

**LESSONS IN CITIZENSHIP.**

**County, Township or Borough and City Government.**

**LESSON VI.**

What are the local civil forms of government in the State of Pennsylvania?

Answer: There are three distinct forms in Pennsylvania: Counties, Townships or Boroughs and Cities.

How many County Governments are there?

Answer: There are sixty-seven counties in the State.

How are they classified?

Answer: Under the act of July 10, 1919, the counties of the State are divided into eight classes according to population.

Name the classifications:

Class I. Counties with a population over 1,500,000.

Class II. 800,000 to 1,500,000.

Class III. Counties having a population over 250,000, and not exceeding 800,000.

Class IV. Population of 150,000 to 250,000.

Class V. Population of 100,000 to 150,000.

Class VI. Population of 50,000 to 100,000.

Class VII. Population of 20,000 to 50,000.

Class VIII. Population of under 20,000.

Is all legislation concerning counties uniform?

Answer: All legislation must be uniform for counties in the same class.

Who administers the government in each of the Counties?

Answer: A Board of County Commissioners is the Administrative Body in each County of the State.

How many members in this body?

Answer: There are three members of the Board in each County.

Can they all represent the same political party?

Answer: No. There are always two from the majority party and one from the minority party.

What other County officers are there besides the County Commissioners?

Answer: There is a District Attorney, Sheriff, Coroner, Register of Wills, Recorder of Deeds, Treasurer, Auditors and Controller.

How do these officers receive their positions?

Answer: They are elected by the people of the County.

Do they receive a salary?

Answer: In Counties having a population of over 150,000 they receive a salary, and in smaller Counties they are paid by the fee system.

What is a township?

Answer: A Township is a sub-division of a County and is an institution of convenience.

How many classes of Townships are there in Pennsylvania?

Answer: Under the Act of 1917, Townships are of two classes, first and second class.

What is necessary to make a first-class Township?

Answer: A first-class Township must have at least 300 persons for every square mile of territory.

What is a second-class Township?

Answer: Second-class Townships are those having a smaller population than 300 for each square mile covered.

How is a Township governed?

Answer: Township business is generally carried on under the direction of County Commissioners by Township Associations, composed of elected Township officials.

How many officials are elected in a Township?

Answer: First-class Townships elect at least five Township Commissioners, a Treasurer, Assessor, two Assistant Assessors and three Auditors.

How are these officers chosen?

Answer: The Commissioners are elected for two years in even numbered districts and for four years from odd numbered districts.

The Township Treasurers and Assessors are elected for four years, while one Auditor is elected for four years and one for two years.

How many officers are elected in Second Class Townships?

Answer: Second Class Townships must elect three Supervisors, three Auditors, one Assessor and one Tax Collector.

For how long do these officers serve?

Answer: The Supervisors are elected, one for two years, one for four years and one for six years.

The Assessors and Tax Collectors serve four years.

Have there been any difficulties in classifying Townships?

Answer: The difficulties encountered in the classification of Townships throughout the State have been so many that the last session of the Pennsylvania Legislature passed a Constitutional Amendment, authorizing the Legislature to make such classifications.

Is this Amendment now a part of the Constitution?

Answer: No. This Amendment must pass the next Legislature, and then be passed by a majority of the voters in the State before it becomes a part of the State Constitution.

What are the powers of the Township Government?

Answer: The Administrative powers of Township officials are extremely limited in our State, but they do look after the Public Schools in their Townships, care for the roads and help the poor, leaving all other matters of local government to the County.

The taxes for the schools, roads and support of the poor are levied by the Township authority.

What is a Borough?

Answer: A Borough is a first-class Township that is organized and incorporated. There are over 1,600 in Pennsylvania.

What are the officials in a Borough?

Answer: There is a Burgess, who is the executive officer, a town Council, Clerk, Tax Assessor, Overseer of the Poor and Justice of the Peace.

What services are rendered by a Borough Government?

Answer: It keeps the peace, holds a court for the trial of minor civil and criminal cases, keeps the streets in order and provides sidewalks, lights the streets, furnishes a supply of water, supports the public schools, cares for the public health, purchases apparatus for extinguishing fires.

**MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.**

How many classes of cities in Pennsylvania?

Answer: There are three classes of cities in Pennsylvania: First, Second and Third Class.

What are First Class Cities?

Answer: First Class Cities are those having a population of one million or more.

What are Second Class Cities?

Answer: Those having a population over 100,000, and less than a million.

What are Third Class Cities?

Answer: Third Class Cities are those with population between 10,000 and 100,000.

How many are there?

Answer: Thirty-four.

What population is necessary to become a city?

Answer: A city must have a population of at least 10,000.

How many cities of the First Class are in Pennsylvania?

Answer: There is only one city of the First Class, Philadelphia.

How many cities of the Second Class?

Answer: There are two cities of the Second Class: Pittsburgh and Scranton.

How is Philadelphia governed?

Answer: The city of Philadelphia is governed under Act of June 25, 1919. Philadelphia was granted a new charter, which provides for a Mayor elected by the people, who appoints the heads of the various departments, and a Council of twenty-one members, elected by the people for four years.

What are the various departments of which the Mayor, with the approval of Council appoints the heads?

Answer: The Police, Fire and Electrical Departments, over which presides the Director of Public Safety.

2. The Department of Public Works, which includes gas, water, sewers, filtration plants, highways, bridges and all public buildings.

3. The Health Department, which has charge of hospitals, housing, sanitation and vital statistics.

4. The Department of Public Welfare, having charge of charitable institutions, playgrounds, recreation piers and public baths, and all things pertaining to the well-being of the citizens.

5. Department of Water Terminals, having charge of all the city's wharves, docks and ferries.

6. Department of City Transit, which has charge of the street transportation service.

What salary does the Mayor receive?

Answer: \$12,000.00 annually is the salary of the Mayor of Philadelphia.

What salary do the Councilmen receive?

Answer: Under the new charter every Councilman receives \$5,000.00 a year.

Does the Council have anything to do with the appointments of the Mayor?

Answer: Yes. The Council must approve the appointments before they are binding.

Does the Mayor appoint any other city officials?

Answer: Yes. The Mayor appoints a City Solicitor, who is head of the City Law Department; a Purchasing Agent, who has charge of all supplies; a City Architect, an Art Jury, and a Commission on City Planning.

What other important officials are there in the city?

Answer: The City Treasurer, Controller and a Receiver of Taxes.

How do these officials obtain their positions?

Answer: They are elected by the people of the city.

What are the duties of the Treasurer, and what salary does he receive?

Answer: The City Treasurer has charge of all the funds of the city and makes payment upon warrants issued by the City Controller. The Treasurer of Philadelphia receives \$10,000.00 salary and certain fees in addition, that amount to thousands of dollars annually.

What are the duties of the City Controller, and what is his salary?

Answer: The City Controller inspects and revises the accounts of all departments of the city, prepares budgets and estimates and issues warrants for the payment of all moneys by the city. His salary is \$8,000.00.

What are the duties of the Receiver of Taxes, and what compensation does he receive?

Answer: The Receiver of Taxes collects all money due the city for municipal and school tax, licenses, water rents, permits, rents from markets, wharves and other public property. He makes a daily return to the City Treasurer of all such receipts. His salary is \$10,000.00.

In whom is the legislative power of the city vested?

Answer: The legislative power of the city is vested in the single chamber of Council, whose twenty-one members are elected for four years from the eight Senatorial districts in the city on the basis of one Councilman for each twenty thousand assessed voters.

What are the duties of Council?

Answer: The Council passes all the ordinances, supervises appropriations and expenditures of the executive department. It also selects the Civil Service Commissioners, and they designate the executive officials who enter into and execute city contracts.

In whom is the judicial power vested?

Answer: The judicial power is vested in County Courts.

What are the County Courts?

Answer: Court of Common Pleas, the Court of Quarter Sessions, Oyer and Terminer and the Orphans' Court, as well as the Municipal Court and Magistrates Courts.

How many employees are appointed through the Civil Service Commission of Philadelphia?

Answer: Over 12,000 employees

are enrolled in the classified Civil Service of the city.

What is the annual budget of Philadelphia?

Answer: Approximately forty-seven million dollars.

What do you mean by a city budget?

Answer: A city budget is an ordinance passed by the City Council, fixing the sum that may be spent by the different departments during the coming year.

In whom is the executive power vested in Second Class Cities?

Answer: The executive power of the Second Class Cities is likewise vested in the Mayor and his appointees.

In whom is the legislative power vested?

Answer: The legislative power is vested in a single small Council, consisting of at least five members for the first 200,000 assessed voters, and one additional member for each 75,000 members up to 500,000.

In whom is the judicial power vested?

Answer: The judicial power is vested in County Courts, corresponding to the Courts in First Class Cities.

How many Third Class Cities are there in Pennsylvania?

Answer: There are thirty-four Third Class Cities.

Are the governments of these cities similar to the First and Second Class Cities?

Answer: Yes. The voters in Third Class Cities also elect a Mayor for four years, and a Council for the same term.

How does the Mayor govern in Third Class Cities?

Answer: He acts with the Council in enacting ordinances and in appointing officials.

What other city officers are elected in Third Class Cities?

Answer: A Comptroller and a Treasurer, whose duties are the same as in First and Second Class Cities.

Are the city laws the only ones the city has to obey?

Answer: No. The laws made by the Legislature in Harrisburg are binding upon all the cities in the State.

—If you want all the news you can get it in the "Watchman."

**Youngest Veteran of the World war Was Only 13.**

The youngest veteran of the world war has been found in Springfield, Mass. He is Harold Brunette, son of Mr. and Mrs. Adolphus Brunette. He enlisted in the Canadian army at the age of 13 years and served until the end of the war.

Brunette ran away from home in October, 1917. He worked his way to Montreal.

November 7, 1917, Brunette was accepted and assigned to the First Depot Battalion of the First Quebec Infantry. After three months' training his outfit went to England and then to France.

Brunette was in the battles of Cambrai, Boulogne Woods and the big fight that smashed the Hindenburg line. Then his outfit went to Belgium, where they remained until he was sent into Germany with the Army of Occupation. Early in 1919 the battalion was returned to Canada and demobilized.

Brunette returned a seasoned veteran, but only a little over fifteen years of age. Birth certificates and army papers prove his story.

**Some Food Prices are Going Down.**

Twenty-seven of the forty-three articles going into the American family market basket decreased in price between July 15 and August 15.

In making this announcement the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics made public figures showing that during the thirty day period ending with the middle of August the retail price of potatoes fell forty-four per cent, and the price of cabbage went down forty-one per cent. The drop in sugar prices is placed at fourteen per cent. Most kinds of meats decreased in price.

Eggs went up eleven per cent. in price during the period. With this exception and pork chops, which increased five per cent., the increases in other foodstuffs were two per cent. or less.

Indications that the decline in food price levels was general is seen in statistics showing that each of the fifty-one cities covered by the Bureau's survey reported decreases.

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Your wishes can be observed in the distribution of your property, for if you do not leave a Will the law may divide up your possessions in a way that you might not desire.

**How Have You Made Your Will?**

Do not write your own Will. "Home-made" Wills are dangerous and often cause law-suits, because, when drawing a Will the law must be known, both as to wording and terms. Consult a lawyer today about the making of your Will and have him name the Bellefonte Trust Company to act as your Executor and Trustee.

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