



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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County government still open for business, with changes

JONESBOROUGH – All county government offices in Johnson City and Jonesborough are open at this time with minimal suppression of services.

“We’re encouraging people who have business to conduct with the county to make transactions by mail or electronically,” said Mayor Joe Grandy. “Quite simply, we cannot serve folks if we don’t have healthy county employees.”

Offices located within the Historic Courthouse, the Trustee’s and Clerk’s Offices in Johnson City and the George Jaynes Justice Center are open for business. Elected officials and department heads want residents to know that in-person visits are not required for all transactions. In fact, a great deal of options are available on the county’s web site, www.washingtoncountyttn.org.

- Court System -- For information on all matters of the Courts and proceedings in the George Jaynes Justice Center, please refer to the order from Chief Justice Bivins available on the county’s web site or call the appropriate court office. Those numbers are available on the web site as well.
- Clerk and Master – You can email or FAX filings without fee for ongoing cases to Sarah Lawson until April 1 at slawson@washingtoncountyttn.org. For more information, call 788-1450.
- County Clerk – You can renew your vehicle tags via phone, mail or online. Additionally, you can go online and apply for a marriage license, to become a notary and request a business license. For more information, call the Clerk’s office at 753-1621.

- Planning & Zoning – Several applications are available on the county’s web site. You can fill those out and submit the applications electronically via email per instruction on each form. Please call the office at 753-1753 if you need help submitting forms or scheduling building inspections.
- Property Assessor – You can access all real estate assessment data via the county’s web site. Any forms, such as change of address, are available on the county’s web site and once completed can be emailed to propertyassessor@washingtoncountyttn.org. The Assessor encourages people to call his office, 753-1672, with questions prior to coming by for services.
- Register of Deeds – Mortgage companies are strongly encouraged to file online. Call Simplifile at 800-460-5657 to begin the process. Residents needing copies of deeds or documents filed with the office can call 753-1644 and staff will email or mail files as requested. Any requests that can be submitted via email should go to tbowman@washingtoncountyttn.org.
- Washington County Election Commission – Candidates can still pick up and file petitions in person. Forms for change of address and absentee ballots are available online at www.wcecoffice.com/forms. You can also register to vote online there as well. For more information, call 753-1688.

Other offices and departments are open, but are rescheduling programming are as follows:

- Trustee’s Office – Window service is available at both the Jonesborough and Johnson City locations. If you have business that cannot be conducted at the window, please call 753-1602 or email wctrustee@washingtoncountyttn.org.
- The Veterans Service Office – Offices are open inside the George Jaynes Justice Center, which is currently limiting visitors. Please call 753-1628 to schedule an appointment. The office’s TRICARE meeting for March 23 is cancelled, but will be rescheduled.

- Libraries – Both the Jonesborough and Gray branches are closed. However, both libraries have free wi-fi that can be accessed from each library's parking lot for those who need internet access. Follow the library's Facebook page for updates, or call 753-1800.
- Agricultural Extension Service – All program areas are suspended until May. You can reach that office at 753-1680 to inquire about other services, or watch for information on the department's Facebook page.

In the interest of public health and an abundance of caution, the county is suspending both budget and commission meetings through the end of March. This impacts upcoming budget committee meetings, scheduled for March 17 and 18, as well as the March 23 Board of Commissioners meeting.

“By statute, the Commission only has to meet once a quarter,” explained County Mayor Joe Grandy. “We are following the advice of the Centers for Disease Control in suspending meetings.”

All matters coming before the Board of Commissioners will move to the April meeting.

Please keep in mind this is an evolving process and additional changes may occur at any time without notice. Any updates will be posted on the county's web site.