



CRAIG BROWN
COLUMBIANA COUNTY RECORDER

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Recorder Pleased With First Year

Columbiana County Recorder Craig Brown is proud of what has been happening in the recorder's office during the past year and is looking forward to continued success in 2006. Brown said that he was very excited that he lowered spending in the recorder's office by over \$50,000. Brown said, "When I ran for this job I repeatedly stressed the importance of conservative spending and keeping costs low."

Regarding the spending reduction, Brown stated, "To me this is far the best thing I could accomplish as a recorder" and added "people who live in Columbiana County watch county government and expect results." According to county auditor's records in 2004 the county recorder spent \$190,559.95 from the general fund and spent \$104,298.97 from the recorder's equipment fund. In 2005 Brown spent \$156,865.02 from the general fund and \$87,919.32 from the recorder's equipment fund.

Brown said that he contributed his success to "considering the importance of every purchase and wanting to do what is right for the people of the county." He explained, "Money in government accounts doesn't belong to the state, the county, or politicians but to the people," he added "if I'm spending other people's money it makes sense to do it as little as possible."

Brown contributed the spending decrease to a variety of factors including contract renegotiation, elimination of professional cleaning services, decision not to replace a part-time employee, spending no county money on employee overtime, and paying for office expenses himself.

Although Brown was proud of his first year's financial results, he was also pleased with other accomplishments including his new policy of providing veterans with miniature wallet sized copies of discharge paper, making available deceased veterans reports, lobbying to pass legislation to limit social security numbers files with the recorder's office and the creation of the county recorder's first website.

He emphasized that he has several projects planned for this year including homebuyer workshops, a program to gather community input, making the office website more useful, and others.