



## Maine County Commissioners Association

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## Maine County Commissioners Association – An Overview

The **Maine County Commissioners Association (MCCA)** is a nonpartisan, professional organization serving Maine counties to enhance their common goals and help enrich their citizens' quality of life. MCCA was founded in 1890.

The core functions of MCCA are:

- 1. To strengthen the role of county government in Maine by maintaining a comprehensive and robust advocacy role in the state and federal legislative, administrative, and regulatory process.*
- 2. To enhance management of county government by providing quality member services for all Maine counties.*
- 3. To provide programming, services, information, and education that supports members in meeting public expectations for comprehensive, effective, and efficient service delivery.*

The following functions fall under the jurisdiction of County Government:

- **COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** - The voters in each of Maine's 16 counties elect three, five or seven commissioners to four-year terms to oversee the operation of county government. Each commissioner serves a separate district within the county. Commissioners, as the counties' chief elected officials, are ultimately responsible for the fiscal operations and policy decisions affecting county government.
- **LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CIVIL PROCESS** - Maine's 16 county sheriff's offices are responsible for the majority of criminal investigations in rural Maine, and handle a large share of rural highway patrol. County sheriff's offices are also responsible for serving all civil lawsuit complaints and related documents throughout the state.
- **CORRECTIONS** - Maine's 13 county jails, three county 72-hour holding facilities and two county re-entry centers are responsible for persons arrested by municipal, county and state law enforcement and probation officials. All inmates sentenced for Class D or E crimes serve sentences up to 364 days in these county facilities. In addition, most adults sentenced for Class A, B, or C crimes to nine months or less serve their time in these county correctional facilities.
- **REGISTRY OF DEEDS** - The Registry records all documents and survey plans that affect property lying anywhere within the boundaries of the county. The Registry also maintains an index of buyers and sellers names so that the documents and maps may be easily found.
- **COUNTY TREASURERS** - Each county has an elected or an appointed Treasurer who maintains the county's financial records. The Treasurer is also responsible for investment of tax revenues.
- **REGISTRY OF PROBATE; PROBATE COURT** - The Probate Court system is under the jurisdiction of the Maine Supreme Court and funded by Maine's counties. The Probate Court handles all estates, as well as

guardianship, conservatorship, changes of name, adoptions and other legal matters. Both the Probate Judge and the Register of Probate are elected positions in each county.

- EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY - Each county operates an Emergency Management Agency which is responsible for the coordination of municipal and county-wide efforts in times of natural and man-made disasters and public health emergencies.
- PUBLIC HEALTH - Counties, in conjunction with municipal governments and various private sector entities including hospitals, play an important role in organizing, overseeing and delivering public health services in the state.
- COUNTY/REGIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING AND DISPATCH SERVICES - Counties continue to provide valuable public safety answering and dispatching services to fire, police and rescue departments in many communities around the state.
- DISTRICT ATTORNEY - County government provides extensive support for each of Maine's elected District Attorneys. This support includes office facilities, staff, equipment, and witness fees.
- DISTRICT AND SUPERIOR COURTROOMS - County government provides much of the state's District and Superior courtroom space.
- UNORGANIZED TERRITORIES - County government provides residents in unorganized territories with services, including road and bridge maintenance, solid waste disposal, and public safety.