



# LOBBYISTS FOR CITIZENS

March 6, 2024

Lake County Commissioners  
105 East Main Street  
Painesville, OH 44077

Re: Legalized Theft of Taxpayers' Funds

Dear Commissioners:

On April 30, 2021, our research on the County Fund balances at that time revealed two accounts that had taxpayers' funds held by the Lake County government for over the past thirty years.

Account number 894 was titled "Surplus Over", and had a total of \$5,324,376.05 in the fund. This fund was the accumulation of overages of tax payments through the Treasurer's office on "various parcels of real estate for various reasons".

Account number 803 was titled "Unclaimed Monies" and had a total of \$735,359.71 in the fund. This money was "unclaimed funds after a county department or an estate cannot locate the beneficiaries of the estate".

These two accounts amounted to \$6,059,735.76 of taxpayers' money.

We were told that the Treasurer's office has returned \$1,431,638.05 of the taxpayers' money. That means that there is \$4,628,097.71 that still belongs to the taxpayers. [ $\$6,059,735.76 - \$1,431,638.05 = \$4,628,097.71$ ]

If the money cannot be returned to its rightful owner and is transferred to the Lake County General Fund, then we insist that the Commissioners forgo the future collection of \$4,628,097.71 in property taxes. This is another means of getting the money back to its rightful owners – the taxpayers of Lake County.

If the Commissioners accept the transfer of this money to the General Fund without giving the money to the rightful owners, then we contend that the Commissioners and the County government are guilty of legalized theft.

The citizens of Lake County are requesting a written response to this request so that the taxpayers will know your exact position on this issue.

Very respectfully,

Brian Massie  
Executive Director