

# COUNTY OFFICIALS E-NEWS

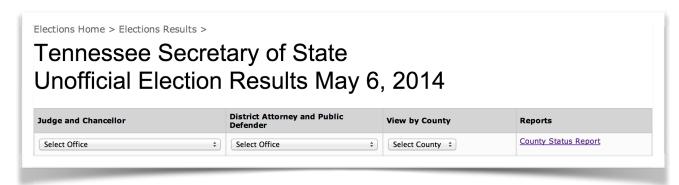
Promoting better county government through direct assistance to county officials and their associations



### **Unofficial Election Results Available**

Several counties held primary elections on Tuesday, May 6. The Tennessee Secretary of State's website now contains the unofficial election results for the judicial and district attorney elections held May 6, 2014. These unofficial results are available at <a href="http://www.elections.tn.gov/results.php">http://www.elections.tn.gov/results.php</a>.

Please keep in mind that the Secretary of State is only able to post results that are currently available. You can check the <u>County Status Report</u> to see if a county held a primary election and status of the county's primary election.



In this issue...

- Trousdale County......Page 2
- 2014 TCSA Legislative Conference......Page 3



#### **Trousdale County**

County Seat: Hartsville

Population: 7,299

County Government Consultant:

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Early historical accounts of Trousdale County noted it for two developments: a quarry that produced high-quality grist stones for Middle Tennessee's water-powered mills and a horse racetrack at Hartsville. Horse racing there was such a popular activity that Andrew Jackson often visited the town, and the Hartsville Jockey Club hosted races in 1836 featuring eighteen entries. As in much of the state, however, agriculture dominated the local economy. With four stores, by 1830 Hartsville was the central marketplace for neighboring cotton farmers.

For more information, visit www.tennesseeencyclopedia.net

# Gearing Up for COOP 2014

2014 is an election year and we have already passed one of the first milestones – the May 6 county primary elections. After the August general elections, the newly elected officials will be preparing to take office on September 1. To assist in their transition, CTAS will be cosponsoring the County Officials Orientation Program (COOP) with the Tennessee County Services Association and the County Officials Association of Tennessee. This program offers training sessions and orientation programs to help newly elected officials (or incumbents who wish to stay up-to-date) learn about what they need to do once they take office.

#### **Important Details**

**Who**: Newly elected officials (or incumbents interested in staying updated)

**When:** Monday, August 25 through Thursday, August 28 **Where:** Embassy Suites Hotel, 1200 Conference Center Blvd, Murfreesboro, TN 37129

Keep an eye out for more information as August approaches!

## **Need Information? Try e-Li!**

Do you need to know the proper way to retain your office's important records? Or do you want to find out what the state law says about wheel taxes? Head over to e-Li to find out!

#### Ask e-Li!

e-Li, the CTAS electronic library, was implemented in 2011 as a way to maintain our county office or topic-related manuals. e-Li provides a means to keep that information as current as possible, while reducing the internal costs of maintenance.

**County Officials E-News** is published monthly 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.

# Open Records - Is a Personal Appearance Required?

The Office of Open Records Counsel (OORC) issued a new opinion on April 15th regarding whether the Tennessee Public Records Act (TPRA) requires a citizen to either submit a public records request or retrieve requested records in person. The OORC stated that although there is little guidance in the TPRA regarding the issue, the Tennessee Court of Appeals in Waller v. Bryan, 16 S.W.3d 770 (1999) addressed this very question. The court stated that:

If a citizen can sufficiently identify the documents which he wishes to obtain copies of so as to enable the custodian of the records to know which documents are to be copied, the citizen's personal presence before the record custodian is not required. However, the records custodian is not required under the Public Records Act to make the inspection for the citizen requesting the documents. The citizen, to be able to obtain copies of those documents without making a personal inspection, must sufficiently identify those documents so that the records custodian can produce and copy those documents without the requirement of a search by the records custodian.

Based on this case, the OORC opined that personal appearance is not required to either request or retrieve records under the TPRA. However, the requestor must sufficiently identify the records for which they want copies and must pay all necessary copying and delivery fees associated with producing and delivering the copies.

The OORC was established by Tennessee's General Assembly in 2008 and serves the public by answering open records questions from citizens and county officials. The OORC is staffed by Open Records Counsel Elisha Hodge. You can contact the OORC at: 505 Deaderick Street, Suite 1700, James K. Polk Building, Nashville, Tennessee 37243; phone (615) 401-7891 or toll free 1-866-831-3750; fax (615) 741-1551; or open.records@cot.tn.gov.

#### **Upcoming Events**



**Capstone** - May 21 - 23; Montgomery Bell State Park

Workplace Safety - May 27, Franklin; May 28, Jackson

**Capstone** - June 18-20; Montgomery Bell State Park

#### 2014 TCSA Legislative Conference

Don't forget to register for the 2014 TCSA Legislative Conference in Sevier County June 3-4!

Click here for the registration form

#### **Job Announcement**

County: Shelby

Job Title: <u>Director, Division of Corrections</u>

Shelby County Correctional Center

Contact: Harvey Kennedy

This job posting is provided as a courtesy to Tennessee counties. CTAS assumes no responsibility for any posting. Interested job seekers should contact the county directly.