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To acquire an article idea submittal form for CCAP's *Pennsylvania County News* please email John Buffone at jbuffone@pacounties.org.

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PENNSYLVANIA county news

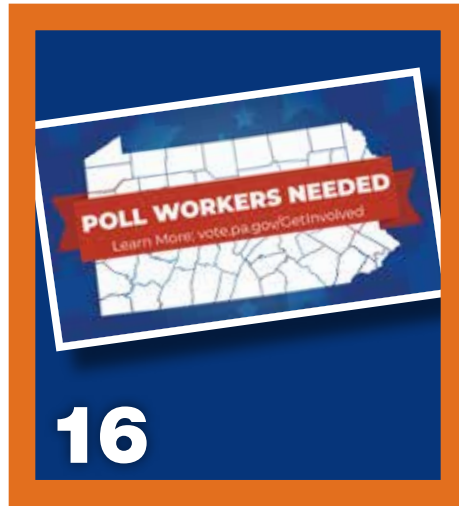
Pennsylvania counties have the crucial and ever-evolving responsibility of conducting elections. Today, county leaders must stay up to date with all the changes pertaining to election policy in addition to traditional tasks like finding and training poll workers, maintaining election equipment, finding polling places and processing absentee and mail-in ballots.

**VOTE
MATTERS**

features



Counties Reflect on Elections
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executive director's commentary



LISA SCHAEFER

Executive Director
County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania

I'll admit it – I am easily distracted by those “top ten list of funniest tweets” or “top ten list of funniest memes” that you see on your social media feeds. I love those quick takes of wit and humor, the perfectly delivered sentences of sarcasm, and the twists on otherwise casual observations.

During a recent meandering down a rabbit hole that involved a list of funniest road signs, I scrolled past a photo of a sign that read something to the effect of, “Thank goodness for the First Amendment, or else we wouldn't know who the idiots are!” At first, I chuckled. But something about that sign stuck with me, and the more I thought about it, the less funny it became.

If anything, that sign started to symbolize to me exactly where our level of community dialogue has gotten to in recent years. It implied that the writers of the sign are the only ones who can possibly have the proper perspective, know all the facts and therefore must be right about everything. It implied that the “idiots” were those people who disagree with us, who hold

beliefs that are different from our own or who see things from a different point of view. And it implied that we should be quick to judge, label and dismiss these “idiots” because they aren't as smart as those of us who know better.

We can't deny that our world has become more fractured and more polarized. Instead of trying to find common ground to move forward, it's now my way or the highway. If you aren't with me, you must be against me. If you're in support of an issue, then I have to be against it, and vice versa.

We might do better instead to take heart from a saying attributed to Abraham Lincoln: “I don't like that man. I must get to know him better.” Those who disagree with us represent an opportunity for discussion, an opportunity for education, but only if we are willing to keep an open mind instead of digging in our heels. If we're willing to set aside the us vs. them mentality for a few minutes, we might acknowledge that while we still might not agree with the other person, perhaps there's something

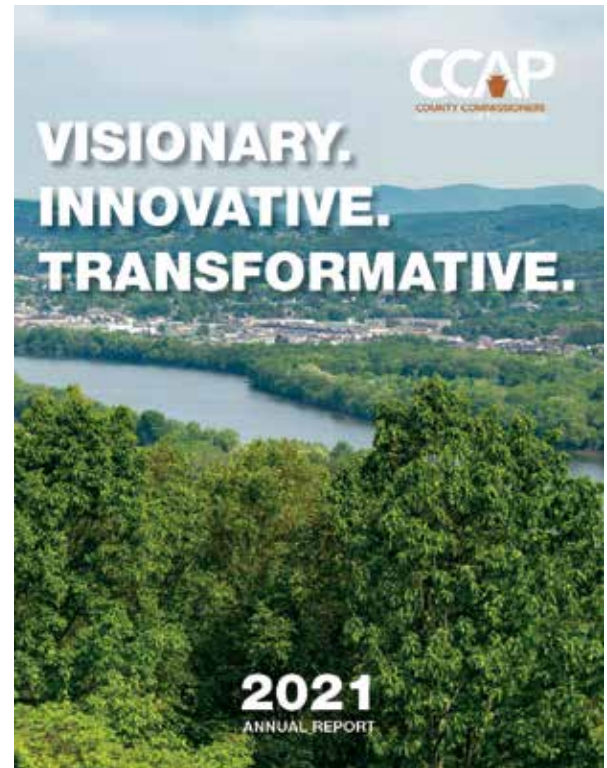
we can learn, or maybe there's another way to look at an issue. The world is seldomly carved into two neat sides, but is instead imbued with many shades of nuance and complexity.

County government is most often, in my experience, one place where this engagement in dialogue still absolutely shines. Many times I have listened to our counties talk about how they are able to solve problems at the local level, to roll up their sleeves, to bring community stakeholders together and actually make a difference for their residents. I also saw it with my own eyes at our Spring Conference, where we held our first ever poster session on broadband. Counties that presented were eager to talk with their colleagues about how they had tackled this issue, and everyone listening was just as eager to listen and learn for those nuggets of information and ideas they could take home and put to work. There were no sides, no right or wrong, and there were no “idiots” in that room or any other room of that Conference. There was only mutual respect, a commitment

to public service and a desire to make our communities a little bit better. You'll see countless examples of this spirit in the photos in this magazine capturing our time together in March.

Sure, people can be difficult, and no one is going to get along with everyone they meet. But to quote English poet John Donne, "No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main." We can't solve the world's problems on our own, and neither can anyone else. The great things we do together come when we're willing to look past our differences and put those we serve ahead of all else. There are no "idiots" in county government. 🍷

P.S. Speaking of great things we do together, if you haven't yet had a chance, check out our 2021 Annual Report at www.pacounties.org. It's an impressive reminder of the how and the why of our association and how much we can achieve when we're focused on a common goal.









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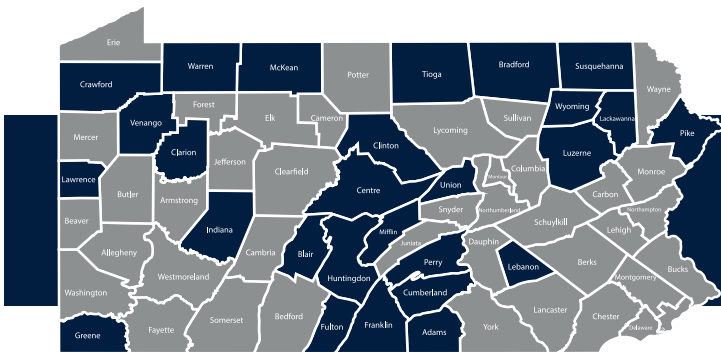
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Counties Reflect on Elections Law Changes



Charlie Ban
County News Digital Editor and Senior Writer, NACo

Though talk of changes to election laws resounded throughout 2021, actual legislation kept pace with earlier years, without a spike in lawmaking that would have matched the buzz.

"After all of that attention there really were the same number of bills enacted on elections materials as in previous years, so it did not turn out to be a blockbuster year in terms of election legislation," said Wendy Underhill, director of elections and redistricting at the National Conference of State Legislatures. "Most of the laws were kind of in line with what we've seen over 20 years."

The end result was three more states with all-mail voting plans, in-

creased digitization of registration, stiffer voter ID laws and new early voting schedules.

"What was new and different was that there was a lot of attention on the details relating to absentee voting," Underhill said. "Details became important in a way they haven't been before."

The attention included:

- **Drop boxes:** Where can they be located?
- **Collection laws:** Who can pick up ballots?
- **Deadlines:** Your ballot must be received by Election Day or it can be received afterward, if it's been postmarked by Election Day.

"Last year, there was philanthropic money that flowed to local election officials," she said. "This year, there were laws saying that will not be permitted in the future."

Under the static trend on the national level for election legislation, the Arizona Legislature saw a lot of action. More than 150 bills were proposed, with 33 passing, 23 that were bipartisan.

"I count that as a huge win," said Aaron Flannery, Maricopa County, Ariz.'s recorder. "But I can't celebrate just yet because 2022 is here and right now the Senate government is meeting and I'm nervous."

Lisa Schaefer, executive director of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, gave voice



While the aggregate pace of voting reform laws didn't change in 2021, some states are seeing administrative shifts that could cause headaches for county elections administrators.

to a universal frustration that while the state Legislature passed expanded no-excuse absentee voting in 2019, there was no provision allowing counties to process and verify ballots ahead of Election Day.

"We caught it probably in January 2020 and spent the next 10-11 months trying to get the legislature to give us more time to do that," Schaefer said. "They allowed us to start at 7 a.m. on Election Day, but you're talking literally tens and hundreds of thousands of ballots."

Given the demand for absentee ballots because of the COVID-19 pandemic, that left counties sprinting to do that work on Tuesday morning and warning that results would change dramatically Tuesday night when they scanned the results of the ballots.

"God bless all of the election directors in Pennsylvania, because they went through an awful lot in 2020," she said. "We are really fortunate in our association that when we talk about election policy, we very much focus on the administration of the election. There are a lot of things that our members don't agree on," so the focus remains on the logistics of how counties will execute the election laws and if they have the resources that they need to be able to make the law happen.

Ricky Hatch, auditor and clerk in Weber County, Utah, saw pressure come down on a widely beloved universal mail voting system.

"Many, many legislators approached us and they said, 'Look, I totally trust how your county does things, but so many people are

coming to me and they're so insistent that I have to do something.' And that's what we're hearing across the country, 'We've got to do something.'

Utah's county clerks met with legislative leadership to create their own bill that enhances election integrity and preempts all of the other bills.

That bill established a voter registration database audit, which would verify that that system has not been altered from the approved system that the Elections Assistance Commission tested and certified. ▼

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<https://www.naco.org/articles/counties-reflect-elections-law-changes>

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Poll Workers in PA

Be a Champion of Democracy. Every year, elections in Pennsylvania are made possible by thousands of regular citizens who serve as poll workers. These are the people who do the important work of checking in voters at polling places and setting them up at voting machines. At the end of the night, poll workers deliver the returns to county election officials. We depend on these workers to run fair and secure elections.

AN ONGOING NEED

Although the polls are busiest during presidential election years when voter turnout is high, the number of polling places open on Election Day does not change from year to year. This means more than 40,000 poll workers are needed at least twice a year, every year, to staff the polls across Pennsylvania. While this has always been the case, in recent years, county officials have found it increasingly difficult to fill these positions.

HOW TO BECOME A POLL WORKER

If you are interested in becoming a poll worker in your community, complete the poll worker interest form at www.vote.pa.gov/getinvolved. You can also contact your county election office. Visit www.vote.pa.gov/county to find your county's contact information. County officials will determine where and for what position you are most needed.

In addition, some poll workers are elected to their positions.

Judge of Elections, Majority Inspector, and Minority Inspector

- These three positions make up the local election board in each precinct.

- The judge of elections is the person in charge at the polling place.
- The judge of elections and the majority and minority inspectors work together to manage the polling place, keep track of the number of voters, and make sure that the returns are delivered to the county election office at the end of the day.
- These positions are filled during municipal elections every four years. The last time these elections took place was 2021, and the next time will be in 2025.
- When the positions are vacant, someone is appointed to the job.

Clerk and Machine Inspector (also known as Machine Operator)

- These workers support the local election board. They are supervised by the judge of elections.
- Clerks and machine inspectors help check-in voters, manage the lines, and make sure voters know where to go at each step in the voting process.
- Unlike the elected positions, these positions are always filled by appointment.

Check with your county election office to find out how to be elected as a poll worker.

REQUIREMENTS

Poll workers generally work all day on Election Day, from before the polls open at 7 a.m. until after the polls close at 8 p.m. In addition, they may be asked to attend a training session before the election. They can also watch training videos on the Pennsylvania Department of State website at www.vote.pa.gov. The good news is that poll workers are paid for their time on Election Day. Some counties also pay poll workers for attending training.

SPREAD THE WORD

Do you know someone who sounds perfect for this kind of job? Perhaps you would like to involve members of your church, club or civic organization in this important work. You can direct interested candidates to www.vote.pa.gov/getinvolved. To find out what else you can do to help recruit poll workers, talk to your county election office. 🗳️



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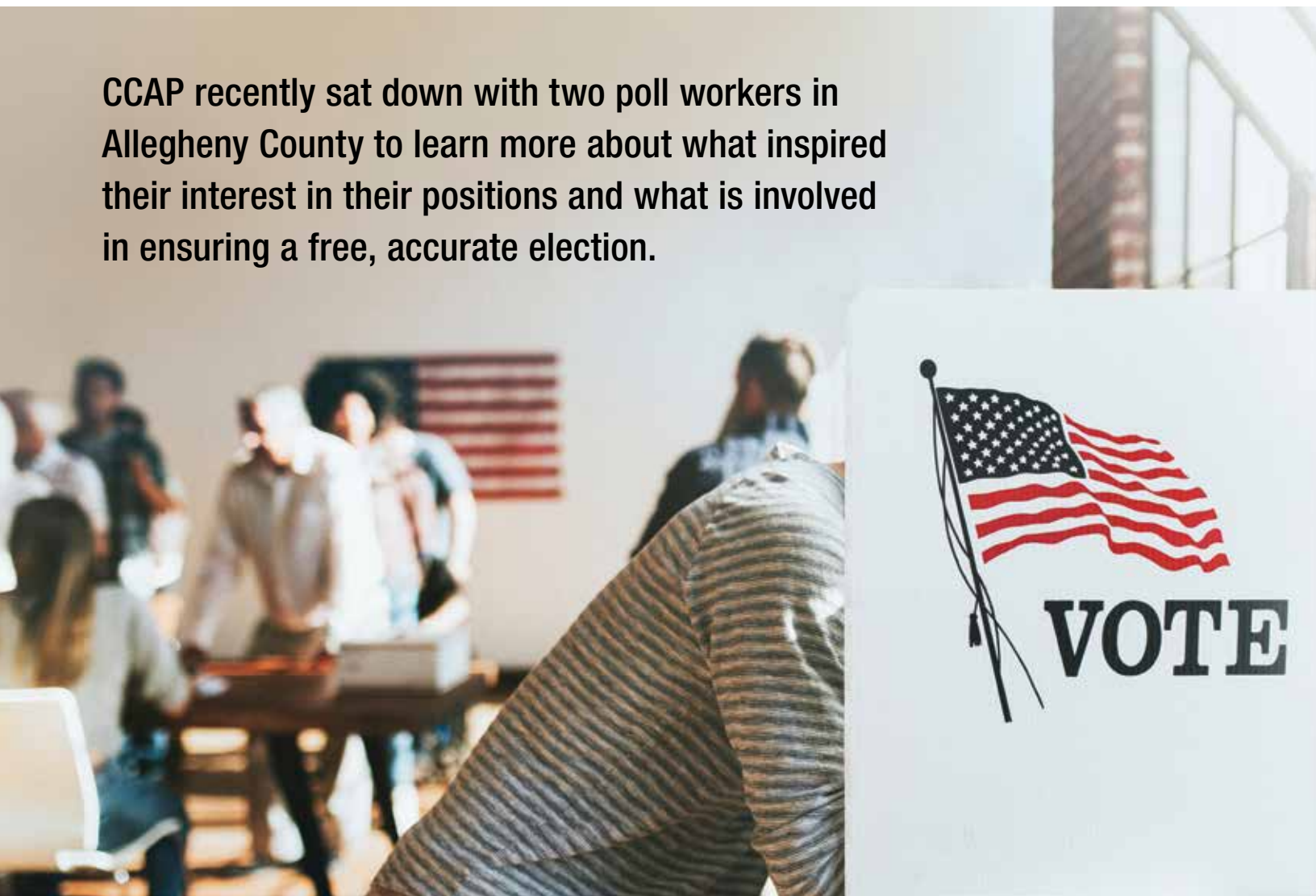
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GET TO KNOW A

POLL WORKER

CCAP recently sat down with two poll workers in Allegheny County to learn more about what inspired their interest in their positions and what is involved in ensuring a free, accurate election.



LIZ

LIZ SWARTZ ALLEGHENY COUNTY



Liz Swartz (bottom) and family

How long have you been a poll worker?

Almost a decade.

Why did you decide to volunteer as a poll worker? Why do you continue to volunteer?

My township sent an email asking for help. I thought it was a few hours shift that I could do while my kids were in school. I called the number provided thinking I was calling my township - turns out it was the Allegheny County Elections Department. I volunteered and I got placed outside of my township. I also found out that it was not a few hours that I volunteered for! I continue to volunteer because it is a job that needs to be done and done correctly. I work hard to ensure that my polling location follows the laws and that we help each voter get the privilege of casting the appropriate ballot for them.

Tell us a little bit about your role at the polling place.

I am the Judge of Elections for my district. I ensure a safe and healthy environment for all voters who show up to my location. Most voters can follow the regular process to cast a ballot. Those that are exceptions (wrong polling location, provisional ballot, etc) come to me so I can help them get the best ballot for the situation. I spend time calling the county or filling out paperwork and talking to the voter to ensure they are getting the service they deserve.

What is your favorite part about being a poll worker?

I love to celebrate a first-time voter. To me, it's important to encourage the little ones with the hope they will come vote when they are 18. I love to share the process with high school student volunteers so they can become lifetime voters (and hopefully poll workers)!

What have you learned about the elections process by working the polls that you wish others knew?

I wish voters had easy-to-find access to accurate information about candidates so they could make the best decision for themselves. I wish voters understood that voting for local government has a large impact in their daily lives.

What would you say to someone who was considering volunteering to be a poll worker?

Please do! We need help. We need to guarantee that elections continue to be held. Come to my location and I will train anyone who has a desire to learn about the process.

MITCHELL



Mitchell Howard

MITCHELL “MITCH” HOWARD

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

How long have you been a poll worker?

For 1 election.

Why did you decide to volunteer as a poll worker? Why do you continue to volunteer?

I am interested in political science, and in light of the doubt cast on our electoral system, I felt the opportunity would allow me to witness it all first-hand and from a “behind the scenes” perspective.

Tell us a little bit about your role at the polling place.

My station was the final step of the voting process. I monitored the polling machines and directed voters to socially-distanced locations where they could cast their ballot.

What is your favorite part about being a poll worker?

I enjoyed working with my fellow pollsters. Setting up before the sun rose was more enjoyable than I could make it sound. I also enjoyed seeing the demographic of voters up close. Since that experience, I have encouraged more young voters to take advantage of that right.

“

There simply aren’t enough young voters, even after the schooling hours had concluded. I scarcely saw a voter younger than 30.

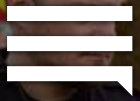
”

What have you learned about the elections process by working the polls that you wish others knew?

There simply aren’t enough young voters, even after the schooling hours had concluded. I scarcely saw a voter younger than 30.

What would you say to someone who was considering volunteering to be a poll worker?

I would recommend the position to anyone considering becoming a poll worker. The experience is incredibly educational and is an excellent opportunity to contribute to the community. ▼



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COUNTY OFFICIALS WARN OF Looming Paper Shortage AHEAD OF NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

Mary Ann Barton
County News Editor and Senior Writer, NACo

Supply-chain issues could impact the paper — the ballots, envelopes and inserts — that county election officials will need for the November 2022 elections, a panel of election officials warned Saturday, Feb. 12. In addition to supply-chain issues, the paper industry has reported they are also contending with tightening capacity and a labor shortage.

“There’s not only the paper shortage, but the cost of the paper,” said Aaron Flannery of the Maricopa County Recorder’s Office, who took part in the panel discussion about elections at a meeting of NACo’s Finance, Pensions and Intergovernmental Affairs Steering Committee.

Tammy Patrick, senior advisor of elections for the Democracy Fund, warned that any elections office ordering paper in late summer for the November election “may not get it.”

Ben Hovland, commissioner, U.S. Election Assistance Commission, who moderated the discussion, asked panelists about other trends they are seeing on the elections landscape.

"We have seen a weaponization of elections," said Patrick.

In Lycoming County, Pa., where Forrest Lehman has directed elections and registration for the past seven years, he said he continues to see a segment of the population obsessed with the 2020 presidential election. He has seen a shift, he said, in how the public engages with his office.

"When they call our office, they're already deeply suspicious about whatever it is they want to know... there's no benefit of the doubt anymore," he noted. "There's 'something going on,' and they want to get to the bottom of it."

"And we have to talk from that place," he said.

"With respect to public outreach, we're still playing catch-up. We're taking increasingly arcane and bizarre questions about election processes, driven by cable news and by social media.

"We're trying to correct the record one voter at a time."

In Maricopa County, Flannery noted they are also combating



Ben Hovland (far left), commissioner, U.S. Election Assistance Commission, moderates a panel discussion on elections Saturday, Feb. 12 at the NACo Legislative Conference. Joining him are (l-r) Aaron Flannery, government affairs, Maricopa County Recorder Office; Tammy Patrick, senior advisor of elections for the Democracy Fund and Forrest Lehman, director of elections and registration for Lycoming County, Pa. Photo by Denny Henry

misinformation and has launched a website dubbed "Just the Facts," to do just that.

Other challenges for election officials include security issues, unfunded mandates from states and federal lawmakers and a shortage of poll workers.

Patrick offered a checklist of ways counties can prepare for the 2022 election:

Don't assume things are running smoothly with your election office. Check in with your election officials — "they're in dire need of help."

Make sure people who will be mailing in their vote have options to get their vote in. "We know one in three Americans will get their ballot in the mail. We want to make sure those voters have return options."

"There's going to be such a challenge around new laws, litigation and redistricting."

Make sure you are "cutting through the din" with facts and information.

Look for large facilities that can serve as a voting place. "Everything old is new again — we are in dire need, when I talk to election officials, of facilities that can accommodate the distancing that is still required. We don't know what November is going to bring."

Election offices are also in need of poll workers. "Think about whether you have any sort of civic duty leave for employees to take; it's a great resource."

Patrick also noted that the Department of Justice offers grants for security issues and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency offers free risk assessments. 🗳️

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<https://www.naco.org/articles/coun-ty-officials-warn-looming-paper-short-age-ahead-november-elections>

Feb. 12, 2022

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Breaking Down the Future Beyond Pennsylvania's SURE System

Jonathan Marks

Deputy Secretary for Elections and Commissions
PA Department of State

The process of modernizing Pennsylvania's 18-year-old voter registration and election administration system (SURE) began nearly two years ago. A new system is needed due to improvements in technology, enhancements required by new legislation, including Act 77 of 2019, and updated best practices in election administration. The existing outdated system is causing frustration among election professionals at both the state and county levels. Across the nation, states are looking to enhance functionality in their election systems, and Pennsylvania's modernization efforts put it at the forefront of this trend.

The Pennsylvania Department of State (DOS), in partnership with elections software vendor KNOWiNK (BPro), is rolling out a phased addition of applications throughout 2022 and 2023. Phase 1, scheduled for March/April 2022, will introduce the election management and election night reporting modules. State and county election staff will use this new functionality during the 2022 Primary in parallel with the legacy SURE system. The election management module will include management of jurisdictions, election contests and candidates. The election night reporting module will provide the state and counties with a modern system for reporting election results.

In later releases after the 2022 Primary, there will be improvements to voter registration functionality in the areas of:

- managing voter records
- processing voter registration applications
- managing list maintenance
- using GIS to ensure voters are assigned to the correct jurisdictions
- handling voter communication
- easily creating custom reports

The new system will also streamline the administrative processes for implementing absentee and mail-in voting, generating poll books, and managing polling places and poll workers. The voter-facing tools on DOS' website will also be improved. Finally, the last phase of the project will focus on campaign finance and lobbying disclosure reporting.

Throughout the project, state and county staff, as the experts on elections administration, have been involved in requirements-gathering and testing efforts. Key partnerships with security experts, voting system vendors, county commissioners and IT and GIS staff are also an integral part of the modernization effort.

Election officials rely on these systems every day for data management and analysis. Modernization of these systems will improve all aspects of the election administration process, from responding to information requests from voters, journalists, and subpoenas and monitoring potential malicious activity to complying with requirements of federal and state legislation and strengthening interoperability between systems.

Modernization will also promote election integrity by bolstering the ability to execute robust reconciliation and post-election audits, share registration data within and across states, and provide transparency via standardized reporting measures. The new SURE database is the mechanism for a more efficient voter registration and election administration process that will benefit voters and election officials in Pennsylvania. 🍷

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Election Time

Thad Hall

Director, Voter Registration and Elections
Mercer County

Where is my mail-in ballot?

One of the most common questions county election offices receive is “Where is my mail-in ballot?” However, we receive this question in two waves. The first wave comes after counties send out the January mailing to all permanent absentee and mail-in voters. About two weeks after the first of these forms is returned to the election offices, calls start coming in from voters asking, “Where is my mail-in ballot?” These voters do not realize that we do not have all the candidates for the Primary ballot until the end of March. The “where is my ballot” calls and emails from very eager voters continue throughout February and March.

The next set of “where is my ballot” calls come closer to the election and these calls typically are from voters who have not received their ballot after the office mailed it. If a voter needs to be mailed a replacement ballot, there is a process for cancelling the originally mailed ballot and sending a replacement ballot.

Why can't I vote in the Primary? (And why did you decline my mail-in ballot application?)

Pennsylvania has closed primaries, and this frustrates many non-affiliated voters, who want to know why they cannot vote in the

Primary election. The confusion is understandable because two of the biggest states bordering Pennsylvania—Ohio in the west and New Jersey in the east—do allow unaffiliated voters to participate in the Primary process. Both states share media markets with Pennsylvania, meaning that voters often are awash in information about voting in multiple states (with different rules).

Because Pennsylvania has closed primaries, unaffiliated voters who request a mail-in ballot before the Primary are sent a notification stating that their mail-in application was “declined” for the Primary. This unfortunate wording comes from the State’s SURE system; many voters call and ask why the application was declined and why they cannot vote anymore. Once the legacy SURE system is retired, counties will hopefully have more control over the messaging and be able to explain that their application was accepted but they cannot vote in the Primary unless they affiliate with one of the two major parties in Pennsylvania.

Why are you announcing my name and party affiliation out loud at the polls?

One common call counties receive after a Primary election is “why are you announcing my name and party affiliation out loud at the polls?” The reason we announce their

name aloud is because it is required by statute. Watchers want to know who is voting and need to be able to hear the name of the voter. In the Primary, we also announce the person’s party affiliation for administrative reasons. It is imperative that we provide every voter with the correct party ballot. Announcing the voter’s party affiliation ensures that the election officer who is giving ballots to voters knows which ballot each voter should receive.

Who is the write-in winner?

“Who is the write-in winner?” is a favorite question for every election director. The answer to this question is always the same: the winner is the person who received the most votes, regardless of their qualification. For example, in a township auditor race in western Pennsylvania, Mike Tomlin might be the top write-in vote getter and he therefore wins. But, people will say, he doesn’t live in the township. He still wins. But someone who lives in the township finished second, will they get the job when Tomlin does not accept the position? For the elections office, who finishes second or third is not material. All that is material is that the top write-in vote getter is the winner. If Tomlin did not accept the position, the office would be vacant, and the township would follow the process of appointing a person to fill the term until the next election. ▾

HOW COUNTIES ARE CLOSING THE Digital Divide



John Buffone
Director of Media and Public Relations
County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Counties continue to work toward closing the digital divide. Throughout the Commonwealth, leaders are planning and executing plans to increase broadband internet coverage in their counties. Each county in Pennsylvania is unique and requires unique details in its broadband plan. But one recurring theme across the board; help form the community and private business is crucial. During CCAP's Spring Conference, a poster session about broadband planning helped counties network and discuss their visions of connecting their communities.



Julie Wheeler

York County Commissioner

"One big aspect was we partnered with a company to create a feasibility study. We looked at the 911 square miles of York County and what was needed to close the digital divide. That has become our playbook and how we are going to execute. I would encourage other counties to do the same because it gives you a holistic view and what is needed. It was certainly worth the investment we made because it was an investment in ourselves."

Julie Wheeler, York County Commissioner and Silas Chamberlin, VP of York County Economic Development

Silas Chamberlin

VP, York County Economic Alliance

"It has to be a public/private partnership between businesses, non-profits, county government and hopefully state government. Broadband is important to site selection. As businesses are trying to decide on where to locate in Pennsylvania, they are looking for places that are well connected. No one is going to want to build a \$20 million factory that doesn't have strong internet, can't connect to their other sites, and costs an exorbitant amount of money to connect to the grid. We need broadband to convince people to do business here and live here."





Berks County CIO Justin Loose explains different fibers during the CCAP Spring Conference.

Christian Leinbach

Berks County Commissioner

“Our process is a solid one. We aren’t going to base anything on assumptions, so we hired a consultant, and we devised a scientific survey with questions that will result in clear and qualitative answers that act as the foundation of every other step. But next to getting the right data points from this survey is the connections within the community, which are vitally important. We have the smartest people at the table. If we do this ourselves, we will make mistakes and miss areas of the county that are having issues that we aren’t aware of.”

Lance Grable

Director of the Office of Planning and Redevelopment, Beaver County

“We started this process before the pandemic. The goal was to find the worst of the worst in our county as it pertains to internet access, and then we did a ton of refining of the FCC data. In Beaver County, we aren’t just trying to find places, we are trying to connect every single location that needs it. We know exactly how many there are, we know where they are at, and we know it down to the address point. In addition to the data, we visited over 2200 locations in the county to verify that data. We have talked to literally thousands of citizens, and we are using the data they are providing us. We’re blazing a path here and we want to keep it going.”

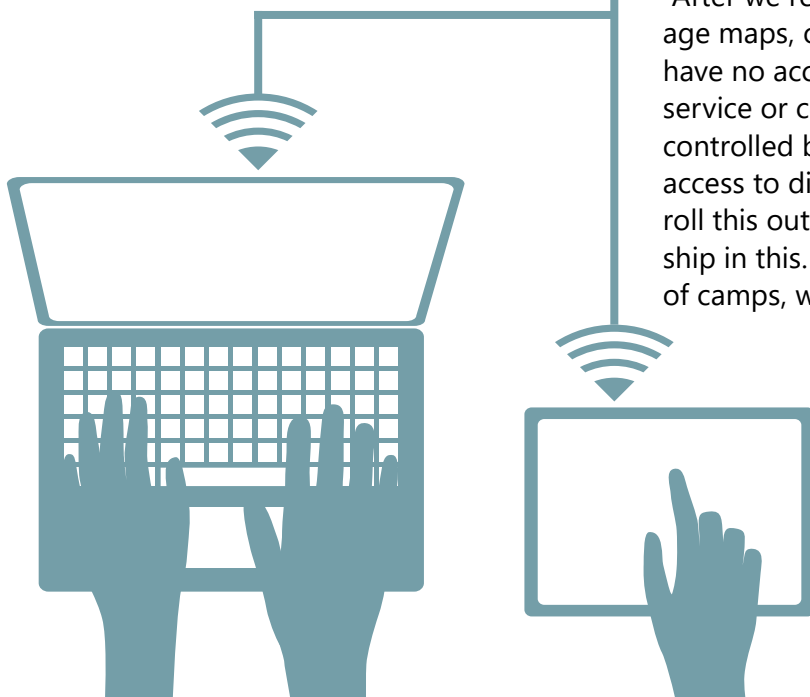


Chip Abramovic, Venango County Commissioner

Chip Abramovic

Venango County Commissioner

“After we received studies with vertical assets and coverage maps, our next goal was to get to the areas that truly have no access. We have a lot of areas that don’t have cell service or connectivity to the internet. We have a fiber line controlled by the county that we used as a pilot to get access to different areas to get a good idea of how we can roll this out. But we have a strong public-private relationship in this. We have a lot of tourism, and we have a lot of camps, which could be permanent residences at some point. So, it’s a huge economic benefit and it’s also a workforce benefit because if our students are unable to work remotely, that generation could get left behind.” ▼



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Butler County Commissioner Receives Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence



Butler County Commissioner and CCAP Chair Kevin Boozel (second from right) poses with CCAP Executive Director Lisa Schaefer (second from left), Rick Vilello and Kim Bracey during the presentation of the Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence. Rick Vilello, DCED Deputy Secretary for Community Affairs & Development (far left) and Kim Bracey, Executive Director, DCED Center for Local Government Services (far right). Credit: DCED

For his dedication and commitment to strengthen communities and better serve their residents, Butler County Commissioner and CCAP Chair Kevin Boozel was recently presented with the Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence.

As CCAP President in 2021, Commissioner Boozel maintained focus on keeping counties connected while seeking answers, information and results for the membership during the COVID-19 crisis.

Commissioner Boozel has also been a driving force in addressing the medical services crisis, relentlessly pursuing legislative and other initiatives.

Eleven communities, two organizations and eight individuals from across the commonwealth were recognized by Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Acting Secretary Neil Weaver for excellent service as part of the 26th Annual Governor's Awards for Local Government Excellence. 🏆



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County Policy Platform

DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE

Each year, the CCAP membership reviews the *Pennsylvania County Platform*, counties' official policy statement that serves as a guidebook for Association positions on legislative and policy issues related to the role of county government. Under the CCAP bylaws, no change may be made to the *Platform* except by vote of the membership, under the process outlined in the bylaws.



WHERE CAN I FIND THE PLATFORM?

The current *Platform* is available on the CCAP website in the Advocacy section under Policy or at www.pacounties.org/advocacy/policy.

WHO CAN PROPOSE A RESOLUTION?

Any CCAP member can offer a resolution to add, change or delete something from the *Platform* as a part of the annual policy setting process. Resolutions should be submitted to the relevant CCAP policy committee in the spring; after consideration by the policy committees, resolutions are then reviewed by the Resolutions Committee and ultimately voted on by the full membership at the CCAP Annual Conference.

In addition to the annual resolutions process, under the CCAP Bylaws, all *Platform* planks are required to be reviewed by standing committees at least every four years and reaffirmed in order to remain part of the *Platform*

WANT TO PROPOSE A RESOLUTION?

Take a moment to review the *Pennsylvania County Platform*. Is there an issue or position on policy related to the role of county government that you think is missing? Consider reaching out to a member of the CCAP Government Relations team at PACountiesGR@pacounties.org to discuss the format and/or process of submitting a resolution.

WHEN WILL I HAVE A CHANCE TO VOTE ON PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS?

The full membership will have the opportunity to vote electronically either in-person or remotely during the business meeting of the CCAP Annual Conference. At this time, the membership will also review the consent agenda, a single document typically consisting of current *Platform* planks up for their four-year review and other technical and editorial changes deemed to be non-controversial.

While the schedule below lays out the traditional process, resolutions can be considered at the Spring and Fall Conferences if changes are needed to the *Platform* outside of the traditional timeline to address urgent policy matters.

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR – ROLE OF CCAP POLICY COMMITTEES

In addition to the annual resolutions review, the nine CCAP policy committees provide input and guidance to the staff and membership on all public policy matters concerning county government under their jurisdiction throughout the year. Each committee also determines its work plan and suggests priorities for the coming year at its November meeting.

Agriculture

Erick J. Coolidge (Tioga County), Chair
Francis Weiderspahn (Crawford County), Vice Chair

Assessment and Taxation

Jeff Thomas (Huntingdon County), Chair
John Cusick (Northampton County), Vice Chair

Community and Economic Development

Rob Postal (Mifflin County), Chair
Mark Higgins (Centre County), Vice Chair

April/May

CCAP Members Propose Resolutions

All CCAP members and counties are invited to propose resolutions that add to, change or delete from the *Platform* and address statewide policy matters related to county government. Members interested in proposing changes to the *Platform* should contact a member of the CCAP Government Relations team at PACountiesGR@pacounties.org to discuss and submit any proposal for review by the committee(s) of jurisdiction.

May/June

Policy Committee Resolution Review

The CCAP policy committees meet virtually to review resolutions and the current *Platform*. Proposed resolutions, submitted by the membership or originating with the committee, are reviewed to assure they are relevant and germane to the institution of county government.

Each policy committee is also tasked at this meeting with reviewing all *Platform* elements under the committee's jurisdiction to determine whether they continue to be relevant, have been accomplished or should be amended.

In addition, the committees must review any *Platform* position that is more than four years old to determine whether that item continues to reflect the position of the membership.

County Governance

Kimberly Geyer (Butler County), Chair
Jeffrey E. Pisarcik (Jefferson County), Vice Chair

Courts and Corrections

Jeffrey Snyder (Clinton County), Chair
Todd Graybill (Juniata County), Vice Chair

Elections Reform

Sherene Hess (Indiana County), Chair
Joseph Kantz (Snyder County), Vice Chair

Emergency Management and Veterans Affairs

Mark L. Hamilton (Tioga County), Co-Chair
Wayne E. Nothstein (Carbon County), Co-Chair

Energy, Environment and Land Use

Scott Walls (Huntingdon County), Chair
Stacy Richards (Union County), Vice Chair

Technology

Clifford Lane (McKean County), Chair
Chris Lukasevich (Carbon County), Vice Chair

June/July

CCAP Resolutions Committee Reviews Resolutions

After policy committee review, the Resolutions Committee meets to review the resolutions for germaneness and relevance. Their responsibility is to assure coordination of policy across the Association and make recommendations to the full CCAP membership in preparation for the members' consideration at the Annual Conference.

August

(CCAP Annual Conference)

Resolutions Voted on by Membership

The Resolutions Committee meets in a session open to all members at the Annual Conference to review resolutions submitted to date, accept any new resolutions or modifications to existing proposed resolutions or the current *Platform*. During CCAP's business meeting, held during Tuesday's general session, the resolutions are presented to the entire membership for discussion and all qualified CCAP voting members vote at that time on each resolution, whether they are at the conference or participating remotely. New resolutions adopted are added to the *Platform*, those amended are updated, those repealed are removed and an updated *Platform* is finalized. 📌

Newsworthy

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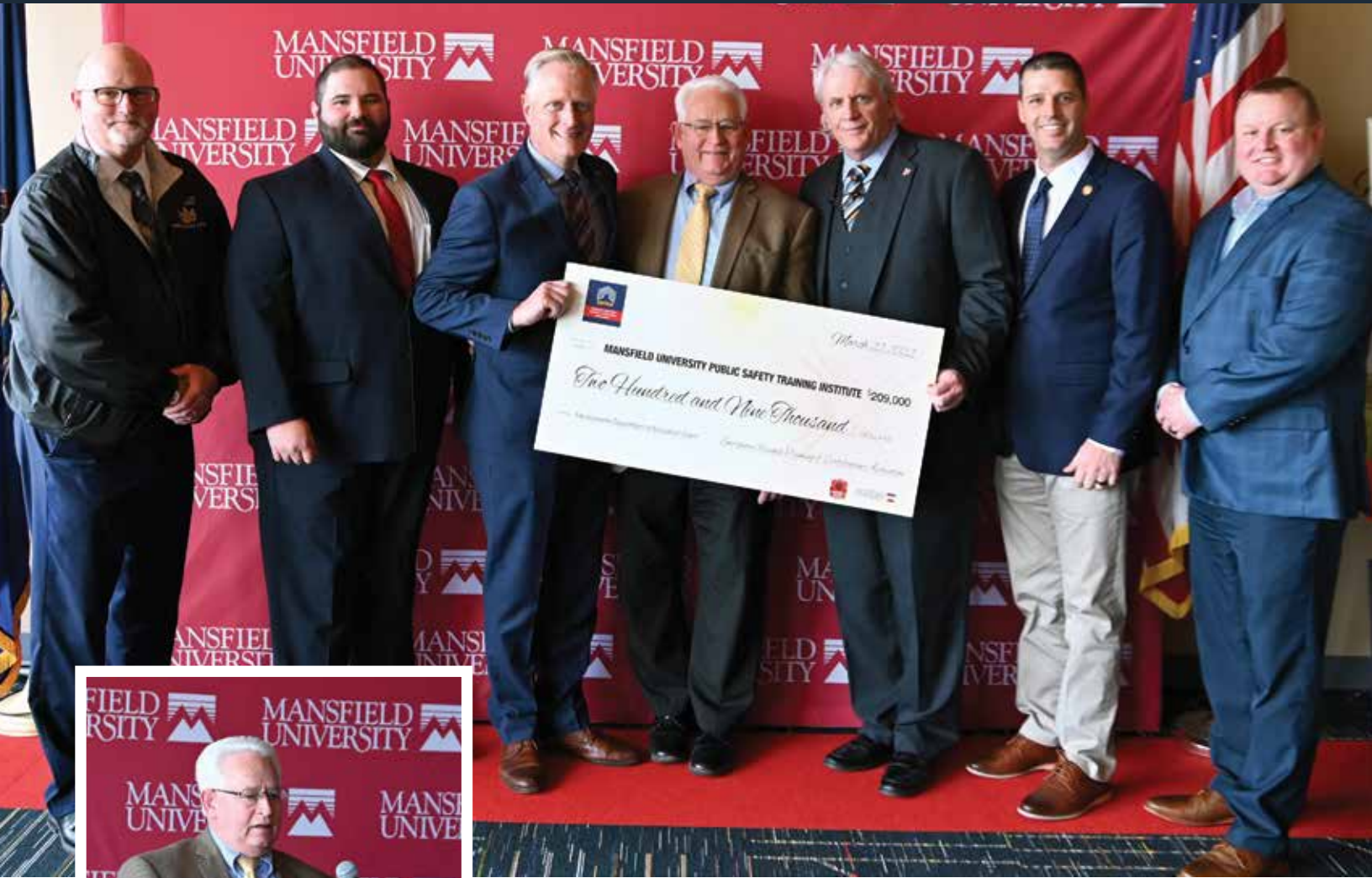
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Coolidge Center for Public Safety



Mansfield University is developing a new center for public safety research and training thanks in part to a \$1 million Pennsylvania Department of Education grant to the Emergency Response Training & Certification Association (ERTCA).

The Erick J. Coolidge Center for Public Safety Training, Education, & Innovation will provide a space for emerging technologies and techniques in public safety to be researched and tested.

The new center is being named after Tioga County Commissioner Erick Coolidge.

"Commissioner Coolidge has been instrumental from concept to creation of the public safety and innovation center," said Dr. Joshua Battin, Interim Associate Vice President of Administration and Mansfield University. "His leadership, networking, and dedication to enhancing public safety in Tioga County and beyond were critical." ▾



Daryl Miller, CCAP President and Bradford County Commissioner



2022 Spring Conference



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State Rep Scott Conklin (right)*



*Lori Vargo Heffner
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The County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania is proud to present the participants in the 2022 Center for Excellence in County Leadership (CEL) program.

2022 Program Participants

- Laura Burke, Commissioner, Blair County
- Thomas Giovanni, Council Member, Northampton County
- David Glass, Commissioner, Clearfield County
- Robin Gorman, Commissioner, Indiana County
- Lynn Hill, Division Head of Human Services, Luzerne County
- Scott Hunt, Commissioner, Cambria County
- Mark Kingston, Commissioner, Forest County
- Marian Moskowitz, Commissioner, Chester County
- Aaron Poole, Chief Clerk/County Administrator, Armstrong County
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2022

2022

COUNTY BUDGET SURVEY

THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA HAS RELEASED ITS SURVEY OF COUNTY BUDGET AND TAXATION RATES FOR 2022.

THE BUDGET CHART ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES LISTS THE 2022 BUDGET FIGURES FOR EACH COUNTY (GENERAL, SPECIAL AND OTHER FUNDS) AND COMPARES THIS YEAR'S DATA TO 2021.

THE TAXATION CHART LOOKS AT MILLAGE RATES, PREDETERMINED RATIOS AND THE LATEST ASSESSMENT CHANGES.

2022 COUNTY BUDGET SURVEY

County	2022 BUDGET				PERCENT BUDGET INCREASE/DECREASE FROM 2021			
	General	Special	Other	Total	General	Special	Other	Aggregate
Adams	59,513,955	14,150,466	2,169,900	75,834,321	8.59	-2.27	5.15	6.29
Allegheny	863,068,525		127,566,607	990,635,132	2.96		22.34	5.10
Armstrong	24,331,585	35,915,912		60,247,497	4.29	3.12		3.59
Beaver	82,032,165	182,799,059	2,036,550	266,867,774	0.88	48.73 [1]	-46.54	28.28
Bedford	22,827,813	1,925,464		24,753,277	-1.75	7.03		-1.12
Berks	232,590,345	343,962,500		576,552,845	-1.40	3.99		1.74
Blair	58,284,333	18,328,448	19,887,849	96,500,630	1.38	-2.36	46.15	7.38
Bradford	83,464,950			83,464,950	6.99			6.99
Bucks	301,848,000	460,170,000	71,740,500	833,758,500	3.84	33.68 [1]	-29.60	13.16
Butler	81,742,125	171,905,954		253,648,079	17.30	43.97 [1]		34.14
Cambria	59,332,691	168,670,364	19,150,297	247,153,352	1.92	40.09 [1]	3.93	25.43
Cameron	6,240,082		5,596,483	11,836,565	10.68		10.52	10.60
Carbon	30,453,083	46,743,375	10,100,000	87,296,458	11.30	89.95 [1]	-1.29	40.35
Centre	44,354,383	52,314,480	11,092,654	107,761,517	12.92	63.05	8.17	32.03
Chester	193,122,732	342,658,842	152,562,536	688,344,110	5.22	35.62 [1]	-9.45	13.83
Clarion	23,208,014	9,778,408	1,370,607	34,357,029	22.64	-2.87	-2.89	13.01
Clearfield	25,171,437	15,036,379	8,330,894	48,538,710	13.59	-2.19	27,669.65 [1]	29.22
Clinton	25,129,879	18,620,895	174,000	43,924,774	6.47	5.03	17,399,900.00 [1]	6.27
Columbia	32,216,791	1,296,792	2,222,052	35,735,635	0.59	18.43	-29.45	-1.48
Crawford	57,357,862	3,282,437	11,630,643	72,270,942	0.88	-13.72	-8.35	-1.48
Cumberland	101,020,394	102,787,675	87,148,460	290,956,529	-23.78	20.08 [1]	5.62 [2]	-3.22
Dauphin	211,563,051	170,129,725		381,692,776	12.69 [3]	-2.43		5.41
Delaware	284,878,413	68,893,436	440,887,713	794,659,562	-0.17	-1.30	10.30	5.27
Elk	13,496,977		357,440	13,854,417	-6.34		0.10	-6.18
Erie	115,469,489	322,075,558	92,239,512	529,784,559	0.54	14.44	-0.01	8.45
Fayette	43,793,095	60,848,232	26,833,850	131,475,177	4.10	37.70	-45.63	-3.05
Forest	3,381,106		849,968	4,231,074	-12.96		3.76	-10.05
Franklin	56,692,015	15,131,644	94,492,308	166,315,967	2.05	-34.45	0.88	-3.48
Fulton	7,286,175	3,598,631		10,884,806	1.16	-8.18		-2.13
Greene	19,226,728	15,139,722	4,365,463	38,731,913	1.42	-7.22	-24.65	-5.69
Huntingdon	16,342,536	841,676	12,405,882	29,590,094	-26.58	46.11 [1]	4,995.05 [1]	28.22
Indiana	46,141,174	418,898		46,560,072	2.02	-34.34		1.51
Jefferson	15,623,208	13,457,564	1,225,800	30,306,572	-4.37	5.36 [3]	-25.57	-1.46
Juniata	13,582,684		4,026,900	17,609,584	6.84		1.51	5.58
Lackawanna	145,632,665	81,182,140	19,491,214	246,306,019	5.48	31.44	-4.94	11.79
Lancaster	168,700,700		114,199,580	282,900,280	1.70		2.44	2.00
Lawrence	36,160,179	462,215	54,221,595	90,843,989	-4.20	1.70	42.97	19.33
Lebanon	54,213,124	34,785,166	35,125,857	124,124,147	7.02	2,918.48 [6]	1.64	43.72
Lehigh	127,500,406	351,878,747	25,869,804	505,248,957	-2.01	16.40	4.23	10.50
Luzerne	157,809,091	299,758,282		457,567,373	2.03	62.91 [1] [3] [5]		35.11
Lycoming	83,303,691	28,116,821	18,537,280	129,957,792	14.33	-3.17	1.33	8.13
McKean	18,270,304		26,839,229	45,109,533	0.96		9.61	5.94
Mercer	34,357,278		2,320,000	36,677,278	0.85		-16.55	-0.46
Mifflin	29,333,001	2,719,146		32,052,147	-9.72	-27.64		-11.58
Monroe	65,443,394	71,975,873	72,887,613	210,306,880	6.32	91.63 [1]	379.94 [6]	84.00
Montgomery	498,561,487	235,329,070	294,032,597	1,027,923,154	8.00	22.57 [1]	37.33	18.46
Montour	9,507,919			9,507,919	3.67			3.67
Northampton	170,422,200	352,123,400	5,583,100	528,128,700	-0.86	-6.90	-52.28 [4] [5]	-6.00
Northumberland	28,087,925	58,296,150	2,946,479	89,330,554	1.07	10.22	31.22	7.72
Perry	22,618,879			22,618,879	3.20			3.20
Philadelphia*				0				
Pike	44,327,700	3,129,091		47,456,791	13.08	1.71		12.25
Potter	11,290,742			11,290,742	1.59			1.59
Schuylkill	70,148,920	139,672,937	3,441,705	213,263,562	5.20	31.50 [1]	-18.74	20.40
Snyder	20,931,245		41,457,875	62,389,120	-7.10		4.39	0.23
Somerset	53,308,496			53,308,496	-4.11			-4.11
Sullivan	5,576,084			5,576,084	8.31			8.31
Susquehanna	16,463,501	15,050,094	5,006,500	36,520,095	-36.14	48.34	500,649,900.00 [7]	1.66
Tioga	20,191,550	17,221,092		37,412,642	9.44	-2.77		3.46
Union	23,537,297			23,537,297	16.88 [1]			16.88
Venango	43,641,743	13,450,384	1,561,870	58,653,997	-3.02	12.17	-3.12	0.09
Warren	20,843,789			20,843,789	8.14			8.14
Washington	148,233,793	31,904,710	24,857,994	204,996,497	42.43 [1]	22.30 [3]	-2.37	31.73
Wayne	37,484,235	3,700,000	15,900,000	57,084,235	5.43	19.35	1.27	5.02
Westmoreland	141,294,151	149,407,695	76,946,905	367,648,751	7.37	69.34 [1]	-35.83	8.22
Wyoming	15,969,049	2,944,000	819,926	19,732,975	6.36	3.59	-19.37	4.56
York	236,307,958	363,897,910	67,390,150	667,596,018	-0.08	-1.50	0.19	-0.83
AVERAGE	88,094,853	100,365,050	45,104,301	191,821,640	2.99	76.06	11,023,036.66	9.78
TOTAL				12,852,049,891				

2022 COUNTY TAXATION SURVEY

	MILLAGE RATE				MILLS INCREASE/DECREASE FROM 2021				LAST ASSESSMENT CHANGES		
	General	Special	Debt	Total	General	Special	Debt	Total	Assess- ment Ratio	Full Reass- essment	Ratio Change
Adams	4.44			4.44	0.25			0.25	100%	2010	
Allegheny	3.94		0.79	4.73	-0.10		0.10	0.00	100%	2012	2000
Armstrong	14.80		4.20	19.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	50%	1997	
Beaver	25.00		1.00	26.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	50%	1982	1982
Bedford	3.29		0.61	3.90	0.18		0.00	0.18	100%	2012	
Berks	7.67			7.67	0.00			0.00	100%	1994	2022
Blair	3.71	0.03	0.36	4.10	0.03	0.00	-0.03	0.00	100%	2017	
Bradford	10.43			10.43	0.00			0.00	50%	1999	1992
Bucks	19.79		5.66	25.45	-0.21		0.21	0.00	100%	1972	2004
Butler	21.72	2.94	2.97	27.63	0.10	0.00	-0.10	0.00	100%	1969	
Cambria	25.00	2.00	4.00	31.00	-2.50	0.00	0.00	-2.50	100%	1972	2004
Cameron	20.50	1.50	5.00	27.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50%	1986	
Carbon	11.40	0.00	0.85	12.25	0.00		0.00	0.00	50%	2001	
Centre	6.65		1.19	7.84	0.00		0.00	0.00	50%	1995	
Chester	3.20	0.26	1.09	4.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100%	1998	
Clarion	20.50		1.00	21.50	0.00		-0.50	-0.50	100%	1975	2008
Clearfield	25.00			25.00	0.00			0.00	25%	1989	
Clinton	6.20			6.20	0.00			0.00	100%	2009	2009
Columbia	12.14		1.00	13.14	0.00		0.00	0.00	50%	1992	
Crawford	21.15	0.70	0.00	21.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	75%	1971	1985
Cumberland	2.20	0.17		2.36	0.00	0.00		0.00	100%	2010	
Dauphin	6.88	0.35		7.23	0.00	0.00		0.00	100%	2002	2002
Delaware	2.49		0.51	3.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	100%	2022	2022
Elk	15.40		0.75	16.15	0.00		0.00	0.00	100%	1984	
Erie	5.96			5.96	0.00			0.00	100%	2013	2003
Fayette	6.04		0.73	6.76	-0.08		0.08	0.00	100%	2003	
Forest	18.91	0.45		19.36	0.00	0.45		0.45	100%	1974	2017
Franklin	25.00	1.30	4.10	30.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100%	1961	2001
Fulton	12.40			12.40	0.00			0.00	100%	1990	
Greene	8.54	0.08	0.41	9.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100%	2003	2003
Huntingdon	20.00	0.97	0.41	21.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	80%	1978	2013
Indiana	4.21	0.00	0.70	4.91	0.08		-0.08	0.00	100%	2016	2016
Jefferson	12.50			12.50	0.00			0.00	100%	1972	2004
Juniata	25.00			25.00	0.00			0.00	100%	1974	
Lackawanna	46.90	3.82	13.20	63.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100%		1986
Lancaster	2.91			2.91	0.00			0.00	100%	2018	
Lawrence	7.53	0.14	0.65	8.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100%	2003	
Lebanon	3.89			3.89	0.60			0.60	100%	2012	2005
Lehigh	3.78			3.78	0.00			0.00	100%	2013	2013
Luzerne	6.17			6.17	0.00			0.00	100%	2009	2009
Lycoming	6.50			6.50	0.00			0.00	100%	2005	2005
McKean	12.25			12.25	0.00			0.00	100%	1998	2005
Mercer	22.25		1.40	23.65	0.00		0.00	0.00	100%	1974	2002
Mifflin	15.77			15.77	0.00			0.00	50%	1999	
Monroe	2.74	0.17	0.48	3.40	-0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	100%	2020	2019
Montgomery	3.92	0.39		4.31	0.30	0.00		0.30	100%	1998	1998
Montour	4.00		0.27	4.27	0.00		0.27	0.27	100%	2004	
Northampton	10.80			10.80	-1.00			-1.00	50%	1995	1972
Northumberland	25.00		5.89	30.89	0.00		0.00	0.00	100%	1972	2005
Perry	4.56			4.56	0.00			0.00	100%	2010	
Philadelphia	14.00			14.00	0.00			0.00	100%	2019	
Pike	21.65	1.00	0.09	22.74	1.18	0.32	0.00	1.50	25%	1981	1996
Potter	18.50		0.70	19.20	0.00		0.00	0.00	100%	1977	2002
Schuylkill	15.38		0.60	15.98	0.00		0.00	0.00	50%	1996	
Snyder	21.63	0.19		21.82	0.00	0.00		0.00	100%	1973	2007
Somerset	11.26		2.10	13.36	0.00		0.00	0.00	50%	1998	1998
Sullivan	4.30			4.30	0.00			0.00	100%	2004	
Susquehanna	10.50	0.33		10.83	0.00	0.00		0.00	50%	1993	1993
Tioga	6.75			6.75	0.00			0.00	100%	2002	
Union	4.56	0.16	0.50	5.22	0.00	0.00	-0.34	-0.34	100%	2005	2006
Venango	6.00			6.00	0.00			0.00	100%	2000	2004
Warren	21.75			21.75	0.00			0.00	50%	1989	
Washington	2.43			2.43	0.00			0.00	100%	2017	2017
Wayne	4.85		0.38	5.23	0.24		0.00	0.24	100%	2005	2005
Westmoreland	21.49			21.49	0.00			0.00	100%	1972	
Wyoming	23.87		1.98	25.85	0.00		0.00	0.00	50%	1988	1996
York	6.71	0.19		6.90	1.00	0.00		1.00	100%	2006	
AVERAGE	12.34	0.74	1.87	13.57	0.00	0.04	-0.01	0.00	86%		

Footnotes:

[1] ARPA and other stimulus funds

[2] Increase/Decrease due Capital Projects

[3] Increase/Decrease due to ERAP funds

[4] Increase/Decrease due tax rate cut

[5] Increase/Decrease due to grant funding

[6] Increase/Decrease due to bond issue

[7] Increase/Decrease due to pass-thru money

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PEPPM STARTED ITS WORK conducting sealed competitive bids on your behalf in 1982, when we awarded contracts to low-price bidders on four lines of microcomputers.

Today, PEPPM has grown to award contracts representing millions of bid-protected products, and they are posted on our interactive website at www.PEPPM.org.

We're still the non-commercial, peer-to-peer purchasing cooperative we started out to be, and we're proud to be today's premier national technology co-op that is:

- Following best-practice bidding procedures
- Offering most all major-brand technology hardware, software, and furniture
- Transparent, with pricing and documentation posted on our website for registered users
- Compliant with federal Uniform Guidance language that allows you to spend your federal funds
- Operated by a peer educational agency like yours
- Giving you the ability to speedily and legally buy products without having to go to bid yourself

www.PEPPM.org



PEPPM
COOPERATIVE PURCHASING



It's never too early to start thinking about your health insurance options...



The CCAP Health Alliance offers a complete range of medical, dental and vision plans that are fully customized to meet the needs of each individual county or entity. On average, CCAP Health Alliance members save 3-6% on health insurance costs! Contact Desiree Nguyen at dnguyen@pacounties.org to learn how much you can save!

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