

# PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES ARE

## ELECTIONS

- Accept and verify new and changed voter registration applications
- Conduct elections, including finding and training poll workers, maintaining election equipment, finding polling places and processing absentee ballots
- Verify and report election results
- Fund primary, general and special elections

Counties are responsible for all aspects of running elections in Pennsylvania under the state's election code, the federal *National Voter Registration Act* and *Help America Vote Act*.

## ASSESSMENT

- Maintain property values to assure fairness, equity and uniformity
- Hear assessment appeals from property owners
- Oversee the process of determining values and update county tax records
- Prepare reports, tax duplicates, and tax bills for political subdivisions

County assessment offices maintain the assessment rolls that are the basis of property taxation for counties, municipalities and school districts.

## HUMAN SERVICES

- Administer state-mandated programs and services in areas including children and youth, drugs and alcohol, mental health and intellectual disability, nursing homes and long-term care, juvenile detention centers and juvenile justice, and housing, transportation and other critical supports.
- Work toward better planning and integration of services to improve coordination and streamline programs
- Advocate for state and federal funding for counties to meet critical service needs

Counties provide human services programs that protect the most vulnerable citizens in our communities.

## COURTS & CORRECTIONS

- Provide funding for the lower judiciary, including the Courts of Common Pleas, the Magisterial District Justices (MDJs) and related support services
- Receive a share of court costs collected through the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts to aid the county's court administration cost
- Fund and operate county jails for offenders awaiting trial, or those serving sentences up to two years
- Operate specialty courts and community corrections
- Uphold state and federal standards for quality and safety in prison facilities

County corrections and prison management account for a large portion of the county budget. In Pennsylvania, 63 counties operate a jail.

## PLANNING & LAND USE

- Prepare comprehensive land use plans, including transportation and environmental planning
- Review municipal planning, zoning and subdivision proposals
- Provide guidance to promote regional land use consistency
- Use GIS to analyze spatial information and databases and support county services

County leaders plan to address fundamental issues such as the location of growth, housing needs, and environmental protection while helping account for future demand for services.

## EMERGENCY SERVICES

- Operate 9-1-1 call centers, call-taking and dispatch
- Prepare and rehearse local all-hazards emergency response plans in coordination with federal, state and municipal agencies
- Lead local and regional homeland security planning

Counties provide direction and coordination of emergency services for the protection of the people and resources in the county.

## TRANSPORTATION

- Own and maintain more than 4,000 county bridges
- Operate more than 30 mass transit systems
- Offer paratransit and medical assistance transportation
- Offer input on commuter railroads, busses, etc. in metropolitan areas

Counties work alongside PennDOT and their planning organizations to ensure that transportation infrastructure meets citizen and business needs now and in the future.

## ADDITIONAL SERVICES

- Agriculture Conservation and Preservation
- Environmental Issues and Recycling
- Property and Civil Records Management
- Delinquent Real Estate Tax Collection
- Community and Economic Development

Counties are also involved in other functions of everyday life, touching the lives of every Pennsylvanian.

## ABOUT CCAP

## THE VOICE OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES

CCAP provides county leaders with information and guidance related to legislation, education, media, insurance, technology and many other issues that help create and maintain crucial services for residents throughout the state.

CCAP supports county leadership that is responsive to the needs and circumstances of citizens. CCAP stands firmly against state and federal actions that limit fiscal, administrative or programmatic authority over those developed locally.