



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 expenditures 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?

Two commissioners are elected in a presidential election year and one in a gubernatorial election year. Commissioners are elected for 4-year terms without term limits. Two commissioner seats will be open beginning on January 2, 2025; they will be elected on November 5, 2024. Local General Election Candidates are available on the Athens County Board of Elections website.

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?

County commissioners are responsible for overseeing county operations, managing the county budget, and creating and appointing members to specialized local commissions and boards (zoning, tax appeal, health, etc.)

County operations: undertake and carry out county renewal projects; services and infrastructure; property management; street and road planning; create and appoint members to specialized local commissions and board (zoning, tax appeal, health, etc.)

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.

How does the County Commissioner's Office Operate?

The Athens Commissioner's Office operates with one president and one vice president commissioner.

The President Commissioner is elected by the board and serves a term of one year. This position is responsible for presiding over every regular and special session of the Board.

The Vice President Commissioner assists the President Commissioner in their duties and, in absence of the President Commissioner, presides over sessions of the Board.

What should I do if I'm interested in running for a county commissioner position?

Contact the Athens County Board of Elections.

How do I find my county commissioners?

The Athens County Website -- www.co.athensoh.org

When do county commissioners meet?

County commissioners meet at 9:30 a.m. every Tuesday in the Commissioner's Conference Room, 15 S. Court Street, 2nd floor Annex Building. You can access Zoom registration and past meeting information on the Athens County Website.

Questions for the county commissioner candidates:

- How will you ensure that you remain accessible and responsive to the needs of your constituents?
- What is your plan for attracting new businesses and promoting economic development in the county?
- How do you intend to support small businesses and local entrepreneurs?
- What are the top three issues the county is currently facing, and how do you plan to address them?
- What motivated you to run for county commissioner, and what qualifications do you bring to the role?