

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 social services; planning, building, and inspection; licensing; liquor control; and extension and soil conservation services.

Several counties have begun to outgrow the traditional county offices. Six counties, Montgomery (in 1948), Baltimore (in 1956), Anne Arundel and Wicomico (in 1964), Howard (in 1968), and Prince George's (in 1970), have adopted charter governments with special departments and officers which perform functions formerly exercised by the Board of County Commissioners. One additional county, Kent, in 1970, has adopted the optional powers of home rule as provided in Article XIF of the Constitution and Article 25B of the 1957 Code. For provisions relating to the counties which do not fall into these categories, see Article 25 of the Code as amended. 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 (Const. 1867, Art. XIA; Code 1957, 1966 Repl. Vol., Art. 25A, as amended). For this reason, we have listed the officers of those counties, like those of other counties, according to function rather than according to the legal or administrative relationships their charters have created.

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 (Const. 1867, Art. IV, Secs. 19-26; Code 1957, 1966 Repl. Vol., Art. 26).

Clerk of the Circuit Court:

Elected by the voters of the county for a four-year term (Const. 1867, Art. IV, Sec. 25; Code 1957, 1966 Repl. Vol., Art. 17).

State's Attorney:

Elected by the voters of the county for a four-year term (Const. 1867, Art. V, Secs. 7-12).

Sheriff:

Elected by the voters of the county for a four-year term (Const. 1867, Art. IV, Sec. 44).

Register of Wills:

Elected by the voters of the county for a four-year term (Const. 1867, Art. IV, Sec. 41; Code 1957, Art. 93).

Judges, Orphans' Court:

Elected by the voters of each county for a four-year term, except in Montgomery County. The Governor designates the Chief Judge. Since November 1966, the Circuit Court Judges have performed the Orphans' Court functions in Montgomery County (Const. 1867, Art. IV, Secs. 20, 40; Code 1957, 1969 Repl. Vol., Art. 93).