

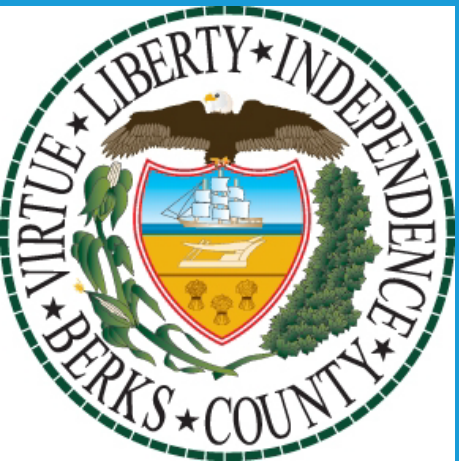
THE FUTURE GETTING THERE!

A woman with a backpack is sitting on a rocky cliff edge, looking at a tablet device. The background shows a vast, forested valley under a clear sky. A yellow circle highlights the text "2025 & Beyond" in a blue box.

2025 & Beyond



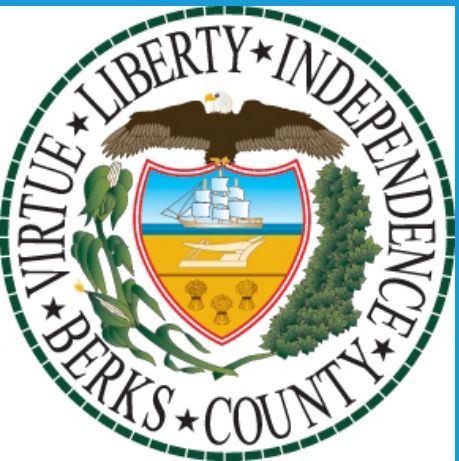
“These Goals and Objectives are my vision for Berks County not for one year but rather for the next 5-10 years. Decisions should not be made in the short-term...”



— COMMISSIONER CHRISTIAN Y LEINBACH



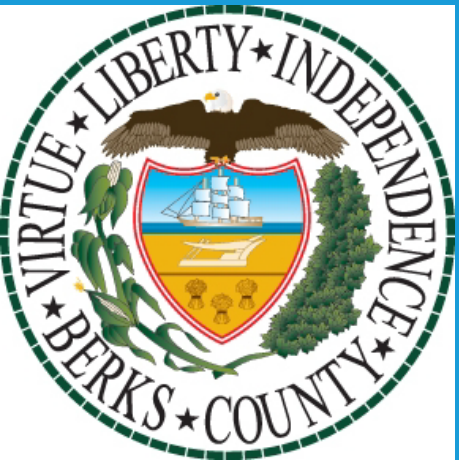
...They must be considered in the long game. I look beyond when I may be here and ask what kind of Berks County am I leaving to the taxpayers and leaders that follow me."



— COMMISSIONER CHRISTIAN Y LEINBACH

INTRODUCTION

Goals & Objectives for 2025

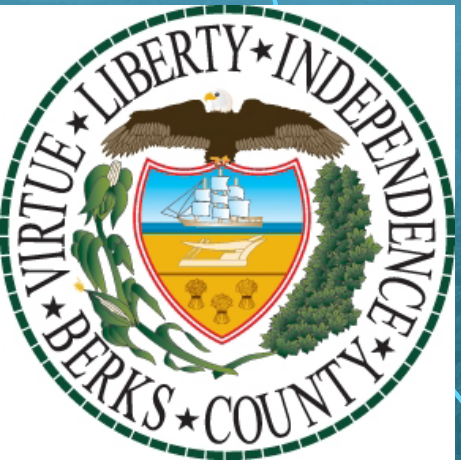


My Vision for Berks County

To serve the people of Berks County honestly, courageously and humbly while honoring God and my oath to both the United States and Pennsylvania Constitutions.

Our daily work tells a story...Here is my prelude to the story that will be written in 2025

How did we do in 2024?



#1 Fiscal Responsibility* C+

Keep spending under the rate of inflation and Berks fiscally sound.
A budget tells a story.
(2025 Tax increase)

#2 Reading Regional Airport A-

Aggressively promote aviation growth and business development and work to develop the Reading Regional Airport into the #1 General Aviation airport in Pennsylvania

#3 Passenger Rail B+

Work to restore sustainable passenger rail service for Reading and Berks County

Election Integrity* A

Strengthen voter confidence in the elections process and voting process here in Berks County and provide a reliable 2024 election cycle

Economic Development* A

Continue the implementation the Imagine Berks economic development strategy throughout the county

County Management A

Provide the leadership, management and vision for Berks County Government in alignment with commissioner's goals & objectives

Berks Health Study C

Review and act on recommendations of the 2023 study and act in the best interest of the health and safety of the public as well as the taxpayers

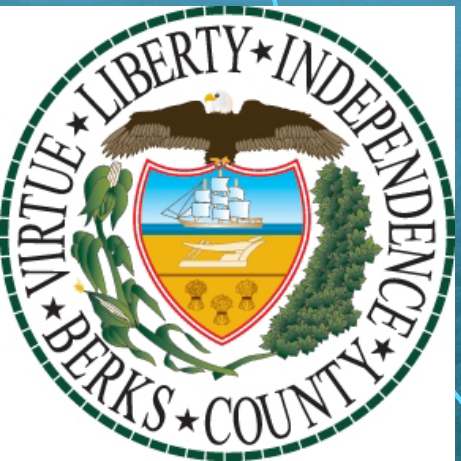
Berks County Jail C+

New jail construction is on hold.
Focus on who should or should not be incarcerated from a justice, taxpayer and human perspective

Roads & Bridges A-

Support and execute road and bridge projects critical to the public safety and the economy of Berks while remaining fiscally responsible

**“If everything is a Priority
then nothing is a Priority”**



#1 Fiscal Responsibility

Keep spending under the rate of inflation and Berks fiscally sound. Maintain the Moody's Aaa bond rating. No tax increase for 2026.
A budget tells a story.

#2 Reading Regional Airport

Add at least one significant aviation tenant and build at least two new hangars. Long-term goal to make RDG into the #1 General Aviation airport in Pennsylvania

#3 Passenger Rail

Work to restore sustainable passenger rail service for Reading and Berks County. Finish Phase 1 and move to Phase 2 of the FRA CIDP

PREPARE

To Meet the Topline Objectives for 2025

Election Integrity

Continue to strengthen voter confidence in the elections process and voting process here in Berks County and provide a reliable 2025 election cycle

Economic Development

Continue the implementation the Imagine Berks economic development strategy throughout the county. Begin to measure real impact of the strategy

County Management

Provide the leadership, management and vision for Berks County Government in alignment with commissioner's goals & objectives

PROMOTE

To Meet the Topline Objectives for 2025

Berks County Jail

Begin a discussion on the timeline for a new jail and cost-effective options. Focus on who should and should not be incarcerated from a justice, taxpayer and human perspective

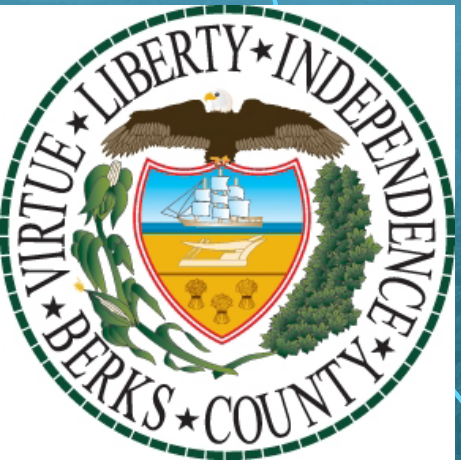
Roads & Bridges

Support and execute road and bridge projects critical to the public safety and the economy of Berks County while remaining fiscally responsible

Berks Health Study

Determine what if any next steps should be taken in 2025 relative to the 2023 Berks County Health study

*These are the key objectives
but there are other projects
and issues we are and will
address.*





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FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Jan. 2008 – Dec. 2024 **CPI 49.57%** - County
Spending increased **27.1%** (through 2025)

Employment – 2008 – **2591** Dec. 2024 – **2177**

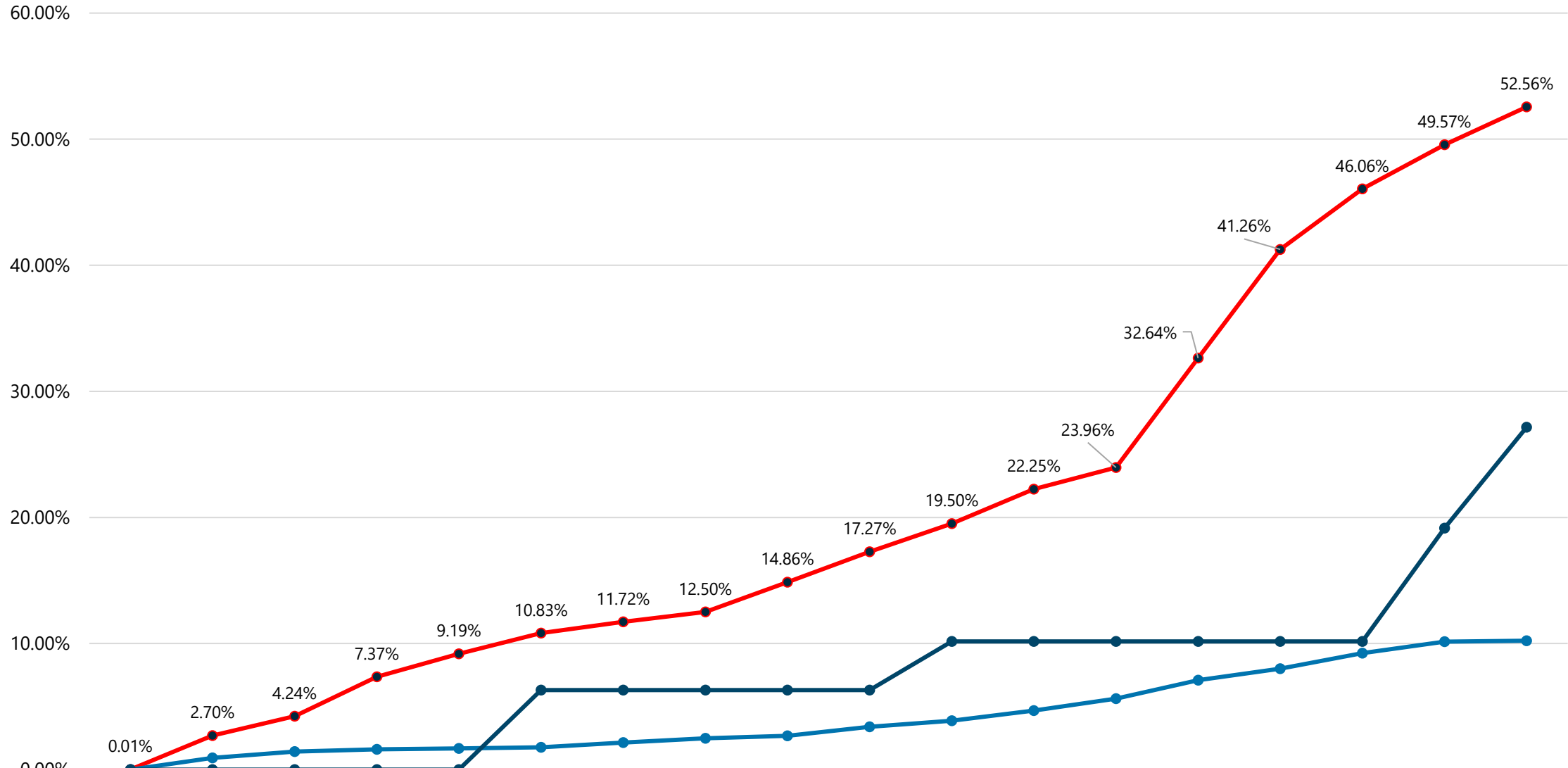
Maintain Aaa Moody's Bond Rating

Savings & Efficiency Team (SET) – Chaired by Commissioner Rivera

"Our goal each year is no tax increase for the following year"

https://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm

Effective and Cumulative CPI-U vs. Taxable Assessed Tax Growth and Tax Rate Growth



	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Effective CPI-U Rate %	0.01%	2.70%	4.24%	7.37%	9.19%	10.83%	11.72%	12.50%	14.86%	17.27%	19.50%	22.25%	23.96%	32.64%	41.26%	46.06%	49.57%	52.56%
Taxable Assessed Value	0.00%	0.92%	1.43%	1.60%	1.68%	1.78%	2.14%	2.48%	2.69%	3.40%	3.89%	4.69%	5.63%	7.09%	8.01%	9.23%	10.15%	10.22%
County Tax Rate	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.30%	6.30%	6.30%	6.30%	6.30%	10.17%	10.17%	10.17%	10.17%	10.17%	10.17%	19.15%	27.16%



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FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

1995-2008

- 3 Tax Increases **39.9%** **18.2%** & **33.9%** = **92%**
- Inflation during the same period **39.87%**

2008-2024

- 3 Tax Increases **6.3%** **3.9%** & **8.9%** = **19.1%** - 2025 **8%** = **27.1%**
- Inflation during the same period **49.57%**



READING REGIONAL AIRPORT MAKING THE RRA THE #1 GENERAL AVIATION AIRPORT IN PENNSYLVANIA

Continue financial growth of  FBO Business in 2025

Build additional Hangar Space in 2025

Sign at least one new additional aviation tenant

Improve the Airport/FBO Marketing Plan

Work to add corporate and possibly commercial flights for RRA

Continue Growing Non-Aviation Development "Outside the Fence"



PASSENGER RAIL

CONNECTING BERKS COUNTY TO THE WORLD

Complete Step 1 & begin Step 2 of the FRA Corridor ID program

Work with Reading & GRCA to establish the TOD

Determine next steps re: Franklin Street Station



ELECTION INTEGRITY

CONTINUE BUILDING TRUST IN THE PROCESS

Continue to Strengthen Staff Training

Updating Election Policies

Continued Focus on Election Security

Enhancing Training for Election Day Pollworkers

Push for Legislative Changes – *Voter ID – Canvassing – Mail-in Application Deadline – Date & Signatures on Ballot Envelopes*



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Imagine Berks - GRCA – RRAA – SRPRA – BRDA - BIDA

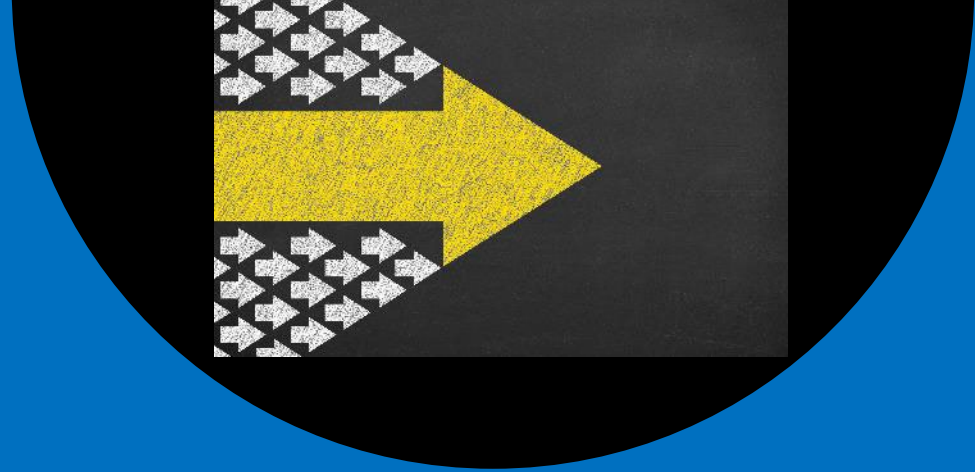
Continue our Strong Partnership with GRCA

Job Retention

Existing Business Growth

New Business & New Job Attraction

Implement Growing Berks – AG Economic Strategy



COUNTY MANAGEMENT

OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM IS OUR KEY TO SUCCESS

Prioritize Major COO/County Projects for 2025

YDC – Space Study Implementation – AG Center Phase 2 – Youth Shelter – Staffing

Fiscal Responsibility is Job #1

Continued Focus on Training & Retention for County Team



BERKS COUNTY JAIL

WHO NEEDS TO BE IN JAIL?

Maintain Facility

Focus attention on Non-violent Offenders and Alternative Sentencing

Seeking Alternatives for Mentally Ill Inmates

Consider Regional Solutions Whenever Possible/YDC



TRANSPORTATION

PUBLIC SAFETY AND ECONOMIC ACCESS

Route 222 Completion in NE Berks to Lehigh
West Shore Bypass

Ramp Connections for 222 & 422

61 from Shoemakersville to Schuylkill County

Route 12 from Spring Valley to 73



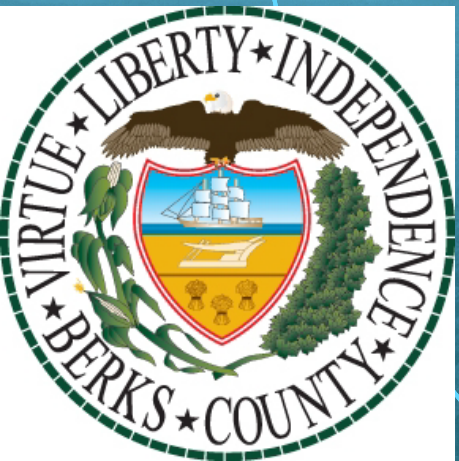
BERKS COUNTY HEALTH STUDY

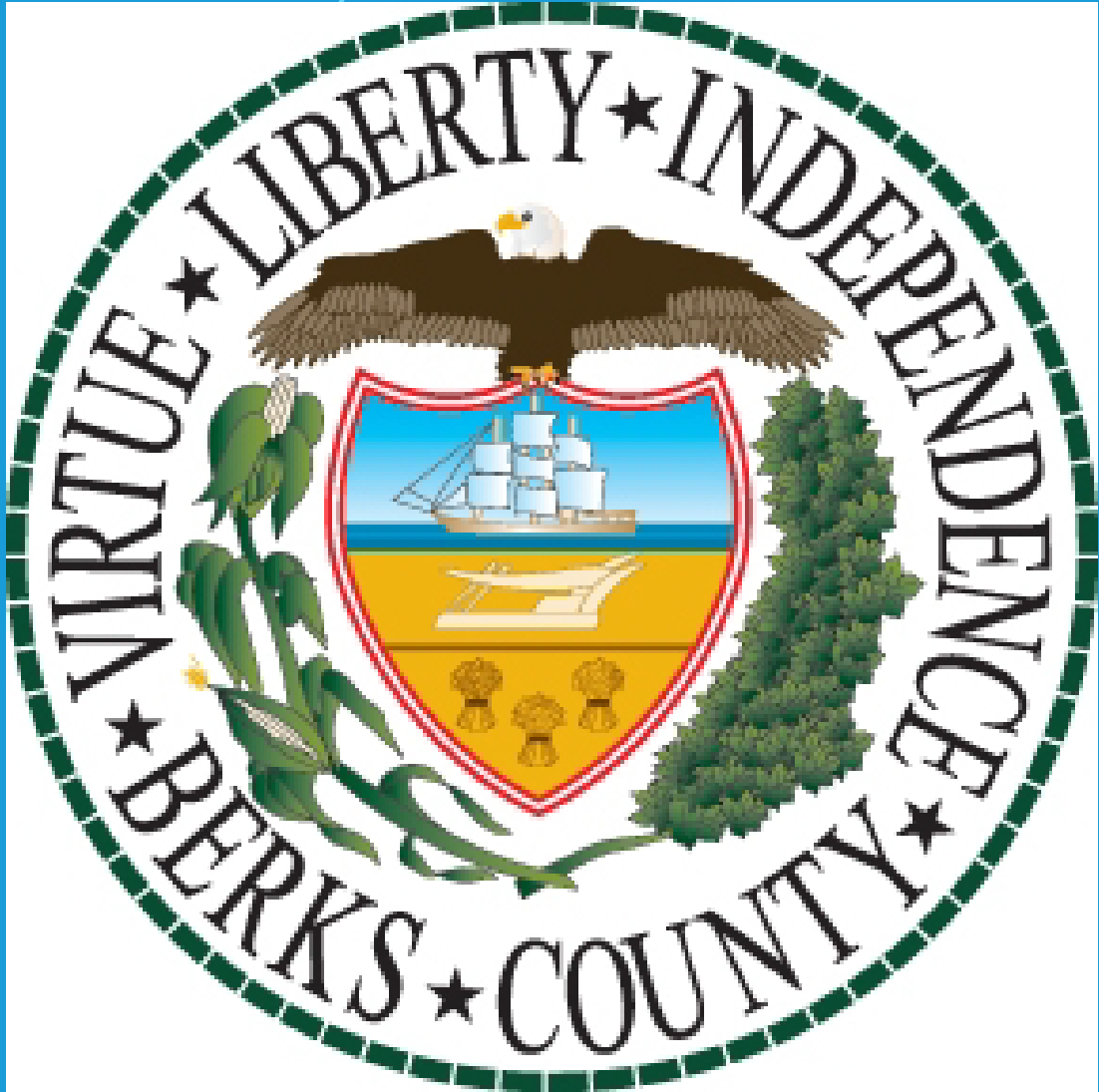
ACTING IN THE INTEREST OF THE COMMUNITY

Determine what, if any next steps should be taken in 2025 relative to the 2023 Berks County Health study.

1. Create a County Health Director
2. Establish a Public Health Advisory Panel
3. Support the Establishment of a "Healthy Berks" Coalition
4. Create a County Health Data Analyst

"In the end, success comes down to the team and not a single player."





THANK YOU

