



County of Hamilton

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PUBLIC RECORDS

Dusty Rhodes, Hamilton County Auditor

This is Sunshine Week, first suggested by the American Society of News Editors in 2005 to educate the public about the important of open government. It now happens each year in mid-March. National Freedom of Information Day is Thursday (March 16).

One of the positive innovations in government over the past several decades is the passage of public record laws which require records be available to citizens. Much of what was formerly hard or even impossible for citizens to access is now readily available to the public.

The passage of public record laws roughly coincided with the growth of the Internet. In our case, that which used to require a trip to our office during regular office hours on weekday workdays is now at your fingertips whenever you want to access it.

Our award winning website, www.hamiltoncountyauditor.org was one of the first county auditor websites in the US, debuting in 1996. Since its debut, our goal has remained constant: We strive to make our records not only easily accessible, but also easily understood for our taxpayers.

Most of the information gathered by our office is a public record as defined by state law. That includes our property records. Besides the advantage of allowing you immediate access to your information, we have the benefit of constant reviews of our property records. This is especially helpful in catching incorrect and outdated information and allowing us to correct both. The public nature of this information protects property owners in setting correct values for tax purposes.

Along with the often viewed property records and transfer documentation, additional information on our website provides detail on the other services our office provides including dog licensing, Board of Revision, Finance, Budget & Settlement and Weights and Measures to mention just a few.

We have also prepared numerous reports and graphs showing the differences between taxing districts and how your property tax dollars are distributed. Prior to elections we show any proposed tax levies for each parcel and the estimate of what each will cost if those levies are passed by the voters.

And as a service to property owners, we include some County Treasurer tax bill information, since we know value information goes hand in hand with tax information.

While state law continues to define and redefine public records, it is your guidance which has developed our website and our public record process. We continue to depend on and encourage your comments and feedback.