

# MAYOR'S COURTS IN OHIO

A Brief Overview for Local Government Officials

# Agenda

- ▶ **Overview of Mayor's Courts**
  - ▶ **Jurisdiction & Case Types**
    - ▶ \* Mayors Court have limited jurisdiction and handle specific type of cases within municipalities.
    - ▶ Traffic (speeding; parking and other moving violations)
    - ▶ Building Cases & Fire Cases (zoning)
    - ▶ Minor Misdemeanor Offense - First OVI
    - ▶ **Mayors Court DO NOT HAVE JURISDICTION OVER FELONY CASES / CIVIL/ JURY DUTIES/TPO**
  - ▶ **Procedures & Appeals**
    - ▶ Mayors Court are handle by the Mayors or an appointed Magistrate.
    - ▶ Appeals- Decisions from Mayor's Court can be appealed to a Municipal Court
  - ▶ **Benefits, Criticisms & Reform**
  - ▶ **Questions**

# What is a Mayor's Court?

- ▶ Local court presided over by mayor or magistrate
  - ▶ Exists only in municipalities
  - ▶ Not a court of record
  - ▶ Limited criminal jurisdiction
  - ▶ currently 220 Court Register in OHIO
  - ▶ 2024 Mayors Court heard over 190,678 cases

# Legal Authority - Ohio Revised Code

- ▶ Authorized under ORC Chapter 1905
  - ▶ Established by municipal ordinance
  - ▶ Oversight by Ohio Supreme Court

# Structure of the Court

- ▶ Mayor or appointed magistrate presides
  - ▶ **Clerk of court required**
  - ▶ Mandatory training & certification needed
  - ▶ Annual reporting requirements
  - ▶ Must Comply with Supreme Court
  - ▶ BMV Reporting
  - ▶ Reparatory Reports

# Jurisdiction

- ▶ Municipal ordinance violations
  - ▶ Traffic offenses- First OVI, Cellphone, Seat Belts
  - ▶ Misdemeanors within municipality- Noise, Animals, Petty theft under local code, disorderly Conduct,

# Typical Case Flow

- ▶ Citation issued
  - ▶ Initial appearance / arraignment
  - ▶ Plea entered
  - ▶ Disposition or transfer
  - ▶ Driving Privilege for OVI

# Appeals Process

- ▶ Appeal to municipal or county court
  - ▶ Often trial de novo
  - ▶ Strict filing deadlines

# Benefits of Mayor's Courts

- ▶ Local accessibility
  - ▶ Efficient case resolution
  - ▶ Community-level accountability

# Criticisms & Controversies

- ▶ Perceived conflict of interest
  - ▶ Revenue dependency concerns
  - ▶ Calls for reform or elimination

Questions ?



THANK YOU

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FOR HAVING  
US TODAY!**

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**Association of Mayor's Court**

