

ATASCOSA COUNTY JUDGES REPORT

A misconception is being spread through the county that the business grants the county has worked on are from County tax revenues. County officials are receiving calls about this matter from concerned citizens. These rumors are wrong!

These monies have been received from the state and the federal government for various types of assistance and have rules concerning what we can spend them on. Business grants are an explicit allowance in the COVID Federal funds distributed through the state last year and the American Rescue Plan (ARP) sent to us this year. We have assistance funds available received from the Federal Government. I can not think of a better place to inject money into the local economy than to help businesses that have suffered forced closures and/or diminished revenues due to COVID during the last year. Last year we also included rent and mortgage assistance to assist those that were hurting. All money that has or will be distributed for this is totally from these funds. Not one penny is from County tax revenues or county funds.

I have something positive to report. I received an email from a citizen about voting at the early voting location. She said that, "last Tuesday my husband and I voted at the main site in Jourdanton and we were so pleased with all who helped us. (my husband) ... needed extra assistance in using the voting machine. We were greeted at the door by Lisa Coleman and she showed us where to register. I didn't get the name of the gentleman who registered us but he was patient as ... (my husband) struggled to get his ID out of his wallet. Carole Shipley encouraged ... (my husband) to take time to put his ID back in his wallet before going into the other room (those small details are important for patients). Lisa helped him ... [with] the buttons on the voting machine and the lady at the final machine to cast the ballot took care to help him understand how to place the paper into the machine that counted his ballot. All of these activities are so important to those who need extra help - this makes them feel that they are still a valuable part of society and provide them with confidence and acceptance. We appreciate the voting staff who enable all of us to cast our votes with dignity and ease. We had failed to meet the deadline to register for mail-in ballots - we'll make sure we meet that requirement in 2022."

We have so many fine people working in all areas of the county. Our Elections Administrator, Janice Ruple, has put together these fine poll workers and overseen their training.

Thanks for listening. Your County Government is getting better all the time.