



## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Fort Bend County District Clerk's Office is diverse and inclusive of all ethnic groups presently living in Fort Bend County, Texas. The Fort Bend County District Clerk encourages people from all groups living in Fort Bend County to apply for open positions in the District Clerk's Office.

The Fort Bend County District Clerk's Office is also geographically diverse in that the District Clerk hires competent people from all areas of the county.

Additionally, the Fort Bend County District Clerk will hire 15 competent high school and college interns this summer from different backgrounds and different geographical locations.

If your child is interested in a total learning experience which encompasses court operations, please do not hesitate to give the office a call at 281-341-4509.



### **Passports**

#### **Recognized by the Houston Passport Office**

The Fort Bend County District Clerk's Passport Office was recently recognized in the quarterly newsletter of the Houston Passport Agency, a division of the Department of State for accepting the most passport applications in the Houston Area.

In fiscal year 2023, the Fort Bend County District Clerk's Passport Office accepted 24,420 passport applications and brought in an additional \$1,037,910.00 (One million thirty seven thousand nine hundred ten dollars) into the Fort Bend County general fund.

#### **Passport Office Locations**

The Fort Bend County District Clerk takes both applications for new passports and applications for renewals at two locations. The Passport Office located at 1422 Eugene Heimann Circle, Richmond Texas is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M.

The Passport Office in Sienna located at 5855 Sienna Springs Way, Missouri City, Texas is currently open from 8:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Beginning in late March 2024, the Sienna Passport Office will be open daily, Monday through Friday.

For additional information, or to make an appointment, go to the District Clerk's website and click on passports. On this website, members of the public can opt for a passport book, passport card or both, and decide the appropriate dollar amount needed prior to coming to their physical appointment.

The U.S. Department of State only accepts personal checks, cashier's checks, or money orders with a passport application.

The \$35 execution fee can be paid with a credit card or cash. Photos are also taken at the site for \$15.

For additional information, contact the Fort Bend County District Clerk's Passport Office at 281-341-4509.

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# The Districts Courts By the Numbers (2023)

The Fort Bend County District Clerk processed the following case load:

Civil: 7,458 cases filed

6,762 cases disposed

Criminal: 4,641 cases filed

3,638 cases disposed

Family: 7,291 cases filed

7,415 cases disposed

## **Court Costs Collected** (2023)

Civil/Family: \$4,487,419.86

Criminal: \$367,710.62

Total: \$4,855,130.48



## Jury Management

The Fort Bend County District Clerk summons jurors to service in all of the courts of Fort Bend County, except the municipal courts.

In 2023, the District Clerk summoned 149,061 Fort Bend County citizens to jury duty for criminal, civil, and justice court trials. 29,580 jurors were summoned to the justice of the peace courts, 38,400 to the county courts at law, and 81,081 to the district courts.

In addition, the District Clerk summons jurors to service on the grand jury two times a year.

The first term of the Grand Jury is from January 1 to June 30 and the second term is from July 1 to December 31. 1,300 jurors were summoned to the Grand Jury.

NOTE:

#### **Juror Pay:**

The Texas Legislature has raised juror pay to \$20 the first day of service and \$58 the second day or any fraction of a day.

### Age Exemption:

The age at which a person can be permanently exempted or exempted on a case by case basis from jury service was raised to 75 years of age for petit trial juries, but remains at 70 years of age for grand jurors.

In order to serve on a jury you must have one of the following three things: a Texas Driver's License, a Texas Identification card, or be on the current voter rolls.

#### **Complete Your Juror Questionnaire:**

If you are called to jury service, be sure to complete your juror questionnaire so that you can be properly notified of a trial cancellation.

#### **Historical Documents Room**

The Fort Bend County District Clerk opened the Historical Documents Room in 2023 which houses records dating from 1828 through 1950.

If you are interested in history and prefer to do research in a library, the district clerk invites you to visit the historical documents room, by appointment.

Please call 281-341-4514 for an appointment.

