



County of Hamilton

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: Dusty Rhodes, County Auditor (513-946-4047)

RHODES PROMOTES LOWER PROPERTY TAXES

In a memo to County Commissioners, County Auditor Dusty Rhodes has suggested using some of the American Rescue Funds to reduce Hamilton County property taxes.

“I realize there is a prohibition against reducing taxes in the federal legislation authorizing the funds, but the County’s Stadium Sales Tax Reduction is identified in state law as a Housing Assistance Program”, Rhodes said.

The property tax reduction was permitted by one time only legislation limited to Hamilton County, allowing a portion of sales tax proceeds to be used to lower property taxes. That reduction piggybacks on the owner-occupied reduction. Reducing the property tax was a major selling point in getting voter approval of the sales tax for the stadiums.

While originally promised to use a third of stadium sales tax the amount is reset annually by the Commissioners and currently stands at \$5,000,000 or about 6% of the last year’s stadium sales tax proceeds (\$84,359,266.09).

Here is the historical record of the property tax rebate since its inception in 1997. <https://www.hamiltoncountyauditor.org/pdf/retax/STChistory.pdf>

Rhodes noted Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost has joined with 20 other states challenging the tax reduction prohibition in the federal legislation as unconstitutional. Their position is that Washington has no authority to dictate state taxes.

He added, “Even if that suit is unsuccessful, adding money to the Stadium sales tax property tax credit can be identified as making good on a prior promise to property owners – not a new tax reduction.”

“Hamilton County is reportedly receiving \$159 million dollars”, Rhodes said. “Returning some of that money to property tax payers cannot be a bad thing”.

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May 12, 2021