

## Coates agrees, common sense needed

I read with great interest the guest column by our county auditor, Dusty Rhodes, regarding, "It's time to get back to common sense.

I would have to agree with Auditor Rhodes' assessment that our county needs to get back to common sense governance.

Sure our county commissioners inherited some of the bad decisions of their predecessors and now the country is in a lengthy national recession; revenue is down and investment revenue is virtually nonexistent. However, the commissioners have a higher statutory obligation and responsibility than just rubber-stamping the county administrator's budget recommendations.

Due to the commissioners' 2009 funding budget, this year the county recorder's office has reduced its expenditures approximately 23 percent, terminating 33 percent of positions and reducing supplies by 50 percent.

As a fiscal conservative I have always worked to have government live within its means just like we all must do in our own homes. However, as your elected representative, I must warn you that the suggested 2010 reductions of 15 percent to 20 percent will have a devastating effect on the recorder's meeting its statutory obligations, operation and public access.

This year, the recorder's office has already taken in over \$3.2 million in receipts for the county general fund, with about half going to the state's Ohio Housing Trust Fund.

So why is the county administration recommending further cuts to an office that actually raises money for the county coffers?

The commissioners should fund their statutory offices with statutory obligations before creating additional debts that have nothing to do with their statutory obligations.

Yes, I agree with county Auditor Dusty Rhodes, it's time to get back to "common sense" governance.

Wayne Coates is the Hamilton County recorder and a resident of Forest Park.

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