

PUBLIC PROFILES

As people move to Coke County, it's sometimes difficult to determine where to go and who to talk to at the local government offices.

Each week, *The Observer/Enterprise* will highlight one or more of these offices. These highlights will include the services performed at that office

and an introduction to the people who make that office work.

This week, we are highlighting a few of the offices of our county government. The table above shows the relationship between the voters and the officials.

County Commissioners

Donald Robertson, Precinct 1

Elected to Office in 2016

Paul Williams, Precinct 2

Elected to Office in 2014

Marshall Millican, Precinct 3

Elected to Office in 2016

Joe Sefcik, Precinct 4

Elected to Office in 2014

The job of the county commissioner calls for hands-on service delivery, as well as policy-making decisions about a variety of important matters.

Four commissioners, each elected from a quarter of the county's population, serve along with the county judge on the commissioners court. Many people know that the commissioners court is responsible for building and maintaining the roads and bridges of the county. In your county, your commissioner may have individual responsibility for

the roads in his precinct or county road maintenance may be centralized under a unit road system.

The commissioners court also has the responsibility to adopt the budget and tax rate that is sufficient to fund the personnel, equipment and infrastructure necessary to deliver the services provided by the county. Typically, the commissioners court is responsible for conducting business on behalf of the county, and only the commissioners court can enter into contracts on behalf of the county.



Commissioner Precinct 3 (L to R) Marshall Millican was in law enforcement for the majority of his adult career. He served in Coke County as a deputy, sheriff and constable. He also was the code enforcement officer for the city of Robert Lee. He and his wife Sheri have two children, Kannon Moore and Stewart Millican, and four grandchildren.

Commissioner Precinct 2 Paul Williams has a solid career in business. Earning his Masters of Business Administration, Williams is an energy trader, rancher, and investor in a livestock nutrition company. He also was an instructor in the Business school at Angelo State University. He entered politics upon his election to the Bronte ISD Board of Trustees, serving as the Board's President. He and his wife Susan have one daughter, Jael.

Commissioner Precinct 1 Donald Robertson is a Robert Lee native. He and his wife Ruth have one son, Scott Robertson, and two grandchildren. Retired for 11 years before election, Robertson spent 46 years in the oil and gas industry. He also served our country with 6 years active and reserve military duty.

Commissioner Precinct 4 Joe Sefcik has enjoyed a career in construction and ranching. Originally from Wall, he has three daughters, Cara, Joel and Traci.

The commissioners court does much more than maintain roads and adopt a budget and a tax rate. County government's operations are often tailored to meet the needs and resources of the community, so the programs overseen by the commissioners court may vary from county to county. In a typical county, the commissioners court also establishes precinct boundaries for commissioners and justices

of the peace, determines the number and type of county employees and their compensation, acquires property for rights of way or other public uses, adopts and enforces subdivision regulations, provides rural ambulance services and subsidizes rural fire protection, and supervises and controls the county courthouse and other county buildings and facilities

As with all elected county

officials, the commissioner who serves as an ex officio road commissioner has ultimate authority over the operations of the office, including the authority to hire and fire personnel and direct their daily activities. The county commissioner also has authority to determine how to use all other resources allocated to the office during the budget process.



Judge Roy Blair, a Robert Lee native and rancher, retired from serving as a state trooper with the Department of Public Safety before being elected as county judge. He and his wife Judy have two children, Joe Blair and Tracie Corley. The couple also have eight grandchildren.

County Judge

Roy Blair

Elected to Office in 2002

The Texas Constitution vests broad judicial and administrative powers in the position of county judge, who presides over a five-member commissioners court, which has budgetary and administrative authority over county government operations.

The county judge handles such widely varying matters as hearings for beer and wine license applications, hearing on admittance to state hospitals for the mentally ill and mentally retarded, juvenile work permits and temporary guardianships for special purposes. The judge is also responsible for calling elections, posting election notices and for receiving and canvassing

the election returns. The county judge may perform marriages.

A county judge in Texas may have judicial responsibility for certain criminal, civil and probate matters - responsibility for these functions varies from county to county. In those counties in which the judge has judicial responsibilities, the judge has appellate jurisdiction over matters arising from the justice courts. The county judge is also head of civil defense and disaster relief, county welfare and in counties under 225,000 population, the judge prepares the county budget along with the county auditor or county clerk.

...Ag Workshops

"We will discuss the potential legal implications of failing to have a sufficient written lease and the potential legal issues and litigation that the development of written leases can help avoid," she said. "The workshops will also familiarize participants with key terms and

provisions that should be considered in lease negotiations."

Participants will receive a leasing handbook that covers legal issues, designing lease payment structures and calculating payments, landowner liability, as well as checklists and sample lease forms for negotiating lease agreements.

VP to raffle Honda ATV

A new Honda ATV is being raffled off by Vision with a Purpose for their Hunters BBQ this year. The event is being held Saturday, November 4, at the Robert Lee Rec Hall. Tickets for the raffle will be \$50 each and entry to the BBQ is \$12 each. Proceeds from the raffle and the BBQ will be used for Robert Lee's community park improvements.

Lady Longhorns take top spot in pre-season poll

The Bronte Lady Longhorns earned a spot in the Texas Girls Coaches Association 2017 Preseason Poll for Class 2A recently, coming in at number 7. Classes 1A and 2A compete together until the playoffs.

The Top 10 in Class 2A are 1. Iola; 2. Archer City; 3. Tioga; 4. Weimar; 5. Windthorst; 6. Thrall; 7. Bronte; 8. Evadale; 9. Round Top-Carmine; and 10. Windthorst.

Send news and pictures to o-e@wcc.net or ObserverEnterprise@gmail.com