

COUNTIES OF MAINE

<u>County</u>	<u>County Seat</u>
Androscoggin	Auburn
Aroostook	Houlton
Cumberland	Portland
Franklin	Farmington
Hancock	Ellsworth
Kennebec	Augusta
Knox	Rockland
Lincoln	Wiscasset
Oxford	Paris
Penobscot	Bangor
Piscataquis	Dover-Foxcroft
Sagadahoc	Bath
Somerset	Skowhegan
Waldo	Belfast
Washington	Machias
York	Alfred

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

<u>First District</u>	
Cumberland	Lincoln
Kennebec (most of)	Sagadahoc
Knox	York
<u>Second District</u>	
Androscoggin	Piscataquis
Aroostock	Penobscot
Franklin	Somerset
Hancock	Waldo
Oxford	Washington
Kennebec-5 towns: Albion, China, Monmouth, Unity Township & Wayne	

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Commissioners, District Attorneys, Treasurers, Sheriffs, Registers of Deeds, Registers of Probate and Judges of Probate are elected by the people every four years to conduct the affairs of the 16 counties in Maine.

A BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS oversees the affairs of each county. York County has five Commissioners; all the other counties have three. Commissioners, one from each district in the county, are elected to the board by the voters of the district in which they reside. The Commissioners elect a chairperson from the group. In each county one or two Commissioners are elected in each biennial regular election. Salaries vary widely among counties.

Commissioners are authorized: to hire a County Administrator to administer all departments and act as clerk; to operate a regional solid waste disposal system; to operate social service programs; and to set up county personnel records boards. Commissioners have broad authority to contract with municipalities to provide services.

Commissioners hear property tax abatement requests from those municipalities which do not have own local abatement appeals board. A Commissioner also sits as a member of the State Claims Board.

Commissioners of the several counties with Unorganized Territories serve, in effect, as the municipal officers of those territories, providing public safety, solid waste disposal, road and bridge maintenance, and other services which the residents of organized municipalities receive.

The day-to-day operations of a county may be managed by a County Manager hired by the County Commissioners, and some county governments have established an Emergency Management Agency ("EMA") to develop emergency preparedness and coordinate disaster assistance between local communities and State and Federal governments. A county's EMA may also train fire fighters, police and rescue personnel in how to best prepare for, and respond to, chemical emergencies.

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY prosecutes in criminal proceedings and represents the county or counties in civil cases in the Prosecutorial District represented. The District Attorney enforces the collection and payment of fines, costs, etc. accruing to the state, enforces faithful performance of duties by sheriffs and constables.

ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEYS, at least one of whom is full-time, may be appointed by the DA. Salaries vary among the districts but they are paid from specified sums allowed each District Attorney for full and part-time assistants.

Maine is divided into eight Prosecutorial Districts which are:

- District 1 York County
- District 2 Cumberland County
- District 3 Oxford County, Franklin County & Androscoggin County
- District 4 Kennebec County, Somerset County
- District 5 Penobscot County, Piscataquis County
- District 6 Sagadahoc County, Lincoln County & Waldo County
- District 7 Hancock County, Washington County
- District 8 Aroostook County

THE SHERIFF is the chief law enforcement officer of the county. The sheriff has custody of the jail and its prisoners, serves and executes all legal papers committed to him/her, enforces all laws of the state and ordinances of towns within the county, obeys orders of the Governor relating to law enforcement, and collects legal fees. The sheriff's salary varies among counties; however, the sheriff and deputies receive fees for serving civil papers.

Other county offices and their duties are:

COUNTY TREASURER, who deposits and invests county funds;

REGISTER OF DEEDS, who is in charge of the office which records all deeds, mortgages and other documents affecting title to land;

REGISTER OF PROBATE, who is in charge of the office which records all wills, appointments and accounts of executors and administrators of estates, papers relating to guardianship and adoption, and decrees of Probate Court;

JUDGE OF PROBATE, who hears cases relating to estates, adoption, guardianship, etc.