

Cape May County at a glance

PEOPLE

- 97,000 year-round residents with an estimated summer population of 812,000
- 4.7 percent of the people are under 5 years old
- 18.9 percent are under 18 years old
- 21.6 percent are over 65 years old
- Per capita income is \$33,882
- Median household income is approximately \$56,000
- Over 98,500 housing units consisting of 41.5 percent year-round and 58.5 percent for seasonal use

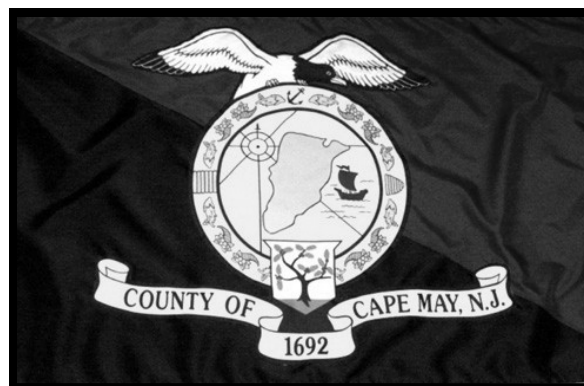
GEOGRAPHY

- Encompassing 267 square miles of land area located at the southern tip of the state, bordered by Atlantic County to the north, the Atlantic Ocean to the east and south, the Delaware Bay to the west and Cumberland County to the northwest
- Made up of 16 municipalities
- 30 miles of white sandy beaches on the barrier islands with thousands of acres on the mainland preserved for open space, farmlands and natural conservation
- Middle Township, with over 70 square miles, is geographically the largest of all the municipalities.
- Lower Township, with approximately 23,000 people, is the most populated.

ECONOMY

- Tourism represents the number one industry generating \$5.5 billion a year in revenue.
- Total labor force is 49,115 people.
- There are nearly 3,800 private business establishments.
- The county's largest employment component in the Private Sector is leisure and hospitality which includes lodging, food services, recreation and amusements.
- The second largest employment sector is trade, transportation and utilities.
- Government employs 17.1 percent of the non-agriculture labor force.

The Official Cape May County Flag



The Board of Chosen Freeholders meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., Caucus 5:30 p.m. and the fourth Tuesday at 4:30 p.m., Caucus 3 p.m. at the **William E. Sturm, Jr. Administration Building**



4 Moore Road, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210



The Official County Seal was accepted on May 1, 1927. The boat is believed to represent the Half Moon, the ship of Henry Hudson, who “discovered” the cape for the Dutch. The compass arrow indicates the position of the county.

The symbols around the edge represent the county's maritime commerce. The bee hive is thought to represent industry in the county. The stack of books represents learning or education. The cornucopia between the fish represents the agricultural bounty of the county.

capemaycountynj.gov

Cape May County Government

The Board of Chosen Freeholders



Gerald M. Thornton, Director

Leonard C. Desiderio, Vice-Director

Kristine Gabor

Will Morey

E. Marie Hayes



Elizabeth Bozzelli, Clerk of the Board
(609) 465-1065

capemaycountynj.gov

What is a Freeholder?

A freeholder is the elected county government representative in New Jersey who serves on the county's main governing body, the Board of Chosen Freeholders. The term "freeholder" originates from medieval England and was designated to individuals who owned property. During this period, only those individuals who held property "free" and clear were eligible to vote in elections as well as to hold public office. Influenced by early English tradition, the State of New Jersey continued to use the title "freeholder" in its 21 county governments.

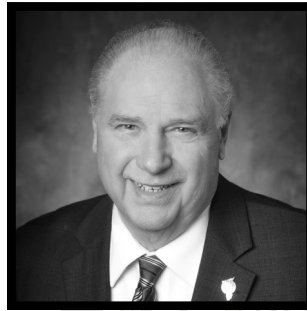
The Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders was incorporated by an act of the New Jersey Legislature in 1798. The modern board consists of five members that are elected "at-large" to three-year staggered terms. The board is organized every January when departments are designated and a director and vice-director are selected.



Kristine Gabor

Freeholder
gabor@co.cape-may.nj.us

Director of Health and Human Services overseeing Aging/Disabilities, Crest Haven Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Health Department, Human Services, Mosquito Control and Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)



Gerald M. Thornton

Freeholder Director
thornton@co.cape-may.nj.us

Director of Administration, Revenue & Finance and Emergency Management overseeing Administration, Clerk of the Board, County Counsel, Emergency Management, Facilities and Services, Management Information Services, Purchasing, Special Projects, Treasurer's Office and Veterans' Bureau



Leonard C. Desiderio

Freeholder Vice-Director
desiderio@co.cape-may.nj.us

Director of Public Safety overseeing Animal Shelter, Consumer Affairs/Weights & Measures, Fire Marshal, Human Resources and Training, Medical Examiner, Prosecutor, Public Safety Training Center and the Sheriff's Department/Correctional Center



Will Morey

Freeholder
morey@co.cape-may.nj.us

Director of Planning, Education, Engineering and Economic Development overseeing Bridges, Economic Development, Engineer's Office, Open Space and Farmland Preservation, Planning Department, Roads, Rutgers Cooperative Extension and Superintendent of Schools

What are the duties of a Freeholder?

Under Cape May County's form of government, the Board of Chosen Freeholders acts as both the legislative and executive branches of county government. As legislators, the Board of Chosen Freeholders adopts resolutions establishing its policies of governing as well as its budgetary decisions in the appropriation of county tax dollars. It also adopts ordinances that authorize county borrowing and the incurring of debt for short and long term improvements for county equipment and facilities. In its executive capacity, the freeholder board appoints the Clerk of the Board, Director of Operations and all department heads to carry out the mandates established by their resolutions and ordinances. Each freeholder is designated to oversee the day-to-day operations of specific county departments as well as serve as liaison to various authorities, boards, councils, commissions and committees established within county government.



E. Marie Hayes

Freeholder
hayes@co.cape-may.nj.us

Director of Tourism and Public Information, Public Offices and Transportation overseeing Board of Elections, County Clerk/Adjuster, Culture and Heritage, Fare Free Transportation, Library, Museum, Park/Zoo, Print Shop, Surrogate, Tax Board and Tourism and Public Information

Important County Government Contacts

Aging & Disability Services 886-2784
Animal Shelter & Adoption Center 465-8923
Board of Elections 465-1050
Consumer Affairs 886-2905
County Clerk 465-1010
Crest Haven Nursing & Rehab. Ctr. 465-1260
Emergency Management 463-6570
Engineers' Office 465-1035
Fare Free Transportation 889-3700
Health Department 465-1187
Human Services 465-1055

Important County Government Contacts

Main Library 463-6350
Mosquito Control 465-9038
Park & Zoo 465-5271
Planning Department 465-1080
Prosecutor 465-1135
Sheriff 463-6430
Social Services 886-6200
Surrogate's Office 463-6666
Tax Board 465-1030
Tourism & Public Information 463-6415