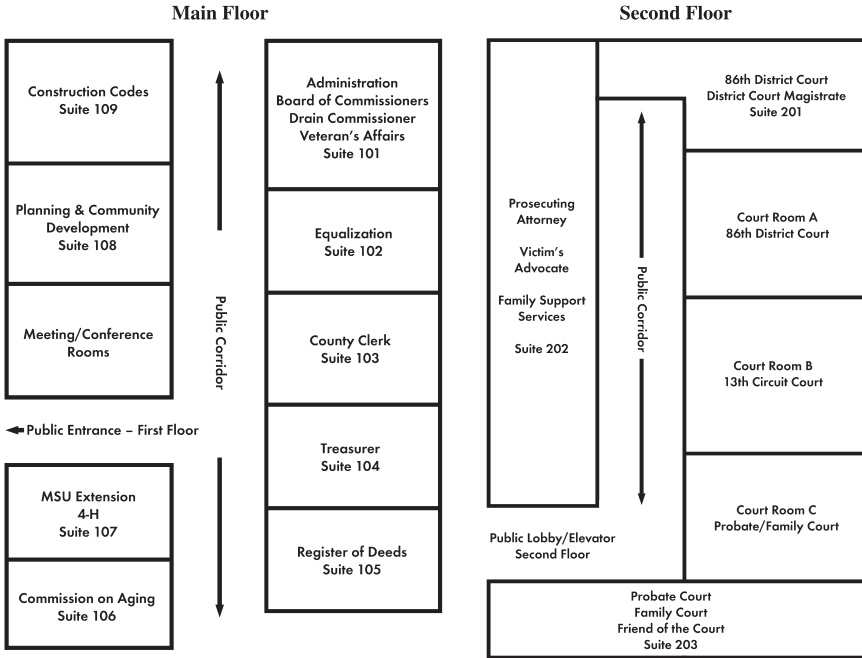


LEELANAU COUNTY

The biggest government in...the county

Floor maps, Leelanau County Government Center

8527 E. Government Center Drive, Suttons Bay 49682
 (Off M-204, three miles east of Suttons Bay Village)



Located in the expansive lower level of the Government Center are a community room open for use by local groups, and a work-out room available to county employees.

LEELANAU COUNTY: A historical perspective

Leelanau County, established in 1863, is the second smallest in size of Michigan's 83 counties. Only Benzie County is smaller.

The county seat started off in Northport, then the largest community in Leelanau, but moved to Leland in the 1880's after a mysterious fire destroyed the County Courthouse. Fingers were pointed at those who wanted the seat moved, but nothing was proven. On Aug. 3, 2004, voters decided in an election to move the County Seat from Leland to a rural area in Suttons Bay Township. On May 18, 2008, Leelanau County officially dedicated a 68,000 square-foot Government Center. Built for \$10.6 million, the structure allowed all county offices to be moved into one location. The County is still attempting to sell the former County Seat campus, which overlooks the Leland River.

County government stayed relatively small and simple through the 1960's, with its governing board consisting of the County Board of Supervisors. Each of the county's 11 township supervisors had a seat at the policy-making table. Today the county is broken into seven commissioner districts, with its approximately \$10 million budget appropriated by the County Board of Commissioners.

Most work of the county continues to be under the direction of elected officials who are not commissioners, including the county Sheriff, Prosecutor, Clerk and Treasurer.

Most county offices are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. As unified hours have not been established for the Government Center, a few departments are open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. You may want to call ahead to ask for

hours specific to a department.

And remember that the government center is closed for holidays, including Martin Luther King Day and Columbus Day.



Members of the County Board of Commissioners and the Tribal Council of Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians held a joint meeting last year to discuss common points of interest. The two boards had yet to schedule a joint meeting in 2012 when the Leelanau Pages went to press.