

Local Government

Townships, Boroughs, Municipalities, Cities – PA has a variety of types of local classifications.

<https://whyy.org/articles/explainer-cities-boroughs-and-townships-oh-my-pa-municipalities-clarified/>

Elected Officials

Individuals who reside in the Township, Borough or County and are elected by local residents. They can be supported by staff members that may include Township/Borough Manager, Engineer, Solicitor and administrative staff. Only elected officials have voting authority.

Decisions made by elected officials are legally binding.

Planning Commission

Members of the Planning Commission are appointed to their positions by the elected officials. The primary role for a local planning commission is to help provide guidance to elected officials on land use, planning and community development.

Decisions made by Planning Commission members are recommendations, only.

Zoning Hearing Board

The Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB) is a quasi-judicial body comprised of local residents – with three regular members and one alternate. The primary role of the Zoning Hearing Board is to consider and rule on variances from the terms of the Zoning Ordinance, as permitted by the Municipalities Planning Code.

Decisions by the ZHB are legally binding.

All governmental officials, elected or appointed, are charged with upholding the following:

PA Municipalities Planning Code: <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/LI/US/HTM/1968/0/0247..HTM>

PA Constitution, particularly Article I, Section 27, Environmental Rights Amendment:
<http://www.pabar.org/public/education/constitution/PADeclarationOfRights.pdf>

Township/Borough codes and ordinances.

US Constitution: <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution-transcript>