**How is a new county created?**

*No new county shall be formed unless a majority of the qualified electors*

*voting in each part of the county or counties proposed to be dismembered*

*and embraced in the new county, shall separately vote therefore.*

—Article 14, Section 260, Mississippi Constitution of 1890

**How many counties are in Mississippi?**

**What are the first 2 counties in Mississippi?**

**How many counties by 1890?**

**How many counties since the 1890 Constitution was written?**

**What are some county services?**

**Board of Supervisors**

* Governing body of the county.
* Every county in Mississippi is divided into \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* One supervisor is elected for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from each beat.
* The minimum the Board of Supervisors must meet is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Can meet more than that if necessary.

**Board’s Responsibilities**

Levy taxes

Appropriate money

Prepare the budget

Issue bonds (borrow money)

Maintain roads, bridges and ferries

Repair the courthouse and jail

Monitor county health programs

Regulate fireworks

Call witnesses in matters under its jurisdiction

Appoint a county fire coordinator

Sick leave policy for the county

Maintain public libraries

Purchase supplies and equipment

**2 Types of County Government**

* **The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ System**
	+ Complete control over the roads in his/her district.
	+ Gives orders directly to the road crews.
	+ Has an equipment barn for the district’s road crews.
	+ Drafts a budget without the assistance of a county administrator.
	+ Spend up to $100 for emergency repairs and equipment.
* **The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ System (started in 1988)**
	+ Set policies.
	+ Hires county employees.
	+ Hires a county administrator.
	+ County road manager monitors road crews.
	+ Central Barn.
	+ All purchases handled by purchasing, receiving, and inventory clerks.

**Oldest Office in the County=**

**The Sheriff is in charge of:**

*

**Coroner** **Conducts investigations**

*

**If a vacancy occurs in the sheriff position, who takes his place?**

**What is the office of the Constable?**

**Chancery Clerk=**

* The Chancery Clerk serves as the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, the Clerk of the Chancery Court, and is responsible for processing all Land Records in DeSoto County.  Keeps a complete record of the board of supervisor’s proceedings and orders.
* Receives and records legal papers, such as deeds and warranty deeds related to land transactions.
* Responsible for the papers and records of the chancery court.
* Treasurer and auditor for the county.

**Circuit Clerk=**

* The Circuit Clerk serves as Clerk of the County and Circuit Courts.
* Issues marriage licenses and keeps records of marriages.
* Records medical and other professional licenses.
* Registers citizens to vote and has other duties in handling elections.

**Tax Collector and Tax Assessor**

**Are the 2 offices combined in DeSoto County?**

**Tax Collector=**

The Tax Collector is responsible for the collection of taxes on Real Property, Personal Property, Mobile Homes, Automobiles, Motorcycles, Motor Homes, Trailers and Airplanes.

* The DeSoto County Tax Collector has three offices for your convenience:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Tax Assessor Office=**

* Determines the true value of each piece of property in the county.
* Then establishes the taxable value of the property every year.
* Determines the property’s assessed value, which is a percentage of the property’s true value.
* Then compiles a list of the properties (called the tax roll) and presents it to the board of supervisors, which levies the taxes.

**County Attorney=**

* Prosecutes cases for the state in justice courts and county courts.
* Assists the district attorney in cases before circuit courts.

**District Attorney=**

* Represents more than one county, prosecutes criminals who commit felony crimes, gives legal advice to law enforcement agencies, handles bad check cases, carries out criminal investigations and provides assistance to victims of crime.

**County Superintendent of Education=**

**DeSoto County School Board=**

* Manages the financial affairs of the school system.
* Determines employment policies.
* Oversees the construction.
* Maintenance of school facilities.
* Operates a school transportation system.
* Handles severe discipline problems.