

County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

**Popular Annual Financial Report
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020**



**Prepared by the Office of the Controller
JAMES E. MARKEL, ACTING CONTROLLER**



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#14 Best Place to Live
 in Pennsylvania
 Hershey
 (2018- *WalletHub*)



#61 Best Places to Live
 Greater Harrisburg Area
 (April 16, 2019- *U.S. News & World Report*)



Dauphin County was founded in 1785 with a population of approximately 18,000. Now, Dauphin County’s population has grown to 286,401 residents. The County is unique in that it boasts both energetic towns and countryside farmlands. The County is perhaps best known for Pennsylvania’s capital city, Harrisburg, and “The Sweetest Place on Earth ®,” Hershey. Dauphin County has much to offer residents and tourists alike.

Photo Credit: The cover image features the historic Fort Hunter Mansion and is courtesy of the Hershey Harrisburg Regional

Visitors Bureau. The photos on pages 1 & 7 are courtesy of the Hershey Harrisburg Regional Visitors Bureau.

A Message from the Controller

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the 5th annual Dauphin County Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR). The PAFR is an informative overview of Dauphin County's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and is intended to allow the reader to easily understand the financial changes and financial position of Dauphin County. The PAFR includes demographic, economic, and statistical information about Dauphin County, and highlights why Dauphin County is a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Dauphin County is a third-class county located in south central Pennsylvania, approximately 100 miles west of Philadelphia and 200 miles east of Pittsburgh. The County was founded in 1785 by John Harris, Jr. who named it "Dauphin" to honor the eldest son (Louis Joseph, Dauphin of France) of the King of France, King Louis XVI, after France came to the aid of the American colonies during the American Revolution. Today, Dauphin County covers 525 square miles and is home to over 286,000 residents in forty (40) municipalities, including the state capital, Harrisburg. Dauphin County ranks 44th and 14th, respectively, in total area and population among counties within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Dauphin County is also a popular tourist destination with attractions such as the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex & Expo Center, National Civil War Museum, Hershey Park and Hershey's Chocolate World, City Island, Indian Echo Caverns, Hollywood Casino at Penn National Racecourse, ZooAmerica, Lake Tobias Wildlife Park, the Appalachian Trail, and numerous breweries and vineyards. Education is valued in Dauphin County, with forty-six colleges and thirty-nine universities located within fifty miles. Seven colleges and universities, including Dixon University Center, Harrisburg Area Community College, Harrisburg University of Science and Technology, Penn State Harrisburg, Temple University Harrisburg, Widener University School of Law, and Penn State College of Medicine, are located within the County. The top industries in Dauphin County are health care, social services, retail, accommodation, food services, and public administration. All of this is what makes Dauphin County a great place to live, work, and enjoy free time. Our hope is that the following pages affirm that belief.

It is a great honor to work alongside the many Dauphin County employees who are doing the good work of the people with professionalism and integrity. I would like to thank the staff in the Controller's office who continue to work for the citizens of Dauphin County by fulfilling the responsibilities of the Controllers Office and improving the services we provide. My hope is that you find this report interesting, helpful, and informative.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James E. Markel". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

James E. Markel

Dauphin County Acting Controller

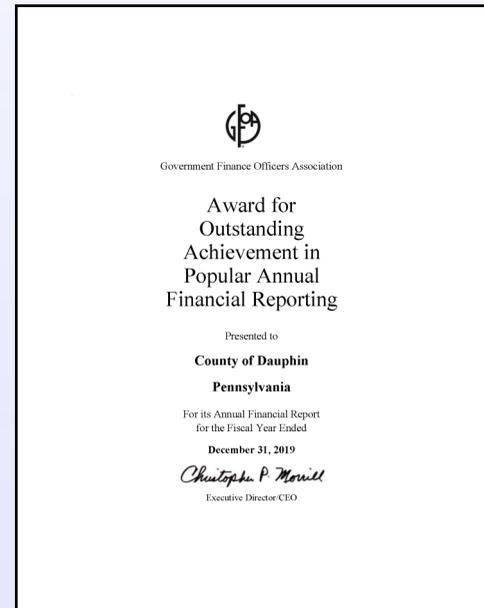
Awards

Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR)

Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to Dauphin County, Pennsylvania for its Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2019. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.

In order to receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report, whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability, and reader appeal.

An Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is valid for a period of one year only. Dauphin County, Pennsylvania has received a Popular Award for the last four consecutive years (fiscal years ended 2016-2019). We believe our current report continues to conform to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA to determine its eligibility for another Award.



Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)

Dauphin County's Annual Comprehensive Annual Report (ACFR) for the years ended 2018-2019, from which the information of pages 9-11 has been drawn, were awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition for excellence in state and local government financial reporting.

In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government unit must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized ACFR, whose contents conform to program standards. Such a ACFR must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of one year only. We believe that our current ACFR continues to conform to the Certificate of Achievement Program's requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA to determine its eligibility for another Certificate.

Meet our Elected Officials*

Board of Commissioners



Jeff Haste
Chairman



Mike Pries
Vice Chairman



George P. Hartwick III
Secretary

Row Officers



Dale Klein
Clerk of Courts



Graham Hetrick
Coroner



James Zugay
Recorder of Deeds



Jean Marfizo King
Register of Wills &
Clerk of Orphans' Court



Francis T. Chardo
District Attorney



Matt Krupp
Prothonotary



Nicholas Chimienti, Jr.
Sheriff



Janis Creason
Treasurer



Timothy L. DeFoor
Controller

*As of December 31, 2020

Dauphin County at Work

2020 County Government Performance



1,899
*Seniors Served
through Farmer's
Market Program*



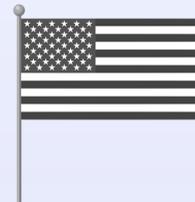
1,364
*Veteran Discount
Cards Issued
to date*



85
*First-Time
Homebuyer Loans*



1,378
*Marriage Licenses
Issued*



15,236
*Dog Licenses
Issued*



13,987
*Doe Licenses
Issued*



140
Adoptions Filed



217,671
*Total Police
Dispatch Events*



11,467
*Total Fire
Dispatch Events*



51,587
*Total Medical
Dispatch Events*

See Fraud, Waste or Abuse?



Report it.

717-780-6888

Did you know?

The Treasurer's Office has helped reunite dozens of dogs with their owners through its licensing program.

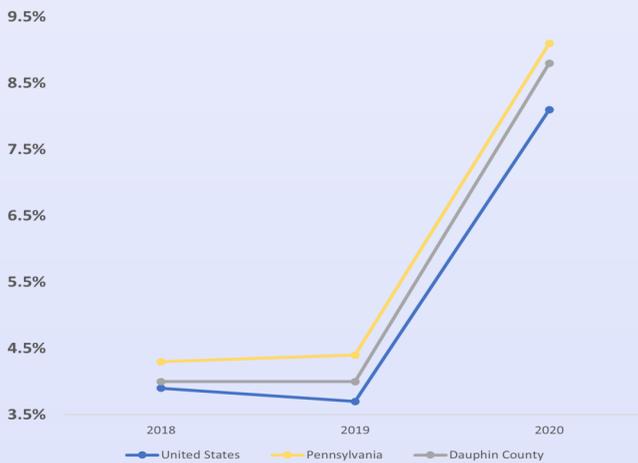
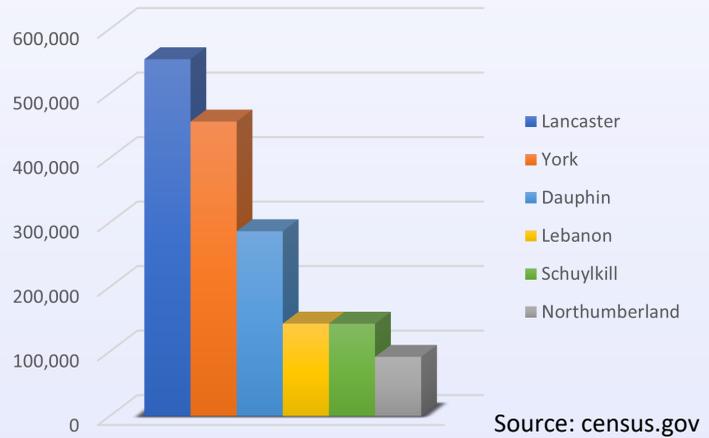


Janis Creason

License your dog today!
www.padoglicense.com

Dauphin County at a Glance

Population: The graph to the right shows the population in Dauphin County as well as some of Dauphin County's adjacent counties for the year 2020. The population of Dauphin County was 286,401 when last recorded and has grown 6.8% since the 2010 census.



Employment: The chart to the left compares the unemployment rate of Dauphin County to the rates of both Pennsylvania and the United States. The unemployment rates all increased dramatically as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

#4 Best City
for New College Grads
Harrisburg
(April 29, 2019– *realtor.com*)

- Top 10 Employers**
1. State Government
 2. Milton S Hershey Medical Center
 3. Hershey Entertainment & Resorts Co.
 4. The Hershey Company
 5. UPMC Pinnacle Hospitals
 6. Federal Government
 7. United Parcel Service Inc.
 8. PHEAA
 9. Pennsylvania State University
 10. Tyco Electronics Corporation

County's Bond Rating
"AA/Stable Outlook"
Which provides better interest rates, investor appeal, and bond pricing.
As of December 31, 2020

A Safe Community
Crime Rate of 15.7
(7 points lower than U.S. Average)
(*bestplaces.net*)

Median Household Income
\$58,916
(*census.gov*)

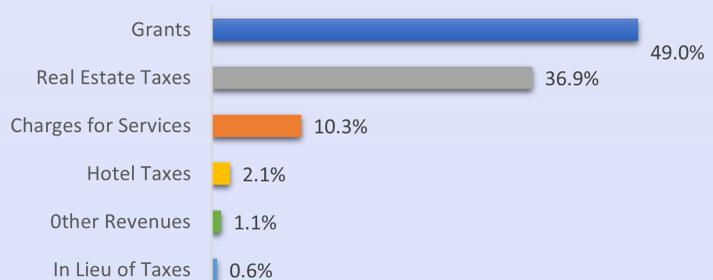
Introduction to Finances

In an effort to maximize transparency, the following information represents our county’s financial position and how our funds are allocated. We anticipate that you will gain a basic understanding of how your tax dollars are distributed and where our revenues and expenses come from. It’s critical for taxpayers to become informed on how government funds are distributed and the services that rely on their taxes. Contained within the information are various graphics, which serve to highlight the County’s current performance compared to historical data. We hope you find the following information informative and promising as a resident of Dauphin County.

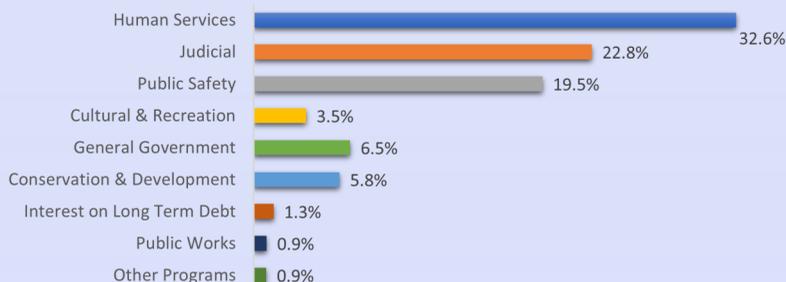
This report serves as a summary of county financial statements and information, and does not comply with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Only the financial data for the general government is included in this report. All of the County’s discretely presented component units are excluded, as well as certain statements and note disclosures required by GAAP. For complete details and notes to the financial statements, refer to the 2020 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), which can be found [online here](#).

Revenues: For the year ended December 31, 2020, the County’s revenue of 288,161,298 shows a decrease of about 8.4% from 2019. Covid-19 restricted travel and operations creating a reduction in Hotel taxes and Charges for Services.

Where the Money Comes From



Where the Money Goes to



Expenditures For the year ended December 31, 2020, the County spent \$281,834,047. The expenditures decreased by about 12.5% from 2019 due mainly to reduced services and staffing caused by the Covid-19 restrictions.

Revenue & Expenses

This statement of net activities shows the difference between the County's revenues and expenses on a full accrual basis. Accrual basis means that revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when the liability is incurred. The net position represents the difference between revenues and expenses; a positive net position is promising, illustrating a surplus.

Revenues:	2018	2019	2020
Charges for Services	\$ 121,973,455	\$ 71,860,662	\$ 29,671,364
Grants	128,207,236	117,799,755	141,170,793
Real Estate Taxes	103,088,831	105,637,703	106,236,115
Hotel Taxes	12,077,750	12,562,023	6,101,215
In Lieu of Taxes	2,225,269	2,198,474	1,808,584
Other Revenues	5,628,204	4,458,346	3,173,227
Total Revenues	\$ 373,200,745	314,516,963	288,161,298
Expenses:			
General Government	\$ 16,935,084	\$ 16,700,619	\$ 18,356,530
Judicial	66,653,315	71,356,859	64,336,493
Public Safety	50,692,732	58,083,978	54,948,981
Public Works	3,069,821	2,760,870	2,473,421
Human Services	196,770,582	137,773,178	91,779,149
Cultural & Recreation	16,789,417	18,492,470	9,971,883
Conservation & Development	12,988,612	11,473,611	16,350,192
Interest on Long Term Debt	3,185,232	3,043,211	3,801,099
Bond Issuance Costs	0	185,000	0
Other Programs	913,588	2,268,189	2,419,754
Total Expenditures	\$ 367,998,383	322,137,985	281,834,047
Change in Net Position:	\$ 5,202,362	(7,621,022)	6,327,251
Net Position at beginning of year	42,863,069*	48,065,431	40,692,552*
Net Position—Ending	48,065,431	40,444,409	47,019,803

See Page 20 of the Dauphin County ACFR YE 2020 for the Condensed Statement of Activities * Restated from prior year report

Statement of Net Position

This summary represents the County’s financial position by taking the total resources at year-end versus the amount owed at year-end. It includes both governmental and business-type activities. These amounts are recorded on a full accrual basis (see page 9 for explanation).

	2019	2020	Change %
Assets:			
Capital Assets	\$ 106,943,073	\$ 118,781,146	11.1
Current and other assets	126,153,886	148,243,867	17.5
Total Assets	233,096,959	267,025,013	14.6
Deferred Outflows of Resources:			
Total Deferred Outflow of Resources	23,947,696	26,562,612	10.9
Liabilities:			
Long-Term Liabilities	170,720,983	189,302,412	10.9
Other Liabilities	31,141,531	33,527,541	7.7
Total Liabilities	201,862,514	222,829,953	10.4
Deferred Inflows of Resources:			
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	14,737,732	23,737,869	61.1
Net Position:			
Net Investment in Capital Assets	42,515,802	59,244,625	39.3
Restricted	32,079,214	43,124,501	34.4
Unrestricted	(34,150,607)	(55,349,323)	62.1
Total Net Position	\$ 40,444,409	\$ 47,019,803	16.3

See Page 19 of the Dauphin County ACFR YE 2020 for the Condensed Statement of Net Position

County’s 5-Year Net Position

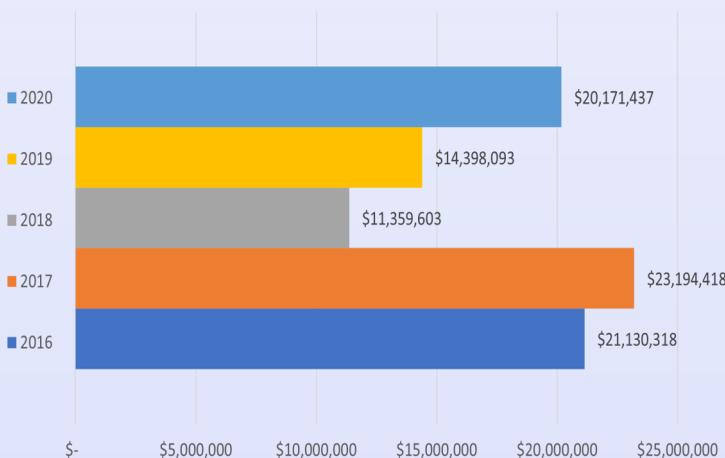
The County’s net position increase was primarily due to a reduction in expenses for 2020 caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Non-essential departments made a concerted effort to reduce spending in anticipation of lower realized revenues. Please see the previous page for a comparison of Revenue and Expenses.



County Funding

DEBT OBLIGATIONS

Counties utilize bonds to borrow money that they are obligated to pay back in the future. The illustration on the right shows the County's overall debt obligations for the past five years.



Unassigned General Fund Balance

The illustration on the left represents the County's Unassigned General Fund balance. These funds are available for any purpose. In 2020, the balance ended at \$20,171,437, increasing 40% from the previous year.

Library: 1¢ Municipal: 15¢ County: 21¢ Local School Districts: 63¢



Above: Chart illustrates an average distribution of property tax dollars to county and municipal services

General Fund Expenditures

Function	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	Savings/(Over)
General Government	\$19,520,581	\$15,404,930	\$4,115,651
Judicial	63,676,653	54,157,291	9,519,362
Public Safety	45,996,079	42,453,105	3,542,974
Human Service	5,108,559	4,142,126	966,433
Culture & Recreation	2,441,241	2,009,740	431,501
Conservation & Development	5,241,121	5,182,831	58,290
Other Financing Departments	18,235,387	60,356,313*	(42,120,926)

See Pages 181-188 of the Dauphin County ACFR YE 2020 for the Schedule of Departmental Expenditures

* Includes \$30,000,000 of bond proceeds transferred to the Capital Projects fund

Departments by Function**

General

- Budget & Finance
- Commissioners
- Controller
- Data Processing (IT)
- Facilities Maintenance
- Gasoline Center
- Personnel (HR)
- Public Defenders
- Purchasing
- Recorder of Deeds
- Solicitors
- Tax Assessment
- Tax Collectors
- Treasurer
- Veterans' Affairs
- Voter Registration

Public Safety

- Emergency Services
- Prison

Culture & Recreation

- Parks

Conservation & Dev.

- Conservation Programs
- Cooperative Extension
- Economic Development

Human Service/Other

- Children & Youth
- Drug and Alcohol
- EMA Communications
- Mental Health (MH/ID)
- Solid Waste

Judicial

- Adult Probation
- C.I.D. (Detectives)
- Clerk of Courts
- Coroner
- Cost & Fines
- Court
- Court Reporters
- District Attorney
- District Justices
- Judicial Center
- Juvenile Probation
- Law Library
- Night Court
- Pretrial
- Prothonotary
- Register of Wills
- Sheriff
- Victim Witness

**This list is illustrative only, and not all inclusive.

Entertainment, Tourism & Arts

Gamut Theater

Gamut® Theatre is the combined company of Popcorn Hat Players Children's Theatre and Harrisburg Shakespeare Company. Each year Gamut presents approximately 250 performances to 30,000 people. Moreover, 20,000 students per year enjoy their theatre school classes, workshops, and shows.



Chocolate World

See, smell, touch, do, and, of course, taste all the excitement at Hershey's Chocolate World. Admission and the Hershey's Chocolate Tour are free for all guests. Other activities include Create a Candy Bar, 4D Chocolate Movie, and Hershey's Unwrapped. Chocolate World offers multiple food and bakery options and a huge candy and merchandise store.

National Civil War Museum

The Museum incorporates collections of artifacts, manuscripts, documents, photographs, and other printed matter that exceed 24,000 items. The Museum portrays the struggle as a timeline, from the issues straining the nation through the war's conclusion at Appomattox Court House. Nowhere can you find a better understanding of the Civil War.



Entertainment, Tourism & Arts



Lake Tobias Wildlife Park

The park focuses on providing fun family activities and animal-themed attractions for residents and central Pennsylvania visitors to enjoy. The park features an open-air safari, petting zoo, and hundreds of animals to see at exhibits throughout the park. One of the newest attractions features giraffes that visitors can hand-feed.

Ned Smith Center

The Ned Smith Center for Nature & Art was founded in 1993 and features twelve miles of trails and offers public hunting on a portion of its 500 acres. The Ned Smith Center already plays an active role in education about nature, art, and conservation through a year-long series of lectures, field trips, seminars, and other special events.



Fort Hunter Day

Once a year we close Front Street and get a sense of the area before automobiles. This annual autumn festival features tons of activities for the kids. Children's crafts and games, pony, hay and carriage rides, live music, a terrific craft show, food, and quilt displays are only a part of this free event!



Parks & Recreation

*View from
Fort Hunter Park*

**Need a quiet walk in the woods?
Visit 7 miles of trails in Detweiler Park.**



Tavern House, Fort Hunter

**Planning a family reunion?
Rent one of our pavilions.**



*Sunset Movie Series
Fort Hunter Park*

Looking for an outdoor movie experience? Join us at the Sunset Movie Series.

The Year in Review

Highlights

No Tax Increase for 16 Consecutive Years

The Dauphin County Commissioners approved a \$260 million budget for 2021, which marks the 16th consecutive year with no tax increase. A \$16,106,097 drawdown on fund balance was necessary to cover the initial expenditure budget. There were no new positions requested by any County department for the 2021 budget. The approved 2021 budget was \$5.4 million or 2.11% greater than the 2020 budget.

Challenges

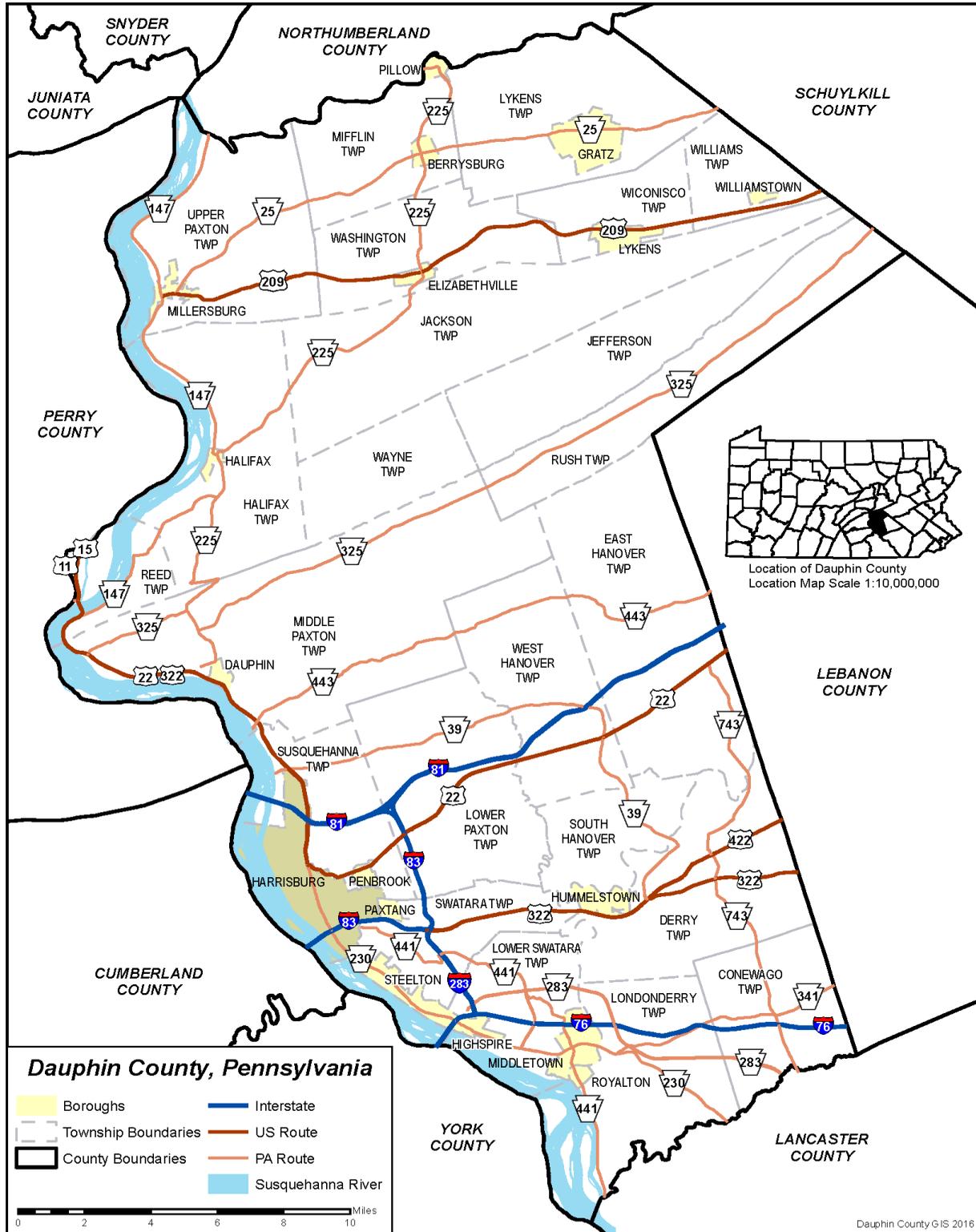
Covid-19 Health Crisis

As the world experienced the global health crisis of Covid-19 throughout the year 2020, Dauphin County had to meet special challenges that faced local governments across the country. Recognizing that the pandemic put many Dauphin County citizens into a financial crisis as well, the Dauphin County Commissioners allowed residents to pay county real estate taxes without penalty through the end of the year. Dauphin County also worked to protect county workers and residents by enacting safety guidelines throughout the pandemic to ensure county services were available to residents when they were needed most.

State Mandate for New Voting Machines

In 2020, the County successfully deployed new state-mandated voting machines for the presidential election. In April 2018, the Pennsylvania Department Of State mandated that all counties must have voter-verifiable paper record voting systems no later than December 31, 2019. In October 2019, Governor Wolf signed Act 77, authorizing a \$90 million bond to help counties fund the purchase of the new voting systems. The County; however, did not receive any funds from the Commonwealth resulting in an unexpected and significant burden on the taxpayers of Dauphin County in the amount of approximately \$2.1 million. The County's Elections Bureau took on the challenge, meeting with vendors, taking public comments on potential solutions, and then implementing the chosen system throughout the County's 159 precincts. In January 2020, the County utilized the new voting machines for a special election ahead of the primary and general elections later that year.

Map of Dauphin County







Dauphin County Courthouse

101 Market Street, Room 106

Harrisburg, PA 17101

717-780-6570

Dauphin County's Veteran ID Discount Card Program



Memorial Day Services, Fort Indiantown Gap

Recorder of Deeds Jim Zugay offers a reward program for those who have bravely served our country. This Veteran ID discount card program offers veterans discounts on local business products and services. To obtain a Dauphin County Veteran ID Discount Card, please visit the Dauphin County Recorder of Deeds Office or one of the veterans' events held throughout the County.

Please bring your DD-214, as well as an official ID, such as a driver's license. We will record the discharge papers, take a photo, and provide you with an ID card immediately. This card will enable you to receive special discounts at local businesses.



Veterans: Scan this QR Code with your phone for additional information about the program and a complete list of participating businesses!

