

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE
MARSHALL COUNTY
CLERK**

**For The Year Ended
December 31, 2014**



**ADAM H. EDELEN
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AUDIT EXAMINATION OF THE MARSHALL COUNTY CLERK

**For The Year Ended
December 31, 2014**

The Auditor of Public Accounts has completed the Marshall County Clerk's audit for the year ended December 31, 2014. Based upon the audit work performed, the financial statement presents fairly in all material respects, the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting.

Financial Condition:

Excess fees decreased by \$30,768 from the prior year, resulting in excess fees of \$201,738 as of December 31, 2014. Receipts decreased by \$258,525 from the prior year and disbursements decreased by \$227,757.

Report Comment:

2014-001 The Marshall County Clerk's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

Deposits:

The County Clerk's deposits were insured and collateralized by bank securities or bonds.

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ADAM H. EDELEN
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Chyrrill Miller, Marshall County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Tim York, Marshall County Clerk
Members of the Marshall County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

Report on the Financial Statement

We have audited the accompanying statement of receipts, disbursements, and excess fees - regulatory basis of the County Clerk of Marshall County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 2014, and the related notes to the financial statement.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statement

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of this financial statement in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting as described in Note 1. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of a financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Audit Guide for County Fee Officials issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statement. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.



The Honorable Chyrrill Miller, Marshall County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Tim York, Marshall County Clerk
Members of the Marshall County Fiscal Court

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 1 of the financial statement, the financial statement is prepared by the County Clerk on the basis of the accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky’s regulatory basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The effects on the financial statement of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles paragraph, the financial statement referred to above does not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of each fund of the County Clerk, as of December 31, 2014, or changes in financial position or cash flows thereof for the year then ended.

Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

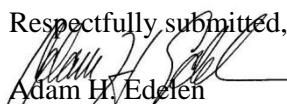
In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the County Clerk for the year ended December 31, 2014, in accordance with the basis of accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Commonwealth of Kentucky as described in Note 1.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated July 31, 2015 on our consideration of the Marshall County Clerk’s internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Marshall County Clerk’s internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering the entity’s internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Based on the results of our audit, we have presented the accompanying comment and recommendation, included herein, which discusses the following report comment:

2014-001 The Marshall County Clerk’s Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

Respectfully submitted,

Adam H. Edelen
Auditor of Public Accounts

July 31, 2015

MARSHALL COUNTY
TIM YORK, COUNTY CLERK
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS

For The Year Ended December 31, 2014

Receipts

State Grants		\$ 41,710
State Fees For Services		9,938
Fiscal Court		9,678
Licenses and Taxes:		
Motor Vehicle-		
Licenses and Transfers	\$ 1,320,043	
Usage Tax	3,663,752	
Tangible Personal Property Tax	3,595,573	
Lien Fees	20,576	
Other-		
Fish and Game Licenses	2,898	
Marriage Licenses	7,694	
Transient Merchant Permit	25	
Deed Transfer Tax	89,155	
Delinquent Tax	439,266	9,138,982
Fees Collected for Services:		
Recordings-		
Deeds, Easements, and Contracts	30,132	
Real Estate Mortgages	40,579	
Chattel Mortgages and Financing Statements	93,957	
Powers of Attorney	2,150	
All Other Recordings	60,960	
Charges for Other Services-		
Candidate Filing Fees	2,100	
Copywork	6,961	
Postage	4,821	
Returned Check Fees	540	242,200

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

MARSHALL COUNTY
TIM YORK, COUNTY CLERK
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS
For The Year Ended December 31, 2014
(Continued)

Receipts (Continued)

Other:

Miscellaneous		\$	1,079
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Interest Earned			<u>3,649</u>
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Total Receipts			9,447,236
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Disbursements

Payments to State:

Motor Vehicle-

Licenses and Transfers	\$	946,164	
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Usage Tax		3,553,835	
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Tangible Personal Property Tax		1,240,995	
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Licenses, Taxes, and Fees-

Fish and Game Licenses		2,839	
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Delinquent Tax		45,401	
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Legal Process Tax		31,107	
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Affordable Housing Trust		<u>33,912</u>	\$ 5,854,253
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Payments to Fiscal Court:

Tangible Personal Property Tax		282,977	
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Delinquent Tax		29,457	
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Deed Transfer Tax		<u>84,322</u>	396,756
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Payments to Other Districts:

Tangible Personal Property Tax		1,927,781	
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Delinquent Tax		<u>228,125</u>	2,155,906
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Payments to Sheriff			38,099
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Payments to County Attorney			60,101
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MARSHALL COUNTY
TIM YORK, COUNTY CLERK
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS
For The Year Ended December 31, 2014
(Continued)

Disbursements (Continued)

Operating Disbursements and Capital Outlay:

Personnel Services-			
Deputies' Salaries	\$	550,499	
Contracted Services-			
Office Equipment Repair		1,343	
Printing and Binding		7,032	
Computer Software		11,390	
Libraries and Archives Grant		41,710	
Materials and Supplies-			
Office Supplies		483	
Other Charges-			
Conventions and Travel		5,320	
Dues		1,380	
Postage		10,800	
Telephone		1,122	
Uniforms		525	
Bank Service Charges		5	
Refunds		3,624	
Returned Checks		1,237	
Capital Outlay-			
Office Equipment		2,539	\$ 639,009
Total Disbursements			\$ 9,144,124
Net Receipts			303,112
Less: Statutory Maximum			93,864
Excess Fees			209,248
Less: Expense Allowance		3,600	
Training Incentive Benefit		3,910	7,510
Excess Fees Due County for 2013			201,738
Payment to Fiscal Court - February 3, 2015			201,738
Balance Due Fiscal Court at Completion of Audit			\$ 0

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

MARSHALL COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 2014

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Fund Accounting

A fee official uses a fund to report on the results of operations. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

A fee official uses a fund for fees to account for activities for which the government desires periodic determination of the excess of receipts over disbursements to facilitate management control, accountability, and compliance with laws.

B. Basis of Accounting

KRS 64.820 directs the fiscal court to collect any amount, including excess fees, due from the County Clerk as determined by the audit. KRS 64.152 requires the County Clerk to settle excess fees with the fiscal court by March 15 each year.

The financial statement has been prepared on a regulatory basis of accounting, which demonstrates compliance with the laws of Kentucky and is a special purpose framework. Under this regulatory basis of accounting, receipts and disbursements are generally recognized when cash is received or disbursed with the exception of accrual of the following items (not all-inclusive), at December 31 that may be included in the excess fees calculation:

- Interest receivable
- Collection on accounts due from others for 2014 services
- Reimbursements for 2014 activities
- Payments due other governmental entities for December tax and fee collections and payroll
- Payments due vendors for goods or services provided in 2014

The measurement focus of a fee official is upon excess fees. Remittance of excess fees is due to the County Treasurer in the subsequent year.

C. Cash and Investments

KRS 66.480 authorizes the County Clerk's office to invest in the following, including but not limited to, obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

MARSHALL COUNTY
 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
 December 31, 2014
 (Continued)

Note 2. Employee Retirement System

The county official and employees have elected to participate in the County Employees Retirement System (CERS), pursuant to KRS 78.530 administered by the Board of Trustees of the Kentucky Retirement Systems. This is a cost sharing, multiple employer defined benefit pension plan, which covers all eligible full-time employees and provides for retirement, disability and death benefits to plan members. Benefit contributions and provisions are established by statute.

Nonhazardous covered employees are required to contribute 5 percent of their salary to the plan. Nonhazardous covered employees who begin participation on or after September 1, 2008 are required to contribute 6 percent of their salary to the plan. The county's contribution rate for nonhazardous employees was 18.89 percent for the first six months and 17.67 percent for the last six months.

Benefits fully vest on reaching five years of service for nonhazardous employees. Aspects of benefits for nonhazardous employees include retirement after 27 years of service or age 65. Nonhazardous employees who begin participation on or after September 1, 2008 must meet the rule of 87 (members age plus years of service credit must equal 87, and the member must be a minimum of 57 years of age) or the member is age 65, with a minimum of 60 months service credit.

CERS also provides post retirement health care coverage as follows:

For members participating prior to July 1, 2003, years of service and respective percentages of the maximum contribution are as follows:

Years of Service	% paid by Insurance Fund	% Paid by Member through Payroll Deduction
20 or more	100%	0%
15-19	75%	25%
10-14	50%	50%
4-9	25%	75%
Less than 4	0%	100%

As a result of House Bill 290 (2004 General Assembly), medical insurance benefits are calculated differently for members who began participation on or after July 1, 2003. Once members reach a minimum vesting period of ten years, non-hazardous employees whose participation began on or after July 1, 2003, earn ten dollars per month for insurance benefits at retirement for every year of earned service without regard to a maximum dollar amount.

Historical trend information showing the CERS' progress in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due is presented in the Kentucky Retirement Systems' annual financial report. This report may be obtained by writing the Kentucky Retirement Systems, 1260 Louisville Road, Frankfort, KY 40601-6124, or by telephone at (502) 564-4646.

MARSHALL COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 2014
(Continued)

Note 3. Deposits

The Marshall County Clerk maintained deposits of public funds with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as required by KRS 66.480(1)(d). According to KRS 41.240(4), the depository institution should pledge or provide sufficient collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount of public funds on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge or provision of collateral should be evidenced by an agreement between the County Clerk and the depository institution, signed by both parties, that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution.

Custodial Credit Risk - Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a depository institution failure, the County Clerk's deposits may not be returned. The Marshall County Clerk does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk but rather follows the requirements of KRS 41.240(4). As of December 31, 2014, all deposits were covered by FDIC insurance or a properly executed collateral security agreement.

Note 4. Grant

The Marshall County Clerk received a grant from the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives in the amount of \$41,710 for the purchase of a plat cabinet and roller shelving for the County Clerk's office. All grant funds were expended as of December 31, 2014.

Note 5. Software Service Agreement

The Marshall County Clerk has entered into an agreement with Data Records Management Services for the rights to use their software and technical support. The Clerk uses this software program to maintain all recordings filed at the Clerk's office in electronic format. The Clerk was in compliance with the terms of the agreement as of December 31, 2014.

**REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND
ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL
STATEMENT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**



ADAM H. EDELEN
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Chyrril Miller, Marshall County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Tim York, Marshall County Clerk
Members of the Marshall County Fiscal Court

**Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And
On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards**

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the statement of receipts, disbursements, and excess fees - regulatory basis of the Marshall County Clerk for the year ended December 31, 2014, and the related notes to the financial statement and have issued our report thereon dated July 31, 2015. The County Clerk's financial statement is prepared on a regulatory basis of accounting, which demonstrates compliance with the laws of Kentucky and is a special purpose framework.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statement, we considered the Marshall County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statement, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Marshall County Clerk's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Marshall County Clerk's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as described in the accompanying comment and recommendation, we identified a certain deficiency in internal control that we consider to be a material weakness.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statement will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. We consider the deficiency described in the accompanying comment and recommendation as item 2014-001 to be a material weakness.



Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And
On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards
(Continued)

Compliance And Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Marshall County Clerk's financial statement is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Respectfully submitted,



Adam H. Edelen
Auditor of Public Accounts

July 31, 2015

COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

MARSHALL COUNTY
TIM YORK, COUNTY CLERK
COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

For The Year Ended December 31, 2014

INTERNAL CONTROL – MATERIAL WEAKNESS:

2014-001 The Marshall County Clerk's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

The Marshall County Clerk's office lacks adequate segregation of duties over the accounting and reporting functions of the Clerk's office. Due to a limited number of staff, the County Clerk is responsible for preparing daily deposits, preparing and signing checks, posting to receipts and disbursements ledgers, preparing monthly bank reconciliations, and also preparing quarterly reports.

A lack of segregation of duties or strong oversight increases the risk that errors could occur and not be detected. A proper segregation of duties over the accounting and reporting functions or the implementation of compensating controls is essential for providing protection from errors occurring and not being detected. Additionally, a proper segregation of duties protects employees in the normal course of performing their daily responsibilities.

We recommend the County Clerk separate the duties involved in writing checks, posting to the receipts and disbursements ledgers, preparing monthly bank reconciliations, and preparing quarterly reports. If, due to a limited budget, this is not feasible, cross-checking procedures could be implemented and documented by the individual performing the procedure.

County Clerk's Response: The County Clerk did not respond.

