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**Benton County** 

**U.S.** county

Benton County Courthouse in Corvallis

Location within the U.S. state of Oregon

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Benton County, Oregon From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Article Talk

Coordinates: 44°29′25″N 123°25′57″W

Benton County is one of the 36 counties in the U.S. state of Oregon. As of the 2010 census, the population was 85,579.[1] Its county seat is Corvallis.<sup>[2]</sup> The county was named after Thomas Hart Benton, a U.S. Senator who advocated American control over the Oregon Country. Benton County is designated as the Corvallis, OR Metropolitan Statistical Area, which is included in the Portland-Vancouver-Salem, OR-WA Combined Statistical Area. It is in the Willamette Valley.

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# Benton County was created on December 23, 1847 by an act of the Provisional Government of Oregon. [3] The county was named

History [edit]

10 External links

after Democratic Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri, an advocate of the doctrine of Manifest Destiny and the belief that the American government should control the whole of the Oregon Country. At the time of its formation the county included all the country west of the Willamette River, south of Polk County and running all the way to the California border in the south and the Pacific Ocean in the west.<sup>[4]</sup> The county was created out of lands originally inhabited by the Klickitat, who rented it from the Kalapuyas for use as hunting grounds. All aboriginal claims to land within Benton County were ceded in the Treaty of Dayton in 1855. Portions of Benton County

were taken to form Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Lane and Lincoln Counties, leaving Benton County in its present form. The city of Marysville, later renamed Corvallis, was made the county seat in 1851. The city briefly was the capital of Oregon. [5] In 1862 Corvallis became the site of the Oregon State Agricultural College, known today as Oregon State University.

Geography [edit] According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 679 square miles (1,760 km²), of which 676 square miles

(1,750 km<sup>2</sup>) is land and 2.7 square miles (7.0 km<sup>2</sup>) (0.4%) is water. [6] It is the fourth-smallest county in Oregon by land area and

# Adjacent counties [edit]

 Polk County (north) Lincoln County (west)

third-smallest by total area.

- Linn County (east)
- Lane County (south)
- Siuslaw National Forest (part)

# William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge

National protected areas [edit]

- Demographics [edit]

## 2000 census [edit] As of the census<sup>[12]</sup> of 2000, there were 78,153 people, 30,145 households, and 18,237 families residing in the county. The population density was

116 people per square mile (45/km<sup>2</sup>). There were 31,980 housing units at an average density of 47 per square mile (18/km<sup>2</sup>). The racial makeup of the county was 89.16% White, 0.84% Black or African American, 0.79% Native American, 4.49% Asian, 0.24% Pacific Islander, 1.92% from other races, and 2.56% from two or more races. 4.66% of the population were Hispanic or Latino of any race. 18.2% were of German, 11.6% English, 8.9% Irish and 7.0% American ancestry. 91.1% spoke English, 4.1% Spanish and 1.0% Chinese as their first language. There were 30,145 households, out of which 28.40% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 50.40% were married couples living together, 7.20% had a female householder with no husband present, and 39.50% were non-families. 26.10% of all households were made up of individuals,

and 6.70% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.43 and the average family size was 2.95.

In the county, the population was spread out, with 21.30% under the age of 18, 20.20% from 18 to 24, 26.70% from 25 to 44, 21.40% from 45 to 64,

and 10.30% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 31 years. For every 100 females there were 99.10 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 97.80 males. The median income for a household in the county was \$41,897, and the median income for a family was \$56,319. Males had a median income of \$42,018 versus \$29,795 for females. The per capita income for the county was \$21,868. About 6.80% of families and 14.60% of the population were below the poverty line, including 10.60% of those under age 18 and 4.90% of those age 65 or over.

2010 census [edit] As of the 2010 United States Census, there were 85,579 people, 34,317 households, and 19,256 families residing in the county. [14] The population

density was 126.6 inhabitants per square mile (48.9/km<sup>2</sup>). There were 36,245 housing units at an average density of 53.6 per square mile

Benton County has the lowest church attendance per capita of any county in the nation (25% attendance).[13]

# (20.7/km²).[15] The racial makeup of the county was 87.1% white, 5.2% Asian, 0.9% black or African American, 0.7% American Indian, 0.2% Pacific

islander, 2.3% from other races, and 3.6% from two or more races. Those of Hispanic or Latino origin made up 6.4% of the population. [14] In terms of ancestry, 22.6% were German, 16.1% were English, 13.5% were Irish, and 3.6% were American.<sup>[16]</sup> Of the 34,317 households, 24.2% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 45.3% were married couples living together, 7.3% had a female householder with no husband present, 43.9% were non-families, and 28.2% of all households were made up of individuals. The average household size was 2.35 and the average family size was 2.87. The median age was 32.1 years.[14]

The per capita income for the county was \$26,177. About 7.7% of families and 19.1% of the population were below the poverty line, including 13.6% of those under age 18 and 5.5% of those age 65 or over.<sup>[17]</sup>

Communities [edit] Cities [edit]

#### Albany (part) • Corvallis (county seat)

Adair Village

- Monroe
- Philomath Census-designated places [edit]
- Alpine Bellfountain
- Blodgett Kings Valley Summit

# Alder Dawson

Unincorporated communities [edit]

- Dry Creek Flynn
- Hoskins

Harris

Glenbrook

Greenberry

For a long time Benton County strongly favored the Republican Party. Along with Riverside County in California it was one of only two counties in the Pacific States to be held by

Lewisburg

Noon

Wren

Herbert Hoover in 1932. As late as 1960<sup>[18]</sup> Benton was the most Republican county in the traditionally Republican state of Oregon, which at that point had never supported a Democrat other than FDR for President except for 1912 when the Republican Party was divided and a very narrow victory in 1868. Up to 1984 Benton County had voted for a Democratic Presidential candidate only four times, in the above-mentioned 1868 election plus the national Democratic landslides of 1912, 1936 and 1964. In 1964, Lyndon Johnson became the first Democrat to win an absolute majority of the county's vote since Horatio Seymour. [19]

County Commissioners and a Sheriff. [21][22]

Politics and government [edit]

Dukakis in 1988. Since then, Benton County has become a strongly Democratic county, and is usually the second-strongest Democratic bastion in the state, behind only Multnomah County (Portland). This is largely due to the leanings of Oregon State's student body and staff, closely tracking with Democratic gains in other counties influenced by college towns. No Republican has come within nine percentage points of carrying Benton County since 1988, and Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, and Joe Biden have won the county by over thirty percentage points during each of the last four presidential elections. Since 1972, Benton County has been a home rule county, meaning that the citizens have full control over the county charter, rather than using a standard charter issued by the

state.[20] The voters have chosen to eliminate the traditional elected county offices of Assessor, Treasurer, Surveyor, Justice of the Peace, and Clerk. Currently, they only elect three

The three current Benton County Commissioners are Chair Pat Malone, Xanthippe Augerot, and Annabelle Jaramillo. They are all members of the Democratic Party and have served

The Republican edge in the county narrowed from the 1970s onward, culminating when it swung from a five-point victory for Ronald Reagan in 1984 to a nine-point victory for Michael

since 2019, 2017, and 2001; respectively. Jaramillo and Augerot's current terms expire in January 2021, while Malone's is up in January 2023. [22][23][24] The current Benton County Sheriff is Scott Jackson. He was appointed to the office as of July 1, 2013 to fill the remainder of the term of retiring sheriff Diana Simpson, the first elected female sheriff in Oregon. He was re-elected in 2014 and 2018. [25][26]

Presidential elections results [show] Economy [edit]

Along with Oregon State University, agriculture, lumber, wood products, and some printing technology research and development form the economic base of the county. A substantial

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 Benton County Government website ☑ Food Insecurity in Rural Benton County ☑

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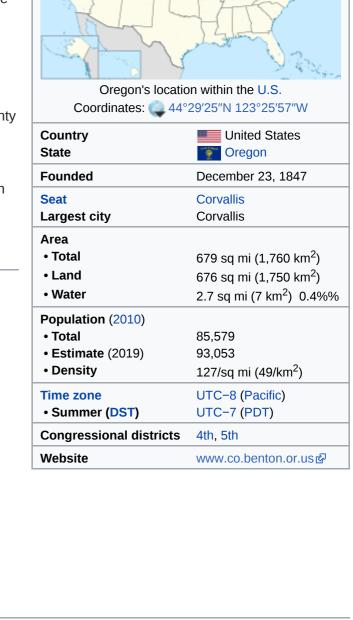
Municipalities and communities of Benton County, Oregon, United States

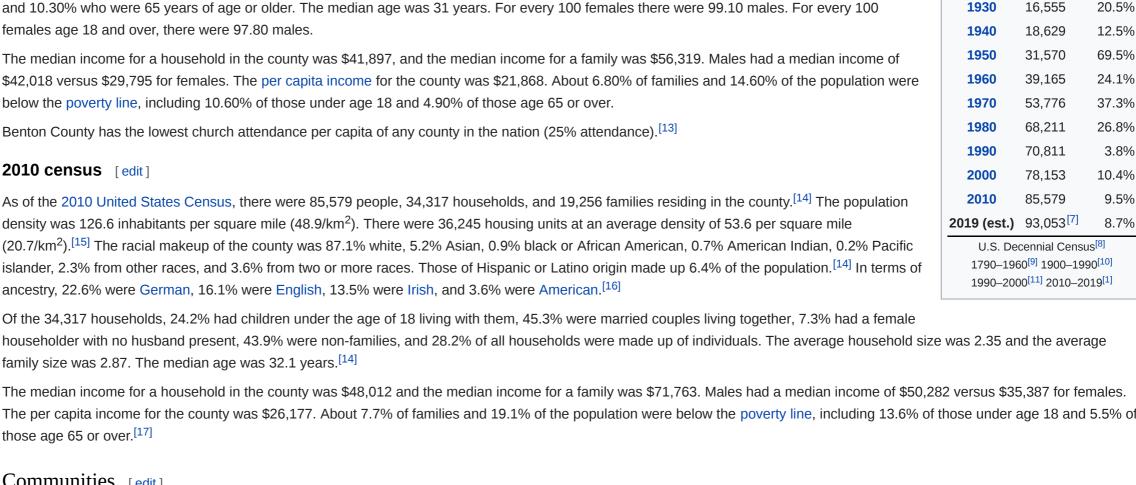
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**Historical population** 

Pop.

814

3,074

4,584

6,403

8,650

6,706

10,663

13,744

<u>%±</u>

277.6%

49.1%

39.7%

35.1%

-22.5%

59.0%

28.9%

Census

1850

1860

1870

1880

1890

1900

1910

1920

