



What is the Office of County Commissioners?

The Office of County Commissioners is the legislative and policy-setting body for county government. This office enacts countywide laws and authorizes programs and all spending of county funds. The office is comprised of three elected officials who work closely with other county departments and agencies representing the county's interests at the state and federal levels.

How often are County Commissioners elected? What are their terms of office?

One commissioner is elected during gubernatorial election years.

The other two commissioners are elected during presidential election years.

County Commissioners serve 4-year terms and do not have term limits.

Does every county in Ohio have County Commissioners?

No. Eighty-six out of eighty-eight counties elect County Commissioners. The two counties without County Commissioners, Summit and Cuyahoga, have County Councils which take on a similar structure to city councils. To learn more about the County Council's in Summit and Cuyahoga counties, check out our Power of County Council resource for more information.

Are County Commissioners political actors?

It depends. Commissioners can be affiliated with a political party or operate as independent actors.

What are the responsibilities of county commissioners?

- Responsibilities outlined in the Ohio Revised Code include overseeing county operations, managing the county budget, and appointing members to specialized local commissions and boards.
- County operations: undertake and carry out county renewal projects; services and infrastructure; property management; and street and road planning.
- Managing the budget: funding and taxation; investment of project funds or redeem or purchase project bonds; borrow money and accept financial assistance from various sources complying with federal conditions.
- Appointments: appoint department heads of offices they have responsibility over and members to a variety of boards and commissions (zoning, tax appeal, health, etc.,).

What are the requirements to run for County Commissioner?

- Candidates must be U.S. citizens, at least 18 years old, and be an Ohio resident in the county they would like to represent.
- To obtain a spot on the ballot, County Commissioner candidates must file a petition signed by 50 electors for major party candidates and 25 signatures for minor party candidates.

How do I find my County Commissioners and their meeting schedule?

Check out your county's official website to find County Commissioners' profiles. This will generally have information on their priorities, initiatives, and public/private partnerships. This website is also where to access commissioners' meeting schedules, agendas, and location information.