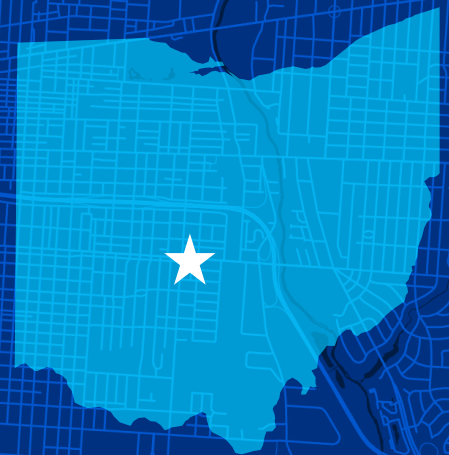




**POPULAR
ANNUAL
FINANCIAL
REPORT**

A Report to our Citizens

FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
OFFICE OF THE CITY AUDITOR
MEGAN N. KILGORE, AUDITOR

FROM THE CITY AUDITOR

Dear Citizens of Columbus,

It is my honor to serve as your City Auditor and as I begin my second term in office, I proudly present to you the 2021 Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the City of Columbus.

Despite the challenges associated with the COVID-19 global pandemic stretching into its second year, the City of Columbus remained financially strong in 2021 as we worked tirelessly to maximize the value of your tax dollars. We passed a balanced budget, maintained high-quality City services for our residents and businesses, and maintained our strong reserves.

Additionally, for the first time in the City's history, we now have an estimated one billion dollars in resources going into Fiscal Year (FY) 2022. Our local economy experienced positive benefits from three rounds of federal economic impact payments to individuals, plus enhanced unemployment insurance and loans to small businesses. As a result, much of the initial economic fallout was reversed and many of our local companies—especially those in the technology, healthcare, and financial sectors—experienced breakout years.

After initially falling at unprecedented rates in the early stages of the pandemic, the City's total income tax collections have roared back due to significant wage growth, even while job numbers are still sizably down from pre-pandemic 2019. Employment rose approximately 2.2% in 2021 over 2020. Recent improvements suggest that workers are slowly, but steadily, being drawn back into the workforce.

In the pages that follow, you will learn about the strategic investments we made during this historic year that targeted public health; marginalized communities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic; public safety; affordable housing; and building stronger, healthier, and more sustainable neighborhoods by investing in continued efforts to become carbon neutral by 2050.

My position carries with it the responsibility to report the City's financials to you. This annual publication is a labor of love for me and my staff and I hope you enjoy the story our 2021 numbers tell—a story of perseverance, innovation, and success.

Yours in service,



Megan N. Kilgore
Columbus City Auditor

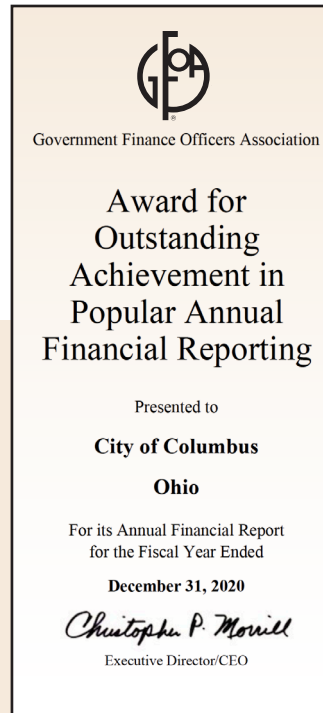
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UNDERSTANDING THE PAFR

“For years, the City of Columbus has received national recognition for being one of the fastest large cities in the country to release their Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. I am particularly proud to uphold that same commitment, even through the challenges of the pandemic.”

– Megan N. Kilgore, Columbus City Auditor



The City's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report(s) for the year 2019-2020, from which financial results found in this PAFR have been drawn, were awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition for excellence in state and local government financial reporting.

In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government unit must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, whose contents conform to program standards. Such an Annual Comprehensive Financial Report must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of one year only. We believe that our current Annual Comprehensive Financial Report continues to conform to the Certificate of Achievement Program's requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA to determine its eligibility for another Certificate.

The purpose of this document is to provide an abbreviated and simplified version of our required annual audit – the more than 300-page 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). For more than 20 years, the City of Columbus has been consistently nationally recognized as one of the fastest large cities in the country to complete their annual audit in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Beyond good financial management and governance, audit time is critically important to investors who require timely and comprehensive financial information to make accurate investment decisions.

Though this publication is intended to be simple to understand, there are some commonly used accounting terms used in this PAFR:

Bonds: a type of debt-based investment, where money is loaned to a government in return for an agreed rate of interest

Bond Ratings: independent, forward-looking opinions on the creditworthiness of a bond issuer

Business-type activities: one of two classes of activities reported in the government-wide financial statements. Business-type activities are financed in whole or in part by fees charged to external parties for goods or services. These activities usually are reported in enterprise funds

Expenditures: everything that a government spends money on

Fiscal Year (FY): a government or organization's 12-month financial budget and reporting period; not all fiscal years correspond to the calendar year but the City of Columbus' does

Fund: a separate fiscal and accounting entity used to segregate and account for resources related to a specific activity

General Fund: the main operating fund of a government

General Obligation Bonds: bonds issued that are backed by the full faith and credit of the government

Governmental Activities: activities generally financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other non-exchange revenues – general fund, special revenue funds, debt service funds, and capital project funds

Net Position: the difference between what the City owns and what the City owes; positive net position indicates a measure of financial stability

Rating Agencies: private entities that assist investors by providing rating and research on debt issuers; for example, Fitch Ratings, Moody's Investors Service, and S&P Global Ratings

Revenues: money received by a government either by taxes or non-tax sources

Revenue bonds: used to finance projects with built-in revenue streams

THE CITY OF COLUMBUS

OVERVIEW OF GOVERNMENT

Columbus was founded in 1812 and created specifically to be the capital city due to its central location in the state of Ohio. Today, it covers approximately 226 square miles.

The City is administered by a Mayor, a seven-member City Council, the City Auditor, and the City Attorney. These officials are all elected to four-year terms on an at-large basis. The Mayor and four Council members are elected in an odd numbered year. Three Council members, the City Auditor, and the City Attorney are elected in the following odd numbered year. The City Charter provides for appointments and elections of successors to these officials if they should, for any reason, vacate their office.

A charter amendment to change the total number of City Council members from seven to nine, and to change City Council structure from at-large to by place, was approved by voters on May 8, 2018. Such changes take effect in 2023, affecting terms begin-

ning in 2024. The Recreation and Parks Director, the Health Commissioner, the Inspector General, and the Civil Service Executive Director are appointed by, and report to, independent commissions. The City Treasurer and City Clerk to the Council are appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, City Council. All other departments' directors are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Mayor.

COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL

Since 2018, City Council has been led by President Shannon G. Hardin, who was elected to the post by fellow council members.

City Council meets in the City Hall council chambers on Mondays at 5pm.

Our Elected Officials (as of January 2022):



Andrew J. Ginther, Mayor



Megan N. Kilgore, City Auditor



Zach Klein, City Attorney



Shannon G. Hardin, Council President



Elizabeth Brown, President Pro Tempore



Nicholas J. Bankston, Councilmember



Lourdes Barroso de Padilla, Councilmember



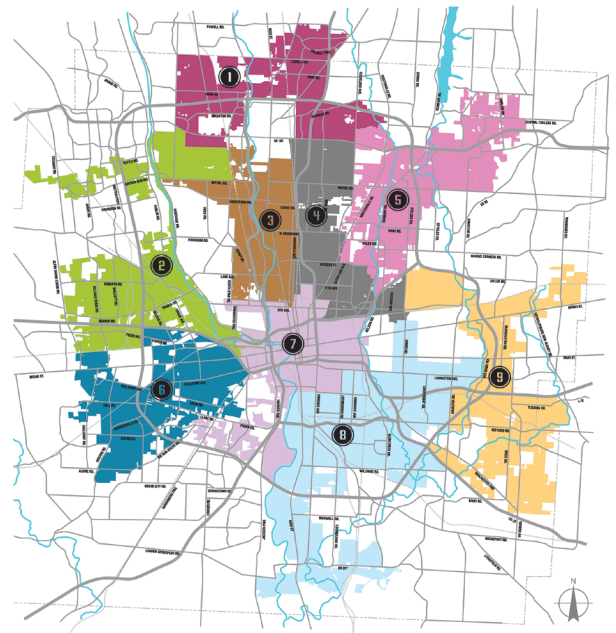
Rob Dorans, Councilmember



Shayla Favor, Councilmember



Emmanuel Remy, Councilmember



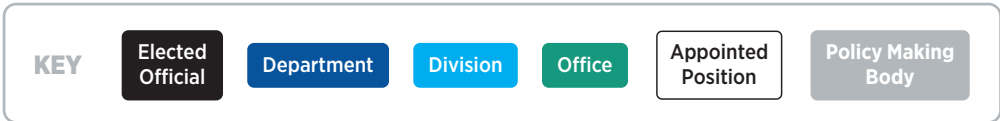
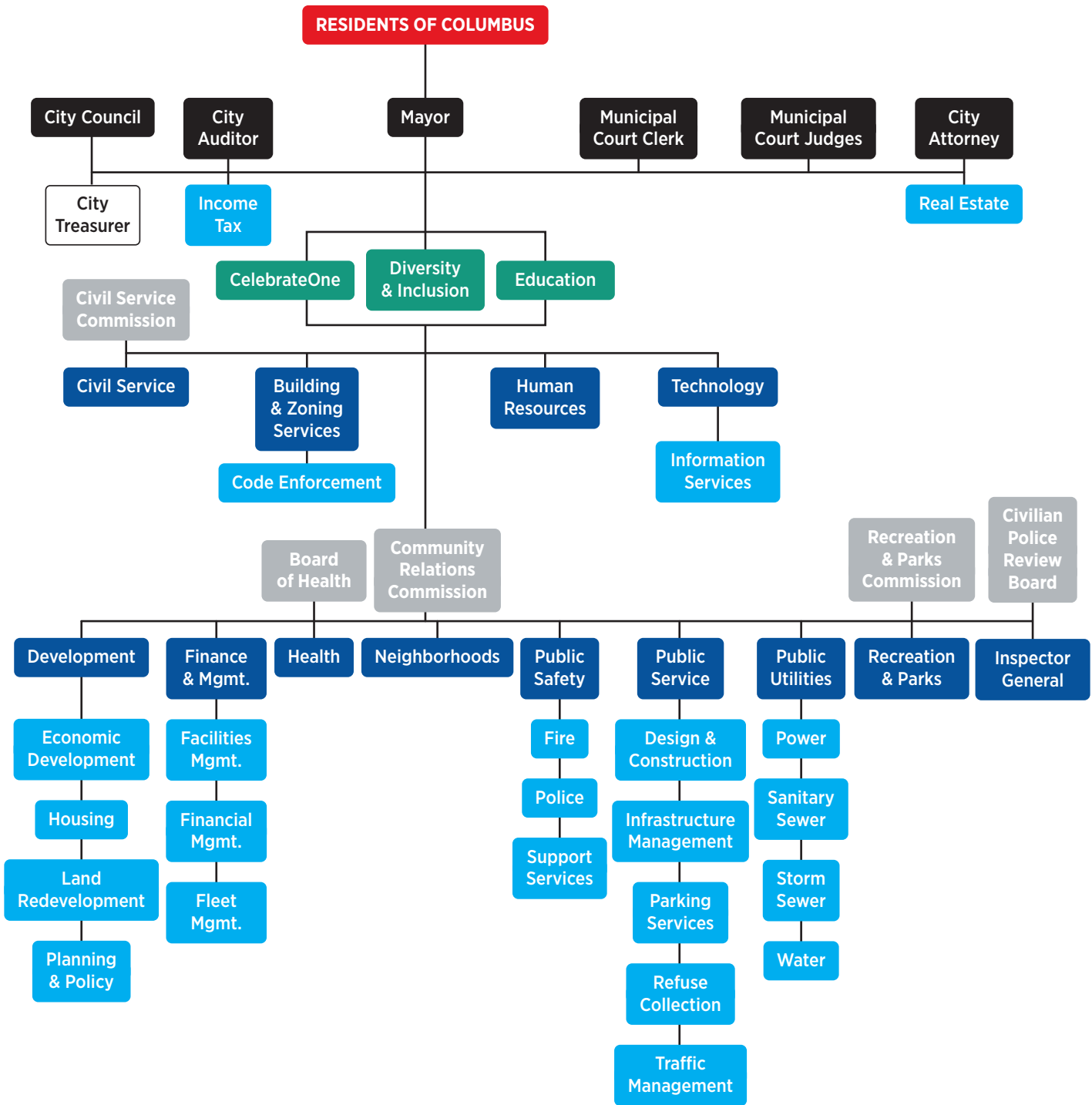
DISTRICT	POPULATION
DISTRICT 1	100,997 RESIDENTS
DISTRICT 2	100,572 RESIDENTS
DISTRICT 3	100,914 RESIDENTS
DISTRICT 4	100,288 RESIDENTS
DISTRICT 5	100,505 RESIDENTS
DISTRICT 6	100,522 RESIDENTS
DISTRICT 7	100,514 RESIDENTS
DISTRICT 8	100,581 RESIDENTS
DISTRICT 9	100,855 RESIDENTS

City Council Districts

Effective 2023 for terms beginning in 2024



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES OF THE CITY

Mayor Andrew J. Ginther's Goals and Initiatives for 2021

The Mayor's Equity Agenda guided the components of the City's 2021 Budget. Goals of the Equity Agenda include:

- reducing infant mortality by making sure Black babies reach their first birthday and beyond;
- ensuring access to high-quality pre-kindergarten, regardless of a resident's zip code;
- working to reduce evictions where we know Black mothers are disproportionately impacted;
- increasing the availability of affordable housing;
- creating more opportunities for Black-owned and women-owned businesses to have equal access to City contracts;
- connecting residents to good paying careers in the trades;
- ensuring our residents feel safe wherever they go.

Everything we do as a City must be done through the lens of equity, and our budget must reflect this, too. As we deal with the economic blow the global pandemic has had on our community, equity has never been more important.

With the Equity Agenda in mind, the Mayor's Strategic Priorities for 2021 were:



Neighborhoods: The City continues to invest in our neighborhoods - focusing on those with higher rates of unemployment, crime and infant mortality: Franklinton, Hilltop, Linden, Near East, Northland, Near South, Southeast, and Northeast. Many factors lead to thriving, vibrant neighborhoods including safety, mixed-income housing, and jobs.



Police Reform: We are moving our way of policing from a 20th century model of law enforcement to a 21st century model of community policing. We will focus on proactive police-community interactions and broad-based support to prevent and reduce crime through the Safe Streets Bike Patrol, Neighborhood Crisis Response, CARE Coalition, and programming through Recreation and Parks.



Public Health: COVID-19 made clear to us the importance of strong public health for our community. We must continue to slow the rate of infections and deal with the outcomes of the pandemic that has shone light on the disparities in public health. In addition, how we address public health also leads to successes in safety and stronger neighborhoods.



Economic Development and Affordable Housing: The City is working to advance economic recovery from COVID-19 and assure that this recovery reaches every corner of our community. Through public investment and policies, we will create jobs, increase wages, improve access to housing residents can afford, and strengthen Columbus neighborhoods.



Birth to Five and Education: Every child in every Columbus neighborhood deserves the opportunity to thrive. The City is investing in CelebrateOne to ensure that all babies in Columbus and Franklin County - regardless of race, ZIP code, or family income - are able to celebrate their first birthday and beyond. Early Start Columbus works to ensure all children are able to enter kindergarten with the skills and knowledge they need to thrive.



Diversity and Inclusion: The administration remains committed to fostering a culture of inclusion to ensure its workforce and suppliers reflect the rich diversity of Columbus and that the work of the City is approached through the equity lens. The Columbus Women's Commission is working to advance the economic well-being of women, particularly through its pay equity initiative and eviction prevention, both of which disproportionately impact women of color.



Sustainable Columbus: A healthy environment for every resident is key to ensuring Columbus' growth. Through Sustainable Columbus, the City is optimizing internal City operations and working with external stakeholders throughout the community to enhance and promote policies that build stronger, healthier neighborhoods.

CITY SERVICES BY THE NUMBERS

		2019	2020	2021
Public Services	Streets (miles)	2,751	2,673	2,770
	Land area (square miles)	225.790	225.868	226.153
	% Potholes service requests closed within 3 days	88%	90%	90%
Public Safety	Police personnel	1,918	1,939	1,921
	Fire personnel	1,564	1,579	1,596
	Police substations	17	17	17
	Fire stations	33	34	34
	% Structure fire incidents responded to within 8 minutes of call	94%	95%	95%
	% Emergency medical responses within 8 minutes of call	91%	90%	92%
Development	# Full-time jobs committed to be created through economic development incentive programs	2,869	688	13,848
Health	# Food safety inspections completed	14,823	9,235	16,133
Recreation and Parks	Park acreage managed	13,681	13,749	13,970
	Parks managed	397	400	407
	Playgrounds	174	174	170
	Community centers	29	29	32
Water	Water mains (miles)	2,528	2,531	2,535
	Maximum daily capacity (millions of gallons)	255	255	255
	Water treatment plants	3	3	3
Sewer	Sanitary sewers (miles)	4,381	4,245	4,452
	Wastewater treatment plants	2	2	2

Sources: 2021 Various City Departments

THE CITY'S NET POSITION

The net position of the City is equal to City assets and deferred outflows offset by City liabilities and deferred inflows. Basically, net position is the difference between what the City owns and what the City owes. Positive net position indicates a measure of financial stability. The City's net position increased from \$2.82B in 2020 to \$3.39B in 2021, the components of which are listed below. In 2021, governmental activities expenses and business-type activities expenses decreased by 16.4% and 16.2%, respectively, due to a plan design change with the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) other postemploy-

ment benefits plan (OPEB). OPERS no longer offers a self-insured OPEB plan to its retirees. Instead, retirees receive a monthly fixed stipend based on their eligibility. As a result, the OPERS OPEB 2020 net liability converted to a net asset in 2021 with the offset recognized as a reduction in pension expense.

The City participates in two statewide, multi-employer public retirement plans. The City's share of those collective pension/OPEB net liabilities is \$1.48B, which is the sole reason for the negative \$316.4M unrestricted net position.

Net Position at December 31 (in millions)			
	2019	2020	2021
Current and Other Assets	\$2,533	\$2,444	\$2,784
Net OPEB Asset	-	-	41
Capital Assets	7,262	7,496	7,706
Deferred Outflows of Resources	694	472	390
Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources	\$10,489	\$10,412	\$10,921
Other Liabilities	254	240	348
Net Pension & OPEB Liability	2,257	1,938	1,517
Long-term Liabilities other than Pension and OPEB	5,221	4,950	5,089
Deferred Inflows of Resources	206	461	580
Total Liabilities and Deferred Inflows of Resources	\$7,938	\$7,589	\$7,534
Net Investment in Capital Assets	3,142	3,330	3,518
Restricted	171	184	185
Unrestricted	(762)	(691)	(316)
Net Position	\$2,551	\$2,823	\$3,387

Revenues and Expenses

The City's financial activities in total are made up of two broad classifications: governmental and business-type activities. Additionally, there are two main sources of revenue for the City: program revenues and general revenues. Program revenues include charges for services. General revenues include income taxes, property taxes, and other revenues that are not generated through programming.

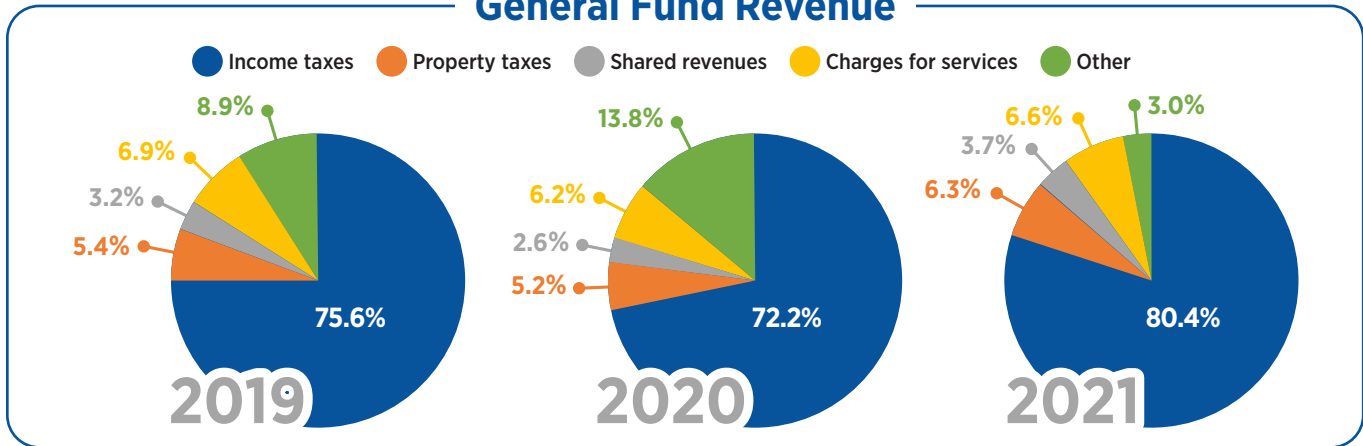
Revenue for the City in 2021 totaled \$2.40B, a decrease of \$68.02M or 2.8% compared to 2020. Total revenue decreased in 2021 due to a variety of offsetting factors including: income tax growth, timing of federal COVID-19 stimulus programs, reduction in investment earnings, and Bureau of Workers Com-

CHANGES IN NET POSITION (in millions)			
	2019	2020	2021
Revenues	\$2,287	\$2,468	\$2,400
Expenses	1,489	2,196	1,836
Changes in Net Position	798	272	564
Net Position - Beginning	1,753	2,551	2,823
Net Position - Ending	\$2,551	\$2,823	\$3,387

pensation dividends received in 2020. Expenses for the City totaled \$1.84B in 2021, a decrease of \$359.80M or 16.4% as compared to 2020. This decrease is due to the change in the OPERS OPEB plan described above.

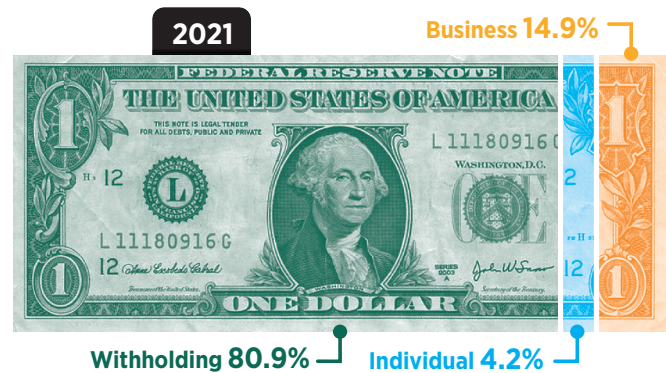
WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

General Fund Revenue



Sources of Income Tax

Income Tax Collected	2019	2020	2021
Withholding	82.9%	84.1%	80.9%
Individual Accounts <i>Not from Withholding</i>	5.1%	4.6%	4.2%
Business Accounts	12.0%	11.3%	14.9%



The General Fund is the main operating fund for the City.

Funding for the City’s General Fund and services provided to residents comes from many sources. In 2021, the City’s General Fund revenues totaled \$962.38M. The majority, or 80.4%, of total General Fund revenues was generated from income taxes. General government operations are also funded from property taxes, charges for services, fines, investment earnings, and other revenue streams.

During 2021, governmental funds recognized \$1.031B in income tax revenue. The General Fund is the primary operating fund of the City, accounting for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund. The Special Income Tax debt service fund is used to account for the accumulation of resources for the payment of general obligation debt: principal, interest, and related expenditures. The City issues debt to fund capital improvements and pays down the governmental debt using 25% of the income tax proceeds set aside for debt service.

“Rainy Day” Fund Balance 10-Year Trend (in millions of dollars)

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
\$32.9	\$39.8	\$56.1	\$64.1	\$66.7	\$69.5	\$73.9	\$76.2	\$80.7	\$85.2	\$87.9

Columbus is committed to its sound fiscal policies, one of which is setting aside dollars for a “Rainy Day” reserve. As of December 31, 2021, the City has accumulated a \$266.6M unassigned fund balance in the General Fund, of which \$87.9M has been set aside for a “Rainy Day.”

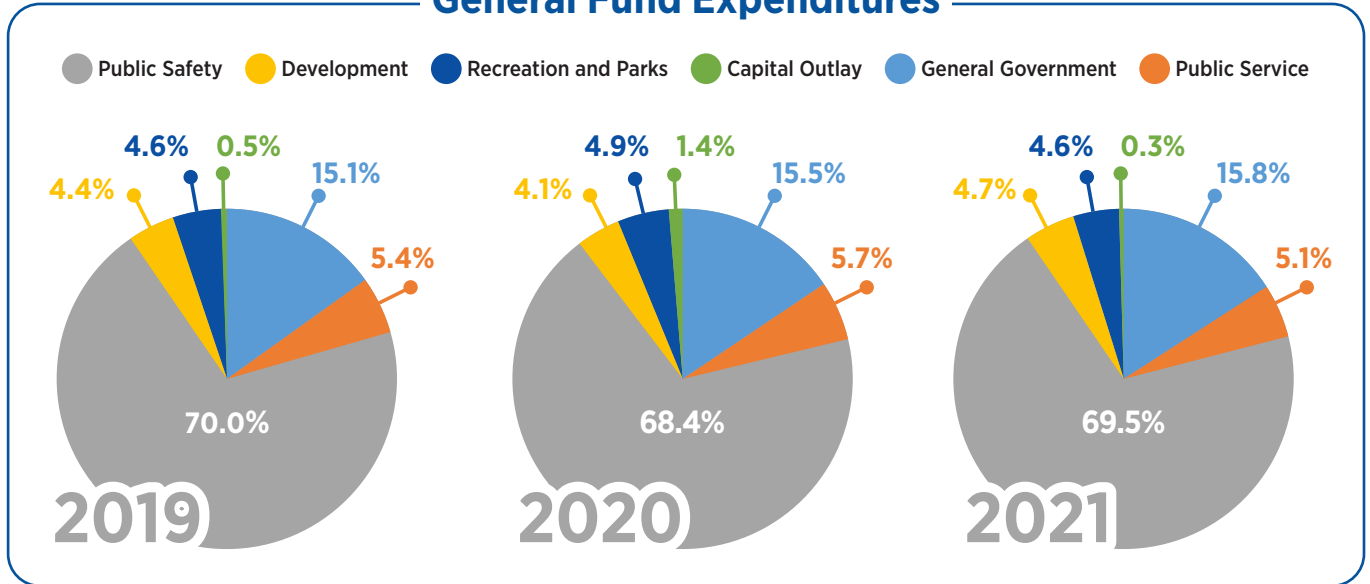
The City maintains a goal of a \$90 million balance by the end of 2024.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

The City provides a full range of services through its General Fund operations such as police and fire protection, recreational activities, refuse collection, development, public health, and other amenities. In 2021, General Fund expenditures and transfers out totaled \$993.31M, including a \$32.95M

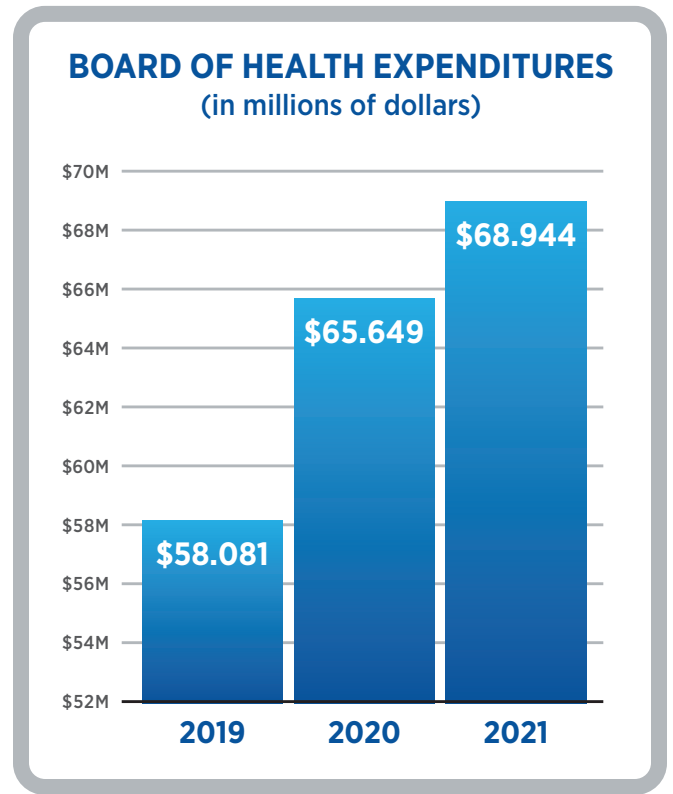
transfer to the Columbus Board of Health, a blended component unit of the City. While the majority of general government operations are funded by General Fund revenues, \$26.57M was funded by transfers from other governmental funds.

General Fund Expenditures



Board of Health Expenditures

A major component of City operations includes delivering public health services to the community. Public health expenditures are reported separately and receive a significant portion of its funding from the General Fund. The increase in expenditures over the past years were due to the City's response to COVID-19.



PUBLIC HEALTH EFFORTS DURING COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to affect the City of Columbus in 2021. The City took various preventative and proactive measures such as “shelter-at-home” guidelines for individuals and citywide mask mandates to slow the spread.

Columbus Public Health led our community efforts to protect the health of our residents during dangerous emerging variants and the ongoing pandemic. As part of its response, Columbus Public Health implemented a mass vaccination effort to reach and protect as many people as possible from COVID-19, especially our residents of color who were disproportionately impacted from the virus. In addition to giving more than 200,000 vaccines in 2021, their COVID-19 response also included COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, compliance, and enforcement.

VACCINATION RATES

(as of December 31, 2021)

COLUMBUS RESIDENTS

57.1% (383,683)
had begun the vaccination series

52.5% (351,953)
had completed the series

FRANKLIN COUNTY RESIDENTS

64.8% (853,260)
had begun the vaccination series

60.3% (794,003)
had completed the series



COLUMBUS PUBLIC HEALTH COVID-19 RESPONSE BY THE NUMBERS:

CASE INVESTIGATION

Conducted 89,839
COVID-19 case investigations to identify cases and conduct contact tracing to prevent the spread of COVID-19

CONTACT TRACING

Conducted 29,697
contact investigations for isolation and quarantine

TESTING

Completed 6,447
COVID-19 tests with adult hospital partners: OhioHealth, Ohio State Wexner Medical Center, and Mount Carmel Health System

OUTBREAK RESPONSE

Responded to 55
COVID-19 outbreaks

MASK ENFORCEMENT

Conducted 854 complaint investigations
Issued 43 warning letters
Achieved a 94.9% compliance rate

PUBLIC INFORMATION CALL CENTER

102,417 calls and chats
to provide information, education, and appointments for testing and vaccines

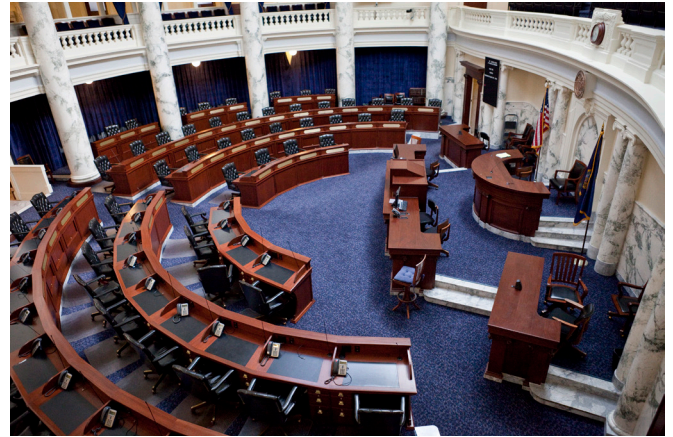
ECONOMIC RECOVERY DURING COVID-19

In an effort to jumpstart the nation's economic recovery from the ongoing pandemic, the federal government took bold action by allocating funds to local governments in 2021.

As of December 31, the City of Columbus had received and expended \$157 million of Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds in the following categories:

- \$80 million for direct spending for COVID-19 expenditures such as medical expenses for testing, EMS response, and personal protective equipment (PPE);
- \$51 million for human services such as shelter for those experiencing homelessness, food, and rental assistance; and
- \$26 million for economic impact such as small business assistance and technology for teleworking.

The City also received \$93.5 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, as well as \$39.6 million in Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) dollars to invest in human services, youth and childcare programming, vaccine initiatives, small business support, and economic assistance in other community areas.



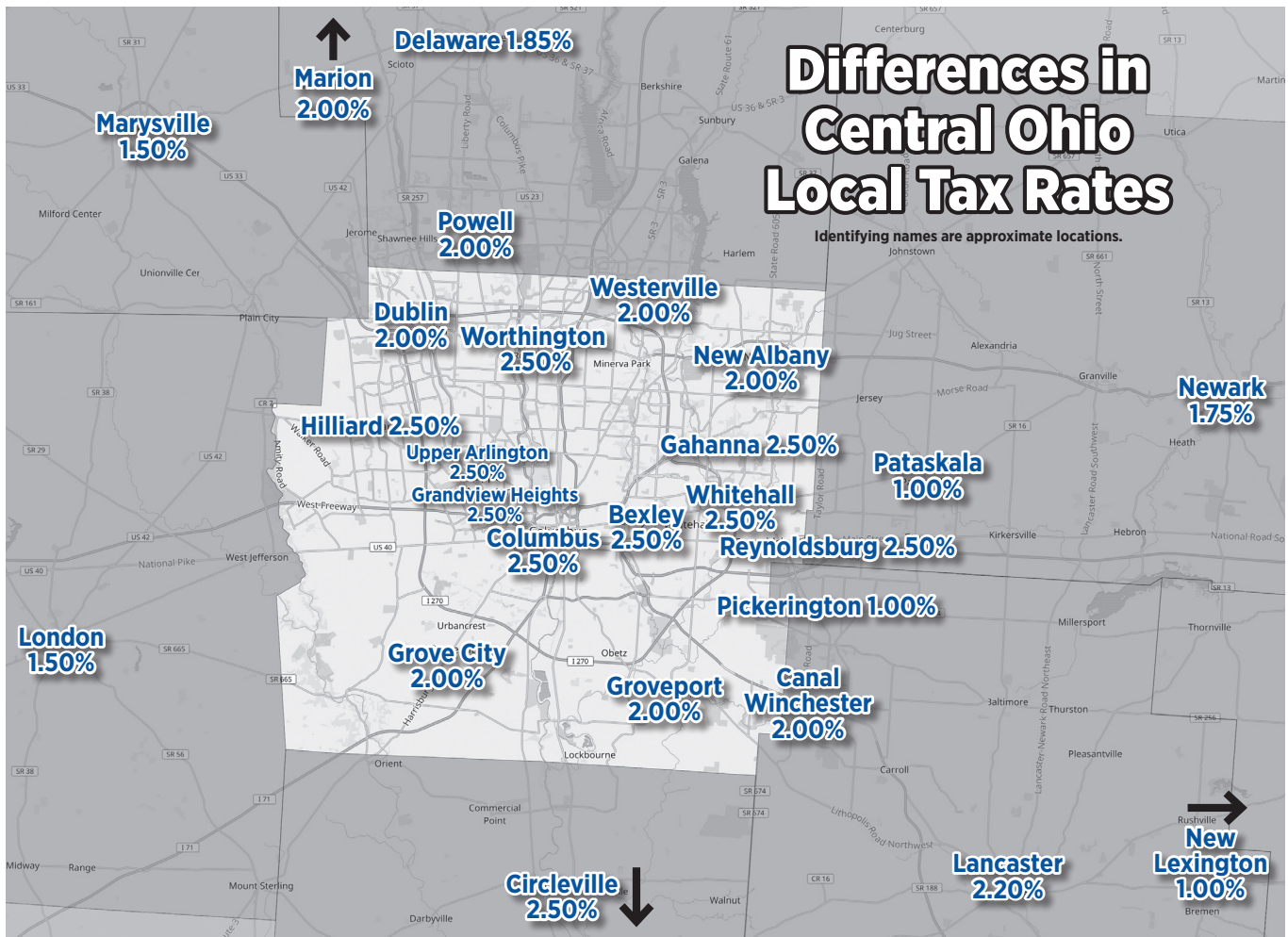
THE IMPACT OF REMOTE WORK ON INCOME TAX

Income tax produces approximately 78% of the City’s General Fund revenues. Remote work remains the largest threat to the City’s future tax collections. While rules for taxing remote work were initially relaxed, the State passed legislation in June of 2021 to allow for refunds of 2021 municipal income tax paid on behalf of remote workers to the municipality where the business was located rather than where the employee was physically working. These refunds will be requested in 2022 with the filing of 2021 tax returns; however, due to this change, the City saw a slight impact to withholding tax revenue during the second half of 2021 as employers began adjusting their withholdings to where remote workers were working.

The City is anticipating potentially large impacts to income tax collections in future fiscal years given the quantity and frequency of remote work. Predicting the long-term use of remote work and



the length of time it will take for employers to fully implement processes to track such work is difficult. Consequently, we expect that it will take some time for revenues to fully reflect remote work. The City has anticipated revenue losses due to remote work in its 2022 Budget.



2021 STATE OF THE LOCAL ECONOMY

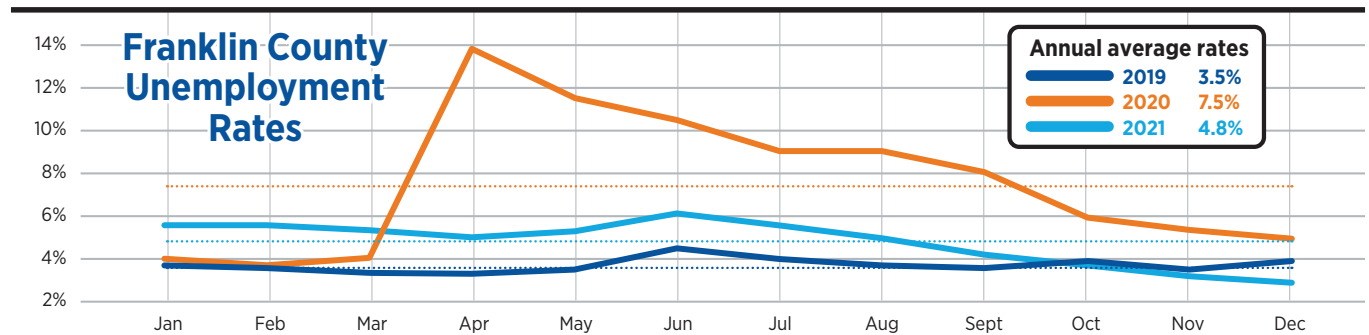
Columbus is among the fastest-growing cities in the country, due in part to our steady pipeline of young talent. Home to a flourishing technology industry and a growing number of startups, Columbus is emerging as a top market for companies in financial/insurance, technology, healthcare and gene therapy, and e-commerce innovation. Diverse and not reliant on any single industry, the Columbus economy has historically been able to quickly recover from economic downturns. The strong rebound in the City's revenue collections through 2021 reflects the inherent resilience of our economy made strong by federal relief and recovery dollars used by the City for emergency housing assistance, small business support, and other remedial efforts on a micro level.

Personal income in Ohio also soared by 14.6 percent in the first quarter of 2021 alone, the largest one quarter increase since the state began collecting such data in 1948. Columbus' income tax collections

grew solidly throughout 2021 as more workers were rehired across the City, wage increases were given within several industries, and governmental transfer payments lifted local households.

Rank	TOP 10 EMPLOYERS	Full-time Employees
1	The Ohio State University	35,210
2	State of Ohio	24,897
3	OhioHealth	24,512
4	JPMorgan Chase & Co.	17,480
5	Nationwide	16,000
6	Nationwide Children's Hospital	13,161
7	Kroger Co.	12,018
8	Amazon	9,200
9	City of Columbus	8,705
10	Mount Carmel Health System	8,182

Source: City of Columbus, 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report



Source: Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Bureau of Labor Market Information

Columbus Job Numbers and Ohio Wage Growth

INDUSTRY	2019	2020		2021		WAGE GROWTH Q3 '21 vs Q1 '20
	# of Columbus Jobs	Columbus Annual Average	% Change	Columbus Annual Average	% Change	
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	263	N/A	—	N/A	—	—
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	262	N/A	—	N/A	—	—
Utilities	2,693	2,485	-7.7%	2,571	3.5%	2.2%
Construction	23,180	23,123	-0.2%	24,650	6.6%	5.8%
Manufacturing	26,062	25,031	-4.0%	25,564	2.1%	7.9%
Wholesale Trade	18,723	18,013	-3.8%	18,013	0.0%	8.1%
Retail Trade	47,719	45,546	-4.6%	46,207	1.5%	8.9%
Transportation and Warehousing	30,307	34,724	14.6%	37,684	8.5%	12.0%
Information	9,799	8,616	-12.1%	8,278	-3.9%	9.7%
Finance and Insurance	33,640	33,403	-0.7%	33,025	-1.1%	9.2%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	11,021	10,597	-3.8%	11,798	11.3%	8.9%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical	34,880	34,617	-0.8%	34,722	0.3%	10.4%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	14,202	13,905	-2.1%	13,867	-0.3%	5.9%
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	34,836	32,215	-7.5%	33,345	3.5%	17.0%
Educational Services	11,431	10,370	-9.3%	11,313	9.1%	8.4%
Health Care and Social Assistance	92,718	88,916	-4.1%	88,723	-0.2%	7.9%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	8,278	5,996	-27.6%	5,784	-3.5%	17.6%
Accommodation and Food Services	47,789	39,557	-17.2%	41,679	5.4%	29.2%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	24,887	22,345	-10.2%	23,409	4.8%	7.1%
Government	107,103	104,003	-2.9%	104,822	0.8%	3.8%
Unclassified	31	N/A	—	N/A	—	—
	579,824	553,462	-4.5%	565,454	2.2%	

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

(14,370) fewer jobs filled than in 2019

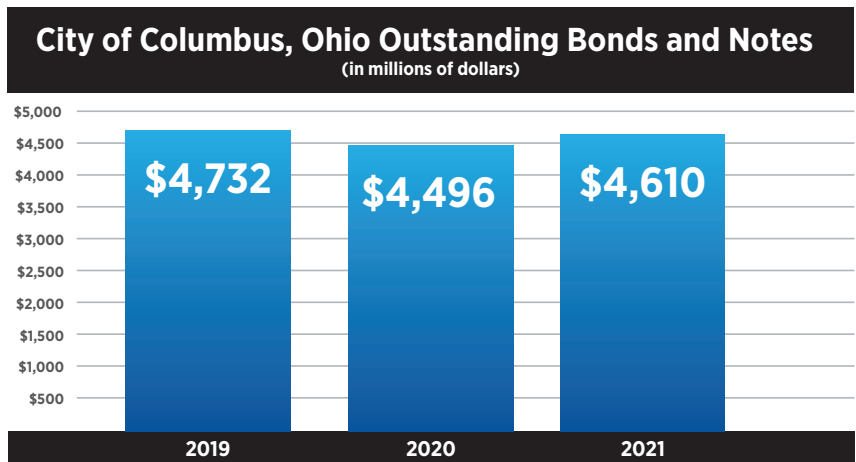
MANAGING THE CITY'S DEBT

Debt is used to finance the City's major capital projects, such as water reservoirs, sewer lines, and street improvements. Depending on the project, the City will typically issue general obligation bonds, notes, revenue bonds, or utilize loans from the State of Ohio. All debt issuance is conducted within the parameters of the City's debt guidelines.

Exceptional bond ratings save the City money by securing lower interest rates on its debt. Columbus is proud to receive the highest designation of financial strength - triple-A bond ratings - from three different rating agencies.

Municipal Bond Rating	Moody's	S&P Global	Fitch
General Obligation (GO) Bonds	Aaa	AAA	AAA
2006 Sanitary Sewer System Adjustable Rate GO Bonds	Aaa/VMIG1	AAA/A-1+	AAA/F1+
2008 Sanitary Sewer System Adjustable Rate Revenue Bonds (Series 2008B)	Aa1/VMIG1	AA/A-1+	AA-/F1+
2014 Sanitary Sewer System Fixed Rate Revenue Refunding Bonds	Aa1	AA	AA-
2015 Sanitary Sewer System Fixed Rate Revenue Refunding Bonds	Aa1	AA	(Not Rated)

Debt and Other Financial Obligations Portfolio (in thousands)	Outstanding Fixed	Outstanding Variable	Total Outstanding Principal
General Obligation (GO) Bonds	\$2,850,175	20,000	\$2,870,175
Assessment Bonds - Direct Placement	51	—	51
Sanitary Sewer Revenue Obligation Bonds	316,335	51,855	368,190
Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Revenue Bonds	17,050	—	17,050
State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) Loan - Direct Borrowing	6,600	—	6,600
Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) Loans - Direct Borrowing	3,762	—	3,762
Lease Revenue Bonds	47,280	—	47,280
Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) Revenue Loans			
Water - Direct Borrowing	352,938	—	352,938
Sanitary Sewer - Direct Borrowing	911,803	—	911,803
Storm Sewer - Direct Borrowing	4,478	—	4,478
General Obligation Notes - Direct Placement	27,200	—	27,200
	\$4,420,488	71,855	\$4,609,527



BUILDING FOR OUR FUTURE

The latest U.S. Census data shows that the City of Columbus has experienced substantial population growth in the last decade. Columbus' population is now 905,748 – a 15.1% increase over the last decade and the highest percentage increase since the 1950s. This boom has resulted in major economic development opportunities like Intel announcing plans to build the world's largest chip-making complex in Central Ohio. However, the influx has also presented some challenges, specifically related to affordable housing as the City of Columbus experienced a low inventory of homes for sale and enthusiastic buyer demand in 2021.



2021 COLUMBUS REGION HOUSING MARKET

MEDIAN SALES PRICE - \$260,000

↑12.1% from 2020

ACTIVE HOME LISTINGS

↑3.5% from 2020

CLOSED SALES - 36,489
(a record for Central Ohio)

LIST PRICE RECEIVED
102% of asking price

Courtesy: Columbus Realtors 2021 Annual Report on the Columbus Region Housing Market

+12.6%

One-Year Change in Price
SINGLE-FAMILY

+14.3%

One-Year Change in Price
CONDO

15

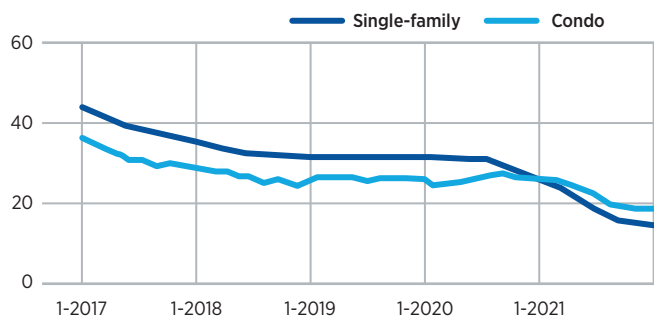
Average Total Days on Market
SINGLE-FAMILY

19

Average Total Days on Market
CONDO

Days on Market Until Sale

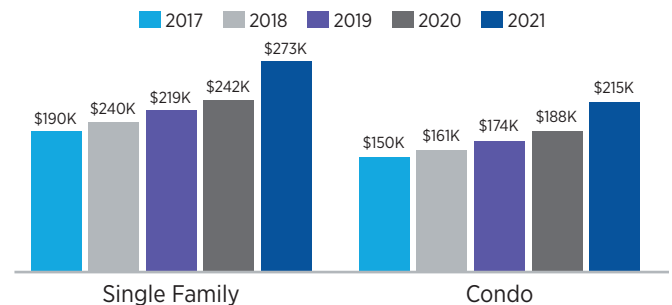
This chart uses a rolling 12-month average for each data point.



Courtesy: Columbus Realtors 2021 Annual Report on the Columbus Region Housing Market

Median Sold Price

Does not account for seller concession and/or down payment assistance.



Courtesy: Columbus Realtors 2021 Annual Report on the Columbus Region Housing Market



A PLAN FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Clean Energy Columbus

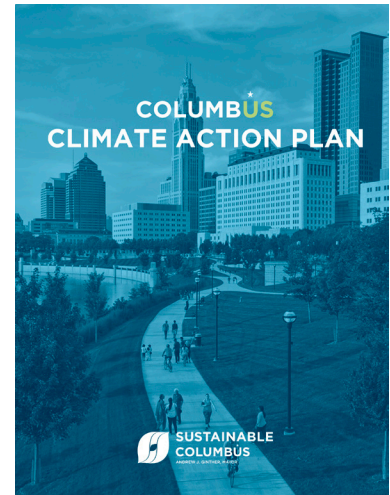
In 2021, the City began its Clean Energy Columbus Program – a voter-approved initiative that authorized the City to aggregate retail electric load for residents and small businesses to support local clean energy generation. AEP Energy was selected through a competitive bidding process to supply 100% local, Ohio-based, clean energy to eligible residents and small businesses through the Clean Energy Columbus Program. Clean energy refers to energy produced from renewable and carbon-free sources that emit little-to-no greenhouse gas emissions, including solar, wind, hydropower, geothermal, waste heat, and biomass fuel energy. The program is expected to generate approximately \$1.7 million in funding each year which will be used to fund a Community Grant that will be allocated toward community reinvestment around sustainability and climate action within the City.

LinkUS

The LinkUS initiative is a multi-jurisdictional collaborative effort to provide a complete mobility system along key regional corridors, including high capacity and advanced rapid transit, technology solutions, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, and land use changes. This initiative aims to support equitable mode shifts and carbon free vehicles.

Blueprint Columbus

A significant climate hazard facing Columbus is increased rain and stronger, more frequent storm events. Blueprint Columbus is the City's plan to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows while also investing in neighborhoods and the local economy. With a focus on green infrastructure, Blueprint Columbus proposes the development of solutions that support the environment, including channeling rainwater that previously could contribute to combined-sewer overflows into green infrastructure, such as rain gardens.



The City released its first ever Columbus Climate Action Plan in December 2021. The plan is a roadmap to achieving a 45% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and 100% carbon neutrality by 2050. The plan includes strategies to equitably promote greater community resiliency against climate change.



KEEPING COLUMBUS SAFE

In 2021, the City of Columbus spent 69.5% of its General Fund budget on Public Safety to operate 17 police substations (with 1,921 officers) and 34 fire stations (with 1,596 firefighters). Its mission is to provide outstanding public safety services to the residents of Columbus allowing every resident on every street and in every neighborhood to feel safe.

Police Reform and Accountability

From changes in leadership to innovative new approaches to safety, the department continued to deliver reform, even as Columbus fought the dual plagues of COVID-19 and record levels of violence experienced by cities around the country.

Those changes included new outside leadership in Public Safety and the Division of Police (CPD). Public Safety Director Robert W. Clark brings 35 years of local, federal and international law enforcement experience, including decades with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. CPD Chief Elaine Bryant and Assistant Chief LaShanna Potts came to Columbus with a combined four decades of experience with the Detroit Police Department. Chief Bryant is the City's first-ever chief from outside of CPD, and the first African American female chief. The Director and Chiefs helped support and facilitate initiatives including the Department of Justice review of CPD, and the creation of a Gun Crime Intelligence Center with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives to process and share information on gun-related crimes in a more coordinated and timely fashion.

Right Response Unit

In a collaboration between CPD, Columbus Fire (CFD) and Columbus Public Health, the Right Response Unit (RRU) embedded social workers in the 911 Emergency Call Center. These mental health professionals worked with 911 Dispatchers and CFD Paramedics on calls related to mental health or substance use disorders to de-escalate crisis situations and connect callers with the appropriate resources. The Right Response Unit pilot launched in June and in its first six months, triaged 450 calls to the 911 center. More than one-third of those calls did not require a police response, freeing up officers to respond to other calls for service, while linking those in crisis to appropriate health services. Strong preliminary results led Mayor Ginther to designate funding to expand the staff and hours of the unit.

DIVERSIFYING SAFETY FORCES

Innovative and intentional recruiting efforts in 2021 resulted in some of the most diverse recruit classes in years.

**Columbus Police
Department June
Recruit Class:
53% DIVERSITY**

**Columbus Police
Department December
Recruit Class:
47% DIVERSITY**

**Columbus Fire
Department June
Graduating Class:
49% DIVERSITY**

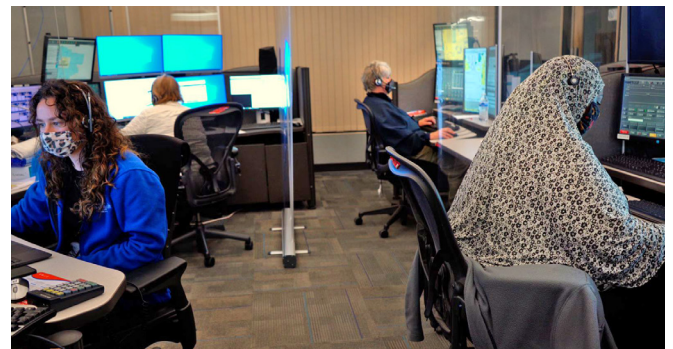
**Columbus Fire
Department December
Graduating Class:
49% DIVERSITY**



Public Safety Director Robert Clark, CPD Chief Elaine Bryant, and Mayor Andrew Ginther celebrate Chief Bryant's swearing-in.

1,839,032 Police and Fire calls answered

952,558 911 calls processed



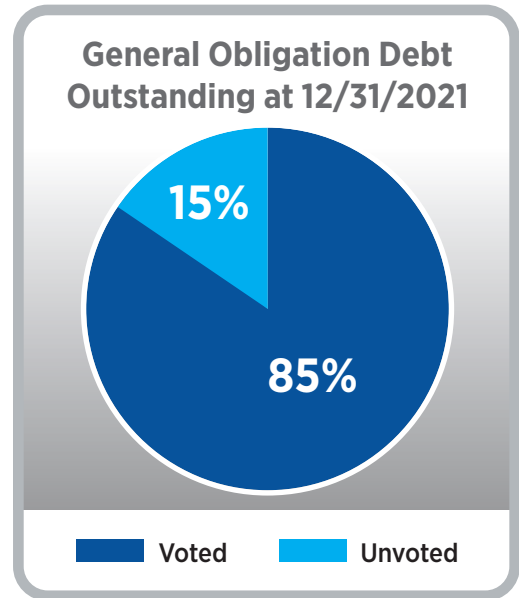
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Capital Improvement Program

Each year the City updates its Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which is a six-year planning document for future capital projects throughout the City. The CIP is funded mainly by the issuance of debt in the form of general obligation bonds, both voted and unvoted. Voted debt is authorized by a popular vote of Columbus residents. Voter approval provides the City with the ability to levy an ad valorem property tax to service the debt, which provides additional assurance to investors that their investment in the City is secure. However, the City has never exercised its taxing authority for this purpose and does not intend to do so.

Eighty-five percent of the general obligation debt issued to fund the City's Capital Improvement Program is voted debt.

From 1956 through 2021, the City has sought voter approval 101 times to issue debt for various purposes, and the voters have given their approval 95 times. All requests have passed since 1981.



City's
2021-2026 CIP:
74%
PUBLIC UTILITIES



Photos: The Scioto Peninsula, a new mixed-use development near downtown, is under construction. Courtesy: Columbus Downtown Development Corporation

CAPITAL ASSETS

The City's capital assets are grouped by governmental activities and business-type activities.

The governmental capital assets consist primarily of infrastructure, which are mainly roadways, curbs, and sidewalks.

Business-type capital assets consist mainly of improvements other than buildings, which are water

and sewer treatment plants, water and sewer lines, and reservoirs.

Annually, City Council authorizes the Capital Improvement Budget (CIB), which serves as the basis for all budgeting and spending related to capital projects throughout the City for the ensuing year. The CIB provides a breakdown of the various capital projects by department and by source of funding.

CAPITAL ASSETS, Net of Accumulated Depreciation (in thousands of dollars)

	Total 2019	Total 2020	Governmental Activities	Business-type Activities	Total 2021
Land	\$398,544	\$395,592	\$312,028	\$89,053	\$401,081
Buildings	660,392	667,911	612,994	39,921	652,915
Improvements other than buildings	4,294,273	4,405,924	489,421	4,034,757	4,524,178
Machinery and equipment	148,409	165,119	121,833	37,098	158,931
Infrastructure	1,760,070	1,859,606	1,755,426	181,435	1,936,861
Construction in progress	—	1,364	11,246	21,130	32,376
Total	\$7,261,688	\$7,495,516	\$3,302,948	\$4,403,394	\$7,706,342



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

From job creation and retention to small business support, the record-breaking economic development activity of 2021 helped to set the stage for a more equitable pandemic recovery and opportunity for Columbus residents. Together with Franklin County, the City awarded \$8.9 million in federal assistance to 980 small businesses, with grant funding prioritized for minority-, women- and veteran-owned businesses that were disproportionately overlooked for Paycheck Protection Program loans in 2020.

<p>With 13,848 net new jobs, \$1 billion in new payroll, and \$4 billion in private investment committed, 2021 was a record-breaking year in job and opportunity creation in Columbus.</p>	24 incentive agreements
	13,848 new jobs
	\$1 billion in new payroll
	2,229 jobs retained
	\$166 million in retained payroll
	\$4 billion in private investment

INNOVATION DISTRICT

In 2021, the City of Columbus signed the City's largest job creation agreement with The Ohio State University for its Innovation District development. Dedicated to turning big ideas into reality, the Innovation District will be a collaborative space on the University's west campus where academic researchers, start-ups, Fortune 500 businesses, and students will work in close proximity to share ideas and turn them into marketable solutions.

- 12,000 Net New Jobs
- 1,500-2,000 Residential Units
- 300 Affordable Housing Units
- 500,000 Sq. Ft. of Medical Facilities
- 4M-6M Sq. Ft. of Labs and Commercial Offices



Rendering of The Ohio State University West Campus Innovation District. Courtesy: The Ohio State University

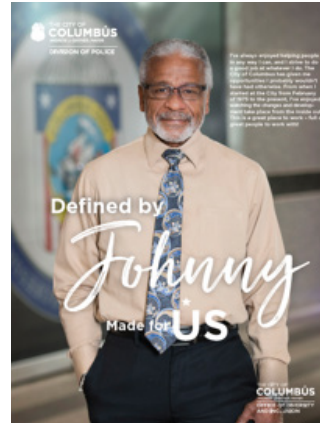
CREATING A MORE EQUITABLE COLUMBUS

By making Columbus “America’s Equal Opportunity City,” the Office of Diversity and Inclusion prioritizes key strategies in workforce and supplier diversity to ensure that the diversity of the City’s supply chain and workforce is reflective of our residents.

WORKFORCE DIVERSITY

In 2021, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion (OD&I) set its sights on using data to drive its programs and strategies. The Workforce team led the City’s leadership and presence in the Columbus Classic career fair and reached over 400 potential job seekers.

Additionally, OD&I has been working on internal initiatives to feature metrics as part of the City’s new Diversity Performance Dashboard.

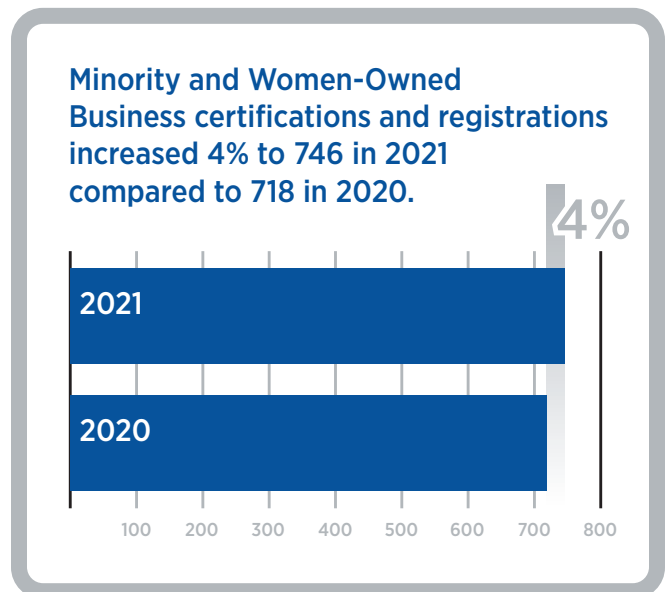


SUPPLIER DIVERSITY

In 2021, OD&I kicked-off the implementation of the B2GNow diversity management software system, a system to enhance the Office’s tracking, monitoring, and reporting of MWBE certification, diversity spend, compliance, and outreach requirements.

Additionally, in collaboration with City departments and community partners, OD&I developed a comprehensive supplier diversity outreach and educational strategy to promote the City of Columbus’ MBE/WBE program, bidding procedures, and procurement opportunities for small, minority, and women-owned businesses.

During 2021, 11.44% of City contracting utilized minority and women-owned businesses.



FISCAL YEAR 2022 REVENUE PROJECTION

Every year, it is the responsibility of the City Auditor to predict, as accurately as possible, the revenue the City will bring in for the subsequent year. Historically, revenue estimates for the City of Columbus have been built upon multi-year analyses and largely predictable trend data. However, the last two years have been extraordinary; we've often had to deal with more uncertainty than certainty.

The 2022 Official Revenue Estimate was no different. There are four evolving factors that Auditor Kilgore predicts will impact our revenue in 2022:

1. Remote work and its effect on the City's income tax revenues
2. Ongoing COVID-19 recovery
3. Economic growth due to new jobs and increased wages
4. Income tax refunds due to remote work in 2021

Despite those challenges, the state of our local economy remains strong for 2022. For the first time in the City's history, we have an estimated \$1 billion in operating funds for FY 2022. A detailed breakdown can be found below.



STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED AVAILABLE RESOURCES | General Operating Fund (in thousands)

	Original Estimate
ESTIMATED REVENUE:	
Income taxes	\$723,071
Property taxes	68,923
Investment earnings	8,000
Licenses and permits fees	11,016
Shared revenue	32,087
Charges for services	61,962
Fines and forfeits	7,663
Miscellaneous revenue	5,465
TOTAL ESTIMATED RESOURCES FROM REVENUE	\$918,187
TOTAL TRANSFERS IN	61,876
TOTAL ESTIMATED RESOURCES AND TRANSFERS	\$980,063
Estimated prior year encumbrance cancellations	5,000
ACTUAL 12/31/2021 UNENCUMBERED CASH BALANCE	\$58,300
TOTAL ESTIMATED AVAILABLE RESOURCES	\$1,043,363

This estimate includes a decrease in 2022 income tax revenue of 3.96% as compared to the 2021 revised estimate of income tax of \$752.880 million. The 2022 estimate of total resources is \$60.2 million or 5.77% lower than the 2021 revised estimate.





The Columbus City Auditor is committed to providing clean and transparent reporting of the City's financial activities. We hope this report has been helpful in providing a brief overview of the City and its finances. The financial data presented in the PAFR is derived from the City's 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and is consistent with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. The City's PAFR does not report on all governmental funds or include detailed footnotes. A full copy of the City's annual report is available at <https://www.columbus.gov/auditor/acfr>. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to:

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[columbus.gov/auditor](https://www.columbus.gov/auditor)

THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
OFFICE OF THE CITY AUDITOR
MEGAN N. KILGORE, AUDITOR