County Data Briefs
October 2026

County Fiscal Outlook: Survey Results

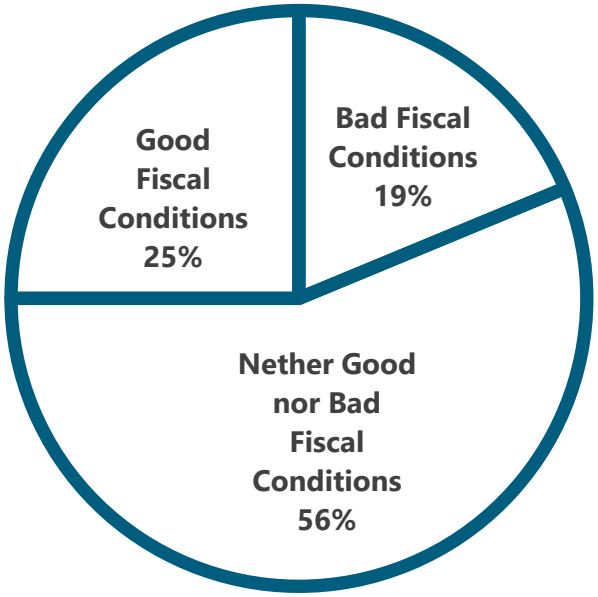
Summary

- In 2026, most county chief clerks/ administrators saw fiscal conditions as neutral, neither good nor bad.
- Looking ahead to the next three years, officials become more pessimistic and expect fiscal conditions to become worse.
- For 2027, the majority (56 percent) expect county revenues to stay about the same.
- A significant number of officials were concerns about a decrease in state and federal revenues..
- 56 percent of the counties are planning to start large capital projects. The two most common projects are building construction/ remodeling and IT upgrades

Methodology

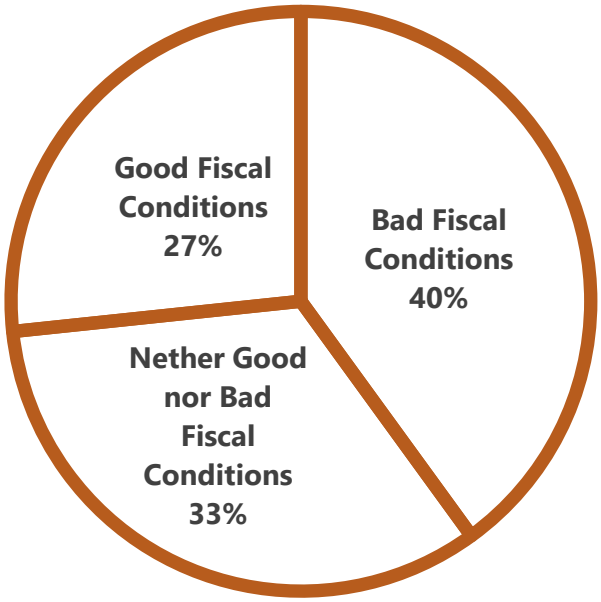
Data is from the County Insight Panel survey. This Panel is comprised of 17 geographically diverse counties of different population classes. The survey was sent on September 15, 2026.

Current Fiscal Conditions (2026)



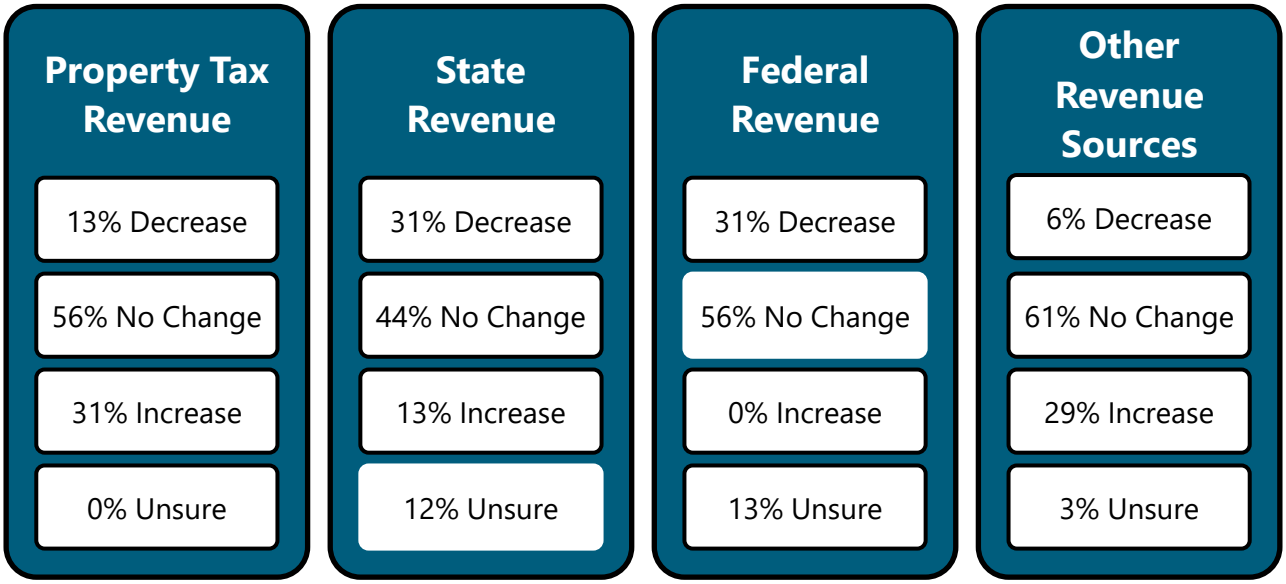
In 2026, 56 percent of chief clerks/administrators saw their county's fiscal glass neither half-full nor half-empty. Look forward, 33 percent saw fiscal conditions improving and 66 percent saw conditions not improving.

Anticipated Fiscal Conditions in Three Years (2029)



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS Association of Pennsylvania

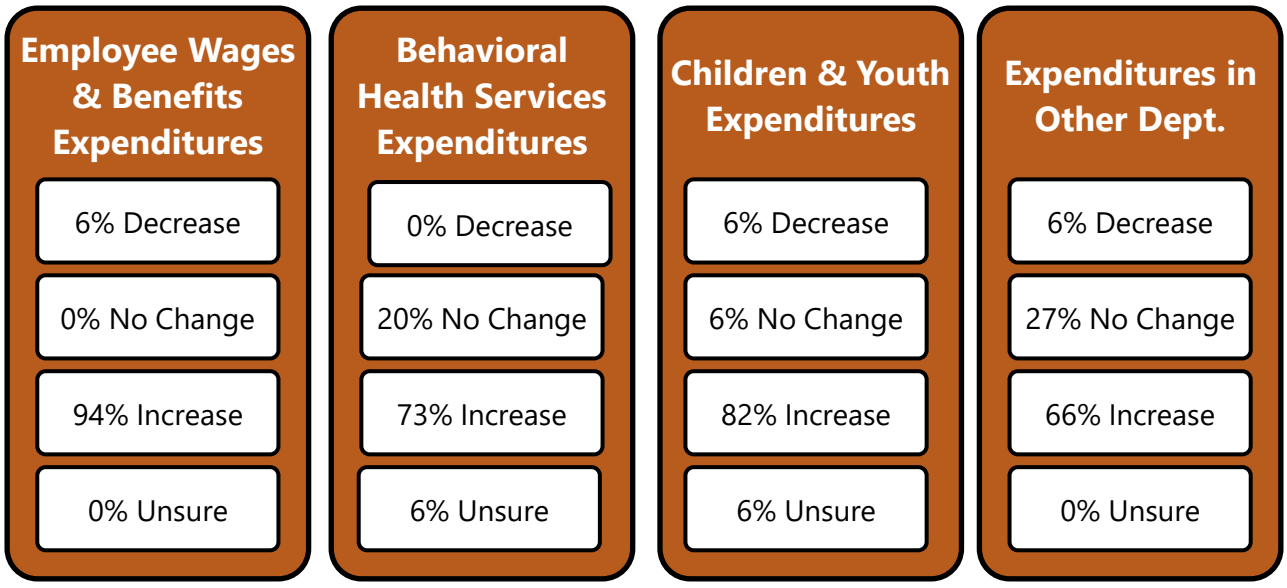
Anticipated Change in Revenues, 2026 to 2027



Overall, the majority of County Chief Clerks/Administrators (56 percent) are predicting no change in their revenues. However, a sizable number are (18 percent) anticipating a decrease in revenues, especially from state and federal sources.

In 2027, the majority of County Chief Clerks/Administrators (71 percent) are expecting expenditures to increase. The departments with the largest anticipated spending increases were children and youth services, jails, behavioral health services, and employee wages and benefits.

Anticipated Change in Expenditures, 2026 to 2027



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