

# CONNECTIONS

> News and information for Dayton residents from the City of Dayton > [daytonohio.gov](http://daytonohio.gov)

## City revenue issue on March primary ballot



**T**he March 19, 2024, primary election ballot will include an issue of great importance to Dayton residents, neighborhoods and City government - a proposed renewal of the ¼%, eight-year earned income tax.

The City of Dayton's current earned income tax consists of a permanent 2.25% tax and an additional eight-year, ¼% tax approved by voters in November of 2016 (referred to as "Issue 9" on the 2016 ballot). With the 2016 tax measure set to expire at the end of 2024, the City of Dayton has placed a renewal on the primary ballot. The ¼% tax renewal would cost around \$8 monthly for someone working full time in Dayton with an annual salary of \$40,000. As a renewal, this is not a tax increase.

As an earned income tax, Dayton's tax (including the proposed ¼% renewal)

does not apply to income such as Social Security, retirement benefits, and unemployment benefits. Regular income (wages) and business income are taxable, along with earnings such as commissions and rental income, and several miscellaneous income types. Earnings by non-residents working in Dayton are taxable and comprise more than one half of the revenue the renewal will generate. For more information on taxable and non-taxable income, go to [www.daytonohio.gov/tax](http://www.daytonohio.gov/tax) or call 937-333-3500.

### How will revenue be used?

Over an eight-year period, the ¼% earned income tax would generate an estimated \$15 million annually. Those funds will be applied annually as follows:

- \$10 million to the City of Dayton general fund, to support public safety (police and fire services), road repair,

park improvements, and vacant lot maintenance.

- \$4.3 million to support high-quality pre-kindergarten education accessible to all families with preschool age (3- and 4-year-old) children living in the city of Dayton.

- \$650,000 for housing investments.

- Any residual amounts available will revert to the general fund.

### Promises made and kept

The City of Dayton delivered on the pledges made to voters in 2016. In the seven years following the Issue 9 vote, the City has followed through with these investments in the community (amounts indicated are totals through Oct. 2023).

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## News & Notes

### **“Team Loo” installs new public convenience**

Two Portland Loo outdoor public restrooms were installed in downtown Dayton in November by a collaborative effort of City of Dayton employees across several departments. The restrooms are located at the intersection of West Third and North Ludlow Streets and on East Fifth Street near Jefferson Street. They are free to use, open until 10 p.m. daily, and were purchased using federal funds.



### **Teamwork**

Every day across the city of Dayton, in addition to responding to more than 100 emergency incidents, Dayton Fire Department crews train to hone their skills. On a sunny day in December, the crews of Engine 17 and Ladder 13 trained together in open space on McCall Street. DFD crews collectively log thousands of hours in training each year. Pictured here (left to right) are Firefighters Johnson, Jennings, Wolfangel, Mohr, Stegeman, and Arrowood. The department is hiring soon. Applications for Firefighter Recruit are being accepted through March 17, 2024. Find more information at [JoinDaytonFire.com](http://JoinDaytonFire.com).



### **Dayton is hiring... Are you looking?**

Have you or a family member considered the City of Dayton for job/career opportunities? The City offers a broad variety of job types, including:

- Entry-level and mid-level administrative
- Utility and field work
- Professional-technical, including engineers and analysts
- Financial and budget management
- Public safety including police and firefighters/EMTs
- Legal including attorneys and support positions
- Planners, inspectors and others in building services and community development
- Recreation, including coordinators, aides and aquatics specialists
- And many more!

Get more information at [daytonohio.gov/jobs](http://daytonohio.gov/jobs), [joindaytonpd.com](http://joindaytonpd.com) and [joindaytonfire.com](http://joindaytonfire.com). The hiring process may include testing, background checks and other evaluation as required by Civil Service and City of Dayton policies.



### **City Commission**

937-333-3636

Mayor Jeffrey J. Mims

Matt Joseph

Chris Shaw

Darryl Fairchild

Shenise Turner-Sloss

### **City Manager**

Shelley Dickstein

937-333-3600

[cityhall@daytonohio.gov](mailto:cityhall@daytonohio.gov)

### **Customer Services**

Service Requests

937-333-4800

Download/use the Dayton Delivers app

### **Water/Utility Billing**

937-333-3550

[PayDaytonWater.com](http://PayDaytonWater.com)

### **Building Permits/Inspection**

937-333-3883

### **Stay Connected**

[DaytonOhio.gov](http://DaytonOhio.gov)

[FlyDayton.com](http://FlyDayton.com)

[DaytonWater.org](http://DaytonWater.org)



# City-wide housing conditions survey underway

The Department of Planning Neighborhoods & Development Division of Housing & Inspections, recently launched a city-wide housing condition survey for every residential and commercial structure in the city of Dayton. The last survey was conducted more than 5 years ago, and conditions of these properties have changed in that span of time.

Following a special training in the summer of 2023, code enforcement staff set out in pairs to canvass Dayton's 64 neighborhoods, with a goal of completing the field survey in late fall. The staff members examined a total of approximately 70,000 properties, placing each one in a category based on its suitability for potential reuse.

The categories are: Sound, Minor Repair, Major Repair, Rehabilitation, and Dilapidated.

Housing condition data collected will



be used to inform City departments where strategic investments can be leveraged to stabilize and improve

blocks, neighborhoods, and corridors. A presentation to the City Commission is scheduled for March 2024.

## Dayton housing leaders selected for Vacant Property Leadership Institute

The Center for Community Progress (CCP) announced a competitive application in February 2023 for municipalities to attend the 2023 Vacant Property Leadership Institute. The Institute sought communities facing challenges such as high rates of vacancy, faulty mortgage foreclosure processes, tax delinquency, ineffective property maintenance systems, and other issues.

"Each municipality participating in this year's training program was selected because they demonstrated strong leadership, are committed to racial equity, and represent unique opportunities for developing new solutions to shifting the systems responsible for vacant, abandoned, and other problem properties," said Courtney Knox, Interim President and CEO of the Center for Community Progress. Ten cities from three states were selected. Dayton was joined by Cleveland and Cincinnati in representing Ohio.

Members of the delegation included:

- Steve Gondol, Deputy Director, Department of Planning, Neighborhoods & Development, City of Dayton;
- John Musto, Deputy Director, Department of Law, City of Dayton;



- Nicole Steele, Sr. Project Manager, Citywide Development Corp.;
- Jennifer Connelly, Tax Delinquency Supervisor, Montgomery County Treasurer's Office;
- Paul Bradley, Operations Manager, Montgomery County Land Bank;
- Torey Hollingsworth, Executive Director, Ohio CDC Association; and
- Shawn Carvin, Executive Director, Ohio Land Bank Association.

For more information, go to [communityprogress.org/press](https://communityprogress.org/press).

# Before the rain... adopt a drain

If you would like to help keep area rivers and streams cleaner, City of Dayton Water has just the thing for you!

Dayton Water is excited to announce the release of a new online platform for the Adopt a Storm Drain program: [daytonohio.gov/adoptadrain](http://daytonohio.gov/adoptadrain).

There are over 560 storm drains located throughout Dayton, and they are direct conduits for litter and debris to enter rivers and streams. Adopt a Storm Drain encourages people who live, work, and play in Dayton to keep storm drains clear of leaves, trash, and other debris to reduce water pollution. When adopting a storm drain, you commit to checking the drain between rain events and keeping it clear of litter and debris.

This program has been around for a few years, but the new platform is mobile friendly and allows you to sign up online and choose an available storm drain in your desired area.

Be the first line of defense in keeping unwanted materials out of our rivers! It doesn't take much time and makes a big contribution. For more information, go to [daytonohio.gov/adoptadrain](http://daytonohio.gov/adoptadrain) or call 937-333-3725.



We protect the water you use here...

CITY OF DAYTON  
**water**  
one source

And the water you use there.



**City Revenue Issue cont'd from page 1**

**Promises kept:** Through late 2023, the City of Dayton invested \$70.3 million generated by an eight-year, ¼% income tax approved by voters in 2016.



■ \$17.5 million to maintain/improve public safety, including police, fire/EMS services.



■ \$22.3 million for residential street resurfacing, improving the average quality of streets from poor to satisfactory.



■ \$24.6 million for quality preschool: Over 10,000 Dayton children have attended Preschool Promise sites in the city, with 9 out of 10 attending 5-star preschool sites.



■ \$1.7 million for park improvements: 15 parks citywide have improvements including new walkways, sports courts, playground equipment, benches and shelters, plus removal of obsolete features.



■ \$4.2 million for vacant land maintenance, with 6,000 lots citywide mowed four to six times per year.

# Fast Facts:

City of Dayton  
**March 19**  
Election Issue



- Amount of the proposed tax renewal: One-quarter of one percent (0.25%).
- Duration of the ¼% income tax: Eight years (2025 through 2032).
- Social Security, disability benefits and pensions are not taxed. Only regular wages and other kinds of earned income are taxable.
- The eight-year tax will pay for: Public safety, road repairs, vacant lot maintenance, high-quality preschool, and housing investments.



# Sustainability: City earns rare recognition

The City of Dayton has earned the prestigious LEED for Cities Platinum status from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) in recognition of progress in meeting sustainability goals.

City leaders joined community partners and USGBC for an announcement on Nov. 13 at the Dayton Arcade. The City is engaged in a multi-year effort to dramatically reduce its carbon footprint, while saving millions of dollars through sustainability efforts.

Dayton is the first city/community in Ohio to earn the status and just the fourth in the world. To reach platinum in LEED for Cities, the City of Dayton benchmarked its performance against national and global standards and demonstrated leadership in sustainability, resilience, and social equity.

Cities and communities that create and operationalize responsible, sustainable, and specific plans for natural systems, energy, water, waste, transportation, and many other factors that contribute to the quality of life may seek certification.

LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, was created by the U.S. Green Building Council

Four new Ford Lightning electric trucks were added to the Division of Waste Collection fleet in late 2023 and early 2024. The City of Dayton has a goal of making its entire vehicle fleet electric-powered by 2035.



Among those celebrating the City of Dayton LEED for Cities Platinum status on Nov. 13, 2023, were (L-R): City of Dayton Sustainability Manager Meg Maloney, City Manager Shelley Dickstein, Mayor Jeffrey J. Mims, Michael Berning (representing USGBC/LEED), Commissioner Matt Joseph, and Katy Buddelmeyer (sustainability fellow, Ohio State University).

and is the world's most widely used green building rating system. Expanding on the LEED for Buildings rating system, LEED for Cities and Communities helps local leaders measure and manage progress in community conditions, in pursuit of a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable future.

"Our platinum certification reflects Dayton's commitment to addressing climate change challenges and the leadership that our city is

demonstrating," said Mayor Jeffrey J. Mims. "We have been working hard on sustainability initiatives including a dramatic reduction of our carbon footprint, electric vehicles, renewable energy and youth education."

The designation demonstrates the work of community partners such as Five Rivers MetroParks, Montgomery County/Dayton Regional Green, the University of Dayton Hanley Sustainability Institute, Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, and others.

"A sustainable city balances social, economic and environmental concerns in its decision-making and planning. A LEED city takes those plans forward as solutions that improve the overall quality of life for its residents," said Peter Templeton, president and CEO, USGBC. "The City of Dayton's LEED certification is a symbol of leadership on sustainability."



# Seeding transformation: The Dayton Recovery Plan

Shelley Dickstein, Dayton City Manager

When we learned Dayton would receive around \$138 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, I was both thrilled and terrified—thrilled that our community and city government would benefit from a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, but terrified that deadlines and competing priorities might push our plan toward less-than-optimal uses.

While news of the funds Dayton would receive was exciting and inspiring, it was evident that even \$138 million would not stretch as far as many people assumed. We also grew to understand that our local ARPA program would generally be catalytic in nature, seeding transformation for the future, rather than being a one-and-done approach.

U.S. Department of Treasury guidance allowed a range of funding uses that included removal or restoration of blighted properties, infrastructure repairs and support for transformative community-based initiatives and small business growth—all purposes very suitable to Dayton.

We got to work quickly, with an intention of crafting a plan strongly influenced by community need and input, not just the priorities and needs identified by City Hall or mainly for municipal operations. We knew Dayton deserved a recovery plan that is both responsive and responsible.

We published an online survey that attracted 1,720 respondents and held a series of seven public meetings in July of 2021, coordinated by community engagement staff.

At the meetings, we built awareness about the federal legislation—what it is and isn't—and about local government's role in developing a plan for spending/distributing dollars. Then, we listened and documented suggestions and requests for spending priorities.

There were many ideas, but community sentiment coalesced around neighborhood needs and



**McIntosh Park -**  
The Dayton Recovery Plan provided new parking areas and sidewalks.

improvements, including tackling the housing demolition backlog that had grown during the Great Recession and foreclosure crisis and other housing improvements. Additional priorities identified by the community included support for small businesses and Black and Brown-owned businesses, and other means of economic recovery.

These priorities became the “what” of our local plan. Data drawn from social and health determinants (including populations affected by COVID-19) determined the “where,” the five targeted neighborhoods that would become the focus (though not the entirety) of our efforts.

In June of 2021, the Dayton City Commission adopted a resolution outlining the intent to invest ARPA proceeds into investment areas, a framework that would be known as the Dayton Recovery Plan.

The investment areas are:

- Improving Our Neighborhoods (\$55 million);
- Supporting Black & Brown Businesses (\$7.6 million);
- Aiding Community & Small Business Recovery (\$7.3 million);
- Enhancing Critical City Services (\$21.5 million);
- Catalyzing Economic Recovery (\$10.8 million).

In addition, funding (\$33 million) was set aside to replace municipal revenue lost during the pandemic. Because revenue exceeded projections in 2022 and 2023, the City of Dayton has been able to infuse \$20.8 million in one-time capital investments such as equipment for the Police, Fire and Public Works Departments, technology improvements, and street resurfacing.

Successful proposals from organizations and small businesses with projects and programs fitting the investment areas, as well as projects managed directly by the City of Dayton, became the “how” of our recovery plan.

As of Sept. 30, 2023, contracts and agreements already funded through City Commission approval include blighted property demolition (\$5,610,000), housing rehab/repair (\$5,880,000), park upgrades (\$1,056,000) and Black & Brown businesses (\$2,951,000). Each of these totals represents multiple awardees. Additional millions are obligated to successful proposals for future awards.

The impacts of the Dayton Recovery Plan are increasingly visible in neighborhoods, parks and storefronts. Much more activity will occur throughout 2024. We look forward to seeing catalysts transform promise to practice. Please follow our progress at [daytonohio.gov/drp](http://daytonohio.gov/drp).

### Free tax preparation

Dayton families and workers may be eligible to receive free tax return preparation leading to federal tax credits boosting tax refunds. Go to [daytonohio.gov/eitc](http://daytonohio.gov/eitc) or call 937-913-



2000 for more information on eligibility and a list of tax preparation locations in the area. Volunteer tax preparers are IRS-trained. The service continues through April 15.

### It's here: Live chat customer service

Chat with City of Dayton representatives about water service, waste collection, street repair, streetlights, housing issues, and more. Access live chat at [daytonohio.gov](http://daytonohio.gov) and the Dayton Delivers app, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. You may also submit a request after hours. Agents cannot accept payments via live chat.



### Pay water/waste collection bills

#### Online:

[Paydaytonwater.com](http://Paydaytonwater.com).

**Phone:** Call 937-333-3550 anytime to pay by IVR.

**Mail:** Send your remittance stub and payment as indicated in your quarterly bill (do not send cash, please).

**Retail Locations:** Most Family Dollar, Dollar General and CVS stores can process cash payments; bring the barcode found on your bill.

**In-person:** Visit the customer service center at 101 W. Third St. (first floor), 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Or, drop your remittance stub and payment in the secure dropbox just north of the Ludlow Street City Hall entrance, anytime.

