



# Washington

Originally a part of the Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory, Washington County was created at statehood, and named for President George Washington.

Bartlesville, the county seat, was the first oil-boom town in Indian Territory. George B. Keeler, a local fur trader, knew of the existence of oil in this area as early as 1875, but lacked the financial support and tribal permission necessary to exploit his discovery. It was not until April 15, 1897, that the No. 1 Nellie Johnstone, the first commercial oil well in Oklahoma, was brought in by the Cudahy Oil Company. W.W. "Bill" Keeler, grandson of George, eventually became head of Phillips Petroleum Company and chief of the Cherokee Nation.

Home of the Phillips Petroleum Company, Bartlesville is also the site of the Frank Phillips Home, the restored twenty-six room mansion of the founder of Phillips Petroleum.

Dewey, the first town in Oklahoma to have electric lights, waterworks, and a telephone line, is the site of the Tom Mix Museum. Mix, one-time deputy sheriff and night marshal in Dewey, was an early-day silent film star.

The Bartlesville Historical Commission published two volumes of *History of Washington County* by Margaret Teague. For more information, call the county clerk's office at 918/337-2820.

## Districts

Cong. ....	1
St. Sen. ....	29
St. Rep. ....	10, 11
D.A. ....	11
Ct. of Appeals .....	1, 5
Ct. of Crim. Appeals...	1
Supreme Ct. Jud. ....	1
N.E. Jud. Adm. ....	11

## County Officials

Court Clerk	Martha Mersch (R)	Dewey
Clerk	Marjorie Parrish (R)	Dewey
Sheriff	Patrick Ballard (R)	Bartlesville
Treasurer	Stan Stevens (R)	Bartlesville
Assessor	Todd Mathes (R)	Bartlesville
Elect. Brd. Sec.	Brad Johnson (R)	Bartlesville
Dist. 1 Comm.	Gary Deckard (R)	Bartlesville
Dist. 2 Comm.	Linda Herndon (R)	Dewey
Dist. 3 Comm.	James Sheetz (R)	Ochelata

## Property Valuations

	2003-2004 Assessment	2004-2005 Assessment	Increase or Decrease
Real Estate and Improvement	\$180,161,316	\$187,877,517	\$7,716,201
Personal Subject to Tax	\$33,905,766	\$33,010,429	(\$895,337)
Total Locally Assessed	\$214,067,082	\$220,887,946	\$6,820,864
Homestead Exemptions Allowed	\$13,392,782	\$13,181,240	(\$211,542)
Net Assessed Locally	\$200,674,300	\$207,706,706	\$7,032,406
Public Service Assessment	\$23,363,602	\$23,063,239	(\$300,363)
Net Assessed Valuation	\$224,037,902	\$230,769,945	\$6,732,043

**County Seat**—Bartlesville (Pop. 34,708) 2003 Estimate

**Area (Land & Water)**—424.15 square miles

**Per Capita Income (2003)**—\$29,984 (Ranks 4th of 77 counties)

**Population Stats (2000)**—Fem.—25,499, Male—23,497 • **Ethnicity**—Wh.—39,137; Bl.—1,205; Am. Ind.—4,159; As.—357; Other—24; Pacific Is.—5; Two or more races—2,816; Hisp.—1,293

**Births (2003)**—623 • **Deaths (2003)**—611

**Unemployment Rate (2003)**—6.1%

**Labor Force (2003)**—20,140

**Number of Establishments (2002)**—1,239

**Number of Manufacturers (2002)**—47

**Public Assistance Payments (FY2004)**—\$645,806  
TANF—\$240,405 • Supplements—Aged—\$58,722; Blind—\$1,545; Disabled—\$345,134

**Vehicle Registration (2004)**—Automobiles—33,084; Farm Trucks—926; Comm. Trucks, Tractors, Trailers—1,714; Motor Homes and Travel Trailers—1,113; Motorcycles—1,031; Manufactured Homes—28; Tax Exempt Licenses—130; Boats—4,073

**Institutions of Higher Learning**—Oklahoma Wesleyan College, Rogers State University—Bartlesville

**Crime Incidents (2003)**—Murder—0; Rape—21; Robbery—22; Fel. Assault—85; Breaking and Entering—311; Larceny—1,171; Motor Vehicle Theft—123; Arson—6 • Total Crime Index—1,733; Crime Rate per 1,000—35.05

**Farms (2002)**—847 • **Land in Farms (2002)**—222,882

**County Population**

1907 (Okla. Terr.)	12,813
1910	28,484
1920	27,002
1930	27,777
1940	30,559
1950	32,880
1960	42,347
1970	42,277
1980	48,113
1990	48,066
2000	48,996
2004 Estimate	49,027

**Major Lake**—Copan

**Major Stream Systems**—Caney River and tributaries to Bird Creek

**Museums and Historic Sites**—Nellie Johnson Oil Well, Frank Phillips Home, Phillips Petroleum Co. Exhibit Hall, Price Tower, Bartlesville; Tom Mix Museum, Dewey Hotel at Dewey

**Minerals**—oil and gas, crushed stone, clays

