

Lehigh County government primarily provides the following three services:

1. Human Services at the local level (Children & Youth, Mental Health / Mental Retardation, Drug & Alcohol, Aging, etc.)
2. Criminal Justice System (Courts, Prison, Probation, etc.)
3. Nursing Home for the indigent

For more specific information / services, use this link:

<https://www.lehighcounty.org/Home/tabid/805/Default.aspx>

The list of departments on each website gives information about the services provided.

Below are the positions up for election in 2017, with their job descriptions.

Administrative Branch

County Executive

The County Executive is the Chief Executive Officer of the County, with powers over the administrative organization as allowed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, provided by the Lehigh County Home Rule Charter and Administrative Code. The County Executive is elected during a municipal election for a term of four years, and is responsible for carrying out policies and enforcing laws adopted by the legislative body. This is a full-time position. The Executive may serve no more than two consecutive terms.

Legislative Branch

Board of Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners is the legislative branch of County government and has all the legislative powers that may be exercised by the County under the Constitution and the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Home Rule Charter. The legislative body has a total of nine members. Four members are elected at large; five are elected by district. All elected members serve a term of four years. They are elected in municipal elections, with district and at-large members running in staggered two-year periods. Some of their powers are: to enact, amend or repeal ordinances, resolutions, and motions; to make appropriations; to incur indebtedness; to adopt the budget; to levy taxes, assessments and service charges; and to adopt the Administrative Code and the Personnel Code.

The annual stipend for the part-time position of County Commissioner in Lehigh County is Chair \$8,000; others \$7,000.

This year (2017) we are electing county commissioners by district.

The following elected county officials are not on the ballot this year. The next election for the four-year terms will be in 2019.

District Attorney: The District Attorney is charged with seeking justice for all concerned when criminal charges have been filed, and to effectively prosecute those individuals who commit adult and juvenile crimes. The District Attorney is the Chief Law Enforcement Officer for the County and works closely with all police departments within the County. The next election for the four-year position will be in 2019.

Clerk of Judicial Records: The Clerk of Judicial Records Office consists of:

- Clerk of Courts Office, civil division and criminal division, is responsible for the complete, accurate filing and maintenance of original records for the Lehigh County court system.
- Recorder of Deeds: The Office of the Recorder of Deeds records all documents relating to real estate in Lehigh County.
- Register of Wills: The Office of the Register of Wills probates wills and collects taxes for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It assists the public, title searchers, attorneys, and genealogists in the research of information from the probate files. Records date back to 1812.

Coroner: The Office of the Coroner investigates the facts and circumstances surrounding the death of any individual who falls within the jurisdiction of the Coroner, to determine the time, cause, and manner of death.

Sheriff: The Office of the Sheriff serves all original civil, criminal, and protection-from-abuse documents issued by the Court of Common Pleas. The office provides security for the County's courtrooms, judges and buildings. It transports prisoners, holds sales to collect debts on both real and personal property, investigates and apprehends fugitives and bail jumpers, and preserves the peace at riots and civil strike injunctions.