



West Whiteland is a welcoming community where people of all backgrounds enjoy living, businesses of all sizes expect to thrive, and the best township employees want to work.

MISSION: TO PROVIDE OUR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES WITH HIGH-QUALITY, COST-EFFECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES THAT PROMOTE SAFETY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Local Government in Pennsylvania

There are thousands of municipalities in Pa., so what exactly are they and how do they differ?

All Pennsylvanians live in a municipality. Municipality is the catchall phrase for political subdivision units which follow codified laws defining their form of government and outlining their duties. A municipality may be a city, borough, incorporated town or township, but, the municipality designation does not apply to school districts or authorities.

All Pennsylvanians live in a county too. Counties and municipalities may have overlapping jurisdictions, but they have different powers, functions and responsibilities that are generally *only those powers* granted by the state. Additionally, their classifications will vary depending on their form of government.

For example, if you are standing in the West Whiteland Township Administration Building, you are standing in the County of Chester, a county of

snapshot

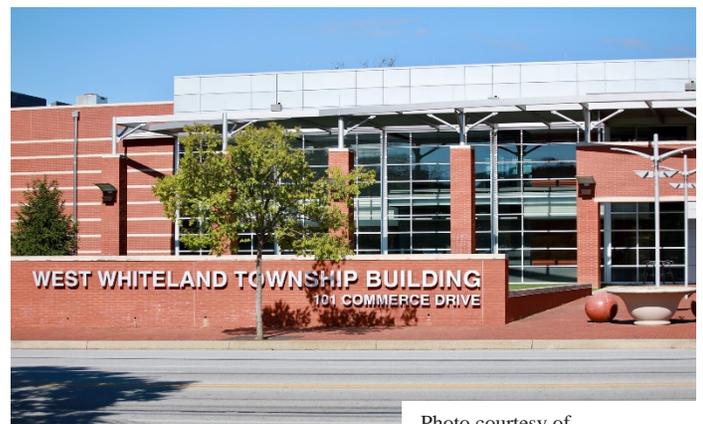


Photo courtesy of
Rebekah Ulmer Photography

the third class, in the Township of West Whiteland, which is a second-class township.

Additionally, you would be standing in the West Chester Area School District which has its own taxing authority distinct from both the Township and the County.

Okay, but why are we “second class?”

Don't worry, the “class” of a municipality is not a description of worth, but it's a designation based on population, as determined by the decennial census. Townships are second class by default but can offer residents the chance to vote the township into first class status if the population exceeds 300 people per square mile.

- **1st Class Township: elected board of commissioners (5-15)**
- **2nd Class Township: elected board of supervisors (3 or 5)**

Generally, each class of municipality operates under its own code of laws. In our case, that's the Second-Class Township Code.

FORM OF GOVERNMENT

The two classes of township can have different numbers of elected officials with staggered terms, and first-class townships can elect commissioners by wards rather than at-large. Townships of both the 1st and 2nd class function under their respective Township Code enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. West Whiteland, like most townships operates under a Board/Manager form of government where supervisors set the policy and the manager acts as the executive running the day to day operations and implementing the board's policies.

West Whiteland has a board of three elected supervisors with six-year terms. Each term ends on a first Monday in January.

- o Beth Jones (appointed to fill vacancy) appointment and term expires 1/6/2020
- o Michele Moll (appointed to fill vacancy, appointment expires 1/6/2020); following special election to fill vacancy, term expires 1/3/2022
- o Theresa Santalucia, term expires 1/2/2024

Commissions:

Commissions are composed of volunteers appointed by the elected officials (i.e. commissioners/supervisors) to fill the responsibilities spelled out in the ordinances or resolutions of the township. Members of commissions function in an oversight role for the township and provide public forums for residents to express their concerns and interests, which West Whiteland Township operates considered when the volunteer commission with the help of the following



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volunteer boards and commissions:

- Historical Commission
- Pension Advisory Board
- Planning Commission
- Public Services Commission
- Zoning Hearing Board

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West Whiteland Township's Goals:

**Continually improve West
Whiteland's quality of place**

**Promote Exton Crossroads
as a preferred business
location**

**Effectively administer
Township business
operations**



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- Run for office

SERVICES PROVIDED BY WEST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP:

- **Police**
- **Maintenance of local streets**
- **Sewer system**
- **Parks and recreation**
- **Planning and zoning**
- **Trash and recycling collection (residential)**
- **Code enforcement/building permits**



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West Whiteland also contributes funding to the West Whiteland Fire Co.