

## **Biography: Hon. Paul Heimel, Commissioner, Potter County, Pennsylvania**

Paul Heimel is a lifelong resident of Potter County, often referred to as God's Country, in the heart of the Allegheny Mountains in northcentral Pennsylvania. He served as third-generation editor of the local weekly newspaper for two decades; took a detour to work in corporate communications and public relations for several years, and was then elected to a seat on the Potter County Board of Commissioners, where he has served for nearly 18 years.

As a commissioner, he has been a strong advocate for rural counties and has spearheaded Potter County's expansion of services for military veterans, criminal justice reforms and multiple other local initiatives. Commissioner Heimel also serves in leadership roles with the statewide County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, where he was honored as Commissioner of the Year in 2017, and is active with the National Association of Counties in the areas of rural advocacy, veterans affairs, community development through arts/culture and tourism and criminal justice reform.

## **About NACo**

The National Association of Counties (NACo) represents the interests of America's 3,069 counties, parishes and boroughs, serving as a powerful voice in federal policymaking and a vital part of our nation's intergovernmental system. With a membership of thousands of county elected and professional officials, NACo brings together leaders from across the country to shape national policies, share best practices and strengthen counties for a stronger America.

At the heart of NACo's mission is a commitment to advancing county priorities, promoting innovative policies, nurturing leadership skills and building networks of knowledge and collaboration. Through our committees, caucuses and task forces, NACo empowers counties to optimize resources, improve services and enhance public understanding of county government.

NACo is dedicated to creating opportunities for counties to lead, learn, and advocate, ensuring that counties remain strong and capable of meeting the needs of their residents.