

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE
FAYETTE COUNTY
CLERK**

**For The Year Ended
December 31, 2016**



**MIKE HARMON
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
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MIKE HARMON
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Jim Gray, Mayor, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government
The Honorable Donald Blevins, Jr., Fayette County Clerk
Members of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council

Independent Auditor's Report

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Receipts and Disbursements - Regulatory Basis of the County Clerk of Fayette County, Kentucky and the Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Fund Balances of the County Clerk's Operating Fund and County Fund with the State Treasurer - Regulatory Basis for the year ended December 31, 2016, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the *Audit Guide for County Fee Officials* issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements 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 entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



The Honorable Jim Gray, Mayor, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government
The Honorable Donald Blevins, Jr., Fayette County Clerk
Members of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council

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

As described in Note 1 of the financial statements, the financial statements are prepared by the Fayette County Clerk on the basis of the accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky’s regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material.

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 Opinions on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles paragraph, the financial statements referred to above do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of each fund of the Fayette County Clerk, as of December 31, 2016, or changes in financial position or cash flows thereof for the year then ended.

Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the receipts and disbursements of the Fayette County Clerk and the receipts, disbursements, and fund balances of the Fayette County Clerk’s operating fund and county fund with the state treasurer for the year ended December 31, 2016, in accordance with the basis of accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Commonwealth of Kentucky as described in Note 1.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated September 22, 2017, on our consideration of the Fayette County Clerk’s internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, 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 internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity’s internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Harmon
Auditor of Public Accounts

September 22, 2017

FAYETTE COUNTY
DONALD BLEVINS, JR., COUNTY CLERK
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS - REGULATORY BASIS

For The Year Ended December 31, 2016

Receipts

State Fees For Services:

Preparation of Tax Bills	\$ 17,915	
Registration of Voters	2,184	
Voter Registration Expense Reimbursement	<u>76,900</u>	\$ 96,999

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government:

Preparation of Tax Bills		38,760
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Licenses and Taxes:

Motor Vehicle-

Licenses and Transfers	8,364,952
Usage Tax	38,984,864
Tangible Personal Property Tax	27,458,077
Miscellaneous Fees	411,897
Child Assistance Donations	20,285
Postage	137,044

Other-

Marriage Licenses	79,596	
Professional Bonds	34,024	
Delinquent Tax	2,950,906	
Deed Transfer Tax	<u>2,137,054</u>	80,578,699

Fees Collected for Services:

Recordings-

Deeds, Easements, and Contracts	158,616
Real Estate Mortgages	626,565
Chattel Mortgages and Financing Statements	625,824
Affordable Housing Trust	340,260
Powers of Attorney	24,492
Releases	101,781
All Other Recordings	166,386

Charges for Other Services-

Copywork	246,318	
Postage	<u>92,369</u>	2,382,611

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

FAYETTE COUNTY
DONALD BLEVINS, JR., COUNTY CLERK
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS - REGULATORY BASIS
For The Year Ended December 31, 2016
(Continued)

Receipts (Continued)

Other:

Inspection Fees	\$ 58,535	
Miscellaneous	<u>14,241</u>	\$ 72,776

Interest Earned		<u>199</u>
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Total Receipts		83,170,044
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Disbursements

Payments to State:

Motor Vehicle-		
Licenses and Transfers	\$ 5,859,251	
Usage Tax	37,814,015	
Tangible Personal Property Tax	11,741,466	
Licenses, Taxes, and Fees-		
Legal Process Tax	257,675	
Affordable Housing Trust	340,260	
Delinquent Tax	<u>339,512</u>	56,352,179

Payments to Lexington-Fayette Urban
County Government:

Tangible Personal Property Tax	1,667,963	
Delinquent Tax	403,680	
Deed Transfer Tax	<u>2,030,201</u>	4,101,844

Payments to Fayette County School:

Tangible Personal Property Tax	11,221,301	
Delinquent Tax	<u>1,214,427</u>	12,435,728

Payments to Fayette County Health Department:

Tangible Personal Property Tax	530,781	
Delinquent Tax	<u>46,321</u>	577,102

Payments to Fayette County Extension Office:

Tangible Personal Property Tax	60,648	
Delinquent Tax	<u>5,435</u>	66,083

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

FAYETTE COUNTY
DONALD BLEVINS, JR., COUNTY CLERK
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS - REGULATORY BASIS
For The Year Ended December 31, 2016
(Continued)

Disbursements (Continued)

Payments to Lexington Transit Authority:		
Tangible Personal Property Tax	\$ 1,137,594	
Delinquent Tax	<u>99,104</u>	\$ 1,236,698
Payments to Sheriff		220,366
Payments to County Attorney		397,674
Payments to Soil and Water		731
Other Disbursements:		
Inspection Fees	58,535	
Miscellaneous	<u>56,002</u>	<u>114,537</u>
Total Disbursements		<u>\$ 75,502,942</u>
Net Receipts		7,667,102
Payments to State Treasurer:		
75% Operating Fund *	5,841,620	
25% County Fund	<u>1,825,482</u>	<u>7,667,102</u>
Balance Due at Completion of Audit		<u>\$ 0</u>

* Includes reimbursed expenses in the amount of \$365,172 for the audit period.
See Note 1 of Notes to Financial Statements.

FAYETTE COUNTY
DONALD BLEVINS, JR., COUNTY CLERK
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND
FUND BALANCES OF THE COUNTY CLERK'S OPERATING FUND
AND COUNTY FUND WITH THE STATE TREASURER - REGULATORY BASIS

For The Year Ended December 31, 2016

	75% Operating Fund	25% County Fund	Totals
Fund Balance - January 1, 2015	\$ 252,262	\$	\$ 252,262
<u>Receipts</u>			
Fees Paid to State - Operating Funds (75%)	5,841,620		5,841,620
Fees Paid to State - County Funds (25%)		1,825,482	1,825,482
Total Funds Available	<u>6,093,882</u>	<u>1,825,482</u>	<u>7,919,364</u>
<u>Disbursements</u>			
Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government		1,825,482	1,825,482
Personnel Services-			
Official's Statutory Maximum	113,126		113,126
Official's Expense Allowance	3,600		3,600
Official's Training Incentive	3,969		3,969
Deputies' Salaries	3,129,094		3,129,094
Overtime Gross	56,250		56,250
Employee Benefits-			
Employer's Share Social Security	230,836		230,836
Employer's Share Retirement	589,507		589,507
Employer's Share Health Insurance	654,227		654,227
Employer's Share Life Insurance	885		885
Contracted Services-			
Printing and Binding	20,866		20,866
Maintenance and Repairs	102,125		102,125
Insurance	25,590		25,590
Professional Services	35,247		35,247

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

FAYETTE COUNTY
DONALD BLEVINS, JR., COUNTY CLERK
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND
FUND BALANCES OF THE COUNTY CLERK'S OPERATING FUND
AND COUNTY FUND WITH THE STATE TREASURER - REGULATORY BASIS
For The Year Ended December 31, 2016
(Continued)

Disbursements (Continued)

Supplies and Materials-			
Office Supplies	\$ 83,617	\$	\$ 83,617
Other Charges-			
Rent	63,726		63,726
Dues and Subscriptions	16,952		16,952
Election Expense	12,064		12,064
Postage	110,000		110,000
Telephone	14,774		14,774
Bank Charges	10,709		10,709
Microfilm and Microfiche	1,255		1,255
Travel	3,299		3,299
Motor Vehicle Expenses	1,086		1,086
Ad Valorem Tax Bill Cost	35,500		35,500
Capital Outlay-			
Equipment and Software	244,438		244,438
Furniture	42,758		42,758
Building Improvements	28,827		28,827
	<u>5,634,327</u>	<u>1,825,482</u>	<u>7,459,809</u>
Total Disbursements			
	<u>\$ 459,555</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 459,555</u>
Fund Balance - December 31, 2016			

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

FAYETTE COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2016

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Fund Accounting

A fee official uses a fund to report on the results of operations. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

A fee official uses a fund for fees to account for activities for which the government desires periodic determination of the excess of receipts over disbursements to facilitate management control, accountability, and compliance with laws.

B. Basis of Accounting

KRS 64.820 directs the fiscal court to collect any amount due from the county clerk as determined by the audit.

KRS 64.350 establishes that a fee official in counties with a population over 70,000 has two funds with the state treasurer for the deposit of fees collected. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the fees collected are deposited in a county clerk's operating fund and used for office expenses of the fee official. The remaining twenty-five percent (25%) of fees collected are deposited to the county fiscal court fund and paid to the fiscal courts, urban-county governments, or consolidated local governments of the respective counties quarterly no later than April 15, July 15, October 15, and January 15. These funds are closed at the end of each official term by paying the balances to the respective county government.

Also, some revenues of the fee official offices could be considered reimbursed expenses. All reimbursed expenses are treated as revenue in the 75 percent fund.

The financial statements have been prepared on a regulatory basis of accounting, which demonstrates compliance with the laws of Kentucky and is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Under this regulatory basis of accounting, receipts and disbursements are generally recognized when cash is received or disbursed with the exception of accrual of the following items (not all-inclusive), at December 31:

- Interest receivable
- Collection on accounts due from others for 2016 services
- Reimbursements for 2016 activities
- Payments due other governmental entities for December tax and fee collections
- Payroll expenditures incurred but not paid
- Payments due vendors for goods or services provided in 2016

C. Cash and Investments

KRS 66.480 authorizes the county clerk's office to invest in obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

FAYETTE COUNTY
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 December 31, 2016
 (Continued)

Note 2. Employee Retirement System and Other Post-Employment Benefits

The county official and employees have elected to participate, pursuant to KRS 78.530, in the County Employees Retirement System (CERS), which is administered by the Board of Trustees of the Kentucky Retirement Systems (KRS). This is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer, defined benefit pension plan, which covers all eligible full-time employees and provides for retirement, disability, and death benefits to plan members. Benefit contributions and provisions are established by statute.

Nonhazardous covered employees are required to contribute five percent of their salary to the plan. Nonhazardous covered employees who begin participation on or after September 1, 2008, are required to contribute six percent of their salary to the plan. The county's contribution rate for nonhazardous employees was 17.06 percent for the first six months and 18.68 percent for the last six months.

In accordance with Senate Bill 2, signed by the Governor on April 4, 2013, plan members who began participating on, or after, January 1, 2014, were required to contribute to the Cash Balance Plan. The Cash Balance Plan is known as a hybrid plan because it has characteristics of both a defined benefit plan and a defined contribution plan. Members in the plan contribute a set percentage of their salary each month to their own account. Nonhazardous members contribute five percent of their annual creditable compensation and one percent to the health insurance fund which is not credited to the member's account and is not refundable. The employer contribution rate is set annually by the Board based on an actuarial valuation. The employer contributes a set percentage of the member's salary. Each month, when employer contributions are received, an employer pay credit is deposited to the member's account. A nonhazardous member's account is credited with a four percent employer pay credit. The employer pay credit represents a portion of the employer contribution.

The county clerk's contribution for calendar year 2014 was \$599,022, calendar year 2015 was \$552,573, and calendar year 2016 was \$589,507.

Benefits fully vest on reaching five years of service for nonhazardous employees. Aspects of benefits for nonhazardous employees include retirement after 27 years of service or age 65. Nonhazardous employees who begin participation on or after September 1, 2008, must meet the rule of 87 (member's age plus years of service credit must equal 87, and the member must be a minimum of 57 years of age) or the member is age 65, with a minimum of 60 months service.

CERS also provides post-retirement health care coverage as follows:

For members participating prior to July 1, 2003, years of service and respective percentages of the maximum contribution are as follows:

Years of Service	% paid by Insurance Fund	% Paid by Member through Payroll Deduction
20 or more	100%	0%
15-19	75%	25%
10-14	50%	50%
4-9	25%	75%
Less than 4	0%	100%

FAYETTE COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2016
(Continued)

Note 2. Employee Retirement System and Other Post-Employment Benefits (Continued)

As a result of House Bill 290 (2004 General Assembly), medical insurance benefits are calculated differently for members who began participation on or after July 1, 2003. Once members reach a minimum vesting period of ten years, non-hazardous employees whose participation began on or after July 1, 2003, earn ten dollars per month for insurance benefits at retirement for every year of earned service without regard to a maximum dollar amount. This dollar amount is subject to adjustment annually based on the retiree cost of living adjustment, which is updated annually due to changes in the Consumer Price Index.

Historical trend information showing the CERS' progress in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due is presented in the Kentucky Retirement Systems' annual financial report. This report may be obtained by writing the Kentucky Retirement Systems, 1260 Louisville Road, Frankfort, KY 40601-6124, or by telephone at (502) 564-4646.

KRS also issues a proportionate share audit report that includes the total pension liability for CERS determined by actuarial valuation as well as each participating county's proportionate share. The Schedules of Employer Allocations and Pension Amounts by Employer report and the related actuarial tables are available online at <https://kyret.ky.gov/Employers/Resources/Pages/GASB.aspx>. The complete actuarial valuation report, including all actuarial assumptions and methods, is also available on the website or can be obtained as described in the paragraph above.

Note 3. Deposits

The Fayette County Clerk maintained deposits of public funds with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as required by KRS 66.480(1)(d). According to KRS 41.240, the depository institution should pledge or provide sufficient collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount of public funds on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge or provision of collateral should be evidenced by an agreement between the county clerk and the depository institution, signed by both parties, that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution.

Custodial Credit Risk - Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a depository institution failure, the county clerk's deposits may not be returned. The county clerk does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk but rather follows the requirements of KRS 66.480(1)(d) and KRS 41.240. As of December 31, 2016, all deposits were covered by FDIC insurance or a properly executed collateral security agreement.

Note 4. Grant

The Fayette County Clerk received a local records microfilming grant from the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives in the amount of \$65,574. There were no funds expended during the year. The unexpended grant balance was \$65,574 as of December 31, 2016.

FAYETTE COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2016
(Continued)

Note 5. Lease

The Fayette County Clerk's office committed to a lease agreement for a mailing system. The agreement required monthly payments of \$785 for the first 12 months, and \$889 for the remaining months, which was completed in March 2016. In April 2016, the Fayette County Clerk's office committed to a new lease agreement for a new mailing system. This agreement requires monthly payments of \$722 for 60 months. The remaining balance of the agreement was \$36,806 as of December 31, 2016.

Note 6. Service Agreement

On September 15, 2015, the Fayette County Clerk's office entered into a service agreement for armored transportation and counting and verification of cash services. The minimum monthly fee under the agreement is \$577, which is subject to a fuel adjustment charge and an annual percentage increase of not more than five percent per annum.

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REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND
ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

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MIKE HARMON
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Jim Gray, Mayor, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government
The Honorable Donald Blevins, Jr., Fayette County Clerk
Members of the Lexington-Urban County Council

Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And
On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statements Performed In Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards*

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited, in accordance with 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, the Statement of Receipts and Disbursements - Regulatory Basis of the County Clerk of Fayette County, Kentucky, the Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Fund Balances of the County Clerk's Operating Fund and County Fund with the State Treasurer - Regulatory Basis for the year ended December 31, 2016, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated September 22, 2017. The Fayette County Clerk's financial statements are prepared on a regulatory basis of accounting, which demonstrates compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Fayette County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fayette County Clerk's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fayette County Clerk'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 combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity'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 may exist that have not been identified.



Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And
On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statements Performed In Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards*
(Continued)

Compliance And Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Fayette County Clerk's financial statements are free of 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 determination of financial statement amounts. 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 entity'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 entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Harmon", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mike Harmon
Auditor of Public Accounts

September 22, 2017