



**Dave Yost**  
Ohio Auditor of State

## FINANCIAL HEALTH INDICATORS UPDATE

# A message from the Auditor



When we introduced the Financial Health Indicators tool in January, we hoped local officials would use the information to help make difficult and potentially unpopular budgetary decisions. We also hoped the indicators would educate taxpayers on a sometimes confusing topic.

On Aug. 27, an article in the *Newark Advocate*, proved that the tool was working as intended.

Reporter Kent Mallett reported that Licking County Auditor Mike Smith “was concerned by the amount of borrowing by the county commissioners and would consider rejecting additional borrowing in the next two years.” Smith cited the Financial Health Indicators as the reason for his concern.

While meeting with business leaders in Cleveland not long ago, the executives wanted to discuss more fully the indicators for communities in Northeast Ohio.

We’ve made some improvements to the functionality of the FHI tool, changes we believe will allow for enhanced analysis by government leaders, taxpayers and reporters across the Buckeye State.

Our cities and counties touch the lives of millions of Ohioans. We need to do everything possible to help the officials responsible for operating those governments make prudent decisions. If we’re successful, fewer cities and counties will end up in fiscal emergency and the need for drastic changes to local governments will be greatly reduced.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Yost".

**Dave Yost**  
Auditor of State