

Municipal Year Book

Urban Data Service



County Form of Government - 1988

Definitions:

The term commission, as used throughout the survey, refers to an elected body whose members may be called commissioners, supervisors, freeholders, or the like.

The term elected presiding officer, as used throughout the survey, refers to the elected head of the county government who may be called the executive, chairman, judge, or the like.

1. Please indicate which of the following best describes your current legal form of government, as defined by your charter or ordinance or by state law. (Please read all definitions first and check only one.)

- a. Each elected commissioner or board member serves as director of one or more functional departments (e.g. Public Works Director or Director of Health and Human Services) in addition to their policymaking roles. The presiding officer may be chosen from the board or elected directly (e.g., county judge). This is popularly known as the commission form.
- b. An elected board sets policy, adopts legislation, and the budget. The council appoints an administrator to conduct the day-to-day county business, to prepare the budget, to oversee department heads, and to recommend policy to the board. This is popularly known as the council-administrator (manager) form.
- c. The commissioners or supervisors are the legislative body responsible for making policy. The executive, elected at-large, implements county board policies, prepares the budget, and acts as county spokesperson. The executive often has veto power, which can be overridden. This form fully separates the legislative and executive powers and is popularly known as the council-elected executive form.

2. What is the title of the elected head of your county government? (Check only one.)

- a. Judge
- b. Executive
- c. Chairman
- d. Other (please specify) _____

3. Has your county established the position of a commission appointed manager/chief administrative officer?

YES NO

If "YES," by which of the following methods was the position established? (Check only one.)

- a. Charter
- b. State Statute
- c. Ordinance
- d. Other (please specify) _____

4. What is the first day of your fiscal year? (Month /Day) ____ / ____

5. In what year was your county incorporated? _____

over, please



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6. Does the political party affiliation of candidates appear on the ballot in a local general election? YES NO

If "YES," which types of parties appear on the ballot? (Check only one.)

___ a. National ___ b. Local ___ c. Both local and national

7. Is the elected presiding officer a member of the commission? YES NO

8. How is your presiding officer selected? (Check only one.)

- ___ a. Voters elect the presiding officer directly
- ___ b. Commission selects the presiding officer from among its members
- ___ c. Commissioners serve as presiding officer in rotation
- ___ d. Other (please specify) _____

9. How long is the term of the presiding officer (If the presiding officer is a member of the commission, specify the term for the position of presiding officer, not as commissioner.) _____ years

10. Does the elected presiding officer have the authority to veto commission-passed measures? YES NO

11. How many members are there on the commission? (Include the elected presiding officer if he or she is a member.)

12. Indicate the number of commission members selected by each of the following methods. (The total should equal the number of commission members given in Question 11.)

- a. Nominated and elected at-large
- b. Nominated by ward or district and elected at-large
- c. Nominated and elected by ward or district
- d. Other (please specify)

13. Indicate the length of term of commission members (if the elected presiding officer is a member of the commission, specify the term for the position of commission member, not presiding officer):

- a. Length of term for commission member elected at-large
- b. Length of term for commission member elected by ward

14. Do terms of commission members overlap? (i.e., not all members are elected in the same election.) YES NO

15. How many of the commission members are:

___ a. Female ___ b. Black ___ c. Hispanic

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