Legal Resources
Judicial Orientation for New County Judges
So, you have a legal question.

What resources are available?
Texas Practice Series

Thompson Reuters

Provides in-depth county and special district law.
Texas Statutes

statutes.legis.state.tx.us

Quick and easy way to look up specific statutes.
The statutes available on this website are current through the Regular Session of the 84th Legislature, June 2015. The Texas Constitution is current through the amendments approved by voters in November 2015.

Hide Quick Search

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code:</th>
<th>Government Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Article/Chapter:</td>
<td>CHAPTER 552. PUBLIC INFORMATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art./Sec.:</td>
<td>Select Art./Sec.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Quick Links

- Linking to Texas Constitution and Statutes
- Texas Legislature Online
- General Appropriations Act
- Index to Sections affected
- Texas Administrative Code
- Texas Law Timeline
- Amendments to the Texas Constitution Since 1876
- Constitutional Amendments Search

Must enter at least Code title and Chapter number.
GOVERNMENT CODE

TITLE 5. OPEN GOVERNMENT; ETHICS

SUBTITLE A. OPEN GOVERNMENT

CHAPTER 552. PUBLIC INFORMATION

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 552.001. POLICY; CONSTRUCTION. (a) Under the fundamental philosophy of the American constitutional form of representative government that adheres to the principle that government is the servant and not the master of the people, it is the policy of this state that each person is entitled, unless otherwise expressly provided by law, at all times to complete information about the affairs of government and the official acts of public officials and employees. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created. The provisions of this chapter shall be liberally construed to implement this policy.

(b) This chapter shall be liberally construed in favor of granting a request for information.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 552.002. DEFINITION OF PUBLIC INFORMATION; MEDIA CONTAINING PUBLIC INFORMATION. (a) In this chapter, "public information" means information that is written, produced, collected, assembled, or maintained under a law or ordinance or in connection with the transaction of official business.
Texas Legislature Online

capitol.state.tx.us

Search and track bills.
Bill: SB 2

Legislative Session: 85(R)  Council Document: 8SR 4849 SMH/CJC/LHC/TJB-D

Last Action: 03/14/2017  S Testimony taken in committee

Caption Version: Introduced
Caption Text: Relating to ad valorem taxation.

Author: Bettencourt | Creighton | Hancock | Taylor, Van

Coauthor: Hall | Huffines

Subjects:
- Elections—Administration (I0277)
- Elections—General (I0310)
- Property Interests—Personal Property (I0600)
- Taxation—General (I0815)
- Taxation—Property—Appeal of Tax Decisions (I0796)
- Taxation—Property—Appraisals & Appraisal Districts (I0792)
- Taxation—Property—Assessment & Collection (I0798)
- Taxation—Property—Exemptions (I0793)
- Taxation—Property—State Administration (I0791)
- Taxation—Property—Tax Rate (I0794)
- TEXAS PROPERTY TAX REFORM AND RELIEF ACT OF 2017 (P0670)
- COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (V2606)
- PROPERTY TAX ADMINISTRATION ADVISORY BOARD (V1103)

Senate Committee: Finance
Status: In committee

Actions: (descending date order)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Journal Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>03/14/2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S Considered in public hearing</td>
<td>03/14/2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>03/14/2017</td>
<td></td>
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<td>02/27/2017</td>
<td>340</td>
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<tr>
<td>S Referred to Finance</td>
<td>01/24/2017</td>
<td>90</td>
<td></td>
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<td>01/24/2017</td>
<td>90</td>
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<td>S Filed</td>
<td>11/29/2016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>S Received by the Secretary of the Senate</td>
<td>11/29/2016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The MyTLO section of the Texas Legislature Online website offers personalized viewing of legislative content.

- **Bill List**: A custom list of bills created by:
  - Manually entering the bill number
  - Adding the bill number from the bill history page or bill or text search results page
  - Adding all the bills from a bill search result set
- **Bill Alert**: Receive e-mail notification when bills on this custom list have selected significant actions added. Bills are added by:
  - Manually entering the bill number
  - Adding the bill number from the bill history page
  - Adding the bill number from a text or bill search results page
- **Bill Subject**: Receive alerts when bills are assigned a specific subject.
- **Other alerts**: Receive e-mail notification when selected calendars, committee hearing notices, committee minutes are posted, or the house/senate adjourn.
- Access RSS feeds for legislative content through your favorite newsreader software.
- Access legislative content on your wireless mobile device.
- Save your bill, amendment, and text searches to use later.

Usage of the bill list, alert list, and saved search features requires registration. Service is FREE of charge (privacy policy).

**NOTE**: Alerts are removed at the beginning of each regular session. All accounts will remain intact without the need to re-register.
Texas Legislative Reference Library

Texas Capitol Rm 2N.3

lrl.state.tx.us

In-depth historical legislative research.
Texas Attorney General

texasattorneygeneral.gov

Index to AG Opinions, Open Records Act and Public Information Act resources.
Attorney General Opinions

An attorney general opinion is a written interpretation of existing law. Attorney general opinions cannot create new provisions in the law or correct unintended, undesirable effects of the law. Attorney general opinions do not necessarily reflect the attorney general’s personal views, nor does the attorney general in any way “rule” on what the law should say. Furthermore, attorney general opinions cannot resolve factual disputes.

Who Can Request an Attorney General Opinion?

How do I Request an Attorney General Opinion?

Who Can Submit a Brief?
TAC Legal Handbooks

county.org/legalpublications

Easy to digest, in-depth topics specific to county government.
Short Answers to Common Questions

- Short Answers to Common Questions - Full Publication, 2017
- Basics of the County Purchasing Act and Competitive Bidding
- Bingo, Raffles, Gaming Rooms and Other Gambling Issues Under Texas Law
- Burn Ban, Regulation of Fireworks and Declaration of Local Disaster
- Campaign Signs On County Roads
- Cemeteries and Pauper Burial
- Common Road and Bridge Questions
- Disclosure Requirement for County Officials
- Election Worker Issues
- Keeping the County Scenic: Junkyards, visual Aesthetic Standards, Public Nuisance, Graffiti, Litter, and Amateur Radio Antennas
- Mass Gatherings
TAC Judicial Education Center Bench Book

[county.org/benchbook](county.org/benchbook)

Informational research tool, including printable and editable scripts.
Rules and Resources

The Texas Judicial Academy is pleased to provide some useful resources to help guide county judiciary officials through a variety of day-to-day decisions. Feel free to contact us with suggestions for adding other helpful resources that you have discovered to enhance this list for others.

- General Rules and Resources
- Forms
- General Impaired Driving Resources
- For Courts Handling Impaired Driving Cases
- Rural Judges DWI Court Pilot Project

Note: This resource is intended for members of the Texas Association of Counties.

THIS WEBSITE IS A RESEARCH TOOL AND NOT THE COUNSEL OF AN ATTORNEY. THIS WEBSITE IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE ADVICE OF AN ATTORNEY. It is provided without warranty of any kind and, as with any research tool, should be double checked against relevant statutes, case law, Attorney General opinions and advice of legal counsel, e.g., your county attorney. Each public officer is responsible for determining the duties of the office or position held. Any question should be directed to competent legal counsel for a written opinion.
Where do we go from here?
DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START?
Give us a call!

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(888) 275-8224

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BENCH BOOK
county.org/benchbook
or (844) 265-8343

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