

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Briefing Session Minutes
Thursday, April 30, 2026

Commissioner O'Grady
Commissioner Boyce

The purpose of the meeting was to review resolutions submitted for the May 5, 2026, General Session and to discuss other matters pertaining to the programs of the agencies.

The meeting was convened in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, while also hosting guests via Zoom Webinar Meeting ID: 811 9053 2115; Passcode: 1803. To attend virtually and watch the session live, [click here to register in advance](#).

Commissioner O'Grady convened the meeting at 9:17 A.M.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Jeanine Hummer, First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Chief Counsel, Prosecuting Attorney, offered a resolution authorizing the application to the Department of Justice for a grant related to funding in support of the Conviction Integrity Unit and to authorize the County Administrator to accept the grant award (Prosecuting Attorney).

Ms. Hummer reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

FRANKLIN COUNTY DATA CENTER

Julie Lust, Chief Financial Officer, Franklin County Data Center, offered a resolution authorizing a contract with CDW Government, LLC for the provision of professional services for on-demand project support and scheduled maintenance (\$100,000.00) (Franklin County Data Center).

Ms. Lust reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

Harrison Zeller, Economic Development Administrator, Economic Development and Planning, offered a resolution authorizing the County Administrator to execute an agreement with the Greater Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau, Inc. to promote Franklin County as a tourism destination (\$3,525,000.00) (Economic Development and Planning).

Mr. Zeller reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Walter Dillard, Assistant Director, Economic Development and Planning, offered a resolution authorizing a funding agreement with the Kaleidoscope Youth Center to provide transitional housing supportive services in Franklin County (\$500,000.00) (Economic Development and Planning).

Mr. Dillard reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

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JUSTICE POLICY AND PROGRAMS

Cody Hatten, Management Analyst, and Haley Cappone, Grants Specialist, Justice Policy and Programs, offered a resolution authorizing a professional service contract agreement with Jordan Rodgers for peer support and case management services for justice involved residents served through the Franklin County Rapid Resource Centers (\$28,512.00) (Justice Policy and Programs).

Mr. Hatten and Ms. Cappone reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Haley Cappone offered a resolution authorizing an extension and modification to the subgrant award agreement with Godman Guild Association for juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programming under the FY 2023 Title II Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Formula Block Grant (\$3,464.74) (Justice Policy and Programs).

Ms. Cappone reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Andrena Austin, Director, Economic Engagement and Community Development, offered a resolution authorizing a grant agreement with Neighborhood Design Center to support youth

workforce development and community revitalization through design-based learning programs (\$150,000.00) (Economic Engagement and Community Development).

Ms. Austin reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Andrena Austin offered a resolution authorizing a contract amendment with Freedom Equity Inc. to support small business development, resource coordination, and economic opportunity through expansion of the Build Grow Go platform (\$1,550,000.00) (Economic Engagement and Community Development).

Ms. Austin reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

PURCHASING

Traci Mathew, Assistant Director - Operations, Purchasing, offered a resolution authorizing a transfer of General Fund appropriations to support the purchase of replacement equipment for the Franklin County Printshop (Purchasing).

Ms. Mathew reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing, offered a resolution authorizing contract modifications and extensions with thirty-five (35) Temporary Staffing providers for use by any Franklin County agency, court, Board, or Commission (\$5,000,000.00) (Purchasing).

Ms. Perry-Balonier reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner O'Grady asked whether all 35 providers are located in Franklin County. Ms. Perry-Balonier stated that 35 providers are currently in the provider pool available and that most appear to be Franklin County providers, but she will confirm the full breakdown.

Megan Perry-Balonier offered a resolution approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$1,118,411.18) (Purchasing).

Ms. Perry-Balonier reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Megan Perry-Balonier offered a resolution approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$3,150.00) (Purchasing).

Ms. Perry-Balonier reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Megan Perry-Balonier offered a resolution approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$2,550.00) (Purchasing).

Ms. Perry-Balonier reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Zak Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget, offered a resolution approving a contract with Franklin County Public Health for an Illicit Discharge Compliance Program addressing the elimination of illicit connections to the County's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (Board of Commissioners).

Mr. Talarek reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Zak Talarek and Tom Schmid, President & CEO, Columbus Zoo, offered a resolution authorizing the execution of the Fourth Amendment to the Amended and Restated Lease Agreement between Franklin County, the City of Columbus, and the Columbus Zoological Park Association (Board of Commissioners).

Mr. Talarek and Mr. Schmid reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

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The Clerk noted that two (2) journalizations are expected at General Session on Tuesday, May 5, 2026.

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County Administration offered the following updates:

Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator, and Zak Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget - First Quarter Financial Review

- *Board of Elections' financing was completed through a direct bank purchase, with Webster Bank selected for the winning rate*
- *OMB completed first-quarter financial reviews for the General Fund and county agencies*

- *Revenue timing variances were noted due to delayed sales tax receipts and property tax settlement timing*
- *Sales tax is currently about 2%, or \$2 million, above budget*
- *Expenditures remain on track, with the Sheriff's Office overtime down significantly due to added staffing at the James A. Karnes Correctional Facility*
- *Some second-quarter overtime increases may occur due to OPATA training, but overtime remains below budget so far*

Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator, and Chanda Wingo, Director, Office on Aging - Health and Human Services Update

- *Reported that Health and Human Services is developing more proactive, targeted approaches focused on economic stability, education, and long-term support for vulnerable populations*
- *Announced "Realizing Other Options Weekend," a multi-generational community event connecting residents to workforce, financial, legal, and human services resources, including support from contractual partners, workforce providers, human services agencies, the Prosecutor's Office, and community organizations*
- *Shared programming will include tracks on budgeting, credit, banking, entrepreneurship, housing, wealth building, estate planning, and youth career pathways*
- *Noted that the estate planning track will include probate, financial planning, banking, wills and trusts, long-term Medicaid, insurance riders, and strategies to reduce future reliance on programs such as Senior Options*
- *Added that the youth track will include financial education and exposure to non-traditional career and earning opportunities*
- *Reported that the County is projecting approximately 20,000 additional evictions and will begin targeted outreach to residents seeking eviction or emergency housing assistance.*
- *Stated that the initiative is intended to proactively address barriers to long-term stability and economic mobility before families reach crisis points*
- *Shared that surveys will be distributed to residents to better identify barriers impacting upward mobility and service access*
- *Added that food trucks and additional community resources are expected to participate during the event weekend*

Commissioner Boyce supported the focus on estate planning and noted that many families are unprepared when a loved one dies, which can leave homes tied up in probate and vulnerable to predatory buyers who purchase property below value, weakening generational wealth. Commissioner Boyce encouraged the County to provide practical guidance on where families can turn for help, especially before probate creates delays or confusion, and noted that Probate Court has been a strong partner in helping residents understand strategies to avoid probate where possible.

Commissioner O'Grady suggested organizing another faith-based community convening to help connect residents, particularly immigrant and Latino communities, with county services and resources amid ongoing concerns about immigration policy and its local impacts. Commissioner O'Grady referenced previous successful outreach events hosted with faith leaders and proposed

partnering again with religious institutions across different denominations and communities throughout Franklin County to strengthen engagement, information sharing, and trust.

Kevin Pangrace, Director, Government Affairs - Legislative Update

- *Reported on a successful county caucus fly-in trip with Chief Pride, focused on housing advocacy and the County's Housing Action Plan*
- *Shared that meetings were held with HUD officials, congressional staff, and legislative leaders from both the House and Senate*
- *Reported that a \$1 million water and sewer project request for the Sanitary Engineer's Office was included in an Agriculture Committee bill as part of the community project funding process*
- *Noted that the County is still awaiting updates on a federal funding request related to jail demolition*
- *Provided an update on the "Axe the Tax" proposal, stating organizers had gathered approximately 305,000 signatures toward a goal of 620,000 by July 1, 2026*
- *Shared that internal discussions are underway regarding potential county and local government engagement and public education efforts related to property taxes.*
- *Reported that the Ohio Legislature remains on break and is expected to return the following week*

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RESOLUTIONS TO BE PASSED AT BRIEFING SESSION

Resolution No. 0273-26, authorizing contract modifications and extensions with Providers for Consolidated County Transportation Services (Lift, Non-Lift and Escort) (\$39,380,000.00) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing.

Ms. Perry-Balonier reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution No. 0273-26, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

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There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:01 A.M.

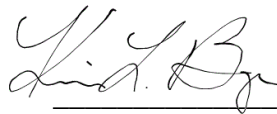
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These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' Briefing Session for Thursday, April 30, 2026.



JOHN O'GRADY, PRESIDENT



KEVIN L. BOYCE

**ERICA C. CRAWLEY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

Submitted by:



Michael E. Ruehrmund
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners