

Toss Your Hat in the Ring – Getting Involved in Local Government

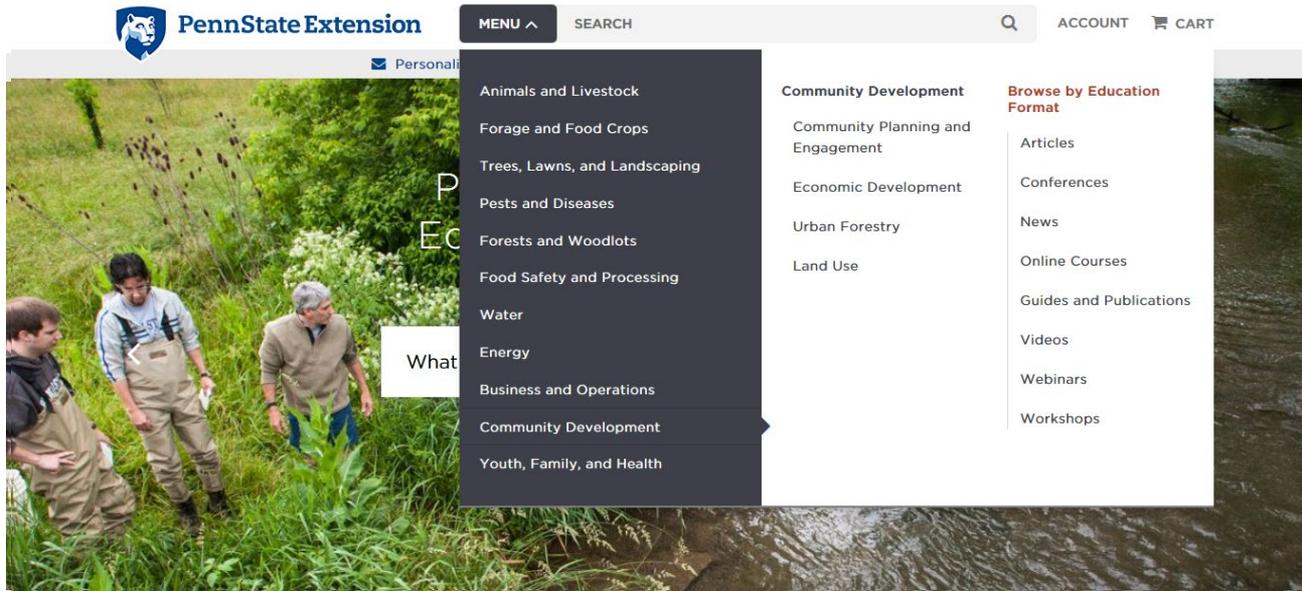
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Toss Your Hat in the Ring How to Get Involved in Local Government



Penn State Extension Toss Your Hat in the Ring

Audience

- General public

January 28, 2019 (Snow Date – January 31, 2019)
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Pike County Training Center, 135 Pike County Blvd, Lords Valley, PA 18428

Interested in serving your township, borough or school district?

- This 2-hour workshop will give you all the information you need to get started
- Overview of Pennsylvania local government, elected and appointed offices
 - Nuts and bolts of running for office: petitions, financial reports and other requirements featuring the Nadeen Manzoni, Pike County Election office
 - Lessons from the trenches: a panel of local officials share their experiences and answer your questions

Cost is \$25 per person. Register on line at: <https://extension.psu.edu/toss-your-hat>

For more information, contact Peter Wulfhorst at ptw3@psu.edu (570) 296-3400.

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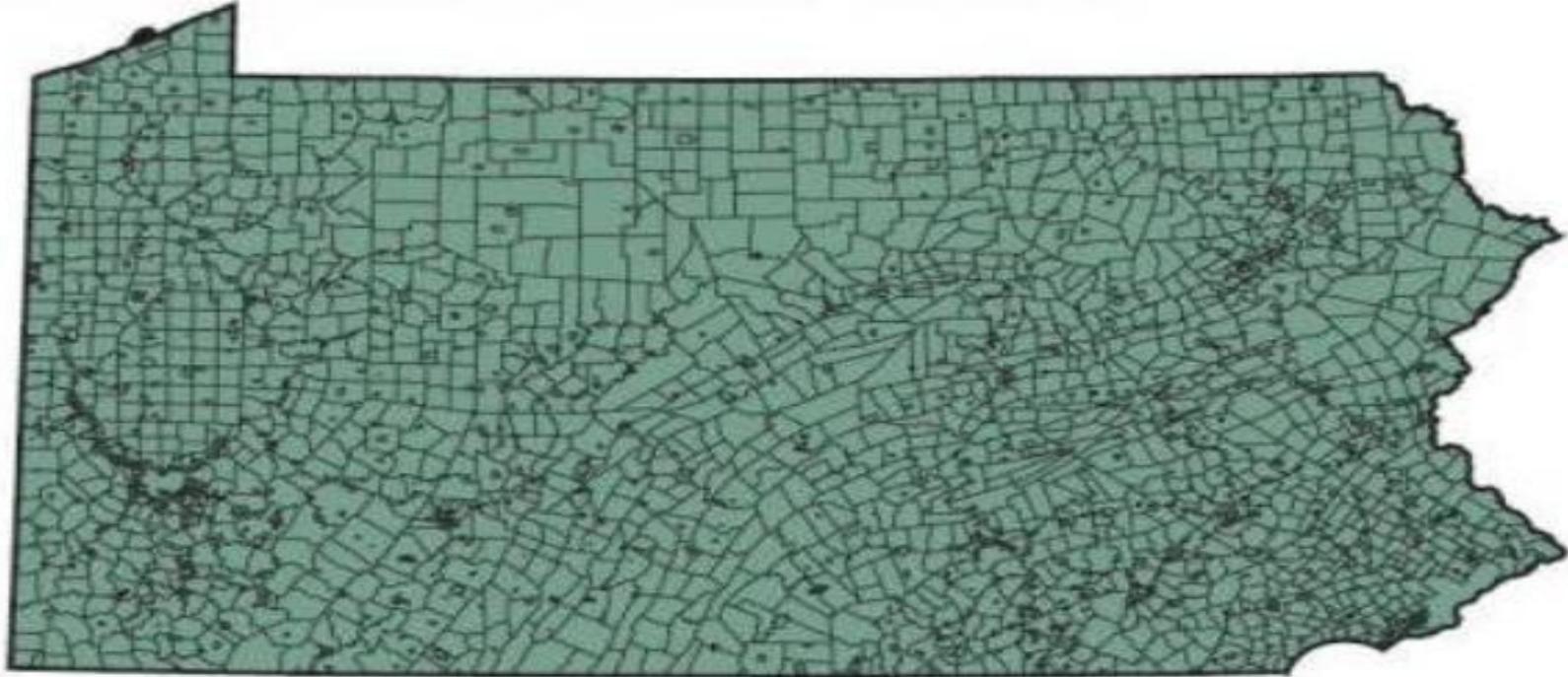
Objectives

- Increase citizen understanding of and interest in Pennsylvania local government
- Provide newly elected and appointed officials with a better understanding of the fundamentals of local government when entering public service
- Increase the number of candidates for unfilled offices in local government
- Increase candidate success in completing and filing nomination petitions, campaign finance reports and other required items

Toss Your Hat in the Ring”

- Local Government 101 - 30-minute introduction to the structure and purpose of Pennsylvania local government - Penn State Extension Educator
- Nuts and Bolts - 30-minute fact-filled guide to the mechanics of candidacy: eligibility, petitions, financial reports, rules and regulations. This can be delivered by a Penn State Extension educator or County Elections Staff
- Lessons From the Trenches - Panel discussion featuring local elected officials discussing their experience in office, moderated by a Penn State Extension Educator

Pennsylvania local government



Local government by the numbers

Counties	Cities	Townships	Boroughs	Town
67	56	1,547	958	1

2,562 municipalities
over 80% have less than 5,000 population

500 school districts

Nearly 30,000 elected officials run local government

- Auditors
- Council members
- Mayors
- School Board Directors
- Tax Collectors
- Township Supervisors

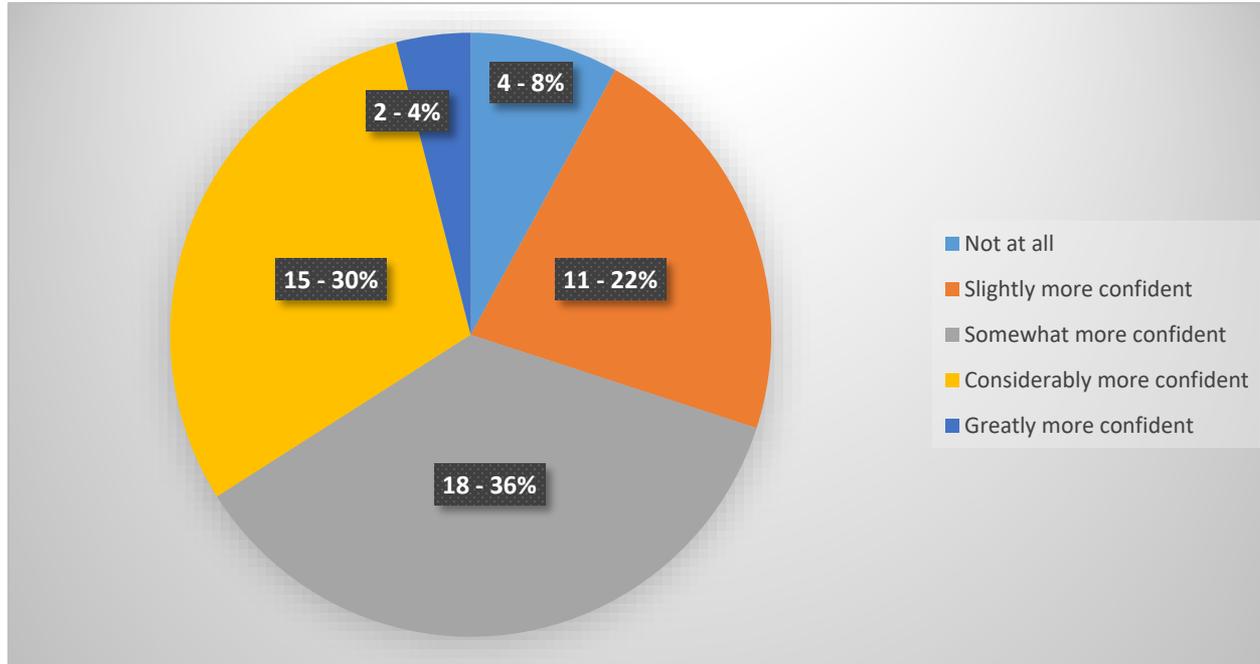
Over 28,000 appointed officials

- Planning Commission
- Zoning Hearing Board
- Water / Sewer Board
- Historic District (HARB)
- Parks and Recreation
- Advisory boards – beautification, recycling, etc

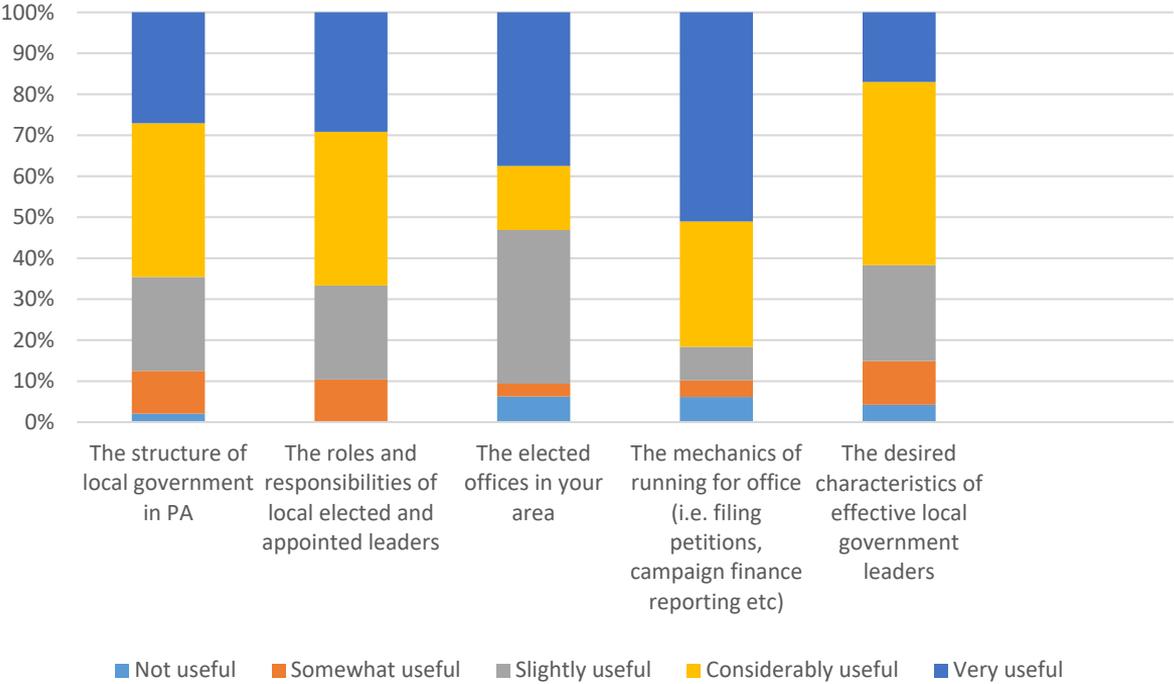
Toss Your Hat in the Ring

- **Municipal elections held every two years, in odd-numbered years**
- **1st Workshop – January/February 2011**
- **Workshops held every 2 years from 2011 – 2019, Webinars – 2015 (1) 2017 (2) & 2019 (2)**
- **51 workshops & 5 webinars**
- **Over 1,000 people participated in Toss Your Hat in the Ring**
- **Panel of over 150 township supervisors, borough council and school board directors**
- **Collaboration with county election departments**

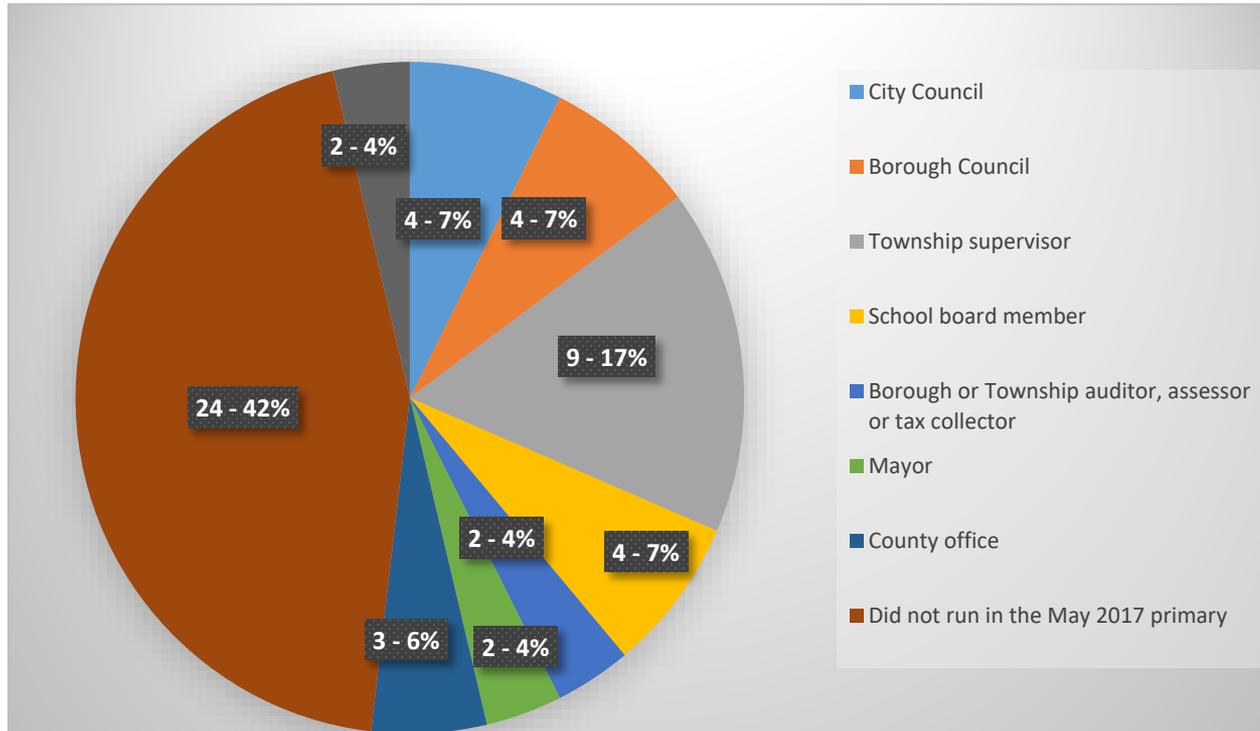
As a result of your participation in the Toss Your Hat in the Ring workshop, how much more confident were you in your abilities to run for office or seek appointed office?



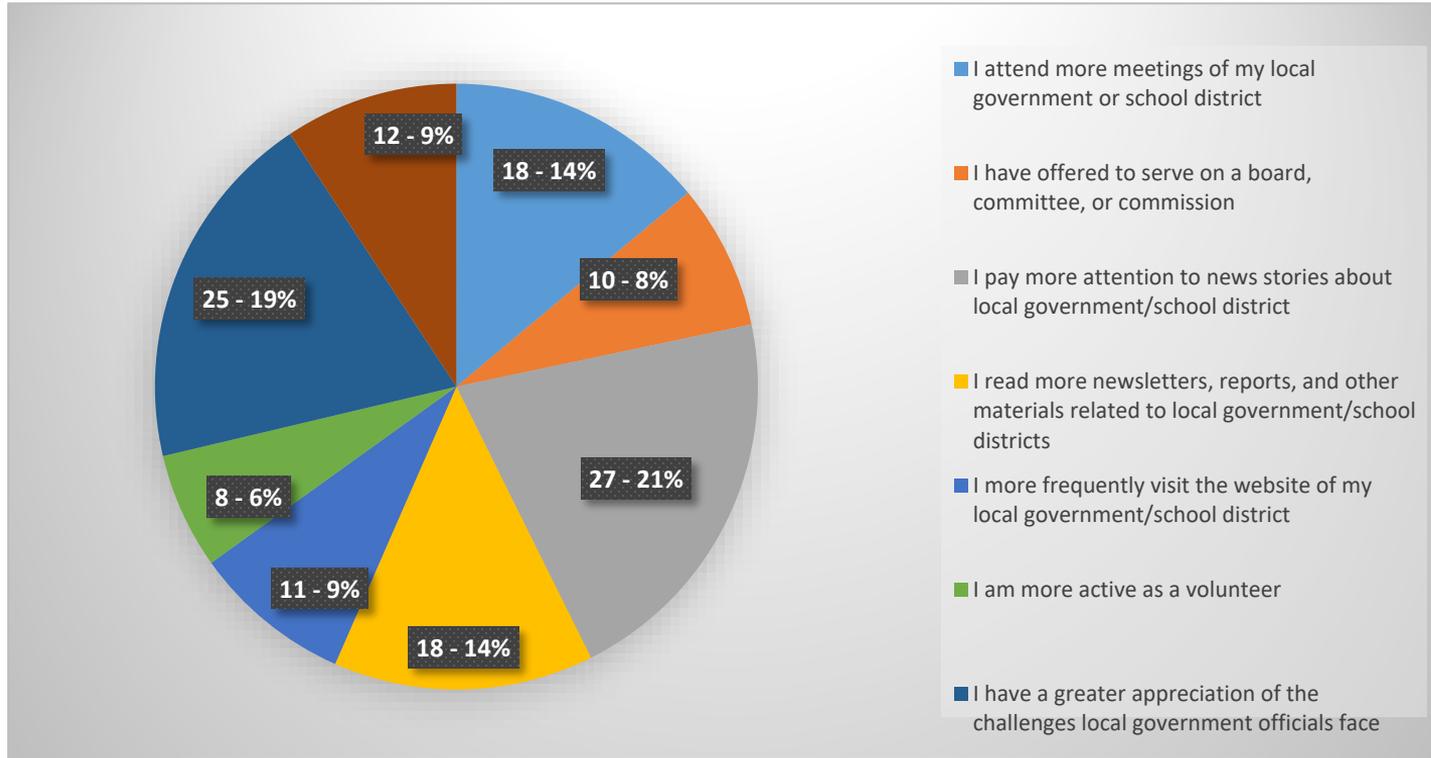
How useful for you were the following workshop topics as you considered running for local elected office or seeking appointed office?



Did you run for office in the May 2017 primary? If so, for which office did you run?



How has your community involvement changed as a result of your participation in the Toss our Hat in the Ring workshop?



“I was still not sure if I wanted to run but after taking the course and learning a bit more about local government I decided that it wasn't that complicated to file the paperwork and run for supervisor, It was also a good primer on the civic structure of Pa for those of us who were not born and raised in Pennsylvania”

“I used the general information provided, particularly the power point printout to get a better understanding of the overall process, Understanding the primary process, filing expense reports. Increased knowledge in how local government is structured in Pennsylvania (much simpler than online research)”

“Getting a better understanding of the demands of being a local government official. Time commitment & responsibilities”

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<http://extension.psu.edu/community/ecd>

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