



COUNTY OFFICIALS E-NEWS

Promoting better county government through direct assistance to county officials and their associations.

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Comptroller Has Released Annual Budget Memo

On April 15, 2016, the Comptroller’s Office of State and Local Finance (OSLF) released its [Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Budget Memo for Tennessee Counties](#). The budget memo contains important information related to the annual budget process, including the following –



- All counties that have issued debt or entered into a loan agreement with a Public Building Authority must obtain approval of their budget from the OSLF.
- The complete budget, with required supporting documentation, should be sent to OSLF within 15 days after adoption. The budget package must include physical copies of all documents with relevant schedules, and a signed and certified original copy of the appropriation and tax levy resolution.
- County legislative bodies are to adopt a budget for the upcoming fiscal year by June 30.
 - » If the county is operating under the general law, the County Budgeting Law of 1957, or the Financial Management Act of 1981, and fails to adopt a budget by June 30, the county may continue operations under a continuation budget until August 31.
 - » In those counties, an appropriation resolution must be adopted by August 31 (unless the county obtains approval from OSLF to extend its continuation budget through September 30 under extraordinary circumstances).
- County legislative bodies have a duty to adopt a property tax levy by the first Monday in July or as soon as possible thereafter.
- The property tax levy or amended property tax levy must be adopted in sufficient time for property tax notices to be sent prior to the first Monday in October.

The budget memo also contains the contact information for the OSLF budget analysts. Each analyst is assigned counties based on alphabetical listing.

As always, you may contact your [CTAS County Government Consultant](#) with any budget questions. We are here to help you.

TCSA
2016
Legislative Conference

See you there!

May 25-27
Gatlinburg - Park Vista
[Registration](#) | [Tentative Agenda](#)

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EEOC Issues Final Rules on Employer Wellness Programs

The [U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission \(EEOC\)](#) issued final rules on Monday, May 16, 2016, that describe how Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) apply to wellness programs offered by employers that request health information from employees and their spouses. The two rules provide guidance to both employers and employees about how workplace wellness programs can comply with the ADA and GINA consistent with provisions governing wellness programs in the Affordable Care Act.

The rules permit wellness programs to operate consistent with their stated purpose of improving employee health, while including protections for employees against discrimination.

EEOC has published question-and-answer documents on both rules, available at <https://www.eeoc.gov/laws/regulations/qanda-ada-wellness-final-rule.cfm> and <https://www.eeoc.gov/laws/regulations/qanda-gina-wellness-final-rule.cfm>.

The rules are available in the Federal Register at <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/05/17/2016-11558/regulations-under-the-americans-with-disabilities-act> and <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/05/17/2016-11557/genetic-information-nondiscrimination-act>.

New EEOC Guidance on Leave as Accommodation Under ADA

The [EEOC has released](#) a new resource document discussing an employee's right to leave as an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), entitled [Employer-Provided Leave and the Americans with Disabilities Act](#). "Providing employees with a period of leave for medical treatment or recovery can be a critical reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities," said EEOC Chair Jenny Yang. "This resource document explains to employers and employees in a clear and practical way how to approach requests for leave as a reasonable accommodation so that employees can manage their health and employers can meet their business needs."

U.S. Department of Labor Announces Grant Opportunity - Counties with 50,000+ Populations are Eligible

U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Secretary Thomas Perez announced a new grant opportunity for researching how paid-leave programs can be implemented. Counties with estimated populations of 50,000 or more are eligible for the new [Paid Leave Analysis Grants](#) that support research and analysis related to determining how to develop, implement and/or improve paid family and medical leave programs. Activities identified as eligible for the grant include: statistical analysis, feasibility studies, economic-impact analyses, financing, eligibility and benefit modeling, and education, outreach, and marketing analysis.

NOTE: Applications are due by June 6, 2016 -- a fast approaching deadline. For more information, visit the DOL website at <https://www.dol.gov/featured/paid-leave>.

County Spotlight

Benton County



County Seat: Camden
Population: 3,582
County Government Consultant:
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Benton County is home to several important historical events and interesting stories.

On March 5, 1963, a small plane carrying three well-known and loved Grand Ole Opry members crashed: Patsy Cline, Harkshaw Hawkins, and Cowboy Copas. All three perished in the accident.

During the American Civil War, Benton County was the site where of only ever recorded naval force defeat by an army calvary. The Battle of Johnsonville occurred in Benton and Humphreys Counties.

Finally, Benton County is also the site of the only freshwater pearl farm in North America. Pearls are harvested from Tennessee River Washboard Mussels at the Tennessee River Pearl Farm. The farm was started in 1980 and harvested the first pearls in 1985.

For more information, please visit:
www.tnhistoryforkids.org

