


COUNTIES MATTER

Newly Elected Officials Training
History, Civility and Roles of Elected Officials

November and December, 2016



How Counties Matter

Counties Matter



NACo

How Idaho's Counties Matter

Courts
Elections
Healthcare and Indigent Services
Justice and Public Safety
Juveniles
Property Tax System
Transportation



History of Idaho's Counties

1634: Counties Created in Virginia
1863: Counties Created in Idaho
 -Boise, Idaho, Nez Perce and Shoshone
1890: Counties in Idaho Equal 15
1919: All 44 Idaho Counties in Existence



History of Idaho's Counties

396 County Elected Officials

More than \$1.2 Billion in Expenditures Annually

More than 9,900 County Employees

Serving More than 1.6 Million Idaho Citizens

Every Idaho Citizen Lives in a County

No Two Counties are Alike

Rules are Exactly the Same (or Mostly the Same)



Purpose of IAC

IAC promotes county interests, advocates good public policy on behalf of Idaho counties and provides education and training to assist Idaho county officials in performance of public service.

40th Anniversary (Created in 1976)

501(c)(4) Non-Profit Governed by a Board of Directors Consisting of County Elected Officials

Funded by Dues Paid by Counties and Other Service Revenues



IAC Core Principles

Empower county leaders with the education to perform their duties

Assist counties with first-class, cost-effective services

Remain a knowledgeable, resourceful and credible source at all times

Advocate good public policy and promote county interests

Exercise sound stewardship

Act as the most trusted source for county policy information



Role of Civility in County Government

George Washington's 110 Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior:

"Every action done in company ought to be with some sign of respect, to those that present... Use no reproachful language against anyone neither curse nor revile... Labor to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire called conscience."



A Basic Primer

INTRODUCTION

- Forms of County Government
- Elected Officials and Their Roles
- Relationships Between Offices
- Relationships with Other Governmental Entities
- Counties and the Legislature



Forms of County Government

- Article 18, Section 6, Idaho Constitution
- Traditional Form of Government
- Optional Forms of Government
- Title 31, Chapters 50-58



County Coroner

- Idaho Code, Title 31, Chapter 28
- Idaho Code, Title 19, Chapter 43
- Determining Cause of Death
 - Inquests
- Disposition of Dead Bodies
- Marshalling Assets
- Training



County Assessor

- Assessment/Reappraisal of Property
 - Title 63, Idaho Code
 - Idaho Code, 31-2501
 - Mapping
- Motor Vehicles and Manufactured Homes
 - Title 49, Idaho Code
 - Licensing & Titling



County Treasurer

Idaho Code, Title 31, Chapter 21

Idaho Code, Title 14, Chapter 1

- County Finance Officer
- County Investment Officer
- Tax Collector
- Public Administrator



County Clerk of the Court, Auditor and Recorder

- FIVE DISTINCT RESPONSIBILITIES
 - Clerk of the District Court – Article V, Section 16 – Judicial
 - County Auditor – Article XVIII, Section 6
 - County Recorder
 - Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners
 - Chief Elections Officers – Title 34



County Prosecuting Attorney

- Idaho Constitution Article V, Section 18 – Judicial
- Idaho Code, Title 31, Chapter 26
- Chief Law Enforcement Officer, Idaho Code, 31-2227
- Criminal Actions – Title 18
- Legal Advisor to County Officers (Civil)



County Sheriff

- Police Powers
 - Chief Law Enforcement Officer
 - Idaho Code, Title 31, Chapter 22
- Jail-keeping Powers
- Officer of Court and Civil Process
- Extradition Proceedings
- Peace Officer



Board of County Commissioners

- THREE BRANCHES IN ONE

1. Executive

- Manager and Administrator

2. Legislative

- County Ordinances

3. Judicial (Quasi)

- Planning & Zoning

- Board of Equalization



Board of County Commissioners

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

- Title 31 – General County Authority
 - Chapter 7 – Structure, Term and Operations
 - Chapter 8 – Powers and Duties
 - Chapters 15 & 16 – Budget and Finance
 - Chapters 34 & 35 – Indigency
- Title 63 – Property Tax Authority
 - Chapter 5 – Equalization of Assessments
 - Chapter 8 – Levy Authority



Board of County Commissioners

- Appointment Authority
- Role as an Individual Commissioner
 - Magistrate Commission
 - Health District Budget
 - Other Boards and Commissions



Relationships Within the Courthouse

- Responsibility vs. Authority
- When Should Conflicts be Taken to the Media?
- Relationships with the State – Does the State Supervise County Government?
- Shared Employees
- Relationship with the Courts
- Good and Bad Examples
- Crooks v. Maynard: A Really Bad Example



Counties and the Idaho Legislature

- Know the Idaho Constitution
- Know the Idaho Code
- Title 18
- Title 31
- Title 63
- Title 67
- Title 74



Counties and Other Governmental Entities

An Incomplete List

- Governor
- Idaho Secretary of State
- Idaho Attorney General
- Idaho Departments and Agencies
- Courts
- Congress and Federal Agencies

