

ATASCOSA COUNTY JUDGES REPORT

I want to use this space today to make it known that at this time I do not plan to seek another term as county judge. I am making this announcement in May so it will be early enough to allow time for people to consider running for the position. This job is very demanding and it needs someone that is business-minded, with intelligence, integrity and a strong work ethic.

By statute, the county judge is the constitutional budget officer for the county with the assistance of the county auditor and is directed to prepare the annual budget. By statute, the county judge is the emergency manager for the county. In addition, the county judge directly supervises certain County Departments and much more. In this county, the county judge also has primary judicial duties of Probate and Guardianship Court, Juvenile Court and County Appeals Court. The county judge is by statute the presiding officer of commissioners' court which conducts the business of the county. Judicial responsibilities require absolute integrity in ALL phases of the county judges' job because all actions reflect on the Judiciary. That is law and the Texas Judicial Commission enforces that need for judicial integrity. Judges in Texas are held to the highest possible ethical standard of an elected official. Whoever you may consider for this job should meet that standard in their personal and business life.

This may very well be the best job I have ever had, and I truly enjoy it. I have enjoyed amazing commissioners to work with and we have done much to equip a county that has doubled in population in the last 10 years. But I cannot defy the calendar and I must consider family, personal time and my own needs as I am getting older.

To be clear, I will continue to be your county judge until December 31, 2022. There are 17 months left. We have several important issues to deal with and I want to finish those projects. Election filing is a short six months away with elections taking place next year. I am trying to do the right thing for Atascosa County by this announcement. Thank you. I pray that God will bless Atascosa County and all its citizens.