

GALLIPOLIS MUNICIPAL COURT
518 SECOND AVENUE
GALLIPOLIS, OHIO 45631

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

JUDGE ERIC R. MULFORD

LOU ELLEN WERRY, CLERK

The Gallipolis Municipal Court expended from the General Fund of the City of Gallipolis \$313,249.21 for the year 2019. The Court paid to the General Fund of the City of Gallipolis through the collection of court costs and fines \$411,065.84. This is \$97,816.63 more than expended by the City General Fund to operate the Court.

The following is a comparison of the previous three years:

2018 Expenditure: \$325,102.77 Revenue: \$432,933.94
2017 Expenditure: \$331,448.90 Revenue: \$425,746.33
2016 Expenditure: \$317,776.58 Revenue: \$391,400.82

TRAFFIC/CRIMINAL DIVISION

COLLECTION OF FINES

The Court began the year with \$169,743.95 bond on hand. The Court collected \$1,053,481.61 in the Traffic/Criminal Division bringing the total ledger to \$1,223,225.56 The Court disbursed unclaimed funds in 2019 of \$20921.95 and also disbursed \$1,049,931.61 in fines/costs and bonds, leaving bond on hand for 2019 in the amount of \$152,372.00.

The following is a breakdown of previous years for comparison:

2018 \$1,099,364.25
2017 \$1,058,699.17
2016-\$1,071,514.53

The Court has its own funds, created by statute, available for a variety of purposes. These include, but are not limited to, the purchase of computers and technology, special projects of the Court, probation services, house arrest, and indigent alcohol treatment and/or monitoring. The amounts collected and disbursed to these accounts for the year 2019 total \$258,266.64 and are as follows:

IDATA/IWFC/IATC	\$7513.40
Probation Fund	\$47,818.78
House Arrest	\$6716.50
Special Projects	\$141,439.11
Computer Fund	\$21,948.25
Mediation Fund	\$29,597.60
IDIF	\$3233.00

In 2019 the Court distributed \$347,419.14 to the City of Gallipolis. The following is the past three years' distributions:

2018-\$364,605.81
2017-\$354,750.88
2016-\$337,230.86

The distribution of the 2019 funds are as follows:

40% of State Highway Patrol	\$77,233.43
Court Costs	\$221,728.11
City Ordinance Case fines	\$24,558.65
Housing fees (dui)	\$1007.50
Juror fees	\$871.50
Dui arrests costs	\$397.00
Service fees, Gallipolis PD	\$0.00
Drug fines	\$575.00
Expungements	\$120.00
Witness fees	\$6.00
Unclaimed funds	\$20,921.95

In 2019 the Court distributed \$80,889.25 to Gallia County. The following is the past three years' distributions:

2018-\$75,701.72
2017-\$62,757.86
2016-\$60,698.56

The distribution of the 2019 funds are as follows:

10% of State Highway Patrol	\$19,284.39
ORC fines	\$16,199.20
Uniform traffic	\$15,284.80
Liquor Control	\$422.50
Juror fees	\$926.20
Witness fees	\$21.50
Expungements	\$20.00
Public Defender	\$11,022.95
Law Library	\$4,000.00
Sheriff's dept (service fees)	\$8145.21
Sheriff's dept (ovi arrest costs)	\$35.00
Sheriff's dept (housing fees)	\$5182.50
Sheriff's dept (drug fines)	\$345.00

In 2019 the court distributed \$279,764.93 to the State of Ohio. The following is the past three years' distributions:

2018-\$267,362.99
2017-\$273,053.72
2016-\$286,972.26

The distribution of the 2019 funds are as follows:

50% of State Highway Patrol	\$96,326.41
Liquor Control	\$422.50
Victims of Crime	\$32,927.50
Highway Safety	\$1493.00
Seatbelt fines	\$29,370.92
Expungements	\$510.00
IDFC/IDSF (ind. defense, former gen rev.)	\$102,881.15
JPSF (justice program fund)	\$321.40
DEFC (drug enforc. fund)	\$10,964.05
Bond Surcharge	\$4548.00

The following is the remainder of fine distributions the Court made to other agencies, other fees and various sundry payments totaling \$104,513.60

ODNR	\$1793.90
OSP (ovi arrest)	\$1595.50
OSP (drug fines)	\$2245.00
ODPS (drug fines)	\$300.00
Board of Pharmacy	\$3319.00
Sundries	\$459.00
Out of County Sheriff fees	\$421.00
Centerville	\$0.00
Cheshire	\$30.00
Crown City	\$501.00
Rio Grande	\$602.00
Vinton	\$366.00
Capital Recovery	\$4573.20
BMV	\$120.00
Bond refunds	\$87,977.00
Animal Welfare League	\$211.00
Dept of Taxation	\$0
Restitution account	\$0

CIVIL/SMALL CLAIMS DIVISION

The Court began the year with a carryover of \$298.30 and collected \$402,354.89. The court reissued outstanding funds from 2018 in the amount of \$1540.66 and disbursed \$402,594.70 leaving a carryover of \$1599.15.

The following is a comparison of the past three years' distributions:

2018-\$437,337.33
2017-\$397,327.04
2016-\$271,937.58

The following is an account of funds collection/disbursement in 2019:

City of Gallipolis, court costs/unclaimed funds	\$86,257.00
Mediation fund	\$3455.00
Computer fund	\$5048.00
Special Projects (CAP)	\$18,656.00
Legal Aid	\$17,501.00
Sheriff/Police fees (including other county)	\$1169.00
Sundries	\$1221.00
Judgments	\$267,981.89
Check reissued	\$1540.66
Bond	\$1066.00

The following is a comparison of judgment disbursement figures:

2018-\$299,029.88
2017-\$265,446.47
2016-\$186,360.28

MUNICIPAL COURT CASELOAD

	2016	2017	2018	2019
DUI	222	251	336	331
MISC. TRAFFIC	5530	5642	5245	5140
CRIMINAL	1471	1484	1521	1229
CIVIL/SMALL CLAIMS	515	795	696	693

The above figures represent the actual number of charges/complaints filed in each category.

Felony

The Court heard 24 preliminary hearings resulting in bind over to Common Pleas Court. 29 defendants waived their preliminary hearing and agreed to be bound over. 23 were dismissed, most of which were due to the case being taken directly to the Grand Jury of Gallia County. There are 8 outstanding felony warrants for this year.

Criminal Misdemeanor

The Court took 335 guilty pleas on one or more original charges in misdemeanor criminal cases. The Court also heard 102 guilty pleas to reduced or amended charges. The Court had 10 bench trials on criminal cases.

OVI

The Court had 127 defendants plead guilty to OVI. There were 73 pleas of guilty to reduced charges.

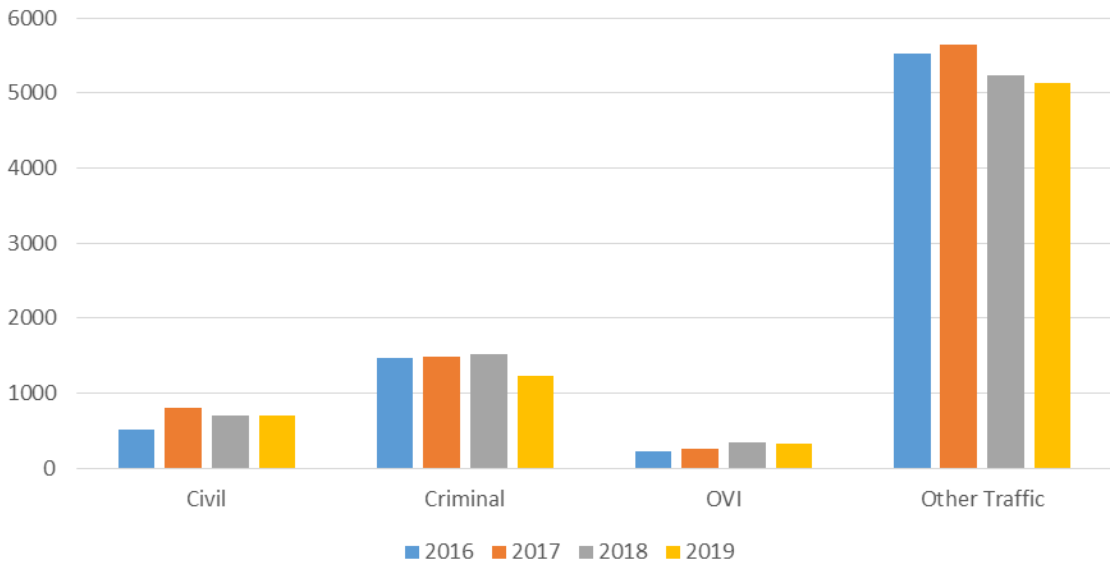
Traffic other Misdemeanor

The Court had 3488 pleas of guilty to original charges, this includes waivers of appearance on MM traffic citations. There were 353 guilty to reduced charge pleas. There were 3 trials.

The Municipal Court offers a free mediation program. This program allows individuals and small businesses the opportunity to try and resolve civil disputes through the use of a trained mediator rather than incur the expense of attorneys and court fees. There were 21 mediation cases filed in 2019.

The Court reports monthly to the Supreme Court of Ohio regarding the number and type of cases filed, how those cases are disposed, and the timeliness of disposition. There are two reports each month titled the Administrative Judge Report and the Individual Judge report. The reports document the Court's clearance rate, which is a statistical calculation comparing the number of cases filed during the year to the number of cases terminated during the same year. The Court has an average clearance rate in excess of 100% for calendar year 2019. Detailed data measuring the Court's caseload and performance may be found online at www.sc.ohio.gov/JCS/courtSvcs/dashboards.

Caseload Comparison



GALLIPOLIS MUNICIPAL COURT PROBATION DEPARTMENT

The Gallipolis Municipal Court Probation department is comprised of three full time probation officers, including the Chief of Probation and Drug Court Coordinator. In 2019, the bulk of the expenses for these officers was paid for through a Justice Reinvestment Incentive grant. For this reason, the expenditure in 2019 from the Court's probation fund totaled only \$7004.32. The Court maintains a probation fund with an end of year balance of \$120,642.63. As of 12/31/19, the department had 950 individuals under supervision. The Court placed 178 adults on probation in 2019. There were 69 offenders placed on electronic monitoring house arrest as an alternative to jail. The average length of days served in the program was 23 days with a success rate of 83%.

In 2019 the Gallipolis Municipal Court Recovery Court served 36 participants. Of those 36, 8 graduated the program successfully. There are 11 participants that have carried over from 2019 into 2020. There were 16 unsuccessful discharges and 1 neutral discharge. The recidivism rate for graduates of the Recovery Court is currently 19%, compared to a national average of 46-60% recidivism rate for individuals sentenced to standard probation.

The security screening device recorded approximately 45,000 visitors to the Municipal Court in 2019.