Officer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**AUDITOR WALDER REFUNDS SAVINGS
TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS & TAXING AUTHORITIES
Money Saved from Reducing REA Fund Expenses is Distributed**

CHARDON, OHIO — Geauga County Auditor Charles E. Walder announces that his Office is returning funds that it saved by reducing expenses in the Real Estate Assessment (“REA”) Fund in the 2nd half of 2020 real property tax collection settlement.

As a result of greatly cutting its REA Fund expenses, Auditor Walder is refunding a total of \$499,979.21 to be distributed amongst Geauga County’s political subdivisions: school districts, townships, municipalities, libraries, and other taxing authorities. The estimated distribution is attached.

The REA Fund is a special restricted fund maintained on the Auditor’s books to help defray expenses associated with property appraisal and related tax assessment. As provided by law, the REA Fund is funded by fees set as a percentage of property tax collections. From 2014 through 2017, the REA averaged over \$2.1 million in annual expenses and was operating in the red. Under Auditor Walder’s leadership, those expenses were reduced and we are no longer operating in the red.

“Responsible fiscal management is one piece of our continuing effort to protect the public’s money,” said Auditor Walder. “My Office continues to identify and resolve inefficiencies to better serve the taxpayer.”

For more information, please contact Kate Jacob by email at kjacob@gauditor.com or phone (440) 279-1629.

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City of Chardon		\$3,490.90
Village of Hunting Vlly		\$607.61
Middlefield Village		\$1,246.55
So. Russell Village		\$3,288.35
Burton Library		\$857.37
Geauga Library		\$16,396.59
West G Joint Rec		\$154.59
E Geauga Fire		\$1,415.58
Mentor Public Library		\$25.73
Lake County Finance		\$29.30
Kirtland Public Library		\$5.78
Geauga County		\$95,460.52
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		\$499,979.21
Net Fees Received to REA Fund	\$	437,556.97
Refund of Excess Auditor Real Estate Assessment Fees		
Total Auditor Real Estate Fees charged with 2nd Half TY 2019/CY2020 Settlement	\$	937,536.18
Geauga County		\$95,460.52
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GENERAL FUND - COUNTY		18,096.61
MENTAL HEALTH LEVY		8,451.20
COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE		7,663.72
HEALTH DISTRICT		1,408.43
UNVOTED BOND		-
METZENBAUM OPERAT		29,084.62
CHILDREN SERVICES		8,466.61
GEAUGA PARK DISTR		15,246.76
SENIOR CITIZEN LEVY		7,042.57
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		95,460.52

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