

CHAPTER 4 POLITICAL STRUCTURE

Wasco County citizens are affected by a number of governmental levels. Federal, state, county and city laws and regulations all influence activities within the county.

County government is the main body that deals with rural county matters. It works directly with the people, as well as coordinating other governmental activities within the county.

The County Court is the main administrative body in Wasco County. It consists of the County Judge and two County Commissioners. The Court administers the budget and conducts the business of the county.

There are seven elected positions in county government. The Clerk, Assessor, District Attorney, Sheriff and Treasurer are under the administrative category. The judicial branch includes the District Court and Circuit Court.

The administrative county agency positions are appointed by the County Court. Among these agencies are the Health Department, Road Master, Planning Office, County Extension Agency, and Library. Judicial agency positions, such as the Juvenile Department, are appointed by the Circuit Court. These agencies operate within the constraints of federal and state laws. City laws affect agencies within the city limits.

Federal and state agencies often deal directly with County matters. They may intervene in subjects of state or national importance, or they may deliver services best available on a state or federal level. Such services include the post office, armed services, and any number of specialized agency programs.

Special districts can also be formed to deal with certain activities. These districts can involve the whole county, several counties, or portions of counties. In Wasco County, special districts have been formed for such things as education, economic development, recreation, and irrigation.

Each of the facilities and services available within the county will be discussed separately. It will be seen how the different levels of government affect citizens of Wasco County.