Llano History and District Financial Challenges

Hon. Evan Stubbs, State District Judge, 424th Judicial District
Hon. Ron Cunningham, Llano County Judge

74th Annual Texas Association of County Auditors Fall Conference
History of Llano County

• 1856, Texas officially created Llano County, when state legislatures split off pieces of Gillespie and Bexar Counties.

• Just two years later, more than 1,000 people lived there. German immigrants dominated the western half, and Anglo-Americans lived in the eastern portion. Life continued with most people earning their living through farming or ranching.
History of Llano County

• By 1900, the census counted 7,301 citizens in Llano County, seven times what it had been only 40 years before. During these boom years the county built a new courthouse and jail in Llano, the county seat. Both of which still stand today.
History of Llano County

• By the 1960s, the population of Llano County began to rise again. Today, many in the county still rely on farming and ranching with cattle the top products.

• Others earn their living through the tourism, water recreation, high fence and low fence hunting industries. Some refer to Llano County as the “Deer Capital of the World” for its outstanding deer hunting grounds.
Llano County Maps

Llano County 1920

Llano County 2019
Ranching & Hunting
Recreation

- Two Rivers
  - Llano River
  - Colorado River
- Three Lakes
  - Buchanan
  - Inks
  - LBJ
District Judge Financial Challenges

- Indigent Defense
- Indigent Mental Health
- Indigent CPS
- Juvenile Courts 5 Counties
- District Court in 4 Counties
- 3 Auditors
## Property Tax Rate Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tax Rate</th>
<th>2019-2020</th>
<th>2018-2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Property Tax Rate:</td>
<td>$0.31410/100</td>
<td>$0.28650/100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Effective Tax Rate:</td>
<td>$0.27566/100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Effective M&amp;O Tax Rate”</td>
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<td>Rollback Tax Rate</td>
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<td>Debt Rate:</td>
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Financial Challenges

- Disaster Recovery
- Financial Obligations
- Indigent Health & Defense Cost
- Employee Retention & Health Care
- Hospital & Emergency Services
- Low Property Tax Rate
- Slow Population Growth
- Senate Bill 2 Texas Property Tax Reform and Transparency Act of 2019
October 2018 Flood

- $1.2M in Debris Removal
- $821K in Road Repair
- must be completed to be reimbursed by FEMA
Increased Indigent Health & Defense Cost

- Increased Mental Health Cost
- Indigent Health Cost
- Indigent Defense Cost
County Court

- 2016: $80,000.00
- 2017: $140,000.00
- 2018: $160,000.00
- 2019: $180,000.00
- 2020: $200,000.00
Existing Financial Obligations

- $660K Enterprise Vehicle Lease
- $300K Road and Bridge Equipment
- $50K Sheriff Office Equipment Lease
Increased Indigent Health & Defense Cost

- Increased Mental Health Cost
- Indigent Health Cost
- Indigent Defense Cost
Strategic Concerns

- Attrition of Llano County Employees
- Election Equipment
- Hospital
- Emergency Services
- Aging Buildings and Equipment
- Fleet Management Plan
- Road & Bridge Maintenance Plan
- Information Technology Security
If a city or county wants to increase revenue by more than 3.5% in a year, they need approval in an election.

- Mandated Cost vs County Funded Cost
- Ambulance Service
- Animal Shelter
- Library System