

**Government**

Shelby County was incorporated in 1819. Since the implementation of the Restructure Act in 1976, the County has operated under the Mayor-Commission form of government. The County is divided into five districts, with 13 elected representatives on the County Board of Commissioners. Other Elected Officials include the Sheriff, County Clerk, Court Clerks (5), Assessor, Register, and Trustee. All elected officials serve four year terms.

**The County Seal**



As with most counties in Tennessee, the Shelby County seal was adapted as a variation of the Tennessee state seal. The date shown is the date that Shelby County was established. The upper half of the seal features a tobacco plant, a plow, a sheaf of wheat, a cotton plant and an iris (state flower) as representations of "Agriculture." The lower half depicts a flatboat and sail with the word "Commerce".

**Geographics**

\*1

Land Area.....783 square miles  
 Elevation.....331 feet  
 Average precipitation.....54.65 inches  
 Average annual temperature.....62.0  
 Prevailing winds.....Southwest  
 Freeze free period.....230 days

**Demographics**

\*2

**Population of Shelby County:**

2007.....908,701  
 2000.....897,472  
 1990.....826,330  
*(15% of the population of Tennessee resides within Shelby County)*

**Municipalities within Shelby County:**

Memphis.....649,443  
 Arlington.....3,534  
 Bartlett.....49,537  
 Collierville.....42,795  
 Germantown.....40,564  
 Lakeland.....7,388  
 Millington.....10,306  
 Unincorporated area.....105,134

**Racial Mix:**

Black.....50.8%  
 White.....43.5%  
 Asian.....2.1%  
 Other.....2.4%  
 Mixed.....1.2%

**Sex:**

Male.....47.8%  
 Female.....52.2%

**Age Characteristics:**

Ages 0 to 17.....28%  
 Ages 18 to 64.....62%  
 Age 65 and over.....10%  
 Median age.....34.9 years