



March 12, 2025

Duties and Powers

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-1500

The county board of equalization is the first level of administrative appeal for all complaints regarding the assessment, classification, and valuation of property for tax purposes. The county board's duties include examining and equalizing the county assessments, assuring that all taxable properties are included on the assessment lists, eliminating exempt properties from taxation, hearing complaints of aggrieved taxpayers, decreasing over-assessed property, increasing under-assessed property, and correcting clerical mistakes.¹The county board of equalization has the power to obtain evidence concerning the classification, value, or assessment of any property by examining witnesses, hearing proof, and sending for persons and papers.²Board members have the power to administer an oath, and any person who willfully or corruptly swears falsely to any material fact before the board commits perjury and is indictable for such offense.³The county board may also examine assessors in order to ascertain the manner in which the classification, value, or assessment of property was determined.⁴When a member of the county board knows or reasonably suspects that an assessor of property or deputy assessor has knowingly or willfully classified, valued or assessed any property in violation of the requirements of law, that member has a duty to report the violation to the district attorney general or other proper officer of the state for further proceedings.⁵

¹T.C.A. § 67-5-1402. Note Op. Tenn. Atty. Gen. 85-083 (March 20, 1985) opining that T.C.A. § 5-5-124, providing authority for the county legislative body to correct errors in property assessments, is obsolete since other remedies are provided for pursuant to T.C.A. § 67-5-1401 *et seq.*

²T.C.A. § 67-5-1404(a) and (b).

³T.C.A. § 67-5-1404(c).

⁴T.C.A. § 67-5-1405.

⁵T.C.A. § 67-5-1415.

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