

NEWS RELEASE

August 29, 2023

WESTMORELAND COUNTY COMMISSIONER TED KOPAS
2 North Main Street, Suite 101
Greensburg, PA 15601

www.co.westmoreland.pa.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ted Kopas
724-830-3102
tkopas@co.westmoreland.pa.us

GREENSBURG (August 29) – Westmoreland County Commissioner Ted Kopas today proposed capping the pay raises that county elected officials can receive by amending the ordinance that ties annual raises to the Consumer Price Index. Commissioner Kopas’ proposal would maintain tying any increase to inflation, but cap that amount not to exceed 2.5% in any year.

“We need to rethink the way Westmoreland County government operates, and it starts with the Commissioners. Over the past two years, through the existing ordinance, Commissioners awarded themselves a historic 13-percent pay raise. We need to repeal and replace the ordinance that allowed that to happen.

“While still tying salaries to a cost-of-living increase, it should be capped at no more than 2.5% in any year. We need to make sure that no Commissioner, present or future, receives such an obscene raise ever again. We owe it to those who pay our salaries.”

The cap would apply to the Commissioners, as well as all county elected officials, including the Controller, Treasurer, Coroner, Clerk of Courts, Prothonotary, Recorder of Deeds, Register of Wills, Clerk of Courts and Sheriff.

“I look forward to the support of my colleagues on the Board of Commissioners, as well as the backing of all row officers. This is the right thing to do.

“Anyone who runs for elected office for the paycheck is doing it for the wrong reasons.”

The 1996 ordinance passed by the then-majority of the Board of Commissioners became effective January 1, 1997, and increases the salaries of elected officials by an annual cost-of-living adjustment calculated by applying the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for the Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland area.

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