



PRESS RELEASE

COUNTY RECOGNIZED AS A NATIONAL TOP TEN LEADER OF TECHNOLOGY FOR THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR

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Rocky Mount, Virginia --- [Franklin County](#) officials today announced the County has been awarded another top ten national placement in the Annual Digital Counties Survey for communities with a population less than 150,000. [Franklin County](#), at a population of roughly 56,000, competes with counties three times its size, and often competing with fewer resources. This year the County placed 7th in the annual ranking which recognizes leading examples of counties using information and communications technology.

The national ranking is issued by the e.Republic's Center for Digital Government and [Digital Communities](#) program, in partnership with the [National Association of Counties](#) (NACo) who identify best electronic practices among counties nationwide.

Digital Communities Director, Todd Sander, said, "Survey responses indicate counties are effectively economizing and finding innovative ways of using technology to meet the higher demand for services during this trying economic time. Counties are consolidating and sharing services to cut down on costs and leveraging technology like virtualization to capture critical savings. Congratulations to the winners!"

"The Digital Counties Survey identifies the very best examples of how counties are aligning technology to support strategic priorities and create crucial operational and administrative efficiencies," said NACo Executive Director Larry E. Naake. "Especially important during these tough economic times, counties across the country are using innovative technologies to reduce county operations costs and enhance service delivery."

The 2011 survey evaluated the use of technology across several functional areas of local government. [Franklin County](#) highlighted much of its recent and current work with the implementation of a new assessment and collection solution. The system replaces decades old technology which will begin allowing citizens the option of making credit/debit payments for various services. Some services, such as parks & recreation registrations and building permits can already be processed online. The County also has worked to implement rigorous P.C.I. (Payment Card Industry) security standards among its communication networks, work stations, and employees. Another technology highlight is the use of business intelligence software or a “dashboard” which provides the County’s Finance and Administration departments the ability to track County revenues in real time as collections and investments are posted. Other initiatives have included an issue tracking system to pursue customer complaints and a Citizens Alerting System which provides Public Safety a tool to immediately alert citizens of a pending emergency in a specific area or neighborhood by simultaneously calling residences and mobile phones.

[Franklin County](#) initially achieved a place in the top 10 Digital Counties Survey in 2009, tying Columbia County, Georgia for 9th place. Last year, the County climbed to its highest ranking of 3rd place and now continues to hold onto its top ten listing for the 3rd consecutive year placing 7th in 2011.

The 2011 top 10 winners in the **less than 150,000 population** were:

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| 1 st County of Nevada, Calif. | 6 th Charles County, Md. |
| 2 nd County of Napa, Calif. | 7th Franklin County, Va. |
| 2 nd Roanoke County, Va. | 7 th Gloucester County, Va. |
| 3 rd Olmsted County, Minn. | 8 th Columbia County, Ga. |
| 4 th Martin County, Fla. | 9 th County of Albemarle, Va. |
| 5 th County of Moore, N.C. | 10 th Bay County, Mich. |
| 5 th Pitkin County, Colo. | |

“To achieve and maintain a Top 10 National Ranking for three consecutive years in a population bracket that includes much larger counties with greater resources to draw upon speaks volumes about Franklin County’s technology efforts to serve our citizens” stated Charles Wagner, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

For more information and details, please visit: <http://www.govtech.com/e-government/2011-Digital-Counties-Survey-Winners-Announced.html> or <http://www.franklincountyva.org>

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*The Center for Digital Government is a national [research and advisory institute](#) on information technology policies and best practices in state and local government. The Center is a division of **e.Republic**, a national publishing, event and research company focused on [smart media for public sector innovation](#).*

The National Association of Counties (NACo) is a full-service organization that provides legislative, research, technical, and public affairs assistance to county governments. Created in 1935, NACo continues to ensure that the nation’s 3,068 counties are heard and understood in the White House and Congress. <http://www.naco.org>