

87TH ANNUAL SOUTH TEXAS  
**County Judges and  
Commissioners Association**  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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# *Resiliency*

**June 28–July 1, 2021**

**SOUTH PADRE ISLAND CONVENTION CENTER,  
SOUTH PADRE ISLAND**

## Continuing Education

Participants may receive up to seventeen (17) hours of continuing education credit during this conference, and County Judges may receive up to four (4) hours of judicial credit.

## Educational Sponsors



JUDICIAL EDUCATION  
COORDINATED BY:



County Judges and Commissioners may receive up to ten (10) hours of Commissioners Court Advanced Curriculum during the conference.

## Conference Evaluation

At the close of the conference, please remember to complete and submit your conference evaluation. These evaluations help in planning future conferences. Your input is appreciated!

## 2022 Conference

Mark your calendars for the 88th Annual South Texas County Judges' and Commissioners' Association Conference to be held June 13-16, 2022, in Corpus Christi, TX. Block opens February 1, 2022.

## Spouse Program

Welcome! Please make sure you are registered at the registration desk to reserve your spot and receive program information. On Tuesday, June 29th, participants will attend "Experience South Padre Island Nature". Find out more information about this event on page 14.

*Sponsored By: Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP*

# 2021 Committee Appointments

## SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE

### CHAIR

Hon. Jill Sklar, Judge, Jackson Co.

### MEMBERS

Hon. David Hall, Commissioner, Calhoun Co.

Hon. Debbie Gonzales-Ingalsbe, Commissioner, Hays Co.

Hon. Wade J. Hedtke, Judge, Karnes Co.

Hon. James E. Teal, Judge, McMullen Co.



## RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

### CHAIR

Hon. Rudy Madrid, Judge, Kleberg Co.

### MEMBERS

Hon. Eduardo Gonzales, Commissioner, Willacy Co.

Hon. Juan C. Guerra, Judge, Jim Hogg Co.

Hon. Kristofer Linney, Commissioner, Bee Co.

Hon. Marcus Salinas, Commissioner, Kleberg Co.



## NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

### CHAIR

Hon. Joe Gonzalez, Commissioner, Nueces Co.

### MEMBERS

Hon. David Garza, Commissioner, Cameron Co.

Hon. Roberto G. Hernandez, Commissioner, Nueces Co.

Hon. Jerry Martinez, Commissioner, Kleberg Co.

Hon. Eric Ramos, Judge, Brooks Co.



## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

### CHAIR

Hon. Vern Lyssy, Commissioner, Calhoun Co.

### MEMBERS

Hon. Margie Gonzales, Commissioner, Jim Wells Co.

Hon. Greg Seidenberger, Commissioner, Guadalupe Co.



# Agenda and Class Schedule

## Monday, June 28

- 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. EARLY BIRD – PLANNING AND COMMUNICATING YOUR COUNTY'S BUDGET  
**Moderator: Hon. Jen Crownover**  
*Room 101-104*
- 10:10:50 a.m. COUNTY BUDGETING  
**Speaker: Hon. Tramer Woytek, Judicial Resource Liaison, Texas Association of Counties**
- 10:50- 11:40 a.m. ADOPTING AND CALCULATING THE TAX RATE  
**Speaker: Hon. Tracy Barrera, County Auditor, Atascosa Co.**
- 11:40-12:40 p.m. LUNCH
- 12:40-1:30 p.m. AGENDAS, POSTINGS, AND OPEN MEETING REQUIREMENTS  
**Speaker: Hon. Mary Cunningham, Judicial Program Manager, Texas Association of Counties**
- 1:30-2:30 p.m. COMMUNICATING THE BUDGET PROCESS  
**Speaker: Dr. Peter McGill, Director, V.G. Young Institute of County Government, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service**
- 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. REGISTRATION OPENS  
*Foyer*
- 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. EXHIBITS OPEN  
*Exhibit Hall*
- 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. **Committee Meetings**  
SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE  
*Conference Theater*  
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE  
*Room 201*  
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE  
*Room 202*  
SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE  
*Room 203*
- 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. WELCOME RECEPTION  
*Exhibit Hall*  
**Sponsored By: South Texas Economic and Energy Roundtable**

## Tuesday, June 29

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION CONTINUES

*Foyer*

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

EXHIBITS OPEN

*Exhibit Hall*

8:00 a.m.

OPENING GENERAL SESSION

*Room 101-104*

CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Hon. Jen Crownover, President, South Texas County  
Judges and Commissioners Association**

INVOCATION

**Rev. Jesus G. Garza, Pastor, Our Lady Star of the Sea**

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

**Cameron County Color Guard**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**Hon. Jill Sklar, Jackson County Judge**

NATIONAL ANTHEM

**Port Isabel School Student Representative**

CAMERON COUNTY WELCOME

**Hon. Eddie Trevino, Jr, Cameron County Judge**

GREETINGS

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

**Hon. Paul Cothren, President, North and East  
County Judges and Commissioners Association**

**Hon. Glen Whitley, President, West Texas County  
Judges and Commissioners Association**

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

**Julie Anderson, Editor, *County Progress***

**Dr. Peter McGuill, Director, V.G. Young Institute of  
County Government, Texas A&M AgriLife  
Extension Service**

8:20 a.m.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: EMOTIONAL WELL BEING DURING TIMES OF CRISIS

**Speaker: Dr. Barbara Baggerly-Hinojosa, CEO, Leadership Empowerment Group**

This keynote talk will focus on the development of emotional intelligence that will lead to better emotional well being during times of crisis, uncertainty, and change. Participants will learn the best practices for developing and maintaining a healthy emotional state during times of crisis. Major personality types will be reviewed with the purpose of developing self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, and relationship management.

9:10 a.m.



3.007 CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUES: REDISTRICTING

**Speaker: Mr. Bob Bass, Attorney, Allison, Bass and Magee, LLP**

County Redistricting-What is Redistricting, Why Do We Do It, and What Does the Process Require? The complex requirements of the United States and Texas Constitution for periodic redistricting following each federal census imposes a wide variety of obligations on governmental units. The 2021 Census will be particularly difficult due to the late release of census data, and the likely modification of election related deadlines.

10:00 a.m.

REFRESHMENT BREAK

*Exhibit Hall*

*Sponsored By: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Professional Associations*

10:20 a.m.



4.018 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

**Speaker: Mr. Country Weidler, Deputy Chief, Texas Division of Emergency Management**

As the lead agency in emergency response and recovery, TDEM works with county elected officials when called upon to provide state assistance in the event of an emergency. This session will describe the role and structure of the Texas Division of Emergency Management and their relationship with county government.

11:10 a.m.

COURTHOUSE SECURITY ASSESSMENTS

**Speakers: Terry Pickering and David Whitis, Law Enforcement Consultants, Texas Association of Counties**

This session will illustrate lessons learned from a variety of mass casualty incidents and will focus on low-cost methods to increase your chances of surviving similar encounters. A discussion of strategies on how to assess, plan and prepare before threats occur.

12:00 noon

PAST PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON - By Invitation Only  
*Room 202*

*Sponsored By: Allison, Bass and Magee LLC*

# Tuesday, June 29

## SPECIAL SESSION FOR COUNTY JUDGES

Room 101-104

Moderator: Hon. Jill Sklar

1:00 p.m.

### DRUGGED DRIVING PROCEDURES AND OPTIONS

**Speaker: Hon. Robert Anchondo, Judge, El Paso County Court at Law #2**

This presentation will discuss current issues that arise in impaired driving cases, different challenges presented in impaired driving cases, and recognizing factors to consider when making a sentencing decision in drugged driving cases.

2:00 p.m.

### INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL LAW

**Speaker: Hon. Alan Bristol, County Relations Officer, Texas Association of Counties**

Criminal law and evidence can be one of the most challenging issues in this primary judicial responsibility of many county judges. The speaker will outline the evidence, objections and rulings that occur in criminal cases and give the judges guidance in their rulings.

3:00 p.m.

### REFRESHMENT BREAK

*Exhibit Hall*

*Sponsored By: Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP, Vanir Construction Management*

3:15 p.m.

### PESKY PROBLEMS IN GUARDIANSHIP

**Moderator: Hon. Mary Cunningham, Judicial Program Manager, Texas Association of Counties**

**Invited Panelists:**

**Hon. Francisco Ponce, Dimmit County Judge**

**Hon. David Saucedo, Maverick County Judge**

The panel will discuss the various recurring problems that occur in guardianship cases and offer various procedures to deal with these challenging cases. Best practices and suggestions to maximize efficiency in guardianships will be outlined for consideration.

4:15 p.m.

### MENTAL HEALTH PROCESS: A-Z

**Moderator: Hon. Tramer Woytek, Judicial Program Liaison, Texas Association of Counties**

**Invited Panelists:**

**Hon. Francisco Ponce, Dimmit County Judge**

**Hon. Gilbert Saenz, Duval County Judge**

Mental health and intellectual disabilities continue to be a major concern for county judges and county budgets. The panel will discuss and offer suggestions for effective management and decision making to enhance effectiveness in mental health challenges for the court.

5:15 p.m.

ADJOURN



SPECIAL SESSION FOR COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS COURTS

*Room 101-104*

**Moderator: Hon. Joe Gonzalez**

1:15 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1:20 p.m.



4.013 RISK MANAGEMENT: SAFETY ISSUES

**Speaker: Greg Brinkmeyer, Senior Instructor,  
Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX)**

This presentation will discuss roadway, driver and vehicle characteristics in crashes. Fundamental principles of traffic control design, inspection, and maintenance will also be presented.

2:10 p.m.



3.019 SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS

**Eric Magee, Allison, Attorney, Bass and Magee, LLP**

The authority of the Commissioners Court to regulate subdivisions will be reviewed and tools to aid in exercising this authority will be presented.

3:00 p.m.

REFRESHMENT BREAK

*Exhibit Hall*

*Sponsored By: Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP*

3:20 p.m.



3.018 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES: SEPTIC ISSUES

**Speaker: Ryan Gerlich, Program Specialist,  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service**

Over 2.2 million homes and businesses in Texas rely on on-site sewage facilities (aka septic systems). Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service provides education for homeowners and professionals to ensure water quality and public health protection. The presentation will address many of frequently asked questions associated with operating these systems and discuss programs to address in impacts of failing septic systems.

4:10 p.m.



4.015 RECORDS MANAGEMENT: OPEN  
RECORDS UPDATES

**Speaker: Mr. Jim Allison, General Counsel,  
County Judges and Commissioners Association of  
Texas, Allison, Bass and Magee, LLP**

This session will provide an update regarding open records.

5:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

6:30 p.m.

HOST COURT NIGHT

See details on page 12.



# Wednesday, June 30

7:00 a.m.

INSPIRATIONAL BREAKFAST

*Room 202*

**Speaker: Feliberto Pereira, Minister, Ebenezer Christian Church, Executive Director, Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries**

*Sponsored By: NextEra Energy Resources*

8:00 a.m. – Noon

REGISTRATION & EXHIBITS OPEN

*Exhibit Hall*

9:00 a.m.

BUSINESS MEETING

*Room 101-104*

Committee Meeting Updates

9:40 a.m.

REFRESHMENT BREAK

*Exhibit Hall*

*Sponsored By: Hart InterCivic,*

*Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins and Mott, LLP*

## Concurrent Sessions

CCAC PHASE II

**Moderator: Hon. Jen Crownover**

*Conference Theater*

10:10 a.m.



2.006 COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR COLLECTOR

**Speaker: Hon. Kevin Kieschnick, Tax Assessor Collector, Nueces County**

This presentation will cover basic functions of the tax office and a round table discussion on the potential impacts of legislation from the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislature.

11:10 a.m.



2.015 JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICER

**Speakers: Rose Gomez, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Cameron County  
Annie M. Romero, Cameron County Deputy Director Juvenile Justice**

The Cameron County Juvenile Justice Department is committed in providing safety and security to the community by holding troubled youth accountable through supervision and rehabilitation services. CCJJD does more than “lock-up kids,” the department strives to provide “at promise” youth opportunities and resources that will help them continue in a positive track. In this session, CCJJD will share their innovative, collaborative, and cost-effective approaches (i.e., prevention/intervention program(s), building houses, lifeguard towers, GED, etc.) that not only benefits the youth/families, but the community as a whole.

## Concurrent Sessions

- 10:10 a.m.  **CCAC PHASE III**  
*Room 101-104*  
**Moderator: Hon. Jill Sklar**
- 10:10 a.m.  **4.006 FEES AND REVENUES**  
**Speaker: Hon. Tracy Barrera, County Auditor, Atascosa County**  
The session will summarize the history of fees and revenues, discuss reporting procedures, special revenues and uses, grant revenues and conditions and other sources of revenue.
- 11:10 a.m.  **4.021 STRATEGIC PLANNING**  
**Speaker: Dr. Rebekka Dudensing, Extension Economist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service**  
County and other local budgets are created annually based on expected revenues, but many needs require multi-year planning. The strategic budget planning (SBP) process helps elected and appointed officials simultaneously address long-run and single-year needs, facilitate savings and promoting fairness across department budgets. Most officials project spending conservatively, and combined budgets fall within expected revenue estimates.
- Noon LUNCH
- 1:30 p.m. LEISURE ACTIVITIES  
Please remember to register at the tournament registration table.
- 42 TOURNAMENT  
*Palm Grand Ballroom, Isla Grand*  
**Sponsored By: BuyBoard**
- POKER TOURNAMENT  
*Palm Grand Ballroom, Isla Grand*  
**Sponsored By: S&B Infrastructure**
- POKER TOURNAMENT  
*Palm Grand Ballroom, Isla Grand*  
**C.M. Company Auction**
- 6:30 p.m. PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION  
*Sandbar Courtyard, Isla Grand*  
**Sponsored By: McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen PC**
- 7:30 p.m. ASSOCIATION INSTALLATION BANQUET  
*Sandbar Courtyard*  
**Sponsored By: McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen PC**

# Thursday, July 1

7:30 a.m.

COFFEE AND PASTRIES

*Foyer*

*Sponsored By: Schneider Electric*

GENERAL SESSION

*Room 101-104*

**Moderator: Hon. Joe Gonzalez**

8:30 a.m.

FUNDING FOR VETERANS' ASSISTANCE

**Speakers: James Bracken- Director of Funds  
for Veterans Assistance, Texas Veterans Commission**

**Mike Jaeger- Southwest District Manager**

**Claims Department, Texas Veterans Commission**

**Gary Lee- Health Care Advocacy**

**Department Director, Texas Veterans Commission**

An overview of the programs and services administered by the Texas Veterans Commission.

9:20 a.m.



3.003 LAWMAKING: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

**Speaker: Jim Allison, General Counsel, County Judges  
and Commissioners Association of Texas**

This session will cover the legislative changes made in the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislature that affect county government.

10:10 a.m.



3.013 LEGISLATIVE PANEL - WORKING WITH  
THE LEGISLATURE

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

**Panelists: Invited Legislators**

Invited legislators will provide an overview of the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session from their respective positions.

11:00 a.m.

ADJOURN



# Host Court Night

**Cameron County Event Center  
and Amphitheater**

**Tuesday, June 29th • 6:00 p.m.**

Shuttle service will begin at 6pm. Pick up will begin at the Hilton Garden Inn, followed by the LaQuinta, Courtyard, and Isla Grand with Amphitheater dropoff. Return service will begin at 8pm, dropping off in reverse order.

Many thanks to Cameron County  
Commissioners Court and Planning Committee

Sponsored By



2021

# South Texas County Judges and Commissioners Association Officers

## PRESIDENT

Hon. Jen Crownover  
Comal County Commissioner

## FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Hon. Joe Gonzalez  
Nueces County Commissioner

## SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Hon. Jill Sklar  
Jackson County Judge

## IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Hon. Rudy Madrid  
Kleberg County Judge





# Spouse Program

## Tuesday, June 29th

Learn about South Padre Island's conservation and environmental awareness efforts. The day will begin at Sea Turtle Inc. where you will have the opportunity to meet Allison, the first sea turtle with a prosthetic fin. You will then head to the South Padre Island Birding, Nature Center, and Alligator Sanctuary to stroll the boardwalk through tidal wetlands and experience the flora, fauna, and the Laguna Madre Coastal area. Lunch is included on the Sun Terrace of the South Padre Island Convention Center.

### Schedule

8:45 am	Charter pick up from the Convention Center
9:00 am	Sea Turtle Inc.
10:45 am	South Padre Island Birding, Nature, & Alligator Sanctuary
Noon	Lunch: South Padre Island Convention Center
1:00 pm	Adjourn

Sponsored By  **LINEBARGER**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



# Exhibitors

Advanced Drainage Systems  
AGCM  
Alamo Industrial  
A-Lert Roof Systems  
American National Leasing Company  
Asphalt Zipper  
ATMAX Equipment Co.  
BIS Digital, Inc.  
Bobcat of Dallas  
Brinkley Sargent Wiginton Architects  
Burns Architecture, Inc.  
BuyBoard  
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Centrica Business Solutions  
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Cleveland Asphalt Products, Inc.  
Cooper Equipment  
County Progress  
Dannenbaum Engineering  
Diamond Mowers  
DK Haney Roofing  
Doucet and Associates  
E3 Entegral Solutions  
EPulse USA  
GovDeals  
GrantWorks, Inc.  
HDR Architecture, Inc  
ICON  
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Indigent Healthcare Solutions  
Level 5 Architecture  
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MULTI SEAL Jones Enterprises  
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Performance Services  
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Purchasing Cooperative of America  
Purple Wave Auction  
R.B. Everett & Company  
Roadside Consulting LLC  
Rock Asphalt  
ROMCO Equipment  
S&B Infrastructure  
SAFE-D  
Southern Tire Mart  
SpawGlass  
Teague Nall and Perkins, Inc.  
Tellus Equipment  
Texas Asphalt Pavement Association  
Texas Association of Counties  
Texas Concrete Pipe Association  
Texas Correctional Industries  
Texas General Land Office  
Texas Political Subdivisions  
The PlayWell Group, Inc.  
The Railroad Yard  
Tiger Corporation  
Trane Commercial Services  
Transline (Centerline, Trantex,  
Florida Transcor)  
TxLTAP - University of Texas at Arlington  
Unique Paving Materials Corp.  
VR Systems, Inc.  
Vulcan Materials  
Welch State Bank

Our apologies to those exhibitors whose information was not available at press time.



# Special Thanks to our 2021 Conference Sponsors

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BuyBoard  
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GrantWorks  
S&B Infrastructure  
SpawGlass  
South Texas Economic and Energy Roundtable  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Professional Association

## Bronze

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Schneider Electric  
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