



March 31, 2025

Administration - Historical Notes

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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County Executive

The references below are of acts which once applied to the office of county judge, or county executive in Trousdale County. They are included herein for historical purposes only.

1. Private Acts of 1947, Chapter 462, established the office of County Judge in Trousdale County and abolished the office of Chairman of the County Court of Trousdale County. The County Judge was popularly elected for a term of eight years. The act provided for the County Judge to perform the duties formerly exercised by the Chairman and he was empowered to break tie votes of the Quarterly County Court. This act was superseded by Chapter 934 of the Public Acts of 1978 which created the office of County Executive and abolished the office of County Judge, transferring administrative duties to the County Executive and judicial duties to other courts.
2. Private Acts of 1955, Chapter 104, would have repealed Private Acts of 1947, Chapter 462, which created the office of County Judge effective on September 1, 1958. However, this Act was rejected in a referendum election by the people of Trousdale County and was therefore rendered null and void.
3. Private Acts of 1974, Chapter 255, would have amended Private Acts of 1947, Chapter 462, by increasing the annual salary of the County Judge from \$1,500 to \$6,600, but this Act was not approved by the Quarterly Court and never became effective.
4. Private Acts of 1974, Chapter 368, would have amended Private Acts of 1947, Chapter 462, by transferring effective September 1, 1974, every judicial function, authority and responsibility of the County Judge as a juvenile and probate court to the Judge of the General Sessions Court. The salary of the County Judge would not be diminished by the transfer of his judicial authority. This Act was not approved by the local authorities and never took effect

County Legislative Body

The following acts once applied to the quarterly court or the county legislative body of Trousdale County and are included herein for historical purposes. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

- Private Acts of 1919, Chapter 242, fixed the per diem of the Justices of the Peace in Trousdale County at \$3 per day for each day he attends any regular, or special, session of the Quarterly County Court. The Act also specified that the Justices would be paid all the mileage, ferriage and toll fees as were then provided under the general law.
- Private Acts of 1923, Chapter 596, set the per diem payments to Justices of the Peace in Trousdale County at \$2 per day for each day of attendance at meetings of the Quarterly Court plus such mileage as the Quarterly Court may allow.
- Private Acts of 1929, Chapter 664, stated that after September 30, 1930, the Chairman of the County Court of Trousdale County would be elected by the members of the County Court instead of by the qualified voters of the county. The election would take place at the same time the county general election was held.
- Private Acts of 1931, Chapter 315, declared that in Trousdale County, the Justices of the Peace shall be entitled to receive as compensation for their services the sum of \$4 per day for each day he attends any regular or special session of the Quarterly County Court, plus such mileage, ferriage, and tolls as may be payable under the general law.
- Private Acts of 1943, Chapter 228, stated that hereafter the Quarterly County Court of Trousdale County would meet in regular session on the second Monday in January, April, July and October instead of on the first Monday in the same months.
- Private Acts of 1949, Chapter 732, provided that the Quarterly Court of Trousdale County would meet in regular session on the Wednesday after the first Monday in January, April, July and October instead of on the second Mondays in the same month. This Act was repealed by Private Acts of 1963, Chapter 95.

County Register

The following acts once affected the office of county register in Trousdale County, but are no longer operative.

1. Private Acts of 1917, Chapter 538, provided that women over the age of 21 in Trousdale County

would be eligible to serve as Deputy Register with all the responsibilities, duties and privileges of the office.

2. Private Acts of 1935, Chapter 321, amended Private Acts of 1933, Chapter 444, which set the maximums on the supplementary salaries of the Sheriff, the Clerk and Master, and the Circuit Court Clerk of Trousdale County, by adding the County Register to that list and setting the supplemental salary maximum of the Register at \$300 per year, which would be in addition to all the fees of the office.

Purchasing

The following act once affected the purchasing procedures of Trousdale County, but is no longer operative.

1. Private Acts of 1955, Chapter 321, set up a system for purchasing supplies, materials and equipment for Trousdale County. The officer in charge of each office, commission, board or agency would make all purchases in excess of \$100 through competitive bidding. The officer would receive no compensation for his duties as purchasing agent. This Act was rejected by the voters in a local referendum and consequently never took effect.

General Reference

The following private or local acts constitute part of the administrative and political history of Trousdale County but are today no longer operative because they have either been superseded, repealed, or failed to receive local approval.

1. Public Acts of 1870-71, Chapter 50, authorized the counties to impose taxes for county purposes subject to two conditions: (1) That all taxable property shall be taxed according to its value upon the principles established in regard to State taxation, and (2) That the credit of the county shall not be given or loaned to any person, company or association except upon the consent of a majority of the Justices of the Peace and upon approval of three-fourths of the voters in a local election. Trousdale and twenty-five other counties required only the approval of a majority of the voters until 1880.
2. Public Acts of 1897, Chapter 124, fixed the salaries for several of the county officials according to the population of the county in which the official was serving, provided certain requirements for filing a sworn, itemized statement of the fees collected in the office were observed. All fees would become the property of the county, and in no event shall the salary exceed the amount of the fees paid in. This Act was declared unconstitutional by the courts in Weaver v. Davidson County, 104 Tenn. 315, 59 S.W. 1105 (1900).
3. Private Acts of 1937, Chapter 442, gave the authority to the Quarterly County Court of Trousdale County to appropriate up to \$3,000 in funds to pay innocent purchasers of unpaid county warrants, which were purchased at face value, the amount such purchasers may have paid therefor.

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