

DEPUTY TAX COMMISSIONERS / Ohio Department of Taxation

Nicholas (Nick) Cipiti – Policy & Budget

Nick is deputy tax commissioner for policy and budget for the Ohio Department of Taxation. A native of the Cleveland area, he received his bachelor's degree in business from Kent State University, and went to work for the Xerox Corporation. He earned an MBA from John Carroll University and took a position in Columbus as VP Accounting/Finance with the Ohio Bar Title Insurance Company. He was later named executive vice president in charge of two subsidiaries and operations in four states.

Nick later worked for the Ohio Bankers Association as vice president and executive vice president of its subsidiary, the Ohio Bankers Service Corporation. He worked as project director for an international business consulting firm before starting his own business. Serving Central Ohio, his company provided accounting, tax preparation and financial advisory services to individuals and small businesses. He also owned a national tax preparation service franchise and taught business classes at Columbus State Community College.

Nick's community service includes charter member of Clintonville Rotary, Kiwanis, American Red Cross, and Columbus Reads mentor. He was elected to the Clintonville Area Commission and served as Secretary and Vice Chair. Nick has three children. Daughter Sandra is an accountant, and his two sons, Todd and Nicholas, both served in the U.S. Marine Corps in the Middle East.

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Matthew H. Chafin, Esq. – Chief Legal Counsel

Matt is responsible for the tax legal affairs of the department and management of four legal groups providing legislatively authorized services: Tax Appeals, Appeals Management, Bankruptcy, and Legal Counsels.

Prior to his appointment, Matt was an attorney examiner for the Ohio Board of Tax Appeals for eleven years. Previously, Matt served as an assistant prosecuting attorney for the Franklin County Prosecutor's Attorney, handling various civil matters, representation of elected officials, and representing the Franklin County Board of Revision. Matt has litigated cases before a variety of Courts of Appeals, County Common Pleas Courts, Federal District Court, Ohio Supreme Court, and the Board of Tax Appeals. While in law school Matt was a mediator in the Columbus City Attorney's Office, Night Prosecutor's program. Prior to becoming a member of the Ohio Bar, Matt served as a deputy county auditor and deputy county recorder. Matt graduated from Ohio University with a degree in Communications and earned his J.D. from Capital University Law School.

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Stanley Dixon – Real Estate Tax and Chief Ethics Officer

Stan's responsibilities include management and oversight of the Tax Equalization (Real Property Tax) Division, Enforcement Division, Internal Audit and the Problem Resolution Office. Prior to his current position in the department, he was a deputy auditor in the Real Property Division of the Franklin County Auditor's office for 34 years, serving as its Assistant Director for 26 years.

Stan is a 1972 graduate of The Ohio State University with a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry Education. He held an active membership in the International Association of Assessing Officers for 30 years and has been a speaker on property taxes for the County Auditors' Association of Ohio, the Columbus Bar Association, the Columbus Apartment Owners' Association, the Columbus Board of Realtors and various civic and professional groups in Ohio.

He is married with two step-sons who attend Marshall University and The Ohio State University.

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Marjorie Kruse – Compliance & Audit

Marj has responsibility for oversight of all taxes administered by the Department, as well as both the audit and compliance functions. Prior to joining Taxation, she worked for the Franklin County Auditor, serving thirteen years as the director of fiscal services and three years as chief accountant. She also has worked on school district performance audits as an employee of the State Auditor's Office. She was an audit manager at Coopers & Lybrand before focusing her career in the public sector.

Marj graduated summa cum laude from The Ohio State University in 1988 with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and is a Certified Public Accountant. In the past, she has served as president of the Columbus Chapter of the American Society of Women Accountants and as education co-chair for the Central Ohio Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants. She has four children ranging in age from 14 to 31, and four grandchildren.

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Mark Walker – Information Services

Mark has been with the department for 32 years. He started his career as an auditor in the Corporate Franchise Tax Division and was a business lead in the development and implementation of the department's first integrated tax system (ITAS) before transitioning into his management role with the Taxpayer Services, Compliance and Tax Processing and Data Capture Divisions. Mark is also a business and executive sponsor for the STARS project.

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