

# WALDO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Waldo County Commissioners are the county's chief elected officials and responsible for the fiscal operations and policy decisions affecting the County of Waldo's government. They are also responsible for preparing and monitoring the County budget (although the final decision on the budget is performed by a Budget Committee process), the County's tax assessment, and various appeals and hearings.

County Commissioners directly supervise county department heads. The budget for Waldo County overseen by the commissioners is more than \$9 million, with the largest single expense being the county jail (\$3+ million).

## County Departments

- Corrections (county jail)
- Sheriff's Office
- County Clerk's Office
- Emergency Management
- Communications
- District Attorney
- Registry of Deeds
- Probate Court
- Reentry Center
- University of Maine Extension Service
- Soil and Water Conservation
- Archives
- Maintenance of a wide variety of facilities to support these functions

Understanding the wide variety of services provided by the county requires some initiative on the part of a commissioner. A conscientious person could invest a great deal of time becoming informed about county government. Recent precedent is that the three commissioners divide up the various departments and each specialize in a certain area. Learn more about Waldo County government in this video: [How County Government Works \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7odoKHjEIQ\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7odoKHjEIQ).

## Meetings

Waldo County Commissioners hold their meetings, called court sessions, as needed to complete County business. Generally, County Commissioners meet in Belfast twice a month. Regular court sessions are generally scheduled on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of

each month. Special court sessions may be scheduled in addition to the regular sessions. Court sessions can be brief, but some can last all day.

In early fall, the governing boards of the municipalities in each district are asked to elect a certain number of select board or city council members to serve on the County's Budget Committee, which meets several times with the Commission. The final budget is enacted in December.

## **Elections**

Waldo County Commissioners serve 4-year terms. They are elected in the November general election, with primaries held in June. To get on the ballot, candidates must collect petition signatures and submit them to the Secretary of State's office by the March filing deadline. The number of signatures required depends on whether the candidate is running in a party primary or as an unenrolled candidate in the general election. Commissioner candidates are subject to filing and reporting requirements established by the Maine Secretary of State and the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices.

Each Commissioner represents one of three districts in Waldo County:

- District 1 - Belfast, Belmont, Islesboro, Lincolnville, Northport, and Waldo
- District 2 - Frankfort, Jackson, Monroe, Prospect, Searsport, Swanville, Stockton Springs, Winterport
- District 3 - Brooks, Burnham, Freedom, Knox, Liberty, Montville, Morrill, Palermo, Searsmont, Troy, Thorndike, and Unity