

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE
WHITLEY COUNTY
CLERK**

**For The Year Ended
December 31, 2023**



**ALLISON BALL
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
auditor.ky.gov**

**209 ST. CLAIR STREET
FRANKFORT, KY 40601-1817
TELEPHONE (502) 564-5841
FACSIMILE (502) 564-2912**

CONTENTS

PAGE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT 1

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS 4

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT 7

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND
ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL
STATEMENT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS* 15

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY



ALLISON BALL
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Independent Auditor's Report

The Honorable Pat White, Jr., Whitley County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Carolyn Willis, Whitley County Clerk
Members of the Whitley County Fiscal Court

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statement

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Excess Fees - Regulatory Basis of the County Clerk of Whitley County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statement.

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the Whitley County Clerk for the year ended December 31, 2023, in accordance with the basis of accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Commonwealth of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws as described in Note 1.

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 financial statement does not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Whitley County Clerk, as of December 31, 2023, or changes in financial position or cash flows thereof for the year then ended.

Basis for Opinion

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 (GAS)*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the *Audit Program for County Fee Officials* issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Whitley County Clerk 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.



The Honorable Pat White, Jr., Whitley County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Carolyn Willis, Whitley County Clerk
Members of the Whitley County Fiscal Court

Basis for Opinion (Continued)

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

As described in Note 1 of the financial statement, the financial statement is prepared by the Whitley 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 statement 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 and pervasive.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statement

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of this financial statement 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 a financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statement, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Whitley County Clerk'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 Statement

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement as a whole is 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 GAS 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 statement.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and GAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, 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 statement.
- 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 Whitley County Clerk'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 statement.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Whitley County Clerk's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

The Honorable Pat White, Jr., Whitley County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Carolyn Willis, Whitley County Clerk
Members of the Whitley County Fiscal Court

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement (Continued)

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 have identified during the audit.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 5, 2024, on our consideration of the Whitley 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 effectiveness of 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 Whitley County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Respectfully submitted,



Allison Ball
Auditor of Public Accounts
Frankfort, KY

June 5, 2024

WHITLEY COUNTY
CAROLYN WILLIS, COUNTY CLERK
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS

For The Year Ended December 31, 2023

Receipts

State Fees For Services			
Registration of Voters	\$	172	
Election Personnel Reimbursement		<u>12,515</u>	\$ 12,687
Fiscal Court			79,012
Licenses and Taxes:			
Motor Vehicle-			
Licenses and Transfers		1,235,369	
Usage Tax		4,250,045	
Tangible Personal Property Tax		4,188,978	
Lien Fees		32,576	
Miscellaneous Income		43,189	
Notary Fees		18,524	
Other-			
Fish and Game Licenses		3,041	
Marriage Licenses		11,680	
Franchise Bank Deposit		159,136	
Deed Transfer Tax		87,986	
Permits		50	
Delinquent Tax		<u>542,305</u>	10,572,879
Fees Collected for Services:			
Recordings-			
Bail Bonds		893	
Title Lien Statements		96,272	
Deeds		45,238	
Leases		653	
Liens & Lis Pendens		12,870	
Real Estate Mortgages		59,620	
Powers of Attorney		5,715	
Releases		32,882	
Miscellaneous Recordings		12,773	
Wills, Estate Settlements & Accom.		4,031	
Affordable Housing Trust		25,566	
Storage Fees		46,160	
Charges for Other Services-			
Candidate Filing Fees		290	
Copy Work		9,928	

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

WHITLEY COUNTY
 CAROLYN WILLIS, COUNTY CLERK
 STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2023
 (Continued)

Receipts (Continued)

Charges for Other Services- (Continued)		
Postage	\$ 11,215	
Refunds and Overpayments	<u>59,929</u>	\$ 424,035
Interest Earned		<u>13,790</u>
Total Receipts		11,102,403

Disbursements

Payments to State:

Motor Vehicle-

Licenses and Transfers	\$ 887,338	
Usage Tax	4,118,728	
Tangible Personal Property Tax	1,742,910	

Licenses, Taxes, and Fees-

Fish and Game Licenses	2,953	
Delinquent Tax	69,730	
Legal Process Tax	30,590	
Affordable Housing Trust	<u>25,566</u>	6,877,815

Payments to Fiscal Court:

Tangible Personal Property Tax	292,598	
Delinquent Tax	55,450	
Deed Transfer Tax	83,586	
Franchise Bank Deposit	159,136	
Storage Fees	<u>46,160</u>	636,930

Payments to Other Districts:

Tangible Personal Property Tax	1,985,911	
Delinquent Tax	<u>244,908</u>	2,230,819

Payments to Sheriff 44,155

Payments to County Attorney 74,853

Other Regulatory Payments:

Delinquent Tax Deposit Refunds	33,145	
Other Refunds	<u>30,708</u>	63,853

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

WHITLEY COUNTY
 CAROLYN WILLIS, COUNTY CLERK
 STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2023
 (Continued)

Disbursements (Continued)

Operating Disbursements:

Personnel Services-			
Deputies' Salaries	\$	426,952	
Employee Benefits-			
Employer's Share Social Security		42,464	
Employer's Share Retirement		133,135	
Employer's Paid Health Insurance		88,412	
Contracted Services-			
Advertising		90	
Lease		41,688	
Office Equipment & Agreements		2,260	
Materials and Supplies-			
Office Supplies		12,263	
Other Charges-			
Bank Transactions/Checks		24,013	
Conventions and Travel		2,829	
Dues		3,190	
Insurance and Bonds		7,789	
Postage		6,064	
Branch Office Rent		12,000	
Mileage Reimbursement		7,285	
Election Expense		28,660	
			\$ 839,094
Total Disbursements			<u>\$ 10,767,519</u>
Net Receipts			334,884
Less: Statutory Maximum			<u>119,539</u>
Excess Fees			215,345
Less: Expense Allowance		3,600	
Training Incentive Benefit		4,983	<u>8,583</u>
Excess Fees Due County for 2023			206,762
Payment to Fiscal Court - January 16, 2024			<u>200,000</u>
Balance Due Fiscal Court at Completion of Audit			<u><u>\$ 6,762</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

WHITLEY COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 2023

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 64.152 requires the county clerk to pay to the governing body of the county any fees, commissions, and other income of his or her office, including income from investments, which exceed the sum of his or her maximum salary as permitted by the Constitution and other reasonable expenses, including compensation of deputies and assistants by March 15 of each year. KRS 64.830 requires an outgoing clerk to make a final settlement with the fiscal court by March 15 immediately following the expiration of his or her term of office.

The financial statement has been prepared on a regulatory basis of accounting, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. This basis demonstrates compliance with the laws of Kentucky and is a special purpose framework. 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) as of December 31 that may be included in the excess fees calculation:

- Interest receivable
- Collection on accounts due from others for 2023 services
- Reimbursements for 2023 activities
- Payments due other governmental entities for December tax and fee collections and payroll
- Payments due vendors for goods or services provided in 2023

The measurement focus of a fee official's financial statement is upon current financial resources. Per KRS 64.152(2), remittance of excess fees is due to the fiscal court when the county clerk makes their final settlement.

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).

WHITLEY COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 2023
(Continued)

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

The clerk's office has elected to participate, pursuant to KRS 78.530, in the County Employees Retirement System (CERS), which is administered by the Kentucky Public Pensions Authority (KPPA). 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.

The county clerk's contribution for calendar year 2021 was \$144,019, calendar year 2022 was \$151,429, and calendar year 2023 was \$133,135.

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 be allocated as follows: five percent will go to the member's account and one percent will go to the CERS insurance fund.

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 accounts. Nonhazardous covered employees contribute five percent of their annual creditable compensation. Nonhazardous members also contribute 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 CERS Board of Directors 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 member's account is credited with a four percent employer pay credit. The employer pay credit represents a portion of the employer contribution.

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 credit.

The county's contribution rate for nonhazardous employees was 26.79 percent for the first six months and 23.34 percent for the last six months.

Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)

A. Health Insurance Coverage - Tier 1

CERS 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:

WHITLEY COUNTY
 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
 December 31, 2023
 (Continued)

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

Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) (Continued)

A. Health Insurance Coverage - Tier 1 (Continued)

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%

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, they 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.

Benefits are covered under KRS 78.5536.

B. Health Insurance Coverage - Tier 2 and Tier 3 - Nonhazardous

Once members reach a minimum vesting period of 15 years, they 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 by 1.5 percent. This was established for Tier 2 members during the 2008 Special Legislative Session by House Bill 1. During the 2013 Legislative Session, Senate Bill 2 was enacted, creating Tier 3 benefits for members.

The monthly insurance benefit has been increased annually as a 1.5 percent cost of living adjustment (COLA) since July 2003 when the law changed. The annual increase is cumulative and continues to accrue after the member's retirement.

Tier 2 member benefits are covered by KRS 78.5536. Tier 3 members are not covered by the same provisions.

C. Cost of Living Adjustments - Tier 1

The 1996 General Assembly enacted an automatic cost of living adjustment (COLA) provision for all recipients of KRS benefits. During the 2008 Special Session, the General Assembly determined that each July beginning in 2009, retirees who have been receiving a retirement allowance for at least 12 months will receive an automatic COLA of 1.5 percent. The COLA is not a guaranteed benefit. If a retiree has been receiving a benefit for less than 12 months, and a COLA is provided, it will be prorated based on the number of months the recipient has been receiving a benefit.

WHITLEY COUNTY
 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
 December 31, 2023
 (Continued)

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

Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) (Continued)

D. Cost of Living Adjustments - Tier 2 and Tier 3

No COLA is given unless authorized by the legislature with specific criteria. To this point, no COLA has been authorized by the legislature for Tier 2 or Tier 3 members.

E. Death Benefit

If a retired member is receiving a monthly benefit based on at least 48 months of service credit, KRS will pay a \$5,000 death benefit payment to the beneficiary designated by the member specifically for this benefit. Members with multiple accounts are entitled to only one death benefit.

Kentucky Retirement Systems Annual Financial Report and Proportionate Share Audit Report

Kentucky Retirement Systems issues a publicly available annual financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information on CERS. 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.

Kentucky Retirement Systems also issues proportionate share audit reports for both total pension liability and other post-employment benefits for CERS determined by actuarial valuation as well as each participating county's proportionate share. Both the Schedules of Employer Allocations and Pension Amounts by Employer and the Schedules of Employer Allocations and OPEB Amounts by Employer reports and the related actuarial tables are available online at <https://kyret.ky.gov>. 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 Whitley County Clerk maintained deposits of public funds with federally insured banking institutions as required by the Department for Local Government's (DLG) *County Budget Preparation and State Local Finance Officer Policy Manual*. The DLG Manual strongly recommends perfected pledges of securities covering all public funds except direct federal obligations and funds protected by federal insurance. In order to be perfected 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. These requirements were met.

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 Whitley County Clerk does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk, but rather follows the requirements of the DLG *County Budget Preparation and State Local Finance Officer Policy Manual*. As of December 31, 2023, all deposits were covered by FDIC insurance or a properly executed collateral security agreement.

WHITLEY COUNTY
 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
 December 31, 2023
 (Continued)

Note 4. Lease Agreements

- A. The Whitley County Clerk's office entered into a five year lease agreement for the acquisition and use of multiple types of bookkeeping and deed room equipment. The lease agreement requires a monthly payment of \$1,134 for 60 months to be completed on December 2, 2024. The total lease liability balance of the agreement was \$12,474 as of December 31, 2023
- B. The Whitley County Clerk's office entered into a five year lease agreement for the acquisition and use of a copier. The lease agreement requires a monthly payment of \$182 for 60 months to be completed on August 20, 2025. The total lease liability balance of the agreement was \$3,458 as of December 31, 2023
- C. The Whitley County Clerk's office entered into a five year lease agreement for the acquisition and use of a plat scanner. The lease agreement requires a monthly payment of \$185 for 60 months to be completed on January 12, 2027. The total lease liability balance of the agreement was \$6,660 as of December 31, 2023

The Whitley County Clerk's office was committed to the following lease agreements as of December 31, 2023:

Item Purchased	Monthly Payment	Term of Agreement	Ending Date	Principal Balance December 31, 2023
Hardware Service Agreement	\$ 1,134	60 Months	12/2/2024	\$ 12,474
Copier Lease	182	60 Months	8/20/2025	3,458
Scanner Lease	185	60 Months	1/12/2027	6,660
Total	<u>\$ 1,501</u>			<u>\$ 22,592</u>

Note 5. Subscription Based Information Technology Agreements (SBITA)

The Whitley County Clerk's office entered into a subscription-based information technology arrangement for accounting and recording software for bookkeeping and legal records in December 2019. The subscription terms are five years totaling \$129,300, and the Whitley County Clerk will receive the right-to-use subscription asset (intangible asset). The agreement requires a monthly payment of \$2,155 through December 2, 2024. The total lease liability balance of the agreement was \$23,705 as of December 31, 2023.

Item Purchased	Monthly Payment	Term of Agreement	Ending Date	December 31, 2023
Software Agreement	\$ 2,155	60 Months	12/2/2024	\$ 23,705

Note 6. Fiduciary Account - Escrow Account

The Whitley County Clerk deposited outstanding checks into a custodial bank account. When statutorily required, the county clerk will turn over the escrowed funds to the Kentucky State Treasurer as unclaimed property. The county clerk's escrowed amounts were as follows:

2019	\$84
2021	\$56
2022	\$156

WHITLEY COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 2023
(Continued)

Note 7. Employee Insurance Account

The Whitley County Clerk's office implemented a policy as part of the health insurance plan where the clerk's office would contribute up to \$3,000 for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. Any funds remaining at the end of the year are returned to the fee account and counted for as excess fees. The health insurance plan account balance was \$0 as of December 31, 2023

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

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY



ALLISON BALL
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

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

Independent Auditor's Report

The Honorable Pat White, Jr., Whitley County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Carolyn Willis, Whitley County Clerk
Members of the Whitley County Fiscal Court

We have audited, 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 Program for County Fee Officials* issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Excess Fees - Regulatory Basis of the Whitley County Clerk for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statement and have issued our report thereon dated June 5, 2024. The Whitley County Clerk's financial statement is 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.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statement, we considered the Whitley County Clerk'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 opinion on the financial statement, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Whitley County Clerk's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Whitley 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 statement 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
Statement Performed In Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards*

Report on Compliance And Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Whitley County Clerk's financial statement is 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 financial statement. 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,



Allison Ball
Auditor of Public Accounts
Frankfort, KY

June 5, 2024