

CLERK OF COURTS

Yearly Comparison

2020

	2010-2019 <u>AVERAGE</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Legal	\$168,301	\$164,863	\$148,832
Titles	\$425,112	\$476,103	\$476,488
B.M.V.	\$97,715	\$105,670	\$102,906
Dept. Taxation	\$10,664,797	\$14,558,507	\$16,729,362
Passports	695	810	218
Cert. of Title	30,366	33,497	31,756
Notations of Lien	8,492	9,723	9,306
Memos	8,123	9,829	9,492
Duplicates	1,394	1,458	1,432
W/C Cert of Title	411	449	652
W/C Notations	18	29	32
Salvage	205	235	257
Divorces Granted	95	89	73
Dissolutions Granted	84	78	64
Total Cases Filed	1,085	1,166	1,005
Civil	487	420	377
Domestic	249	231	233
Criminal	343	489	369
<u>Court of Appeals</u>	26	24	26
Foreclosures (included in Civil)	223	180	191

*The Clerk of Courts has two main divisions -
- the legal office and the title office.*

*The clerk's team places a priority on customer
service. Our mission is to provide prompt,
courteous, accurate service to each
of our customers.*



SUSAN S. HAZEL

Huron County Clerk of Courts

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419-663-4048 Legal FAX

Huron County Title Office

305 Shady Lane Drive, Norwalk, OH 44857

Email: titles@huroncountyclerk.com

419-668-5717 Title

419-668-6034 Title FAX

Legal Department

Nancy Sisson, Chief Deputy
Jodi Stang, Acct. Manager
Margaret Hardy, Dep. Clerk II
Tiffany Blair, Deputy Clerk II
Melanie Grof, Deputy Clerk
Tiffany Ellis, Deputy Clerk
Christine Hemenway, Deputy Clerk
Amy Harris, IT Administrator

Title Department

Carrie Resor, Title Supervisor
Delana Lichoff, Dep. Clerk
Marianna Minnicar, Dep. Clerk
Tammy Cutcher, Dep. Clerk
Heather Coder, Dep. Clerk
Jennifer Maynard, Dep. Clerk

HURON COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS



2020

A Year in Review

HURON COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS 2020 ANNUAL REVIEW

In March of 2020, the Corona Virus was recognized as a world-wide pandemic. Ohio Governor DeWine, declared a state of emergency on March 19th. Lives and businesses faced untold challenges. The people of Huron County worked together during this period of uncertainty.

The Clerk of Courts offices were considered essential and remained operational throughout the shutdown. While the state ordered the local BMV offices closed, the adjoining Huron County Title Office continued to do business even though the building was closed to the public for several weeks. Deputy clerks provided curbside service for essential title work for dealerships, banks and public members. When the building reopened and the BMV offices resumed operations, staff from both offices worked extended hours. Despite the pandemic, title volumes remained strong for 2020 and a record 16 million dollars was collected for the state department of taxation by the local office.

The clerk's offices at the courthouse and on Shady Lane followed safety guidelines, put in place protective equipment, and encouraged remote access. The court remained open and continued to hold Grand Jury, hearings and trials. Tele and video conferencing were expanded in an effort to promote safe access to the legal system. Those filing or making payments on court cases were encouraged to pay online or by phone, file by fax or pre-authorized email or mail. Much of this remote accessibility will continue to be useful beyond the pandemic. COVID grant funds enabled the court to greatly enhance their audio and video equipment. COVID funds also provided for the clerk and court's server upgrade to support user security and future programming improvements. Appeals case files dating back to 1922 and judgment journals were digitized to enhance remote access of case records.

- ◇ **2020 Title** fees collected remained consistent. Watercraft titling was up 50% from the previous ten-year average.
- ◇ **2020 Legal** fees were down by 10%. 1005 new cases were filed in 2020; 8% below the 10-year average.
- ◇ Due to the federal restrictions, **passport** transmittals were down by 75% from 2019.
- ◇ **Civil case filings** were down by 10% from the previous year. **Foreclosures**, however, were up by 6% from 2019.
- ◇ New **criminal case** filings were down by 25% from 2019. The case numbers were still greater than the previous 10-year average.
- ◇ The number of **domestic cases** filed in 2020 was comparable to 2019. However, the number of divorces and dissolutions granted was down by approximately 18%.

Collaborative work with county offices, area businesses and the public was key to the 2020 accomplishments. In August, the clerk voluntarily transferred \$100,000 of certificate of title funds to the commissioners for the support of the county general fund. The productive efforts of the deputy clerks remained strong throughout the changing conditions of 2020. Three new staff members were welcomed to the clerks' team in 2020, replacing 3 who left with a total of 50 years of experience.

Clerk of Courts, Susan Hazel, was elected to her 5th term in November. She noted that, "It is an honor to serve the people of Huron County. Technology and public service will continue to be the focus for 2021. Expanding online access to the court and court records will be a positive result of the pandemic. The clerk and court are moving forward with an enhanced new case management program which will allow for improved remote access to the court filing process."

