



THE MORRIS COUNTY CLERK CHRONICLE



Ann F. Grossi, Esq.
Morris County Clerk

www.morriscountyclerk.org

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(973) 285-6120

2020-2021

Deeds Recorded:	12,237
Mortgages Recorded:	58,029
Notary Public Commissions Recorded:	3,465
Trade Name Certificates Recorded:	235
Veteran's Discharges Recorded:	17
Total Documents Recorded:	99,269
Passport Applications Processed:	1,808
State Realty Transfer Fee Revenue:	\$48,453,709.18
County Realty Transfer Fee Revenue:	\$7,310,989.36
State Realty Transfer Tax Revenue:	\$48,453,709.18
Total Realty Transfer Tax Revenue:	\$55,764,698.54
Total Receipts Collected:	\$63,374,959.71
Total Given to County:	\$10,840,093.77

End of Year Report

2020 presented major challenges, not only to the County Clerk's Office, but to the nation as a whole. The COVID-19 pandemic left lasting effects on the public health and economy of our nation, however despite the challenges we face, we are adapting and we will persevere, just as we have in the past.

The Morris County Clerk's Office has a wider scope than most other offices in County Government. The County Clerk's office issues passports as well as Senior and Veteran I.D. Cards, stores military discharge records of veterans, administers the oath of office to all Notaries Public, records the trade name certificates of all non-incorporated businesses and officiates marriage ceremonies. Due to the fact that our office provides a wide array of public services, the County Clerk's Office typically interacts with residents in person more than other offices. This presented the unique challenge of continuing to provide services during the pandemic while also ensuring the health and safety of Morris County residents and staff. The County Clerk's office installed barriers between employees and the public in every office, secured compressive PPE for our employees and invested in technology in order to provide work from home opportunities and staggered schedules in our larger departments to limit exposure. The County Clerk's Office also modified the services we provide to 'by appointment only' in order to comply with social distance mandates.

While our office modified services during the pandemic, Governor Murphy signed Executive Order No. 172, which mandated that the 2020 Primary and General Election be conducted primarily through vote by mail ballots. Our office hand stuffed and mailed close to 400,000 ballots prior to the June Primary Election as well as 230,000 ballots before the November General Election. All employees from every department in the County Clerk's office worked extended shifts during the week and weekends in order to ensure that every registered voter received a ballot. Our Elections Department fielded thousands of phone calls every day leading up to election day, informing voters on how to get registered and assisting residents with any issues they had with their ballots. Through their hard work and dedication, the Morris County Clerk's Office administered a successful and transparent election without missing a deadline.

The costs associated with conducting an election primarily through mail in ballots was substantial, however our office secured \$211,389 in grants that will be spent on election related costs. Despite the economic impact the pandemic had on the nation, our office recorded 12,237 deeds, 58,029 mortgages, 235 trade name certificates with a total of 99,269 documents recorded. Our office also generated more than \$60,000,000 in recording fees. Of that, more than \$10,000,000 went to the County for tax relief, with the remainder going to the State of New Jersey.

In 2021, the Morris County Clerk's Office is looking forward to launch innovative technological upgrades in order to streamline services. Some of which are online scheduling services for Notary, Passport and our Records Room, as well as expanding our outreach with Morris County constituents by implementing email and mobile text updates. Our office is also looking forward to launching the Morris County Clerk mobile app, where Morris County Residents can check their voter registration, register to vote, view live election results and many more services, all from the convenience of their smartphone.

Morris County Clerk Ann Grossi states "As we enter 2021, my office is more prepared than ever to meet the needs of Morris County residents and will continue to make our services as accessible as possible while still dealing with the ramifications of a global pandemic."

Morris County Clerk Manual Cover Contest

In January of 2021, judging for the Morris County Manual Cover Contest began. The Morris County Manual is a comprehensive resource containing the names and contact information of elected and appointed officials at all levels of government. The annual publication is designed to help simplify doing business with the various departments, boards and commissions in all 39 municipalities throughout Morris County.

Each year, the County Clerk conducts an art contest to select the cover of the Morris County Manual. The contest is open to all high school art students within the County. I would like to thank Commissioner Tayfun Selen, OPRA Officer & CBA Board Secretary Sheila Leary and Chief Clerk Anna McMahon for agreeing to judge the entries. The first place winner's entry will grace the cover of the 2021 County Manual. Scholarships awarded to the top three winning entries are as follows:

- First Prize: \$500
- Second Prize: \$200
- Third Prize: \$100

I would like to thank all the contestants for their participation. Winners will be announced soon on our social media platforms.

Morris County Manual Cover Contest



From left to right: OPRA Officer & CBA Board Secretary Sheila Leary, Commissioner Tayfun Selen, Morris County Clerk Ann F. Grossi, Chief Clerk Anna McMahon

About the Clerk's Office:

The Morris County Clerk is a "Constitutional Officer" holding a 5 year position that is established by the New Jersey Constitution. The position was initially created to serve the public by acting as the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions though duties have grown to include the recording and maintenance of every conveyance of real property such as deeds, mortgages, liens, maps and other related legal documents.

The office is also a passport application acceptance facility. They issue ID cards to Morris County residents and veterans. They record military discharges of veterans (DD-214), administer the oath of office to all Notary Publics, and record the trade name certificates of all non-incorporated businesses. The County Clerk even officiates marriage ceremonies regularly.

In addition, the office administers several important election functions. These include the preparation and mailing of all mail-in and sample ballots, the acceptance of nominating petitions, the design and preparation of voting machine ballot layouts and the tallying of election results.

Social Media

For important updates on all matters related to the County Clerk's Office . Please be sure to follow us on our social media accounts:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/morriscountyclerk

Twitter: www.twitter.com/morrisctyclerk

Instagram: www.instagram.com/morriscountyclerk

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