



County Government History and Forms

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**Manager,
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Congratulations, You are elected!

- **How can I be an effective County Commissioner?**
- **What is expected of me in my new role?**
- **What is the structure of my organization?**

Historical Highlights

- **1923 - Lanier County is first to approve manager - commissioner form**
- **1789 - First County Administrative agency - Inferior County Court - established by Legislature. Consisted of five Justices who met every three months.**
- **1852 - Inferior Courts dissolved in favor of Ordinaries**
- **1869 - Harris County is first to have local law creating Board of Commissioners of Roads and Revenues**

Leadership starts here

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Historical Highlights

- 1931 - Number of counties decreases from historical high of 161 to 159 when Campbell & Milton Counties merge with Fulton
- 1961 - County Unit System is abolished
- 1965 – Municipal Home Rule act approved
- 1966 - Counties granted Home Rule by Constitutional Amendment

Leadership starts here

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Historical Highlights

- 1969 - Official title changed from “Board of Commissioners of Roads and Revenues,” to “Board of Commissioners”
- 1971 - City of Columbus & Muscogee County consolidate
- 1974 - Legislature allows counties to create office of county manager
- 1985 - Number of Counties is capped at 159

Leadership starts here

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**“All I get to do is set the
millage rate and ride in the
Christmas parade!”**

Leadership starts here

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County Government Structure

- **Policymaking:** Establishing priorities, planning the future, determining county values, enacting rules and regulations
- **Executive:** Managing County operations

Leadership starts here

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Others County Officials and Decision Makers

- **Constitutional Officers**
- **Authorities and Boards**

Leadership starts here

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Constitutional Officers

- Sheriff
- Tax Commissioner
- Clerk of Court
- Judge of Probate Court

Leadership starts here

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Authorities and Boards

AUTHORITIES

- Hospital Authority
- Industrial Authority
- Airport Authority
- Housing Authority
- Water & Sewer Authority

BOARDS

- Board of Tax Assessors
- Board of Health
- Library Board of Trustees
- Board of Elections
- Parks & Recreation Board

Leadership starts here

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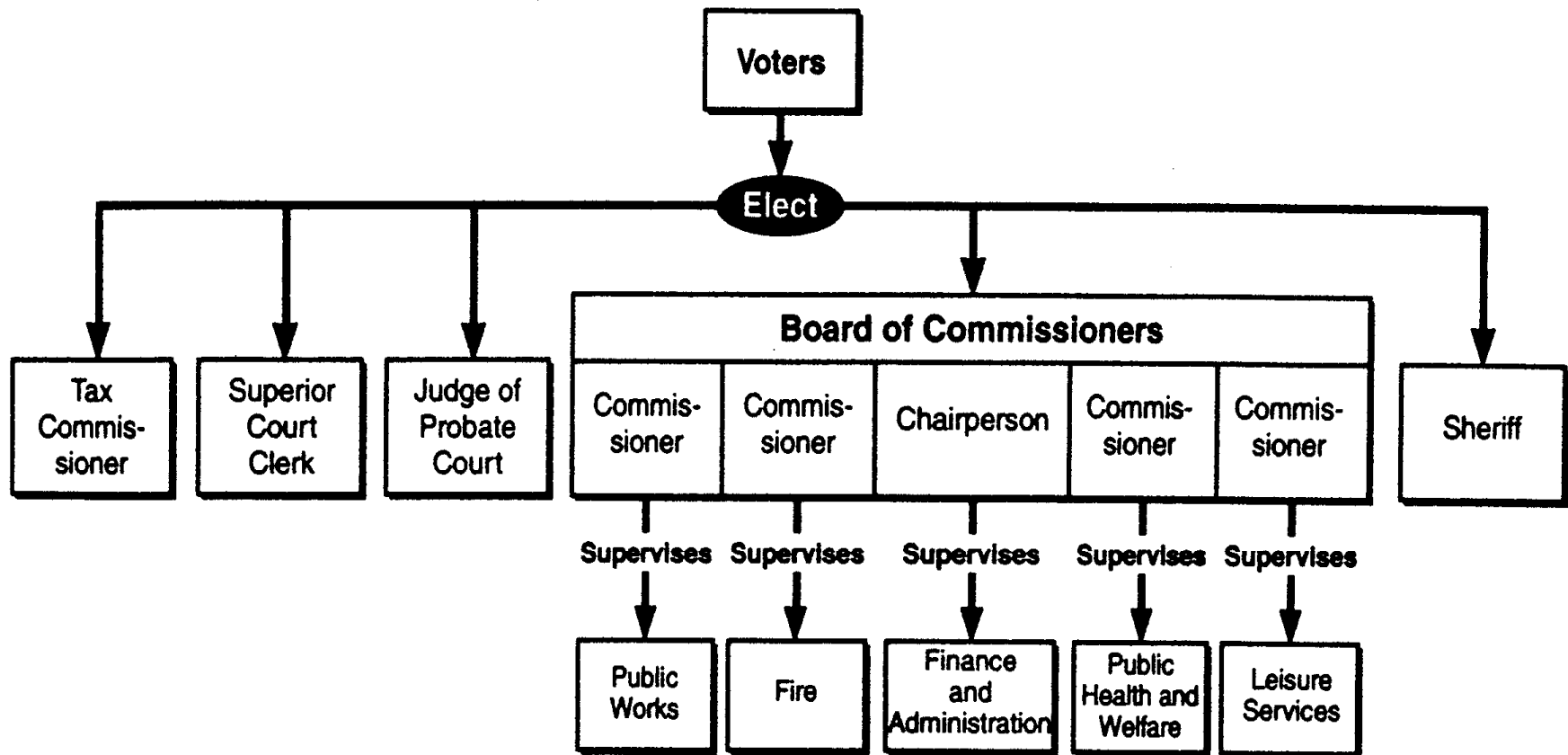
County Government Structure

- **Traditional Commission**
- **Sole Commissioner**
- **Elected Executive**
- **Commission-Manager**
- **Commission-Administrator**

Leadership starts here

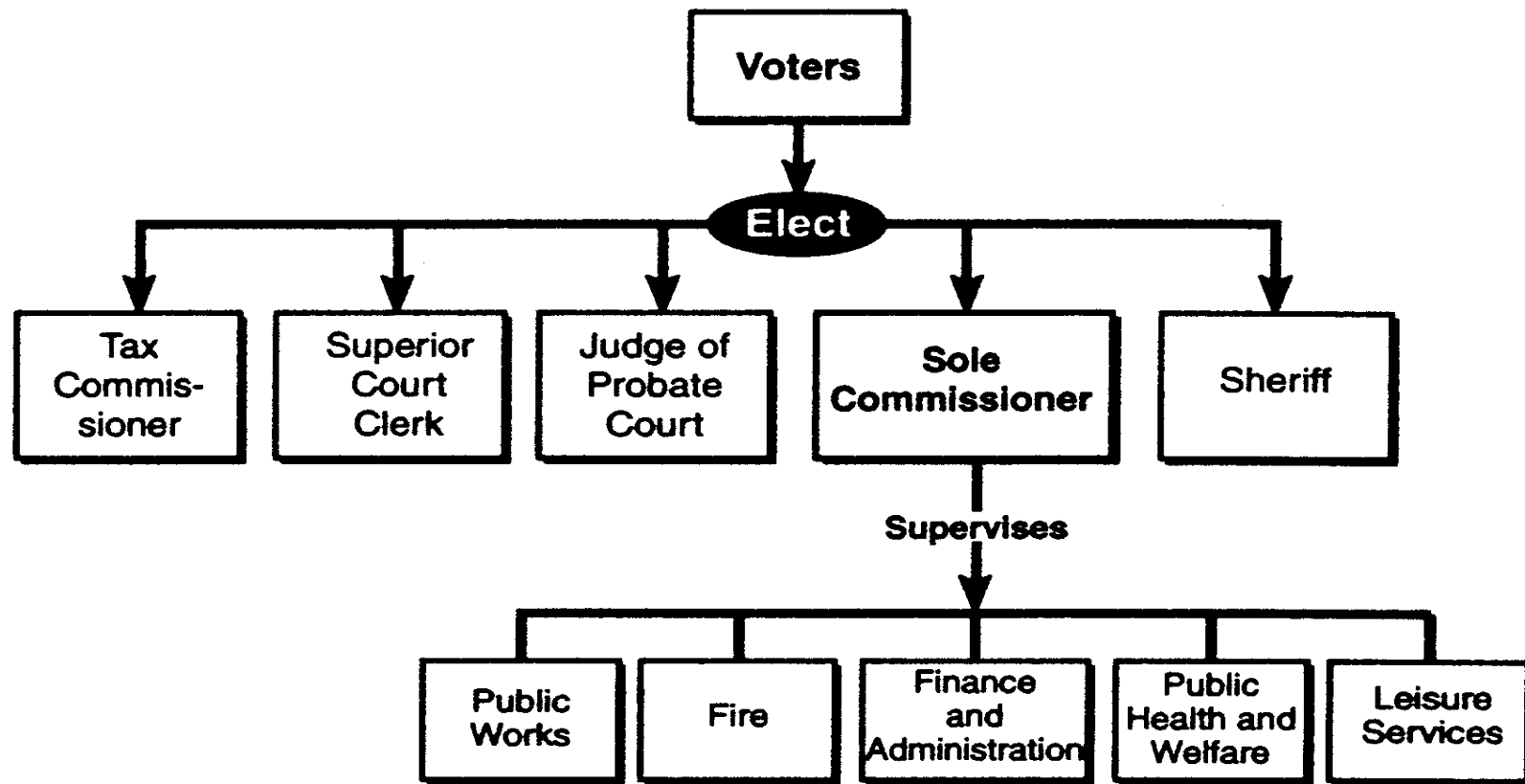
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Traditional Commission



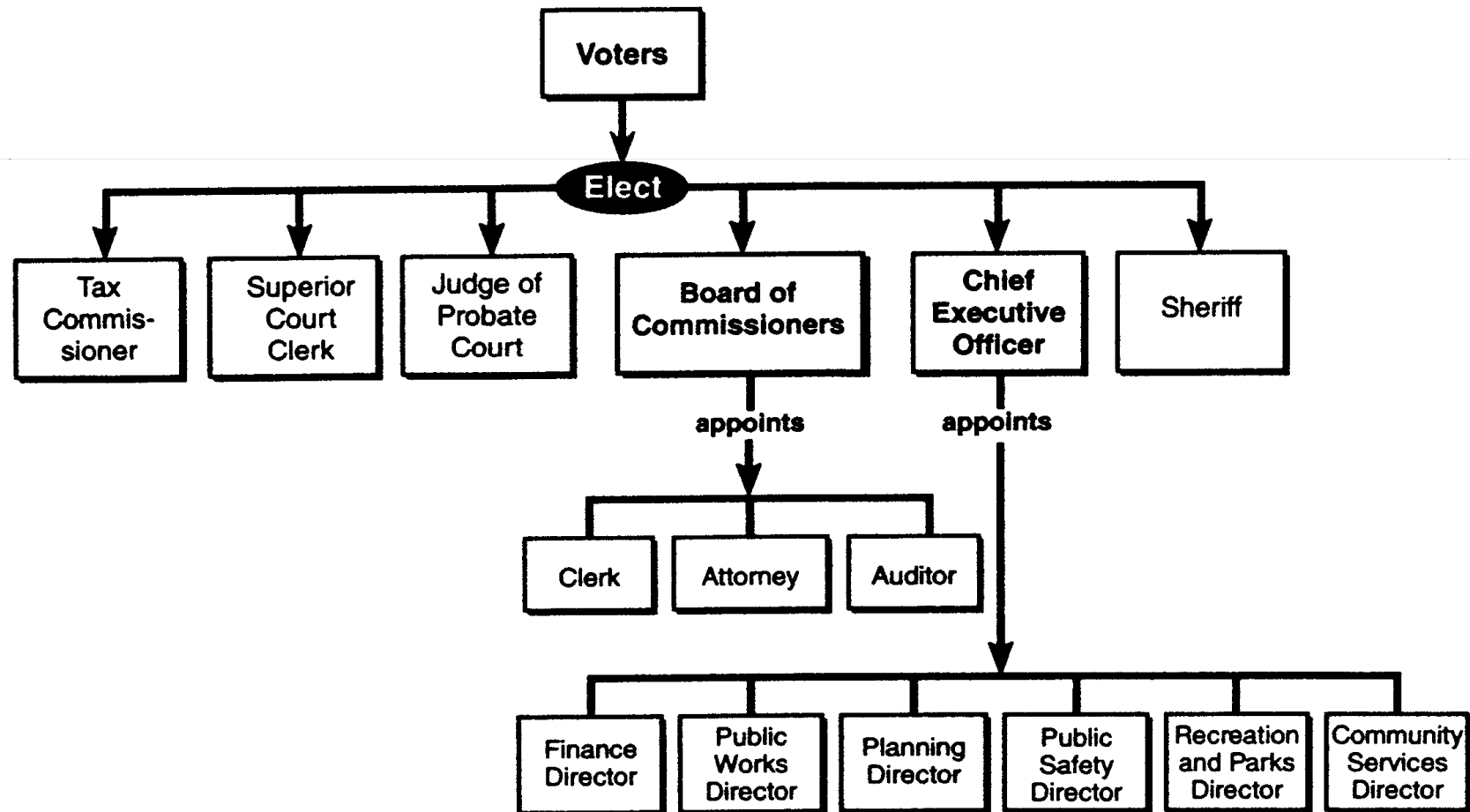
Leadership starts here

Sole Commissioner



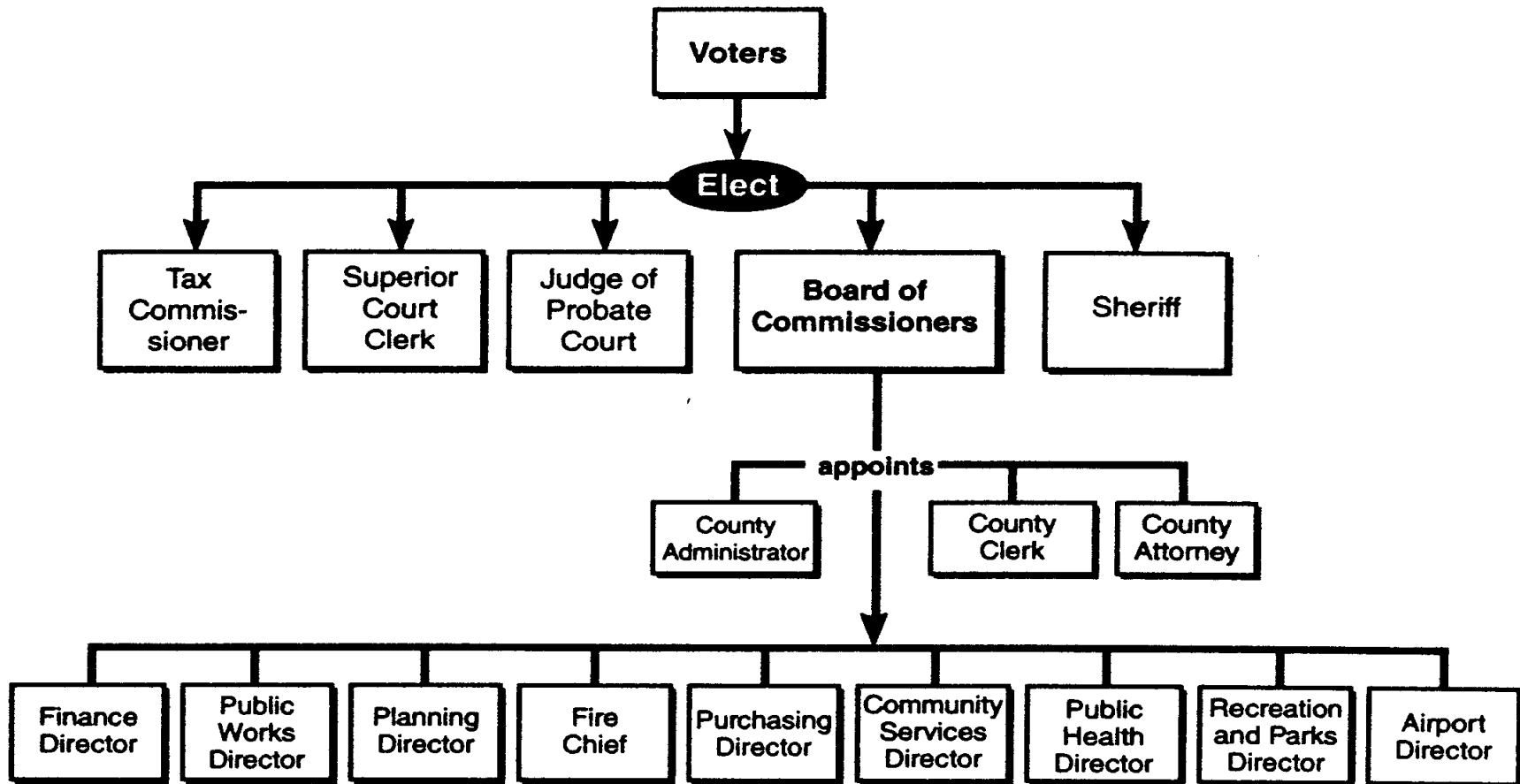
Leadership starts here

Elected Executive



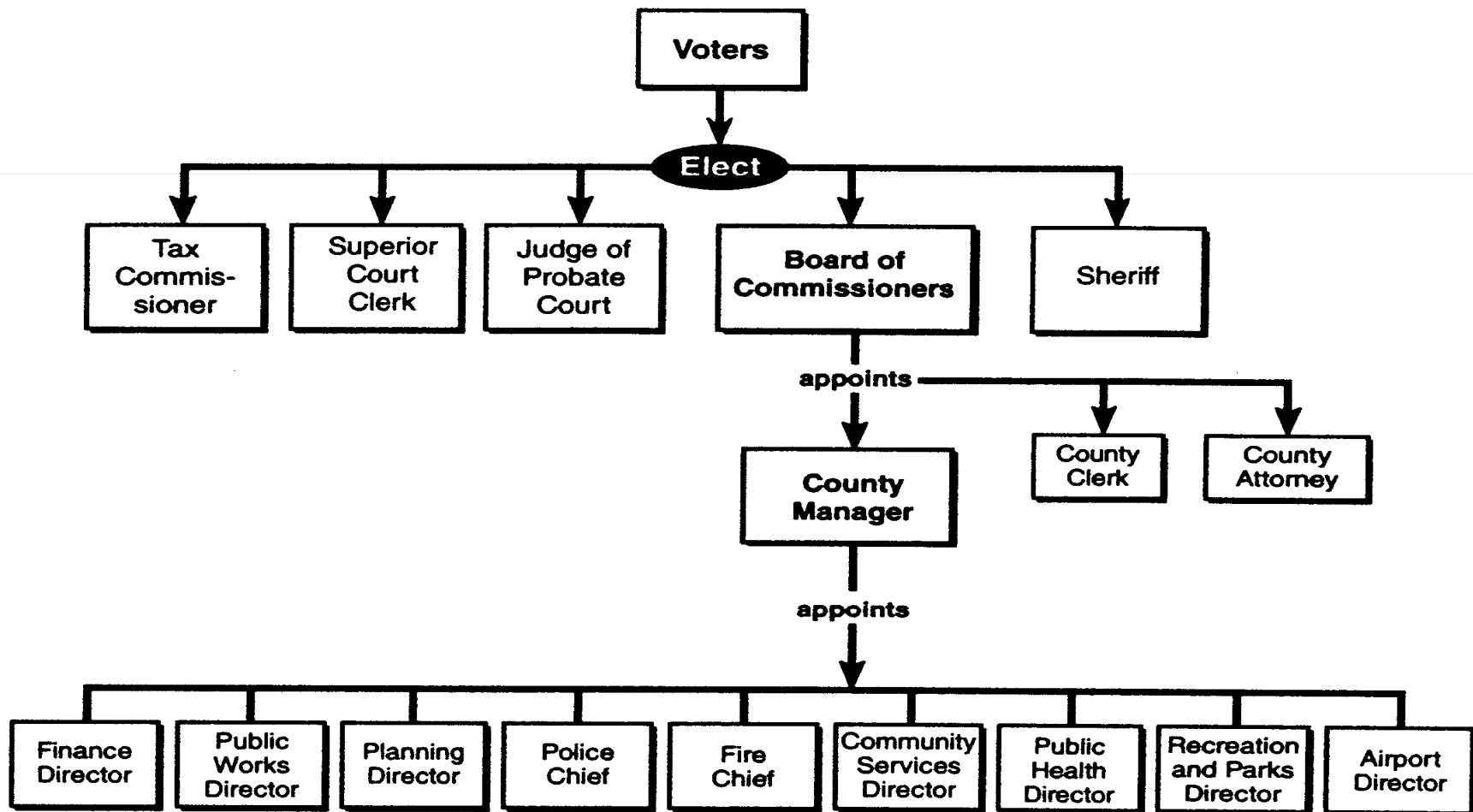
Leadership starts here

Commission-Administrator



Leadership starts here

Commission-Manager



Leadership starts here

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has.”

--Margaret Mead

Leadership starts here

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