

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION

GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026
6:45 PM (Approximately)

Chairperson: Maggie Epstein

Vice Chairperson: Sean Whalen, V. Scott Zelov

AGENDA

1. AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE ORDINANCE - CHAPTER 5, ADMINISTRATIVE CODE; ARTICLE III, OFFICERS - COMPENSATION AMENDMENTS
2. APPROVAL OF POLICY REGARDING TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONER COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENTS



Township of Lower Merion
A FIRST CLASS TOWNSHIP

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

COMMITTEE: Governance & Administration

ITEM: **AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE ORDINANCE - CHAPTER 5, ADMINISTRATIVE CODE;
ARTICLE III, OFFICERS - COMPENSATION AMENDMENTS**

Consider for recommendation to the Board of Commissioners authorizing the Township Secretary to advertise notice of intent to adopt an ordinance to amend the Code of the Township of Lower Merion, Chapter 5, Administrative Code, Article III, Officers, §5-7, Compensation, to codify the compensation for the Office of Township Commissioner and Township Tax Collector; and increase the annual compensation for the Office of Township Commissioner from \$4,000 to \$6,000, consistent with § 55603(c) of the First Class Township Code, with the effect that only Township Commissioners elected to serve terms beginning January 3, 2028 or January 7, 2030, and any Township Commissioners subsequently elected or appointed thereafter with respect to those terms, shall receive the raise.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[Issue Briefing - Commissioner Compensation](#)

[Proposed Ordinance - Compensation Amendments](#)

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION
Governance & Administration Committee

Issue Briefing

Topic: Board of Commissioners Compensation

Prepared By: Commissioner Maggie Epstein, Chairperson

Date: April 30, 2026

I. Action To Be Considered By The Board:

Authorize advertisement of an ordinance amending the Township Code to codify the compensation of the Office of Township Commissioner and Township Tax Collector and increase the annual compensation for the Office of Township Commissioner from \$4,000 to \$6,000 per year for all Township Commissioners duly elected or appointed to serve terms beginning January 3, 2028 or later.

Secondly, establish a policy for staff to provide the Board of Commissioners with a calculation of Commissioner compensation if adjusted by CPI by October 31st of 2029 and each odd numbered year thereafter.

II. Why This Issue Requires Board Consideration:

Establishment of commissioner compensation requires Board of Commissioner approval by ordinance adoption.

III. Current Policy Or Practice (If Applicable): Current compensation for members of the Board of Commissioners is \$4,000 per year and tax collector compensation is \$6,000 per year.

IV. Other Relevant Background Information:

Commissioner compensation was set at \$4,000 per year since at least the mid-1970s, which was less than the maximum \$5,000 allowed under the Pennsylvania First Class Township Code until amendments approved by the Legislature in late 2020. The maximum compensation allowed currently under Section 703 of the First-Class Township Code is \$13,363 and is based on the formula that is for townships with 45,000 or more population - \$210 per year per 1,000 residents or fraction of 1,000.

Commissioners spend considerable time serving the community for compensation that has not been increased in decades. The Commissioner compensation is really a stipend in large part reimbursement for costs incurred while serving as commissioner. Increased compensation may interest more residents in serving the community as a township commissioner. According to the First-Class Township Code the increased compensation if approved would become effective for seven commissioners taking office in 2028 and for the other seven commissioners taking office in 2030.

Commissioner compensation is currently set by a separate ordinance that is not incorporated into the Township Code and incorporated into the Township's annual operating budget as part of the budgeting process. The proposed ordinance amends Chapter 5, Article III, §5-7, entitled Compensation by adding language codifying the amount Township Commissioners are compensated and increasing that amount to \$6,000 per year. The proposed amendment also clarifies the Township Tax Collector's annual compensation by codifying that amount as well. The Tax Collector is currently compensated at \$6,000 per year so there is no increase in compensation.

V. Impact On Township Finances:

The increased compensation would cost an additional \$14,000 in 2028 and another increase in cost of \$14,000 in 2030.

VI. Recommendation:

Recommendation is to authorize advertisement of an ordinance amending the Township Code to codify the compensation of the Office of Township Commissioner and Township Tax Collector and increase the annual compensation for the Office of Township Commissioner from \$4,000 to \$6,000 per year for all Township Commissioners duly elected or appointed to serve terms beginning January 3, 2028 or later.

Secondly, to establish a policy for staff to provide the Board of Commissioners with a calculation of Commissioner compensation if adjusted by CPI by October 31, 2029 and each odd numbered year thereafter.

AN ORDINANCE

NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE To Amend The Code Of The Township Of Lower Merion, Chapter 5, Administrative Code, Article III, Officers, § 5-7 Compensation, To Codify The Compensation For The Office Of Township Commissioner And Township Tax Collector; And Increase The Annual Compensation For The Office Of Township Commissioner From \$4,000 To \$6,000, Consistent With § 55603(c) Of The First Class Township Code, With The Effect That Only Township Commissioners Elected To Serve Terms Beginning January 3, 2028 Or January 7, 2030, And Any Township Commissioners Subsequently Elected or Appointed Thereafter With Respect To Those Terms, Shall Receive the Raise.

The Board of Commissioners of the Township of Lower Merion hereby ordains:

Section 1. The Code of the Township of Lower Merion, Chapter 5, entitled Administrative Code, Article III, Officers, § 5-7, Compensation, is hereby amended to read as follows:

§ 5-7 Compensation.

- A. The compensation of the officers referred to in §§5-5 and 5-6 of this chapter shall be provided for in the annual Township budget as adopted, and any amendment to such budget, and as otherwise provided for by law;
- B. The annual compensation for Township Commissioners shall be \$4,000. For all Township Commissioners duly elected or appointed hereafter to serve terms beginning January 3, 2028 or later, the annual compensation shall be \$6,000.
- C. The annual compensation for Township Tax Collector shall be \$6,000; The Township Tax Collector shall, in addition, be entitled to charge those fees set forth in Chapter A167 hereof.
- D. The annual compensation for Township Commissioner or Tax Collector shall be established by ordinance in accord with the First-Class Township Code.

Section 2. Nothing in this Ordinance or in Chapter 5 of the Code of the Township of Lower Merion, as hereby amended, shall be construed to affect any suit or proceedings in any

Court, any rights acquired or liability incurred, any permit issued, or any cause or causes of action existing under the said Chapter 5 prior to the adoption of this amendment.

Section 3. Nothing in this Ordinance or in the Code of the Township of Lower Merion, as hereby amended, shall be construed to affect any suit or proceedings in any Court, any rights acquired or liability incurred, any permit issued, or any cause or causes of action existing under the said Code of the Township of Lower Merion prior to the adoption of this amendment.

Section 4. The provisions of this Ordinance are severable, and if any section, sentence, clause, part, or provision thereof shall be held illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such decision of this court shall not affect or impair the remaining sections, sentences, clauses, parts or provisions of this ordinance. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Board that this ordinance would have been adopted if such illegal, invalid or unconstitutional section, sentence, clause, part or provision had not been included herein.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall take affect and be in force from and after its approval as required by law.

Approved by the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Lower Merion this _____ day of _____, 2026.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION

Todd M. Sinai, President

ATTEST:

Jody L. Kelley, Secretary



Township of Lower Merion
A FIRST CLASS TOWNSHIP

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

COMMITTEE: Governance & Administration

ITEM: **APPROVAL OF POLICY REGARDING TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONER COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENTS**

Consider for recommendation to the Board of Commissioners approval of a policy for staff to provide the Board of Commissioners with a calculation of Commissioner compensation if adjusted CPI by October 31, 2029 and each odd numbered year thereafter.