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from
Adams County

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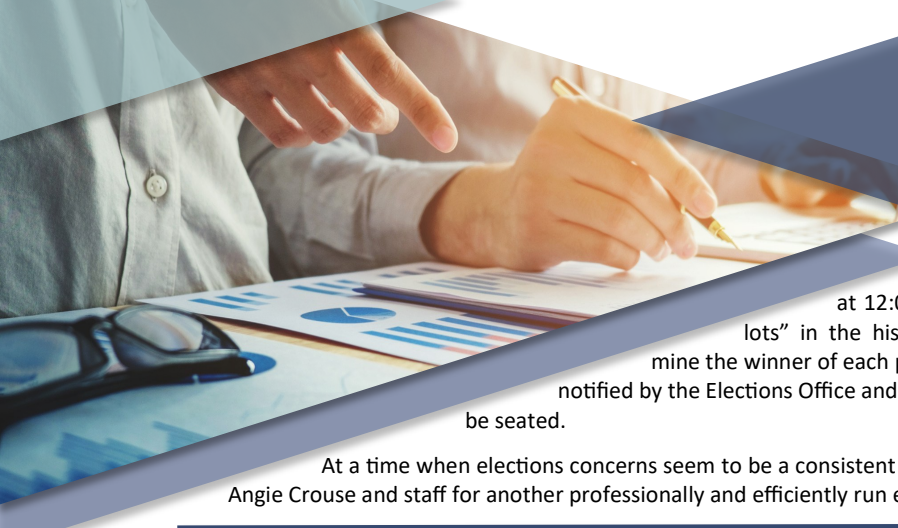


2025 General Election

It is gratifying to report that turnout was unusually heavy for this election with 40% of Adams County voters either voting early or casting their vote at the polls. School Board, Adams County Court of Common Pleas, State Supreme Court retention, and Municipal contests generated high interest. Of the 30,003 votes cast, 8,333 were by early voting. That equates to 27% of Adams County voters choosing that voting method.

As I visited numerous polls around Adams County on election day, the process went very smoothly with no waiting, and poll workers and voters overwhelmingly embracing the poll pads that were at every polling place. The polling pads expedited the name look-up and significantly decreased the calls to the Election Office to look up voters who were not in their books. We observed that the poll pads have resulted in the need to create more voting stations at some polls. Our election staff will make that adjustment moving forward.

Due to State Representative Torren Ecker being elected to the Adams County Court of Common Pleas, there will be a special election this Spring or during the next Primary Election to fill that seat - which will be determined by the legislature. There were also numerous municipal offices such as Judge of Elections, Auditor, Tax Collector, and Inspector of Elections that resulted in tie votes. On Friday, November 21



at 12:00 there will a “casting of lots” in the historic courtroom to determine the winner of each position. The winner will be notified by the Elections Office and must formally accept the position to be seated.

At a time when elections concerns seem to be a consistent topic, another shout out to Adams County Elections Director Angie Crouse and staff for another professionally and efficiently run election!

Adams County 2026 Tentative Budget Approved

At Wednesday’s public meeting the Adams County Board of Commissioners passed the 2026 *Tentative/Proposed County Budget* totaling \$98,982,261. The budget did not include any tax increase! The General Fund totaled \$78,193,036, the Special Funds (911/CYS) \$16,253,497, Bridge Fund \$882,000 and the Hotel Tax Fund \$3,653,860. The increase in Expenditures over 2025 was 7.2%, while the increase in Revenue was only 1.2%.

With Adams County being in a solid financial position, the difference this year is bridged by \$5,580,182 in Reserves. Salaries, benefits, health insurance and cost of goods/services were the main drivers in the disparity for this budget. Four years ago, the Board began budget visioning in 4-year blocks, and this is the first year of the new cycle. Even though Adams County is in a good financial position, has ample reserves, and the highest credit rating, we are hopeful the economic stresses that surfaced this year moderate to allow expenses and revenue to return to a more normal climate.

A copy of the Tentative/Proposed Budget is on the Adams County website and a counter-copy is in the Commissioner’s Office. Thank you to our Budget Department, Adams County Fiscal Team, Department Directors and Commissioners Staff for their year-long effort to put forth a budget that allows superior service to our Adams County residents, while being ever cognizant of our responsibility to taxpayers and their tax dollars!

2025 Adams County Tax Appeals Concluded

The Commissioners, in their role as the Adams County Board of Assessment Appeals, along with an appointed Auxiliary Appeals Board, recently finished up hearing property tax appeals. This year, the County scheduled a total of 99 appeals in which the Commissioners heard 64, including commercial/industrial, Clean and Green, catastrophic loss and tax exemption appeals, while the auxiliary board heard the remaining residential appeals. The number of appeals this year increased slightly, mostly due to higher-than-normal exemption requests, but for the most part, continuing the downward trend from approximately 10,000 coming right out of the 2010 countywide reassessment; to 387 in 2015; 120 in 2020; and 88 last year.

Adams County Assessed Property Value Total

At Wednesday’s public meeting Tax Director Daryl Crum reported the annual compilation of County property value. The Assessed Value of Real Property is \$10,392,911,000 (that’s billion)! The Value of Occupations is \$17,792,200. The Number of Persons Subject to Personal Taxes (Per Capita) is 78,845.

Community Foundation Giving Spree Breaks Record - Again!

What a fantastic community event! The Giving Spree went live again for the first time since Covid last Thursday afternoon at the Wyndham with over 100 non-profits represented getting out their message of valued service to our community. The community really turned out! It was a wonderful event for visiting with your friends and neighbors while supporting these important non-profits. I arrived shortly after opening at 3:00 and at 5:30 was still working my way around the room having a lot of great conversations. I am hearing that another giving record was shattered with \$4.2M and counting. The Reveal will be an invitation event at Gateway Theater on Friday, December 12, for participants, sponsors, and donors.

The 2025 Adams County Community Foundation Giving Spree reinforces that we are a *Giving Community* that recognizes the importance these non-profits bring to the table to support the quality of life that we value, expect and want in Adams County!

The Commissioners have been on the road touring American Rescue Plan recipients to see first-hand the results of the awards in Adams County. This week we visited and viewed new equipment at Alpha Fire Company and next week we are visiting C.A.R.E.S, Anthony's Way, & Adams Regional EMS. Previously we viewed improvements at S.C.C.A.P., Lake Meade, and Heidlersburg Fire Department.

AARF Tours

Adams County Staff Wellness/Turkey Trot This Saturday

Hopefully, you have signed up for the Adams County Staff Wellness Turkey Trot/Walk this Saturday. The event is scheduled from 8-9AM at the Gettysburg Rec Park. Take a short walk or jog along the scenic path and receive a \$25 Kennies Market voucher for your Thanksgiving Dinner. It's a great way to kick off the holiday season while getting a little exercise. Meet in the parking lot where the Sterner Administration Building is. A shout out to HR for creating this opportunity for all of us! My Golden Retriever Sammi and I hope to see you there!



The End

- **Dedication Day & Remembrance Day.** These two events are synonymous with our historic heritage and Fall in Adams County. This Saturday the Remembrance Day Parade will begin at 1PM on Middle Street, to Baltimore Street to Steinwher Avenue. Dedication Day 2025 will be held on Wednesday, November 19 to commemorate the 162nd anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. The annual ceremony is held at the Gettysburg National Cemetery and includes wreath-laying, music, and a U.S. Naturalization and Citizenship ceremony. The event is free and begins at 10:15.

- **Gettysburg Remembrance Day Illumination.** On Saturday from 5:30 – 9:30 this time-honored tradition honors the 3,512 Civil War soldiers interred in the cemetery. With the support of the Gettysburg Foundation donors and volunteers, each grave is lit with a luminary candle and the names of the fallen soldiers are read aloud in remembrance of their sacrifices at Gettysburg.

- **Lincoln Cemetery Project Association Remembrance Day Program.** Program is at 3PM on Wednesday, November 15. Gettysburg native Dr. David Lovett is the guest speaker. Lincoln Cemetery is on Long Lane across the Gettysburg Rec Park.

- **Children's Advocacy Center: Hope For Brighter Tomorrow's.** Join the community for an evening at The Lodges with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and live music as we work to illuminate hope for brighter tomorrows for the children of Adams County. This event raises money for ACCAC service including mental health, prevention education lessons and advocacy support. Thursday, December 11, 5-7PM.

- **Majestic Theater 100TH Anniversary Celebration.** This evening the Majestic Theater is celebrating its 100TH anniversary with a performance by the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and Natalie MacMaster at 6PM. Following the performance a gala dinner will be held at the Hotel Gettysburg. Tickets are available at the box office or online at www.gettysburgmajestic.org

- **Biglerville Thanksgiving Day Dinner.** Once again, an anonymous donor has made possible a drive through Thanksgiving Day Dinner hosted by the Biglerville Fire Department. The dinner is Saturday, November 22 from 12:00 until food is gone!

- **Greenmount Fire Company All-You-Can-Eat Christmas Breakfast.** On Sunday, December 14 all-you-can-eat buffet breakfast from 7-11AM. Adults \$13 and Children \$6. Under 6 free.

- **Songs & Stories From A Civil War Hospital.** Songs and stories from a Civil War Hospital at the Christ Lutheran Church, on Chambersburg Street Gettysburg, this Saturday at 7PM. Civil war music with sing-alongs, poetry and stories from a wounded soldier and volunteer nurse. This is a wonderful family event and is free with a donation suggested.

- **Music Gettysburg – The Philadelphia Bronze.** United Lutheran Seminary Chapel. Saturday, November 22 at 4PM. Free event with public invited.

Million Dollar Quartet Christmas. I love this show with Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins and Jerry Lee Lewis, and can't wait to see the Christmas rendition. The actor who plays Jerry Lee Lewis always steals the show. December 3-14 at the Majestic Theater. www.gettysburgmajestic.org

- **A Gettysburg Christmas Festival.** Visit festive Gettysburg decked out from Lincoln Square to Steinwher Avenue with holiday events, tours, music, and festive food. Friday 12/5 12-10, Saturday 12/6 10-10, Sunday 12/7 10-3. agettsburgchristmas.com for schedule of events and details.

- **York Spring Annual Tree Lighting.** Event includes reading of the Christmas Story in Spanish and English, musical selections, live nativity, free books, crafts + Santa, cookies and hot chocolate. Event is Sunday December 2, across from borough building. In case of inclement weather inside of fire hall.

No matter what you do, get out there and experience all the historical, recreational, agricultural, natural, and cultural experiences that beautiful Adams County has to offer!