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The Taxpayers Protector:
Top 5 Ways the Greene County Auditor Safeguards Your Taxes

Xenia, OH - Luwanna Delaney, Greene County Auditor, knows residents don't always give the auditor's office a lot of thought, but she is okay with that. Really. "I take a great deal of pride in protecting taxpayers by keeping the county's fiscal house in order," Delaney said.

The fall elections give Graham, Auditor elect, the opportunity to put his behind-the-scenes accomplishments front-and-center, to educate the public about the vital role of the county auditor's office.

Graham has helpfully prepared a list of the top five ways that the Greene County Auditor's Office safeguards taxpayers' dollars.

#1 Scrutinizes bills before writing checks on the taxpayers' account

The auditor holds the county's checkbook. She receives requests for money from people working in all offices, agencies and departments of county government - amounting to \$408,162,416.30 in 2009 - and it's her job to make sure the expense is for a proper public purpose before writing a check from the county coffers.

#2 Makes sure homeowners pay fair taxes

The county auditor employs or contracts with appraisers who are trained to appraise land, homes, and business property against an objective set of measures. That ensures that residents pay fair and equitable taxes. To learn more about this process, visit the Web site, www.co.greene.oh.us.

#3 Distributes tax levies to operate vital public services

Property taxes provide funding for everything from schools and libraries to services for older adults and children's protection. The Mental Disability (adult & children), children's services, health

department, Job & Family services, etc. The county auditor accounts for the levied money and makes sure every penny goes to the proper political subdivision, departments, agencies and dozens of school districts that depend on taxes for their successful operation.

#4 Provides financial reporting

The county auditor's accurate accounting of income and expenses provides county commissioners and other policy makers with credible, independent information used to make decisions about the best ways to allocate tax dollars. The auditor also oversees the preparation of the county's annual financial report, providing transparency to the county's financial operations.

#5 Ensures consumers get what they pay for

Ever wonder what those stickers on gas pumps and scales mean? A trained inspector in the county auditor's office inspects and seals these devices to make sure they dispense the exact amount that is reflected on the display. Inspectors check anything sold by weight or measurement and also verify scanners to assure that the price on the item is what is being scanned into the register. By overseeing this vital function, the county auditor protects consumers from accidental or intentional deceit.

To learn more, visit the Greene County Auditor's Office at www.co.greene.oh.us