

Auditor Offers Bright Spot to Local Entities in Bleak Economy

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Contact: Nancy P. Girton, 330.725.9756

In the face of the worst economic times in memory, Medina County Auditor Mike Kovack is offering at least one bright spot for Medina County entities – he’s refunding \$4 million in real estate assessment fees his office hasn’t spent.

The fees are mandated through state law and are to be used to finance the reappraisal process, but auditors can refund unused fees after completion of the six year cycle. “My office has tremendously increased the efficiency of the process by bringing it in-house,” Kovack said. “This refund represents a portion of the savings to Medina County.”

This is not the first time Kovack has refunded unused fees. Previous to this year, Kovack was able to give back nearly \$3 million in two prior refunds and has refrained from collecting millions more. Additionally, his in-house process provides jobs to Medina County residents. “It really has been a win-win situation all around,” he said.

The \$4 million in refunds will go to taxing entities and not individuals because the fees are deducted from the tax revenues collected by each district. The individual refunds will range from a high of \$871,942 for the Medina City School District to a low of \$218 for Creston Village. Auditor Kovack said the refunds will be made no later than August 31st.