



Auditor of Public Accounts
Mike Harmon

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Harmon Releases Audit of Marion County Clerk's Fee Account

FRANKFORT, Ky. – State Auditor Mike Harmon today released the audit of the 2022 financial statement of Marion County Clerk Chad G. Mattingly. State law requires the auditor to conduct annual audits of county clerks and sheriffs.

Auditing standards require the auditor's letter to communicate whether the financial statement presents fairly the receipts, disbursements and excess fees of the Marion County Clerk in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The clerk's financial statement did not follow this format. However, the clerk's financial statement is fairly presented in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting, which is an acceptable reporting methodology. This reporting methodology is followed for all 120 clerk audits in Kentucky.

As part of the audit process, the auditor must comment on noncompliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. The auditor must also comment on material weaknesses involving the internal control over financial operations and reporting.

The audit contains the following finding:

The Marion County Clerk's fourth quarter report was not accurate for calendar year 2022: The Marion County Clerk's fourth quarter report was materially inaccurate when compared to the county clerk's receipts and disbursement ledgers for calendar year 2022. The county clerk's fourth quarter was overstated by \$180,938 in receipts and \$181,193 in disbursements. Due to lack of management oversight, the ledger did not agree to the fourth quarter report. Due to the reporting error, the quarterly report was materially misstated and led to overstatement of receipts and disbursements for calendar year 2022.

Good accounting practices indicate that all receipts and disbursements should be accounted for in the accurate period of collection and disbursed and agree to the ledger for each quarter.

We recommend the quarterly report reflect the total collections and disbursements per calendar year and agree to the receipts and disbursements ledger each quarter.

County Clerk's Response: This is the same process used to account for charges & web renewals for many years. It does amount to a double posting, but the amounts should effectively cancel each other out.

The county clerk's responsibilities include collecting certain taxes, issuing licenses, maintaining county records and providing other services. The clerk's office is funded through statutory fees collected in conjunction with these duties.

The audit report can be found on the [auditor's website](#).

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The Auditor of Public Accounts ensures that public resources are protected, accurately valued, properly accounted for, and effectively employed to raise the quality of life of Kentuckians.

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