

PREFACE

In 1985 the Center for Governmental Training & Technology (CGT) in the Mississippi State University Extension Service, in cooperation with the Mississippi Association of Supervisors (MAS), issued a *Handbook for Mississippi County Supervisors*. This popular handbook was the first book covering county government in Mississippi published since 1973.

In 1996 the CGT, again in cooperation with the MAS, published *County Government in Mississippi: A Handbook for Supervisors*. This handbook was not a revision of the one published in 1985. Extensive change in county law and practice over the decade necessitated the writing of a new handbook.

The year 2000 saw the publication of a revised and greatly expanded book, *County Government in Mississippi* which was published with the support of the MAS. While written primarily for county supervisors, particularly newly-elected supervisors, the 2000 edition found wide acceptance from the general public and educational institutions at the secondary, community college, college, and university levels.

This 2004 edition of the book has been revised and expanded to increase its usefulness to county supervisors, the general public, and the educational community. The MAS has once again supported the publication of what has become the leading work published on county government in Mississippi.

This new 3rd edition of *County Government in Mississippi* is a collaborative effort of thirty (30) individuals knowledgeable about county government and expert in their professions. Brief biographies of the contributing authors are found starting on page v. The efforts of these individuals in making this book possible and their daily contributions to improving the operation of local government in Mississippi are to be commended.

The editors want to thank MM. R. Thomas (Tom) Ball, Kyle E. Touchstone, H. Lee Hill II, and S. Paul Ballard II, our newest colleagues, for their contributions to the book. They helped research or write various sections of the publication, helped with the editorial work and layout, and offered useful ideas that improved the final product.

A special word of thanks is due a number of individuals in the Support Services unit of the Mississippi State University Extension Service, particularly Support Services Officer Sid Fondren, Print Manager Bobby Collier, and Winston Moucha, “Charlie” Lindsey, Vanessa Bush, Kathleen Jones, and Chris Sowers of the print staff. Without this team effort in the areas of production and distribution, publication of this book would have been almost impossible.

Finally, appreciation is due Dr. Joe McGilberry, Executive Director of Extension and Outreach for Mississippi State University. He understands the importance of counties to the continued development of our state and to the well-being of the citizenry and supported this project in word and in deed.

In editing this handbook, we have chosen to employ the masculine pronoun in its traditional universal use to denote both the masculine and feminine gender. Using the masculine gender is less cumbersome than using other alternatives such as “he/she,” “he and/or she,” or “s/he.”

Responsibility for the final draft of the handbook, including any errors or shortcomings, falls to the editors. Readers of this publication who discover errors or who have suggestions for

improvement are asked to communicate with the editors so that changes can be made during forthcoming revisions or new editions of this book.

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