

SEMINAR FOR NEWLY ELECTED TEXAS COUNTY JUDGES AND COMMISSIONERS

January 12-15, 2021

Texas A&M Hotel
and Conference Center

V.G. Young Institute of County Government

Phone: (979) 845-4572

Email: vgyi@ag.tamu.edu



TEXAS A&M
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V.G. YOUNG
Institute of
County
Government

SEMINAR FOR NEWLY ELECTED COUNTY JUDGES AND COMMISSIONERS

TEXAS A&M HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER

College Station, TX

January 12 – 15, 2021



V.G. Young Institute of County Government Staff

Peter McGuill, Ph.D.

Program Director

pjmccguill@ag.tamu.edu

Katy Gottwald

Program Coordinator

katygottwald@tamu.edu

Natalie Hejl

Administrative Coordinator

natalie.hejl@ag.tamu.edu

Jennifer Baldwin

Extension Assistant

jennifer.baldwin@ag.tamu.edu

V.G. Young Institute of County Government

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

AgriLife Extension South Campus

1470 William D. Fitch Parkway, Suite 171

2137 TAMU

College Station, TX 77843-2137

Phone: 979.845.4572

Email: vgyi@ag.tamu.edu

Website: vgyi.tamu.edu

WELCOME LETTER

**SEMINAR FOR NEWLY ELECTED COUNTY JUDGES AND
COMMISSIONERS**



On behalf of the V.G. Young Institute of County Government, part of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, welcome to the Seminar for Newly Elected County Judges & Commissioners. We are pleased to offer this opportunity where you can develop a deeper understanding of your duties, authorities and responsibilities as a member of the commissioners' court, as well as develop critical networks, all in an effort to better serve your respective county.

I offer a special word of appreciation to the County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas and the Texas Association of Counties for their partnership in offering this seminar to you.

If you need anything, please let a member of our staff know and we will be happy to assist you.

WELCOME TO COUNTY GOVERNMENT!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter McGill". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Peter J. McGill, Ph.D.
Director, V.G. Young Institute of County
Government
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

GENERAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL HOST

Welcome! The Seminar for Newly Elected County Judges and Commissioners is sponsored as a program of the V.G. Young Institute of County Government, part of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

20.5 Continuing Education (CE) hours have been approved for individuals participating in this conference. Please turn in the Institute Copy of your credit form at the registration desk no later than noon on Friday, January 15, 2021.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

- ❖ Please keep personal belongings with you at all times.
- ❖ Please silence cellphones, and refrain from taking calls during sessions.
- ❖ Out of respect to speakers, there is a strict adherence to the time schedule.
- ❖ Visit the Institute's website (<https://vgyi.tamu.edu>) to download authorized school handouts and presentations available after the conference.

EVALUATIONS

Evaluations are in the conference packet. Please complete and turn in at the Registration desk no later than noon on Friday, January 15, 2021.

GENERAL INFORMATION (CONT.)

TEXAS A&M HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER

- ❖ Check in: 4:00 p.m.
- ❖ Check out: 11:00 a.m.
- ❖ Hotel Business Center located in the lobby is open 24 hours
- ❖ Fitness center is available with guestroom key access

DINING AT THE HOTEL

- ❖ Brazos- Proper Kitchen open 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- ❖ The Junction Market & Cafe open 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- ❖ Block T Bar & Grill open 4:00 to 10:00 p.m.

LOCAL CONTACTS

- ❖ Texas A&M Hotel and Conference Center, 888-654-4436
- ❖ CapRock Urgent Care, open 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
- ❖ Emergency Assistance: 911

2021 V.G. YOUNG SCHOOL FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURTS

The 2021 School for County Commissioners Courts will be held in Bryan, Texas at the Brazos County Expo Center, February 2-4, 2021.

CONFERENCE MAP



SEMINAR FOR NEWLY ELECTED COUNTY JUDGES AND COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12

Noon	Registration
	OPENING GENERAL SESSION
1:00-2:00 p.m.	Welcome/Introductory Remarks Constitutional Basis of County Government
2:00-2:50 p.m.	Powers, Duties, Responsibilities
2:50-3:10 p.m.	Break
3:10-4:30 p.m.	Budgeting in County Government
4:30-5:30 p.m.	Sources of Revenue and Types of Expenditures
5:30 p.m.	Adjourn
6:30 p.m.	Welcome Reception <i>Sponsored by Texas Association of Counties</i>

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
	GENERAL SESSION
8:30-9:00 a.m.	County Purchasing
9:00-9:50 a.m.	Health and Human Services Issues
9:50-10:10 a.m.	Break
10:10-10:40 a.m.	County Litigation and Legal Representation
10:40-11:30 a.m.	Personnel Issues
11:30 a.m.- 12:45 p.m.	Luncheon
1:00-1:50 p.m.	Property Tax Issues
1:50-2:40 p.m.	County Roads
2:40-3:00 p.m.	Break
3:00-3:30 p.m.	Election Issues
3:30-4:20 p.m.	Subdivision Regulations
4:20-5:10 p.m.	Solid Waste and Nuisance Authority
5:10 p.m.	Adjourn
6:30-8:30 p.m.	OPTIONAL EVENING SESSION Public Meeting and Open Records Video Viewing and Certification

SEMINAR FOR NEWLY ELECTED COUNTY JUDGES AND COMMISSIONERS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

8:00 a.m. **Continental Breakfast**

GENERAL SESSION

8:30-9:30 a.m. **Conducting a Public Meeting**

9:30-9:50 a.m. **Break**

9:50-10:40 a.m. **Emergency Management Issues**

10:40-11:30 a.m. **Guide to Texas Ethics and Disclosure Law**

11:30 a.m.-
12:45 p.m. **Luncheon**

1:00-1:50 p.m. **Working Effectively with the Legislature/
State Government**

1:50-2:40 p.m. **Law Enforcement and Jail Issues**

2:40-3:00 p.m. **Break**

3:00-3:50 p.m. **Open Records and Records Management**

4:00-5:00 p.m. **Open Forum**
• *Small Counties <15,000 Population*
• *Medium Counties 15,000 to 50,000
Population*
• *Medium/Large Counties >50,000
Population*

5:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

8:00 a.m. **Continental Breakfast**

GENERAL SESSION

8:30-9:00 a.m. **Texas County and District Retirement System**

9:00-10:15 a.m. **Effective Operation of Commissioners Court**

10:15-10:30 a.m. **Break**

10:30-11:30 a.m. **So What? Now What? Session: Q&A Wrap-up**

11:30 a.m. **Closing Remarks**

11:45 a.m. **Adjourn**

Tuesday, January 12

Noon

Check-in

OPENING GENERAL SESSION

Presiding: Dr. Peter McGuill, Director, V.G. Young Institute of County Government

1:00–2:00 p.m.

Welcome & Introductory Remarks

*Dr. Jeff Hyde, Director, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Hon. Ben Zeller, Victoria County Judge & President, County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas*

Constitutional Basis of County Government and Redistricting
Speaker: Mr. Jim Allison, General Counsel, County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas

2:00–2:50 p.m.

Powers, Duties, & Responsibilities

Moderator: Hon. Tramer Woytek, Judicial Resource Liaison, Texas Association of Counties
*Speakers: Hon. Paul Cothren, Cass County Commissioner
Hon. Ben Zeller, Victoria County Judge
Dr. Peter McGuill, Program Director, V.G. Young Institute of County Government, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service*

2:50–3:10 p.m.

Break

SEMINAR FOR NEWLY ELECTED COUNTY JUDGES AND COMMISSIONERS

3:10–4:30 p.m.

Budgeting in County Government

*Speakers: Hon. Larry Woolley, Johnson County Commissioner
Hon. Jason Brinkley, Cooke County Judge
Hon. B. Glen Whitley, Tarrant County Judge*

4:30–5:30 p.m.

Sources of Revenue and Types of Expenditures

Speaker: Hon. Nathan Craddock, Tom Green County Auditor

5:30 p.m.

Adjourn

6:30–8:00 p.m.

Welcome Reception – Legacy Club at Kyle Field

*Sponsored by:
Texas Association of Counties*

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

8:00 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

GENERAL SESSION

Presiding: Hon. Susan Redford, Executive Director, Texas Association of Counties

8:30–9:00 a.m.

County Purchasing

*Speakers: Hon. Nathan Craddock, Tom Green County Auditor
Hon. Kim Halfmann, Glasscock County Judge*

9:00–9:50 a.m.
Issues

Health and Human Services

Speaker: Ms. Ebony Jackson, Bell County Indigent Health Care

SEMINAR FOR NEWLY ELECTED COUNTY JUDGES AND
COMMISSIONERS

- 9:50–10:10 a.m. **Break**
- 10:10–10:40 a.m. **County Litigation and Legal Representation**
Speaker: Hon. Scott Brumley, Potter County Attorney
- 10:40–11:30 a.m. **Personnel Issues**
Speaker: Diana Cecil, Human Resource Consultant, Texas Association of Counties
- 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m. **Working Lunch: County Issues in the Legislature**
Speakers: Mr. Jim Allison, General Counsel, County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas
Mr. Noe Barrios, Legislative Director, Texas Association of Counties
- 1:00–1:50 p.m. **Property Tax Issues**
Speaker: Hon. Randy Riggs, McLennan County Tax Assessor Collector
- 1:50–2:40 p.m. **County Roads**
Speaker: Mr. Bob Bass, Partner, Allison, Bass & Magee, LLP
- 2:40–3:00 p.m. **Break**
- 3:00–3:30 p.m. **Election Issues**
Speaker: Mr. Paul Miles, Associate General Counsel, Texas Association of Counties
- 3:30–4:20 p.m. **Subdivision Regulations**
Speaker: Mr. Eric Magee, Partner, Allison, Bass & Magee, LLP

SEMINAR FOR NEWLY ELECTED COUNTY JUDGES AND COMMISSIONERS

4:20–5:10 p.m. **Solid Waste and Nuisance Authority**
Speaker: Mr. Eric Magee, Partner, Allison, Bass & Magee, LLP
Hon. Rick Bailey, Johnson County Commissioner

5:15 p.m. **Adjourn**

OPTIONAL EVENING SESSION

6:30–8:30 p.m. **Open Meetings Act and Public Information Act Video Viewing and Certification**

Thursday, January 14

8:00 a.m. **Continental Breakfast**

GENERAL SESSION

Presiding: Dr. Peter McGuill, Director, V.G. Young Institute of County Government

8:30–9:30 a.m. **Conducting a Public Meeting**
Speaker: Mr. Jim Allison, General Counsel, County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas

9:30–9:50 a.m. **Break**

9:50–10:40 a.m. **Open Records and Records Management**
Speaker: Mr. Paul Miles, Associate General Counsel, Texas Association of Counties

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COMMISSIONERS

- 10:40–11:30 a.m. **Guide to Texas Ethics and Disclosure Law**
Speaker: Ms. Laura Garcia, Associate General Counsel, Texas Association of Counties
- 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m. **Working Lunch: County and Judicial Issues in the Legislature**
Moderator: Mr. Jim Allison, General Counsel, County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas
Speakers: Invited Legislators
- 1:00–1:50 p.m. **Working Effectively with the Legislature / State Government**

Moderator: Mr. Jim Allison, General Counsel, County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas
Speaker: Mr. Adam Haynes, Legislative Program Director, Conference of Urban Counties, Mr. Rick Thompson, Senior Legislative Analyst, Texas Association of Counties
- 1:50–2:40 p.m. **Law Enforcement and Jail Issues**
Speakers: Hon. Maxey Cerliano, Gregg County Sheriff
Hon. Bill Stoudt, Gregg County Judge
Mr. Brandon Wood, Executive Director, Texas Commission on Jail Standards

2:40–3:00 p.m. **Break**

3:00–3:50 p.m.

**Emergency Management
Issues**

Speakers: Chief Nim Kidd, Vice
Chancellor for Disaster and
Emergency Services, Texas A&M
University System & Chief of the
Texas Division of Emergency
Management

Mr. Mark Stanford, Associate
Director, Texas A&M Forest
Service

Hon. Jimmy Sylvia, Chambers
County Judge

4:00–5:00 p.m.

Open Forum

**Small Counties <15,000
Population –**

Moderator: Mr. Jim Allison,
General Counsel, County Judges
and Commissioners Association of
Texas

Speakers: Hon. Donnie Allred,
Oldham County Judge

Hon. Kirk Frye, Parmer County
Commissioner

**Medium Counties 15,000 to
50,000 Population –**

Moderator: Mr. Bob Bass,
Partner, Allison, Bass & Magee,
LLP

Speakers: Hon. Joe Brown, Erath
County Commissioner

Hon. Tramer Woytek, Judicial
Resource Liaison, Texas
Association of Counties

Hon. Jimmy Sylvia, Chambers
County Judge

SEMINAR FOR NEWLY ELECTED COUNTY JUDGES AND COMMISSIONERS

4:00–5:00 p.m. **Medium/Large Counties
>50,000 Population –**
*Moderator: Hon. Susan Redford,
Executive Director, Texas
Association of Counties*
*Speakers: Hon. Jen Crownover,
Comal County Commissioner
Hon. Ben Zeller, Victoria County
Judge*

5:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

Friday, January 15

8:00 a.m. **Continental Breakfast**

GENERAL SESSION

*Presiding: Hon. Susan Redford, Executive Director, Texas
Association of Counties*

8:30–9:00 a.m. **Texas County and District
Retirement System**
*Speakers: Ms. Amy Bishop,
Director, Texas County and
District Retirement System
Ms. Erika Nieto, Employer
Services Representative, Texas
County and District Retirement
System*

SEMINAR FOR NEWLY ELECTED COUNTY JUDGES AND
COMMISSIONERS

9:00–10:15 a.m.

**Effective Operations of
Commissioners' Court**

Moderator: *Hon. Susan Redford,
Executive Director, Texas
Association of Counties*

Speakers: *Hon. Jen Crownover,
Comal County Commissioner
Hon. Mary Cunningham, Judicial
Program Manager, Texas
Association of Counties
Hon. Kim Halfmann, Glasscock
County Judge*

10:15–10:30 a.m.

Break

10:30–11:30 a.m.

**So What? Now What? Session:
Q&A Wrap-up**

Speakers: *Mr. Jim Allison,
General Counsel, County Judges
and Commissioners Association of
Texas*

*Hon. Ben Zeller, Victoria County
Judge; President, County Judges
and Commissioners Association of
Texas*

*Hon. Susan Redford, Executive
Director, Texas Association of
Counties*

*Hon. Kirk Frye, Parmer County
Commissioner*

11:30–11:45 a.m.

Closing Remarks

Speaker: *Hon. Susan Redford,
Executive Director, Texas
Association of Counties*

*Dr. Peter McGill, V.G. Young
Institute of County Government*

11:45 a.m.

Adjourn

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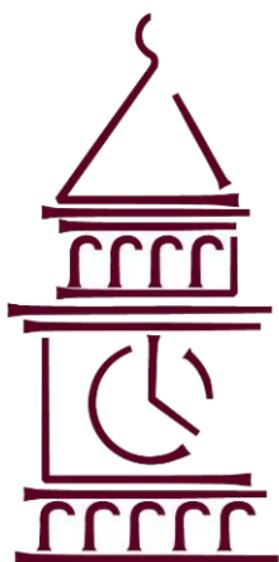
McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen P.C. Attorneys at Law



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