



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE  
**KEITH FABER**





# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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Regional Planning Commission  
Athens County  
1 South Court Street, Room 122  
Athens, Ohio 45701

We have completed certain procedures in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 117.01(G) to the accounting records and related documents of the Regional Planning Commission, Athens County, Ohio (the Commission), for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020.

Our procedures were designed solely to satisfy the audit requirements of Ohio Rev. Code § 117.11(A). Because our procedures were not designed to opine on the Commission's financial statements, we did not follow *generally accepted auditing standards*. We do not provide any assurance on the Commission's financial statements, transactions or balances for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020.

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

Based on the results of our procedures, we found the following significant compliance issue to report.

## Current Year Observations

Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2) requires public offices to adopt a public records policy. Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(7)(c) provides guidance for a required public records policy to be approved by the Board. The approved public records policy should not limit the number of responses that may be made to a particular person, limit the number of responses during a specified period of time, or establish a fixed period of time before it will respond unless that period is less than eight hours. The Ohio Attorney General developed a model public records policy for responding to public records requests in compliance with Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43 in order to provide guidance to public offices in developing their own public record policies. This model policy is available at <https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Files/Government-Entities/Model-Public-Records-policy.aspx>.

The Board did not approve a formal public records policy. This can result in improper treatment of public records requests. The Board should approve a formal public records policy containing all the required elements. The policy should be included in Commission's policy manual and displayed in all the branches of the Commission as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2)

**Current Status of Matters Reported in our Prior Engagement**

The prior audit included noncompliance with Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2) for failing to approve a public records policy. This was repeated in the Current Year Observation above.



Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

June 15, 2022

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**ATHENS COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

**ATHENS 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 6/28/2022**

88 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215  
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This report is a matter of public record and is available online at  
[www.ohioauditor.gov](http://www.ohioauditor.gov)