

COUNTY GOVERNMENT IN MARYLAND

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. Eight counties, Montgomery (in 1948), Baltimore (in 1956), Anne Arundel and Wicomico (in 1964), Howard (in 1968), Prince George's (in 1970), Harford (in 1972), and Talbot (in 1973), have adopted charter governments with special departments and officers which perform functions formerly exercised by the Board of County Commissioners. Three additional counties, Kent, in 1970, Allegany, in 1974, and Worcester, in 1976, have 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, 1973 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 Judges: Elected by the voters of the First, Second, and Eighth Judicial Circuits and in other circuits by the voters of the county for fifteen-year terms (Const. 1867, Art. IV, secs. 19-26; Courts Art., secs. 1-501 to 1-503).

Clerks of the Circuit Court: Elected by the voters of the county for four-year terms (Const. 1867, Art. IV, sec. 25; Courts Art., secs. 2-201 to 2-206).

State's Attorneys: Elected by the voters of the county for four-year terms (Const. 1867, Art. V, secs. 7-12).

Sheriffs: Elected by the voters of the county for four-year terms (Const. 1867, Art. IV, sec. 44; Code 1957, 1969 Repl. Vol., Art. 87; Courts Art., secs. 2-301 to 2-309).

Registers of Wills: Elected by the voters of the county for four-year terms (Const.

1867, Art. IV, sec. 41; Code 1957, Art. 93).

Judges, Orphans' Courts: Elected by the voters of Baltimore City and each county for four-year terms, except in Montgomery and Harford counties, where the Circuit Court Judges perform that function. The Governor designates the Chief Judge (Const. 1867, Art. IV, secs. 20, 40; Code 1957, 1969 Repl. Vol., Art. 93).

Judges, District Court: Appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate for ten-year terms or until each judge becomes seventy years of age. The District Court system replaced the previously existing justices of the peace, county trial magistrates, people's courts, the Municipal Court of Baltimore City and other courts of limited jurisdiction (Const. 1867, Art. IV, sec. 41-D; Courts Art., secs. 1-601 to 1-605).

District Court Administrative Clerks: Appointed by the Chief Judge of the District Court upon the recommendation of the Ad-