

Athens County Clerk of Courts

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NEWS RELEASE

New Technology for Athens County Clerk of Courts

Funding from Supreme Court of Ohio Advances Public Access to Justice

Athens, Ohio (June 27, 2022) -- The Supreme Court of Ohio today announced the Athens County Court of Common Pleas, Clerk of Courts Division will receive a technology grant from the Supreme Court of Ohio. A special thank you to Administrative Judge, Patrick Lang for allowing the Clerk of Courts, Clerk Candy Russell to apply for the Technology Grant this year. The Athens County Commissioners will be providing additional financial help to fund the system upgrade which is greatly appreciated by the Clerk's Office.

"Technology, with all its fast-developing capabilities, can never replace the fair and impartial minds the legal system," said Chief Justice O'Connor. "But it can provide the capacity to improve the operation of the courts, thereby improving service to the public."

Reducing paperwork and data entry removes barriers and makes it easier for Ohioans to interact with the justice system. Technology funding to local courts across the state has been a priority of Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor since 2015. A total of \$35 million in technology grants has been provided to local courts.

The Athens County Clerk of Courts will use the \$150,000.00 it receives this year to upgrade the current case management system to a browser-based application that will provide the County with the ability to move away from having to maintain and house the hardware and third-party software. This will provide the County/Court with a fault tolerant environment ensuring the security of the date and providing the Court with a redundant environment to improve the access to the data.

The time our legal professionals save through technology is time that can be dedicated to the people in Athens County. Once the benefit of technology was demonstrated, it is here to stay in the justice system. Courts across the state have used the funds for electronic dockets, text and email reminders of upcoming court dates, remote access courtroom technology, and more.

In 2022, technology grants funding totals more than \$3 million for projects by 48 courts in 36 counties. The annual grants are available to any court of appeals, common pleas, municipal or county court. Applications open each spring and are reviewed on a competitive basis.

A full list of grant recipients can be found online at: <https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/grants/>.

