

127th Annual County and District Clerks' Association of Texas Conference

July 10-14, 2022 • Waco Convention Center



**Clerk of the Year
Award Nominee
Region VIII Nominee**



Diane Gonzales

County: Atascosa
Position: County Clerk
Years in Office: 14 years, 8 months

I am very humbled to be nominated for County Clerk of the Year by my fellow Region 8 clerks and it would be an honor to represent the County and District Clerks' Association of Texas.

I started my career with Atascosa County on January 1, 1973. My first position was with the Atascosa County Probation Department. While working at the Probation Department I worked very closely with the County Clerk's Office, and I was lured away by the current county clerk at that time. The clerk promised I would never have a dull moment and I would be right at home. So, on October of 1982, I embarked on what would be one of the best adventures of my life. I immediately knew that I had made the right choice by transferring of the Atascosa County Clerk's Office. After, hard work and training I was appointed chief deputy in 1994. Then in 2007 our office was struck by tragedy. We lost our county clerk to a sudden and tragic event. This created a very difficult and challenging time for everyone at the Clerk's Office. This sudden and unfortunate loss opened the door to my appointment of county clerk in October of 2007 to fill the unexpired term of Mrs. Hayden. My first year was a very trying time changing role responsibilities, while still grieving the loss of the clerk and dear friend.

As county clerk I was lucky to have had over 50 years' experience of running a working farm and ranch with my now deceased beloved husband. These personal responsibilities allowed me to bring essential management skills and excellent work ethics to the County Clerk's Office. As a mother of two, a farmer and contractor's wife, as well as a businesswoman, organization, time management, effective work practices, and patience helped me handle the role of county clerk. I took the challenge of county clerk like I take all task at hand: with the idea to do the best job possible and leave things better than I found them for the next. With that said, I picked up where the last clerk left off and began with regular equipment updates and restoration of Deed Record books. I also started a backfile project in 2012.

As clerk, I have undertaken several projects making our computer systems user friendly not just for the staff but the public as well. The modernization of the office didn't stop with Deed Records, it was just the beginning. In my service as county clerk, I have had criminal, civil, probate and Commissioner Court records digitized. In completing these overwhelming tasks, I managed to decrease foot traffic and increased record availability to the public and private entities needing title work. This has helped increase productivity and efficiency in my office. This has made a way for me to complete other modernizations like E-Filing and currently working on E-Recording.

I am a member of Saint Andrew's Catholic Church in Pleasanton. I am very involved with my family and personal business ventures. I have always believed in only doing things in which I can give 100%. So, I have been an active benefactor to multiple different community organizations and groups, because being full-time farmer, rancher, entrepreneur, and full-time county clerk does not leave me adequate time to take part in community leadership roles.

There are many qualified clerks deserving of this award it has been an honor just to be nominated by my peers.

REGION VIII CLERK OF THE YEAR NOMINEE

DIANE GONZALES