

SEMILAR FOR NEWLY ELECTED
COUNTY JUDGES
AND COMMISSIONERS

January 10-13, 2023

Texas A&M Hotel and Conference Center
College Station, TX



TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

V.G. YOUNG INSTITUTE OF
COUNTY GOVERNMENT



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

January 10-13, 2023

Texas A&M Hotel and Conference Center
College Station, TX



**V.G. YOUNG INSTITUTE OF
COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

**V.G. Young Institute of County
Government Staff**

Peter McGuill, Ph.D.
Program Director
pjmccguill@ag.tamu.edu

Jennifer Baldwin
Program Coordinator
jennifer.baldwin@ag.tamu.edu

Katy Gottwald
Program Coordinator
katygottwald@ag.tamu.edu

Natalie Hejl
Senior Administrative Coordinator
natalie.hejl@ag.tamu.edu

V.G. Young Institute of County Government
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
600 John Kimbrough Blvd., Ste. 128
2137 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-2137
Phone: (979) 845.4572
Email: vgyi@ag.tamu.edu
Website: vgyi.tamu.edu

WELCOME LETTER



On behalf of the V.G. Young Institute of County Government, part of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, welcome to the Seminar for Newly Elected County Judges and 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 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

Continuing education (CE) credit of 20.5 hours has 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 Friday, January 13, 2023.

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 Friday, January 13, 2023.

GENERAL INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

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 7:00-10:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m
- The Junction Market & Cafe open 6:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Block T Bar & Grill open 4:00 to 11:00 p.m.

LOCAL CONTACTS

- Texas A&M Hotel and Conference Center, (888) 654-4436
- CapRock Urgent Care, open 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
- Emergency assistance: 911

2023 V.G. YOUNG INSTITUTE SCHOOL FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURTS

The 2023 School for County Commissioners Courts will be held in Bryan, Texas, at the Brazos County Expo Center, February 21-23, 2023.

AGENDA

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

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. Rick Avery, Director, Texas A&M
AgriLife Extension Service*

**Constitutional Basis of County
Government**

Speaker: *Mr. Jim Allison, Senior
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. Rick Bailey, Johnson
County Commissioner
Hon. Jill Sklar, Jackson County Judge
Dr. Peter McGuill, 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. Tim Addison, Yoakum County Commissioner*
Hon. J.D. Clark, Wise County Judge
Mr. Nathan Cradduck, Tom Green County Auditor

4:30-5:30 p.m. **Sources of Revenue and Types of Expenditures**
Speaker: *Mr. Nathan Cradduck, Tom Green County Auditor*

5:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

6:30-8:00 p.m. **Welcome Reception –**
Letterman’s Club at Kyle Field
Sponsored by:
Texas Association of Counties
and V.G. Young Institute of County Government

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

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**
Speaker: *Mr. Scott Arledge, Director of Purchasing, Denton County*

9:00-9:50 a.m. **Health and Human Services Issues**
Speaker: *Ms. Ebony Jackson, Director, Bell County Health Services*

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: *Ms. Lorie Floyd,
HR Consultant, Texas Association
of Counties*

11:30 a.m. -
12:45 p.m. **Working Lunch: Legislative Communications**

Speaker: *Mr. John Sharp,
Chancellor, TAMUS*

1:00-1:50 p.m. **Property Tax Issues**

Speaker: *Hon. Glen Whitley,
Retired Tarrant County Judge*

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, General
Counsel, County Judges and
Commissioners Association of Texas*



SEMINAR FOR NEWLY ELECTED COUNTY JUDGES AND COMMISSIONERS

4:20-5:10 p.m. **County Regulatory Authority**
Speaker: *Mr. Eric Magee, General Counsel, County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas*

5:10 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 12

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 Commissioners Court Meeting**
Speaker: *Mr. Jim Allison, Senior 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*

SEMINAR FOR NEWLY ELECTED COUNTY JUDGES AND COMMISSIONERS

- 10:40-11:30 a.m. **Guide to Texas Ethics and Disclosure Law Ch. 171 & 174**
Speaker: *Mr. Paul Miles, Associate General Counsel, Texas Association of Counties*
- 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. **Working Lunch: County and Judicial Issues in the Legislature**
Moderator: *Mr. Jim Allison, Senior General Counsel, County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas*
Speakers: *Panel*
- 1:00-1:50 p.m. **Working Effectively with the Legislature / State Government**
Speaker: *Mr. Jim Allison, Senior General Counsel, County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas*
- 1:50-2:40 p.m. **Law Enforcement and Jail Issues**
Speakers: *Hon. Brian Hawthorne, Chambers 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**

SEMINAR FOR NEWLY ELECTED COUNTY JUDGES AND COMMISSIONERS

3:00-3:50 p.m.

**Emergency Management
Issues – County Role**

Speakers: *Chief Nim Kidd, Vice
Chancellor for Disaster and Emergency
Services, Texas A&M University
System & Chief of the Texas Division
of Emergency Management
Hon. Jimmy Sylvia, Chambers
County Judge*

4:00-5:00 p.m.

Open Forum

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

Moderator: *Hon. Kim Halfmann,
County Relations Officer,
Texas Association of Counties*
Speakers: *Hon. Kirk Frye,
Parmer County Commissioner
Hon. James Teal, McMullen
County Judge*

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

Moderator: *Hon. Susan Redford,
Executive Director, Texas Association
of Counties*
Speakers: *Hon. Kelly Traylor,
Cherokee County Commissioner
Hon. Jimmy Sylvia, Chambers
County Judge*

SEMINAR FOR NEWLY ELECTED COUNTY JUDGES AND COMMISSIONERS

Medium/Large Counties >50,000

Population – Corps Room

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

Speakers: *Hon. Jen Crowover,
Comal County Commissioner
Hon. Wade McKinney, Henderson
County Judge*

5:00 p.m.

Adjourn

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

7:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

GENERAL SESSION

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

8:00-9:15 a.m.

Open Forum

Small Counties <15,000

Population – Century Ballroom

Moderator: *Hon. Kim Halfmann,
County Relations Officer,
Texas Association of Counties*

Speakers: *Hon. Kirk Frye,
Parmer County Commissioner
Hon. James Teal, McMullen
County Judge*

SEMINAR FOR NEWLY ELECTED COUNTY JUDGES AND COMMISSIONERS

Medium Counties 15,000 to 50,000

Population – Ross Room

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

Speakers: *Hon. Kelly Traylor, Cherokee County Commissioner*

Hon. Jimmy Sylvia, Chambers County Judge

Medium/Large Counties >50,000

Population – Corps Room

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

Speakers: *Hon. Jen Crownover, Comal County Commissioner*

Hon. Wade McKinney, Henderson County Judge

9:00-10:15 a.m.

Effective Operations of County Government

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

Speakers: *Hon. Jen Crownover, Comal County Commissioner*

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

Hon. Kim Halfmann, County Relations Officer, Texas Association of Counties



SEMINAR FOR NEWLY ELECTED COUNTY JUDGES AND COMMISSIONERS

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

10:30-11:30 a.m. **So What? Now What?**

Session: Q&A Wrap-up

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

Speakers: *Hon. Wade McKinney,
Henderson County Judge*

Hon. Susan Redford, Executive

Director, Texas Association of Counties

*Hon. Kirk Frye, Parmer County
Commissioner*

11:30-11:45 a.m. **Closing Remarks**

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

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

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

SEMINAR FOR NEWLY ELECTED COUNTY JUDGES AND COMMISSIONERS

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



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



SEMINAR FOR NEWLY ELECTED COUNTY JUDGES AND COMMISSIONERS

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

Helping Texans Better Their Lives

*Extension Education
delivers...*

Statewide network, local outreach
Extension educators, specialists,
and trained volunteers serving
all 254 Texas counties



Practical programs
Valuable learning experiences
and skills training for adults and
youth



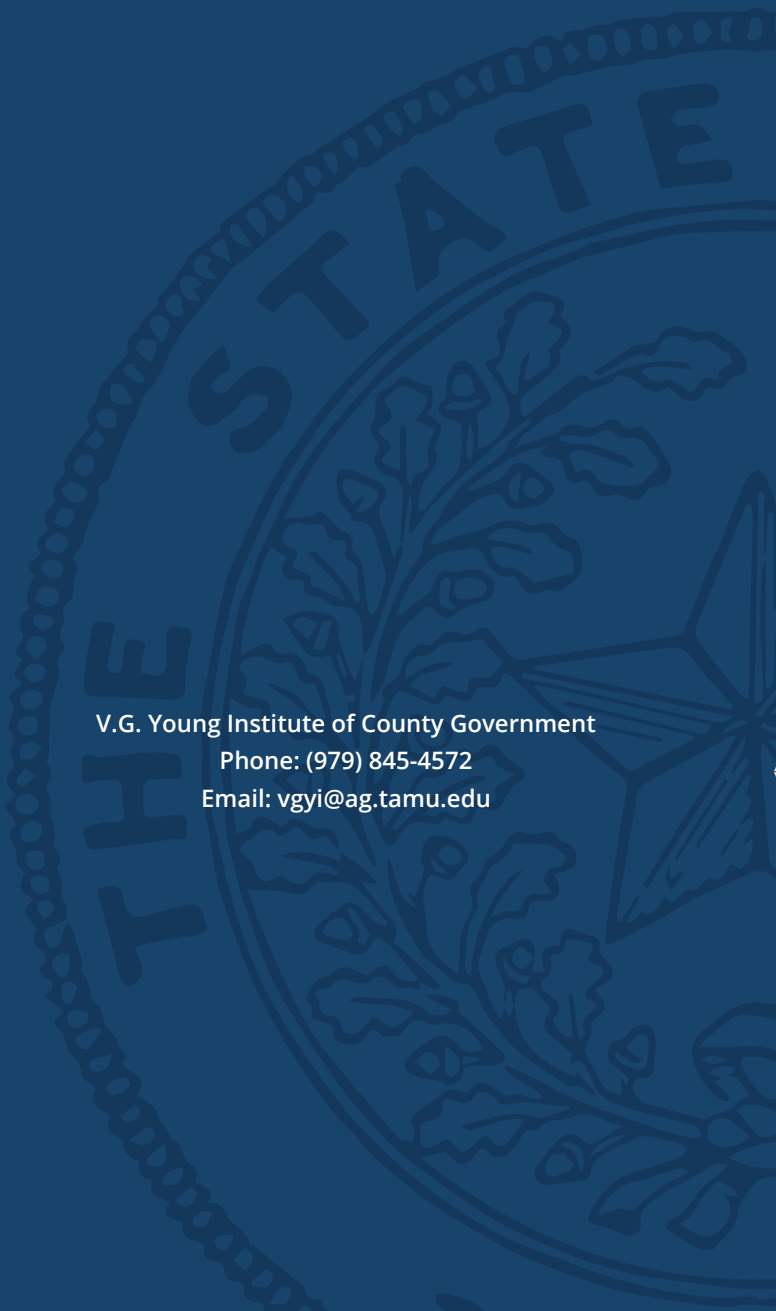
Expertise
Proven solutions from trusted
experts and scientific research

Resource partnerships
Joint efforts that leverage
funding, increase impact, and
prevent duplication of services



*To learn more about Extension
Education and the return on your
county's investment, visit
AgriLifeExtension.tamu.edu/impacts*

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is an equal opportunity employer and program provider.
The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County
Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.



V.G. Young Institute of County Government

Phone: (979) 845-4572

Email: vgyi@ag.tamu.edu

