

Hardin County

focus

Fiscal Court Gets a New Look!

BACKGROUND

While magistrates date back to medieval England, magistrates were introduced to Kentucky in 1792 under our first constitution as appointed officials. The position became an elected office under Kentucky's third constitution in 1850. Today under Section 144 of our current constitution, adopted in 1891, each county is required to have a fiscal court composed of a Judge/Executive with three to eight Magistrates or three Commissioners.

Kentucky's constitution sets forth a general outline of the Fiscal Court's responsibilities. The statutes require Fiscal Court to appropriate county funds for lawful purposes, buy and sell county property, monitor the fiscal affairs of the county and county officers, and exercise all other corporate powers of the county. Further, the Fiscal Court may investigate all activities of county government, establish appointive offices and define their duties. The Fiscal Court is responsible for the construction and maintenance of county buildings, roads, other property, and for the incarceration of prisoners. Finally the Fiscal Court is directed to adopt an administrative code for the county.

COURTROOM PLANS

As we return to eight magistrates in 2011, your Fiscal Court will continue to meet on the third floor of the H.B. Fife Courthouse in Elizabethtown. Plans are underway to add desk space to the courtroom to accommodate the additional Magistrates as well as the County Attorney and County Clerk who participate in the meetings but do not have a vote. Tentative plans call for a more open environment with seating in a U-shape arrangement. We are also considering some technology improvements to enhance the quality of our presentations for our viewing audience both in the court room and on television.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE MEETINGS

Currently your Fiscal Court meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 3:30 p.m. I encourage your participation and attendance at the meetings. The dates and times of these meetings are posted on our website and published in the *News-Enterprise*.

An agenda is posted on our county website: www.hcky.org. We also post the minutes and the approved resolutions of all meetings on this website.



TELEVISION COVERAGE

Fiscal Court meetings are broadcast on Hardin County Educational and Community Television on Sunday mornings between 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. (*schedule may vary*), on Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m., Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., and Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.. Video tapes of the meetings can be found on our website: www.hcky.org or on the Hardin County Educational and Community Television's website: www.hardin.k12.ky.us.

We welcome your participation in your local government. Too often, Fiscal Court approves an ordinance, resolution or motion, only to receive the public's input **after** the law goes into effect.

H.B. Fife Courthouse - Hardin County Kentucky