

COUNTY OFFICIALS E-NEWS

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

Disclosures of Interest: Due January 31, 2015

All elected local public officeholders and all candidates for a local public office are required under the Comprehensive Governmental Ethics Reform Act of 2006 to file a Statement of Disclosure of Interests (Form SS-8005) with the Tennessee Ethics Commission. This requirement also applies to officials who were appointed to fill a vacancy in an elected public office. It does not apply to office holders who are regularly appointed to their positions, such as appointed county highway superintendents or clerk and masters.

The deadline for current office holders is January 31.



Where Should the Statement Be Filed?

Electronic filing: To file electronically for the first time, go to <https://apps.tn.gov/conflict>, click on “Sign Up,” and follow directions to set up a [TN.GOV](https://apps.tn.gov/conflict) account with your unique authorization code. After setting up your [TN.GOV](https://apps.tn.gov/conflict) account, go to <https://apps.tn.gov/conflict> and log in as a returning user to file your Statement of Interests. If you have previously filed electronically, go to <https://apps.tn.gov/conflict> and log in to file your report. If you do not remember your Username and Password, call 615-313-0300, and press “1” for technical support to retrieve that information.

Paper Filing: To file on paper, go to www.tn.gov/sos/tec/forms/ss-8005.pdf to print the form and instructions. Complete your Statement in its entirety. Mail the completed form to the Tennessee Ethics Commission, 404 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 104, Nashville, TN 37243.

Your Statement of Interests is not considered filed until received by the Commission. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the Commission’s office at: (615) 741-7959 or email at ethics.counsel@tn.gov.

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County Spotlight

Bedford County



County Seat: Shelbyville

Population: 45,058

County Government Consultant:

doug.bodary@tennessee.edu

Bedford's county seat, Shelbyville, became famous in urban planning circles as its central town square was one of the first "designed" public spaces. The simplistic plan of the courthouse being the center of the square with streets intersecting at the corners was copied by many other communities across states in the South and Midwest. This design idea became known as the "Shelbyville Plan."

Bedford County is also known as "Pencil City, USA" for its production of pencils. A couple factories still exist to this day.

For more information, visit

<http://www.tnhistoryforkids.org>



FEMA

FEMA Announces Assistance to Firefighters

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has recently opened two grant opportunities and local fire departments may be eligible to apply.



The Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program offers funding for assistance in fulfilling minimum industry staffing standards so fire departments can meet community protection needs.

The Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) program is designed to reach high-risk target groups to mitigate fire-related deaths and injuries.

More information about these programs, including important grant application dates and requirements, can be found at the links below:

- [Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response \(SAFER\)](#)
- [Fire Prevention and Safety \(FP&S\)](#)

Upcoming Training Opportunities



Audit Issues: – 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Category A/Core/Instructor: Doug Bodary and CTAS Field Staff

February 10, 2015 Johnson City – Carnegie Hotel, 1216 W. State of Franklin Road
February 11, 2015 Knoxville – Bridgewater Place, 205 Bridgewater Road, Knoxville, TN 37923

February 12, 2015 Cookeville – Leslie Town Center, 1 W 1st Street

February 17, 2015 Jackson – TDOT Regional Office, 300 Benchmark Place

February 18, 2015 Murfreesboro – Doubletree Hotel, 1850 Old Fort Parkway

Operating Budget: – 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Category A/Core/Instructor: CTAS Field Staff

March 3, 2015 Cookeville – Leslie Town Center, 1 W 1st Street

March 4, 2015 Franklin – Embassy Suites, 820 Crescent Centre Drive

March 5, 2015 Jackson – TDOT Regional Office, 300 Benchmark Place

March 17, 2015 Johnson City – Carnegie Hotel, 1216 W. State of Franklin Road

March 18, 2015 Knoxville – UT Conference Center, 600 Henley Street, 4th Floor

March 19, 2015 Athens – Southeast TN Trade & Conference Center (*location is subject to change*)

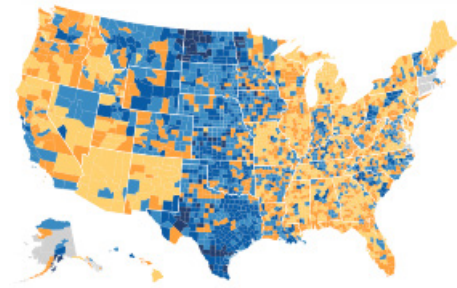
March 24, 2015 Manchester – Manchester Coffee County Conference Center, 147 Hospitality Blvd., Manchester, TN

March 10 & 11, 2015 - COAT/TCSA County Government Day

NACo Releases New County Economic Study Report

On Monday, January 12, 2015, the National Association of Counties (NACo) released the report of a new study assessing economic recovery in 3,069 counties across the country. The report, *County Economic Tracker 2014: Progress through Adversity*, analyzes the counties' economic recovery based on four indicators:

- Economic output (GDP)
- Employment
- Unemployment
- Home prices



*Explore the Interactive
with Individual County Profiles*

Along with the report, NACo has also released an interactive map and individualized economic profiles for each county included in the study. The map and profiles are available on NACo's website at <http://www.naco.org/CountyEconomies>.

Additionally, NACo is offering hands-on training at its annual 2015 Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. on February 23, 2015. This training will cover how to use the individualized county profiles in addition to other NACo economic tracker tools. We have been told space is limited, so contact research@naco.org with subject line: Workshop-County Economic Tracker to reserve a space.

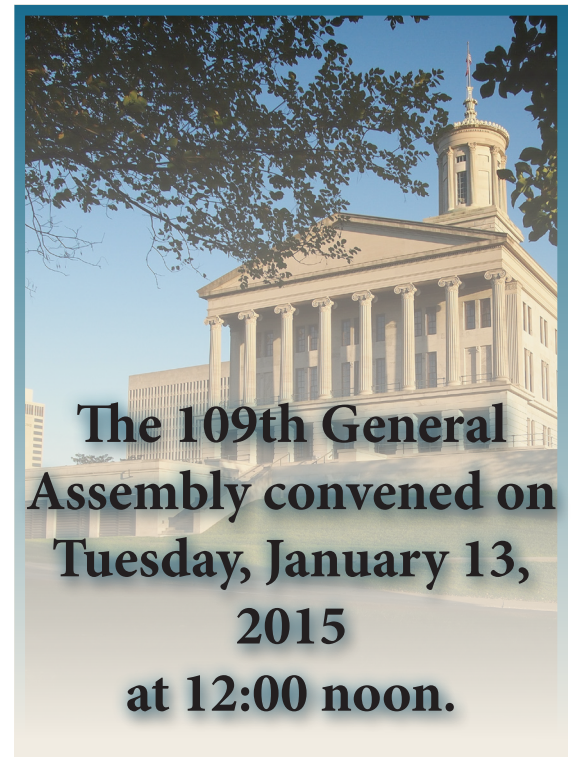
Comptroller Releases Transportation Funding Report

The Tennessee Comptroller's Offices of Research and Education Accountability (OREA) released a report on transportation funding on Tuesday, January 20, 2015. This report was requested by the General Assembly's Fiscal Review Committee. It discusses challenges to the existing transportation system in Tennessee as well as alternative funding models. The full report can be accessed on the Comptroller's website at <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/Repository/RE/Transportation%20Report%20Final.pdf>.



Don't forget to register for
County Government Day!

Registration forms and additional information will be available soon, so please keep checking websites for [CTAS](#), [TCSA](#) and [COAT](#)!



How To: Track Legislation on the General Assembly Website

Now that the General Assembly is back in session, tracking and following legislation of interest will be important. Did you know you can search and track legislation in a few different ways? The following information is intended as suggestions for making the most of the [General Assembly's website](#) bill tracking features.



Tracking Bills

First, you must sign up for a free account online at <http://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/mybills/CreateAccount.aspx>. You may then create up to three lists to add bills to for tracking purposes. Lists can contain an unlimited number of bills and be modified at any time. You may also get an RSS feed of major actions for bills on your lists. RSS stands for Really Simple Syndication, and helps you avoid the conventional methods of browsing or searching for information on Web sites. With RSS, the content you want can be delivered directly to you without cluttering your inbox with e-mail messages. This content is called a "feed." Additionally, your lists can be kept through the end of the biennial legislative session.

Locating Bills to Add to Tracking

Finding bills can be achieved in one of three ways: [by index](#), [by subject](#), or [by keyword](#). The index is organized by assembly chamber or joint resolutions. The index would be best suited for finding a bill for which you already know the bill number. The subject search is good to use when you may not know the bill number, but perhaps know the topic the bill covers (i.e., "licenses"). Finally, the keyword search is similar to the subject search, however you will be able to enter your own search terms rather than having to choose from pre-selected keywords. The keyword search is useful if you might know a phrase included in the bill's text, but are not sure under which subject it would fall.

We hope this brief introduction to the General Assembly's bill tracking feature has been useful! If you have any questions about tracking legislation on the General Assembly's website, please be sure to contact the General Assembly's webmaster at webmaster@capitol.tn.gov. You can contact your association for help with answering questions about legislation or advocating on your behalf.



Special
Announcement:

County Officials Association of Tennessee (COAT)
Executive Director Jay West has a new email
address: west@coatn.com.
Please update your address books.



County Technical Assistance Service INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

226 Capitol Boulevard, Suite 400, Nashville, Tennessee 37219
615-532-3555 | <http://www.ctas.tennessee.edu>

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.