

## Revised County Uniform Highway Law to Go into Effect January 1st

The County Uniform Highway Law (“CUHL”), which serves as the primary law governing the office of chief administrative officer of the highway department (“CAO”), has been substantially revised by [Public Chapter 689](#), effective January 1, 2013.

With the passage of the new law, significant changes have been made to the qualifications for the office of CAO. The CUHL has been amended to eliminate all exemptions and special provisions relating to qualifications. Now, with the exception of the big four counties, candidates in all counties must at least meet the minimum qualifications set out in T.C.A. § 54-7-104. Counties are authorized to enact more stringent qualifications by private act. Incumbents in office as of December 31, 2012 will not have to meet the revised qualifications as long as they continuously hold office.

In addition, the new law provides for a procedure for write-in candidates. Under the revised § 54-7-104, votes for write-in candidates, whether in a primary or general election, will only be counted for an individual who has been certified by the board prior to the date of the election. Persons wishing to receive a party nomination or to be elected by write-in ballot must file with the board affidavits and other evidence the board requires not later than sixty-four (64) days prior to the election.

Some sections of the CUHL were also amended to clarify that the CAO has general control and authority over the roads and the authority to employ legal counsel, regardless of the existence of an elected road commission.

Finally, a new provision has been added to § 54-7-201 which states that any person who injures or damages a bridge, highway, highway facility, highway structure or right-of-way shall be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor and any such person shall also be liable in a civil action for the cost of such injury or damage. This provision applies to all counties of the state.

The amended CUHL will take effect January 1, 2013.

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### Association of County Mayors

### *Strategic Leadership Conference*

**When:** December 5– 7, 2012

**Where:** Radisson Hotel at Opryland

2401 Music Valley Drive, Nashville, TN 37214

**Please contact Kim Clark at CTAS for more information:**

615-253-1151 or [kim.clark@tennessee.edu](mailto:kim.clark@tennessee.edu)

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*Lewis County Courthouse*

County Spotlight:  
*Lewis County*

Population: 11,521  
County Seat: Hohenwald

CTAS Field Consultant:  
Marty Spears  
[marty.spears@tennessee.edu](mailto:marty.spears@tennessee.edu)

*Lewis County isn't named for someone who lived there, but someone who died there. Meriwether Lewis was a great explorer; part of the Lewis & Clark expedition that mapped out parts of the American West. In 1809 he was passing through this part of Tennessee when he died under mysterious circumstances.*

For more information, visit:  
[www.tnhistoryforkids.org](http://www.tnhistoryforkids.org)

## Annual Renewal Conferences

The University of Tennessee County Technical Assistance Service is offering Regional Renewal Conferences across the state.

If you are interested in attending one of the conferences, please fill out the information below and fax to CTAS at 615.532-3659, attention Patricia Burke.

### Schedule

#### Franklin (Nashville) - 12 hrs

Dec 11, 2012, 8:00am—5:00pm

Dec 12, 2012, 8:00am—Noon

#### Franklin - Optional Training Session - 4 hrs

Dec 10, 2012, 1:00pm—5:00pm

#### Jackson - 12 hrs

Mar 5, 2013, 8:00am—5:00pm

Mar 6, 2013, 8:00am—Noon

#### Knoxville - 12 hrs

Apr 4, 2013, 8:00am—5:00pm

Apr 4, 2013, 8:00am—Noon

Have comments or suggestions for this newsletter?

Contact Liz Gossett at [liz.gossett@tennessee.edu](mailto:liz.gossett@tennessee.edu)

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec 5-7	ACM Strategic Leadership Conference, Nashville
Dec 10	Renewal Conference (Optional Training), Franklin
Dec 11-12	Renewal Conference, Franklin

\*For more detailed event information, click [here](#).



### New \$2,500 Flexible Spending Account Limit for 2013

Starting in 2013, there will be a limit of \$2,500 on pretax employee contributions to health care flexible spending accounts (FSAs). The IRS has issued guidance on the new limit in [Notice 2012-40](#). If the plan provides a grace period (which can be up to 2 months and 15 days), unused contributions that are carried over from the prior year will not be subject to the new \$2,500 limit, but all contributions made to a FSA in the plan year beginning in 2013 and after will be subject to the limitation.

*County Officials E-News is a monthly newsletter provided by the University of Tennessee County Technical Assistance Service in an effort to promote better county government through direct assistance to county officials and their associations.*



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