



December 20, 2024

Sealed Competitive Bids and Public Advertising Threshold

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website (ctas.tennessee.edu). This website is maintained by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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Reference Number: CTAS-2481

Tenn. Code Ann. § 12-3-1212 allows counties, municipalities, utility districts, local education agencies, or other local government entities having centralized purchasing and a full-time purchasing agent, by resolution of the governing body, to increase the threshold amount over which public advertisement and sealed competitive bids or proposals are required to \$50,000 for nonemergency, nonproprietary purchases. The law provides that a full-time purchasing agent is someone that devotes 100% of the person's working time to purchasing.

In addition, counties, municipalities, utility districts, local education agencies, and other local government entities with non-centralized purchasing or centralized purchasing without a full-time purchasing agent, by resolution of the governing body, may increase the threshold over which public advertisement and sealed competitive bids or proposals are required to \$25,000 for nonemergency, nonproprietary purchases.

Purchases of like items must be aggregated for the purpose of the applicable threshold.

The law requires local governments to get at least three written quotes, when possible, for purchases costing less than the bid threshold but more than 40% of such bid threshold or a lower amount as may be established by the governing body in a resolution.

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