

# SPOTLIGHT

Texas is made up of 254 counties, each with a team of locally elected and appointed county officials serving their community. Polk County's elected offices include a County Judge and four Road & Bridge Commissioners that make up the Commissioners Court, the County Court at Law Judge, four Justices of the Peace, four Constables, a County Clerk, District Clerk, District Attorney, Treasurer, Tax Assessor-Collector and Sheriff.

There is no hierarchy in county government, so the only boss of these elected officials is ***You, the People.***

There are two District Court systems that serve Polk County, the 258th and the 411th Courts, which are responsible for appointing our County Auditor. The County Judge appoints the Emergency Management Coordinator, and all other officials are appointed by the Commissioners Court to run various county departments. These include Aging Services Director, Environmental Enforcement Officer, Fire Marshal, Grant & Contract Coordinator, Human Resources Manager, IT & Systems Administrator, Maintenance Superintendent, Museum Curator, Permits/Inspections Supervisor, Social Services Director and Veterans Services Officer. Learn more about your local offices by reading this latest installment of

***Spotlight on Polk County:***

*Road & Bridge Commissioners*

# Polk County

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ON POLK COUNTY: *Road & Bridge Commissioners*

## What is a County Commissioner?

The county commissioner is responsible for roads and bridges within their precinct and makes policy-making budget decisions. Four commissioners, elected from a quarter of the county's population, serve along with the county judge on the commissioner's court.

## What does a County Commissioner Do in Texas?

A county commissioner in Polk County, Texas has the following duties:

- As member of the commissioners court, exercises broad policy-making authority
- Represents one of four precincts within the county
- Responsible for building and maintaining county roads and bridges within the precinct

### Commissioners Court

The commissioners court conducts the general business of the county and consists of the county judge and four commissioners.

The court:

- Adopts the county's budget and tax rate
- Approves all budgeted purchases of the county
- Fills vacancies in elective and appointive offices
- Sets all salaries and benefits
- Has exclusive authority to authorize contracts
- Provides and maintains all county buildings and facilities

For more complete information about the responsibilities of a county commissioner and other county officials, see the ["2018 Guide to Texas Laws for County Officials."](#)

*Please note: Some duties performed by officials may vary within individual counties.*

## County Commissioner Education Requirements

Commissioners are required to attain 16 hours every 12-month period and may carry forward up to eight hours. Some exceptions apply.

## County Commissioner Qualifications

A County Commissioner must meet the following qualifications at the time of appointment or election:

- U.S. Citizen
- Resident of Texas for at least 12 consecutive months
- Resident of the precinct for at least six consecutive months
- Registered to vote in the commissioners precinct
- At least 18 years of age
- Not have been finally convicted of a felony from which they have not been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disabilities
- Not have been determined by a court with probate jurisdiction to be totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote

*Candidates for this office generally must meet the above qualifications at the time of filing.*

## Polk County Commissioners:

**Precinct 1: Guylene Robertson**, 936-365-2222, 200 Tyler Ave. Goodrich, TX 77335

**Precinct 2: Ronnie Vincent**, 936-646-5929, 14115 US HWY 190 West, Onalaska, TX 77360

**Precinct 3: Milt Purvis**, 936-398-4171, 921 South Home St, Corrigan, TX 75939

**Precinct 4: Tommy Overstreet**, 936-327-6866, 5009 HWY 190 East, Livingston, TX 77351