

## **ATASCOSA COUNTY JUDGES REPORT**

I am excited to say that we are developing an excellent budget for 2023. We still have to adopt it on September 12, but except for some minor tweaking, we have it ready. It will be a 15% decrease in the county tax rate – 9 cent reduction. I wish to offer credit for a job well done by our county auditor. Tracy Barrera has been instrumental in supporting my desire for a balanced budget, and she has done that for the last three years. That includes this budget we will be ratifying. I also wish to offer credit for a job well done by the county commissioners. They have worked hard with the auditor and me to reach our goal. Outstanding commissioners have blessed me during all my tenure as your county judge.

We will open the Juvenile Post (adjudication) Treatment Program inside our Juvenile Detention Center on September 1. I have been working on this for over three years, and as difficult as it has been, the results will be a fantastic payoff for treating the area's troubled juveniles. It will produce the revenue necessary to justify keeping the detention center open. It will do a better job for the area counties to use, and ours, by providing a location close enough for the families to visit. Most places we have available to send our juveniles are several hundred miles away, and most families are low-income families and cannot afford the trip. It is exciting to me when we can do something to reduce costs to our taxpayers while doing a better job performing a necessary judicial function.

Thanks for reading. May God bless us all. And, God, thank you for the rain. Please bring more! Amen.