

Commissioner Responsibilities

As a board, the commissioners are required to establish a budget, levy taxes, appropriate funds for county business, establish fees and licenses, purchase or otherwise acquire, own, sell, lease, trade, and otherwise deal in real and personal property in the name of the county, receive gifts and grants for the county, and approve and execute contracts and lawsuits in the name of the county.

The board also is required to sit as a board of appeals to hear complaints on actions taken by county boards, commissions and departments, as a board of equalization to hear appeals on tax assessments, as a county board of welfare, and to make appointments to fill vacancies in all county offices except the board of commissioners and the county council.

Each commissioner has primary responsibility for one of the county's five departments and serves as an assistant in another. The five departments are communication services, health services, planning services, engineering services, and finance, administration, central purchasing, and personnel. Their responsibilities rotate each year.

The chairman of the Board of County Commissioners is chosen by the commissioners each year and always serves as chairman of the finance and administration department during his tenure as chairman of the board.