

Erath County Judge's Summary (November 1, 2021)

The Erath County Commissioner's Court meets in regular sessions on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. Meeting notices (including special meetings), Agendas and Minutes are posted on the County website <https://www.co.erath.tx.us/agendacenter>

Selected Agenda items from the October Commissioner's Court meetings:

- A discussion was had regarding a tax abatement request for the NextEra Solar Farm, proposed to be located in southern Erath County. The request had been withdrawn by NextEra prior to the meeting, but sever prior to the meeting. The meeting was attended by 32 persons, four of which spoke out against construction of the proposed solar farm. Construction approval is not under the purview of the Commissioners' Court. The Court voted unanimously against granting a tax abatement to the solar farm.
- Approved Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) contract agreements with Erath County VFD, Carlton VFD, Huckabay VFD, Selden VFD, and Desdemona VFD. Huckabay Chief Shelby Blackwell spoke to discuss concerns regarding the issuance of radio call numbers.
- Payroll deductions (optional) for donations to United Way were approved. An employee may now sign up and donate to United Way thru the county payroll system.
- The Employee Health Insurance Deductible Reimbursement Plan was discussed. Employee insurance deductibles increased from \$750 to \$1,500. The increase was a way to reduce employee insurance premium costs. The plan calls for the County to reimburse the difference (up to \$750) to any employee who exceeds the initial out of pocket deductible amount (the first \$750).
- Septic Permit and Development (i.e. Subdivisions) fees were discussed. It was decided that the Court gather more information before making a final decision if changes need to be made.
- Erath County Auditor Kent Reeves was reappointed to a second two-year term by District Judge Jason Cashon.
- Ms. Jo Ann Phillips submitted a resignation from the Erath County Historical Society. We wish her well. Come to the first floor of the courthouse to check out some of the Historical Society's contributions to publicizing Erath's history. The organization provided a big screen TV (and content) that plays several programs with historical facts and information about Erath County.
- The Court held a workshop to discuss updates to the subdivision and rural development rules. This will be a continuing endeavor as we address the increased demands for development in Erath County. Most of our growth has been in Precinct 4. Only Precincts 2 and 4 will be affected by the 2020 Redistricting:

County Population subject to redistricting = 41,841			
Before Redistricting		2020 Redistricting	
Precinct 1	10,600	Precinct 1	10,600
Precinct 2	8,557	Precinct 2	10,116
Precinct 3	10,805	Precinct 3	10,805
Precinct 4	11,879	Precinct 4	10,320

Redistricting Summary

- 1,559 residents in Pct. 4 will be redistricted to Pct. 2, while Pct. 1 and 3 remain the same.
- Republican Senator Brian Birdwell is our new State Senator as we move from District 30 to District 22. (previously we had Republican Drew Springer).
- We remain in House District 59, represented by Republican Shelby Slawson.
- Republican Congressman Roger Williams will now represent all of Erath County in the TX 25 District (the county was previously split with Republican August Pfluger-TX11).

Early voting has come to a close. Election Day is the last day to cast a vote in the current election. Tuesday November 2 is the official Election Day. Polls will be open 7AM-7PM. Election Day voting locations include:

- the Erath County Courthouse;

- Dublin County Annex at 219 Grafton in Dublin TX ;
- Texas Bank at 988 Wolfe Nursery Road;
- Texas AgriLife at 1229 N. US Hwy 288

Voting locations can be found at

<https://www.co.erath.tx.us/DocumentCenter/View/2618/Nov-2021-Voting-Locations-and-Hours-PDF>

Check out Erath County Jobs on our website: <https://www.co.erath.tx.us/Jobs.aspx>

Current job openings include: Assistant County Attorney, Deputy Treasurer, Dispatcher, Investigator, Emergency Medical Technician, Maintenance Worker, Jailer, and Patrol Deputy,

Old news.....

- 1882 The Stephenville High School is progressing finely, with an attendance of one hundred and thirty students. (*The Stephenville Empire, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas, Saturday Oct. 28, 1882*)

- 1898 Henry Williams, who killed Editor Austin King at Stephenville, Erath County, has been sentenced to 18 years in the penitentiary. The world will please note that it's against the law to kill editors. (*The Nacogdoches Plaindealer, Nacogdoches, Tex, Dec. 1, 1898 - vm*)

- 1899 Bluffdale, Tex., Nov. 9 - Tom Wright will be hanged at Stephenville tomorrow for the murder of Constable Adams at Dublin. The governor has declined to commute the sentence to life time imprisonment. Mr. J. C. Adams, son of the murdered Adams at Dublin is in our town making an effort to establish a newspaper to be known as the Paluxy Valley News. (*Fort Worth Morning Register, November 10, 1899, page 1, transcribed by Peggy Thompson*)



Citizens are invited to attend and are welcome to address the Commissioner's Court by signing up to speak. Signing up to speak can be done on site just prior to the meeting being called to order. Arrive a few minutes early.

Please call me with any questions. Let me know how we can better serve you.

You may contact my office with any opinions or suggestions at (254) 965-1415, or send me an email at countyjudge@co.erath.tx.us We are here to serve you, until next time –

Regards,
Alfonso Campos – Erath County Judge



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Be instantly notified of alerts and emergencies in the area by subscribing at <https://www.co.erath.tx.us/AlertCenter.aspx>



With outgoing (due to redistricting) Senator Drew Springer at the Capitol in Austin, TX. We thank Senator Springer for his service while representing us in Austin.



With Judge Latrelle Cain in Dublin, TX. Judge Cain retired in October. She was a long-time Erath County Justice of the Peace and Dublin Municipal Judge. We thank Judge Cain for her public service to both Erath County and Dublin.



Incoming State Senator Brian Birdwell, in Granbury TX. Senator Birdwell has been in the Texas Legislature since 2010. Retired Lt. Col Birdwell is a native Texan, decorated military veteran and represents Texas Senate District 22. Born in Ft. Worth, Brian is a graduate of Lamar University in Beaumont, US Army Command and General Staff College, and the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where he earned a Master of Public Administration Degree.