

County Commissioner

Description, Qualifications and Responsibilities

Medina County Commissioner

All counties organized under the general statutory law have three county commissioners, two being elected at the time of the presidential election and one at the time of the gubernatorial election. **In 2022, one county commission seat will be up for election and will take office on January 1, 2023.** In 2024, two seats will be up for election and will take office on January 2, 2025 and January 3, 2025. The term of office is four (4) years.

Qualifications for County Commissioner

County Commissioner is a partisan position. Candidates may run as a Democrat, Republican, or Independent. Candidates run in the May primary election and if successful are on the November ballot.

A candidate must be a resident of the county and a qualified elector of the county.

Experience that has provided knowledge about finance, budgeting, communications, law and personnel is beneficial. Leadership experience or prior public office are also advantages.

Filing Deadline

The filing deadline for the 2022 Primary is 4:00 PM, February 2, 2022. Petitions are available at the Medina County Board of Elections. A minimum of fifty (50) signatures is required.

Duties of County Commissioners

County Commissioners must hold 50 regular meetings per year and as many special meetings as necessary to conduct their business. Medina County Commissioners meet every Tuesday morning.

County Commissioners are the general administrative body for county government. They perform those duties which are specifically authorized by the Ohio Revised Code and no more. They are the county government taxing, budgeting, appropriating, and purchasing authority. They hold title to county

property. Commissioners also have many other responsibilities including hearing and ruling on annexations, approving draining improvements, establishing water and sewer districts, providing for transit, and providing for solid waste disposal. They tackle long term considerations, such as community growth, land use development, capital improvement plans, capital financing, and strategic planning.

Commissioners appoint department heads of offices for which they have responsibility and appoint members to a variety of boards and commissions. They may appoint a County Administrator to oversee the daily functions of the County. They also serve on some boards such as the County Records Commission, the County Planning Commission, and the Board of Revision. Commissioners must work with all other county elected officials (County Auditor, County Recorder, County Treasurer, County Engineer) and with the Judges and the Board of Elections to assure that they are properly funded to perform their statutory duties.

Individual commissioners have no power to act independently. All formal and official actions must be taken by the Board of County Commissioners acting as a body by majority or unanimous vote.

The non-statutory duties of County Commissioners make them different from other county elected officials. County Commissioners must take a broad view of actions necessary to make the county a better place to live and work. Many commissioners in Ohio are active in promoting public/private partnerships in human services, economic development, health, and infrastructure development. Some also take an active role in improving the environment, promoting job training programs, and improving agriculture in their counties.

County Commissioners must be astute and have good business sense. Perhaps the most important attribute of a county commissioner is the ability to lead, to listen to the needs of the citizens and other elected officials, to compromise, and to develop consensus on priority issues that can improve the county.

Medina County Commissioner's Salary: \$72,000+/year

Candidate Responsibilities

A candidate for County Commissioner should be prepared to campaign vigorously for the position and to take advantage of campaign training opportunities through the Medina County Democratic Party. Previous campaign experience is helpful. The ability to raise an appropriate sum of money is vital. A candidate should formulate a plan and a calendar that includes such activities as communications, data collection and analysis, fundraising, direct voter contact, signs and printed materials, volunteer recruitment, etc.

Additional Information

For more information on county government and the role and responsibilities of county commissioners, refer to the Ohio Revised Code and the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, <https://ccao.org> or the National Association of Counties at <https://naco.org>.

Contact Information

If you are interested in running for County Commission, contact Pam Miller, Vice-Chair of the Medina County Democratic Party, at pamelabmiller@gmail.com or 330-697-4937.