



State of Texas

County of Ellis

Resolution 2025-02

**A Resolution by the Ellis County Commissioners' Court
In Support of a New District Court for Ellis County**

WHEREAS, the Commissioners of Ellis County, Texas are dedicated to the rule of law, the impartial administration of justice, and the fair, timely, and responsible adjudication of all court cases and trials involving the citizens of this county; and

WHEREAS, the existing judges of Ellis County work diligently to handle thousands of cases each year that affect the lives and property of the citizens of Ellis County, yet all recognize that the Ellis County judicial system is moving toward its maximum capacity; and

WHEREAS, Ellis County has been cited as the eighth-fastest growing county in the United States, with a projected 2025 population of over 240,000 residents and an estimated half-million by 2050, thus creating a dynamic need for additional trials; and

WHEREAS, the judges, commissioners, and citizens of Ellis County alike recognize that "justice delayed is justice denied," desiring to ensure that each legal dispute involving the citizens of this county is resolved in accordance with the high standards of justice that have been firmly established by tradition in our community, meeting or exceeding the constitutional rights of the citizens of the great State of Texas;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Commissioners' Court of Ellis County, Texas, hereby respectfully request that Senator Brian Birdwell, Senator Bob Hall, and State Representative Brian Harrison sponsor legislation during the 89th Texas Legislature to establish and create an additional judicial district court for Ellis County, having general jurisdiction and focusing on felony criminal cases, with a target effective operation date of January 1st, 2026, or another date as directed by Governor Greg Abbott.

In witness thereof, signed the 4th of February, 2025 –

Todd Little, Ellis County Judge

Randy Sumner, Commissioner, Precinct 1

Lane Grayson, Commissioner, Precinct 2

Louis Ponder, Commissioner, Precinct 3

Kyle Butler, Commissioner, Precinct 4

Attest: Krystal Valdez, County Clerk
Deputy



40TH DISTRICT COURT
378TH DISTRICT COURT
443RD DISTRICT COURT
ELLIS COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 1
ELLIS COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 2
ELLIS COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 3

ELLIS COUNTY COURTS BUILDING
109 S. JACKSON
WAXAHACHIE, TX 75165

January 15, 2025

Hon. Todd Little, Ellis County Judge &
Ellis County Commissioners (R. Stinson, L. Grayson, L. Ponder, and K. Butler)
101 West Main Street
Waxahachie, Texas 75165

Dear Judge Little and Ellis County Commissioners,

Please receive this letter demonstrating our firm and unqualified support for the creation of a fourth District Court by the 89th Texas Legislature. This District Court will be a Court of general jurisdiction focusing on felony criminal cases.

As members of the Ellis County Judiciary, the undersigned Judges work diligently to administer justice in a fair, timely, and responsible manner – collectively handling thousands of cases and conflicts impacting individuals, families, and businesses throughout Ellis County. In doing so, we are ever mindful of the truism central to the judicial branch of government and civilized society that *justice delayed is justice denied*.

Given that Ellis County is the 8th fastest growing county in the U.S.¹, with a projected 2025 population of over 240,000 residents, we are unanimous in our belief that the need for the new Court exists *now*, and will continue to increase to the January 1, 2026 new Court target date.

Sincerely,

Judge Bob Carroll, 40th District Court
Judge William Wallace, 378th District Court
Judge Grace Pandithurai, 443rd District Court
Judge Jim Chapman, County Court at Law 1
Judge Gene Calvert, County Court at Law 2
Judge Joe Gallo, County Court at Law 3

¹ Texas Tribune, Article by M. Rubin (March 14, 2024).



ELLIS COUNTY & DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Lindy T. Beaty

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January 31, 2025

Hon. Todd Little, Ellis County Judge &
Ellis County Commissioners (R. Stinson, L. Grayson, L. Ponder, and K. Butler)
101 West Main Street
Waxahachie, Texas 75165

Dear Judge Little and Ellis County Commissioners,

I am writing this letter to voice my unequivocal support for the creation of a fourth District Court by the 89th Texas Legislature. It is my understanding that this court would be a court of general jurisdiction focusing on felony criminal cases.

Having worked in the criminal justice field in Ellis County for over twenty years, both as a prosecutor and defense attorney, I have witnessed firsthand the exponential population growth the county has experienced and the resulting increase in crime, thereby creating the need for an additional district court.

When I took office on January 1, 2025, there were over 500 felony cases awaiting grand jury, nearly another hundred that have been submitted by law enforcement waiting to be accepted by our office, and dozens more motions to adjudicate/revoke waiting to be signed. These numbers are of course in addition to the thousands of cases already pending in the courts, including close to 150 cases on the jury trial docket, the overwhelming majority of which have victims who have been waiting for justice. These numbers are only expected to rise in the coming years.

Justice demands that felony criminal cases be handled fairly, efficiently and swiftly. There is an immediate need to add a District Court and a Judge from our community who will be accountable to the citizens to ensure that happens.

Sincerely,

Lindy Beaty
Ellis County and District Attorney