

042 Philadelphia (United States of America)

5.3 million inhabitants according to the UN's *Urban Agglomerations 2003*

1. Territorial Levels, Population and Area

Territorial Levels	Population*	% of total	Area (km ²)	Density (population/km ²)
Philadelphia (city and county)**	1,463,281	0.49	369.4	3,961.2
Philadelphia Metropolitan Area ***	5,823,233	1.96	12,613.2	461.7
State of Pennsylvania	12,429,616	4.19	119,281.9	104.2
State of New Jersey	8,717,925	2.94	22,587.2	385.9
United States of America	296,410,000	100	9,830,000	30.2

- Data from the U.S. Census Office estimate at December 2005.

** Combined territory and population after the merger of the city and county (city-county consolidation).

*** According to the definition of the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) of Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington established by the U.S. Census Office in 2005. This definition includes the whole region, divided in four states: Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland. However, the population of the states of Pennsylvania and New Jersey make up 90 per cent of the total population of the metropolitan region.

2. Administrative Designation and Number of Municipalities

Name	Designation	Number of Municipalities
Philadelphia	Philadelphia City	1 City-County 10 Districts
Philadelphia Metropolitan Area	Metropolitan Statistical Area of Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington	11 Counties in 4 states: Pennsylvania 5: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia New Jersey 4: Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Salem Delaware 1: New Castle Maryland 1: Cecil 421 Cities or Towns
State of Pennsylvania	State of Pennsylvania	1 State 67 Counties 2,564 Municipal governments: Cities, Towns, Townships.
State of New Jersey	State of New Jersey	1 State 21 Counties 324 Municipalities: Boroughs, cities, towns and villages 242 Township governments responsible for the government of territories not covered by any municipality.
United States of America	United States of America	50 States, 1 Federal District 3,034 Counties 19,431 Municipalities 16,506 Townships

3. Institutional Framework and Political Powers

Philadelphia

General Aspects

Since 1854, the governments of the City of Philadelphia and the County of Philadelphia have been merged and their powers shared. The city's powers of home rule are guaranteed by the Constitution of the State of Pennsylvania. It has the right to exercise any power or carry out any government action relating to its own interests. This includes establishing public policy for: public health, sanitation, security, welfare, the creation of taxes and debt capacity. It has powers in: the provision of water and sewers, transport, urban planning and land use, public road maintenance, urban traffic, parks, police, libraries, personal services (childhood, youth, the elderly and the homeless), public housing, emergency services and the environment. As a county government, it also has judicial powers.

Mayor

The mayor has maximum executive responsibility for the city, directing the departments of government and electing representatives. He or she has the right to vote in the City Council meetings. The draft budget is submitted to the mayor, who also has the right to veto council bylaws. He or she also appoints members of several committees, commissions and agencies of the city. Is elected for four-year terms under a simple-majority electoral system.

City Council

Is the legislative organization of the city. Responsible for passing the budget, bylaws and city resolutions. The Council, which appoints the chairperson from among its peers, decides about: financial aspects such as credit and bonds, land acquisition, land use regulations, traffic management and the endorsement of the officials named by the mayor. If the mayor vetoes the approval of a law, it can be approved by two-thirds of the Council. Its 17 members are chosen in different ways: 10 are elected on the basis of electoral districts and seven from the city at large. They are all chosen for four-year terms through a majority electoral system and there is no limit to the number of times they can stand for office.

Public Organizations in the City of Philadelphia

Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA)

Public authority, mainly financed by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. Is responsible for the creation, development, and maintenance of public housing in the City of Philadelphia for people on lower incomes. Acts on both the property market (though the development of home ownership projects) and the rental market (as a market provider and guarantor).

Philadelphia Metropolitan Area

General Aspects

There is no institution that covers the whole of the metropolitan area in the four states.

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)

Created in 1965, this multi-functional authority covers part of the metropolitan area (nine counties, five million inhabitants) in the states of New Jersey (Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Mercer) and Pennsylvania (Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia). It is made up of 18 members who represent the different local areas, the county, the two federated states and the federal state.

It works with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), whose mission includes establishing regional transport policies, mobility planning (highways, airports) and other regional policies regarding land use, air quality, housing, provision of drinking water and water quality. The agency stimulates cooperation between the region's different parties and is responsible for creating a combined vision of economic development and regional town-planning.

Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA)

Is the agency that operates public transport in the metropolitan area of the State of Pennsylvania (covering 5,700km² and serving 3.9 million people in the counties of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia). Also covers a part of the railway service in the states of New Jersey and Delaware. Includes different types of transport (bus, light rail, monorail, trolley bus)

Port Authority Transit Corporation (PATCO)

This agency only operates one line of the automatic subway between the City of Philadelphia (State of Pennsylvania) and Camden County (State of New Jersey).

Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation (GPTMC)

A private, non-profit organization founded in 1996 to build up tourism and economic development in five counties in the region (Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia).

State of Pennsylvania

General Aspects

The constitution of the United States of America recognizes the sovereignty of the states except in exclusively federal areas of jurisdiction. Therefore, as a federal state, the Government and legislature have very broad authority, including over social services and public health, community development (public housing, economic development, coastal regeneration, parks, facilities), public security, environment (water, sewerage and solid-waste management), transport (public transport, highways, canals, freeways), employment and consumer affairs. In many of these sectors the state carries out its function through committees, agencies or boards.

Governor

Represents the executive power of the state and is responsible for implementing state laws. Powers include: appointing non-elected, high-ranking officials, with the consent of the senate; organizing the functions and responsibilities of state agencies and departments, preparing the state budget and presenting it to the General Assembly,

and exercising the power of veto, in the first reading, of the laws approved by the General Assembly. The governor is chosen by the citizens by a relative majority system, for a four-year term.

General Assembly

Two-chamber system made up of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Both chambers have the same legislative powers and all laws must be approved by both chambers. The Senate is made up of 50 members, chosen in single-member districts for four-year terms. The 203 representatives of the House of Representatives are renewed every second year in 118 single-member districts, to serve two-year terms.

Public Organization in the State of Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency

Independent public agency sustained by State funds and programs. Its objective is to finance the construction and maintenance of public housing, both in buying and renting.

State of New Jersey

General Aspects

The powers of the State of New Jersey, as written in the Constitution of the United States of America, are similar to those of the State of Pennsylvania.

Governor

Holds the executive powers of the state and has the highest responsibility for both the Government and administration. The Governor chooses the members of the government and the main executive officials, although his elections are endorsed by the Senate. Has the power of veto over the first reading of the laws of the legislature and also draws up the budget. The Governor is chosen by a direct election system by the citizens for a four-year term.

Legislature

This two-chamber system, made up of the General Assembly and the Senate, has legislative power in the state, which it shares with governor, who has the power of veto over the state legislation. This veto can be over-ruled in the second reading by a two-thirds majority in each chamber. The 80 members of the assembly are elected in 40 districts at a rate of two per district, for two-year terms. The citizens elect the 40 senators by a simple majority system at a rate of one per district. They are elected for four years, with the exception of the first senators of each decade, who are only elected for two years.

Public organizations in the State of New Jersey

NJ Economic Development Authority

Agency of state economic development whose powers range from supporting small and medium businesses to fostering technological development and the reuse of industrial land.

NJ Transportation Planning Authority

This Metropolitan Planning Organization, created by the Federal Government, plans investment in and development of the transport system in the north of the state of New Jersey. It is responsible for 13 counties. Its executive arm is made up of one representative from each county and the two major cities, Jersey and Newark.

NJ Transit

Public transport corporation responsible for operations in the part of the State of New Jersey inside the New York Metropolitan Area. Operates the services of the bus, train and light rail in the local, regional and interstate levels.

United States of America

President

This figure combines the powers of head of state with those of the head of government. Has maximum executive responsibility for the federal government, while also carrying out the main symbolic and representative functions of the republic. Is elected via an electoral college with 538 votes that represent the federal states in a proportional fashion. The votes are assigned by a majority system that grants all the votes in each state to the candidate that received the most votes in that state. May be reelected only once.

House of Representatives

This chamber forms the legislative power in Congress together with the Senate. Has legislative initiative and shares legislative power with the Senate. The 435 representatives are elected in 435 districts in a single-member district plurality system for two-year terms. The elections to the House coincide with the presidential elections every two terms.

Senate

Forms the legislative power together with the House of Representatives. As well as legislative power, has the responsibility for validating the senior positions appointed by the President, ratifying international treaties and initiating the presidential impeachment process. The 100 senators are elected on the basis of two per state in a relative majority system. One-third of the Senate is renewed every two years, coinciding with the presidential elections and the elections for the House of Representatives.

4. Websites and Documentation

Websites:

City of Philadelphia: <http://www.phila.gov/>

Philadelphia Housing Authority: <http://www.pha.phila.gov/>

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission: <http://www.dvrpc.org/>

Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority: <http://www.septa.org>

Port Authority Transit Corporation: <http://www.ridepatco.org>

Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation: <http://www.gptmc.org/>

State of Pennsylvania: <http://www.state.pa.us/>

Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency: <http://www.phfa.org/>

State of New Jersey <http://www.state.nj.com/>

NJ Transit: <http://www.njtransit.com/>

NJ Transportation Planning Authority: <http://www.njtpa.org/>

Government of the United States (FirstGov) <http://www.firstgov.gov>

United States Census Office: <http://www.census.gov/>

State and Local Government on the Net: <http://www.statelocalgov.net/index.cfm>

Documentation:

The Philadelphia Code:

[http://www.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/Pennsylvania/philadelphia_pa/thephiladelphiacode?f=templates\\$fn=default.htm\\$3.0\\$vid=amlegal:philadelphia_pa](http://www.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/Pennsylvania/philadelphia_pa/thephiladelphiacode?f=templates$fn=default.htm$3.0$vid=amlegal:philadelphia_pa)

Annual Report of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission:

http://www.dvrpc.org/publicaffairs/annual/fy06/fy2006_espanol.pdf