

An Informed Voter

Element #12 –Who are the Elected? – County Elected

Objectives

- Number of counties in Oregon
- County Commissioners – term of office
- Nonpartisan elected positions – term of office

1. Oregon is divided into **36** counties
2. Counties in Oregon perform a duple role. They are **Agents** of the State and unit of **Local** government.
3. In most cases, county elected positions are the highest-ranking position in the county. Not under control of any state **elected** or **appointed** individual or agency.
4. County Commissioners in Oregon are **Non** positions, elected for a **4** term with No term limits.
 - a. County Commissioners are both **Executive** and **Legislative** branches of the county government.
5. Nonpartisan positions are usually **4** year terms with no term limits. These positions include:
 - a. **Clerk**
 - b. **Sherriff**
 - c. **Treasurer**
 - d. **District Attorney**
6. In Linn County the nonpartisan positions include; Assessor, **Surveyor_** and **Justice of the Peace.**
7. The position responsible for elections is the County **Clerk.**

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Element #13 –Who are the Elected? – Local Government

Objectives

- The two categories of local tax districts.
- How to determine which tax districts you pay property tax to.
- Common categories of local taxing districts.
- Approximate number of elected and appointed positions in the taxing districts in your county.
- Term of office for those elected in local government.
- Special considerations for tax districts that cross county lines.
- How to become informed on the actions of the tax districts that you pay property tax to.

1. Local governments are referred to as **Taxing** districts. They are divided into two categories; **Cities** and special **Districts**.
2. There are two ways to determine which organizations are funded by your property taxes.
 - a. Check your **Tax** statement
 - b. Check with the county **Assessors** office.
3. In Marion County there are **60** taxing districts. They include;
 - a. **20** cities, **14** education districts, **20** fire districts, **4** water districts and **2** other districts.
4. In Marion County there are approximately **344** local elected positions and **690** volunteer positions.
5. In Linn County there are **62** taxing districts. They include;
 - a. **14** cities, **18** education districts, **14** fire districts, **7** water districts and **8** other districts.
6. In Linn County there are approximately **358** local elected positions and **531** volunteer positions.
7. In Benton County there are **42** taxing districts. They include;

- a. **5** cities, **10** education districts, **9** fire districts, **13** road districts and **5** other districts.
8. In Benton County there are approximately **220** local elected positions and **290** volunteer positions, not including the 100 positions in the City of Albany.
9. City council and mayor elections are held in **November** of even numbered years. There are **2** and **4** year terms with no term limits.
10. The Special District election is held in **May** of the odd numbered years. Most are for a **4** year term with no term limits.
11. Staying informed on the actions of a local taxing district could require about **2** hours a **Month**.