County Data Briefs
August 2026

Summary

- In 2026, 7.7 years was the average number of years a county commissioner/ council member was in office.
- Twenty-one counties are governed by a majority of elected officials who had less than five years in office.
- The number of years of service varied by region, political affiliations, gender, and whether the county was home rule.

Methodology

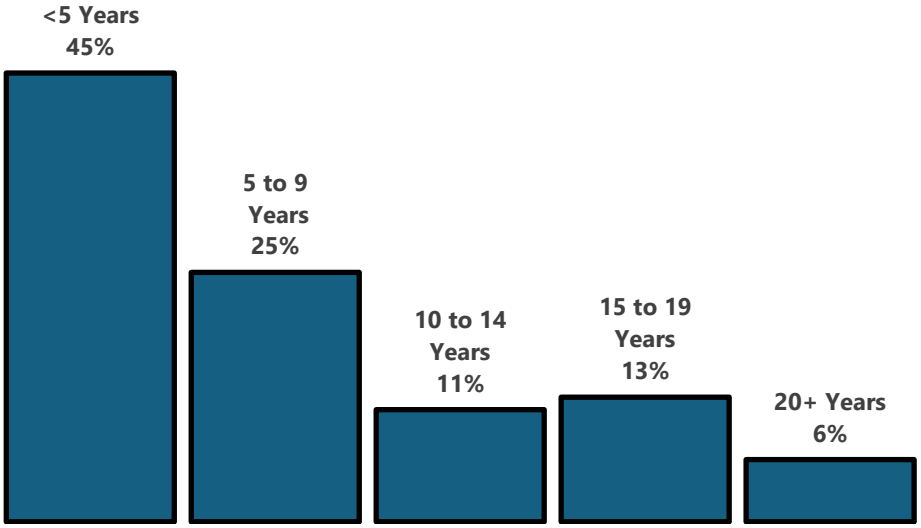
Data on the number of years of service is from CCAP records and from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS Association of Pennsylvania

Number of Years of County Service by Commissioners and Council Members

In 2026, the average county commissioner/council member has been in office 7.7 years. This average is skewed by the large number of members (45 percent) that have been in office for less than 5 years.

Number of Years County Commissioners/Council Members Have Been in Office, 2026

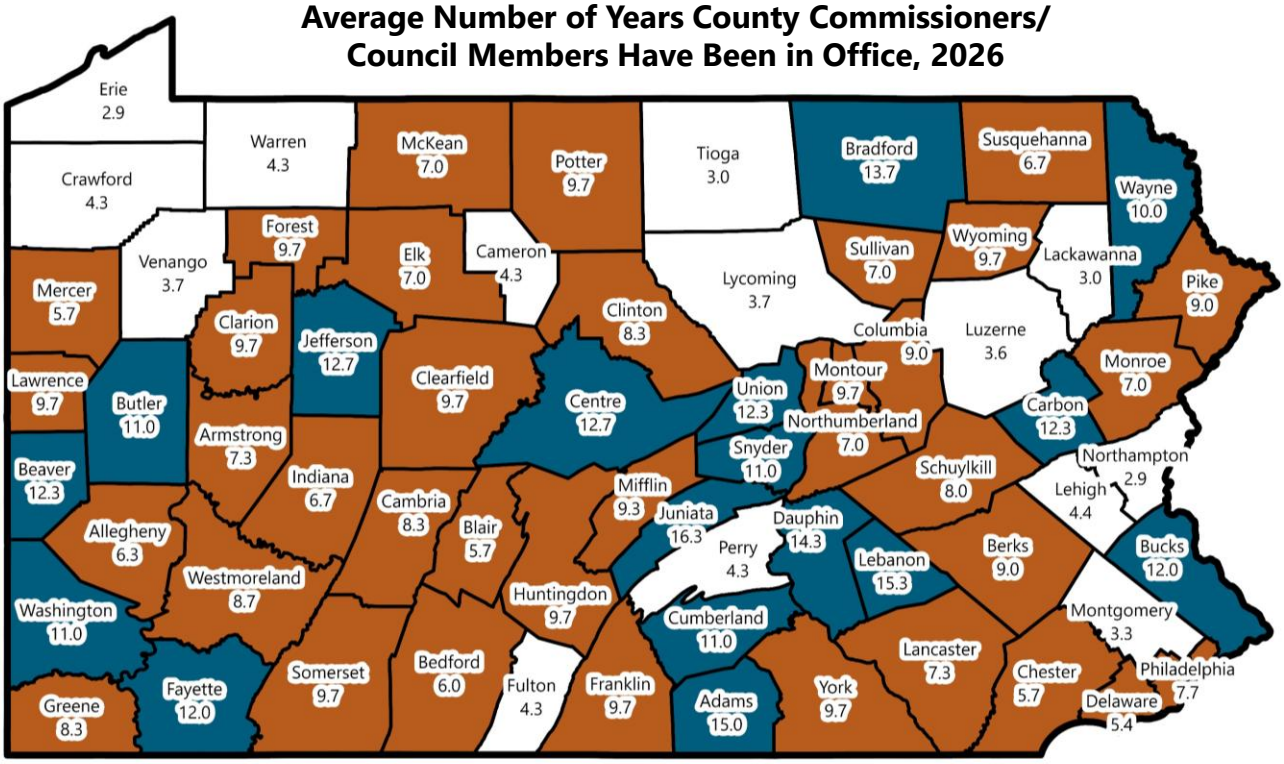


Statistically, there was no meaningful difference between years of service and county population. In small counties (less than 100,000 residents) the average commissioner had 8.4 years of service, while in larger counties (100,000+), commissioners averaged 8.2 years of services. In addition, there was no significant correlation between years of services and county revenues per capita, number of full-time county employees per capita, and median age of residents.

Average Number of Years County Commissioners/Council Members Have Been in Office by County Class, 2026

6.5 Years 1st & 2nd Class Counties	**8.9 Years** 5th Class Counties
6.8 Years 2nd Class A Counties	**8.0 Years** 6th Class Counties
5.4 Years 3rd Class Counties	**12.3 Years** 7th Class Counties
10.2 Years 4th Class Counties	**7.4 Years** 8th Class Counties

Average Number of Years County Commissioners/ Council Members Have Been in Office, 2026



Statewide Average = 7.7 Years

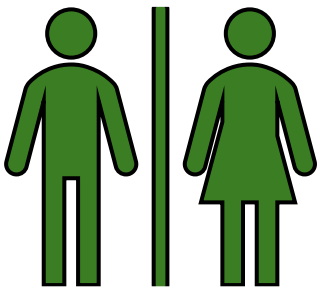
<1.0 Years | 5.0 to 9.9 Years | 10.0+ Years

In 2026, twenty-one of Pennsylvania's 67 counties were governor by a majority of officials that had less than five years in office. In Montgomery and Tioga Counties, each of the three commissioner has served less than five years. At the opposite end, there are five counties, where the majority of officials have 15 or more years in office. In Adams County each of the commissioners has served 15 years.

Average Number of years in Office by Party Affiliation, Gender and Type of Governance, 2026



Political Party
7.8 Years Democrats
7.6 Years Republicans



Gender
6.1 Years Female
8.2 Years Males



Type of Governance
4.6 Years Home Rule
8.7 Years Not Home Rule

County Commissioners Associations of Pennsylvania
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CCAP
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Association of Pennsylvania