

CHAMBERS COUNTY JURY SELECTION PLAN

It is recommended to the Commissioners Court of Chambers County, Texas, by the Judges of the District Courts of Chambers County, Texas and under the provisions of Texas Government Code, Chapter 62, that this plan for the selection of persons for jury service be adopted as follows:

1. OFFICIAL IN CHARGE:

The District Clerk of the County is designated as the officer in charge of the jury selection process and who is assigned the duties hereinafter enumerated as provided by Government Code, Chapter 62.

- a. The District Clerk will protect the Chambers County Jury Wheel and keep it securely stored within his or her custody and control.
- b. The District Clerk will make recommendations to the Commissioners Court of Chambers County and the District Judges, as needed, to maintain an automated jury system that supports both paper and online processes in the selection and summoning of potential jurors as provided by Section 62.011 and 62.0111, Government Code.
- c. On an annual basis, the District Clerk shall supply the Chambers County Jury Wheel to the jury system vendor engaged by the District Clerk for the creation of a suitable database.

2. SOURCE OF NAMES:

The jury wheel must be reconstituted with a list supplied by the Secretary of State which use, as the source:

- a. The names of all persons on the current voter registration lists from all the precincts in Chambers County, less the names of the persons listed on a register of persons exempt from jury service as provided by Sections 62.107, 62.108, and 62.109, Government Code, or those disqualified from jury service under Section 62.102, Government Code; and
- b. All names on a current list to be furnished by the Texas Department of Public Safety showing the citizens of Chambers County who hold a valid Texas driver's license and the citizens of Chambers County, other than persons who are exempt or disqualified from jury service, who hold a valid personal identification card or certificate issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety.

The Secretary of State will combine the lists, eliminate duplicate names, and notify the District Clerk when the combined list, in computer readable media, is ready for downloading from the Secretary of State website on or before December 31 of each year. This list will constitute the Chambers County Jury Wheel.

3. PROGRAM FOR SELECTION:

The District Clerk will make recommendations as needed to the Chambers County Commissioners Court to contract with a software provider for a jury system. The jury system package will include, but is not limited to; a computer program agreement, hardware purchase agreement, conversion agreement, training/support agreement and a maintenance agreement for a jury selection system. When selecting a new jury system the District Clerk will seek the input from all other departments directly affected by the change of a jury system.

The jury system will be a computerized method of jury selection that offers the generation of a random list to ensure a fair, impartial and objective method for selecting names for jury service. The system must allow for the collection and dissemination of data required to be collected and reported to the voter registrar, Secretary of State and any other governmental entity as required in Chapter 62, Government Code.

4. PRESIDING JUDGE:

Each of the Judges of Chambers County shall have the authority and duty to carry out the provisions of this plan as to their court and such authority, as provided in Sections 62.001 to 62.017, inclusive, Government Code, except as modified by this order under the provisions of Chapter 62, Government Code.

A Judge of one District Court may act for the Judge of the other District Court in the event one District Judge is absent in carrying out the provisions of this plan.

Any District Judge or County Court at Law Judge delegated by the Local Administrative District Judge may qualify a general jury panel.

5. SUMMONING JURORS:

This plan allows the District Clerk to execute the following:

- a. Utilize all components of Section 62.0111, Government Code, including but not limited to communicating with potential jurors and sharing documentation and information by computer, electronic mail, calling an automated telephone system, or in person contact.
- b. Make the process of online qualification available to all jurors who have been notified and/or summoned under this Plan.
- c. Provide impaneled jurors for the District Courts, County Court, County Court at Law and Justice of the Peace Courts of Chambers County.

- d. Generate sufficient lists of random jurors as to supply all courts with enough jurors for each period until all names in the Chambers County Jury Wheel are exhausted or for a period of two (2) years, or as the District Clerk determines is necessary.
- e. Summons the number of jurors for the jury days as directed by the requesting judge.
- f. Prepare the written petit and grand jury summons for each court in Chambers County. Summons will be mailed by the jury system vendor or by the Chambers County Sheriff's Office by first class mail pursuant to Section 62.013, Government Code.
- g. Update the Chambers County Jury Wheel as to changes of address, deaths or removal from the voter registration list of Chambers County, or cause the same to be done by instructing the current jury system vendor accordingly.
- h. Include any questionnaire/document as provided by the Standards for the Chambers County Judiciary and/or by the Supreme Court of Texas.

6. INTERCHANGEABLE JURORS:

The District Court Judges of Chambers County agree to adopt Section 62.017(e), Government Code, utilizing a general jury panel and service as jurors interchangeably in the district courts, justice courts, the county court, and all statutory county courts in the county.

The Judges shall act together to carry out the following provisions:

- a. Each trial judge will determine the minimum number of prospective jurors that are necessary for his/her trial(s) each month and provide that information to the District Clerk for a general panel to be summoned for service for all courts.
- b. The names of the summoned jurors shall be placed upon the general panel in the order in which they are randomly selected, and jurors shall be assigned for service from the top thereof, in the order in which they shall be needed, and the jurors returned to the general panel after service in any of such courts shall be enrolled at the bottom of the list in the order of their respective return; provided, however, after such assignment to a particular court, the trial judge of such court, upon the demand prior to voir dire examination by any party or attorney in the case reached for trial in such court, shall cause the names of all members of such assigned jury panel in such case to be shuffled and such names shall be transcribed in the order drawn on the jury list from which the jury is to be selected to try such case. There shall be only one shuffle and drawing by the trial judge in each case. (*Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 223*)
- c. The Local Administrative District Judge, or the delegated judge in his/her absence, will designate the judge or location to whom the general jury panels report for jury service. A general jury panel in Chambers County may use an approved alternate location as provided by Texas Government Code, Sections 24.033(b), 25.0019(b), and 26.009(b), or an auxiliary court facility designated by statute.
- d. The Judge assigned to impanel a general jury panel shall:

- i. administer, or have administered under its direction, the oath to the general panel as required by *TRCP Rule 226*;
 - ii. administer instructions for a general panel (*TRCP Rule 226a*);
 - iii. determine qualifications for jury service (*Gov Code 62.102*);
 - iv. determine exemptions, if any (*Gov Code 62.106*);
 - v. determine judicial excuses, if any (*Gov Code 62.110*); and
 - vi. assign the appropriate number of prospective jurors to a particular trial court.
- e. The trial judge presiding over the case shall have supervision and control over the panel of persons assigned to their court.
 - f. The method for interchangeable jury panels does not apply to the selection of jurors in a capital case or a mental health commitment or a grand jury.
 - g. It is the decision of each judge in the county whether to use the method of interchangeable jury selection under extraordinary circumstances. If a court determines at any time that a case or cases require a jury selection or impaneling outside this method of selection, the court may elect to select a jury pursuant to the statutes and law as applicable.

7. ADOPTED JURY SELECTION PLAN

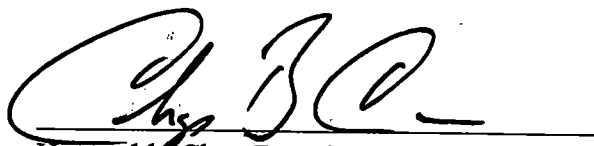
The above method, known as the "Chambers County Jury Selection Plan" is directed to be recorded in the minutes of the district courts as the system to be followed in jury selection for Chambers County.

8. AMENDMENTS:

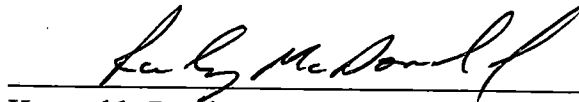
This plan may be amended by the Commissioner's Court upon recommendations of the District Judges of Chambers County.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 62, Government Code, we the undersigned, do hereby recommend this plan of selecting persons for jury service to the Commissioner's Court of Chambers County, Texas.

SIGNED this 27th day of April, 2021.



Honorable Chap B. Cain, III
253rd Judicial District Court



Honorable Randy McDonald
344th Judicial District Court