

Texas Office of Court Administration DATA & RESEARCH NEWSLETTER



Webinars/Trainings

HB 2384

Performance Measures

Upcoming Webinars

Thursday, Sept. 12, 2024

Webinar 11:00am central

Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2024

Judges Webinar 11:00am central

In This Issue

- New Reporting Requirements
- Texas' New Business Courts
- New Clerk Resources Web Page
- E-Filing Court Orders
- Court Reminder Program

Check out the NEW Clerk
Resources web page!

More info on Page 3.



Due Nov 1 Annual Performance Measures for District & County Courts* (HB 2384)

Section 72.083(b) added by HB 2384** (88th Legislature, Regular Session), of the Texas Government Code requires the Office of Court Administration to annually collect and publish a report including performance measures. All district, statutory, statutory probate, and county courts will be required to submit annual court level data for the completion of this annual report. The current report spreadsheets to be filled out, are posted on our website.

The numbers submitted to OCA for this annual report must be broken down by each court. This is different than the monthly report which has totals for all courts of that type. The reporting timeframe for this report is defined as September 1 through August 31. (This first report only will cover data from March 1, 2024, through August 31, 2024) Reports must be submitted on an annual basis to the Data and Research Division by November 1.

* www.txcourts.gov/reporting-to-oca/district-county-court-level-reporting

** <https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/Text.aspx?LegSess=88R&Bill=HB2384>

**Due Monthly
on the 20th**

Counties Population Over 1 Million Reporting (HB 1182) *

Section 71.035(a) of the Texas Government Code, (added by HB 1182**, 88th Legislature, Regular Session) requires counties with a population of at least one million to include additional information monthly for each district and county court in the county.

Reports must be submitted to OCA no later than the 20th day of the month following the month reported.

Reporting by court began on April 2024 starting with March 2024 data.

* www.txcourts.gov/reporting-to-oca/district-county-court-level-reporting

** <https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/Text.aspx?LegSess=88R&Bill=HB1182>

Due Nov 1

Court Interpretation Services (SB 380 and HB 3474) *

SB 380 and HB 3474 (88th Legislature, Regular Session) requires each county auditor, or other individual designated by the commissioners court of a county, in consultation with the district and county clerks, to submit a report on the money the county spent during the preceding fiscal year to provide court-ordered interpretation services in civil and criminal proceedings.

The first reporting period is from October 2023 to September 2024, and due to OCA by November 1, 2024, on the new court-ordered interpretation services section of the TIDC Auditor's reporting portal.

* www.txcourts.gov/statistics/court-interpretation-services/

Business Courts

HB 19 (88th Legislature, Regular Session) creates a court that has civil jurisdiction concurrent with district courts in certain actions in which the amount in controversy exceeds \$5 million. This bill provides for the creation of courts in each of the 11 Administrative Judicial Regions, with Region’s 1, 3, 4, 8, and 11 being operational by September 1, 2024. The remaining divisions will be abolished unless reauthorized by the Texas Legislature during the 2025 legislative session and funded through legislative appropriations.

For clerks that handle cases that are eligible to be filed in the Business Court, cases may be removed, remanded, or transferred to the Business Court from the local District Courts. * (Memo**)

Communications related to the clerk’s duties were sent out on July 29th. For further information please contact Beverly Crumley at Beverly.crumley@txcourts.gov.

*<https://www.txcourts.gov/about-texas-courts/business-court/>

**<https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1459014/creation-of-tx-business-court-memo-to-dist-cty-clerks.pdf>

New Clerk Resources Web Page

A new page is on the OCA website. The **Clerk Resources** page is designed to give essential information to clerks: <https://www.txcourts.gov/publications-training/clerk-resources/>.

Organizations ▾ Publications & Training ▾ Programs & Services ▾ Judicial Data ▾ eFile Texas Media ▾

Site Search 🔍

CLERK RESOURCES

Welcome to our comprehensive resource page for clerks. This website serves as a centralized location, providing easy access to important information, detailed instructions, and valuable resources. Navigate through the hyperlinks below to find the support and information needed for each category.

Memos and Notices from OCA

Topic	Date Sent Out	Document
Supreme Court Order Misc. Docket No. 24-9030 (eFile and re SearchTx)	June 16, 2024	PDF Document 📄
HB 3474 Judicial Workload Analysis- 30 Most Populous Counties	July 1, 2024	PDF Document 📄
HB 2384 Performance Measures Reports Letter & Checklist	August 6, 2024	PDF Document 📄
Data & Research Division Newsletter- Issue 1	September 3, 2024	Coming Soon

Reporting Information

Judicial Council Monthly Court Activity Reports
Section 71.035(b) of the Texas Government Code and Chapter 171 of the Texas Administrative Code requires submission of court activity reports each month to the Texas Judicial Council.
These reports are monthly aggregate reports submitted by the 20th of every month.

Performance Measures Reports (Court Level)
Section 72.083(b) of the Texas Government Code requires the Office of Court Administration to annually collect and publish a report including performance measures for each district court, statutory county court, statutory probate court, and county court. All district, statutory, probate, and county courts will be required to submit annual court level data for the completion of this annual report.

Counties with Population Over 1 Million (Court Level)
Section 71.035(a) of the Texas Government Code requires counties with a population of at least one million to include additional information in their monthly reports for each district and county court in the county.

E-Filing Court Orders

On our new Clerk Resource page there is a link to the memo about the Supreme Court order regarding e-file and re:SearchTX. Here is some information from that memo.

On May 28, 2024, the Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals approved amendments to the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure and the Texas Rule of Appellate Procedure with Supreme Court Order Misc. Docket No. 24-9030 and Court of Criminal Appeals Misc. Docket no. 24-004

The order mandates that District and County Clerks integrate their local case management systems with re:SearchTX according to an implementation schedule following population size. With the first group, Population of 250,000 or more, by October 1, 2024.

Population Size	Implementation Date
Pop. \geq 250,000	October 1, 2024
Pop. \geq 60,000 < 250,000	March 1, 2025
Pop. < 60,000	November 1, 2025

From the Memo:

Prior to integration, clerks are excused from complying with the requirement of using the electronic filing system for delivery of documents, however, *clerks must send orders and judgments to the parties electronically within 24 hours after the order or judgment is signed.*

For legal advice, please consult with your County Attorney.

Court Reminder Program

HB 4293 (87th Legislature, Regular Session) authorizes The Texas Judicial Branch to launch the Texas Court Reminder Program.* OCA has contracted with eCourtDate to provide a statewide court text and email reminder system available at no cost to the courts or counties who elect to use it.

OCA is currently in the Early Adopter Phase for the program. The deadline to register to become an Early Adopter is September 27, 2024. If your jurisdiction is not selected as an Early Adopter, you will be added to the list to be onboarded once the Early Adopter Phase has concluded.

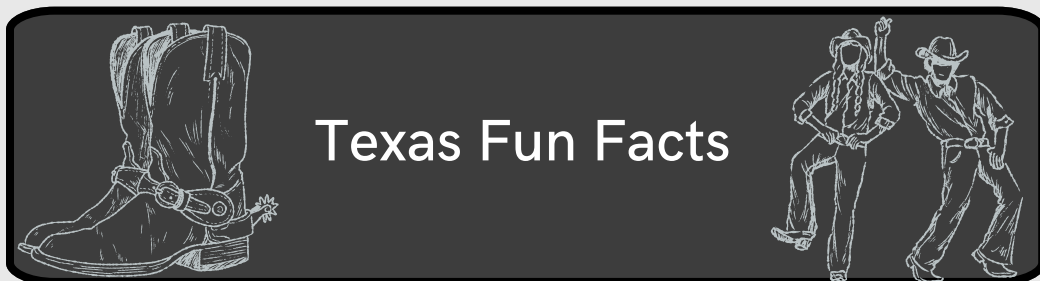
*<https://www.txcourts.gov/programs-services/court-reminder-program/>



Quick Tips for Reporting

XML Issues

When submitting your monthly Court Activity Report XML, if you get an error that data has already been submitted for the month, review your XML file's first few lines to make sure it matches the reporting month and year you selected on the website for submission. Ask your vendor if you have questions about your XML.



Texas Fun Facts

The Texas State Capitol building is the country's largest. Its 360,000 square feet is home to the state legislature and the governor and makes it bigger than any capitol building in the U.S. other than the National Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Don't forget...

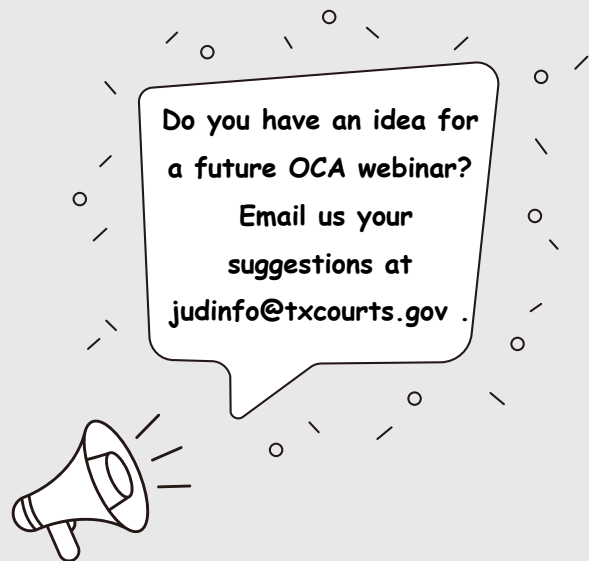


If you do not have appointments or fees to report for the month, you still need to submit no activity records for that month.

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Do you have an idea for a future OCA webinar? Email us your suggestions at judinfo@txcourts.gov.