

COLEMAN COUNTY NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, UNEXPIRED TERM

This is only for appointments OF the unexpired term, appointment will end December 31, 2026

This is an Elected Position, A new term will begin January 1, 2027 with a newly elected Justice of the Peace

The Justice of the Peace (JP), is a Judge who serves as a County Magistrate.

The Countywide Justice of the Peace (JP) for Coleman County, Texas is the lead Magistrate for the County in conducting Code of Criminal Procedures, Chapter 15.17 Hearings where defendants' rights are stated and the bail amount is set for any level, misdemeanors and felonies, charges filed by law enforcement. The Judge also serves to decide and issue administrative, misdemeanor and felony warrants for: arrests and searches, blood warrants, emergency protective orders, and mental health commitment orders. The Judge also conducts Administrative License Review (ALR) Hearings and Medical Advisory Board (MAB) Hearings for the Texas Department of Public Safety to determine license suspensions and revocations. The Judge also conducts hearings for stolen property seized during investigations.

The JP is a State Judge in Texas.

The JP is a State Judge according to the Texas Government Code and Texas Election Code. According to the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, JPs may exchange benches with JPs in other counties as well the orders, writs and warrants issued by JPs are all state-wide processes that may be executed within the entire State of Texas.

The Judge serves as the Medical Examiner for the County.

The Justice of the Peace for Coleman County also serves as the Chief Medical Examiner for all unattended deaths that occur within Coleman County. Unattended scenarios include traffic fatalities, suicides, in-home passings and homicides. The Justice of the Peace (JP) is called out to each and every scene to personally view the deceased and take account of the factors for a Death Inquest. It is the sole responsibility of the Judge to order autopsies as deemed necessary; and, to file death certificates with the State of Texas Registry for the Bureau of Vital Statistics. Deaths that are attended by physicians, registered-nurses, and Hospice care, do sometimes motivate these medical professionals to contact the JP to request an autopsy due to the possibility of "foul play". The JP's inquest is conducted separately, and parallel to that of Law Enforcement.

The Justice of the Peace is the Judge of the Justice Court; and the Justice Court is a Criminal and Civil Trial Court.

Justice Court appeals are heard by the Constitutional County Court. Justice Courts hear criminal cases on Class C Misdemeanors filed by Texas DPS Troopers, Texas Game Wardens and the Coleman County Sheriff's Department. The Justice Court is a Criminal Trial Court and a Civil Trial Court in the State of Texas. Civil cases include: evictions, tow hearings, property hearings, repair and remedy cases, small claims lawsuits, debt claim lawsuits. Small claims cases are often referred to as "The Peoples Court". The JP's civil jurisdiction tops out at \$20,000.

Requirements for Filing for Office -

1. Be a resident of the State of Texas for 12 months
2. Be a District Resident and a Registered voter of Coleman County for a minimum of 6 months
3. Be 18 years of age or older
4. Have strong written and spoken communication skills
5. Be able to apply the rules of law with reason and objectivity
6. Have problem solving and decision-making skills

Term of Office: 4 years

APPLICATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED THRU FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7th, 2025

Applications may be turned in to the County Judge's office or the County Clerk's office at the Coleman County Courthouse, 100 W. Liveoak Street, Coleman, Tx 76834