

THE OFFICE OF COUNTY ASSESSOR

The office of county assessor is primarily concerned with determining equitable values on both real and personal property for tax purposes (63-207). However, the office has one other function that is detailed and time-consuming. The assessor acts as the agent of the Department of Idaho Transportation in titling vehicles, and in handling vehicle registrations (49-205 and 49-7008) as well as an agent for the State Dept of Park and Rec. The law also provides that if the governor thinks it is necessary to call up a militia, he may order the assessor to carry out a registration of all county residents liable for such service (46-104).

THE OFFICE OF COUNTY CLERK/AUDITOR/RECORDER

(also Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners & Chief Elections Officer)

Constitutional and statutory laws have given one elective county officer five distinct titles: clerk of the district court, auditor, recorder, clerk of the board of county commissioners, and chief elections officer of the county. The Idaho Constitution established the position of clerk of the district court and provides for the election of this position every four years (Article 5, Section 16). A separate section of the state constitution provides that the clerk of the district court shall be ex officio auditor and recorder (Article 18, Section 6). State law provides that the clerk of the district court be ex-officio auditor, recorder and clerk of the board of county commissioners (31-2001 and 34-112). In addition the election laws specify that "County Clerk" means of the district court in the electoral process (34-112)

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Currently, a three-member board of county commissioners is the governing body in each Idaho County. Two county commissioners are elected each biennium--one for a two year term and one for a four year term (Article 18, Section 10). State law specifies the procedure for determining which commissioner is to be elected for a four-year term, and which is to be elected for a two-year term (31-703). Commissioners may appoint an administrative assistant or appoint a member of the commission to act as the administrator (31-818(2)). If a county chooses to adopt an optional form of county government, there could be changes to the office of commissioners. Title 31, Chapter 52 provides for a commission-executive form of government. In this instance, an executive is elected to perform the executive functions of the county while the commissioners retain the legislative functions. Chapter 53 of Title 31 allows the commissioners to appoint a manager to be the administrative head of the county. Chapters 52, 53, 55 and 56 allow the size of the board to increase to 5 or 7 members. Chapters 55 and 56 allow the executive functions to be vested in an executive board of 3 members chosen by the commission as a whole. Chapters 52 through 56 have a provision for all commissioners, regardless of number, to serve 4-year terms.

THE OFFICE OF COUNTY CORONER

The county coroner plays an important role in law enforcement within the county. The Idaho Constitution established the office of county coroner, providing that it be filled by election every four years commencing in the general election in 1986 (Article 18, Section 6). However, because of the constitutional amendment (Article 18, Section 12) allowing optional forms of county government, the coroner may be appointed; have a different term of office or the office may be eliminated as a separate office if voters choose to adopt a different form of county government (Title 31, Chapters 52-56, *Idaho Code*).

THE OFFICE OF COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

The Idaho Constitution states that a prosecuting attorney will be elected in each county and hold office for a term of four years (Article V, Section 18). Prosecutors must be duly licensed and practicing attorneys at law at the time they take office and be residents and electors of the county from which they are elected (Article V, Section 18, 31-2601 and 34-623). However, if a county chooses an optional form of county government, the structure of the office of the prosecuting attorney could change. Possible changes include the term of office; appointment rather than election to the position; or the office could be eliminated with the duties and responsibilities provided by other elected or appointed individuals or by an individual on a contractual basis. Regardless of any change, the person exercising the functions of prosecuting attorney still must be licensed to practice law in the state of Idaho. The duties of the office may not be combined with those of the sheriff or the clerk of the district court (Title 31, Chapters 52-56).

THE OFFICE OF COUNTY SHERIFF

The Idaho Constitution (Article 18, Section 6) and state law (31-2001 and 31-2003) establish the office of sheriff, authorize sheriffs to appoint deputies and clerical assistants. Sheriffs are elected to serve four-year terms. The structure of the office of county sheriff could change if a county chooses to adopt an optional form of county government. Possible changes to the office include: changing the term of office, appointing an individual to the office, or eliminating the office and having the duties and responsibilities performed by other elected officers or appointed persons. If the office is eliminated as a separate office, it cannot be combined with or assigned to the office of the prosecuting attorney or the clerk of the district court (Title 31, Chapters 52-56, *Idaho Code*).

THE OFFICE OF COUNTY TREASURER

The county treasurer is also ex-officio tax collector and public administrator (31-2102). The county treasurer is elected every four years (34-620) unless an optional form of county government is adopted pursuant to Title 31, Chapters 52 through 58, *Idaho Code*. The county treasurer is separately bonded for each of the separate responsibilities of the office (31-2015). Such bond is furnished by the county. The salary for the officer is set by the board of county commissioners. The county treasurer is authorized to appoint as many deputies as may be necessary to discharge the duties of the office within budgetary limits approved by the county commissioners (31-2003 and 31-1605).