



**Lehigh County**  
Pennsylvania

**OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER**

Mark Pinsley, MBA  
COUNTY CONTROLLER

Nanton John, CFE  
DEPUTY CONTROLLER

**TO:** Final Report Distribution  
**FROM:** Mark Pinsley, County Controller  
**DATE:** March 26, 2025 *(ip)*  
**RE:** Audit of Magisterial District Court #31-1-06

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We have completed a financial audit of Magisterial District Court #31-1-06, County of Lehigh, Pennsylvania for the period January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023. Our audit report number 25-09 is attached.

The results of our audit are:

- The County of Lehigh received the proper amounts due from Magisterial District Court #31-1-06.
- The Magisterial District Court is in general compliance with the applicable financial AOPC guidelines.

Attachment



**COUNTY OF LEHIGH, PENNSYLVANIA**  
**MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT #31-1-06**

*Financial Audit*  
*For the Period January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023*

REPORT NO. 25-09

COUNTY OF LEHIGH, PENNSYLVANIA  
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT #31-1-06

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

Magisterial District Judge Amy Zanelli  
Magisterial District Court #31-1-06  
623 W. Union Blvd.  
Bethlehem, PA 18018

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Statement**

***Opinion***

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Receipts and Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balance of Magisterial District Court #31-1-06 for the period January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023 and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial activity arising from cash transactions of the Magisterial District Court #31-1-06 for the period January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023, in accordance with the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting described in Note 1.

***Basis for Opinion***

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (GAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement section of our report. We are required to be independent of Magisterial District Court #31-1-06 and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

***Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting***

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements were prepared on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Also, as discussed in Note 1, the financial statements present only the Magisterial District Court #31-1-06’s financial activity and does not purport to, and does not, present fairly the assets, liabilities, and results of operations of the County of Lehigh for the period January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

### ***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting described in Note 1; this includes determining that the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and GAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of certain internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statement.

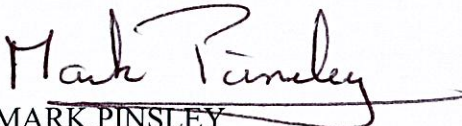
In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and GAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Magisterial District Court #31-1-06's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statement.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Magisterial District Court #31-1-06's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

***Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 24, 2025, on our consideration of Magisterial District Court #31-1-06's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering management's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

  
MARK PINSLEY  
County Controller

Date: March 24, 2025  
Allentown, Pennsylvania

Audited by: Daniel Aquilino and Brian O'Donnell

Final Distribution:

Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts  
Auditor General of Pennsylvania  
Bethlehem City  
Bethlehem Parking Authority  
Bethlehem School District  
Fountain Hill Borough  
Phillips Armstrong, County Executive  
Board of Commissioners  
Edward Hozza, Director of Administration  
The Honorable J. Brian Johnson, President Judge  
Krista Makhoul, MDJ Office Manager  
Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School  
Carolynn Perry, MDJ Administrator  
Timothy Reeves, Chief Fiscal Officer  
John Sikora, Deputy Court Administrator  
Kerry Turtzo, Court Administrator  
Reina Zabala, Executive Aide  
The Honorable Amy Zanelli, Magisterial District Judge

COUNTY OF LEHIGH, PENNSYLVANIA  
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT #31-1-06

*Statement of Receipts and Disbursements  
and Changes in Cash Balance  
for the Period January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023*  
(NOTE 1)

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Receipts:		
Office Receipt Activity	588,350	754,932
Bank Account Interest	359	1,668
Total Receipts.....	588,709	756,600
Disbursements:		
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Costs and Fines	318,786	418,950
County of Lehigh – Costs and Fines	103,082	132,953
Refunds	45,630	44,824
Bethlehem City – Costs and Fines	39,881	53,529
Bethlehem Parking Authority – Costs and Fines	30,316	32,919
Server Fees (NOTE 2)	27,323	32,445
Fountain Hill Borough – Costs and Fines	19,536	25,200
Restitution	758	1,858
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania – Interest	359	1,668
Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School – Costs and Fines	300	-
Bethlehem Area School District – Costs and Fines	155	124
Bethlehem City – Costs and Fines	64	14
Total Disbursements .....	586,190	744,483
Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements .....	2,519	12,117
Cash Balance, January 1 .....	29,024	31,543
Cash Balance, December 31 .....	31,543	43,660

The accompanying notes to financial statement are an integral part of this statement.

COUNTY OF LEHIGH, PENNSYLVANIA  
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT #31-1-06

*Notes to Financial Statement*  
*For the Period January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023*

**1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policy**

**A. Reporting Entity**

A portion of the Magisterial District Court #31-1-06's financial activity is a part of the County of Lehigh's reporting entity, included in the general fund and is subject to annual financial audit by external auditors. The remaining financial activity is part of other governmental entities. This report is only for internal audit purposes.

**B. Basis of Accounting**

The accounting records of the County of Lehigh and the Statement of Receipts and Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balance are maintained on the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. Under this basis of accounting, revenue is recognized when cash is received and expenditures are recognized when paid. This differs from Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) which requires the accrual basis of accounting.

**C. Administrative Guidelines**

An automated *Clerical Procedures Manual* is published by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC). Each magisterial district court is required to follow the procedures mandated under the authority of Rule 505 of the Pennsylvania Rules of Judicial Administration.

**D. Magisterial District Judge During the Audit Period**

Amy Zanelli was the Magisterial District Judge for the period January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023.

**2. Server Fees**

Constables receive payment for services rendered from two sources. The magisterial district judge pays the constable for services rendered and recovers the cost from the defendant when the case is paid-in-full. However, when the defendant is found not guilty, sentenced to confinement, or cannot pay the assessments, the County of Lehigh pays the constable. As such, the costs represented in the financial statements are not inclusive of server costs incurred and paid for by the County of Lehigh.





**Independent Auditor’s Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and  
On Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements in Accordance with  
Government Auditing Standards**

Magisterial District Judge Amy Zanelli  
Magisterial District Court #31-1-06  
623 W. Union Blvd.  
Bethlehem, PA 18018

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller of the United States; the accompanying Statement of Receipts and Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balance of Magisterial District Court #31-1-06 for the period January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023 (hereinafter referred to as the Schedules) and have issued our report thereon dated March 24, 2025.

***Internal Control over Financial Reporting***

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Magisterial District Court #31-1-06’s internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of management’s internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Magisterial District Court #31-1-06’s internal control.

*A deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. *A material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity’s financial statements will not be prevented or detected and corrected on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention to those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified.

***Compliance and Other Matters***

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Magisterial District Court #31-1-06’s financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Our audit also included sufficient and appropriate tests for fraud, waste and abuse and we included in our report any material (either quantitatively or qualitatively) instances we noted however, our audit procedures would not necessarily identify all instances of fraud, waste and abuse that may be reportable.

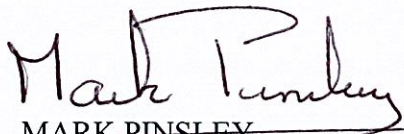
***Management’s Response to the Audit***

If provided, the Magisterial District Court #31-1-06’s response to our audit is included in this report. We did not audit Magisterial District Court #31-1-06’s response and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion on it.

***Purpose of this Report***

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal controls and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity’s internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity’s internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Magisterial District Judge, the Court, others within the entity, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

  
MARK PINSLEY  
County Controller

Date: March 24, 2025  
Allentown, PA