

# Medina County Commissioners

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It has come to the attention of the Medina County Board of Commissioners that inaccurate information is being circulated by the Save Your Courthouse Committee to the public regarding the Courthouse Project. Specifically, the Save Your Courthouse Committee sent a letter to the City of Medina indicating that the County would not be able to afford the Courthouse Project if the City of Medina withdrew from the project. This statement is untrue. The County and City are funding only their respective shares of the Courthouse Project. Neither entity is relying on the other for financial support. If the City withdraws, the County intends to move forward.

If the City of Medina chooses to withdraw from the joint courthouse, it will reduce the courthouse square footage and construction costs. At this time, the County has projected that even with a reduction in revenues anticipated this year, the County will have funding available to pay for expected debt service on the Courthouse Project and the County will move forward with the Courthouse Project at the lower cost. We hope that the City of Medina will continue their involvement in the Courthouse Project. We highly encourage and support the collaborative efforts on this project to ensure effective and efficient use of taxpayer dollars through a combined facility, common spaces and updated security measures.

As always, the intent of the joint Courthouse Project was to address issues with the current Courthouse including failing systems, ADA compliance issues, space limitations for judges and staff and address the need for future County and City growth. It is important to note that limitations of space and outdated design create security concerns for court personnel, victims of crime, witnesses and the general public because criminal defendants can't be separated in the current public pathways. The County received a report from the Ohio Supreme Court pertaining to security and homeland security at the Courthouse which reinforces the need for a new courthouse.

It should also be noted that the County does not expect that employee layoffs will occur during the COVID-19 pandemic. The County is actively working to protect its employees during the pandemic through flexible schedules, providing personal protective equipment to employees and continuing to encourage virtual meetings and social distancing. The safety and well-being of our employees and residents are of utmost importance to us.

Sincerely,

Medina County Board of Commissioners