

Mandatory and Discretionary Services

The side-by-side comparison below is an indicator of choices a county is required to make with available revenue.

Services Counties Must Provide

Services Counties May Provide (have the authority to do so)

MANDATORY

DISCRETIONARY

Jails

- Meals
- Medical Treatment
- Staff
- Facilities
- Access to Legal (i.e., attorneys and law library)
- Transportation
- Equipment
- Commissary
- Training

Jails

- Quality and Quantity of Meals
- Level of Medical Care; Dental Care
- Rehabilitation Programs
- Work Programs
- Victim/Witness Secure Telecommunications

Judicial System

- Courts – staff (interpreters, court reporters, bailiffs)
- Courts – equipment
- Courts – facilities

Judicial System

- CSCD – level of rehabilitative programs
- Juvenile Probation – level of Rehabilitative Programs
- Juvenile Board – quality of educational program

MANDATORY

- Courts – indigent legal services
- Court Administration
- Courts – support of certain appellate districts
- Clerks – official record keeping
- Constable – service of process
- Sheriff – service of process
- Sheriff – juror duties
- Sheriff – bailiff duties
- CSCD – facilities and communication infrastructure
- Juvenile Probation – staff, expenses
- Juvenile Board – alternative education program
- Title IV D – various offices

Prosecution/Legal

- District Attorney – prosecution
- District Attorney – legal opinions
- District Attorney – tax collection
- District Attorney – officials/removal
- District Attorney – DPRS representation in child protection proceedings (if not, then by CA)

DISCRETIONARY

Prosecution/Legal *(some may be mandatory according to specific county statutes)*

- District Attorney – representation of county officials and employees
- District Attorney – general civil services (contracts, etc.)
- District Attorney – victims programs
- District Attorney – collections
- County Attorney – general civil representation (contracts, etc.)

MANDATORY

- District Attorney – protective orders
- County Attorney – prosecution
- County Attorney – legal opinions
- County Attorney – tax collection
- County Attorney – officials/removal
- County Attorney – DPRS representation in child protection proceedings (if not by DA)
- County Attorney – protective orders

DISCRETIONARY

- County Attorney – victims programs
- County Attorney – representation of county officials and employees
- County Attorney – collections

Elections

Public Health

- Indigent Medical
- Indigent Burials
- Medical Examiner – certain counties
- Mental Health – jail
- Hospital (certain circumstances)

Public Health

- Level of medical services
- Poverty level of citizens served
- Environmental/sanitation services
- Health or human services outreach or safety net services
- Emergency Medical Services

Financial Management

- Auditor – revenue estimation certain counties
- Auditor – funding verification

Financial Management

- Bond Issuance
- Financial analysis

MANDATORY

certain counties

- Auditor – expenditure approval
- Auditor – financial reporting
- Treasurer – debt collection
- Treasurer – depository account management
- Treasurer – reporting
- Treasurer – receipt and disbursement of county funds
- Commissioners – debt service
- Commissioners – current tax abatements
- Commissioners – budget
- Commissioners – tax levy
- Tax Assessor – assess & collect taxes
- Commissioners – external audit
- Elected Officials – financial reporting
- Purchasing – competitive bidding

Public Safety

- Sheriff – suppress crime and arrest offenders
- Homeland Security – various offices
- Victim Notification

Public Welfare

DISCRETIONARY

- Strategic planning
- Investments
- Future tax abatements
- Economic development

Public Safety

- Level of enforcement
- Level of preparedness
- Fire Marshall

Public Welfare

MANDATORY

- Roads (current)
- Sheriff – stray

DISCRETIONARY

- Roads (new)
- Parks
- Library
- Event arenas
- Nuisance abatement
- Family services
- Elder services
- Community development

Personnel and Support Services

- Retirement (existing programs)
- Salary (minimum wage)
- Personnel/payroll recordkeeping
- Worker's compensation

Personnel and Support Services

- Retirement (new employees)
- Salary (position appropriate – market)
- Medical benefits

Records Management

- County Clerk – property, birth, death, marriage and other records
- All officials – county records
- All officials – public information act compliance

Records Management

- Level of accessibility