



▶ **No Tax Increase**

○ May

○ e-NEWS

○ 2009



▶ **General Reserve Use = \$0**



▶ **Balanced Budget**

Hardin County

focus

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF OUR CITIZENS
FROM THE DESK OF JUDGE/EXECUTIVE HARRY L. BERRY

No County Saving\$ used to balance my proposed \$32 million 2009/2010 budget for Hardin County

“No Tax Increase”



On April 30, I proposed the 2009/2010 County Budget to Fiscal Court for its consideration. This budget is **“truly” balanced**—in other words, income or revenue = expenses or appropriations.

The County is not increasing your taxes nor is it dipping into savings or reserve funds of \$12.8 million to balance the budget!

The budgeting process continues with a public discussion at the **May 5** working meeting of Fiscal Court. This discussion continues at Fiscal Court’s Resource and Emergency Services Committee **May 6th** meeting. On **May 13** the Fiscal Court will conduct a public hearing for your suggestions and have the First Reading (or first vote) of the new Budget Ordinance. The Second Reading (second vote) is scheduled for **May 26**. After Fiscal Court approves the budget, it will be submitted to Frankfort for final approval.

Hardin County receives its income from real estate tax (16.6%), personal property tax (1.5%), motor vehicle tax (1.9%), landfill operations (31%), state jail (16%), road

funding (6.7%), Sheriff/Clerk fees (2.9%), EMS revenue (10.5%), other state/local funding (5.4%) and E-911 funding (4.5%) for a total sum of \$31,980,388 in revenue

County Government does not have an occupation tax, a fire district tax, a hotel tax, library tax, insurance premium tax, or a restaurant/local sales tax. The County’s real estate tax rate is the lowest in 20 years. In the last six years, County Government has reduced real estate taxes four times! We are one of the lowest taxed county governments in the Commonwealth!

This budget gives our county employees a 1% pay increase and adds an additional GIS Technician and a Community Support Coordinator while increasing our Chief Deputy Coroner to full time. It allows the county to donate \$269,000 to community charities and add \$50,000 each in support of Drug Court and our Commonwealth Attorney’s “Rocket Docket” project. We also support our public library with \$915,000; Volunteer Fire Departments, \$280,000; and recycling efforts with \$74,000 of funding.

Summary Points

- ▶ **\$32 million budget**
- ▶ **\$2.8 thousand less**
- ▶ **No General Reserve used**
- ▶ **Maintains current services**
- ▶ **1% increase to employees**
- ▶ **Projected General Reserve Balance of \$12.8 million**



Debt Capacity

The County’s current debt is \$20.4 million or 16.7% of our debt capacity. This debt was incurred to lease E-911 equipment, fund the domestic violence center, and to construct our library, detention center, and landfill. Our annual debt service is 11.8% of our budget.