



The office of

County Judge

Presented by Charlie Bradley & Jennifer Henderson
Schleicher County Judge & County Treasurer

History of the Office

Stems from Article V, Sections 15-18 of the Texas Constitution


Constitutional Authority

- Jurisdiction provided by law
- Limited authority

Not all County Judges have judicial duties

Elected to a 4 year term by qualified voters of the county

Qualifications

- No formal study of law nor a license to practice
 - Main qualification - ability to be elected
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Assuming Office

Bond

Oath of Office and related statements



Administrative Duties

- ❖ Presides over Commissioners Court; full participant
 - ❖ The Operation of the County Court
 - ❖ Serves as Chief Budget Officer in Counties under 225,000
 - ❖ Authority of notary public
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Administrative Duties

Emergency Management responsibilities:

- Government Code 418
- Can declare local disaster
- Can order evacuation
- Supersedes Mayors

Administrative Duties

The Holding of Elections

The Preservation and Promotion of Mental Health

The Creation and/or Operation of Special Districts

Various General Administrative Duties



Judicial Duties

Can vary from County to County

County court: civil, criminal, original and appellate jurisdiction

Criminal jurisdiction

Civil jurisdiction


Juvenile jurisdiction

Magistrate



Court at Law

County Courts at Law

- Texas Legislature can create special county courts
 - The judge of a county court at law must be an attorney
 - The county court at law judge is elected to a 4 year term by qualified voters of the county
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Continuing Education for Judicial Functions

30 Hours - First Year

16 Hours - Each Year Thereafter

Records Kept at Texas Association of Counties
Office

Sources of CE Credit

Practical Application


May serve on various boards and committees by virtue of the office

Represents County as figurehead in various functions

Called upon to represent County interest outside of county



Statutes Pertaining to Judge and Treasurer

- ❖ Transfers of money from one fund to another (LGC Sec 113.004)
 - ❖ Approve all warrants/expenditures prior to Treasurer disbursing funds. (LGC Sec. 113.041, 113.042, 113.048)
 - ❖ Allow Treasurer to handle receipts from all offices except Tax Assessor/Collector and the Clerk's Trust & Registry accounts. (LGC Sec. 113.903)
 - ❖ Approve Monthly and Quarterly Reports. (LGC Sec. 114.021, 114.026)
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Overlapping Areas

- ❖ Investment Committee
 - ❖ Budget Preparations/Amendments
 - ❖ Human Resources
 - ❖ Risk Management
 - ❖ Purchasing
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