

MARGIE R. ICARNA
COUNTY CLERK
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WEBB COUNTY, TEXAS

**WEBB COUNTY DISTRICT JUDGES
EMERGENCY JURY SELECTION PLAN AND METHOD
FOR 2020 AND 2021 JUDICIAL CALENDARS**

The current plan for the method of selecting jurors in Webb County, by mechanical and electronic means, was adopted, implemented, and became effective as of May 1, 2019. The District Court Judges of Webb County hereby submit this newly amended 'emergency' plan for the method of selecting jurors during the 2020-2021 judicial calendar years in an effort, and during this imminent crisis, to continue complying with the following administrative, constitutional and statutory duties which apply to all of the judges with jurisdiction in Webb County:

WHEREAS the District Court Judges of Webb County acknowledge their statutory duties to provide all litigants access to the courts; and

WHEREAS the District Court Judges of Webb County acknowledge their administrative duties to efficiently manage their respective caseloads; and

WHEREAS the District Court Judges of Webb County acknowledge their constitutional duties to administer and dispense justice; and

WHEREAS the District Court Judges of Webb County also recognize the legitimate public interest in minimizing the size of public gatherings during this pandemic crisis; and

WHEREAS the District Court Judges of Webb County also recognize their statutory duty to provide a fair, impartial, and objective method of selecting names of persons for jury service pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 62.001, 62.011(b)(2), and 62.102.

IT THEREFORE ORDERED that the method of selecting jurors in Webb County shall be amended, and that all prior Plans and Methods, including the Plan previously adopted on May 1, 2019, shall be superseded by this order and by the following jury selection plan and method:

Jury Selection Plan and Method for 2020-2021

I. SOURCE OF NAMES

Pursuant to Section 62.001, Texas Government Code, the source of which names of prospective jurors will be taken, shall be:

1. The names of all persons on the current voter registration list from all the precincts in the county and which have been pre-qualified prior to January 1, 2018; and
2. All names on a current list to be furnished by the Texas Department of Public Safety, showing the citizens of Webb County who hold a valid Texas driver's license, and the citizens of the county who hold a valid personal identification card or certificate issued by the department, other than persons who are disqualified from jury service, and who have also been pre-qualified prior to January 1, 2018; and
3. Any other person who requests to be added to the list of prospective jurors, and is not otherwise disqualified pursuant to Section 62.102, Texas Government Code.

Moreover, the source of names shall not include those persons listed in a register of:



I, Margie Ramirez Ibarra, County Clerk, Webb County, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy, as the same appears of record in my office.

Witness my hand and seal of office on:

5/11/2020

Margie Ramirez Ibarra, Webb County Clerk

By [Signature]
Deputy County Clerk

1. Persons exempt from jury service under Govt. Code 62.108, permanent exemption because of age.
2. Persons exempt from jury service under Govt. Code 62.109, permanent exemption because of physical or mental impairment or inability to comprehend English.
3. Persons exempt from jury service under Govt. Code. 62.113, because the person is not a citizen of the United States.
4. Persons convicted of a felony, residing outside the country or who has been duplicated on the source list as a potential juror. Govt. Code 62.001(f).

II. METHOD

Persons shall be selected for jury service at random with the aid of electronic equipment in a fair, impartial and objective manner from the source of names as specified above.

III. OFFICIAL IN CHARGE

The Clerk of the District Courts of Webb County, Texas is designated by the District Court Judges as the official to be in charge of the selection process and shall have the duties and authority set forth herein.

IV. SELECTION OF JURORS

The selection of the names of persons for jury service will be made with the aid of electronic equipment. Once the prospective jurors for the 2020-2021 judicial calendar year have been loaded in the system the presiding judge from time to time shall order the District Clerk to summon however many jurors are needed for a particular jury day or week. Upon receipt of instructions from a District Judge, County Court at Law Judge, the County Judge or a Justice of the Peace or a designee to select a list of prospective jurors for a certain day or week, the District Clerk or the designee will program the computer application and/or software to randomly summon the number of jurors ordered to be selected. The jurors so selected and qualified may serve interchangeably in all courts of Webb County in accordance with Texas Statutes and/or Texas Supreme Court Administrative Rules and Orders.

V. NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE JURORS

The Judges of the District Courts, County Courts at Law, County Court and Justice Courts shall provide, in a timely manner to the District Clerk, information regarding the required jury panels for the respective courts, consistent with the local rules as adopted by the Webb County Board of Judges.

A true and complete written list showing the names and addresses of the persons summoned to begin service on a date specified by the courts shall be printed and kept by the District Clerk until said list has been used.

The District Clerk shall summon by first class mail all persons randomly selected and listed for a particular day or week in a particular court to appear as jurors.

Jurors selected under this plan and Govt. Code 62.0111(b) may appear in response to a summons by (1) contacting the county officer or a designee responsible for summoning jurors by computer [electronic mail], (2) by calling an automated telephone system, or (3) by appearing in person and/or by appearing via remote broadcast as designated and provided by the District Court Judges or as per the local rules as adopted by the Webb County Board of Judges.



I, Margie Ramirez Ibarra, County Clerk, Webb County, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy, as the same appears of record in my office.

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5/11/2020

Margie Ramirez Ibarra, Webb County Clerk

By [Signature]
Deputy County Clerk

A juror selected under this plan, the county officer or a designee and the Court or a designee may provide or exchange information as allowed above to: (1) determine qualifications under 62.102, (2) determine exemptions under 62.106, (3) submit requests for postponement or excuses under 62.110, and (4) exchange information of juror reassignment under 62.106.

All costs incident to this plan shall be paid from the appropriate designated fund maintained by the county for paying the costs of jury trials.

VI. ADDITIONAL JURORS

If the Presiding Judge determines that the number of jurors previously selected for any designated date is insufficient, said judge shall direct the Clerk to prepare a supplemental list containing a specified number of persons to be called for jury service in addition to those previously selected. Such additional persons shall be selected, listed and summoned in the same manner as those previously selected.

VII. JUDICIAL EXCUSES

As provided by Section 62.110, Government Code, a court may hear any reasonable excuse of a prospective juror and release said juror from jury service entirely or until another day of the term.

In all cases, except a capital murder case, the Court's designee may hear any reasonable excuse of a prospective juror and discharge the juror or release him/her from jury service until a specified day of the term. During any and all jury selection proceedings on any capital murder case, the Clerk and the Judges shall follow all applicable rules pursuant to the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. For the purpose of this jury selection plan, the District Judges appoint the District Clerk and their respective Court Administrator as their designees.

A prospective juror may not be excused for an economic reason unless each party of record is present and approves the release of the juror for that reason or the presiding judge makes a good cause determination.

VIII. POSTPONED JURORS

The District Clerk may hear requests for and grant a postponement if the person summoned has not been granted a postponement within the preceding year. The substitute date shall be within six months of the date the person was originally summoned.

IX. RECONSTITUTION OF JURY SOURCE

The list of prospective jurors shall be reconstituted before the end of the 2021 Judicial Calendar year or when the list is exhausted, whichever occurs first. The District Clerk shall keep the District Court Judges apprised of the number of prospective jurors used and the number of names remaining on the list. The District Clerk, in his or her discretion, may order the reconstitution of the Voter Registration list or the Department of Public Safety list and the addition of new names to the lists as provided above, but in no event may the duration of the list be more than 2 years.

X. RECOMMENDATION

It is hereby ordered that this plan for the selection and management of persons for jury service with the aid of electronic or mechanical equipment pursuant to Government Code 62.011 be submitted to the Commissioner's Court of Webb County for approval and entry in the minutes of the Court. The plan will become effective June 1st, 2020.



I, Margie Ramirez Ibarra, County Clerk, Webb County, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy, as the same appears of record in my office.

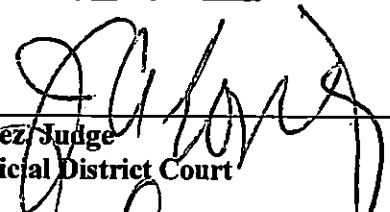
Witness my hand and seal of office on:
5/11/2025

Margie Ramirez Ibarra, Webb County Clerk
By [Signature]
Deputy County Clerk

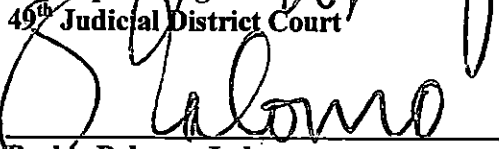
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the District Court Judges of Webb County hereby implement a new 2020-2021 judicial calendar plan of selecting the source of names of persons provided for prospective jury service in Webb County by modifying the current method and plan to include solely the names of all prospective jurors previously pre-qualified by the District Court Judges prior to January 1, 2018 and by excluding all persons exempted and/or deemed disqualified by said District Court Judges or their assigns during previously conducted juror qualification hearings; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the District Court Judges of Webb County hereby authorize, due to the imminent health crisis, all prospective jurors summoned during the 2020 or 2021 judicial calendars to participate, and respond, to the courts' jury summons by appearing via a remote broadcast method made available, and as designated, by the District Court Judges of Webb County.

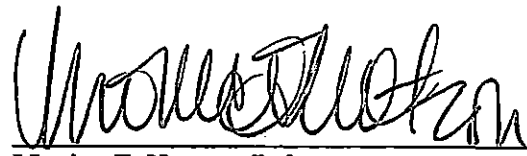
Signed on this 7th day of May, 2020.




Joe Lopez, Judge
49th Judicial District Court



Beckie Palomo, Judge
341st Judicial District Court



Monica Z. Notzon, Judge
111th Judicial District Court



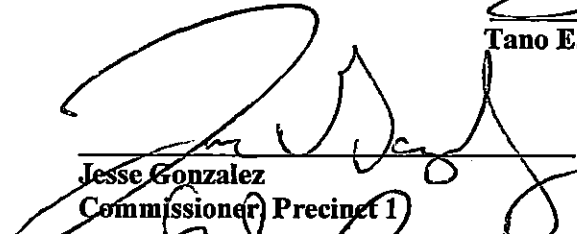
Oscar J. Hale, Jr., Judge
406th Judicial District Court

WHEREAS, the District Judges of Webb County have recommended to the Commissioner's Court of Webb county that the herein proposed "Webb County District Judges Emergency Jury Selection Plan and Method for the 2020 and 2021 Judicial Calendars" be officially approved and adopted for Webb County, Texas and;


NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED by the Commissioner's Court of Webb County, Texas that the proposed "Webb County District Judges Emergency Jury Selection Plan And Method for 2020 and 2021 Judicial Calendars" is hereby officially approved and adopted to become effective June 1st, 2020 and **ORDERED** to be recorded in the official minutes of this Court on the 11th day of May, 2020.




Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge




Jesse Gonzalez
Commissioner, Precinct 1



Rosaura "Wawi" Tijerina
Commissioner, Precinct 2



John Galo
Commissioner, Precinct 3



Cindy Liendo
Commissioner, Precinct 4

Attest:



Margie Ibarra, Webb County Clerk

I, Margie Ramirez Ibarra, County Clerk, Webb County, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy, as the same appears of record in my office.

Witness my hand and seal of office on

MAY 11 2020



Margie Ramirez Ibarra
Webb County Clerk

By *[Signature]*
Deputy County Clerk