

**COUNTY JUDGES & COMMISSIONERS  
ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS  
402 WEST 12<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701**

800-733-0699  
512-482-0701  
512-480-0902 FAX  
[www.cjcat.org](http://www.cjcat.org)



**OFFICERS:**

*President*

ALMA V. MORENO  
Commissioner, San Patricio County  
119 N. Atascosa Street  
Mathis, Texas 78368  
(361) 547-2132  
(361) 547-0639 – Fax

*First Vice President*

WES SUITER  
Judge, Angelina County  
102 W. Frank Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Lufkin, Texas 75901  
(936) 634-5413  
(936) 637-7452 – Fax

*Second Vice President*

CHUCK STAITLER  
Commissioner, Taylor County  
300 Oak Street, Suite 204  
Abilene, Texas 79602  
(325) 669-6266  
(325) 674-1365 – Fax

*Past President*

WOODROW W. GOSSOM, JR.  
Judge, Wichita County  
900 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 260  
Wichita Falls, Texas 76301  
(940) 766-8101  
(940) 766-8289 – Fax

**EXECUTIVE BOARD:**

*North and East Texas*  
BYRON RYDER  
Judge, Leon County

*South Texas*  
JOSEPH PALACIOS  
Commissioner, Hidalgo County

*West Texas*  
SHERRI B. HARRISON  
Judge, Bailey County

**GENERAL COUNSEL:**

JAMES P. ALLISON  
Allison, Bass & Magee, L.L.P.  
402 W. 12th Street  
Austin, Texas 78701  
1-800-733-0699  
(512) 482-0701  
(512) 480-0902 – Fax  
[j.allison@allison-bass.com](mailto:j.allison@allison-bass.com)

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE:**

*Chairman:*  
BYRON UNDERWOOD  
Commissioner, Cherokee County  
135 South Main Street  
Rusk, Texas 75785  
(903) 842-3535  
(903) 842-3541 – Fax

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:**

*Chairman:*  
ROBERT JOHNSTON  
Judge, Anderson County  
703 North Mallard Street, Ste. 101  
Palestine, Texas 75801  
(903) 723-7406  
(903) 723-7494 – Fax

**Significant Indigent Health Care legislation  
from the 85<sup>th</sup> Legislature**

- I. There were no changes in Chapter 61, Health and Safety Code (County Indigent Health Care and Treatment Act).
- II. S.B. 1 General Appropriations Act – Reduced State Assistance Fund from \$2,186,446 to \$879,127 per year, a 60% reduction.
- III. Jail Health Care
  - A. S.B. 1326 – Effective 9/1/17, requires jail to notify magistrate within 12 hours of inmate with mental illness; requires assessment within 96 hours by LMHA after order from magistrate.
  - B. S.B. 1849 – By 9/1/20, jail must provide 24/7 access to tele-mental health services.
  - C. Section 61.036(c)(3), Health and Safety Code, jail inmate health services count toward state assistance.
  - D. Section 26.0441, Tax Code, adjustment in the effective tax rate for increased indigent health care costs.
  - E. Section 26.044, Tax Code, adjustment for increased criminal justice cost for TDCJ inmates.
- IV. CHIP and Section 1115 Waiver Renewals – The Sword over Our Heads

**COUNTY JUDGES & COMMISSIONERS  
ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS  
402 WEST 12<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701**

800-733-0699  
512-482-0701  
512-480-0902 FAX  
[www.cjcat.org](http://www.cjcat.org)



**OFFICERS:**

*President*  
WOODROW W. GOSSOM, JR.  
Judge, Wichita County  
900 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 260  
Wichita Falls, Texas 76301  
(940) 766-8101  
(940) 766-8289 - Fax

*First Vice President*  
ALMA V. MORENO  
Commissioner, San Patricio County  
119 N. Atascosa Street  
Mathis, Texas 78368  
(361) 547-2132  
(361) 547-0639 - Fax

*Second Vice President*  
WES SUTTER  
Judge, Angelina County  
102 W. Frank Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Lufkin, Texas 75901  
(936) 634-5413  
(936) 637-7452 - Fax

*Past President*  
GROVER "Tiger" WORSHAM  
Commissioner, Trinity County  
P.O. Box 475  
Groveton, Texas 75845  
(936) 635-0270  
(936) 642-1261 - Fax

**EXECUTIVE BOARD:**  
*North and East Texas*  
EVERETTE "Bo" ALFRED  
Commissioner, Jefferson County

*South Texas*  
BEN ZELLER  
Judge, Victoria County

*West Texas*  
BILL McCAY  
Commissioner, Lubbock County

**GENERAL COUNSEL:**  
JAMES P. ALLISON  
Allison, Bass & Magee, L.L.P.  
402 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, Texas 78701  
1-800-733-0699  
(512) 482-0701  
(512) 480-0902 - Fax  
[j.allison@allison-bass.com](mailto:j.allison@allison-bass.com)

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE:**  
*Chairman:*  
BYRON UNDERWOOD  
Commissioner, Cherokee County  
135 South Main Street  
Rusk, Texas 75785  
(903) 842-3535  
(903) 842-3541 - Fax

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:**  
*Chairman:*  
ROBERT JOHNSTON  
Judge, Anderson County  
703 North Mallard Street, Ste. 101  
Palestine, Texas 75801  
(903) 723-7406  
(903) 723-7494 - Fax

**Important Legislation from the 85<sup>th</sup> Legislature –  
Regular and Special Sessions**

Over 7,600 bills and constitutional amendments were introduced in the 85<sup>th</sup> Regular and Special Sessions. Below is a summary of some important ones.

**PASSED REGULAR SESSION**

H.B. 4104 by Rep. Coleman/Sen. Garcia – Clarifies Commissioners Court control of statutory court personnel, positions and budget

S.B. 1 by Sen. Nelson/Rep. Zerwas – General Appropriations Act

- 1) Decreased most county programs including 911 Operations, Elections Equipment and Voter Registration, EMS and Trauma Care, Indigent Health Care, Indigent Defense, Judicial Training, Adult Probation, Juvenile Probation, Park Grants, Auto Burglary Grants, and DPS Laboratories
- 2) Increased Criminal Justice Grants, Disaster Funds, CPS Funds, Mental Health Funds, TxDot Funds
- 3) Imposed 13.81% increase in school taxes

S.B. 4 by Sen. Perry/Rep. Geren – Sanctuary Counties

- 1) Imposed penalties upon counties for failure to hold ICE detainees.
- 2) Prohibits policies on immigration status checks allowing each peace officer to determine.

S.B. 42 by Sen. Zaffirini/Rep. Smithee – Courthouse Security

- 1) Creates Courthouse Security Committee and Plan
- 2) Requires state-funded training for courthouse security officers

S.B. 1849 by Sen. Whitmire/Rep. Coleman – Sandra Bland Act

- 1) Provides Grants and Requires Electronic Jail Checks
- 2) Provides Grants and Requires Mental Health Collaborative Plans
- 3) Provides Grants and Requires 24/7 TeleMental Health Access in Jail

S.B. 2053 by Sen. West /Rep. Murr – Indigent Defense Funding

- 1) Re-Allocates \$15 million in court costs to indigent defense fund
- 2) No Appropriation

DID NOT PASS REGULAR SESSION

S.B. 2 by Sen. Bettoncourt/Rep. Bonnen – Revenue Caps

H.J.R. 73 by Rep. Burns – Constitutional Amendment Prohibiting Unfunded Mandates

H.B. 21 by Rep. Huberty – Allocating \$1.8B for Public Education

H.B. 2068 by Rep. Phillips – Repeal of the Drivers Responsibility Act

PASSED IN SPECIAL SESSION

H.B. 21 by Rep. Huberty/Sen L. Taylor – provides \$300 million for Public Education

DID NOT PASS IN SPECIAL SESSION

S.B. 1 by Sen Bettencourt/Rep. Bonnen – Revenue Caps

H.J.R. 31 by Rep. Shine – Constitutional Amendment Prohibiting Unfunded Mandates