

Governing Texas

counties requires dynamic leadership. Are Texas's county leaders up to the challenge?

How they respond to the challenges of limited resources, increasing demands for services, emerging technologies, and changing demographics has effects that will reach far into the future.

The Commissioners Court Leadership Academy can help county judges and commissioners to fulfill their potential.

By building their leadership skills, these important officials will be better equipped to meet the needs of their counties and the people they serve.

*Photo courtesy of
Texas Department of
Transportation*

Members of Class II



Johnny Belicek
Jackson County
Commissioner
Edna



Mike Brown
Tom Green County
Judge
San Angelo



Jon Burrows
Bell County Judge
Belton



Neil Fritsch
Calhoun County
Commissioner
Port Lavaca



Roger Galvan
Calhoun County
Commissioner
Port Lavaca



David Magness
Rockwall County
Commissioner
Rockwall



Fred Nardini
San Patricio County
Commissioner
Portland



Duane Peters
Brazos County
Commissioner
Bryan



Byron Ryder
Leon County Judge
Centerville



Charles Simmons
Nacogdoches County
Commissioner
Nacogdoches



Tab Thompson
Erath County Judge
Stephenville

Program Overview

The Commissioners Court Leadership Academy is a 2-year program that builds advanced skills and knowledge in pursuit of four objectives:

- ◆ To increase knowledge of the origins and varying systems of county government and the interrelationship of local, state, and national government systems.
- ◆ To develop communication and interpersonal skills to more effectively present ideas and work with community members, colleagues, the media, and other elected officials.
- ◆ To enhance personal leadership and decision-making skills to better represent and lead constituents, counties, and associations.
- ◆ To improve the ability to serve as an advocate for county issues at all levels of government.

Important expectations of all Academy participants are:

- ◆ An open and inquiring mind.
- ◆ A willingness to learn.
- ◆ A commitment to actively participate in Academy activities and experiences.
- ◆ A commitment to greater service for the betterment of Texas county government.

Academy participation requires a time commitment of 16 days during the 2-year program period. The schedule includes three 3-day sessions and one 7-day session, including travel time to and from the meeting locations.

Selection to the Academy

Selection is based on a competitive process in which interested county judges and commissioners apply to participate in the program.

Successful candidates for the Academy pay a tuition fee which includes all sessions, accommodations, and out-of-state travel. Costs for in-state travel are borne by the participant.

The V. G. Young Institute of County Government is a part of Texas Cooperative Extension and The Texas A&M University System. Located in College Station, the Institute works to meet the educational needs of county officials and the public by anticipating, identifying, and addressing the challenges and opportunities faced by Texas county government.

The Institute offers educational programs, reference materials, and counsel to county officials, community organizations, and citizens across the state. The Institute is dedicated to the Extension mission of "providing quality, relevant outreach and continuing education programs and services to the people of Texas."

For more information about the Commissioners Court Leadership Academy or to learn how you can support this program, contact:



Rick Avery, Director
979.845.7572
r-avery@tamu.edu

**V. G. Young Institute
of County Government**
Texas Cooperative Extension
P.O. Box 2450
College Station, Texas 77841
Phone: 979.845.4572
Fax: 979.862.1516
<http://vgyi.tamu.ed>

Educational programs of Texas Cooperative Extension are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, Acts of Congress of May 8, 1914, as amended, and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. Edward G. Smith, Director, Texas Cooperative Extension, The Texas A&M University System

MKT-3548B

Produced by Agricultural Communications
2000 copies, August 2007



Commissioners Court LEADERSHIP academy

Class II 2007–2008

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