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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 12, 2019

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVES BUDGET THAT INVESTS IN WHAT MATTERS

WARREN COUNTY, OHIO – Today the Warren County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) adopted its 2020 budget totaling \$77,426,191, 55% of which is for the cost associated with the criminal justice system. The budget represents the ongoing model established by the BOCC to spend less than what is anticipated. This approach to budgeting has allowed Warren County's fiscal health to be one of the strongest in Ohio and the nation.

"On behalf of the citizens of Warren County, we are pleased to present this conservative budget that invests in what matters and prepares for our future," said Shannon Jones, President of the WCBC, "I'm confident the taxpayers will be satisfied with our prudent approach."

Low debt and strong fiscal strength have also afforded Warren County the highest bond rating of AAA by Moody's. Warren County is one of only three counties in the State of Ohio to achieve this rating. This rating is of significant value to the County as it sought to borrow funds in 2019 for the new \$57 million Warren County Jail and Sheriff's office project currently under construction. This 2019 debt, \$42 million after a cash down payment, does not impact the County's general fund balance as it is secured by a revenue pledge generated by the 5 year, ¼% increase to the County's sales tax. Warren County's sales tax is paid by an estimated 60% of individuals who do not reside in Warren County. Once the debt is paid off, anticipated to be 4-5 years, the sales tax will sunset and return to 6.75%. The BOCC's jail financing strategy, a five-year term versus thirty, will save taxpayers nearly \$30 million in interest payments.

Additionally, the BOCC has been able to take its carryover funds from the previous year and set money aside for capital and other needs as they present themselves. The County's unencumbered carryover comes after \$12 million is to be set aside for a reserve "rainy day" fund, \$7 million is used to create a

county-wide “infrastructure bank” and an additional \$2 million granted to support Warren County Children Services and their increased costs associated with childhood trauma.

About the Warren County Board of County Commissioners

The Warren County Board of Commissioners is the legislative and executive body of county government. As the governing body, the Board is fiscally responsible for taxpayer dollars and for provision of services as required by state and federal law or mandated by the public. The Board works, through community partnership, to conscientiously protect and enhance the health, safety and quality of life of all Warren County residents, businesses and communities in a respectful, efficient and fiscally responsible way that addresses the needs today and invests in tomorrow.

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