Why Counties Matter

With America’s system of FEDERALISM, counties are a KEY LEVEL of government, DIRECTLY serving the people.

As governments created by states, counties provide ESSENTIAL PUBLIC SERVICES including many mandated by FEDERAL and STATE laws and regulations.

Elections

Counties fund and oversee more than 112,000 polling places and coordinate 700,000 poll workers EVERY TWO YEARS.

There are more than 18,000 ELECTED COUNTY OFFICIALS.

Preventive Health

Counties provide flu shots and other preventive health services through 1,947 HEALTH DEPARTMENTS.

Counties own 75% of publicly owned NURSING HOMES.

Expenditures

Total expenditures for counties in 2007

$472 BILLION

$28B

$34B

$36B

$63B $64B

LAW ENFORCEMENT

CONSTRUCTION

HUMAN SERVICES

EDUCATION

HOSPITAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Services

Counties employ more than 3.2 MILLION Americans delivering a variety of services

Healthcare
Transportation
Public Safety and Jails
Courts
Mental Health Services
Build Local Economies
Restaurant Inspections
Community Colleges
Recycling
Solid Waste Management
911 Emergency Systems
Parks and Recreation
Elections
Record Keeping

Counties own and maintain

- **228,026** of America’s Bridges,
- **44%** of America’s Roadways,
- **and almost 1/3** of America’s Transit Systems and Airports.

### Infrastructure

- **Counties invested** $60 BILLION on infrastructure in 2007 (highways, roads, bridges, utilities, water, and sewer).
- **Counties spent** $34 BILLION on construction of county facilities.

### Law Enforcement

- **3,105** county sheriff and police departments nationwide.
- **11.8M** persons admitted to county jails in 2011.

### Transportation

- The United States has **3,069** county governments.

### Population

- **9,787,747** persons.
- **62** counties.
- **Most** persons reside in 500 miles of Los Angeles County, California.

### Counties

- **Loving Co., Texas**
- **Los Angeles Co., California**

### Data Sources