

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:

District Clerk

101 W. Mill St. Ste. 216, Livingston, TX 77351

936-327-6814

Polk County

SPOTLIGHT ON POLK COUNTY: District Clerk Bobbye Christopher

The District Clerk is an elected official, serving a four-year term for the County and its residents in the following capacity:

- ϕ *Serves as registrar, recorder and custodian of all documents that are part of criminal and civil actions filed in the District Courts and family law cases filed in the County Court at Law, including Attorney General Matters.*
- ϕ *Works with Judges to obtain timely disposition of all court cases.*
- ϕ *Responsible for managing records so that they are easily retrieved for public information; preserved for permanent storage in archives; and disposed of according to the law.*
- ϕ *Charged with responsibility of collecting and disbursing court costs, fines and other fees that benefit twenty plus agencies at the state and local level, in addition to money placed in the registry of the court fund that is in dispute, money invested on behalf of minor children for safekeeping until age eighteen, and preparation of the operating budget for the office.*
- ϕ *Responsible for gathering data and reporting to several state and local agencies such as the County Auditor, County Treasurer, Voter Registration Bureau of Vital Statistics, Department of Public Safety, Attorney General, Supreme Court of Texas and Office of Court Administration.*
- ϕ *Responsible for summoning jurors for all courts in Polk County, maintaining the jury wheel and payment to the jurors.*
- ϕ *Passport Agent for the US Department of State, accepting passport applications submitted and forwarding them on for processing.*

I have had the pleasure of serving you since July of 2015. We have accomplished much in the last five years, but one of our greatest accomplishments to date has been the preservation of our earliest court minute books. The books start in 1846 upon the founding of Polk County and were starting to deteriorate from age and climate issues. Books A and B of Polk County history have been preserved and digitized. The original covers have been placed in a shadow box and now hang in the Judicial Center lobby for everyone to enjoy. Additionally, we have preserved one of the early Physician Certificate books as well as some of the earliest case files. We applied for and received a much sought after grant from the Texas Bar Historical Foundation that helped fund these projects. Our history is important and our goal is to preserve and digitize all of our historical documents so they can be enjoyed and accessed by the public.

Our office is located at the Polk County Judicial Center, 101 W. Mill Street, Ste. 216, Livingston, TX 77351 ~ 936-327-6814