

# Pennsylvania

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This article is about the U.S. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. For other uses, see [Pennsylvania \(disambiguation\)](#).

## Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



[Flag](#)



[Seal](#)

***Nickname(s):** Keystone State; Quaker State; Coal State; Oil State; State of Independence*

***Motto(s):** Virtue, Liberty and Independence*



**[Official language\(s\)](#)** None ([English](#), *de facto*)

**[Spoken language\(s\)](#)** [English](#) 90.7%

[Spanish](#) 3.1% <sup>[1]</sup>

[Pennsylvania Dutch](#)

**[Demonym](#)** Pennsylvanian

**[Capital](#)** [Harrisburg](#)

**[Largest city](#)** [Philadelphia](#)

**Largest [metro area](#)** [Delaware Valley](#)

**[Area](#)** [Ranked 33rd in the US](#)

- Total 46,055 sq mi  
(119,283 km<sup>2</sup>)

- Width 280 miles (455 km)

- Length 160 miles (255 km)

- % water	2.7
- Latitude	39°43′ N to <a href="#">42°16′ N</a>
- Longitude	74°41′ W to 80°31′ W
<b><u>Population</u></b>	<a href="#">Ranked 6th in the US</a>
- Total	12,604,767 (2009 est.) <sup>[2]</sup>
- <u>Density</u>	274.02/sq mi (105.80/km <sup>2</sup> ) <a href="#">Ranked 10th in the US</a>
- <u>Median income</u>	US\$48,562 (26th)

#### **Elevation**

- Highest point	<a href="#">Mount Davis</a> <sup>[3]</sup> 3,213 ft (979 m)
- Mean	1,099 ft (335 m)
- Lowest point	<a href="#">Delaware River</a> <sup>[3]</sup> 0 ft (0 m)

**Before statehood** [Province of Pennsylvania](#)

**Admission to Union** December 12, 1787 (2nd)

**Governor** [Edward G. Rendell](#) (D)

**Lieutenant Governor** [Joseph B. Scarnati III](#) (R)

**Legislature** [General Assembly](#)

- <u>Upper house</u>	<a href="#">State Senate</a>
- <u>Lower house</u>	<a href="#">House of Representatives</a>

**U.S. Senators** [Arlen Specter](#) (D)  
[Bob Casey, Jr.](#) (D)

**U.S. House delegation** 12 Democrats, 7 Republicans ([list](#))

**Time zone** [Eastern](#): UTC-5/-4

**Abbreviations** [PA Penn. or Penna.](#) [US-PA](#)

**Website** <http://www.pa.gov>

The **Commonwealth of Pennsylvania** ( <sup>ⓘ</sup>  <sup>ⓘ</sup>  <sup>ⓘ</sup>  <sup>ⓘ</sup> [/ˌpɛnsɪlˈveɪnjə/](#)) is a [U.S. Commonwealth](#) located in the [Northeastern](#) and [Middle Atlantic](#) regions of the [United States](#). The state borders [Delaware](#) and [Maryland](#) to the south, [West Virginia](#) to the southwest, [Ohio](#) to the west, [New York](#) and [Ontario, Canada](#), to the north, and [New Jersey](#) to the east. The state's four most populous cities are [Philadelphia](#), [Pittsburgh](#), [Allentown](#), and [Erie](#). The state capital is [Harrisburg](#).

Pennsylvania has 51 miles (82 km)<sup>[4]</sup> of coastline along [Lake Erie](#) and 57 miles (92 km)<sup>[5]</sup> of shoreline along the [Delaware](#) Estuary.

# Geography

Further information: [Geography of Pennsylvania](#) and [List of Pennsylvania counties](#)



## [Counties of Pennsylvania](#)



Map of Pennsylvania, showing major cities and roads

Pennsylvania is 170 miles (274 km) north to south and 283 miles (455 km) east to west.<sup>[6]</sup> Of a total 46,055 square miles (119,282 km<sup>2</sup>), 44,817 square miles (116,075 km<sup>2</sup>) are land, 490 square miles (1,269 km<sup>2</sup>) are inland waters, and 749 square miles (1,940 km<sup>2</sup>) are waters in Lake Erie.<sup>[7]</sup> It is the [33rd largest state](#) in the United States.<sup>[8]</sup>

The bounds of the state are the [Mason-Dixon Line](#) (39° 43' N) to the south, the [Delaware River](#) to the east, 80° 31' W to the west, and the [42° N](#) to the north, with the exception of a short segment on the western end, where a triangle extends north to Lake Erie. Pennsylvania borders six other states: [New York](#) to the north; [New Jersey](#) to the east; [Delaware](#) and [Maryland](#) to the southeast; [West Virginia](#) to the southwest, and [Ohio](#) to the west. Pennsylvania also shares a water border with [Canada](#).

It has the cities of Philadelphia, York, [Reading](#) and [Lancaster](#) in the southeast, [Pittsburgh](#) in the southwest, the tri-cities of [Allentown](#), [Bethlehem](#), and [Easton](#) in the central east (known as the [Lehigh Valley](#)), the tri-cities of [Scranton](#), [Wilkes-Barre](#), and [Hazleton](#) in the northeast, and [Erie](#) in the northwest, [Williamsport](#) serves as the "hub" of the commonwealth's north-central region, with state capital [Harrisburg](#) on the Susquehanna River in the central region of the commonwealth.

## History

Main article: [History of Pennsylvania](#)

See also: [Province of Pennsylvania](#)



[John Dickinson](#)

Before the Commonwealth was settled by [Europeans](#), the area was home to the [Delaware](#) (also known as Lenni Lenape), [Susquehannock](#), [Iroquois](#), [Eriez](#), [Shawnee](#), and other [American Indian Nations](#).<sup>[9]</sup> Both the [Dutch](#) and the [English](#) claimed both sides of the Delaware River as part of their colonial lands in America.<sup>[10][11][12]</sup> The Dutch were the first to take possession, and this has impact on the history of Pennsylvania.<sup>[13]</sup> By June 3, 1631, the Dutch had started up the DelMarVa Peninsula by establishing the [Zwaanendael Colony](#) on the site of present day [Lewes, Delaware](#).<sup>[14]</sup> In 1638, [Sweden](#) heated up the issue by establishing the [New Sweden Colony](#), centered on [Fort Christina](#), on the site of present day [Wilmington, Delaware](#). New Sweden claimed and, for the most part, controlled the lower Delaware River region (Parts of present Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania), but settled few colonists there.<sup>[15][16]</sup>

On March 12, 1664, [King Charles II of England](#) gave [James, Duke of York](#) a Grant that included all of the lands included in the original Virginia Company of Plymouth Grant as well as other

lands. This grant was – again – in conflict with the Dutch claim for [New Netherland](#), which included parts of today's Pennsylvania.<sup>[17]</sup>

On June 24, 1664, The Duke of York sold the portion of his large grant that included present day [New Jersey](#) to [John Berkeley](#) and [George Carteret](#) for a proprietary colony. As of yet, the land was not in English possession, but the sale boxed in the portion of [New Netherland](#) on the West side of the [Delaware River](#). The English conquest of [New Netherland](#) was commenced on August 29, 1664, when [New Amsterdam](#) was coerced to surrender facing the cannons on English ships in New York Harbor.<sup>[18][19]</sup> This conquest continued, and was completed in October of 1664, when the English captured [Fort Casimir](#) in what today is [New Castle, Delaware](#).

The Peace of Breda between [England](#), [France](#) and [the Netherlands](#) confirmed the English conquest on July 21, 1667,<sup>[20][21]</sup> although there were temporary reversions.

On September 12, 1672, as part of the Third Anglo—Dutch War, the [Dutch](#) re-conquered [New York Colony/New Amsterdam](#), the Dutch established three County Courts which went on to become original Counties in present day [Delaware](#) and Pennsylvania. The one that later transferred to Pennsylvania was Upland.<sup>[22]</sup> This was partially reversed on February 9, 1674, when the [Treaty of Westminster](#) ended the Third Anglo-Dutch War, and reverted all political situations to the *Status Quo Ante Bellum*. The English retained the Dutch Counties with their Dutch names.<sup>[23]</sup> By June 11, 1674, [New York](#) reasserted control over the outlying colonies, including Upland, but the names started to be changed to English names by November 11, 1674.<sup>[24]</sup> Upland was partitioned on November 12, 1674, producing the general outline of the current border between Pennsylvania and Delaware.<sup>[25]</sup>

On February 28, 1681, [Charles II](#) granted a land charter<sup>[26]</sup> to [William Penn](#) to repay a debt of £16,000<sup>[27]</sup> (around £2,100,000 in 2008, adjusting for retail inflation)<sup>[28]</sup> owed to William's father, [Admiral Penn](#). This was one of the largest land grants to an individual in history.<sup>[29]</sup> It was called Pennsylvania, meaning "Penn's Woods", in honor of Admiral Penn. William Penn, who had wanted his province to be named "Sylvania", was embarrassed at the change, fearing that people would think he had named it after himself, but King Charles would not rename the grant. Penn established a government with two innovations that were much copied in the New World: the county commission and freedom of religious conviction.<sup>[29]</sup>

What had been Upland on what became the Pennsylvania side of the Pennsylvania-[Delaware](#) Border was renamed as [Chester County](#) when Pennsylvania instituted their colonial governments on March 4, 1681.<sup>[30][31]</sup>

Between 1730 and when it was shut down by Parliament with the Currency Act of 1764, the Pennsylvania Colony made its own paper money to account for the shortage of actual gold and silver. The paper money was called [Colonial Scrip](#). The Colony issued "bills of credit", which were as good as gold or silver coins because of their legal tender status. Since they were issued by the government and not a banking institution, it was an interest-free proposition, largely defraying the expense of the government and therefore taxation of the people. It also

promoted general employment and prosperity, since the Government used discretion and did not issue too much to inflate the currency. [Benjamin Franklin](#) had a hand in creating this currency, of which he said its utility was never to be disputed, and it also met with the "cautious approval" of [Adam Smith](#).<sup>[32]</sup>



[President's House, Philadelphia](#). The Masters-Penn mansion housed Pennsylvania's governor in the early 1770s. It later served as the presidential mansion of George Washington and John Adams, 1790-1800, while Philadelphia was the temporary national capital.

After the [Stamp Act Congress](#) of 1765, Delegate [John Dickinson](#) of [Philadelphia, Pennsylvania](#), wrote the *Declaration of Rights and Grievances*. The Congress was the first meeting of the [thirteen colonies](#), called at the request of the [Massachusetts](#) Assembly, but only nine colonies sent delegates.<sup>[33]</sup> Dickinson then wrote *Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania, To the Inhabitants of the British Colonies*, which were published in the *Pennsylvania Chronicle* between December 2, 1767, and February 15, 1768.<sup>[34]</sup>

When the [Founding Fathers of the United States](#) convened in Philadelphia in 1774, 12 colonies sent representatives to the [First Continental Congress](#).<sup>[35]</sup> The [Second Continental Congress](#), which also met in Philadelphia (in May, 1775), drew up and signed the [Declaration of Independence](#) in Philadelphia,<sup>[36]</sup> but when that city was captured by the British, the Continental Congress escaped westward, meeting at the [Lancaster](#) courthouse on Saturday, September 27, 1777, and then to [York](#). There they drew up the [Articles of Confederation](#) that formed 13 independent colonies into a new nation. Later, the [Constitution](#) was written, and Philadelphia was once again chosen to be cradle to the new American Nation.<sup>[37]</sup>

Pennsylvania became the second state to ratify the [U.S. Constitution](#) on December 12, 1787,<sup>[38]</sup> five days after [Delaware](#) became the first.

[Dickinson College](#) of [Carlisle](#) was the first college founded in the United States. Established in 1773, the college was ratified five days after the [Treaty of Paris](#) on September 9, 1783. The school was founded by [Benjamin Rush](#) and named after John Dickinson.



The "Redbrick Capitol", used from 1821 until it burned down in 1897

For half a century, the Commonwealth's legislature met at various places in the general Philadelphia area before starting to meet regularly in Independence Hall in Philadelphia for 63 years.<sup>[39]</sup> But it needed a more central location, as for example the [Paxton Boys](#) massacres of 1763 had made the legislature aware. So, in 1799 the legislature moved to the [Lancaster Courthouse](#),<sup>[39]</sup> and finally in 1812 to [Harrisburg](#).<sup>[39]</sup> The legislature met in the old [Dauphin County](#) Court House until December 1821,<sup>[39]</sup> when the *Redbrick Capitol* was finished. It burned down in 1897, presumably because of a faulty [flue](#).<sup>[39]</sup> The legislature met at Grace Methodist Church on State Street (still standing) until the present capitol was finished in 1907.<sup>[39]</sup>

The [new state Capitol](#) drew rave reviews.<sup>[39]</sup> Its dome was inspired by the domes of [St. Peter's Basilica](#) in [Rome](#) and the United States Capitol.<sup>[39]</sup> [President Theodore Roosevelt](#) called it "the most beautiful state Capitol in the nation" and said, "It's the handsomest building I ever saw" at the dedication. In 1989, the [New York Times](#) praised it as "grand, even awesome at moments, but it is also a working building, accessible to citizens ... a building that connects with the reality of daily life".<sup>[39]</sup>

Pennsylvania accounts for nine percent of all wooded areas in the United States. In 1923 President [Calvin Coolidge](#) established the [Allegheny National Forest](#) under the authority of the [Weeks Act](#) of 1911 in the northwest part of the state in Elk, Forest, McKean, and Warren Counties for the purposes of timber production and watershed protection in the [Allegheny River](#) basin. The Allegheny is the state's only national forest.

[James Buchanan](#), of [Franklin County](#), was the only [bachelor President of the United States](#)<sup>[40]</sup> and the only one to be born in Pennsylvania. The [Battle of Gettysburg](#)—the major turning point of the Civil War—took place near [Gettysburg](#).<sup>[41]</sup> An estimated 350,000 Pennsylvanians served in the [Union Army](#) forces along with 8,600 [African American military volunteers](#).

Pennsylvania was also the home of the first commercially drilled oil well. In 1859, near [Titusville, Pennsylvania](#), [Edwin L. Drake](#) successfully drilled the well, which led to the first major oil boom in United States history.

See also: [List of Pennsylvania firsts](#) and [List of people from Pennsylvania](#)







While Pennsylvania has a very numerous [Amish](#) population, [Holmes County, Ohio](#) has the largest [Amish](#) population in the world.<sup>[52]</sup> While Pennsylvania owes its existence to [Quakers](#) and many of the older trappings of the Commonwealth are rooted in the teachings of the [Religious Society of Friends](#) (as they are officially known), practicing Quakers are a small minority today.

## Pennsylvania Dutch

The term "Dutch," when referring to the [Pennsylvania Dutch](#), means "German" or "Teutonic" rather than "Netherlander." Germans, in their own language, call themselves "Deutsch," which in English became, misleadingly, "Dutch."<sup>[53]</sup> The [Pennsylvania Dutch language](#) is a descendant of German, in the [West Central German](#) dialect family. Although it is still spoken as a first language among some Old Order Amish and Mennonites (principally in the Lancaster County area), the language is almost extinct as an everyday language among the non-religious, though a few words have passed into English usage.

As of January 2010, the state's unemployment rate is 8.8%.<sup>[59]</sup>

### Voter Registration and Party Enrollment as of June 28, 2010<sup>[65]</sup>

Party	Number of Voters	Percentage
 <a href="#">Democratic</a>	4,309,604	51.00%
 <a href="#">Republican</a>	3,122,036	36.95%
 Unaffiliated	492,077	5.82%
 Minor Parties	525,962	6.22%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,449,679</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Government

Main article: [Government of Pennsylvania](#)

See also: [Commonwealth \(U.S. state\)](#)

Pennsylvania has had five [constitutions](#) during its statehood:<sup>[66]</sup> 1776, 1790, 1838, 1874, and [1968](#). Prior to that, the province of Pennsylvania was governed for a century by a [Frame of Government](#), of which there were four versions: 1682, 1683, 1696, and 1701.<sup>[66]</sup> The capital of Pennsylvania is [Harrisburg](#). The legislature meets in the State Capitol there.

In recent elections, Pennsylvania has leaned [Democratic](#); however, the defeat of [Incumbent Senator Arlen Specter](#) in the Pennsylvania [Primary](#) in 2010 is seen as a possible first step of a [Republican](#) takeover—but this is only speculation. In the fall, [Joe Sestak](#) will run against [Pat Toomey](#) for Specter's senate seat.



## Governor

Main article: [Governor of Pennsylvania](#)

The current [Governor](#) is [Ed Rendell](#), a former head of the [Democratic National Committee](#) who began as a [District Attorney](#) and [mayor](#) in Philadelphia.<sup>[67]</sup> The other elected officials composing the executive branch are the [Lieutenant Governor](#) [Joseph Scarnati](#), Attorney General [Tom Corbett](#), Auditor General [Jack Wagner](#), and State Treasurer [Robert McCord](#).<sup>[68]</sup>

See also: [List of Pennsylvania state agencies](#)

## General Assembly

Main article: [Pennsylvania General Assembly](#)

Pennsylvania has a [bicameral legislature](#) set up by Commonwealth's constitution in 1790. The original Frame of Government of William Penn had a unicameral legislature.<sup>[69]</sup> The [General Assembly](#) includes 50 [Senators](#)<sup>[70]</sup> and 203 [Representatives](#).<sup>[71]</sup> [Joseph B. Scarnati III](#) is currently [President Pro Tempore](#) of the State Senate,<sup>[72]</sup> [Dominic Pileggi](#) the [Majority Leader](#),<sup>[73]</sup> and [Robert J. Mellow](#) the [Minority Leader](#).<sup>[74]</sup> [Keith R. McCall](#) is [Speaker](#) of the House of Representatives,<sup>[75]</sup> with [Todd A. Eachus](#) as Majority Leader<sup>[76]</sup> and [Samuel Smith](#) as Minority Leader.<sup>[77]</sup> As of the 2008 elections, the Democrats have a narrow majority in the state house and the Republicans retain their lead in the state senate.

## Judiciary

Main article: [Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania](#)

Pennsylvania is divided into 60 judicial districts,<sup>[78]</sup> most of which (except [Philadelphia](#)) have magisterial district judges (formerly called district justices and justices of the peace), who preside mainly over preliminary hearings in felony and misdemeanor offenses, all minor (summary) criminal offenses, and small civil claims.<sup>[78]</sup> Most criminal and civil cases originate in the Courts of Common Pleas, which also serve as [appellate courts](#) to the district judges and for local agency decisions.<sup>[78]</sup> The [Superior Court](#) hears all appeals from the Courts of Common Pleas not expressly designated to the [Commonwealth Court](#) or Supreme Court. It also has [original jurisdiction](#) to review [warrants](#) for [wiretap](#) surveillance.<sup>[78]</sup> The Commonwealth Court is limited to appeals from final orders of certain state agencies and certain designated cases from the Courts of Common Pleas.<sup>[78]</sup> The [Supreme Court of Pennsylvania](#) is the final appellate court. All judges in Pennsylvania are elected; the [chief justice](#) is determined by seniority.<sup>[78]</sup>

## Taxation

[Sales tax](#) provides 39% of Commonwealth's revenue; [personal income tax](#) 34%; motor vehicle taxes about 12%, and taxes on [cigarettes](#) and alcohol beverage 5%.<sup>[79]</sup>

Personal income tax is a flat 3.07%. An individual's taxable income is based on the following eight types of income: compensation (salary); interest; dividends; net profits from the operation of a business, profession or farm; net gains or income from the dispositions of property; net gains or income from rents, royalties, patents and copyrights; income derived through estates or trusts; and gambling and [lottery](#) winnings (other than [Pennsylvania Lottery](#) winnings).<sup>[80]</sup>

Counties, municipalities, and [school districts](#) levy taxes on real estate. In addition, some local bodies assess a [wage tax](#) on personal income. Generally, the total wage tax rate is capped at 1% of income but some municipalities with [home rule](#) charters may charge more than 1%. Thirty-two of the Commonwealth's sixty-seven counties levy a [personal property tax](#) on stocks, bonds, and similar holdings.

## Representation in the 111th Congress

Pennsylvania's two [U.S. Senators](#) in the [111th Congress](#) are [Arlen Specter](#) and [Bob Casey, Jr.](#)

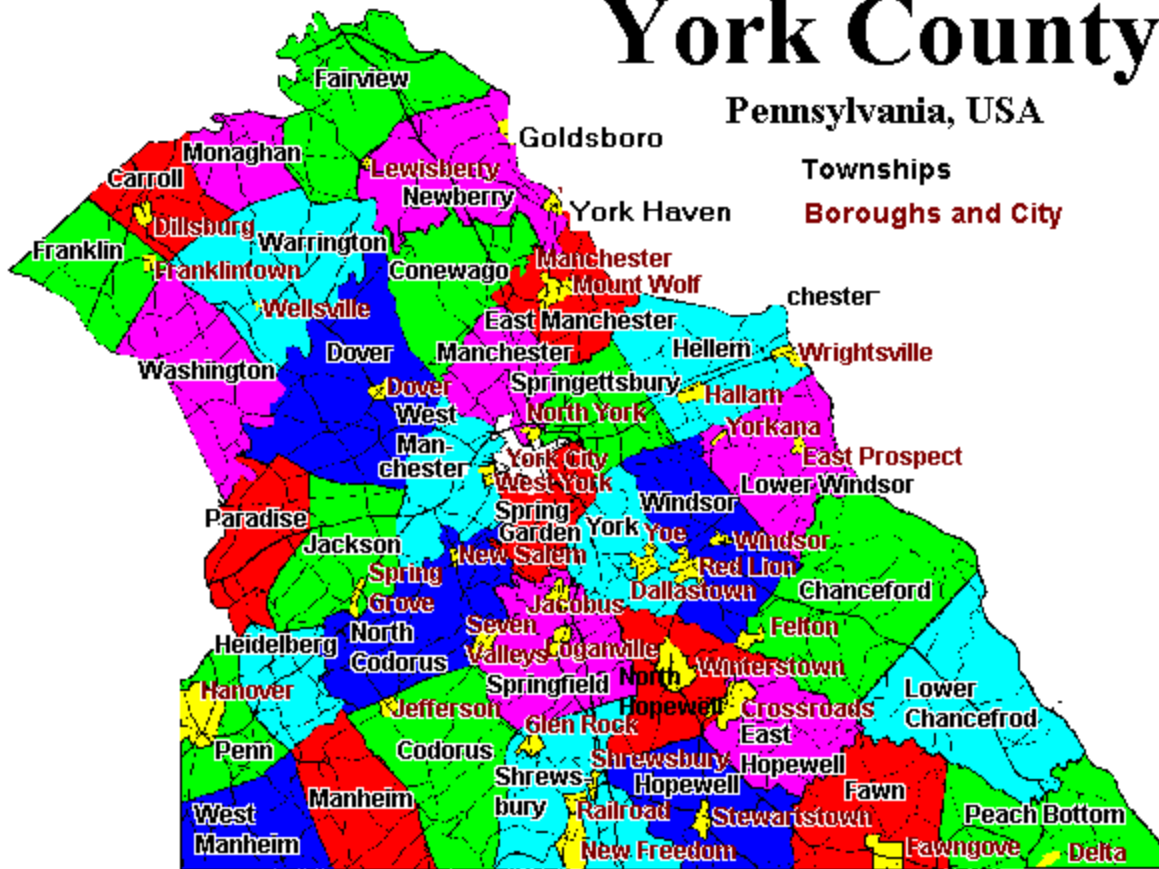
Pennsylvania's [U.S. Representatives](#) for the term beginning January 2009 are [Robert Brady \(1st\)](#), [Chaka Fattah \(2nd\)](#), [Kathy Dahlkemper \(3rd\)](#), [Jason Altmire \(4th\)](#), [Glenn "G.T." Thompson \(5th\)](#), [Jim Gerlach \(6th\)](#), [Joe Sestak \(7th\)](#), [Patrick Murphy \(8th\)](#), [Bill Shuster \(9th\)](#), [Chris Carney \(10th\)](#), [Paul E. Kanjorski \(11th\)](#), [Mark Critz \(12th\)](#), [Allyson Schwartz \(13th\)](#), [Michael F. Doyle \(14th\)](#), [Charlie Dent \(15th\)](#), [Joe Pitts \(16th\)](#), [Tim Holden \(17th\)](#), [Tim Murphy \(18th\)](#), and [Todd Russell Platts \(19th\)](#).<sup>[81]</sup>

*[See map of congressional districts](#)*

## Municipalities

# York County

Pennsylvania, USA



See also: [List of counties in Pennsylvania](#), [List of townships in Pennsylvania](#), [List of towns and boroughs in Pennsylvania](#), and [List of cities in Pennsylvania](#)

Pennsylvania is divided into 67 [counties](#).<sup>[82]</sup> Counties are further subdivided into municipalities that are either incorporated as [cities](#), [boroughs](#), or [townships](#).<sup>[83]</sup> One county, [Philadelphia County](#), is coterminous with the city of Philadelphia after it was [consolidated in 1854](#).

Boroughs are generally smaller than cities, with most Pennsylvania cities having been incorporated as a borough before being incorporated as a city.<sup>[83]</sup> There are 958 boroughs in Pennsylvania, all of which governed by the "weak mayor" form of mayor–council government.<sup>[82][83]</sup>

Townships are the third type of municipality in Pennsylvania and are classified as either first class or second class townships. There are 1,454 second class townships and 93 first class townships.<sup>[86]</sup> Second class township can become first class townships if it has a population density greater than 300 inhabitants per square mile (120 /km<sup>2</sup>) and a [referendum](#) is passed supporting the change.<sup>[86]</sup>

There is one exception to the types of municipalities in Pennsylvania: [Bloomsburg](#) was incorporated as a town in 1870 and is, officially, the only town in the state.<sup>[87]</sup> In 1975,

[McCandless Township](#) adopted a home-rule charter under the name of "Town of McCandless", but is, legally, still a first class township.<sup>[88]</sup>

### **Board of Supervisors**

Meetings are held at the Shrewsbury Township Municipal Building located at:  
12341 Susquehanna Trail South  
Glen Rock, PA 17327-9067

Chairman of the Board	Paul Solomon
Vice-Chairman	Ed Hughes
Supervisor	Susan Fox
Supervisor	Gene Montanarelli
Supervisor	Cynthia Taylor

**Planning Commision** Chairman Ralph Perrone Vice Chairman R. Jeff Rennoll  
Member David Ashton Member Shawn Classing Member Patrica Schuster Member  
Bill Webb Secretary [Jodi Grove](#) Solicitor Nicole Ehrhart Esq.

### **Zoning Hearing Board**

**Chairman:** David Kilminster

Lawrence Malone  
Henry Young

**Alternates**

Jeff Brown  
Rich Reveley

**Solicitor**

Craig Sharnetzka, Esq.  
Countess, Gilbert, Andrews

## Other Officials

**EML Codes Enforcement** CEO-E. Michael Lee **EML Codes Enforcement** Zoning Officer-E. Michael Lee **UCC Inspections** Commonwealth Codes Inspection Services Inc. **SEO** Keith Hunnings **Alternate SEO** Stephen M. McKeon, McKeon Associates. also David R. Brown **Board Solicitor** Charles A. Rausch, Blakey, Yost, Bupp & Rausch, LLP **Planning Commission Solicitor** Blakey, Yost, Bupp & Rausch, LLP **Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor** CGA Law Firm PC: Craig Scharnetzka **CPA** Kochenour, Earnest, Smyser & Burg CPA **Township Engineer** Jeffrey S. Shue, C.S. Davidson, Inc. **Alternate Engineer** Don Koser, HRG **Interim Administrator** Earl Schuckman **Secretary/Treasurer** Jean M. Greene **Municipal Secretary** Jodi Grove **Planning Commission Secretary** Jodi Grove **Municipal Clerk** Megan Phelan **Maintenance Supervisor** Michael E. McClain **Maintenance worker** Shannon L. Cooper **Maintenance worker** Kerry G. Hunter **Maintenance worker** Richard C. Sheffer **Maintenance worker** Jeffrey E. Wilson **Maintenance worker** Tim Mergler **Seasonal Worker** Dwayne Waltimire **Ag Security Committee (1 year term)** Paul Solomon

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## State symbols



The Ruffed Grouse

### [State motto](#)

Virtue, liberty, and independence (Adapted in 1875, and it represents the fact that [Philadelphia](#) was the site where the [Declaration of Independence](#) was signed.)

### [State tree](#)

[Hemlock](#)

<u>State bird</u>	<u>Ruffed grouse</u> <sup>[108]</sup>
<u>State flower</u>	<u>Mountain Laurel</u> <sup>[108]</sup>
<u>State insect</u>	<u>Photuris pennsylvanica</u> (Pennsylvania <u>Firefly</u> ) <sup>[108]</sup>
<u>State animal</u>	<u>White-tailed deer</u> <sup>[108]</sup>
<u>State dog</u>	<u>Great Dane</u>
<u>State fish</u>	<u>Brook Trout</u> <sup>[108]</sup>
<u>State fossil</u>	the <u>trilobite Phacops rana</u> <sup>[108]</sup>
<u>State beverage</u>	<u>Milk</u> <sup>[108]</sup>
<u>State capital</u>	<u>Harrisburg</u> <sup>[109]</sup>
<u>Union admission rank</u>	2nd
<u>State song</u>	<u>Pennsylvania</u> (Formerly <u>Hail, Pennsylvania!</u> , until 1990) <sup>[108]</sup>
<u>State dance</u>	<u>Polka</u>
<u>State toy</u>	<u>Slinky</u> <sup>[110]</sup>
<u>State ship</u>	<u>United States Brig Niagara</u> <sup>[108]</sup>
<u>State electric</u>	<u>Pennsylvania Railroad GG1 #4849 Locomotive</u>

locomotive

State steam locomotive [Pennsylvania Railroad K4s Locomotive](#)

State beautification plant [Crown vetch](#)<sup>[108]</sup>

[State soil](#) Hazleton<sup>[109]</sup>

## **[edit]** Nicknames

Pennsylvania has been known as the *Keystone State* since 1802,<sup>[108]</sup> based in part upon its central location among the original [Thirteen Colonies](#) forming the United States, and also in part because of the number of important American documents signed in the state (such as the [Declaration of Independence](#)). It was also a keystone state economically, having both the industry common to the [North](#) (making such wares as [Conestoga wagons](#) and [rifles](#))<sup>[111][112]</sup> and the agriculture common to the [South](#) (producing feed, fiber, food, and [tobacco](#)).<sup>[113]</sup>

Another one of Pennsylvania's nicknames is the *Quaker State*; in colonial times, it was known officially as the *Quaker Province*,<sup>[114]</sup> in recognition of Quaker<sup>[115]</sup> [William Penn's First Frame of Government](#)<sup>[116]</sup> [constitution](#) for Pennsylvania that guaranteed [liberty](#) of [conscience](#). He knew of the hostility<sup>[117]</sup> Quakers faced when they opposed religious ritual, taking oaths, violence, war and military service, and what they viewed as ostentatious [frippery](#).<sup>[118]</sup>

"**The Coal State**", "**The Oil State**", "**The Chocolate State**", and "**The Steel State**" were adopted when those were the state's greatest industries.<sup>[119]</sup>

"The State of Independence" currently appears on many road signs entering the state.

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## Organizations, information and Websites

### GovSpot

Website: <http://www.govspot.com>



**Kids Care Clubs**

975 Boston Post Road

Darien, CT 06820

Website: <http://www.kidscare.org>

**National Constitution Center****Independence Mall**

525 Arch St.

Philadelphia, PA 19106

Website: <http://www.constitutioncenter.org>

**National Crime Prevention Council**

2345 Crystal Drive, Suite 500

Arlington, VA 22202

Website: <http://www.ncpc.org>

**USA.gov**

Office of Citizen Services and Communications

U.S. General Services Administration

1800 F St. NW

Washington, DC 20405

Website: <http://www.usa.gov>

**U.S. Census Bureau**

Website: <http://www.census.gov>

**VolunteerMatch**

Website: <http://www.volunteermatch.org>

**Youth Activism Project**

Website: <http://www.youthactivism.com>

**Youth Service America**

Website: <http://ysa.org>

**Shrewsbury PA**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shrewsbury,_Pennsylvania)

<http://www.shrewsburytownship.org/>

<http://www.shrewsburyborough.org/>

<http://www.city-data.com/city/Shrewsbury-Pennsylvania.html>