

Merom Brachman, *Chairman*
Mark A. Vander Laan, *Vice Chairman*
Bruce E. Bailey
Megan C. Kelley
Julie A. Rutter
Elizabeth E. Tracy



OHIO ETHICS COMMISSION
William Green Building
30 West Spring Street, L3
Columbus, Ohio 43215-2256
Telephone: (614) 466-7090
Fax: (614) 466-8368

www.ethics.ohio.gov

Paul M. Nick
Executive Director

November 1, 2022

For more information, contact:
Paul M. Nick
Executive Director
(614) 466-7091
paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**WAPAKONETA MAYOR TOM STINEBAUGH FOUND GUILTY
OF THEFT IN OFFICE AND ETHICS LAW VIOLATIONS**

Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost announced in a [press release](#) that on October 29, 2022, an Auglaize County Common Pleas Court jury found former Wapakoneta Mayor Tom Stinebaugh guilty of theft in office, a fifth-degree felony; having an unlawful interest in a public contract, a fourth-degree felony; and three counts of conflict of interest, each a first-degree misdemeanor.

Stinebaugh was sentenced to 18 months in prison; the sentence was stayed pending appeals.

The charges stemmed from Stinebaugh's participation in promoting his brother as fire chief and obtaining a sewer line extension to a property he was developing at city expense.

Stinebaugh's mayoral duties [were previously suspended](#) under Ohio Revised Code 3.16, which authorizes the suspension of a public official who has been charged with a felony in a state or federal court when the felony relates to the performance of the official's duty. Under R.C. 2921.41(C)(1), Stinebaugh's conviction of theft in office forever disqualifies him from holding any public office, employment, or position of trust in this state.

The case was investigated by BCI and the Ohio Ethics Commission.

###