

## US COUNTY NAMES

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Over the years, I have written various articles for *Word Ways* on the logology of the names of the 50 US states and the 50 state capitals. There have been transposals, transdeletions, transadditions and so on. But I've never explored the names of the US counties.

48 of the states have counties, Louisiana has parishes, and Alaska has boroughs and non-borough 'census areas'. Adding all these together, there are almost 3200 counties and 'county-equivalent administrative units'. For the remainder of this article, when I refer to 'counties', I mean counties, parishes, boroughs and census areas.

The idea of searching for transposals, transdeletions and transadditions of the 3000+ county names was rather daunting. Rather than offer every possible transposal, transdeletion and transaddition, common and obscure, I began by searching for transposals of two county names beginning with each of 25 letters. There are no county names beginning with the letter X, so that means I can offer the names of 50 counties for which there are interesting or long (or medium-length) transposals. I like the fact that this figure of 50 is the same as the number of states!

In selecting the 50 county names here, I have tried to select those which are not well-known transposals. It would have been easy to select, say, ULSTER (in New York) and offer any of the set of transposals LUSTER, LUSTRE, LUTERS, RESULT, RUSTLE, SUTLER, etc. I thought it would be more interesting to select county names which were less familiar.

Here then are transposals of 50 different county names, two for each letter of the alphabet, except X:

County Name	Transposal	Definition & Source or Other Note
Archuleta County, Colorado	chartulae	Plural of 'chartula', a folded paper containing a single dose of a medicinal powder (W3)
Atchison County, Missouri	chitosan	A substance formed from chitin by partial deacetylation with alkali (W3)
Bandera County, Texas	bardane	The plant burdock (W3)
Bastrop County, Texas	barpost	Either of the posts holding the ends of the bars closing a barway (W2)
Claiborne Parish, Louisiana	carboline	Any of various isomers that have the formula $C_{11}H_8N_2$ and are structurally related to indole and pyridine (W3)
Clearfield County, Pennsylvania	fricadelle	Hashed meat made into balls and fried (OED)
Deaf Smith County, Texas	ham-fisted	Heavy-handed, clumsy (W3)
Del Norte County, California	redolent	Fragrant (W3)
Emanuel County, Georgia	Lenaenum	A sacred precinct at Athens (W2)
Etowah County, Alabama	awheto	The vegetable caterpillar of New Zealand (W2)
Fallon County, Montana	onfall	An attack, an assault (W3)
Fresno County, California	freons	Plural of 'freon', any of a series of nonflammable gaseous and liquid paraffin hydrocarbons that contain one or more fluorine atoms in the molecule and are used chiefly as refrigerants and as propellants for aerosols (W3)
Grand Isle County, Vermont	draglines	Plural of 'dragline', an excavating machine (W3)
Greenville County, South Carolina	releveling	Present participle of the verb 'relevel', to level again (OED – both spellings 'releveling' and 'releveling' are shown)
Hettinger County, North Dakota	tightener	One that tightens (W3)
Hunterdon County, New Jersey	unthroned	Past tense of verb 'unthroned', to dethrone (W3)
Ingham County, Michigan	minhag	A Jewish religious custom (W3)
Isabella County, Michigan	sailable	Navigable, as a river (W2)
Juab County, Utah	juba	A dance of plantation Negroes in the South accompanied by complexly rhythmic hand clapping and slapping of the knees and thighs (W3)
Juniata County, Pennsylvania	Tijuana	A city of Mexico (Webster's Biographical Dictionary)
Kanabec County, Minnesota	Banacek	The title of a light-hearted detective TV series starring George Peppard on NBC from 1972 to 1974. Banacek was a suave, Polish-American freelance investigator based in Boston (Wikipedia)

Kershaw County, South Carolina	hawkers	Plural of 'hawker', a person that hawks wares especially in the streets (W3)
Laclede County, Missouri	cadelle	The larva or adult of a small cosmopolitan black beetle destructive to stored grain and sometimes preying on other insects (W3)
Las Animas County, Colorado	Massalian	Euchite, a member of a vagrant Christian sect, 4 <sup>th</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup> centuries, in Asia Minor (W2)
Marinette County, Wisconsin	terminate	To bring to an ending (W3)
Mountrail County, North Dakota	luminator	A student in St Andrew's University, Scotland (W2)
Neshoba County, Mississippi	hebonas	Plural of 'hebona', a plant having a poisonous juice (W3)
Newaygo County, Michigan	waygone	Wayworn, wearied by travelling (W2)
Ochiltree County, Texas	Clitheroe	A town in Lancashire, England (Webster's Geographical Dictionary)
Olmsted County, Minnesota	Model Ts	Plural of 'Model T', an early type of motor car manufactured by the Ford Motor Company between 1909 and 1927 (W3)
Pipestone County, Minnesota	peptonise	A variant spelling of 'peptonize', to convert into peptone; to digest or dissolve by a proteolytic enzyme (W3)
Poinsett County, Arkansas	nepotist	One who practises nepotism, favoritism shown to nephews and other relatives (W3)
Queens County, New York	Quesne	Jacques Quesne was an 18-19 <sup>th</sup> century philosopher who originated the theory of psychism, which holds that there is a fluid which animates all living things (Webster's Biographical Dictionary)
Quitman County, Georgia	Munqati	An Islamic term used in the science of Hadith (Wikipedia)
Rolette County, North Dakota	lorette	A French courtesan (W3)
Rosebud County, Montana	obdures	Inflection of verb 'obdure', to harden (W3)
San Patricio County, Texas	piscatorian	An angler (W2)
Sequatchie County, Tennessee	queachiest	The superlative of the adjective 'queachy', boggy or marshy (W2, listed at queachy)
Tom Green County, Texas	Egremont	A town in Cumbria, England (Webster's Geographical Dictionary)
Torrance County, New Mexico	cartoner	One that cartons; specifically, a machine that opens a folding carton, inserts a packaged product, and closes the carton ends (W3)
Uinta County, Wyoming	Uniat	A Christian of an Eastern rite not belonging to the Latin patriarchate but in union with and submitting to the authority of the Roman papacy (W3)
Upshur County, Texas	uprush	To rush upward (W3)
Valencia County, New Mexico	valiance	The quality or state of being valiant (W3)
Vermillion County, Indiana	Morinville	A town in Alberta, Canada (Wikipedia)
Wapello County, Iowa	Walpole	Surname of Horace Walpole (died 1797), an English man of letters (W3, at etymology of Walpolian)
Winona County, Minnesota	wanion	Plague, vengeance (W3)
Yadkin County, North Carolina	Daykin	Daykin is a village in Jefferson County, Nebraska (Wikipedia)
Yankton County, South Dakota	Knayton	Knayton is a small village in North Yorkshire, England (Wikipedia)
Zapata County, Texas	Tapaza	La <u>Tapaza</u> is a place in Ecuador (Google search)
Zavala County, Texas	Alvaza	Alvaza Consulting is the name of a company in Naples, Florida (Google search)

The search can be widened by looking for transposals of county names combined with the corresponding two-letter state-name abbreviation (for example, AK for Alaska, AL for Alabama). Could I find two examples for every state? This search proved more difficult, and, so far, is incomplete. The table here gives 89 transposals for county name plus two-letter state-name abbreviation.

AK	Denali AK	Kandelia	A genus of East Indian trees that are related to and resemble the common mangroves (W3)
AK	Haines AK	hankies	Plural of 'hankie', a handkerchief (W3)
AL	Chilton AL	Chatillon	A congress of 1814 (W2)
AL	Conecuh AL	conchuela	A flat bright green bug that damages wheat, potatoes, and garden crops in the western United States (W3)
AR	Hempstead AR	metaphrased	Altered the wording of (W3)
AR	Chicot AR	thoracic	Relating to the thorax (W3)
AZ	Graham AZ	Azamgarh	A town and district a district in the state of Uttar Pradesh, India (Wikipedia)

	Yuma AZ	Zumaya	Joel Martin Zumaya (born November 9, 1984) is a Major League Baseball relief pitcher for the Detroit Tigers (Wikipedia)
CA	Mendocino CA	codominance	The quality or state of being codominant (W3)
CA	Los Angeles CA	collagenases	Plural of 'collagenase', any of a group of proteolytic enzymes that decompose collagen and gelatin (W3)
CO	Mineral CO	coalminer	One who mines coal (Chambers Dictionary 2008)
CO	San Miguel CO	glucosamine	A crystalline amino derivative of glucose (W3)
CT	???? CT	????	
CT	???? CT	????	
DE	Kent DE	kented	Inflection of the verb 'kent', to push or propel a boat with a kent, a type of punting pole (W3)
DE	???? DE	????	
FL	Madison FL	manifolds	Plural of 'manifold', a pipe fitting with several lateral outlets for connecting one pipe with others (W3)
	Sarasota FL	solfataras	Plural of 'solfatara', a volcanic area or vent that yields only hot vapors and gases in part sulfurous (W3)
GA	Monroe GA	agronome	A specialist in agronomy, the branch of agriculture that deals with field-crop production and soil management (W3)
GA	Screven GA	scavenger	A garbage collector (W3)
HI	???? HI	????	
HI	???? HI	????	
IA	Clayton IA	acylation	The act or process of acylating (W3)
IA	Warren IA	rainwear	Waterproof or water-resistant clothing (as a raincoat) for bad weather wear (W3)
ID	Canyon ID	anodynic	Relating to 'anodyne', a drug that allays pain (W3)
ID	Fremont ID	dentiform	Having the form of a tooth or of teeth (W3)
IL	St Clair IL	Callitris	A genus of African and Australasian evergreen trees with small scalelike leaves (W3)
IL	Putnam IL	platinum	A very heavy precious metallic element (W3)
IN	Steuben IN	bunsenite	A mineral NiO consisting of nickel monoxide occurring in green octahedrons (W3)
IN	La Porte IN	rantipole	A wild reckless sometimes quarrelsome person (W3)
KS	Sumner KS	murkness	A variant of 'murkiness', the quality or state of being murky (W3)
KS	Saline KS	sealskin	The skin of a seal and especially of a fur seal (W3)
KY	Gallatin KY	alkylating	Inflection of the verb 'alkylate', to introduce one or more alkyl groups into (a compound) (W3)
KY	Carter KY	racketry	Uproar, excitement (W3)
LA	Tensas LA	sealants	Plural of 'sealant', a sealing agent (W3)
LA	Webster LA	wrestable	Able to be wrested (W2)
MA	Bristol MA	Maltisorb	Maltisorb is a natural sweetening alcohol made by Roquette of France (Wikipedia)
MA	Essex MA	same-sex	Denoting relations between people of the same sex (Chambers Dictionary 2008)
MD	Caroline MD	decinormal	Of a chemical solution, having one tenth of the normal strength (W3)
MD	???? MD	????	
ME	York ME	Kymore	A town in the state of Madhya Pradesh, India (Wikipedia)
ME	Washington ME	West Mahoning	A township in Indiana county, Pennsylvania (Wikipedia)
MI	Arenac MI	American	Belonging to, inhabiting, coming from, or forming part of America (W3)
MI	Sanilac MI	Smilacina	A genus of American and Asiatic plants with alternate leaves and racemes or panicles of small white flowers succeeded by red, green, or black berries (W3)
MN	Steele MN	elements	Plural of 'element', any of more than 100 fundamental metallic and nonmetallic substances that consist of atoms of only one kind (W3)
MN	Stearns MN	sternsman	One who steers (W2)
MO	Madison MO	ammonoids	Plural of 'ammonoid', a variant of 'ammonite', any of numerous fossil shells (W3)
MO	Morgan MO	monogram	A character or cipher usually composed of two or more letters interwoven or combined, usually representing a name or a part of it (W3)
MS	Panola MS	monapsal	Having only one apse, a projecting part of a building (as a church) usually semicircular in plan and vaulted (W3)

MS	Madison MS	nomadisms	Plural of 'nomadism', the mode of life of a nomadic people (W3)
MT	Sheridan MT	hardiments	Plural of 'hardiment', boldness, courage (W3)
MT	Pondera MT	parentdom	Parents collectively; also, the state or condition of being a parent (OED)
NC	Anson NC	cannons	Plural of 'cannon', a weapon consisting of a metal tube now usually steel and either cast in one piece or built up from a series of forgings, supported by a carriage or mount, and used for firing projectiles (W3)
NC	Harnett NC	trenchant	Vigorously effective, keenly articulate (W3)
ND	Divide ND	dividend	An individual share of something distributed among a number of recipients (W3)
ND	Pierce ND	pincered	Inflection of verb 'pincer', to pinch, nip, or torture with or as if with pincers (W3)
NE	Frontier NE	interferon	Any of a group of heat-stable soluble basic antiviral glycoproteins of low molecular weight that are produced usually by cells exposed to the action of a virus (W3)
NE	Lancaster NE	alternances	Plural of 'alternance', a variant of 'alternation', the act or action of alternating or effecting alternate succession (W3)
NH	Coos NH	schoon	To skim along on water (W2)
NH	???? NH	????	
NJ	Ocean NJ	Jan Coen	Jan Coen (1587 – 1629) was an officer of Dutch East India Company in the early seventeenth century, holding two terms as its Governor-General of the Dutch East Indies (Wikipedia)
NJ	Hudson NJ	John Sund	John Sund (born in Copenhagen in 1957) is a Danish guitarist and composer (Wikipedia)
NM	Sierra NM	mariners	Plural of 'mariner', a seaman, a sailor (W3)
NM	Union NM	munition	Variant of 'mullion', a slender vertical usually nonstructural bar or pier forming a division between lights of windows, doors, or screens (W3)
NV	Nye NV	venny	An obsolete form of 'veny', a hit or thrust in fencing, a wound or blow (OED)
NV	Elko NV	Volken	Volken is a municipality in the district of Andelfingen in the canton of Zürich in Switzerland (Wikipedia)
NY	Seneca NY	cayennes	Plural of 'cayenne', a very hot and pungent powder made by drying and grinding the whole fruits or the seeds of several hot peppers (as the long pepper) (W3)
NY	Ontario NY	notionary	Archaic variant of 'notional', having an abstract or speculative character (W3)
OH	Clermont OH	Chelmorton	A town in Derbyshire, England (Wikipedia)
OH	Perry OH	orphrey	An ornamental border or embroidered band especially on an ecclesiastical vestment (W3)
OK	Beaver OK	overbake	To bake excessively (W2)
OK	Ellis OK	skollie	In South Africa, a young hooligan or gang member (Chambers Dictionary, 2008)
OR	Benton OR	bronteon	A device used in the ancient Greek and Roman theater for making a sound of thunder originally by means of bronze jars or skins filled with stones (W3)
OR	Clatsop OR	coroplast	A modeler of wax or terra-cotta figurines (as of young women) of ancient Greece (W3)
PA	Cameron PA	campanero	The bellbird of South America (W3)
PA	Somerset PA	passometer	An instrument, shaped like a watch that is used to count the number of a person's steps (W3)
RI	Kent RI	tinker	A usually itinerant repairman who mends kitchen or household utensils (W3)
RI	???? RI	????	
SC	Marion SC	minorcas	Plural of 'minorca', any bird of the Minorca breed, a breed of domestic fowls of the Mediterranean class resembling the Leghorns but larger (W3)
SC	Union SC	nuncios	Plural of 'nuncio', a top-ranking diplomatic envoy of the pope accredited to a civil government (W3)
SD	Deuel SD	deludes	Inflection of verb 'delude', to lead from truth or into error (W3)
SD	Miner SD	reminds	Inflection of verb 'remind', to put (one) in mind of something (W3)
TN	Grainger TN	regranting	Inflection of verb 'regrant', to grant back or again (W3)
TN	Decatur TN	truncated	Cut short (W3)

TX	Lee TX	telex	A communication service involving teletypewriters connected by wire through automatic exchanges (W3)
TX	Ellis TX	exstill	To drop or trickle out; to come out in drops (OED)
UT	Cache UT	catechu	Any of various dry, earthy, or resinous astringent substances obtained by extraction and evaporation from the wood, leaves, or fruits of various tropical Asiatic plants (W3)
UT	Sanpete UT	unseptate	Not septate or partitioned (W3)
VA	Craig VA	agravic	Of or relating to a theoretical condition of no gravitation (W3)
VA	Giles VA	glaives	Plural of 'glaive', a broadsword (W3)
VA	Clarke VA	Laverack	Surname of Edward Laverack (d. 1877), English dog breeder, used attributively in Laverack setter to designate the type of English setter developed by him, a large hunting dog having long white fur flecked with other colours (OED)
VT	Caledonia VT	decalvation	Extraction of hair so as to make bald (W2)
VT	Orleans VT	resolvant	Old spelling of 'resolvent', bringing about solution, dissolving (OED)
WA	King WA	waking	Inflection of verb 'wake', to become roused from sleep (W3)
WA	Asotin WA	watsonia	Any plant or flower of the genus <i>Watsonia</i> , a genus of southern African herbs that resemble gladioli (W3)
WI	Grant WI	ringtaw	A game of marbles in which marbles are placed in a circle on the ground and shot at from a line about two yards distant with the object of knocking them out of the circle (W3)
WI	Monroe WI	wine room	A bar-room where wine is served (OED)
WV	Roane WV	overawn	To awn over (W2)
WV	???? WV	????	
WY	???? WY	????	
WY	???? WY	????	

Note that Arenac Michigan (Arenac MI) has a particularly appropriate transposal.

Connecticut has only 8 counties to choose from, and none of them seems to combine with CT; Delaware has just 3 counties, and only one of those combines with DE; Hawaii's 5 counties are vowel-heavy, and don't combine with HI; Maryland's 20+ counties appear not to want to combine with MD; New Hampshire's modest 10 counties provide just one example that will combine with NH; only one of Rhode Island's 5 counties teams up with RI; while West Virginia has a healthy 50+ counties, the clunkiness of the WV abbreviation allows us only one find; and the same goes for Wyoming's clunky WY abbreviation – no finds there. Of course, Word Ways readers might care to seek solutions for the 11 missing state-name abbreviations.

It's interesting to note that two counties, Otero in New Mexico and Moore in Tennessee, are mutual transposals; thus:

Otero NM = Moore TN = montero (a huntsman, listed in W3)

Beyond transposals of county names and county names with state-name abbreviations, there's the lure of finding transposals of county names plus their corresponding state-names spelled out in full; for example,

**Custer County, Idaho** = **citharoedus**  
**Marion County, Texas** = **examinators**  
**Morgan County, Ohio** = **hormogonia**  
**Teton County, Idaho** = **Theodotian**

Can Word Ways readers find others?