

I. COUNTIES

The county officials are here divided into two groups: Judicial and Administrative. The administrative officials are listed according to the following functions: executive and legislative; fiscal; election; public safety; health, education, and welfare; planning, building, and inspection; licensing; liquor control; and extension and soil conservation services.

Several counties have begun to outgrow the traditional county offices. Two counties, Montgomery (in 1948) and Baltimore (in 1956), have adopted charter governments with special departments and officers which perform functions formerly exercised by the Board of County Commissioners. Even in these counties, however, most of the traditional offices remain, and though many of them are not regulated by charter, they work side by side with the new departments. For this reason, we have listed the officers of Montgomery and Baltimore counties, like those of other counties, according to function rather than according to the legal or administrative relationships their charters have created. Anne Arundel County (in 1947) also adopted the county manager system, but in this county the manager form functions within the General Assembly-county commissioner legislative framework rather than within the county council type of organization.

Methods of appointment and terms of office of the officials common to most of the counties are explained below. Such information about officers peculiar to any one county is given in footnotes. Unless otherwise indicated, all officers may be addressed at their respective county seats.

METHODS OF APPOINTMENT

JUDICIAL OFFICERS

Resident Judge:

Elected by the voters of the First, Second, and Eighth Judicial Circuits and in other circuits by the voters of the county for a fifteen-year term.

Clerk of the Circuit Court:

Elected by the voters of the county for a four-year term.

State's Attorney:

Elected by the voters of the county for a four-year term.

Sheriff:

Elected by the voters of the county for a four-year term.

Register of Wills:

Elected by the voters of the county for a four-year term.

Judges, Orphans' Court:

Elected by the voters of the county for a four-year term. The Governor designates the Chief Judge.

Trial Magistrates:

Appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate for two-year terms.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Board of County Commissioners:

Elected by the voters of each county except Baltimore and Montgomery counties for four-year terms.

County Councils:

Elected by the voters of Baltimore and Montgomery counties for four-year terms.