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Local Elected Officials Work for Us.

Local government is the most accessible level of government. It makes communities strong and resilient through shared involvement. To understand the impact of local government, the League of Women Voters of Centre County (LWVCC) is providing a four-part series about local offices. This second installment focuses on county government offices which have county-wide elections for four-year terms. The LWVCC thanks Centre County Commissioner Mark Higgins for his contributions to this article.

Commissioner

This information is from The County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania:

Each major political party nominates two individuals and the electorate votes for two individuals. The top three vote-getters become the Board of Commissioners. This assures minority party representation. Commissioners are responsible for policy-making, fiscal management, administration of county affairs, serving on advisory boards and representing interests of the community with state and federal officials.

Commissioners can regulate through ordinances, resolutions and laws regarding public health, parks, solid waste management, roads and highways, zoning and land use, county personnel policies, and more. They approve the annual budget, balancing county needs with the ability to raise revenues, and pay for mandated state and federal programs. Commissioners shape the county's future through long-range planning.

Information for the following offices is from centrecountypa.gov.

Controller

The Controller administers finances: accounting, payroll, accounts payable, accounts receivable, and retiree benefits. Through internal and external auditing, this office ensures that the county is achieving honest, efficient management and full accountability. Financial and tax reports are provided to county departments to assist