

## **County Government in the United States**

There are 3,067 counties in the United States. Counties vary greatly in size and population. They range in area from 67 square kilometers (Arlington County, Virginia) to 227,559 square kilometers (North Slope Borough, Alaska).



The population of counties varies from Loving County, Texas with less than 100 residents, to Los Angeles County, California, which is home to over 10 million people.

Forty-eight of the 50 states have operational county governments. Connecticut and Rhode Island are divided into geographic regions called counties, but they do not have functioning governments. Alaska calls its counties boroughs and Louisiana calls them parishes.

### **Counties and Elections**

The election process begins and ends at the county level. County governments are empowered by state law to handle all local, state and national elections.

County governments register new voters, institute primary elections, publicize Election Day procedures, mail election information to voters, select voting devices, establish polling sites and certify voting accuracy.

