



*Director of Government Relations
Terry Simonson*

To represent the County officials at the state legislature and before other federal, state, and local governments to support or oppose legislation or other actions that may or might impact upon County government. To lobby for funding, reforms, or other actions which would improve County government.

To raise awareness about the needs, challenges, and opportunities facing County government. To work with business, community, and political leaders to advocate County government's position on important issues, develop policy initiatives, and to provide feedback about important new laws and regulations.

To prepare reports, do research, develop talking points, and position papers for the benefit of and use by County elected officials.

To be actively involved with federal, state, and local organizations and associations such as: National Association of Counties, National Sheriffs Association, Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma, County Officers and Deputies Association, Oklahoma Sheriffs Association, District Attorney's Council, INCOG, CTAG, and the Metro Chamber's OneVoice project.

Government Relations

Key Trends and Challenges for FY 2018-2019

Since county government is really state government at the local level, much of what counties can and cannot do is decided at the Capitol, not the Courthouse. That means in order for the county elected officials to address local challenges and to embrace visions of reforms, it is necessary that more authority and control to govern is shifted back to the county through legislation.

Whether it's public projects, public finance, public safety, public administration, or public health, any areas where the citizens of the county look to their county elected officials to lead, those officials need the empowerment to do so.

To be successful at shifting the ability to make local decisions that will address local challenges will require the development of coalitions of groups and organizations that share these positions. That will mean greater involvement with local, state, and federal organizations and associations which have the ability to lobby and persuade about the need for necessary changes and to work at providing better education of locally elected state officials on the collaborative governing role which county government plays

Associations and Organizations Affiliations

In order to promote the County's voice on issues of importance, involvement in the following associations and organizations by the position is essential:

National Sheriff's Association

National Association of Counties

Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma

County Officers and Deputies Association

Oklahoma Sheriff's Association

District Attorney's Council

Oklahoma Municipal League

INCOG

CTAG

Chamber One Voice Agenda