



Benton County was founded in 1905 and was formerly part of Yakima and Klickitat counties. It was named after Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri. It is located in the southeastern part of the state and is bordered on the south and east by the Columbia River. In the past many famous explorers of the Northwest passed through the county, among them Lewis and Clark and Captain Bonneville. Early wagon roads from Walla Walla to Puget Sound also traversed the county. In the 1880s the coming of railroads brought settlers to the region and the irrigation projects of the 1890s created a rich agricultural economy. The establishment of the Hanford Atomic Energy Center has made the county the nation's major atomic research center. Today the county enjoys a diversified economy based on agriculture, wood products, food production and government installations.

**BENTON COUNTY**

Courthouse, 620 Market Street, Prosser 99350  
 FAX 509/786-5601

Courthouse hours: 8 AM to 5 PM

#Benton County Justice Center  
 7320 West Quinault, Kennewick 99336

County Annex  
 5600 West Canal Place, Kennewick 99336

Web site: <http://www.co.benton.wa.us>

COMMISSIONERS Area Code 509  
 FAX .....786-5625  
 Email..... marilu.flores@co.benton.wa.us  
 PO Box 190, Prosser 99350

District 1: Leo Bowman (R).....786-5600  
 Email..... leo.bowman@co.benton.wa.us  
 District 2: Max E. Benitz, Jr (R).....786-5600  
 Email..... max.benitz@co.benton.wa.us  
 District 3: Claude L. Oliver (R).....786-5600  
 Email..... claudel.oliver@co.benton.wa.us

Commissioners meet: Every Monday, Prosser;  
 1st & 3rd Wednesday, Annex - Kennewick

Assessor: Barbara Wagner (R).....786-2046  
 FAX .....786-5657  
 Email..... barb.wagner@co.benton.wa.us  
 PO Box 902, Prosser 99350

#Auditor: Bobbie Gagner (R).....786-5620  
 FAX .....786-5528  
 Email..... bobbie.gagner@co.benton.wa.us  
 PO Box 470, Prosser 99350

Clerk: Josie Delvin (R).....786-5624  
 or .....735-8388  
 FAX .....786-2442  
 Email..... josie.delvin@co.benton.wa.us  
 7122 W Okanogan Pl, Bldg A, Kennewick 99336

Coroner: Rick Corson (R).....736-2720  
 Email..... rick.corson@co.benton.wa.us  
 7122 W Okanogan Pl, Bldg A, Kennewick 99336

Prosecuting Attorney: Andy Miller (D).....735-3591  
 or .....786-5608  
 FAX .....736-3066  
 Email..... andy.miller@co.benton.wa.us  
 7122 W Okanogan Pl, Bldg A, Kennewick 99336

Sheriff: Larry Taylor (R).....735-6555  
 or .....786-5615  
 FAX .....783-5852  
 7122 W Okanogan Pl, Bldg A, Kennewick 99336

Treasurer: Duane Davidson (R).....786-2255  
 FAX .....786-5628  
 Email..... duane.davidson@co.benton.wa.us  
 PO Box 630, Prosser 99350

Administrative Svcs Dir: David Sparks.....786-5600  
 FAX .....786-5625  
 PO Box 190, Prosser 99350

Central Services  
 Manager: Randy Reid.....786-5603  
 Emergency Services: Lorlee Mizell ..... 628.2600  
 Extension Agent: Marianne Ophardt .....786-5609  
 Facilities Director:

Roy Rogers .....783-3118  
 FAX .....736-2708  
 Email..... roy.rogers@co.benton.wa.us  
 7122 W Okanogan Pl, Kennewick 99336

Parks Director:  
 Adam Fyall.....783-3118  
 FAX .....736-2708  
 Email..... adam.fyall@co.benton.wa.us  
 7122 W Okanogan Pl, Kennewick 99336

Health Officer:  
 Larry Jecha, MD  
 Administration.....943-2614  
 FAX .....546-2916  
 506 McKenzie, Richland 99352  
 Environmental Section.....582-7761  
 800 West Canal Drive, Kennewick 99336

Human Services: Carrie Huie-Pascua .....783-0123  
 FAX .....783-5981  
 2624 Kennewick Ave, Kennewick 99336

Law Library ..... 547-0511 X 287  
 c/o Columbia Basin College Library  
 2600 N 20th Ave, Pasco 99301

Planning: Terry Marden .....786-5612  
 FAX .....786-5629  
 PO Box 910, Prosser 99350

Public Works:  
 Engineer: Ross Dunfee.....786-5611  
 FAX .....786-5627  
 PO Box 1001, Prosser 99350

Area: 1,703 square miles  
 Ranking in state: 22nd

Congressional District: 4  
 Legislative Districts: 8, 16

Population  
 2006 Estimate: 160,600  
 Unincorporated: 36,195  
 Incorporated: 124,405

Percentage of state: 2.53%  
 Density: 92.8 persons per square mile

	2006 Estimate	Median Age
Male .....	79,956	35.31
Female .....	80,644	36.41
Total.....	160,600	35.86

Cities and Towns - Population	2006 Estimate
Benton City.....	2,840
Kennewick.....	61,770
Prosser, county seat .....	5,045
Richland.....	44,230
West Richland.....	10,520

Ethnic breakdown	2006 Estimate
White, non-Hispanic .....	126,786
Black, non-Hispanic.....	1,410
Indian, Eskimo and Aleut .....	1,042
Asian and Pacific Islander .....	3,952
Two or more, non-Hispanic .....	2,624
Hispanic .....	24,786

Assessed Value, 2005: \$ 10,653,300,839

**Principal Economic Activities**

- Food Processing
- Chemicals
- Metal Products
- Nuclear Products

**Institution of Higher Education**

Washington State University Tri Cities, Richland

**Points of Interest**

- Hanford Science Center
- McNary Dam

Climate Prosser - elevation 680 feet

Average	JAN	APRIL	JULY	OCT
Max Temp (F°)	38.7	68.0	90.3	66.6
Min Temp	23.7	38.2	55.6	38.9
Mean Temp	31.2	53.2	72.9	52.8
Precipitation				
in inches	.94	.55	.17	.92
Average Annual Maximum Temperature:	65.6			
Average Annual Minimum Temperature:	39.3			
Average Annual Mean Temperature:	52.4			
Average Annual Precipitation:	7.77 inches			