



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE  
**KEITH FABER**





# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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## BASIC AUDIT REPORT

Ironton Community Improvement Corporation  
Lawrence County  
301 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Ironton, Ohio 45638

We have completed certain procedures in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code Section 117.01(G) to the accounting records and related documents of the Ironton Community Improvement Corporation, Lawrence County, (the Corporation) for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021.

Our procedures were designed solely to satisfy the audit requirements of Ohio Rev. Code Section 117.11(A). Because our procedures were not designed to opine on the Corporation's financial statements, we did not follow *generally accepted auditing standards*. We do not provide any assurance on the Corporation's financial statements, transactions or balances for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021.

The Corporation's management is responsible for preparing and maintaining its accounting records and related documents. Our responsibility under Ohio Rev. Code Section 117.11(A) is to examine, analyze and inspect these records and documents.

We obtained written representation from the governing Board that the Corporation had no cash, assets, liabilities, revenues or expenses during the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021.

### Current Year Observations

1. **Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2)** provides that every public office must have a policy in place for responding to public records requests. Generally, a public records policy cannot: (1) limit the number of public records the office will make available to a single person; (2) limit the number of public records the office will make available during a fixed period of time; and (3) establish a fixed period of time before the office will respond to a request for inspection/copying of public records unless that period is less than eight hours. However, pursuant to **Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(7)(c)**, the policy may limit the number of public records the public office will physically deliver by U.S. Mail or other delivery service to ten per month unless the person certifies to the office in writing that the person does not intend to use or forward the requested records, or the information contained in them, for commercial purposes. "Commercial" is narrowly construed and does not include reporting or gathering news, reporting or gathering information to assist citizen oversight or understanding of the operation or activities of government, or nonprofit educational research.

**Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2)** further requires all public offices take certain actions with regard to their public record policy. Public offices must distribute their Public Records Policy to the employee who is the records custodian/manager or otherwise has custody of the records of that office and have that employee acknowledge receipt of the Public Records Policy; create and display in a conspicuous place in all locations where the public office has branch offices a poster describing the public records policy; and, if the public office has a manual or handbook of its general policies and procedures for all employees, include the public records policy in that manual or handbook.

The Corporation has no formal written policy that would demonstrate compliance with the Ohio Revised Code. This could result in records requests not being fulfilled in accordance with Ohio law.

The Corporation shall establish a public records policy. The policy shall be distributed to the records custodian/manager and the Corporation should have a written acknowledgement of receipt from the records custodian/manager. In addition, a poster describing the public records policy must be conspicuously displayed in all of the City's branch offices and the public records policy must be included in policy manuals or handbooks if any exist.

Pursuant to **Ohio Rev. Code § 109.43(E)(2)**, the Ohio Attorney General has developed and provided to all public offices a model public records policy for responding to public records requests. The policy, which is available at <https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Files/Government-Entities/Model-Public-Records-Policy.aspx>, provides guidance to public offices in developing their own policies for responding to public records requests in compliance with the Public Records Act.

2. **Ohio Rev. Code § 1724.05** states that each community improvement corporation shall prepare an annual financial report that conforms to rules prescribed by the auditor of state pursuant to section 117.20 of the Revised Code, that is prepared according to generally accepted accounting principles, and that is certified by the board of directors of the corporation or its treasurer or other chief fiscal officer to the best knowledge and belief of those persons certifying the report. The financial report shall be filed with the auditor of state within one hundred twenty days following the last day of the corporation's fiscal year, unless the auditor of state extends that deadline. The auditor of state may establish terms and conditions for granting any extension of that deadline. The financial report shall be published on the corporation's web site, or if the corporation does not have a web site, on the web site of the county in which the corporation is located.

The Auditor of State allows for an alternate filing form be filed in lieu of financial statements and notes when a corporation has no cash, assets, liabilities, revenues, or expenses. The Corporation did not file its 2021 alternate form until August 22, 2022 and their 2022 alternative form until May 11, 2023, both which were after their required filing deadline of May 1st.

The Corporation should file within one hundred and twenty days unless the Auditor of State has extended that deadline. The Corporation should publish their report on their website. If the Corporation does not file their statements in a timely manner late fees could occur and risk cancellation by the Secretary of State.



Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

June 8, 2023

# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



**IRONTON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION**

**LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION**

This is a true and correct copy of the report, which is required to be filed pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in the Office of the Ohio Auditor of State in Columbus, Ohio.



**Certified for Release 7/6/2023**

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This report is a matter of public record and is available online at  
[www.ohioauditor.gov](http://www.ohioauditor.gov)