



# Blaine

Originally designated as “C” County in 1890, Blaine was adopted as the county name in November 1892, in honor of James G. Blaine, U.S. Senator, House Speaker, and Republican presidential candidate in 1884.

The county seat, Watonga, was named for Watangaa, or Black Coyote, an Arapahoe leader. The city is the site of the Watonga Cheese Factory and the annual Watonga Cheese Festival.

Blaine County is the site of the first gypsum mill in Oklahoma Territory, the Ruby Stucco Mill. Southard, located in the north central part of the county, is the site of one of the purest gypsum deposits in the United States. The U.S. Gypsum Company is the largest industrial plant in the county.

The International Association of Rattlesnake Hunters has headquarters in Okeene, which is also the site of its Jaycees Annual Rattlesnake Hunt. The Canton Lake Walleye Pike Rodeo and Fishing Derby occur annually. Roman Nose State Park is located seven miles north of Watonga. For more information, call the Watonga Chamber of Commerce at 800/306-0018, or the county clerk’s office at 580/623-5890.

## Districts

## County Officials

Cong. .... 3	Court Clerk	Rebekah Haney (R)	Hitchcock
St. Sen. .... 27,23	Clerk	Linda McPherson (R)	Watonga
St. Rep. .... 57,59	Sheriff	Rick Ainsworth (D)	Watonga
D.A. .... 4	Treasurer	Donna Hoskins (R)	Watonga
Ct. of Appeals ..... 6	Assessor	Rosemary Neely (D)	Geary
Ct. of Crim. Appeals... 5	Election Brd. Sec.	Jane Crawford (D)	Watonga
Supreme Ct. Jud. .... 4	Dist. 1 Comm.	Melba Nance (R)	Geary
N.W. Jud. Adm. .... 4 (Div. II)	Dist. 2 Comm.	Jonathan Cross (D)	Okeene
	Dist. 3 Comm.	Farroll Boyd (R)	Watonga

## Property Valuations

	2003-2004 Assessment	2004-2005 Assessment	Increase or Decrease
Real Estate and Improvement	\$38,433,542	\$39,041,889	\$608,347
Personal Subject to Tax	\$20,050,040	\$19,064,500	(\$985,540)
Total Locally Assessed	\$58,483,582	\$58,106,389	(\$377,193)
Homestead Exemptions Allowed	\$2,457,749	\$2,443,075	(\$14,674)
Net Assessed Locally	\$56,025,833	\$55,663,314	(\$362,519)
Public Service Assessment	\$8,205,612	\$8,258,925	\$53,313
Net Assessed Valuation	\$64,231,445	\$63,922,239	(\$309,206)

**County Seat**—Watonga (Pop. 4,457) 2003 Estimate  
**Area (Land & Water)**—938.88 square miles  
**Per Capita Income (2003)**—\$21,210 (Ranks 52nd of 77 counties)  
**Population Stats (2000)**—Fem.—5,462, Male—6,514 • **Ethnicity**—  
 Wh.—8,822; Bl.—782; Am. Ind.—1,018; As.—75, Other—0; Pacific Is.—87;  
 Two or more races—399; Hisp.—793  
**Births (2003)**—140 • **Deaths (2003)**—138  
**Unemployment Rate (2003)**—4.5%  
**Labor Force (2003)**—4,740  
**Number of Establishments (2002)**—294  
**Number of Manufacturers (2002)**—15  
**Public Assistance Payments (FY2004)**—\$258,146  
 TANF—\$139,574 • Supplements—Aged—\$32,950; Blind—  
 \$607; Disabled—\$85,015  
**Vehicle Registration (2004)**—Automobiles—7,788;  
 Farm Trucks—2,328; Comm., Trucks, Tractors,  
 Trailers—545; Motor Homes and Travel Trailers—359;  
 Motorcycles—283; Manufactured Homes—17; Tax  
 Exempt Licenses—56; Boats—906  
**Crime Incidents (2003)**—Murder—0; Rape—2; Robbery—  
 1; Fel. Assault—49; Breaking and Entering—48; Larceny—  
 127; Motor Vehicle Theft—7; Arson—4 • **Total Crime**  
 Index—234; Crime Rate per 1,000—19.51  
**Farms (2002)**—825 • **Land in Farms (2002)**—537,314

<b>County Population</b>	
1907 (Okla. Terr.)	17,227
1910	17,960
1920	15,875
1930	20,452
1940	18,543
1950	15,049
1960	12,077
1970	11,794
1980	13,443
1990	11,470
2000	11,976
2004 Estimate	11,290

**Recreation Area**—Roman Nose State  
 Park  
**Major Lake**—Canton Lake  
**Major Stream Systems**—North  
 Canadian, Canadian, Cimarron rivers  
**Museums and Historic Sites**—Fort  
 Watonga (military supply fort), and  
 T.B. Ferguson Home, Watonga  
**Minerals**—oil and gas, gypsum

