

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE  
HARDIN COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2018 TAXES**

**For The Period  
April 17, 2018 Through April 15, 2019**



**MIKE HARMON  
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CONTENTS

PAGE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ..... 1

SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2018 TAXES ..... 3

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT ..... 5

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* ..... 9

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

To the People of Kentucky  
The Honorable Andy Beshear, Governor  
Holly M. Johnson, Secretary  
Finance and Administration Cabinet  
The Honorable Harry L. Berry, Hardin County Judge/Executive  
The Honorable John Ward, Hardin County Sheriff  
Members of the Hardin County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

**Report on the Financial Statement**

We have audited the Hardin County Sheriff's Settlement - 2018 Taxes for the period April 17, 2018 through April 15, 2019 - Regulatory Basis, and the related notes to the financial statement.

**Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statement**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the 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 as described in Note 1. 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.

**Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statement 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 Sheriff's Tax Settlements*, 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 statement is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, 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 statement 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 statement.

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



To the People of Kentucky  
The Honorable Andy Beshear, Governor  
Holly M. Johnson, Secretary  
Finance and Administration Cabinet  
The Honorable Harry L. Berry, Hardin County Judge/Executive  
The Honorable John Ward, Hardin County Sheriff  
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### **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 Hardin County Sheriff on the basis of accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting, 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.

### **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 paragraph, the financial statement referred to above does not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the taxes charged, credited, and paid of the Hardin County Sheriff, for the period April 17, 2018 through April 15, 2019.

### **Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting**

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the taxes charged, credited, and paid for the period April 17, 2018 through April 15, 2019 of the Hardin County Sheriff, 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 November 15, 2019, on our consideration of the Hardin County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is 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. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Hardin County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Harmon  
Auditor of Public Accounts

November 15, 2019

HARDIN COUNTY  
JOHN WARD, SHERIFF  
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2018 TAXES

For The Period April 17, 2018 Through April 15, 2019

	County	Special Taxing Districts	School Districts	State
<u>Charges</u>				
Real Estate	\$ 7,242,719	\$ 2,571,046	\$ 39,744,548	\$ 7,425,953
Tangible	553,857	203,982	2,759,820	2,175,457
Fire Dues		2,696,122		
Fire Protection	1,841			
Total Per Sheriff's Official Receipt	7,798,417	5,471,150	42,504,368	9,601,410
<u>Other Taxes &amp; Charges</u>				
Court Ordered Increases	6,459	2,226	41,301	6,527
Franchise Taxes	340,898	119,085	1,796,359	
Additional Billings	124	113	663	134
Gas Property Taxes	117	39	621	
Limestone, Sand, and Gravel	1,591	523	8,434	1,751
Bank Franchises	352,951			
Penalties	25,057	9,511	137,520	28,357
Gross Chargeable to Sheriff	8,525,614	5,602,647	44,489,266	9,638,179
<u>Credits</u>				
Exonerations	12,253	4,472	67,709	13,017
Discounts	146,026	49,652	765,253	172,861
Delinquent Real Estate	75,266	28,649	416,325	77,116
Delinquent Tangible	3,593	1,304	18,207	7,627
Delinquent Fire Fees		68,662		
Fire Fee Opt Outs		78,940		
Total Credits	237,138	231,679	1,267,494	270,621
Taxes Collected	8,288,475	5,370,968	43,221,773	9,367,557
Less: Sheriff's Commissions*	352,260	217,601	648,295	398,121
Taxes Due Districts	7,936,215	5,153,367	42,573,478	8,969,436
Taxes Paid	7,922,744	5,148,355	42,499,392	8,949,783
Refunds (Current and Prior Year)	13,471	5,029	74,236	19,653
Taxes Due Districts (Refunds Due Sheriff)	\$ 0	\$ (17)	\$ (150)	\$ 0
		**	***	

\*, \*\*, and \*\*\* See next page.

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

HARDIN COUNTY  
 JOHN WARD, SHERIFF  
 SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2018 TAXES  
 For The Period April 17, 2018 Through April 15, 2019  
 (Continued)

* Commissions:	
4.25% on	\$ 22,417,503
2.5% on	\$ 609,495
1.5% on	\$ 43,221,773
** Special Taxing Districts:	
Extension District	\$ 2
Health District	2
Soil Conservation	3
911 Fees	4
Vine Grove	(29)
Rineyville	<u>1</u>
Taxes Due Districts (Refunds Due Sheriff)	<u>\$ (17)</u>
*** School Taxing District:	
Elizabethtown Independent	<u>\$ (150)</u>
Refund Due Sheriff	<u>\$ (150)</u>

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



HARDIN COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

April 15, 2019

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Fund Accounting

The sheriff's office tax collection duties are limited to acting as an agent for assessed property owners and taxing districts. A fund is used to account for the collection and distribution of taxes. 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.

B. Basis of Accounting

The financial statement has been prepared on a regulatory basis of accounting, which demonstrates compliance with the laws of Kentucky and is a special purpose framework. Basis of accounting refers to when charges, credits, and taxes paid are reported in the settlement statement. It relates to the timing of measurements regardless of the measurement focus.

Charges are sources of revenue which are recognized in the tax period in which they become available and measurable. Credits are reductions of revenue which are recognized when there is proper authorization. Taxes paid are uses of revenue which are recognized when distributions are made to the taxing districts and others.

C. Cash and Investments

KRS 66.480 authorizes the sheriff'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).

D. Preparation of State Settlement

The Kentucky Department of Revenue conducts the settlement relating to taxes collected for the state under the provision of KRS 134.192(2)(a). This is reported as the "State Taxes" column on the financial statement.

Note 2. Deposits

The Hardin County Sheriff maintained deposits of public funds with depository institutions insured by the 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 sheriff 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 sheriff's deposits may not be returned. The Hardin County Sheriff 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 April 15, 2019, all deposits were covered by FDIC insurance or a properly executed collateral security agreement.

HARDIN COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
April 15, 2018  
(Continued)

Note 3. Tax Collection Period

A. Property Taxes

The real and personal property tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 2018. Property taxes were billed to finance governmental services for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was October 10, 2018 through April 15, 2019.

B. Gas Property Taxes

The gas property tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 2018. Property taxes are billed to finance governmental services. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was January 17, 2019 through May 15, 2019.

C. Limestone, Sand, and Gravel Reserves

The limestone, sand, and gravel property tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 2018. Property taxes are billed to finance governmental services. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was January 17, 2019 through May 15, 2019.

D. Franchise Taxes

The franchise tax assessments were levied by the Department of Revenue for various tax years. Franchise taxes are billed to finance governmental services. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was April 17, 2018 through April 15, 2019.

Note 4. Interest Income

The Hardin County Sheriff earned \$29,756 as interest income on 2018 taxes. The sheriff was in substantial compliance with his statutory responsibilities.

Note 5. Sheriff's 10% Add-On Fee

The Hardin County Sheriff collected \$159,168 of 10% add-on fees allowed by KRS 134.119(7). This amount was used to operate the sheriff's office.

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND  
ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL  
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**MIKE HARMON**  
**AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

The Honorable Harry L. Berry, Hardin County Judge/Executive  
The Honorable John Ward, Hardin County Sheriff  
Members of the Hardin County Fiscal Court

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

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 Hardin County Sheriff's Settlement - 2018 Taxes for the period April 17, 2018 through April 15, 2019 - Regulatory Basis and the related notes to the financial statement and have issued our report thereon dated November 15, 2019. The Hardin County Sheriff'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.

**Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statement, we considered the Hardin County Sheriff'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 statement, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Hardin County Sheriff's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Hardin County Sheriff'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*  
(Continued)

**Compliance And Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Hardin County Sheriff's financial statement is 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 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

November 15, 2019