



John McManus

Montgomery County Treasurer

MONTGOMERY COUNTY TREASURER COLLECTS OVER \$27 MILLION IN DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Jan. 27, 2022

Contact: Missy Mae Walters

Cell: 937-430-2903

Dayton, Ohio – Montgomery County Treasurer John McManus today announced the collection of over \$27 million in delinquent property taxes.

“The Treasurer’s Office worked incredibly hard to collect this money quickly,” said McManus, who assumed office in September. “When I started as Treasurer, I chose to restore the practice of the tax lien sale to recover delinquent property taxes. Judging from the amount of back taxes collected, it was clearly needed.” Large tax lien sales through the Treasurer’s Office had previously been on hold due to COVID-19. This year’s sale amassed nearly triple the \$10 million that was collected in the last lien sale held in 2019.

Prior to the sale, the Treasurer’s Office mailed nearly 20,000 letters to property owners who were behind in property taxes, warning them that their properties were eligible for the tax lien sale. Property owners were informed that they could either pay their debt in full or enroll in a delinquent payment contract to avoid having a lien sold on their property. A payment contract offers an installment plan to allow taxpayers to spread their payments over a series of months.

In the run up to the lien sale, nearly \$21 million was collected in delinquent taxes from property owners choosing to pay before the lien sale was held. An additional \$5.9 was collected in the sale of liens. “A lien is only sold after multiple attempts to collect from the property owner,” said McManus. “We have tools available to help people get back on track, but if they don’t come in and see us, we’re left with little option. Our local communities and school districts are counting on these dollars.”

In most lien sales, the Treasurer recovers 100% of the delinquent taxes owed on a parcel. It is then up to the new lienholder to collect from the property owner.

“Nearly 60% of every property tax dollar is dedicated to our local school systems,” said McManus. The remainder is allocated to municipalities, libraries, parks, and others. “These dollars ensure that our schools and local governments can fund essential services.”

Looking forward, McManus says that he will be focused on strategies to help move abandoned tax delinquent properties back on the tax rolls. “So many of these delinquent properties have been long abandoned,” said McManus. “Our communities won’t collect a dollar from these parcels until they’re transferred or sold and then occupied. If we want delinquency rates in Montgomery County to decrease, then we need these properties back on the tax rolls.”