

ORDER TO APPROVE ONLINE EDUCATION FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Whereas, Section 81.0025(b), Local Government Code, as amended by the 87th Legislature, authorizes online instruction for commissioners continuing education with the approval of the commissioners court, except for a county commissioner in the first 12-month period of the commissioner's first term;

Whereas, the Commissioners Court of Harris County, Texas wishes to authorize online instruction of commissioners continuing education as permitted by the statute;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Commissioners Court of Harris County, Texas approves and authorizes online instruction for the continuing education of county commissioners, except for a county commissioner in the first 12-month period of the commissioner's first term; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this Order shall be submitted to the Commissioners Education Committee of the County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas

Read and adopted by a vote of _____ ayes and _____ nays on this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Signed:

COUNTY JUDGE

Attest:

COUNTY CLERK

TAC Legislative Conference

August 24 - 26, 2022

(In-person or online)

Fairmont Austin Hotel
101 Red River St.
Austin, TX 78701

Registration
(<https://imis.county.org/imis/Event.aspx?EventKey=22PANNUAL>)



For more information contact [Deanna Auert \(mailto:deannaa@county.org\)](mailto:Deanna.Auert@county.org) or [Rachel Kucera \(mailto:rachelk@county.org\)](mailto:Rachel.Kucera@county.org) at (800) 456-5974.

Wednesday, Aug. 24

8 a.m.-5 p.m. **Registration and Information Desk Hours**

Noon-2 p.m. **Meet and Greet Exhibitors**

12:45-1:45 p.m. **Private Meeting: Core Legislative Group Networking and Training**
Core Legislative Group members will have an opportunity to network and receive training in the legislative process from TAC's Legislative Services Director Noe Barrios before the General Session begins. This event is for Core Legislative Group members only. If you are not a member but would like to attend, please register for the Core Legislative Group here (<https://texascounties.wufoo.com/forms/s1tl6pz2110m11p/>).

2-4:30 p.m. **Opening General Session (in-person and live online)**
Welcome
Presiding: Mr. Nathan Craddock, Tom Green County Auditor and President, Texas Association of Counties
Ms. Susan M. Redford, Executive Director, Texas Association of Counties

4:30-6 p.m. **Exhibit Hall Welcome Reception**

Thursday, Aug. 25

7 a.m.-5 p.m. **Registration and Information Desk Hours**

7-7:50 a.m.

Breakfast

8-9:05 a.m.

Legislative Discussion Sessions (1-5) (in-person and live online)

1. Bail Bond Reform: Past, Present and Future

It's been a year since the Legislature passed Senate Bill 6, the Damon Allen Act. Join legislators and agency staff for a robust look at how implementation has gone, the now up-and-running Public Safety Report System and potential changes during next year's legislative session.

Moderator: Ms. Amy Befeld, Legislative Consultant, Texas District & County Attorneys Association, Texas Association of Counties

Speakers: Representative Reggie Smith, Texas House of Representatives

Ms. Megan LaVoie, Administrative Director, Texas Office of Court Administration

Mr. Bronson Tucker, Director of Curriculum & Staff Attorney, Texas Justice Court Training Center

2. The Intercept of Behavioral Health and the Courts

Mental health, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and substance use are broad-reaching issues that have significant impacts on the court system. The court system historically is where most criminal justice responses to mental health issues occur. Join us for an in-depth look at how behavioral health affects our courts and counties and what the Legislature is considering next session.

Moderator: Ms. Kelsey Bernstein, Legislative Consultant - JPCA, Texas Association of Counties

Speakers: Mr. Lee Johnson, Deputy Director, Texas Council of Community Centers

Hon. J.R. Woolley, Waller County Justice of the Peace

Hon. Drue Farmer, Lubbock County Court at Law Judge

3. Your Voice in D.C.: Bringing Taxpayer Dollars Back to Your County

The 117th Congress has allocated a historic amount of funding to address issues affecting counties. We'll bring you up to date on available funding as we hear from the leadership of the National Association of Counties about their efforts in Washington, D.C., and how we can continue to work together to benefit Texas counties.

Moderator: Ms. Megan Molleur, Legislative Consultant - Federal Issues, Texas Association of Counties

Speakers: Mr. Matthew D. Chase, CEO/Executive Director, National Association of Counties (NACo)

Hon. J.D. Clark, Wise County Judge

4. Property Tax: What's The Legislature Got to Do With It?

Join us for a big-picture discussion of what we expect the Legislature will do next session with property taxes.

Moderator: Ms. Katy Estrada, Legislative Consultant - Tax Assessor - Collectors' Association, Texas Association of Counties

Speakers: Hon. Christina McMurray, Randall County Tax Assessor-Collector

Mr. Dale Craymer, President, Texas Taxpayers and Research Association

5. Elections: Implementing New Election Practices and Procedures

In this session, we will discuss recent changes to election laws, including early voting by mail and personal appearance procedures, and new video surveillance and security requirements at central counting stations. We'll also consider the need to educate voters about new mail-in ballot rules.

Moderator: Ms. Nanette Forbes, Legislative Consultant - County & Districts Clerks' Association, Texas Association of Counties

Speakers: Mr. Keith Ingram, Director of Elections Division, Texas Secretary of State

Ms. Christina Adkins, Legal Director, Elections Division, Texas Secretary of State

Hon. Heather Hawthorne, Chambers County Clerk

9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Exhibit Hall Hours

Open during lunch, noon-1:30 p.m.

9:05-9:30 a.m.

Refreshment Break

Virtual attendees visit the TAC Booths

9:30-10:35 a.m.

Legislative Discussion Sessions (repeat 1-5) (in-person and live online)

1. Bail Bond Reform: Past, Present and Future

2. The Intercept of Behavioral Health and the Courts

3. Your Voice in D.C.: Bringing Taxpayer Dollars Back to Your County

4. Property Tax: What's The Legislature Got to Do With It?

5. Elections: Implementing New Election Practices and Procedures

10:35-10:55 a.m.

Refreshment Break

Virtual attendees visit the TAC Booths

10:55 a.m.-noon

Legislative Discussion Sessions (6-10) (in-person and live online)

6. Communities, Law Enforcement and Mental Health Diversion

Explore county and state efforts to balance the need to serve individuals in a mental health crisis while protecting their communities at large. The panel will discuss diversion programs through courts and state services, and the capabilities and challenges law enforcement faces when dealing with mental health issues.

Moderator: Mr. Austin McCarty, Legislative Consultant - Sheriffs' Association, Texas Association of Counties

Speakers: Hon. Kelly Rowe, Lubbock County Sheriff

Hon. Jennifer Tharp, Comal County Criminal District Attorney

Ms. Trina Ita, Association Commissioner, HHS

7. Emergency Management: Response and Recovery Funding

Since 2010, Texas has experienced 19 federally declared major disasters, six federally declared emergencies and more than 70 federal fire management assistance declarations.

Learn how funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Management Performance Grants is being disbursed to provide necessary resources for emergency management.

Moderator: Ms. Aurora Flores, Legislative Consultant - Treasurers' Association & Core Legislative Group Coordinator, Texas Association of Counties

Speaker: Ms. Heather Lagrone, Senior Deputy Director, Texas General Land Office

8. Grant Funds for Counties: What You Need to Know About State and Federal Grant Resources

Find out how to locate, plan and write grants for county projects. County officials will provide examples of grant awards for county roads, specialty courts, body-worn cameras and other law enforcement projects, among many other county needs.

Moderator: Ms. Zelma Smith, Financial Analyst, Texas Association of Counties

Speakers: Ms. Ginny Lewis Ford, Executive Director, Texas Association of Regional Councils

Hon. David Blackburn, Bell County Judge

Ms. Michele C. Valadez, MPA, Grants Administrator, Comal County

9. ARPA, Year Two: We Have The Rules, We Have The Money — What's Next?

An expert panel offers advice to optimize your county's use of American Rescue Plan dollars, comply with reporting requirements, meet deadlines and deliver value to your constituents.

Moderator: Mr. Pete Winckler, Legislative Consultant - Auditors' Association, Texas Association of Counties

Speakers: Hon. Dale Carruthers, Terrell County Judge

Mr. Tramer Woytek, Judicial Resource Liaison & County Relations Officer, Texas Association of Counties

Mr. Jose M. Landeros, Director of Strategic Development, El Paso County

10. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, enacted in November 2021, authorizes \$1.2 trillion for transportation and infrastructure spending. This session will include a discussion with a federal transportation expert about accessing grants.

Moderator: Mr. Rick Thompson, Legislative Consultant – CJCA, Texas Association of Counties

Speaker: Ms. Jessica Jennings, Legislative Director – Transportation, National Association of Counties (NACo)

Noon-1:30 p.m.

Networking Lunch

Dine with your fellow attendees, then take a tour of the exhibit hall and visit with vendors.

1:30-2:35 p.m.

Legislative Discussion Sessions (repeat 6-10) *(in-person and live online)*

6. Communities, Law Enforcement and Mental Health Diversion

7. Emergency Management: Response and Recovery Funding

8. Grant Funds for Counties: What You Need to Know About State and Federal Grant Resources

9. ARPA, Year Two: We Have The Rules, We Have The Money — What's Next?

10. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

2:35-3 p.m.

Ice Cream Social Break

Virtual attendees visit the TAC Booths

3-4:30 p.m.

Meeting of County Affiliate Organizations *(in-person only)*

County associations organize and host a 1.5-hour meeting to discuss legislative issues or association business during the conference

4:30-6 p.m.

Legislative Reception *(in-person only)*

Friday, Aug. 26

8-10:30 a.m.

Registration and Information Desk Hours

8:30-9 a.m.

Breakfast

Welcome and Introductions

Broadband Expansion in Texas: How Do Counties Access Funding

This session will take a deep dive into steps counties can take to prepare themselves for grant opportunities with the development of broadband access. The discussion will include Broadband Development Office information for accessing the grant process, helpful hints for best practices from a national expert and an overall update of the state effort.

Moderators: Mr. Rick Thompson, Legislative Consultant – CJCA, Texas Association of Counties

Ms. Megan Molleur, Legislative Consultant - Federal Issues, Texas Association of Counties

Speakers: Mr. Glenn Hegar, Texas State Comptroller of Public Accounts

Mr. Greg Conte, Director, Broadband Development Office

Hon. Marty Lucke, Floyd County Judge

Mr. Andy Berke, Special Representative for Broadband, Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth, NTIA | U.S. Department of Commerce

Registration
([https://imis.county.org/imis/Event.aspx?](https://imis.county.org/imis/Event.aspx?EventKey=22PANNUAL)
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