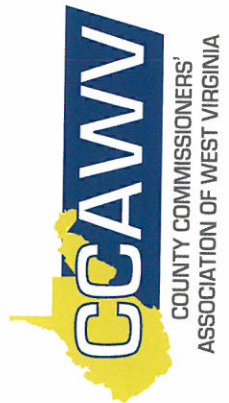


County Commissioners working together...

The County Commissioners' Association of West Virginia (CCAWW) provides the opportunity for County Commissioners to work together for common goals and purposes. Since its' founding in the early 1950's, the CCAWW has offered a broad range of education, communications, and intergovernmental relations services. Its mission has been to create a forum to develop and advocate policies and programs that recognize the often complex and diverse interests of county government and to ensure that "County Government Works." To that end, CCAWW...

- Lobbies for state legislation to benefit county residents.
- Works to assure mandates from the state and federal government come with funds.
- Coordinates training opportunities for County Commissioners, providing information and resources necessary for County Commissioners to provide services for local residents.
- Promotes public awareness of the value that county government brings to its citizens.
- Serves as the hub for exchanging ideas, addressing problems, and finding solutions for county governments.

CCAWW serves as the unified voice
of West Virginia's
55 county governments.



County Commissioners' Association of West Virginia

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Local Government Starts Here...

There are 55 counties in West Virginia. Each county is governed by an elected County Commission.

County Commissioners are elected county-wide and serve six year terms.

County Commissions are required to meet at least four times a year, but all meet at least monthly and many meet weekly, to attend to the many issues of county business.

All official meetings must be held in the courthouse complex and are open to the public.

Meeting agendas are required to be posted in advance of the meeting.

Commissioners are committed to a government that is open, responsive and accountable to the citizens of whom they serve.

The key responsibilities of a County Commission include:

- Oversight of your county tax dollars. State law requires County Commissioners to establish an annual budget and to set the annual levy rate for property taxes.
- Providing & maintaining a suitable courthouse at the county seat. County Commissioners are responsible for keeping the courthouse complex in good working order.
- Funding the offices of elected officials. State law requires that County Commissioners fund the operation of the following elected officials: Prosecuting Attorney, County Clerk, County Circuit Clerk, Sheriff and County Assessor.
- Appointing members to various local boards, authorities, and public service districts. County Commissioners often find themselves serving on many of these bodies, in fulfilling their commitment to represent your interests.
- Supporting community services. These services vary depending on the county but they may include county health departments, fire and ambulance authorities, county libraries, E911 centers, solid waste management, airports and parks and recreation among others.
- Lobbying for more state funding of local programs. Many times the state requires counties to provide services but does not provide funding. County Commissioners work hard to bring more state dollars to the local level.
- Hearing concerns about individual property values so taxpayers can appeal their property tax value to the County Commission. The County Commission, sitting as the Board of Review and Equalization, can adjust the value after hearing from the taxpayer and the County Assessor.
- Supervising the election process and certifying election results. County Commissioners approve all poll workers, provide funding for elections and review election results to verify voting totals.
- Responding to your questions and concerns. County Commissioners are the "front line" of local government. They can help solve problems and give useful advice to local residents.