

COUNTY OFFICIALS E-NEWS

Promoting better county government through direct assistance to county officials and their associations.

2015-2016 County Officials Salary Schedule Now Available

The County Technical Assistance Service publishes a Salary Schedule for county officials each year, setting out the minimum salaries for each county official. The full Salary Schedule for FY 2015-2016 can be found on the [CTAS website](#).

COUNTY OFFICIALS. Compensation for most county officials is governed by T.C.A. § 8-24-102, which establishes the minimum compensation for assessors of property, county clerks, clerks of court, trustees, registers of deeds, county mayors, sheriffs, and highway officials. This law provides for an automatic increase in the minimum salary each year based on the percentage increase given to state employees for the previous fiscal year. It requires the commissioner of finance and administration to certify to the comptroller of the treasury the average annualized increase in state employees' compensation on or before May 1 of each year. The commissioner certified on October 6, 2014, that state employees received an average increase of -0- percent for the fiscal year 2014-2015 and, as a result, the salary schedules for most county officials will not change.

ADMINISTRATORS OF ELECTIONS. Separate legislation (T.C.A. § 2-12-208) provides for minimum salaries for the administrators of elections. These salaries are based upon percentages of the assessor's compensation. As with the statute discussed above, this law provides for yearly salary increases based upon increases for state employees during the prior fiscal year and calculated in the same manner, so there will be no change in the minimum salaries for administrators of elections.

GENERAL SESSIONS COURT JUDGES. Salaries of general sessions court judges are to be increased annually in the same manner as state court judges, which is the actual percentage change in the consumer price index between the previous two calendar years (T.C.A. §§ 16-15-5003 and 8-23-103). The CPI change between 2013 and 2014 is 1.6 percent, therefore the salary of the general sessions court judges will increase by 1.6 percent on July 1 for the coming fiscal year. A general sessions court judge's salary may not exceed that of a circuit court judge, which the Administrative Office of the Courts has advised us will be \$170,352 for the coming fiscal year. CTAS does not prepare salary schedules for general sessions court judges because the salaries in each county are based on the private acts and general laws that apply in each particular county and on salary calculations made by the Administrative Office of the Courts pursuant to T.C.A. § 16-15-5003(i)(7). Counties are authorized under T.C.A. § 16-15-5006 to levy a local litigation tax up to \$6.00 to defray the cost of paying the general sessions judges. If the proceeds of this tax are insufficient to fund the increase in their compensation, the tax may be raised above \$6.00. Please contact your CTAS County Government Consultant if you need assistance with this litigation tax, or if you have questions about the salary schedule.



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County Spotlight

Hamblen County



County Seat: Morristown

Population: 62,544

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Hamblen County was formed in 1870 from parts of Jefferson, Grainger, and Hawkins counties. It was named after Hezekiah Hamblen, a lawyer in Hawkins County.

Morristown, the county seat, was incorporated in 1855, but the county courthouse was not built until four years later. Today, the courthouse is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Agriculture has and continues to be a major economic industry in Hamblen County. Local farms in the county produce beef, dairy products, and vegetables.

For more information, visit <http://tennesseencyclopedia.net>

In Case You Missed It: Local Economic Development Tips

At the recent County Government Day in Nashville, Mark Mamantov from Bass, Berry + Sims presented an overview of two local economic development incentive programs: Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTs), also known as tax abatements; and Tax Increment Financing (TIFs). Mr. Mamantov covered the pros and cons of using each incentive program including ways to ensure the approval process goes smoothly. He also shared several examples of successful applications of these incentive programs in communities around the state.

You can download Mr. Mamantov's presentation from the CTAS website: <http://bit.ly/19eyx6W>.



TGFOA 2015 Spring Institute

March 20, 2015

Chattanooga Marriott

For more information or to register, please [click here](#).

Upcoming Training Opportunities

Operating Budget

8:30am-12:30pm central time

March 24 - Manchester, Coffee County Conference Center

April 16 - Jackson, Union University Harvey Auditorium

Audit Issues

8:30am-12:30pm central time

April 13 - Murfreesboro, Doubletree Hotel

12:30pm-4:30pm central time

April 15 - Jackson, Union University Harvey Auditorium

Drug Fund

8:30am-12:30 local time

April 7 - Collegedale, Collegedale Municipal Building

April 8 - Cookeville, Leslie Towne Center

April 9 - Murfreesboro, DoubleTree Hotel

April 23 - Paris, Paris Convention Center (*note: Time is 1:00pm-5:00pm*)

April 28 - Johnson City, Carnegie Hotel

April 29 - Clinton, Junior Achievement of East Tennessee

TCHOA Regional Meetings

Region IV - March 26, 11:00am-1:30pm - Tiptonville, Boyettes Restaurant

Region III - April 7, 11:30am-1:30pm - Franklin, Williamson County Ag Center

Region II - April 9, 11:30am-1:30pm - Crossville, Cumberland Mountain State



[CTAS Training Website](#)
[Events Calendar](#)

FEMA Federal Flood Risk Management Standard: Webinar and Comment Period

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced two opportunities for local communities to learn more about the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS). FEMA is conducting a series of webinars to provide the public the chance to submit comments regarding the standard. The final webinar will be held on Wednesday, March 25 from 3:00pm-6:00pm ET. To attend this webinar, you must submit an RSVP via email to FEMA-FFRMS@fema.dhs.gov and include the subject/attention line: Reservation Request for FFRMS.



The comment period for the FFRMS will close on Monday, April 6, 2015. In addition to the webinar mentioned above, public comments may also be submitted in one of the two ways below:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** <http://www.regulations.gov>. Search for the notice in docket ID FEMA-2015-0006
- **Mail:** Regulatory Affairs Division, Office of Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 8NE, 500 C Street, SW, Washington, DC 20472-3100

For more information on FFRMS, please visit FEMA's website: <https://www.fema.gov/federal-flood-risk-management-standard-ffrms>.

NACo County Health Learning Challenge: Applications Open

In partnership with the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps program, NACo is presenting an opportunity for up to three county teams to participate in the County Health Learning Challenge. Using the Roadmaps to Health Take Action Cycle, this year-long collaborative challenge is intended to help the selected County Health Learning teams develop and strengthen cross-sector partnerships, select potential policy, systems and environmental changes to improve county health and put ideas into action to build a Culture of Health in their counties.



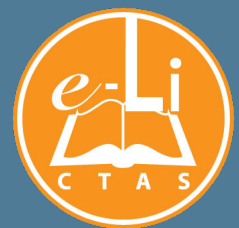
For more information or to apply, visit NACo's website here: <http://bit.ly/18SdvtU>.

Need information about a county process or state law?

Ask e-Li!

e-Li is updated frequently so the information is current. You can also download a manual for your office by clicking the link below:

<http://bit.ly/1wQ7pp8>



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County Officials E-News is published every month to bring important information to county officials. For any questions or comments about the newsletter, please send Liz Gossett, CTAS E-Media & Information Specialist, an email at liz.gossett@tennessee.edu.