

Hunt County Seeks to Fill Vacant Position for County Judge

Hunt County is now seeking qualified candidates to fill the open position of Hunt County Judge.

As the presiding officer over the Commissioners Court, the County Judge serves as the chief administrator, budget officer, and head of emergency management for the entire county. The County Judge may also have judicial duties including presiding over misdemeanor criminal and small civil cases, probate matters, and appeals from the Justice of Peace Court according to Chapter 81 of the Texas Local Government Code. The former County Judge chose to not serve in that role after the Legislature established Hunt County Court at Law Number 2, and consequently did not collect a \$25,200/year state salary stipend.

In addition to statutory requirements, the former County Judge filled a large variety of required and volunteer roles with local and state government organizations, including serving as member of the Hunt County Juvenile Board, an appointee to the Texas Association of Counties Risk Management Pool Executive Board, as well as an Executive Board Member of the North East Texas Rural Transportation District (NETEX), committee member for the North Central Texas Housing Finance Corporation, committee member for South Sulphur Regional Development Association, ex-officio member of the Greenville Chamber of Commerce and Regional President of the CEO's of Workforce Solutions D/FW Region. The former County Judge also previously served as President of the Executive Committee of the North Central Texas Council of Governments, Chairman of the Regional 9-1-1 Advisory Committee, and President of the Hunt County Alliance for Economic Development.

The County Judge will be appointed after January 1, 2019, by a majority of the four County Commissioners. New judges must obtain 30 continuing education credit hours in their first 12 months, 1.33 hours (16 hours/12 months) for each month afterward until the end of the then-current reporting period, and 16 hours of continuing education for each 12 months served afterward.

Candidates for this position should apply by submitting a letter of interest and statement of qualifications or resume on or before January 1, 2019, to Amanda Blankenship by e-mail at amandab@huntcounty.net, or in person at the County Judge's office on the second floor of the Hunt County Courthouse during normal Courthouse hours. Qualifications for the position do not require a law degree. However, they do require the candidate to be at least 18 years of age, be a U.S. citizen, a Texas resident for at least 12 months, a district resident for at least 6 months, and be a registered voter.

The position includes a salary of \$75,000/year, travel allowance of \$11,400/year, fully-funded health insurance for the employee and available family healthcare coverage, an annual Juvenile Board Stipend of \$3,600, and longevity pay of \$300/year for every five-year increment served. County Employees pay a required retirement payment of 7% annually, which is matched by the County in varying amounts depending on the budget year. Finally, the position may also pay an additional \$25,200 state salary supplement under Texas Government Code Section 26.006 if the judge files an affidavit with the state stating "at least 40 percent of the functions that the judge performs are judicial functions."

All submissions will be subject to the Texas Public Information Act and available to the public upon written request.