



# Daniel J. O'Connor, Jr.

## Franklin County Recorder

\*\*\*Press Release\*\*\*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Year in Review: 2023 at the Franklin County Recorder's Office

*The Franklin County Recorder's Office continued to excel in customer service, records preservation, and community outreach, while responding to changes in the housing market.*

**Columbus, OH** – The Franklin County Recorder's Office observed a notable decrease in real-property documents submitted for recording in 2023 compared to recent years. This decrease reflects the shift away from the red-hot housing market trends of the 'pandemic-era' (2020 – 2022), a time when our office saw record high year-end document recording totals. Despite the slowing of real-estate transactions, the Franklin County Recorder's Office continued to work full speed to provide excellent customer service and increase accessibility of our services for residents and community partners in Franklin County.

#### *By the Numbers – Reflections of Change in the Housing Market*

The cooling of the pandemic-era housing market was reflected in the decrease of documents recorded at the Franklin County Recorder's Office throughout 2023. The market's slowdown is likely a result of increasing mortgage interest rates and a consistently low inventory of homes for sale.

- **The total number of documents recorded in 2023 was 135,434.** This is a decrease of 22.6% from the total recorded a year prior in 2022 (175,132 documents) and 42.2% lower than the record high processed in 2021 (234,197). *(Figure 1)*
- **The average number of documents recorded per month in 2023 was 11,286.** The highest monthly total number of documents recorded was in August (13,356) and the lowest total number of documents recorded was in February (9,143). *(Figure 2)*
- **More than two-thirds of documents were submitted virtually via the e-Recording process.** About 69.5% of all documents recorded in 2023 were submitted to the office online via the e-Recording process, instead of in-person. *(Figure 3)*

#### *Contributions to the Ohio Housing Trust Fund*

Half of the revenue generated from fees associated with recording documents are collected for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund. The Ohio Housing Trust Fund was established in 1991 to create a consistent source of funding for affordable housing programs across the state and to help mitigate homelessness in Ohio.

- **The Franklin County Recorder's Office collected \$4,243,292 for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund in 2023.**



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### *Document Imaging Center (DIC) Debuts Records Training*

In 2023, the DIC introduced a professional development training for governmental agencies to promote best practices for records retention and storage. The DIC converts and preserves records for various Franklin County government offices and agencies and operates under the Franklin County Microfilming Board.

- **The training was intended for intermediate level records managers.** Attendees ranged in experience from less than one year to 22 years in their careers and represented 11 different county agencies.
- **More trainings are planned for 2024**, including a virtual version.

### *Community Engagement and Outreach*

The Franklin County Recorder's Office continues to engage with Greater Columbus residents by hosting and participating in off-site events such as resource fairs and community programs.

- **The Franklin County Recorder's Office participated in over 20 off-site events this past year**, the majority of which (13) included the opportunity for veterans to register for or renew their county-issued Veteran ID cards.
- **Over 110 veterans were able to obtain a new Veteran ID card with the Franklin County Recorder's Office at an off-site event.** Senior and disabled veterans in attendance have commented that these events are more conveniently located and accessible.
- **We worked with 14 community partners in our outreach efforts this year, including:**
  - Central Ohio Veterans Stand Down
  - Columbus Crew
  - Creating Central Ohio Futures
  - Franklin County Office on Aging
  - Franklin County Veterans Commission
  - Nationwide Children's Hospital
  - Ohio Department of Veteran Services
  - Columbus Building Trades Council
  - COSI – Center of Science and Industry
  - Franklin County Auditor's Office
  - Franklin County Probate Court
  - Hamilton Local Schools
  - Ohio Department of Public Safety
  - OhioHealth Dedicated Senior Medical Center

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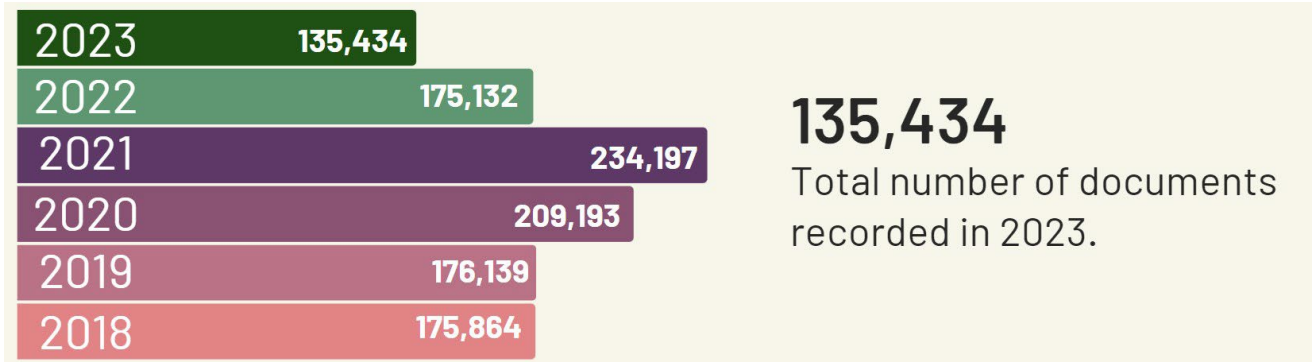


Figure 1

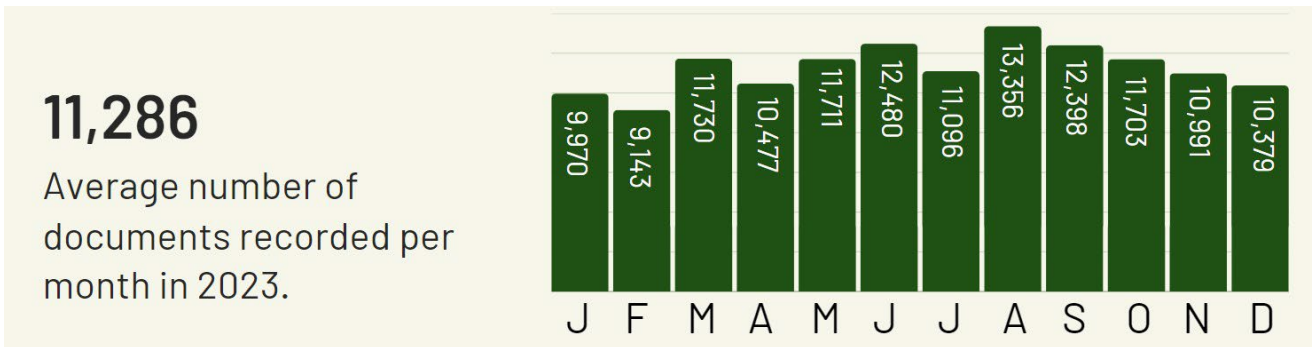


Figure 2

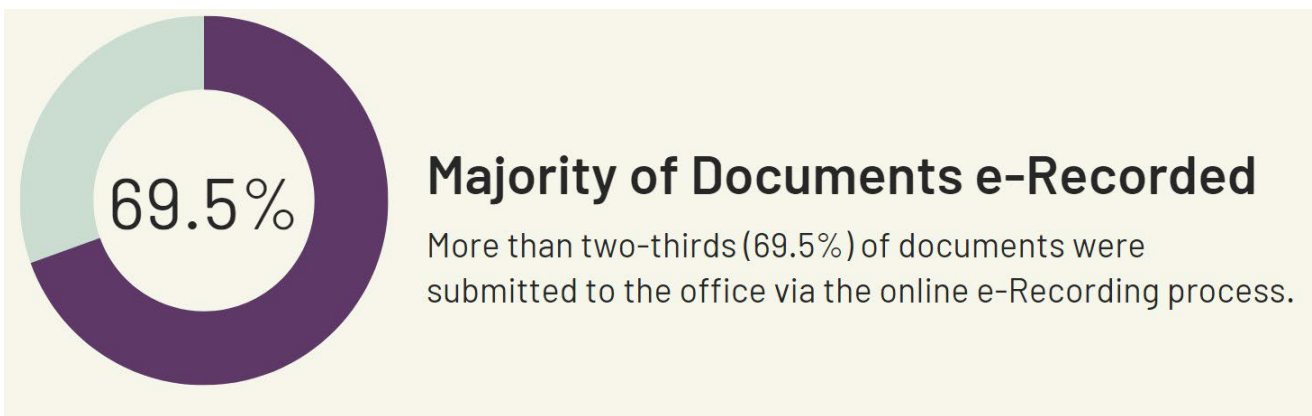


Figure 3



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## 2023 Year-End Comparison

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Recorded	176,139	209,193	234,197	175,132	135,434
% Change In Recordings	0.2%	18.8%	12.0%	-25.2%	-22.67%
Total eRecorded	49,745	109,182	161,885	126,066	94,301
% Of Total	28.2%	52.2%	69.1%	71.9%	69.63%
% Change In eRecordings	12.2%	119.5%	48.3%	-22.1%	-25.50%
Total Deeds Recorded	37,348	34,865	41,426	37,028	28,800
% Change In Deeds	1.5%	-6.6%	18.8%	-10.6%	-22.22%
# of Deeds eRecorded		9,370	27,433	27,872	27,793
% Of Total eRecorded		26.9%	66.2%	75.2%	24.17%
Total Mortgages Recorded	46,011	63,141	69,256	46,364	31,961
% Change In Mortgages	9.6%	37.2%	9.7%	-33.0%	-31.07%
Total Release of Mortgages Recorded	45,291	65,983	77,006	45,901	28,484
% Change In Release of Mortgages	0.5%	45.7%	16.7%	-40.3%	-37.95%