

TARRANT COUNTY: OUR NORTH TEXAS HOME

The Double Standard



Tarrant County Judge
B. Glen Whitley

I find it interesting to observe how elected officials at different levels of government behave. From the federal level to the state level and down to the local level, each have their role in making decisions for their electorate with regards to public safety, infrastructure, and the quality of life we have all come to expect. But what happens when one level decides to make decisions which encroach in another level's lane? I'd like to share with you what I believe is the double standard being practiced in Austin during this legislative session, and while our state leaders believe certain laws are needed for local government, they believe they are above such laws.

Spending

Probably the most egregious double standard involves the amount of money governments can spend. One of the main priorities in Austin this session involves lowering the cap on what local governments can spend on mandated and quality of life services. As currently written, local government will not be able to budget more than a 3.5% increase in spending unless approved by the voters. Sounds good for a 30 second sound bite, right? Well if 3.5% is apparently the standard for local government, why shouldn't it also be good enough for the state? By the way, they are currently proposing over a 6% increase in their spending. If the state wants to increase its spending above 3.5%, shouldn't we have an election to approve their budget as well? Don't count on seeing that legislation anytime soon.



The floor of the Texas State Senate where potential legislation which will negatively affect local government will be considered.

Staying in Your Own Lane

All types of government have their own roles and responsibilities in their respective citizen's lives. The Federal Government takes care of national defense, delivering our mail, regulating interstate and intrastate trade, and so on. State government is responsible for providing a free and public education, funding Medicaid for our seniors, and running a whole host state departments, each with their own mission to provide services for our citizenry. Finally, we have the government closest to the people: counties, cities, and school districts. Each of these three also have their roles and responsibilities such as public safety, building and maintaining roads and bridges, providing parks, senior services and many other quality of life services. If all these types of governments began with the idea of staying in their own lane and not trying to influence or control other types, I believe government at all levels, would operate much more efficiently.

Alan



NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Building Strong & Thriving Families Through Prevention



Children are one of the most vulnerable populations in our country. Child abuse is recognized as one of our nation’s most serious health problems.

The theme for 2019 Child Abuse Prevention Month is “Strong and Thriving Families” highlighting the need for more prevention through building on family strength to protect children from neglect and abuse.

In 2018, the number of reports received alleging child abuse or neglect in Tarrant County was 23,471. Of these reports, 16,029 were opened for further investigation. A total of 5,842 children were confirmed victims of child abuse or neglect with 685 children removed from their home and placed in foster care.

The difficult task of investigating and managing these cases falls on the CPS caseworkers and managers. In 2018, the state reduced the number of CPS caseworkers in Tarrant County by nine positions. Tarrant County, realizing our children are a priority, provided funding to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) for an additional 41 full-time staff positions.

These county-funded positions include specialized staff which allow for additional services and programs not typically available in other county CPS programs. In addition, other county-funded staff provided resources for investigations, case management, support the legal unit, and offer family based safety services to children who remain in their own homes.

The Family Based Services Program ensures child health and safety by providing family-focused services aimed at strengthening families and establishing permanency for children. Tarrant County funds 20 of the approximately 113 positions for this program.

- 
Strengthen economic supports to families
 - Strengthening household financial security
 - Family-friendly work policies
- 
Change social norms to support parents and positive parenting
 - Public engagement and enhancement campaigns
 - Legislative approaches to reduce corporal punishment
- 
Provide quality care and education early in life
 - Preschool enrichment with family engagement
 - Improved quality of child care through licensing and accreditation
- 
Enhance parenting skills to promote healthy child development
 - Early childhood home visitation
 - Parenting skill and family relationship approaches
- 
Intervene to lessen harms and prevent future risk
 - Enhanced primary care
 - Behavioral parent training programs
 - Treatment to lessen harms of abuse and neglect exposure
 - Treatment to prevent problem behavior and later involvement in violence

[Center for Disease Control](#) multi-level, multi-sector approach to child abuse prevention.

To help identify “at risk” families, the SAVE (Student And Volunteer Efforts) connects families with the needed resources in the community before an incident of abuse or neglect occurs. Two county-funded positions oversee this program by supervising and training student interns from local universities. Working primarily in Arlington, Hurst/Euless/Beford and Birdville school districts, SAVE interns meet with families and assess their needs. A variety of services are provided to the families in order to reduce stress in the home and prevent abuse and neglect of children.

It is all of our responsibility to protect the children in our community and prevent child abuse. Through partnerships with public and private agencies, schools, religious organizations, medical services, and the business community we can succeed in preventing child abuse. You can find more information about child abuse prevention on the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and Child Welfare Information Gateway websites at www.dfps.state.tx.us and www.childwelfare.gov.

TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

1-800-252-5400

Child Help 1-800-422-4453

OR Call 9-1-1



Criminal District Attorney's Office

Equal Justice for All: 2018 Year In Review



Sharen Wilson
Tarrant County
Criminal District Attorney

Criminal District Attorney Sharen Wilson is dedicated to making sure our community remains a safe place for our citizens to live, work, and raise a family. Elected to office in January 2015, Sharen has continued her commitment to equal justice for all, implementing specialized units within the office to ensure each case is fairly evaluated and prosecuted.

“As the top law enforcement official in the county, I never forget that the issues we deal with on a daily basis have the ability to permanently impact people’s lives,” Sharen Wilson stated.

As the leader of Tarrant County’s largest “law firm”, she oversees 177 attorneys, 104 staff, and 48 investigators. These employees ensure the integrity of every case filed and prosecuted. In 2018, almost 50,000 criminal cases were filed with her office, an increase of 12% from 2017.

Her commitment for equal justice led to the creation of specialized teams in 2016 within her organization. The Elder Financial Fraud and Intimate Partner Violence teams successfully prosecuted thousands of cases in 2018, 4,064 of which were intimate partner violence-related. With a focus on evidence-based prosecution, the Intimate Partner Violence unit was able to secure higher prison sentences including multiple life sentences.

In its second year, the “Not in My County” public awareness campaign to stop intimate partner violence brought attention to how this type of abuse affects every resident in some way. The message that our community will not tolerate this type of violence and reminding survivors help is available was featured in the news media as well as social media.

Through her efforts to show accountability and transparency, Sharen makes sure the Criminal District Attorney’s office engages the community through outreach programs. The Speakers on the Road pro-

gram took part in 440 speaking engagements throughout the region in 2018. The Citizen Prosecutor Academy held two 11-week programs which provides residents with an inside look at the prosecutorial process. The next academy will graduate in May 2019.



The Fall 2018 Citizen Prosecutor Academy graduates.

Other ways Sharen keeps the public engaged and informed is through quarterly newsletters, Facebook and Twitter accounts which provide the citizens of Tarrant County with valuable information. Additionally, Ms. Wilson publishes an annual report outlining the accomplishments of the Criminal District Attorney’s Office.

The Criminal District Attorney’s Office is not just recognized for leading the way with innovative programs. Every year, one or more of the CDA’s staff are honored for their hard work and dedication. In 2018, Larry Moore, Chief of the Criminal Division, received the Professionalism Award from the Tarrant County Bar Association. Also, Pam Boggess, Assistant Criminal District Attorney in the Gang Unit, received the 2018 Prosecuting Attorney of the Year Award by the Texas Gang Association and Prosecution of the Year from the International Association.

One very special employee is Brady, the DA dog. Hired in 2016, Brady has made a positive impact in the lives of victims and their families during very difficult circumstances. In 2017, Brady was recognized by the Texas State Legislature. Recently, Brady launched his own Instagram page [@TarrantDADog](https://www.instagram.com/TarrantDADog).



Brady provides comfort to victims experiencing trauma.

For more information about the Criminal District Attorney’s Office, community outreach programs, or to view the complete 2018 annual report, visit the Criminal District Attorney’s [website](https://www.tarrantcountytx.gov/cda).



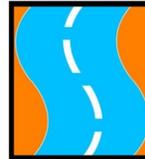
Judge Glen Whitley and Criminal District Attorney Sharen Wilson promoting the “Not in my County” campaign to stop intimate partner violence



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7th Annual
SENIOR SYNERGY
EXPO

Thursday, May 9, 2019

8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

**Will Rogers – Amon G. Carter Jr. Exhibits Hall
3400 Burnett-Tandy Drive • Fort Worth**



If you are 50 years of age or better, Senior Synergy Expo is for you! Come learn about the services available in Tarrant County that help boomers, seniors and caregivers live a healthier lifestyle!

To attend the EXPO, register today at:
www.seniorsynergyexpo.com /817-884-1234
klrotter@tarrantcounty.com

FREE Lunch provided to those who register before May 2nd!

FREE Parking

FREE Admission

FREE Workshops

FREE Health Screenings

What can you expect to see at the Senior Synergy Expo?

- ➔ Come Meet the Iconic Weatherman Troy Dungan
- ➔ 12 Informative Workshop Topics To Choose From
- ➔ Tarrant County Master Gardening Offering FREE Classes
- ➔ Free Photo Booth, Cooking Demonstration, Entertainment
- ➔ Door Prizes and Other Giveaways
- ➔ **Plus So Much More!!!!**

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Census Bureau Hiring in Tarrant County for 2020 Census Team



Every 10 years, a census is taken throughout the United States. Most do not understand the importance of participating in the census or how the information gathered is used. Most importantly, the data collected is confidential and is only used to produce statistics for specific purposes.

The theme for the 2020 Census is “Shape Your Future: START HERE.” The data collected during each decennial census has a significant impact on states, local communities and individuals. For more information about the 2020 Census, visit the United States Census Bureau website at www.census.gov.

Census data determines how many seats each state will have in Congress. Early estimates suggest Texas could add three additional Congressional seats with an accurate 2020 Census count. In addition, political representation of your state legislature and local governments are determined by the Census.

It also determines how much of the more than \$675 billion in federal funding is distributed to states, local governments and communities each year. An accurate count is vital to allowing your local governments to plan for future transportation needs, emergency preparedness, public safety, and many other services provided to the citizens.

In order to obtain as accurate a count as possible, the county, cities, school districts, public safety agencies, and many community organizations will be working together collaboratively. As Tarrant County has the 15th largest population in the U.S., there is a great need for census workers for the upcoming census. By becoming a census worker, you will be supporting your community while getting paid to do it.

What better way than to work for the United States Census Bureau?

The Census Bureau is building a large and diverse workforce and is seeking to hire workers for temporary jobs available in Tarrant County and the surrounding areas. Multiple opportunities are available, with jobs offering weekly pay, competitive pay rates, paid training and flexible hours, including daytime, evenings, and weekends.

Right now the Bureau is recruiting applicants to fill address canvasser positions in Tarrant County and will also be opening an Area Census Office (ACO) in Tarrant County early to mid-summer. Available jobs *(based on location)*:

- Recruiting assistants
- Office operations supervisors
- Clerks
- Census field supervisors
- Address canvassers
- Census takers

Become a Census Worker

for the 2020 Census

For More Information

1-855-JOB-2020 (select option 3)

Federal Relay Service 1-800-977-8339

www.2020census.gov/jobs

www.usajobs.gov



Make your next job Count!



PROVIDING SERVICES USED EVERY DAY

Local Government Works For You

Local governments, like Tarrant County, cities and schools, are the front door to services used every day. Our local governments are the backbone to our quality of life, making our days easier, more efficient and more enjoyable.

Tarrant County keeps records, builds roads, operates courts, staffs the sheriff's department and operates the jail. The county works to protect public health and coordinate emergency management. Cities offer many services, including parks and pools, police and fire protection, libraries, trash collection, senior centers and much, much more.

Where are examples of local government services? Step out your front door, look around your community and think of the many ways you use local government services.

Tarrant County Justice of the Peace Courts



The Justice Court is commonly known as the “People’s Court”. There are eight Justice Court precincts in Tarrant County. Each Judge is elected to a four-year term by the voters in that precinct.

Justices of the Peace (JPs) serve as trial court judges for civil lawsuits and many misdemeanor crimes. In addition, they hold a variety of other judicial and administrative hearings including towing, property seizures, driver’s license suspensions, handgun license revocations and essential needs licenses. Justices of the Peace are probably best known for conducting weddings.

The Justice of the Peace court is divided into three basic categories:

- Justice Court (including evictions) - This is a formal trial court where both civil (jurisdictional limit of \$10,000), and many different types of misdemeanor criminal cases are heard. The rules of court and rules of evidence apply.
- Small Claims Court - This court is designed for people to represent themselves. Attorneys are welcome, but not required.
- Criminal Court - This Court is for misdemeanors that do not include jail time as a punishment. Ttraffic, failure to attend school, Parks and Wildlife violations, as well as many others are heard.

Precinct 1

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
Ralph Swearingin Jr.**

1895 Courthouse

100 W Weatherford Street, Room 450
Fort Worth, Texas 76196-0242
817-884-1395

Precinct 2

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
Mary Tom Curnutt**

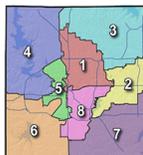
Southeast Subcourthouse

700 East Abram Street, Suite 200
Arlington, Texas 76010
817-548-3925

Precinct 3

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
William P. "Bill" Brandt**

Northeast Courthouse Southlake Town Hall
645 Grapevine Hwy. 1400 Main Street, #220
Hurst, Texas 76054 Southlake, Texas 76092
817-581-3625 817-481-8112



Click the Map to
Find Your Justice
of the Peace

Precinct 4

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
Christopher Gregory**

Northwest Subcourthouse

6713 Telephone Road, Suite 201
Lake Worth, Texas 76135
817-238-4425

Precinct 5

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
Sergio L. De Leon**

350 W. Belknap, Room 112-C
Fort Worth, Texas 76196-0247
817-884-1438

Precinct 6

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
Jason Charbonnet**

Southwest Subcourthouse

6551 Granbury Road
Fort Worth, Texas 76133
817-370-4525

Precinct 7

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
Kenneth Sanders**

Mansfield Subcourthouse

1100 E. Broad Street, Suite 202
Mansfield, Texas 76063
817-473-5101

Precinct 8

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
Lisa R. Woodard**

Poly Subcourthouse

3500 Miller Avenue
Fort Worth, Texas 76119
817-531-5625



Meet Tax Assessor-Collector Wendy Burgess

Judge Whitley sworn in Mrs. Burgess on January 1st of this year for the remainder of the term formerly held by Congressman Ron Wright. She comes to Tarrant County with almost two decades of service to the community and is looking forward to many more as part of the Tarrant County family.



Wendy Burgess, with husband Constable Clint Burgess by her side, being sworn in as Tarrant County Tax Assessor-Collector by Judge Glen Whitley.

A native Texan with deep roots in the Lone Star State, Wendy Burgess has been a proud resident of Tarrant County for over 40 years. Her 20-year business experience has spanned industries including automotive, banking, retail, real estate, information technology and government contracting. The skills she has gained through her experience makes her a great fit for the Tax Assessor-Collector's Office, a large and fiscally responsible organization.

In addition to her extensive work experience, Wendy also has a strong passion for community service. In 2011, she began two three-year terms as a member of the Mansfield City Council, where she proudly stood as an advocate for the people she served. During Wendy's six years on Council, Mansfield was ranked multiple times as one of America's "Best Places to Live" by Money Magazine and was recognized as one of the Safest Places to Live. Prior to City Council, she served nine years on the Mansfield Chamber of Commerce Board culminating in her year as Chairman of the Board promoting local businesses and economic development. She has been a proud Rotarian since 2003 and was honored to have been recognized multiple times as a Paul Harris Fellow.

The Tarrant County Tax Assessor-Collector assists the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles with vehicle registrations, title transfers, and collects sales tax for all vehicles sold in Tarrant County. However, the office is probably more well known for collecting property taxes.

The Tax Assessor-Collector's Office partners with 74 local taxing units by billing according to the property tax rate set by each entity and collecting the funds on their behalf. The office collects just over \$4 billion each year to fund all the services we have come to know and expect living in our great metroplex. These funds are expeditiously sent out to the jurisdictions after extensive accounting and recordkeeping is conducted to account for every single penny. Under Wendy's leadership, the Tax Office Quality Assurance division has been raised to a new level by providing leading edge technology driven data analysis and internal auditing procedures.

As you know, property tax has been a hot topic lately. In March, Wendy was honored to host 15 members representing Local, State and Federal office-holders by providing a workshop on property tax and the intricate laws associated with assessment and collection in Texas. In her first three and a half months she has completed three quarters of the training necessary to achieve all three Texas Tax Assessor Personal Designations. That's dedication!



Tarrant County
Tax Assessor-Collector
Wendy Burgess



Tax Assessor-Collector Wendy Burgess with staff and representatives from State and Federal Legislators' offices at the March property tax workshop.



TARRANT COUNTY CONTACTS

<u>County Administrator</u>	817-884-1267	<u>Resource Connection</u>	817-531-7600
<u>County Clerk</u>		<u>Sheriff's Office</u>	817-884-3009
Criminal / Misdemeanor Records	817-884-1066	Jail Information	817-884-3116
Probate Courts	817-884-1770	Victim Identification	817-884-8463
Records Intake / Deeds	817-884-1062	Warrant Division	817-884-1320
Records Library	817-884-1069	<u>Tax Assessor-Collector</u>	
Vital Records: Birth/Death Certificates, Marriage		Auto Tag Renewal / Property Taxes	817-884-1100
Licenses, and Business Records/DBA's	817-884-1550	<u>Texas A&M AgriLife Extension</u>	817-894-1945
<u>Criminal District Attorney</u>	817-884-1400	<u>Veterans Services</u>	817-531-5645
<u>District Clerk</u>			
Civil Records	817-884-1240		
Criminal Records	817-884-1342		
Family Court / Divorce Records	817-884-1265		
<u>Jury Services</u>	817-884-3820		
<u>Fire Marshal</u>	817-838-4660		
<u>Human Services</u>	817-531-5620		
<u>Public Health</u>	817-321-4700		

Commissioners Court meets every Tuesday at 10 am

Tarrant County Administration Building

County Judge, Glen Whitley	817-884-1441
Commissioner Roy C. Brooks, Precinct 1 ...	817-531-4500
Commissioner Devan Allen, Precinct 2	817-548-3900
Commissioner Gary Fickes, Precinct 3	817-581-3600
Commissioner JD Johnson, Precinct 4	817-238-4400

For additional information, visit: www.tarrantcounty.com

GENERAL INFORMATION 817-884-1111

Tarrant County Legislative Delegation

Texas House

<u>District 90 Representative: Ramon Romero, D-Fort Worth</u>	ramon.romero@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0740
<u>District 91 Representative: Stephanie Klick, R-Fort Worth</u>	stephanie.klick@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0599
<u>District 92 Representative: Jonathan Stickland, R-Bedford</u>	jonathan.stickland@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0522
<u>District 93 Representative: Matt Krause, R-Fort Worth</u>	matt.krause@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0562
<u>District 94 Representative: Tony Tinderholt, R-Arlington</u>	tony.tinderholt@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0624
<u>District 95 Representative: Nicole Collier, D-Fort Worth</u>	nicole.collier@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0716
<u>District 96 Representative: Bill Zedler, R-Arlington</u>	bill.zedler@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0374
<u>District 97 Representative: Craig Goldman, R-Fort Worth</u>	craig.goldman@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0608
<u>District 98 Representative: Giovanni Capriglione, R-Southlake</u> ...	giovanni.capriglione@house.state.tx.us ...	512-463-0690
<u>District 99 Representative: Charlie Geren, R-Fort Worth</u>	charlie.geren@house.texas.gov	512-463-0610
<u>District 101 Representative: Chris Turner, D-Grand Prairie</u>	chris.turner@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0574

Texas Senate

<u>District 9 Senator: Kelly Hancock, R-Westlake</u>	kelly.hancock@senate.state.tx.us	512-463-0109
<u>District 10 Senator: Beverly Powell, D-Fort Worth</u>	beverly.powell@senate.state.tx.us	512-463-0110
<u>District 12 Senator: Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound</u>	jane.nelson@senate.state.tx.us	512-463-0112
<u>District 22 Senator: Brian Birdwell, R-Granbury</u>	brian.birdwell@senate.state.tx.us	512-463-0122

