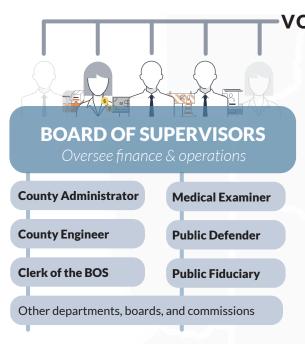
# **County Government Overview**

Structure & Key Functions

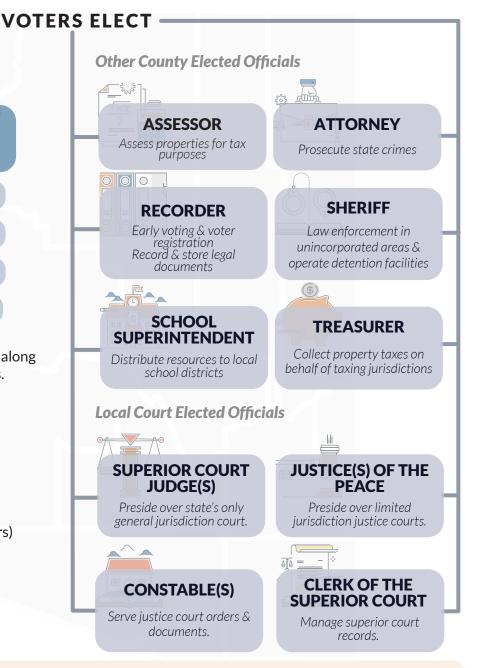
Counties and county elected offices are established in the Arizona Constitution. responsibilities of each elected office, along with the 15 counties' boundaries are outlined Voters county-level statute. independently elect all county officers and some judges. As administrative arms of the state, counties provide state mandated services at a regional level and provide city-like services in unincorporated areas.



BOS responsible for budget & tax authority, along with daily management of county functions.

Some functions overseen by BOS:

- County budget & tax rate(s)
- County infrastructure, roads & bridges
- Public & environmental health
- Indigent defense
- Emergency management and response
- Conduct elections (jointly with Recorders)
- County fair and parks
- Planning & zoning
- Medical examiner and indigent burial
- Public fiduciary



#### **Major State Agency-County Partnerships**

#### **COURTS**

- Independent branch of government
- Funded jointly by state & counties

#### INDIGENT HEALTHCARE

- Counties contribute \$400M+ annually to state long-term & acute care programs
- Counties no longer have an administrative role in AHCCCS

#### **EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

DEMA & County Emergency Management

 Minimize the loss of life & property during emergencies & disasters through planning, coordination, outreach, & recovery services.

## ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC HEALTH

Implementing delegated authorities from ADHS & ADEQ

- Contact tracing, vaccine distribution
- Air quality, restaurant inspection

# **County Government Overview**

Financial Structure

The county financial structure is outlined in state statute and has several statutory and constitutional limitations on how fast both revenues and expenditures can grow. The Board of Supervisors is responsible for managing the county budget and setting the tax rate, and is ultimately the entity responsible to the voters for county finances.

#### **REVENUE STRUCTURE**

#### **GENERAL FUND**

County general fund revenues are made up of the following sources, although the reliance on each revenue source varies widely across all 15 counties. While all counties use the state tax base set in statute, industry type and strength of the tax base is different across the state. average % of FY 2022 GF revenue

#### **PROPERTY TAX Primary**

Urban Counties, 47%

Rural Counties, 31%

State GF, <1%

#### STATE SHARED **SALES TAX**

Urban Counties, 37%

Rural Counties, 30%

State GF, 41%

#### **LOCAL EXCISE TAX General Fund**

Urban Counties, 0%

Rural Counties, 13%

State GF. N/A

Excise Tax

#### **VEHICLE LICENSE TAX**

General Fund

Urban Counties, 8%

Rural Counties, 6%

State GF, <1%

#### OTHER ex. Federal PILT

Urban Counties, 9%

Rural Counties, 19%

State GF, 59%

#### **SPECIAL DISTRICTS & TAXES**

State statute provides counties the ability to establish several special taxing districts to fund specific county operations. These funds are siloed and generally cannot be spent for purposes outside of the district. Not all counties are able to create each type of district.

County special districts controlled by BOS:

- Library District
- Flood Control District TV District
- Jail District/Excise Tax Public Health District ■ Road Excise Tax

▲ Property Tax

### TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

% of FY 2021 local transportation funding





**MARICOPA** COCONINO Counties maintain their local roadways primarily from

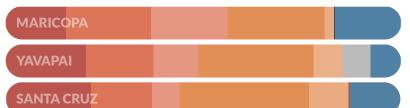
state shared revenues **HURF** and **VLT**. Some counties also have a voter-approved excise tax for roads (separate from regional transportation authorities).

#### **EXPENDITURES**

Counties are in the "must do" business of providing essential government services to their communities.

Most county expenditures go towards public safety, courts & criminal justice, along with other state mandates, like contributions to the state's healthcare system and other general government services provided by county elected officials.

#### % of FY 2022 GF expenditures



#### LIMITS ON COUNTY FINANCE

Counties have limitations both on how much revenue they can generate and their level of expenditures. These restrictions, along with increasing cost drivers, put pressure on county budgets, which are required to be balanced. Once adopted, counties cannot exceed their total adopted budget, even in case of emergencies.

#### **EXPENDITURE LIMITATIONS**

A constitutional limit that restricts growth in spending of local revenues to the 1980 level adjusted for inflation and population growth.

A constitutional limit that sets a maximum primary property tax rate. Levy limit increases annually by 2% plus new additions to the tax roll.

#### **CAPPED SALES TAX RATES**

County sales tax rates have statutory maximums, typically 0.5%, and unlike other jurisdictions counties do not have the authority to levy sales taxes other than those set in statute.

#### **EXPENDITURES LIMITATIONS**

