

Freeholder Meetings

The Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders typically meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Conference meetings are held at 5:30 p.m. with all regular meetings held at 6 p.m. in the Freeholder Board Room at the County Administration Building.

For the most current list of the Board's meeting dates or more information, contact the Clerk of the Board's office at (973) 881-4402 or visit the County's website at www.passaiccountynj.org.

Committees

Passaic County operates through six standing committees of the Board of Chosen Freeholders. They are Administration & Finance; Health, Education and Community Affairs; Public Works and Buildings & Grounds; Law & Public Safety; Human Services, and Planning and Economic Development. The Freeholders also appoint individuals to departments, agencies, and boards and commissions for the effective administration of County government.

The Freeholders select a County Administrator who, in the role of chief administrative officer, supervises the day-to-day operation of County government and its departments.

2017 Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders



Cassandra "Sandi" Lazzara
Freeholder Director
(Little Falls)



Bruce James
Freeholder Deputy Director
(Clifton)



Assad R. Akhter
(Paterson)



John W. Bartlett
(Wayne)



Theodore "TJ" Best
(Paterson)

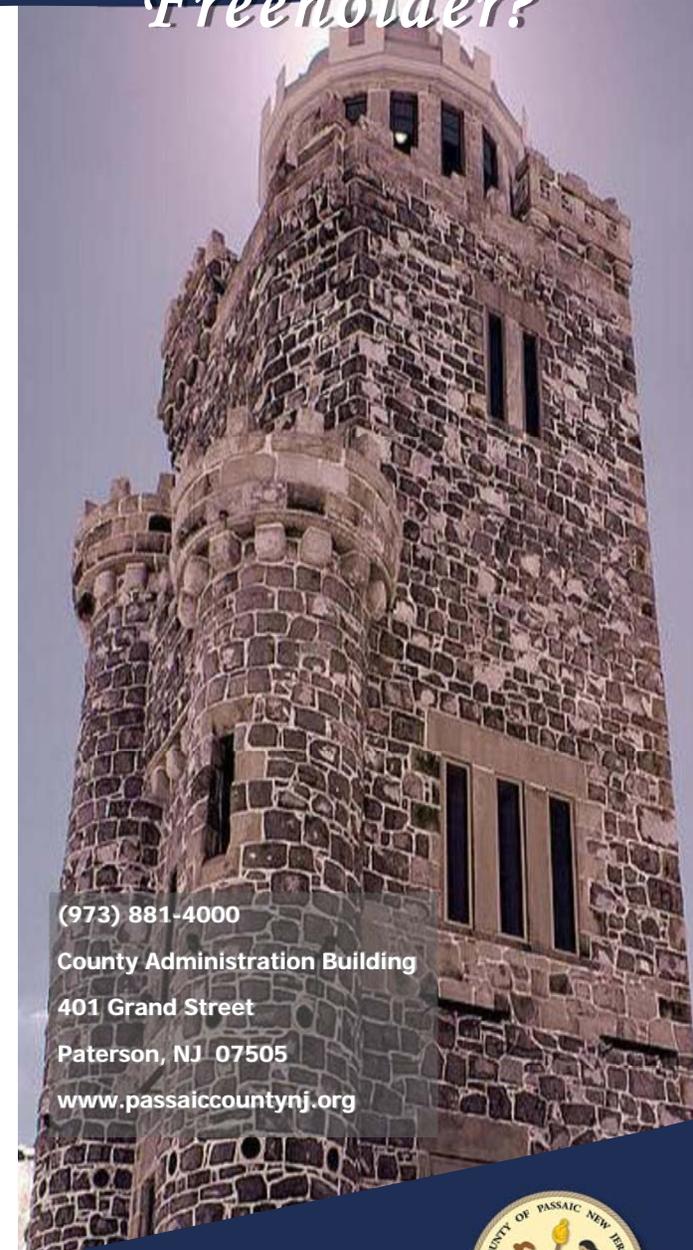


Terry Duffy
(West Milford)



Pasquale "Pat" Lepore
(Woodland Park)

What is a Freeholder?



(973) 881-4000

County Administration Building

401 Grand Street

Paterson, NJ 07505

www.passaiccountynj.org

Rich History, Bright Future



What is a Freeholder?

The term “Freeholder” can be traced to the colonial period of American history. In New Jersey’s 1776 Constitution, the state vested the power to govern counties in an elected body of “men” who held or owned land outright with no debt or mortgages to be Chosen by their peers. The body was deemed the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Although there is no longer a requirement to own land and all citizens of legal age have the right to vote and hold office, the term Freeholder has endured. New Jersey has 21 Counties governed by a Board of Chosen Freeholders. No two counties are exactly the same. Counties’ demographic, geographic and economic characteristics dictate how they deliver services to their communities. The organization and structure of counties are tailored to fit their communities’ needs and characteristics.

In Passaic County’s commission form of government, the Freeholders discharge both the legislative and executive responsibilities of government. The seven-member board is headed by a Freeholder Director who is selected to serve a one-year term at the Board’s annual reorganization meeting held in January. Each Freeholder is elected at-large for a staggered 3-year term.



What Freeholders do

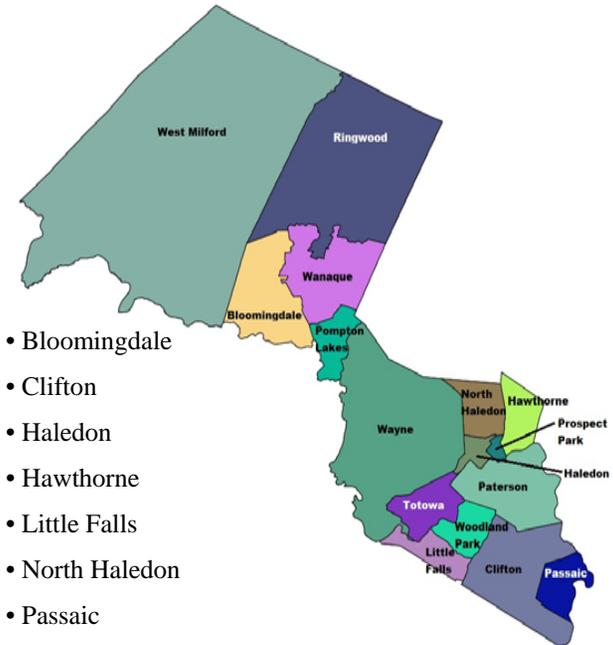


The Passaic County Freeholders are responsible for an annual budget of about \$455 million serving 501,000 residents in 16 municipalities. Some of the things they support and are responsible for:

- Maintenance of 248 miles of County roads and 358 bridges
- 11 County Parks with over 4,044 acres of recreation and open space
- The Passaic County Sheriff ’s Office, with responsibility for public safety county wide, the County jail, and courthouse security; as well as the County Prosecutor’s Office
- The Preakness Healthcare Center, a 406 bed skilled nursing facility providing sub-acute, long-term, respite and hospice care
- The Passaic County Community College, serving 8,000 students in Northern NJ
- The Passaic County Technical Institute, a vocational/technical high school serving 3,200 students
- Social Service Programs for the elderly, the poor, and people with disabilities
- Other services to County residents, such as mental health and anti-addiction services, veterans’ programs, heating assistance and more.

Passaic County Municipalities

There are 16 municipalities in Passaic County:



- Bloomingdale
- Clifton
- Haledon
- Hawthorne
- Little Falls
- North Haledon
- Passaic
- Paterson (County Seat of Government)
- Pompton Lakes
- Prospect Park
- Ringwood
- Totowa
- Wanaque
- Wayne
- West Milford
- Woodland Park