

County vs. City Government

- County government powers and duties are limited in the Texas Constitution and by-laws passed by the Texas Legislature, making County government a legal subdivision of the State. The City of San Antonio governs by home-rule and has extensive ordinance-making authority. Although the state has granted urban counties limited ordinance authority for such issues as animal control and public health, counties are not authorized to make their own ordinances, as are home rule cities.
- Significant differences between Texas city and county government authority also occur in the area of land development. Counties may require landowners to make only those improvements that counties are statutorily permitted to require, primarily in street and drainage improvements to subdivisions. Differences also occur in zoning authority and building permit requirements. Except in extremely limited areas, counties do not have zoning authority or the ability to require building permits for residential structures.

Selected Bexar County Elected Officials

District Clerk: Margaret Montemayor 335-2113

Sheriff: Amadeo Ortiz 335-6200

District Attorney: Susan Reed 335-2311

County Clerk: Gerard Rickhoff 335-2216

Tax Assessor/Collector: Sylvia Romo 335-2251

County Affiliations

The **University Health System**, formerly known as the Bexar County Hospital District, is a distinct legal and taxing entity. Commissioners Court sets the tax rate and approves the budget of the Hospital System. Commissioners Court appoints the seven-member hospital district Board of Managers which has oversight of the hospital system.

The **Coliseum Advisory Board** (CAB) has oversight of the operations and budget of the Freeman Coliseum. The five members of CAB are approved by Commissioners Court and serve two-year terms.

The **Bexar Appraisal District** performs appraisals for all property taxing jurisdictions in Bexar County. Property taxes are a major source of County funding. Collection of taxes is the responsibility of the Bexar County Tax Assessor-Collector who performs this function for most of the property taxing jurisdictions in our community. The Bexar Appraisal District is by law a completely separate entity from Bexar County. The Chief Appraiser runs the day-to-day operations of the Appraisal District. The Chief Appraiser, in turn, reports to a five-member board of directors elected by all of the governing bodies' taxing units (cities, school districts, and county government). Taxing units cast votes, weighted by the entities' respective total appraised value.

AACOG (Alamo Area Council of Governments) is a voluntary association of organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in the 12 county region of Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Medina, and Wilson counties. AACOG provides a centralized staff for planning research, information distribution, and coordination of activities for the 12 regions and member organizations. AACOG provides technical and administrative assistance on local, state, and federal grants.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is a 19 member committee consisting of elected and appointed officials from the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, the Texas Department of Transportation, VIA, AACOG, suburban cities, and representatives of the State delegation. The committee is responsible for monitoring the federally mandated State transportation planning process, including adopting the transportation improvement program.

TOMMY ADKISSON

BEXAR COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 4



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BEXAR COUNTY: Past and Present

- The framers of the Constitution did not create local governments when the United States government was formed. Instead, they left the matter for the states to decide. The 1836 Constitution of the Republic of Texas established county-level government in Texas. Bexar County was one of 23 counties created on March 17, 1836, from a Spanish/Mexican municipality. Today, Bexar County is one of 254 Texas Counties. Forty-eight of the 50 states have functional county governments. Connecticut and Rhode Island do not.
- Each Texas County, including Bexar, has four Precinct Commissioners and a County Judge who serve on the county's Commissioners Court. Commissioners Court, the overall managing/governing body of Bexar County, consists of County Judge Nelson Wolff, Commissioner Sergio "Chico" Rodriguez, Precinct 1; Commissioner Paul Elizondo, Precinct 2; Commissioner Lyle Larson, Precinct 3; and Commissioner Tommy Adkisson, Precinct 4.
- In 1845, Texas became a state. One difference, between the Texas Constitution of 1845 and the earlier Republic Constitution was that the Texas Constitution made all county offices elective positions. The major elective offices in Bexar County include the County Judge, and Commissioners, the Sheriff, the County Clerk, the District Clerk, the District Attorney, the Tax-Assessor-Collector, five Justice of the Peace, five Constables, and district, county clerk at law, and probate judges.



Bexar County's Major Responsibilities

- Operating the County, District, Juvenile, and Probate court systems, Justice of the Peace Courts;
- Constructing and operating jails;
- Building and maintaining roadsides and parks;
- Keeping and preserving public records;
- Collecting property taxes;
- Issuing marriage licenses and vehicle registration;
- Registering voters and conducting elections;
- Providing law enforcement; and
- Providing health and social services to indigent County residents.

Commissioners Court must approve other elected officials' budget but the elected officials retain all other control over their operations. All elected officials are responsible to Bexar County taxpayers and voters.

In addition to the County Courthouse, the Courthouse Annex, and the Justice Center, Bexar County operates the following major facilities: County Jail, Jail Annex, Vista Verde Building, Mission Road Juvenile Detention Facility, Southton Road Juvenile Detention Facility, Frank M. Tejada, Jr. Juvenile Justice Center, Joe & Harry Freeman Coliseum, SBC Center

- Bexar County's current payroll includes 4,008 employees.
- The fourth largest county in the State of Texas, Bexar ranks as the nation's 20th largest county.
- Bexar County encompasses 1, 247 square miles. Of that total, 768.21 square miles are unincorporated, 388.57 of which is in the City of San Antonio and 90.22 in other incorporated municipalities.

PRECINCT 4

Demographics

Bexar County, Precinct 4 ethnic population:
43% Hispanic
37% Anglo
16% African American
2% Asian
2% Other

(2000 Census)

Parks in Precinct 4

Comanche Park
Pletz Park
Lakewood Acres

Incorporated Areas

Place Est'd. Pop.

| | |
|----------------|---------|
| China Grove | 1, 247 |
| Cibolo | 3, 035 |
| Converse | 11, 508 |
| Elmendorf | 664 |
| Kirby | 8, 673 |
| Live Oak | 9, 156 |
| St. Hedwig | 1, 875 |
| Schertz | 18, 694 |
| Selma | 788 |
| Universal City | 14, 849 |
| Windcrest | 5, 105 |

Texas State Data Center
(2000 Census)

Contact Information

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Precinct 4

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www.bexar.org
(click on
Commissioner's Court,
and Click on Precinct 4)

TOMMY ADKISSON

Personal

Married to Karen Barbee

Educational Background

1967—St. Gerard's High School
1972—BBA, Finance, UT-Austin
1978—Doctor of Jurisprudence, South Texas College of Law
1989—Board Certified in Family Law

Employment Background

1972 to 1975

Investigator

1978 to Present

General Civil Law

1981 to 1983

State Representative,
District 57

1985 to 1987

State Representative,
District 119

Nov. 3, 1998 Elected

Bexar Co. Commissioner
Precinct 4

March 2002 Re-Elected

Bexar Co. Commissioner
Precinct 4

Nov. 2006 Re-Elected

Bexar Co. Commissioner
Pct.4

Community Involvement

- Alamo Area Council of Governments
- Bexar County Health Facilities Development Corporation
- Bexar County Industrial Development
- Bexar County Water Sheds Committee of Seven
- Commuter Rail District
- Metropolitan Planning Organization
- VIA Governmental Review Board
- Charter Member & Past Chairman of Southside