

ATASCOSA COUNTY JUDGES REPORT

I am so pleased to announce that the Secretary of State (SOS) has issued a statement dated December 30th that Atascosa County's test participation is designated successful! They went on to write "we hereby certify that Atascosa County conducted a successful countywide polling place program in the November 2019 election. As a result, Atascosa County is authorized to continue to hold its elections using county polling places subject to the approval of county commissioners court." The lion's share of the work has been done by Janice Ruple and the staff at the County Elections office and they deserve the credit for this effort. Also, the County Commissioners have been very supportive of this process and they are appreciated. Many community leaders have been so helpful, and their support has been invaluable. We are in a new era of super accessible voting for our county. This has required changes and an easy but different learning process, and our citizens have been wonderful. Many have been reluctant to go from the old manual paper ballot, but the feedback I have received is that every person who made the transition wound up liking it. That is heartwarming.

Another quick note is that during this time of county, state and national election filing I have been asked if I am going to run again. I am not up for reelection this time. I have 3 years left on my term. As to what will happen, I can only say that this has been the best job of my life. I truly enjoy it. From my other jobs I have fond memories and great friends. But being County Judge has allowed me to do much good. I have almost two years to decide about a 3rd term. I will consider my family, my health and my ability to continue to do a good job for Atascosa County and will let you know then. But, as for now it is a job that I love getting up every day and going to.

Quote: *"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."* — Mahatma Gandhi

Thank you for listening. 😊 We want you to be proud of your county government.