



# EDWARD J. LEONARD

## *Franklin County Treasurer*

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### **Treasurer's Lien Sale Nets Nearly than \$8 Million in Total Delinquent Tax Collections**

**Columbus (OH)** – Franklin County Treasurer Ed Leonard collected approximately \$4.8 million in delinquent property taxes through the Treasurer's eleventh annual tax-lien certificate sale November 4, 2013. That is in addition to the \$3.1 million collected from taxpayers who paid their delinquent taxes in full to avoid the lien sale. The money received from the sale is now available to go to area schools, levy agencies, and local governments early next year.

For the sale, eight interested companies came to the County Courthouse and bid on 808 delinquent parcels totaling more than \$4.8million to purchase the tax-lien portfolio. The winning bidder was Municipal Tax Investments, LLC, who bid an interest rate of 0.25%, and will pay the Treasurer's office 100 cents on the dollar for all of the unpaid taxes, penalties, and interest that have accumulated on these delinquent properties.

In addition, property owners agreeing to payment arrangements has resulted in agreements to pay more than \$6.1 million dollars in installments with over a half a million already collected through monthly delinquent payments of approximately \$300,000. The payment arrangements also require a property owner to pre-pay toward their next bill and the Treasurer's office has collected more than \$550,000 in pre-paid 2013 taxes from those that were considered for the tax-lien sale.

The program started eleven years ago, under the direction of Leonard when he was Special Counselor for the office, before being elected County Treasurer, and has collected tens of millions of dollars during that time. The collection of taxes from those seeking to avoid the tax lien sale by paying in full or agreeing to payment arrangements has resulted in the collection of many millions more. "It has been my pleasure to watch this program grow and continue to help our Franklin County community by expediting the collection of delinquent funds desperately needed for our seniors, schools, and other important agencies supported by real estate tax money," stated Treasurer Leonard.

The Franklin County Treasurer's office wants to make paying taxes as easy as possible for people who have a desire to pay. "I understand property taxes may present a significant financial hardship for property owners. That's why this office works hard to assist homeowners get on payment plans to help ease this financial burden prior to the tax-lien sales," said Leonard. If you are having trouble paying your taxes and are in need of assistance, please visit our website: <http://Treasurer.franklincountyohio.gov> where you will find information on various options to pay your taxes or call us at (614) 525-3438.

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