# Overview of the County Auditor's Office



Adam Wedmore
Cerro Gordo County Auditor

# **HISTORY**

- ▶ Duties first performed by County Judge in 1851
- Duties then moved to Clerk of Court in 1861
- ▶ Office of the County Auditor created in 1870
- ► Commissioner of Elections added in 1972



# **DUTIES**

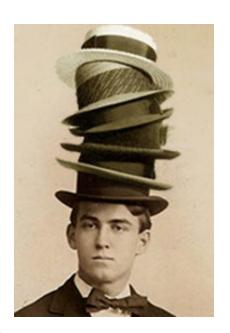
- ► Iowa Code §331.502 outlines statutory duties
- Additional duties are found throughout Code of Iowa
- Most Auditors assume many additional responsibilities
- https://www.iowaauditors.org



# **ADDITIONAL TITLES**

#### By Code, the County Auditor has the following titles:

- ► Clerk to the Board (Auditor may consent to another person named)
- ► Custodian of the Courthouse (at the direction of the Board)
- ► County Budget Director (unless another has been appointed)
- County Commissioner of Elections
- ► County Registrar of Voters



# **BUDGET CENTRAL**

Auditor reviews and certifies the budgets for all taxing authorities within in the County each year

- Ag Extension
- County Assessor
- County Hospital
- ► EMA
- ► Townships
- ► Lighting Districts
- Sanitary Sewer District

- **▶** Cities
- City Assessor
- ►E911
- **▶** Schools
- Community Colleges
- ▶ Benefited Fire Districts
- ► Your own County's budget

# CLERK TO THE BOARD

- Accept petitions
- Act on routine business in the absence of the Board
- ► Initiate bid notices; solicit and receive contracts
- Prepare meeting agendas and notify media
- ► Attend all meetings; record minutes
- Publish minutes in official county newspapers
- ► Maintain a variety of Board books and records
- ▶ Prepare, publish, and codify Ordinances



# COMMISSIONER OF ELECTIONS

Conduct all aspects of federal, state, county, city, school, and special elections

- ► Receive candidate nomination paperwork
- ▶ Design, prepare, and print ballots
- Employ and train precinct election officials
- Register voters and maintain voter rolls
- Certify election results and issue certificates of election
- ► Ensure all election laws are followed



# COUNTY FINANCIAL OFFICER

- ► Prepare County Financial Report
- ► Compile, calculate, and monitor county's operating budget
- Provide monthly financial reports to departments
- ► Ensure budgets do not exceed approved appropriation
- Prepare and submit Cash and GAAP reports
- ▶ Process all claims for all county departments
- ► Administer grant programs
- ► Track and report capital assets



# **COUNTY TAX ACCOUNTANT**

- 1. Tabulates valuations for all parcels as valued by Assessor
- 2. Applies exemptions, credits, rollback, & other adjustments
- 3. Calculates TIF increment; prepares and submits TIF reports
- 4. Certifies the taxable valuation to the State
- 5. Calculates ag land, family farm, and misc. credits
- 6. Applies tax rates by class
- 7. Prepares tax list which details each parcels share
- 8. Certifies the tax list to the Treasurer for collection
- 9. Calculates and submits replacement claims to the State

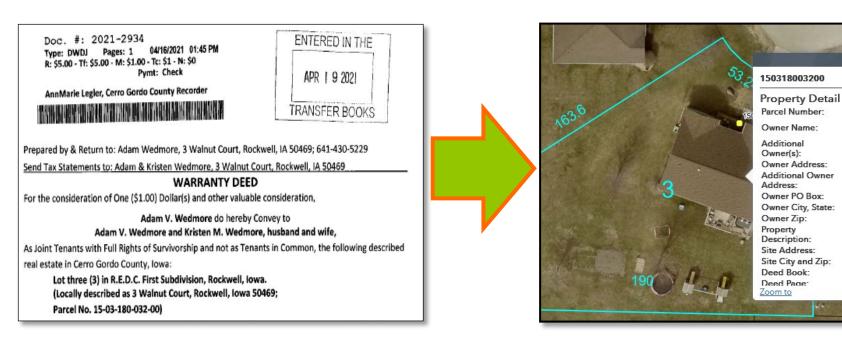
# **PAYROLL**

- Administers payroll for all county employees
  - ▶ PT & FT time employees, EO, PEOs, Township Officers, etc.
- Calculates all taxes and deductions including:
  - State and federal tax withholdings
  - ► IPERS withholding and employee match
  - Health, dental, vision, life, disability, and others
  - Deferred compensation
  - Garnishments
  - Child support deductions
  - Voluntary payroll deductions
- Prepares and files all tax reports



#### REAL ESTATE AND PLATS

- 1. Real estate transfer documents first recorded
- 2. Researched for chain of title and proofed for accuracy
- 3. Entered into the transfer book
- 4. Plat map updated
- 5. All parcels of land are mapped



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KRISTEN M

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# MISCELLANEOUS DUTIES

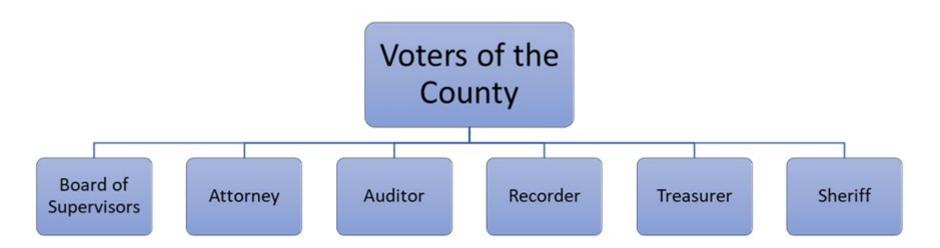
- Serve as the Treasurer or Recorder in vacancy situations
  - Serve as Assessor if there is no Deputy Assessor
- Serve on committee to fill a Board of Supervisor vacancy
- Serve as liaison for township officers, city clerks, school board secretaries, and the public
- Is often the first place the public goes to with questions

# **AUDITOR MAY ALSO...**

- ► Serve as fiscal agent for MH region, Early Childhood, Decat
- Conduct passport application processing
- ► Manage drainage district repairs and improvements
- ► Function as Title VI Coordinator
- ► Serve as HIPAA compliance officer
- Administer self-funded health plans
- Assist with labor negotiations
- Prepare policies and handbooks
- ▶ Other duties specific to your county

# RELATIONSHIPS ARE ESSENTIAL

- Auditor interacts with all departments, all elected officials, and the public on a regular basis
- ► You and your Auditor were both elected by the citizens of your county to perform the duties of each office
  - ► Can be your greatest asset or cause you the most headaches



# Questions?

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