

COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY

From 1798 – 1838, county government was administered by a seven-man Levy Court.

The last individuals who served on the Levy Court from 1838 to 1841 were Henry Fowler, Henry Sewell, George Crane, Stephen H. Gough, James P. Gough, Morris Shanks and William J. Edelin.

The county commissioner form of government in St. Mary's County dates from 1838. At that time the Board of County Commissioners was comprised of five members, one elected from each of the county's five election districts. The first five commissioners were to serve until the first Wednesday of October 1841. After that, elections were to be held every three years. To qualify as a candidate for county commissioner, you had to have lived in that district for one year.

The elected board of commissioners selected a member of its body to serve as president. In 1838 a commissioner received \$2 per day compensation for each day's service.

In 1851, the Maryland Constitution provided that all the counties of the state be administered by a Board of County Commissioners. (St. Mary's County was thirteen years ahead of its time). The first Wednesday in November 1851 was the start of the election cycle, which would then occur every three years afterwards.

<u>ELECTED</u>	<u>NAMES OF COMMISSIONERS</u>	<u>TERMS</u>
1841	George Crane	1 Term
1841	Henry Sewell	1 Term
1841	Stephen H. Gough	1 Term
1841	Morris Shanks	1 Term
1841	Thomas E. Harrison	1 of 2 Terms
*1842	Thomas W. Morgan	1 Term P

***Ibid., 1842, p. 146. Morgan's name from Board of County Commissioner Minute book 1842-1847, p. 12.**

1844	John W. Bennett	1 Term
1844	William H. Hebb	1 of 2 Terms
1844	Edward Plater	1 Term
1844	William Biscoe	1 Term

1844	Thomas E. Harrison	2 of 2 Terms	
1844	William Loker	1 Term	
1847	J. M. Brome (surname Broome)	1 Term	
1847	T. W. Gough	1 Term	
1847	William H. Hebb	2 of 2 Terms	
1847	A. (Albert)Young	1 Term	
1850	Peter P. Smith	1 Term	
1850	Robert Crane	1 Term	
1850	Charles Thompson	1 Term	
1850	Edmund S. T. Maddox	<u>1 of 5 Terms</u>	
1850	Henry Fowler, resigned in 1851	1 Term	
1851	Gideon Harris – replaced Henry Fowler	1 Term	
1851	John H. Bean	1 of 2 Terms	
1851	John Harrison	1 of 2 Terms	
1851	Edmund S. T. Maddox	<u>2 of 5 Terms</u>	
1851	Charles Dunbar	1 Term	
1851	Clark J. Durant – commissioned March 8, 1853	1 Term	P
1853	Edmund S. T. Maddox (district 4)	<u>3 of 5 Terms</u>	
1853	John B. Hayden (district 3) – died 1854	1 Term	
1853	John A. Crane (district 1)	1 Term	
1853	John H. Bean (district 2)	2 of 2 Terms	
1853	John Harrison (district 5)	2 of 2 Terms	
1854	William A. Combs replaced John B. Hayden	1 of 2 Terms	P
1855	Richard Colton	1 of 2 Terms	
1855	Thomas O. Spencer	1 Term	
1855	William A. Combs	2 of 2 Terms	
1855	Edmund S. T. Maddox	<u>4 of 5 Terms</u>	
1855	Matthew A. Stone	1 of 2 Terms	
1857	Young P. Dawkins	1 Term	
1857	Edmund S. T. Maddox	<u>5 of 5 Terms</u>	
1857	George D. Duke	1 Term	
1857	Matthew A. Stone	2 of 2 Terms	
1857	John A. Dunbar	1 Term	
1859	Ferdinand F. Floyd	<u>1 of 4 Terms</u>	
1859	Richard Colton	2 of 2 Terms	
1859	Robert Ford	1 of 2 Terms	
1859	James Heard	1 of 2 Terms	
1859	John E. Carpenter	<u>1 of 3 Terms</u>	
1861	J. Thompson Yates	1 Term	
1861	John C. Herbert	1 of 2 Terms	

1861	James R. Hopewell	1 Term
1861	F. F. Lewis (full name not used)	1 Term
1861	Ferdinand F. Floyd	<u>2 of 4 Terms</u>
1863	Lewis H. Leigh	1 Term
1863	John C. Herbert	2 of 2 Terms
1863	Ferdinand F. Floyd	<u>3 of 4 Terms</u>
1863	James R. Hopewell	1 Term
1863	James M. Heard	2 of 2 Terms
1865	Thomas L. Davis	1 Term
1865	Theophilus Harrison	1 of 2 Terms
1865	John Dillahay	<u>1 of 3 Terms</u>
1865	Robert Ford	2 of 2 Terms
1865	Ferdinand F. Floyd	<u>4 of 4 Terms</u>
1867	John Parsons	<u>1 of 3 Terms</u>
1867	James Duke	1 of 2 Terms
1867	Theophilus Harrison	2 of 2 Terms
1867	John Dillahay	<u>2 of 3 Terms</u>
1867	John E. Carpenter	<u>2 of 3 Terms</u>
1869	William R. Bean	1 Term
1869	James Duke	2 of 2 Terms
1869	John Dillahay	<u>3 of 3 Terms</u>
1869	John E. Carpenter	<u>3 of 3 Terms</u>
1869	Jefferson J. Redmond	1 Term
1871	John B. Abell	1 of 2 Terms
1871	Thomas M. Shadrick	1 Term
1871	John Parsons	<u>2 of 3 Terms</u>
1871	Absolom C. Tennison	1 of 2 Terms
1871	Asa A. Lawrence	1 of 2 Terms
1873	John Parsons	<u>3 of 3 Terms</u>
1873	John B. Abell	2 of 2 Terms
1873	Philip H. Dorsey	1 Term
1873	Absolom C. Tennison	2 of 2 Terms
1873	Aloysius Fenwick	1 of 2 Terms
1875	Benjamin Foxwell	1 Term
1875	Stephen Jones	1 of 2 Terms
1875	James H. Alvey	<u>1 of 3 Terms</u>
1875	Aloysius Fenwick	2 of 2 Terms
1875	Joseph B. Davis	<u>1 of 3 Terms</u>
1877	John J. Allstan	1 Term
1877	James H. Alvey	<u>2 of 3 Terms</u>

1877	Joseph B. Davis	<u>2 of 3 Terms</u>
1877	George W. L. Buckler	<u>1 of 3 Terms</u>
1877	J. Hillery Parsons	<u>1 of 3 Terms</u>
1879	James H. Alvey	<u>3 of 3 Terms</u>
1879	Joseph O. Taylor	1 Term
1879	Asa A. Lawrence	2 of 2 Terms
1879	Stephen Jones	2 of 2 Terms
1879	J. Hillery Parsons	<u>2 of 3 Terms</u>
1881	William F. Leach	1 of 2 Terms
1881	Isiah Canter	1 of 2 Terms
1881	Augustus J. Blain	1 of 2 Terms
1881	Benjamin J. Shermantine	1 of 2 Terms
1881	Stephen Jones	1 Term
1883	William F. Leach	2 of 2 Terms
1883	Isiah Canter	2 of 2 Terms
1883	James A. Tennison	<u>1 of 3 Terms</u>
1883	Benjamin J. Shermantine	2 of 2 Terms
1883	Augustus J. Blain	2 of 2 Terms
1885	John H. Parsons	<u>3 of 3 Terms</u>
1885	William H. Carroll	1 Term
1885	Allen C. Tyler	1 Term
1885	J. Marshall Dent	1 Term
1885	George W. L. Buckler	<u>2 of 3 Terms</u>
1887	James A. Tennison	<u>2 of 3 Terms</u>
1887	Joseph B. Davis	<u>3 of 3 Terms</u>
1887	William H. Dawson	1 Term
1887	James T. King	1 Term
1887	John E. Reintzell	1 Term
1889	J. Oscar Jones	1 Term
1889	Thomas B. Watts	1 Term
1889	James A. Tennison	<u>3 of 3 Terms</u>
1889	John T. Ballinger	1 Term
1889	William F. Yates	1 Term
1891	George F. Tennison	1 Term
1891	Webster B. Herbert	1 Term
1891	Jesse Turner	1 Term
1891	George W. L. Buckler	<u>3 of 3 Terms</u>
1891	John L. Hilton	1 Term

The five-member Board of County Commissioners government lasted until 1892 when legislation was enacted which reduced the Board of St. Mary’s County Commissioners from five to three members. This same legislation also grouped the county’s nine election districts into three commissioner districts, with one to be elected from each of the three commissioner districts. The term of office was designated as six years with successive terms prohibited.

The system of electing one county commissioner every two years to serve a six-year term remained in effect until 1922. The name of St. Mary’s County Commissioners and the year of each man’s election follows:

1893	Arthur C. Combs	1 Term
1895	John J. Billingsley	1 Term
1897	Daniel F. Bowles	1 Term
1899	J. G. H. Lilburn	1 Term
1901	John H. Bailey	1 Term
1903	J. Thomas Abell	1 Term
1905	John T. Cecil	1 Term
1907	Samuel Hayden	1 Term
1909	Frederick Wathen	1 Term
1911	John L. Hilton	1 Term
1913	John H. Oliver – retired in 1919	1 Term P
1915	Peter H. Thompson	1 Term
1917	Alfred G. Sanner	1 Term
1919	J. Marshall Dent – completed John H. Oliver term	1 Term P
1921	Philip T. Graves	1 Term
1923	George R. Quirk	1 Term

“P” stands for partial term.

In 1922 a constitutional amendment designed to reduce the frequency of elections was adopted. The amendment reduced the number of commissioners to three, with four year terms. These provisions were to commence with the election held in November of 1926. These provisions lasted from 1926 until 1974.

1926	George B. Cecil (1 st district)	1 Term
1926	Peter H. Thompson (2 nd district)	1 Term
1926	Charles L. Johnson (3 rd district)	1 Term
1930	Benjamin F. Redman	1 Term
1930	John Ralph Abell	1 Term

1930	Thomas C. Harrison	1 Term
1934	Clarence D. Bradburn	1 Term
1934	William P. Wise	1 Term
1934	F. Harvey Bailey	1 Term
1938	J. Frank Combs	1 Term
1938	John M. Wible	1 Term
1938	J. Claude Johnson	1 Term
1942	W. Paul Cecil	1 Term
1942	John E. Guy	1 Term
1942	Elmer R. Jarboe	1 Term
1946	J. Frank Raley, Sr.	1 Term
1946	Frank Bailey	1 Term
1946	Matthew R. Bailey	1 Term
1950	Ernest L. Stone	1 of 2 Terms
1950	Leonard S. Alvey	<u>1 of 3 Terms</u>
1950	C. Byron Guy	<u>1 of 3 Terms</u>
1954	Ernest L. Stone	2 of 2 Terms
1954	Leonard S. Alvey	<u>2 of 3 Terms</u>
1954	C. Byron Guy	<u>2 of 3 Terms</u>
1958	John M. Hodges	1 Term
1958	Leonard S. Alvey	<u>3 of 3 Terms</u>
1958	C. Byron Guy	<u>3 of 3 Terms</u>
1962	Clarence H. Ridgell	1 Term
1962	J. Wilmer Bowles	<u>1 of 3 Terms</u>
1962	F. Elliott Burch	1 of 2 Terms
1966	J. Wilmer Bowles	<u>2 of 3 Terms</u>
1966	George R. Aud	<u>1 of 4 Terms</u>
1966	F. Elliott Burch	2 of 2 Terms
1970	George R. Aud, President – 2 years	<u>2 of 4 Terms</u>
1970	J. Wilmer Bowles	<u>3 of 3 Terms</u>
1970	J. Stanton Guy	1 Term

The year 1972 was marked by a home rule movement in St. Mary's County. A charter writing board was authorized; voters had an opportunity to vote for charter government or home rule. Charter government was rejected by the voters with 3,710 in favor and 6,477 against.

In 1973, the term limits for County Commissioners were changed to three full four year consecutive terms. This law was approved May 24, 1973, but a note at the bottom of the page says that nothing shall be construed to affect the tenure of the

members of the Board of County Commissioners until the regular election in the year 1974.

In 1974 legislation increased the number of St. Mary’s County Board of County Commissioners from three to five with four Commissioners representing the first, second, third and fourth election district and requiring that the fifth county commissioner run at large and serve as president of the board.

1974	James Manning McKay, President	1 Term
1974	J. Patrick Jarboe	1 of 2 Terms
1974	Ford L. Dean	<u>1 of 3 Terms</u>
1974	Jay Laurence Millison	<u>1 of 3 Terms</u>
1974	John K. Parlett	1 Term
1978	George R. Aud, President	<u>3 of 4 Terms</u>
1978	Richard D. Arnold	1 of 2 Terms
1978	Ford L. Dean	<u>2 of 3 Terms</u>
1978	Jay Laurence Millison	<u>2 of 3 Terms</u>
1978	David F. Sayre	1 of 2 Terms
1982	George R. Aud, President	<u>4 of 4 Terms</u>
1982	Richard D. Arnold	2 of 2 Terms
1982	Ford L. Dean	<u>3 of 3 Terms</u>
1982	Jay Laurence Millison	<u>3 of 3 Terms</u>
1982	David F. Sayre	2 of 2 Terms
1982	Dr. J. Patrick Jarboe, President	2 of 2 Terms P
1982	William Edward Bailey	1 of 2 Terms P

***George Aud resigned August 28, 1986 – Dr. J. Patrick Jarboe was appointed on the same date to serve the remainder of Mr. Aud’s term (President).

Richard D. Arnold died September 24, 1986 – William Edward Bailey replaced Mr. Arnold on October 28, 1986.

In 1984 efforts were made to remove the three year term limits – Chapter 422 of the 1984 Session Laws of the Maryland General Assembly for the purpose of removing the restriction prohibiting the Board of County Commissioners from serving more than three consecutive terms of office and submitting the Act to a referendum of the voters of St. Mary’s County, which did not pass.

*1986	Joseph O’Dell, President	1 Term P
1986	William Edward Bailey	1 of 2 Terms
1986	Robert Jarboe	1 Term

1986	Rodney Thompson	1 Term
1986	John G. Lancaster	1 of 2 Terms
1987	Carl M. Loffler, Jr.	1 of 2 Terms

***Joseph P. O'Dell resigned July 24, 1987. Carl M. Loffler, Jr., was appointed to replace him on September 18, 1987.

In 1978, the offices of the St. Mary's County Commissioners moved from the Court House to the County Governmental Center, at the former Leonard Hall School.

In 1989, charter government was again proposed for St. Mary's County. The proposed charter was overwhelmingly rejected in a special vote held on September 12, 1989, with 1,819 citizens voting for charter and 3,781 voting against it.

1990	Carl M. Loffler, Jr., President	2 of 2 Terms
1990	Robert T. Jarboe	1 Term
1990	Barbara G. Thompson	1 of 2 Terms
1990	William Edward Bailey	2 of 2 Terms
1990	John G. Lancaster	2 of 2 Terms
1994	Barbara R. Thompson, President	2 of 2 Terms
1994	Paul W. Chesser	1 Term
1994	Christian Brugman	1 Term
1994	Lawrence D. Jarboe	<u>1 of 4 Terms</u>
1994	Frances P. Eagan	1 Term
1998	Julie B. Randall, President	1 Term
1998	Joseph F. Anderson	1 Term
1998	Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr.	<u>1 of 3 Terms</u>
1998	Shelby P. Guazzo	1 Term
1998	Daniel H. Raley	<u>1 of 3 Terms</u>
2002	Thomas F. McKay, President	1 Term
2002	Kenneth R. Dement	1 of 2 Terms
2002	Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr.	<u>2 of 3 Terms</u>
2002	Lawrence D. Jarboe	<u>2 of 4 Terms</u>
2002	Daniel. H. Raley	<u>2 of 3 Terms</u>
2006	Francis Jack Russell, President	1 of 2 Terms
2006	Kenneth R. Dement	2 of 2 Terms
2006	Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr.	<u>3 of 3 Terms</u>
2006	Larry Jarboe	<u>3 of 4 Terms</u>
2006	Daniel H. Raley	<u>3 of 3 Terms</u>

In 2007, the County Commissioners formed a task force to study the forms of government. In August 2007 a Forms of Government Task Force Report was presented to the County Commissioners. Twelve of the fifteen members of the Task Force voted to recommend the Board of County Commissioners move away from the commissioner form of government to one of the two forms of home rule. Of those twelve members, nine voted to recommend a change to the charter form of government. Three voted for code home rule. Of the fifteen-member task force, only three members voted for no change.

On October 16, 2007, the County Commissioners voted to prepare a Notice of the Board’s intent to consider the adoption of Code Home Rule form of government and to schedule at least four public hearings. The motion carried 3 to 2.

On February 26, 2008, after four public hearings, the Board of County Commissioners rejected the adoption of Code Home Rule in a 5 to 0 vote.

2010	Francis Jack Russell, President	2 of 2 Terms
2010	Cynthia L. Jones	1 Term
2010	Daniel L. Morris	1 Term
2010	Lawrence D. Jarboe	<u>4 of 4 Terms</u>
2010	Todd B. Morgan	1 of 2 Terms
2014	James Randy Guy, President	1 Term
2014	Thomas H. Jarboe	1 Term
2014	Michael L. Hewitt	1 Term
2014	John E. O’Connor	1 Term
2014	Todd B. Morgan	2 of 2 Terms

Earlier County Commissioner history was provided by *History of St. Mary’s County, Maryland 1634 – 1990* by Regina Combs Hammett.

Earlier County Commissioner history update was provided by Grace Mary Brady, Historic Preservation Planner, March 19, 2015.

2018	James Randy Guy, President	2 of 3 Terms
2018	Eric Scott Colvin	1 of 3 Terms
2018	Michael L. Hewitt	2 of 3 Terms
2018	John E. O’Connor	2 of 3 Terms
2018	Todd B. Morgan	3 of 3 Terms

Research updated by Vanessa Price, Planner III, November 15, 2018.