

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

real places telling real stories

November 2, 2018

Re: County Historical Commission (CHC) Appointments

Dear County Judges and Commissioners:

As Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission, I want to congratulate you on the many successful projects carried out across our state. During the past biennium, CHCs provided an estimated 850,000 hours of service to Texas counties. This impressive contribution could never have been achieved without the dedication of thousands of passionate volunteers. Thank you for the support you provide to your CHC and, through their hard work, to the people of Texas.

It's time once again to assess the performance of your CHC and decide whether or not you want to make any changes in its membership. Chapter 318 of the Texas Local Government Code directs county commissioners courts to make CHC appointments in January of odd-numbered years and to provide appointee contact information to the Texas Historical Commission (THC). We encourage you to appoint (and reappoint) individuals who have the knowledge and skills necessary to carry out any projects you plan to pursue over the coming biennium.

Please consider approving 2019-2020 appointments by December 31, so that appointments can start January 2019.

When making these decisions, please remember that new appointments and reappointments can both contribute toward a healthy organization. New appointees can bring new ideas and creativity, and reappointments provide knowledge and experience. In either case, it's important to confirm that your CHC members are **willing and able** to serve.

Although the statutes require that a minimum of 7 members be appointed, there is no statutory maximum. So the number of members you appoint (above 7) is completely up to you. Please appoint the number of individuals you believe would be necessary to facilitate an effective preservation program for your county. As a guideline, the statewide average is 19 appointees per CHC. Note that a majority of all appointed individuals will constitute a quorum, so it's important for your appointees to be active in order to carry out any projects or programs you might identify.

I've enclosed a flyer with more information on appointee criteria, but in summary, **please appoint individuals who:**

- represent all precincts in your county;
- reflect the age range and ethnic diversity of your county; and
- demonstrate an active interest in historic preservation.

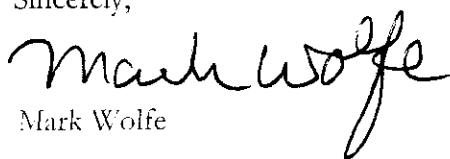
Appointing a diverse CHC enhances the appreciation for, and interest in, preserving all aspects of your county's history. Additionally, we highly recommend courts appoint individuals who have consistently demonstrated an ability to work respectfully and constructively with other appointees and with members of the public.

Some courts appoint the CHC chair, while others let appointees elect a chair. The individual selected must be committed, creative, and show leadership qualities that inspire fellow CHC members and other citizens to understand and appreciate the importance of our shared heritage. Please keep in mind that our agency uses electronic methods of communication, so approving CHC chairs with internet and email access is encouraged.

Finally, please remember that there is an annual reporting responsibility in the Local Government Code and CHC chairs are charged to fulfill this responsibility—the chair selected must be willing and capable to comply in a timely manner. The information you provide to the THC through that report helps us to keep the state legislature informed about your activities, to provide you with more productive training opportunities, to improve the quality of program delivery, and to identify areas where more state assistance might be productive. I have included a summary of the annual reports we received for the 2017 year of service so that you can see how important reporting data are to substantiate the value of CHC work and the success of the CHC Outreach Program.

I hope that this is helpful information as you consider local leaders for your county. For questions about the appointment process or matters related to the CHC Outreach Program, please contact its coordinator, Amy Hammons, at 512-475-2692, or by email at amy.hammons@thc.texas.gov. Thanks in advance for your appointments, and we look forward to working with the dedicated individuals you will select.

Sincerely,



Mark Wolfe

Executive Director

Attached: CHC Appointee Criteria, 2017 CHC Annual Report Summary



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

CHC Appointee Criteria Recommendations

Texas Local Government Code (Chapter 318) enables the county commissioners court to appoint a County Historical Commission (CHC) for the purpose of initiating and conducting programs for the preservation of the county's historic cultural resources. CHCs are meant to be productive—to this end, appointees must be willing **and** able to serve.

CHC Appointment Season

Statute is found online at www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/LG/htm/LG.318.htm. Note Sec. 318.003 below.

(a) The commission must be composed of at least seven residents of the county. Members of the commission must be individuals who broadly reflect the age, ethnic, and geographic diversity of the county.

(b) The members of the commission shall be appointed during the month of January of odd-numbered years and are appointed for a term of two years

(c) Each commission member must have an interest in historic preservation and an understanding of local history and resources.

(d) The commissioners court shall provide to the Texas Historical Commission a list of appointed members and the mailing address of each member.



Comal County Commissioners Court presents Comal CHC appointees a 2017 Distinguished Service Award.

Appointment Methodology

Exact methodology for appointing CHCs may vary somewhat from county to county—some courts interview individuals seeking the appointment and others consider appointee recommendations from the CHC. Whatever the method, county officials should consider the following criteria prior to appointment. Applying our recommended criteria help ensure that appointees are active, work well with others, and leave a positive impression with the public.

Recommended Appointee Criteria

- Has an interest in historic preservation and a working knowledge of local history.
- Able and willing to volunteer time to plan and manage projects, programs, and events—must participate over and beyond attending commission meetings.
- Able and willing to attend preservation education opportunities outside of his/her county.
- Able to provide site visits to historic properties around the county to update surveys/property inventories and provide current information on site conditions for THC staff.
- Able to receive/respond to public inquiries about county historic resources in a timely manner.
- If at all possible, appointees should have access to the Internet and be able to send/receive email messages.



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(more info on back side)

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2017 CHC Annual Report Summary

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) received reports from 193 County Historical Commissions (CHC) for the 2017 year of service. Below are primary reporting statistics that demonstrate the breadth and value of CHC services.

- **417,129 CHC volunteer hours represents work of 200 employees and has a monetary value of \$10,069,494**
- For every \$1 counties invest in CHCs, more than \$6 worth of service is returned by CHCs.
- CHCs supplemented county money with \$880,809 from grants, donations, and fundraisers.

| Financial data from 2017 CHC annual reports | Average allocation | Reporting Totals |
|---|--------------------|------------------|
| Annual county allocation—119 CHCs received 2017 allocation: | \$ 5,647 | \$ 672,031 |
| County money allotted for museums—47 CHCs provided amounts: | \$ 18,985 | \$ 892,320 |
| Any other money issued by the county: | | \$ 69,753 |
| Total county monies invested | | \$ 1,634,104 |

General information about Texas CHCs based on 2017 CHC reports

- Average size of reporting CHCs is 18 appointees and usually hold bimonthly commission meetings.
- CHCs provide an average of 2,161 volunteer hours per year; reports show zero hours upwards to 17,000 hours.
- CHCs participate in a wide range of activities but some activities are more popular than others; see below.

| Popular activities based on 2017 CHC reports | # of participating CHCs |
|--|-------------------------|
| Periodically assess the condition of subject markers in your county | 142 |
| Provided educational events/presentations to audiences outside your CHC | 125 |
| Issued information to the public at large--newsletters, email, press releases, etc. | 122 |
| Promoted historic and cultural sites to develop and sustain heritage tourism initiatives | 121 |
| Periodically assess the condition of cemeteries in your county | 117 |

* Estimated volunteer hourly rate as per independentsector.org as of May 2018.



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thc.texas.gov

Reporting data as of 5/1/18

CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Appointments for the 2019 Term

CHAIR

Travis Childs
P.O. Box 261
Bluegrove, Texas 76352

Cell: (940) 642-5381

Member

Mrs. LeAnn Greer
P.O. Box 360
Henrietta, Texas 76365

Daytime: (940) 538-4336

Member

Mrs. Lucille Glasgow
218 Glasgow Road
Petrolia, Texas 76377

Daytime: (940) 524-3465

Member

Mr. Murl Nelms
407 Riverside Drive
Byers, Texas 76357

Daytime: (940) 529-6227

Member

Mr. Edwin Bitz
505 Taylor Road
Wichita Falls, Texas 76305

Daytime: (940) 767-0168

Member

Mrs. Judy Davidson
2209 Neville, Road
Henrietta, Texas 76365

Home: (940) 538-4111

Cell:

Member

Mrs. Carma Healer
215 Country Club Drive
Henrietta, Texas 76365

Daytime: (940) 538-5168

Cell: (940) 224-4173

Member

Mr. Macon Clark Boddy
315 S. Crockett
Henrietta, Texas 76365

Daytime: (940) 538-5500

Cell: (940) 631-5500

Member

Mrs. Leda Roe
915 East FM 174
Bellevue, Texas 76228

Daytime: (940) 476-2464

Member

Mr. Matt Kelton
P.O. Box 52
Henrietta, Texas 76365

Daytime: (940)867-7646

Member

Mr. Tyler Garrison
2100 Sandy Lane
Bellevue, Texas 76228

Daytime: (940)867-9285

Member

Dorthy Kucharski
986 E Bevering Road
Byers, Texas 76357

Daytime: (940)733-0529