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Clinton County Auditor's Office Expands In-Office Payment Options with Credit and Debit Cards

Wilmington, Ohio — January 30, 2026 — The Clinton County Auditor's Office is pleased to announce the addition of **credit and debit card payments for in-office transactions**, expanding payment options for residents and continuing efforts to modernize how the public does business with the county.

While the Auditor's Office has offered **online dog license purchases through its website since 2009**, with a \$2 per-transaction fee, in-office payments had previously been limited to cash or check. The rollout of in-office credit and debit card acceptance helps close that gap and provides residents with consistent, convenient options when visiting the office in person.

The new payment option officially went live in **mid-January 2026**, and in less than two weeks, the Auditor's Office has already processed **more than 55 credit and debit card payments**, reflecting strong public interest in expanded payment flexibility.

"Our goal is to meet people where they are and offer practical, convenient ways to do business," said **Clinton County Auditor Terence G. Habermehl**. "This is an important step

forward in modernizing everyday transactions and improving the customer experience for the residents we serve.”

Credit and debit card payments are currently available **for in-person transactions only** and are processed through **MuniciPay**, a third-party payment processor. Transactions are subject to a **2.65% processing fee, with a \$3 minimum**, which is paid by the customer and **retained entirely by MuniciPay**. The county does **not** receive any portion of the transaction fee. MuniciPay provides payment processing services to the county at no cost, aside from the purchase of card terminals, each costing less than \$600.

In addition to convenience for the public, the move toward electronic payments also supports **strong internal controls and fiscal best practices**. Credit and debit card transactions provide clear electronic records, enhanced auditability, and reduced reliance on cash handling, which helps lower risk and improve transparency.

“Like all county offices, we are always looking for ways to strengthen internal controls, reduce risk, and operate as responsibly as possible,” Auditor Habermehl added.

“Expanding electronic payment options is one way we can support good stewardship of public funds while also improving service to the public.”

The Auditor’s Office recognizes that credit and debit card payments may not be the preferred option for all residents and will continue to accept cash and checks, ensuring accessibility for everyone.

The Clinton County Auditor’s Office currently accepts payments for:

- Dog licenses
- CAUV application fees
- Real property conveyance fees
- Manufactured home ownership transfers
- Manufactured home relocation permits

The Auditor's Office also notes that **other county offices have successfully accepted credit card payments for many years**, including the **County Treasurer's Office** for select transactions, as well as **Building and Zoning** and the **Clinton County Health Department** for all payment transactions.

In addition, the Auditor's Office has opened a **miscellaneous payment category** to process credit and debit card payments on behalf of **other Clinton County offices** that do not currently offer this option.

"We hope this is a step toward broader, countywide expansion where it makes sense," said Auditor Habermehl. "Each office ultimately makes its own operational decisions, but we are committed to working collaboratively to improve customer service, transparency, and risk reduction wherever possible."

Residents with questions about accepted payment types or applicable fees are encouraged to contact the Clinton County Auditor's Office.