ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Message from the Chair of the Wayne County Commission

Welcome to the 2019-20 edition of A Citizen’s Guide to Wayne County Government, designed to provide you with helpful information on county services, departments and officials.

Wayne County every day provides services from parks and recreation to health care services, from road repairs to Veterans’ programs and Meals on Wheels delivery to home-bound seniors – and much more – to a population of roughly 1.75 million people. Wayne County serves a total population larger than that of 12 U.S. states.

You may even have benefitted from Wayne County’s many programs and services without even realizing it.

This guide is designed to let you know what is available and how you can get the access to the programs and services you need.

In it, you will find a handy list of all county departments and the programs and services they provide, as well as a list of the county’s elected officials.

I hope you will find it useful and will keep it on hand for quick reference.

Sincerely,

ALISHA R. BELL
Chair
Wayne County Commission
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County Map Back cover
Wayne County government has two branches, the executive and legislative. While Wayne County Circuit Court and Probate Court have an administrative relationship with the county, they are state courts. The county charter does not provide for a judicial branch of county government.

The Wayne County Commission is vested by the county charter with all legislative authority. The Wayne County Executive is the head of the executive branch, in charge of all county departments except those headed by other elected officials -- the County Clerk, Treasurer, Prosecuting Attorney, Register of Deeds and Sheriff.

The relationship between the Wayne County Executive and the Wayne County Commission is very much like all executive-legislative relationships, such as that between a mayor and city council in larger cities.

The Wayne County Executive has administrative authority, in essence running the day-to-day activities of the county, but the approval of the Wayne County Commission is required for many functions of the executive branch.
Wayne County Commission

The Wayne County Commission is the legislative branch of county government. Its chief role is to approve the county’s annual budget and to enact ordinances and adopt resolutions. It also approves contracts, appointments and rules.

The county charter gives the county executive the administrative power to direct and control county functions and operations. The commission provides checks and balances on the executive branch with its authority over the budget, ordinances and contracts.

There are 15 Wayne County Commissioners elected from separate geographic districts of similar population. The average commission district includes 121,372 people. The boundaries for the 15 districts are adjusted every 10 years with population figures from a new census.

Commissioners serve two-year terms and are elected in partisan elections held every even-numbered year. Since commissioners are elected in districts, rather than at-large countywide, they also serve as the direct representatives in county government for the people who reside in their districts.

If a resident has a question or concern related to county government, the commissioner who represents the district in which they reside may be their first step in getting it resolved.

Contact your commissioner

You can find your Wayne County Commissioner in the listing of commissioners that follows this section, by viewing which communities are included in their district. Phone and email information is listed for each commissioner.

The general phone number for the Wayne County Commission is (313) 224-2383.

To send mail to a commissioner, address it to them at:
500 Griswold, 7th Floor
Detroit, MI 48226.
How the Wayne County Commission conducts business

The Wayne County Commission operates under a committee system, with seven standing committees established to review and make recommendations to the full commission regarding contracts, ordinances and other items within each committee’s designated area of responsibility.

The seven standing committees are: Audit; Economic Development; Government Operations; Health & Human Services; Public Safety, Judiciary & Homeland Security; Public Services; and Ways & Means. Each has five to seven members.

The commission also meets as a Committee of the Whole, during which all 15 commissioners hold extensive discussion on items in a committee setting.

Most of the scrutiny and debate over items occur in committees before they are referred to the full commission for final action.

The full commission holds two regular meetings each month, usually on the first and third Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. The Wayne County Commission has its offices and holds its meetings in the Guardian Building, 500 Griswold, in downtown Detroit.

The commission elects a chairperson at the beginning of each two-year term. The chair oversees the commission’s departments, serves as its personnel director, makes all committee appointments, and sets the schedule and agendas for, and presides over, all full commission and Committee of the Whole meetings.

A schedule of meetings and more information about the commission can be found at www.waynecounty.com/commission.
So begins the **Home Rule Charter for the County of Wayne**, as approved by voters on Nov. 3, 1981. The charter changed governance of the county by replacing the 27-member Wayne County Board of Commissioners with the 15-member Wayne County Commission and establishing an elected chief executive officer, the Wayne County Executive.

Less remembered today is that two questions were before voters: adopt the charter and provide for an elected county executive, or adopt the charter and provide a chief administrative officer to be appointed by the Wayne County Commission. Both questions were approved, but the elected county executive received more yes votes, and thus was the version adopted.

Written by an elected Wayne County Charter Commission, the charter sets the framework for the county’s government. It is very much like the Constitution of Wayne County, having come from the people, and can be amended only by a vote of the people, who have approved amendments to the charter seven times since its adoption. The county charter can be viewed online by looking under “News & Resources” on the Wayne County Commission’s website at [www.waynecounty.com/commission](http://www.waynecounty.com/commission).
Wayne County operates under an October 1-September 30 fiscal year to conform to both the state and federal government budget cycles. Under an ordinance adopted by the Wayne County Commission in 2011, the county prepares multiple-year budgets to improve budgeting and forecasting and provide more stringent fiscal control over county spending.

Wayne County’s annual budget appropriation was approximately $1.61 billion for 2018-19. Of this amount, approximately $1.04 billion represents funding for specific, non-discretionary purposes, such as road maintenance, mental health services and wastewater treatment projects and cannot be diverted for other purposes. A major portion of this funding is passed on to the county from other governmental agencies.

The balance of the county’s $1.61 billion budget -- approximately $568 million -- is more discretionary and is derived from the general fund. The general fund is responsible for funding the functions of government, including criminal justice, health and welfare and general government, many of which are mandated under the county charter and state law.

### How Wayne County government is funded

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### Sources of County’s General Fund Tax Revenue

- **Svc. Charges** -- $396.7 Million
- **Other Financing Sources** -- $389.6 Million
- **Property Tax** -- $383 Million
- **State Grants** -- $290.9 Million
- **Federal Grants** -- $76.4 Million
- **Other Revenue** -- $31.2 Million (includes interest & rent)
- **Local Grants** -- $30.1 Million
- **Licenses & Permits** -- $1.1 Million

Source: 2018-19 FY Budget
The amount of property tax each taxpayer pays is determined by the taxable value of the property and the county’s millage rate. The county currently levies property taxes at the total combined rate of 7.8220 mills.

Wayne County’s property tax revenue peaked in the 2007-08 fiscal year, as the county collected more than $389 million in property taxes. But property tax collections have declined, caused by significant decreases in both residential and industrial property values. For the 2018-19 fiscal year, property tax collections are projected to be $383 million.

### Percentage of General Fund Expenditures

**General Government -- 44.82 percent**  
Includes Prosecutor, Treasurer, Register of Deeds, Clerk and the County Executive. In addition, general government includes expenditures for internal departments such as management and budget, legal and human resources.

**Public Services -- 21.14 percent**  
Environmental services.

**Public Safety -- 17.57 percent**  
Includes jail operations and homeland security.

**Judiciary -- 9.58 percent**  
Wayne County Third Circuit Court and Probate Court; county contributes funding although courts are operated by the State of Michigan.

**Health & Welfare Services -- 6.31 percent**  
Indigent health care; Medical Examiner’s facility.

**Legislative -- .59 percent**  
Wayne County Commission operations.

Source: 2018-19 FY Adopted Budget
Wayne County Commissioners

Tim Killeen
D - Detroit
District 1: Detroit (part), all Grosse Pointes, Harper Woods
(313) 224-0920
tkilleen@waynecounty.com

Jewel Ware
Vice-Chair Pro Tempore
D - Detroit
District 2: Detroit (part)
(313) 224-0916
jwarestaff@waynecounty.com

Martha G. Scott
D - Highland Park
District 3: Detroit (part), Hamtramck, Highland Park
(313) 224-0878
mscott2@waynecounty.com

Ilona Varga
D - Lincoln Park
District 4: Detroit (part), Lincoln Park, Melvindale
(313) 224-0886
ivarga@waynecounty.com

Irma Clark-Coleman
D - Detroit
District 5: Detroit (part)
(313) 224-0942
iclark@waynecounty.com
Wayne County Commissioners

Monique Baker McCormick
D-Detroit
District 6: Detroit (part)
(313) 224-0884
mbmccormick@waynecounty.com

Alisha Bell
Chair
D-Detroit
District 7: Detroit (part)
(313) 224-0936
abell3@waynecounty.com

Diane Webb
D-Livonia
District 8: Dearborn Heights, Livonia (part),
Redford Twp.
(313) 224-0930
dwebb1@waynecounty.com

Terry Marecki
R- Livonia
District 9: Livonia (part), Northville, Northville Twp.
(313) 224-0946
tmarecki@waynecounty.com

Melissa Daub
D- Canton Twp.
District 10: Canton Twp., Plymouth, Plymouth Twp.
(313) 224-0882
mdaub@waynecounty.com
Wayne County Commissioners

Al Haidous
D-Wayne
District 11: Belleville, Huron Twp., Romulus, Van Buren Twp., Sumpter Twp., Wayne, Westland (part)
(313) 224-0944
ahaidous@waynecounty.com

Glenn S. Anderson
D-Westland
District 12: Garden City, Inkster, Westland (part)
(313) 224-8855
district12@waynecounty.com

Sam Baydoun
D-Dearborn
District 13: Allen Park, Dearborn
(313) 224-0934
sabaydoun@waynecounty.com

Raymond E. Basham
D-Taylor
District 14: Brownstown Twp., Flat Rock, Rockwood, Taylor, Woodhaven
(313) 224-0876
rbasham@waynecounty.com

Joseph Palamara
Vice-Chair D-Grosse Ile Twp.
District 15: Ecorse, Gibraltar, Grosse Ile Twp., River Rouge, Riverview, Southgate, Trenton, Wyandotte; (313) 224-0880
jpalamar@waynecounty.com
Wayne County Executive

Commonly known as the Wayne County Executive, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is designated in the county charter as the head of the executive branch of county government, “vested with the executive and administrative power of the county,” controlling county operations and functions.

The charter states that “the CEO shall supervise, direct and control functions of all departments of the county except those headed by elected officials, and shall coordinate the various activities of the county and unify the management of its affairs.”

The county executive submits a proposed budget for all of county government to the Wayne County Commission for its deliberation and approval each year. Likewise, the county executive submits contracts to the commission for approval, along with certain appointments.

The CEO has veto power over ordinances and resolutions adopted by the commission, which may be overridden by a two-thirds vote of the commission.

Comparing it to city government terms, the county executive can be likened to being the “mayor” of the county.

The Wayne County Executive serves terms of four years, and is elected by voters countywide on a partisan ballot in November of the year coinciding with the election of the governor of Michigan.

The Office of the Wayne County Executive is on the 31st floor of the Guardian Building, 500 Griswold, in downtown Detroit.

Wayne County Executive
Warren C. Evans
Wayne County Executive
wcevans@wayne county.com
(313) 224-0286
D - Detroit
Term Expires 12/31/22
Wayne County Elected Officials

Cathy M. Garrett
Wayne County Clerk
D-Detroit
cgarrett@waynecounty.com
(313) 224-6262
www.waynecounty.com/clerk
Term Expires 12/31/20

Kym Worthy
Wayne County Prosecutor
D-Detroit
kworthy@waynecounty.com
(313) 224-5777
www.waynecounty.com/prosecutor
Term Expires 12/31/20

Bernard J. Youngblood
Wayne County Register of Deeds
D-Grosse Pointe Farms
byoungblood@waynecounty.com
(313) 224-5854
www.waynecounty.com/deeds
Term Expires 12/31/20

Benny Napoleon
Wayne County Sheriff
D-Detroit
bnapoleo@waynecounty.com
(313) 224-2222
www.sheriffconnect.com
Term Expires 12/31/20

Eric Sabree
Wayne County Treasurer
D-Detroit
esabree@waynecounty.com
(313) 224-5950
www.waynecounty.com/treasurer
Term Expires 6/30/21
Administrative departments headed by elected officials

The Michigan Constitution, Article VII Sec. 4, states that all counties shall have an elected sheriff, clerk, treasurer, register of deeds and prosecuting attorney.

The Wayne County Charter sets up these officials’ realms as departments of the executive branch, and expressly states that the county executive is in charge of executive branch departments except those headed by elected officials.

Clerk

The County Clerk is responsible for administering federal, state and county elections conducted in Wayne County. The Wayne County Clerk, among many other constitutional and statutorily mandated functions, serves as the keeper of the records for the county.

The County Clerk is clerk of the Circuit Court and clerk of several county boards, including the Board of County Canvassers, Concealed Weapon Licensing Board and County Plat Board. Other functions of the Clerk are primarily recordkeeping in nature. For example, the Clerk must keep transcripts of births and deaths, issue marriage licenses, and record and index all business assumed names, co-partnership certificates, notary public appointments and discharge of military personnel.

The Wayne County Clerk’s Office is in the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, 2 Woodward Ave., Detroit.

Prosecuting Attorney

The Prosecutor is responsible for prosecuting all violations of state criminal laws within the county and representing the county in appeals connected before the Michigan Court of Appeals, the Michigan Supreme Court and federal courts.

The Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office is in the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice, 1441 St. Antoine, Detroit.
**Sheriff**
The Sheriff is the jailer for the county. The principal duties of the department involve the operation of the county jails, the serving of processes and law enforcement in county parks, on the waterways, in Circuit Court and on secondary roads.

The county charter states that the department may also contract with units of government within the county to provide services, with the approval of the Wayne County Commission.

The administrative offices of the Wayne County Sheriff are located in Detroit’s Midtown district at 4747 Woodward Ave.

**Register of Deeds**
The first Constitution of the state of Michigan, adopted by the Congress of the United States in 1836, established the office of Register of Deeds.

The Register of Deeds is the official recording officer for all legal papers and instruments pertaining to the transfer and encumbrances of all lands and properties within the county. More than a half-million documents are recorded each year by the Wayne County Register of Deeds.

The Wayne County Register of Deeds office is in Detroit’s Greektown, on the 7th floor of 400 Monroe St.

**Treasurer**
The Treasurer is custodian of all money, collector of county taxes, disbursing agent for certain tax funds to local communities and school districts, investment officer of funds belonging to and under the control of the county and performs other duties concerned with interrelated fiscal matters of the numerous county departments and agencies.

The Wayne County Treasurer’s office is in Detroit’s Greektown, on the 5th floor of 400 Monroe St.
Public Services
Wayne County’s 1.8 million residents and countless visitors enjoy a world-class infrastructure network. The county is committed to maintaining and improving a multi-billion dollar inventory of roads, buildings and land. Among the numerous recreation offerings are Hines Park, which stretches 17 miles from Northville to Dearborn; Crosswinds Marsh; Nankin Mills; Elizabeth Park; Wayne County Family Aquatic Center; and Inkster Valley Golf Course in Inkster. The mission of its Environmental Services Group is to create, foster and maintain a clean and safe land and water environment by providing services for cost-effective drainage systems, wastewater management and solid waste management.

Contact: (313) 224-7600
Website: www.waynecounty.com/dps

Corporation Counsel
The mission of Corporation Counsel is to provide legal representation, litigation, legal advice and counsel, and Human Relations business certification services to benefit Wayne County departments and elected officials, so they can legally fulfill their duties. The Human Relations Division functions as a certifying, monitoring, investigative and enforcement arm of the Corporation Counsel regarding fair employment practices, equal access and diversity of the county’s business partners (vendors).

Contact: (313) 224-5030
Website: www.waynecounty.com/corp法律顾问

Management and Budget
The mission is to provide financial services, information and asset protection, and budget services to elected policymakers, departments, administrators and the public.

Contact: (313) 224-0420
Website: www.waynecounty.com/mb
Health, Veterans & Community Wellness
The department’s mission is to coordinate and administer health, educational, youth, veteran, senior and social services to residents and communities in order to address the social determinants of health and community wellness by reducing and ultimately eliminating disparities and inequities related to social and environmental justice. Its functions focus on financial education, healthy living and neighborhoods. The department’s divisions are: Access to Care; Clinical Services; Wellness Services; Juvenile & Youth Services; the Medical Examiners’ Office; and Veteran Services. Residents can receive immunizations; public health information; information on health care for small businesses; WIC (Women’s, Infants and Children) program details; financial hardship and support services for honorably discharged veterans and their families; and other services under one umbrella through a “no wrong door” approach.

Contact: (313) 224-0810
Website: www.waynecounty.com/hhs

Homeland Security and Emergency Management
This group takes the lead role in coordinating the county’s responsibility to plan, analyze, conduct and maintain programs to preserve and protect lives and property from major emergencies and disasters of all types. In this capacity, it maintains a current emergency management program for the county and all participating municipalities.

Contact: (734) 728-3711
Website: www.waynecounty.com/hsem

Information Technology
The focus is to design, develop and maintain the county’s information processing infrastructure. This includes setting countywide computer standards and methodologies and assisting departments with the design and implementation of technology applications to enhance operations.

Contact: (313) 224-0354
Website: www.waynecounty.com/dot
Personnel/Human Resources
The mission is to acquire and retain talent through development of solutions aiding internal and external stakeholders.

Contact: (313) 224-5901
Website: www.waynecounty.com/phr

Senior Services
It provides advocacy, financial hardship and nutrition services to seniors and their families so seniors can live as independently as possible and maintain their quality of life.

Contact: (734) 326-5282
Senior Nutrition Program: (800) 851-1454
Website: www.waynecounty.com/svs

Wayne County Phone Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County Executive</td>
<td>(313) 224-0286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Commission</td>
<td>(313) 224-2383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Clerk</td>
<td>(313) 224-6262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Prosecutor</td>
<td>(313) 224-5777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Treasurer</td>
<td>(313) 224-5990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Register of Deeds</td>
<td>(313) 224-5850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheriff</td>
<td>(313) 224-2222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans’ Services</td>
<td>(313) 224-0810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Services</td>
<td>(734) 326-5282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Services</td>
<td>(313) 224-7600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parks Division</td>
<td>(734) 261-1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report a Road Hazard</td>
<td>(888) 762-3273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Services</td>
<td>(313) 224-0810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WIC Program</td>
<td>(734) 727-7156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeland Security</td>
<td>(734) 728-3711</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
At a glance: What services does our county government provide for us?

Counties provide many of the vital organizational and recordkeeping functions of government, along with basic services that affect us day to day.

The county is the keeper of vital records. Property transactions and deeds are recorded through the office of the Register of Deeds. Birth and death records are kept by the County Clerk, who also issues marriage licenses, records and indexes all business assumed names, notary public appointments and more.

Elections are administered and certified by the county, another primary function of the County Clerk, who also oversees campaign finance reporting for county and local candidates for office. County taxes and all delinquent property taxes are collected by the county through the Treasurer’s Office, which can also support local communities with loans to make up for unpaid local taxes.

The county provides jail services and public safety functions and road patrols through the Sheriff’s office. Along with arresting and jailing those who break the law, the county provides for the prosecution of major crimes through the Prosecutor’s Office. Criminal, civil and other cases are decided in Wayne County Circuit and Probate courts.

Whether with plows, patching crews or mowers on medians, the county is responsible for many miles of road maintenance.

The county operates a public health department, provides medical examiner’s services, coordinates programs for senior citizens like Meals on Wheels, provides veterans services and operates a county parks system with recreational activities.

While this list is by no means complete, it does give a good sampling of the services provided by Wayne County government.
Here’s a breakdown of the Wayne County property taxes paid by residential property owners (tax rates listed are mills).

5.6483 Operating Millage: Permanent, as authorized in the county charter voters approved in 1981 for basic operations.

0.9529 Voted Operating Millage: Voters approved additional tax for basic operations. It was last renewed in 2009, through 2019.

0.0368 Soldiers: Sometimes called veterans millage. Authorized by state law in the late 1800s for counties to create a veterans relief fund.

0.2459 Parks Millage: Approved by voters and dedicated to the county parks system. Last renewed in 2015, through 2020.

0.9381 Jail Millage: Approved by voters and dedicated to the county jail system. Last renewed in 2012, through 2021.

7.822 mills total Wayne County property tax

A “mill” is a unit that is used to calculate how much property tax is paid. One mill is equal to $1 of tax for every $1,000 of a property’s taxable value, which is roughly calculated to be one-half of the property's actual value. Taxable value is multiplied by the millage rate to determine the amount of property tax due.

To determine how much property tax you pay to Wayne County, multiply your property’s taxable value by 0.007822

The charter-authorized operating millage is on summer tax bills. All other voter-approved county taxes are on winter tax bills.

Some items listed on tax bills may have “Wayne County” in the name, but are not taxes for Wayne County government. Taxes for Wayne County Community College District, the Detroit Zoo, Detroit Institute of Arts and transit authorities are not Wayne County taxes.
The evolution of Wayne County

The origins of county government can be traced to England. In the United States, the beginnings of our region’s government began with the Northwest Land Ordinance of 1787, which created settlement policy and governance framework for what was then known as the Northwest Territory, which eventually would become Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin.

Territories would create counties when an area reached a certain population density, according to “Michigan In Brief.” Wayne County was created in 1796, with boundaries including most of today’s Michigan, portions of Illinois and Wisconsin, and a strip of land across what is now northern Ohio and Indiana. It was named after Revolutionary War hero General “Mad” Anthony Wayne.

The boundaries of Wayne County changed frequently in the early 1800s, starting with the establishment of the Territory of Indiana in 1800, which reduced Wayne County by roughly half. By the end of 1826, the boundaries of Wayne County were set as they are now. By 1897, the current boundaries of Michigan’s 83 counties were in place. Today, Wayne County covers 622 square miles with its 34 cities and nine townships.

Michigan’s counties were formed throughout the 1800s to establish government over the unorganized territory and to encourage settlement by surveying the land and dividing it into sections for easier sale. According to the Citizens Research Council of Michigan, counties were originally organized as administrative arms of state government, providing local services and keeping records.

After being established during the days of the Northwest Territory, county government in Michigan was institutionalized in the state Constitution in 1835, written in preparation for Michigan’s statehood in 1837. It has continued to be recognized in the subsequent state Constitutions of 1850, 1908 and, most recently, 1963.
Wayne County Online

More information on Wayne County government and its programs and services is available on the county’s website. The website is your portal that will take you to webpages for every county department and each county elected official.

www.waynecounty.com

Legislative Auditor General

The Office of Legislative Auditor General is referenced in the Wayne County Home Rule Charter and tasked with producing accurate, complete and timely audits and reviews to assist the Wayne County Commission in its oversight and operational responsibilities.

The audits are financial and operational, examining procedures used by county agencies, finding areas at risk and working with the agencies on corrective action plans to improve operations.

More information on the Legislative Auditor General is online at:

Wayne County Ethics Board

The seven-member Wayne County Ethics Board was established in the Wayne County Ethics Ordinance, which was adopted by the Wayne County Commission in April 2012 and amended in December 2014.

The ordinance is the product of an ethics task force to create a comprehensive ordinance that sets into law standards of conduct and defines ethical behavior for county employees and vendors. It also creates the Ethics Board to hold accountable those who break the rules.

More information is at: www.waynecounty.com/boards/ethicsboard