

2008-09 ADOPTED BUDGET

THE COUNTY ORGANIZATION

Government Structure & Administration

Washington County is one of just six Oregon counties operating under a home rule charter. Approved by voters in 1976, the charter provides the County with the authority to design an organizational structure that effectively responds to community needs.

The charter establishes a Council-Manager form of government, with the five-member Board of Commissioners assuming the legislative role. The Board Chair is elected at-large and the four Commissioners are elected by district voters.

The Board of Commissioners appoints a professional County Administrator who assumes administrative authority for the organization's daily operations. The County Administrator provides oversight to all appointed department directors.

Unlike many counties throughout the United States, Washington County has a limited number of elected officials. In addition to the Board of Commissioners, there are three elected officials: Sheriff, District Attorney, and County Auditor.

County Departments include: the Sheriff, District Attorney, County Auditor, Land Use and Transportation, Support Services, Health and Human Services, County Counsel, Community Corrections, Housing Services, Juvenile Services and Assessment and Taxation. County offices include: the Law Library, Community Development, Cooperative Library Services and Justice Court.