

<p style="text-align: center;">Form 5500</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</p> <hr/> <p style="font-size: small;">Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</p> <hr/> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</p>	<p>Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).</p> <p>▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089</p> <hr/> <p style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">2024</p> <hr/> <p style="font-weight: bold;">This Form is Open to Public Inspection</p>
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Part I Annual Report Identification Information
 For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

A This return/report is for: a multiemployer plan a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.)

a single-employer plan a DFE (specify) _____

B This return/report is: the first return/report the final return/report

an amended return/report a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)

C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. ▶

D Check box if filing under: Form 5558 automatic extension the DFVC program

special extension (enter description)

E If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. ▶

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

<p>1a Name of plan <u>WHITE CASTLE SYSTEM, INC. WELFARE BENEFIT DIRECT REIMBURSEMENT PLAN</u></p>	<p>1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <u>508</u></p>
<p>2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions) <u>WHITE CASTLE SYSTEM, INC.</u></p> <p><u>555 EDGAR WALDO WAY</u> <u>PO BOX 1498</u> <u>COLUMBUS, OH 43215-1498</u></p>	<p>1c Effective date of plan <u>01/01/1999</u></p> <p>2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>31-4340520</u></p> <p>2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number <u>614-228-5781</u></p> <p>2d Business code (see instructions) <u>722513</u></p>

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/14/2025	JOHN KELLEY
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/14/2025	ROBERT LILIENSTERN
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

3a Plan administrator's name and address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN	
	3c Administrator's telephone number	
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN	
	4d PN	
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5	2119
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d). a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits..... c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits. f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.....	6a(1)	2119
	6a(2)	2047
	6b	10
	6c	0
	6d	2057
	6e	
	6f	
	6g(1)	
6g(2)		
6h		
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	7	

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:
4A 4D 4E

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)
(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance	(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust	(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor	(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor

10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules	b General Schedules
(1) <input type="checkbox"/> R (Retirement Plan Information)	(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> H (Financial Information)
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> MB (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> I (Financial Information – Small Plan)
(3) <input type="checkbox"/> SB (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary	(3) <input type="checkbox"/> A (Insurance Information) – Number Attached <u>0</u>
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> DCG (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____	(4) <input type="checkbox"/> C (Service Provider Information)
(5) <input type="checkbox"/> MEP (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)	(5) <input type="checkbox"/> D (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
	(6) <input type="checkbox"/> G (Financial Transaction Schedules)

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) Yes No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) Yes No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2024 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2024 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	Financial Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small> 2024 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024	
A Name of plan WHITE CASTLE SYSTEM, INC. WELFARE BENEFIT DIRECT REIMBURSEMENT PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 508
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 WHITE CASTLE SYSTEM, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 31-4340520

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement
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1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. **Round off amounts to the nearest dollar.** MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.

		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
Assets			
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a	112997	120956
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)		
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)		
(3) Other	1b(3)		
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)		
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)		
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)		
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)		
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)		
(15) Other	1c(15)		

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities.....	1d(1)		
(2) Employer real property.....	1d(2)		
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation.....	1e		
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e).....	1f	112997	120956
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable.....	1g		
h Operating payables.....	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness.....	1i		
j Other liabilities.....	1j		
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j).....	1k	0	0
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f).....	1l	112997	120956

Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

Income		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a Contributions:			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers.....	2a(1)(A)	757110	
(B) Participants.....	2a(1)(B)	575625	
(C) Others (including rollovers).....	2a(1)(C)		
(2) Noncash contributions.....	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		1332735
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit).....	2b(1)(A)		
(B) U.S. Government securities.....	2b(1)(B)		
(C) Corporate debt instruments.....	2b(1)(C)		
(D) Loans (other than to participants).....	2b(1)(D)		
(E) Participant loans.....	2b(1)(E)		
(F) Other.....	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		0
(2) Dividends:			
(A) Preferred stock.....	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock.....	2b(2)(B)		
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds).....	2b(2)(C)		
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		0
(3) Rents.....	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets:			
(A) Aggregate proceeds.....	2b(4)(A)		
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions).....	2b(4)(B)		
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result.....	2b(4)(C)		
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets:			
(A) Real estate.....	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other.....	2b(5)(B)		
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	2b(6)		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2d		1332735

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers.....	2e(1)	1324776	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits	2e(2)		
(3) Other.....	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3)	2e(4)		1324776
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions).....	2g		
h Interest expense.....	2h		
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)		
(3) Recordkeeping fees	2i(3)		
(4) IQPA audit fees	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)		
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)		
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)		
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses.....	2i(11)		
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		0
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2j		1324776

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d.....	2k		7959
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan.....	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) Unmodified (2) Qualified (3) Disclaimer (4) Adverse

b Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate whether the IQPA performed an ERISA section 103(a)(3)(C) audit. Check both boxes (1) and (2) if the audit was performed pursuant to both 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and 29 CFR 2520.103-12(d). Check box (3) if pursuant to neither.

(1) DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 (2) DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) (3) neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: **GBQ PARTNERS**

(2) EIN: **20-2122306**

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** as part of Schedule H because:

(1) This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, DCG or MTIA. (2) It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l. DCGs do not complete lines 4e, 4f, 4k, 4l, and 5, and DCGs generally complete the rest of Part IV collectively for all plans in the DCG, except as otherwise provided (see instructions).

During the plan year:

	Yes	No	Amount
a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)		X	
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)		X	
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)		X	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)		X	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	X		5000000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		X	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		X	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		X	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)		X	
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)		X	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?		X	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		X	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)			
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.			

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? Yes No
If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.

5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	5b(2) EIN(s)	5b(3) PN(s)

5c Was the plan a defined benefit plan covered under the PBGC insurance program at any time during this plan year? (See ERISA section 4021 and instructions.) Yes No Not determined
If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year _____.

• **Financial Statements**

• **White Castle System, Inc.**
• **Welfare Benefit Direct**
• **Reimbursement Plan**

• December 31, 2024 and 2023



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To the Trustees
White Castle System, Inc.
Welfare Benefit Direct Reimbursement Plan
Columbus, Ohio

Independent Auditor's Report

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the White Castle System, Inc. Welfare Benefit Direct Reimbursement Plan (the Plan), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), which comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits – cash basis as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits – cash basis for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits – cash basis of the White Castle System, Inc. Welfare Benefit Direct Reimbursement Plan as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits – cash basis for the years then ended, in accordance with the cash basis of accounting.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the White Castle System, Inc. Welfare Benefit Direct Reimbursement Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the cash basis of accounting, and for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the White Castle System, Inc. Welfare Benefit Direct Reimbursement Plan's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Management is responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments. Management is also responsible for administering the Plan and determining that the Plan's transactions that are presented and disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the Plan's provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants, to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if, there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

To the Trustees
White Castle System, Inc.
Welfare Benefit Direct Reimbursement Plan
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We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

As described in the notes to the financial statements, the financial statements are prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

GBQ Partners LLC

Columbus, Ohio
October 8, 2025

WHITE CASTLE SYSTEM, INC.
WELFARE BENEFIT DIRECT REIMBURSEMENT PLAN
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits – Cash Basis
December 31, 2024 and 2023



	2024	2023
Assets		
Cash - checking	\$ 120,956	\$ 112,997
Net Assets Available for Benefits	\$ 120,956	\$ 112,997

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

WHITE CASTLE SYSTEM, INC.
WELFARE BENEFIT DIRECT REIMBURSEMENT PLAN
Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits – Cash Basis
For the Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

	2024	2023
Additions to Net Assets Attributed to		
Contributions:		
Participants	\$ 575,625	\$ 589,516
Employer	757,110	770,541
Total additions	<u>1,332,735</u>	<u>1,360,057</u>
Deductions from Net Assets Attributed to		
Dental and vision benefits paid	573,382	553,917
Medicare premium reimbursements	751,394	767,070
Total deductions	<u>1,324,776</u>	<u>1,320,987</u>
Net change	7,959	39,070
Net Assets Available for Benefits:		
Beginning of year	112,997	73,927
End of year	<u>\$ 120,956</u>	<u>\$ 112,997</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

WHITE CASTLE SYSTEM, INC. WELFARE BENEFIT DIRECT REIMBURSEMENT PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2024 and 2023

Plan Description

The following brief description of the White Castle System, Inc. Welfare Benefit Direct Reimbursement Plan (the Plan) is provided for general information purposes only. Participants and others should refer to the plan agreement for more complete information. Copies of this document are available from the plan administrator.

General

The Plan provides dental and vision benefits to employees of White Castle System, Inc. (plan sponsor) and its participating affiliates and their dependents who participate. The maximum amount payable annually is \$1,500 for each covered participant and \$1,000 for each covered dependent with no more than \$750 of the maximum annual amount being used for vision care. Effective January 1, 2014, the Plan was amended to provide Medicare reimbursement coverage for retirees age 65 and older who attained age 40 with at least five years of service as of January 1, 1994. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Contributions – Dental and Vision

Participation in the Plan is voluntary and is restricted to full-time employees with a minimum of six months of continuous service (three months for non-restaurant employees). An eligible employee may choose one of the following coverages: employee only, employee and spouse, employee and child(ren) and family coverage. Contributions required by the participant vary with the coverage selected. The plan sponsor contributes the funds necessary, in excess of participants' contributions, to properly fund the Plan and see that benefits are paid timely. The plan sponsor reviews and adjusts, if necessary, participant contribution requirements annually based on changes in dental and optical expenses experienced by the Plan.

Contributions – Medicare Premiums

Effective January 1, 2014, the Medicare retiree coverage includes a premium reimbursement program based on a predetermined formula that is based on a retiree's age and years of service. In accordance with the plan agreement, employer contributions for retirees are capped to an annual limit per participant.

Payment of Benefits

No payments are made directly to the providers. For dental benefits, participants must submit the claims to the Plan for reimbursement. For vision benefits, participants must first pay the provider for services performed and submit the paid bills to the Plan for reimbursement. For Medicare benefits, payments are made twice a year for reimbursement of Medicare premiums paid, based on a pre-determined formula.

WHITE CASTLE SYSTEM, INC.
WELFARE BENEFIT DIRECT REIMBURSEMENT PLAN
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2024 and 2023



Plan Description (continued)

SECURE Act 2.0

On December 23, 2022, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 which included SECURE Act 2.0. SECURE Act 2.0 contains over 90 new retirement provisions, with varying effective dates through 2027. Since SECURE Act 2.0 provisions include both required and optional elements, the plan administrator will determine the optional provisions to elect and amend the Plan document accordingly. Most of the significant provisions will become effective in 2024 and thereafter. Accordingly, there is no material impact to the Plan's 2024 or 2023 financial statements.

Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Plan are prepared on the cash basis of accounting. The cash basis of accounting means that contributions and other revenues are recognized when received and claims and other expenses are recognized when paid. Accordingly, sponsor contributions receivable and benefit obligations payable at year-end are not presented in these financial statements.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts of assets, liabilities, benefit obligations and changes therein, incurred but not reported claims, eligibility credits, claims payable and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Administrative Expenses

All administrative expenses, including personnel performing administrative functions for the Plan, have been paid directly by the plan sponsor.

Actuarial Present Value of Accumulated Plan Benefits

Accumulated plan benefits represent the actual present value of the estimated future periodic payments for Medicare reimbursements paid to retirees that are attributable under the Plan's provisions to claims for reimbursement submitted by the employees to the valuation date. Accumulated plan benefits include benefits expected to be paid to (a) retired employees or their beneficiaries and (b) present employees upon their retirement. Benefits for retired employees or their dependents and for active employees and their dependents are based on annual contribution limits established under the plan agreement.

WHITE CASTLE SYSTEM, INC. WELFARE BENEFIT DIRECT REIMBURSEMENT PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2024 and 2023

Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Actuarial Present Value of Accumulated Plan Benefits (continued)

The Plan's consulting actuary estimates the actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits, which is the amount that results from applying actuarial assumptions to adjust the accumulated plan benefits earned by the participants to reflect the time value of money (through discounts for interest) and the probability of payment (by means of decrements such as for death, disability, termination or retirement) between the valuation date and the expected date of payment.

Plan Funding Policy

The plan sponsor's funding policy is to provide the funds necessary, in excess of participant contributions, to timely pay all covered dental and vision benefits, as they are presented for payment and processing.

Benefit Obligations

The benefit obligations related to claims payable that are currently due and claims incurred but not yet reported to the Plan for active participants were approximately \$57,000 and \$55,000 at December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively. The obligations are estimated primarily based on the most recent year's claims experience. Actual results could differ from the estimated benefit obligation.

Accumulated Plan Benefits

Actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits as of December 31 is as follows:

	2024	2023
Inactive employees	\$ 5,522,434	\$ 5,572,491
Active employees fully eligible for benefits	96,472	141,491
Total actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits	\$ 5,618,906	\$ 5,713,982

WHITE CASTLE SYSTEM, INC. WELFARE BENEFIT DIRECT REIMBURSEMENT PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2024 and 2023

Accumulated Plan Benefits (continued)

The changes in accumulated plan benefits for the years ended December 31 are as follows:

	2024	2023
Actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits beginning of year	\$ 5,713,982	\$ 7,023,248
Increase (decrease) during the year attributed to:		
Interest cost	283,778	279,171
Actuarial loss (gain)	357,711	(821,367)
Benefits paid	(736,565)	(767,070)
Net decrease	(95,076)	(1,309,266)
Total actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits	\$ 5,618,906	\$ 5,713,982

Significant assumptions underlying the actuarial valuation are as follows:

Assumed discount rate	5.50% and 4.75% for 2024 and 2023, respectively
Beginning medical claim level per member	Annual cap of \$3,011
Mortality table	Pri-2012 Annuitant/Non-Annuitant Tables with MP-2021 Improvement Scale
Normal retirement date	Varying rates by age, service and employment status. 33% are assumed to retire at all ages after the attainment of 40 years of service, regardless of age.
Percentage of future retirees who elect postretirement health care coverage	85%
Health care cost trend rate	5%

A 1% increase in the health care cost trend rate would result in an increase of the projected benefit obligation of approximately \$25,000.

These actuarial assumptions are based on the presumption that the Plan will continue. Were the Plan to terminate, different actuarial assumptions and other factors might be applicable in determining the actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits.

WHITE CASTLE SYSTEM, INC. WELFARE BENEFIT DIRECT REIMBURSEMENT PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2024 and 2023



Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the plan sponsor has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA.

Tax Status

The Trust established under the Plan to hold the Plan's assets is qualified pursuant to Section 501(c)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC), and accordingly, the Trust's net investment income is exempt from income taxes. The Company has obtained a favorable tax determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and the Company believes that the Plan continues to qualify and to operate as designed.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability (or asset) if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the IRS. The plan administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan and has concluded that as of December 31, 2024, there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability (or asset) or disclosure in the financial statements. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

Risks and Uncertainties

Plan contributions are made and the actuarial present values of accumulated plan benefits are reported based on certain assumptions pertaining to interest rates, inflation rates and employee demographics, all of which are subject to change. Due to uncertainties inherent in the estimation and assumption process, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in these estimates and assumptions in the near term could materially affect the amounts reported and disclosed in the financial statements.

Subsequent Events – Date of Management's Evaluation

The Plan has evaluated subsequent events through the date of the Independent Auditor's Report, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Form 5500

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

OMB Nos. 1210-0110
1210-0089

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

2024

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security
Administration

▶ **Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.**

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

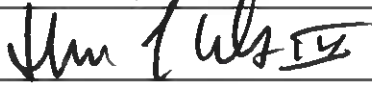
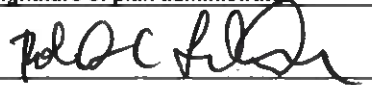
- A** This return/report is for: a multiemployer plan a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.)
 a single-employer plan a DFE (specify) _____
- B** This return/report is: the first return/report the final return/report
 an amended return/report a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)
- C** If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. ▶
- D** Check box if filing under: Form 5558 automatic extension the DFVC program
 special extension (enter description)
- E** If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. ▶

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

<p>1a Name of plan WHITE CASTLE SYSTEM, INC. WELFARE BENEFIT DIRECT REIMBURSEMENT PLAN</p>	<p>1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 508</p>
	<p>1c Effective date of plan 01/01/1999</p>
<p>2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions) WHITE CASTLE SYSTEM, INC. 555 EDGAR WALDO WAY PO BOX 1498 COLUMBUS OH 43215-1498</p>	<p>2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) 31-4340520</p>
	<p>2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number 614-228-5781</p>
	<p>2d Business code (see instructions) 722513</p>

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE		<u>10/14/25</u>	JOHN KELLEY
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE		<u>10/14/25</u>	ROBERT LILIENSTERN
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.

Form 5500 (2024)
v. 240311

3a Plan administrator's name and address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN 3c Administrator's telephone number																				
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN 4d PN																				
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width:10%;">5</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2,119</td> </tr> </table>	5	2,119																		
5	2,119																				
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1), 6a(2), 6b, 6c, and 6d). a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits..... c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits..... d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2), 6b, and 6c. e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits..... f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e. g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)..... g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)..... h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.....	<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width:10%;">6a(1)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2,119</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6a(2)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2,047</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6b</td> <td style="text-align: right;">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6c</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6d</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2,057</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6e</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>6f</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>6g(1)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>6g(2)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>6h</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	6a(1)	2,119	6a(2)	2,047	6b	10	6c	0	6d	2,057	6e		6f		6g(1)		6g(2)		6h	
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6a(2)	2,047																				
6b	10																				
6c	0																				
6d	2,057																				
6e																					
6f																					
6g(1)																					
6g(2)																					
6h																					
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item).....	<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width:10%;">7</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	7																			
7																					

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:
 4A 4D 4E

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply) (1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance (2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust (4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply) (1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance (2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust (4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor
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10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules (1) <input type="checkbox"/> R (Retirement Plan Information) (2) <input type="checkbox"/> MB (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary (3) <input type="checkbox"/> SB (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary (4) <input type="checkbox"/> DCG (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____ (5) <input type="checkbox"/> MEP (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)	b General Schedules (1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> H (Financial Information) (2) <input type="checkbox"/> I (Financial Information – Small Plan) (3) <input type="checkbox"/> A (Insurance Information) – Number Attached _____ (4) <input type="checkbox"/> C (Service Provider Information) (5) <input type="checkbox"/> D (DFE/Participating Plan Information) (6) <input type="checkbox"/> G (Financial Transaction Schedules)
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Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) Yes No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) Yes No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2024 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2024 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code _____