

# TRAVEL APPROVAL FORM

**Department:** Precinct 1 Road & Bridge

**Event Name:** Legislative Conference

**Location:** Austin

**Event Dates:** 08.28.24-08.30.24

**Purpose:**  Required Continuing Education/Certification  
 Job Training  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Attendees:**

Rick Bailey \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

<b>Court Decision:</b> <small>This section to be completed by County Judge's Office</small>
 <b>June 24, 2024</b>

**Required Documents Checklist:**

**\*\* Same-Day Travel - Commissioners Court Approval is not required \*\***

**Overnight Travel**

- Travel Approval Form
- Registration Information or Confirmation
- Itinerary, Agenda, or Breakdown
- Hotel Information, Confirmation, or Hotel Reservation Request Form

**For Out of State Travel, please also include:**

- Cost Estimation Breakdown for Trip with Airfare, Rental Car, Meals, Hotel, Etc.
- Narrative as to why the Out of State Travel is necessary

**Signature of Elected Official/Department Head:**

Rick Bailey

Please make checks payable to:

# Texas Association Of Counties

P.O. Box 2711 San Antonio, TX 78299  
(800) 456-5974



## Meeting Confirmation / Invoice

**Hon. Rick Bailey**

Johnson County, Commissioner  
3400 FM 1434  
Cleburne TX 76033

Member ID: 226727

Invoice Ref: 356120

**MEETING NAME:** 2024 Legislative Conference

**MEETING DATE:** Wednesday, August 28, 2024 through Friday, August 30, 2024

**MEETING LOCATION:** Fairmont Austin Hotel  
101 Red River St.  
Austin, TX 78701

**CONTACT US:** Project Manager: Deanna Auert - deannaa@county.org  
Project Coordinator: Rachel Kucera: rachelk@county.org  
For more information, visit www.county.org or call (800) 456-5974.

**YOU ARE REGISTERED FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

Function(s)	Quantity	Rate	Amount
In-Person County Registration	1	\$275.00	\$275.00
Continuing Education	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total:</b>			<b>\$275.00</b>

Payment: \$0.00

**Balance: \$275.00**

---

**PLEASE REMIT WITH PAYMENT**

Please make checks payable to: Texas Association Of Counties

**Invoice Ref: 356120**

**Balance: \$275.00**

Bill To ID: 226727

Hon. Rick Bailey  
Johnson County, Commissioner  
3400 FM 1434  
Cleburne TX 76033

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Texas Association Of Counties  
P.O. Box 2711  
San Antonio, TX 78299  
(800) 456-5974

002750060226727203561200TJ0HN

## Wednesday, Aug. 28

---

### 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Registration and Information Desk Hours

Level 5 Foyer

---

### 8 - 9 a.m.: TAC Board of Directors Breakfast

### 9 a.m. - noon: TAC Board of Directors Meeting

### Noon - 1 p.m.: TAC Board of Directors Lunch

### Noon - 2 p.m.: Meet and Greet with Exhibitors

Congressional Ballroom, Level 3

---

### Noon - 2 p.m.: Access Event Platform and Information Desk

(live online only)

---

### 12:45 - 1:45 p.m.: Private Meeting: Core Legislative Group Networking and Training

Manchester EE, Level 5

Before the general session, Core Legislative Group members will have an opportunity to look at successes and the hard work CLG members did during the legislative session. A panel of CLG members will be discussing their experiences, from preparation to office visits and testifying in a hearing. This event is for current Core Legislative Group members. However, if you would like to attend, please register for the Core Legislative Group at the CLG booth on the fifth floor.

---

### 12:45 - 1:45 p.m.: Preconference Session: It's the Right Time for the Right Partner

Manchester GG, Level 5

*Speakers: David Bazzel, Product Specialist, Nationwide*

*David S. Belnick, Endorsement Partner Director, Nationwide*

Employers are seeing the impact of delayed or cancelled retirements, but how can you help workers get more confident in retirement? We asked, and these features would help increase confidence in their retirement plans:

- 55% said guaranteed income
  - 51% said protection from market volatility
- 

### 2 - 4:30 p.m.: Opening General Session

Manchester Ballroom, Level 5

#### Welcome

*Presiding: Hon. Tim Addison, Yoakum County Commissioner and President, Texas Association of Counties*

*Hon. Susan M. Redford, Executive Director, Texas Association of Counties*

## Thursday, Aug. 29

### 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Registration and Information Desk Hours

Level 5 Foyer

### 7 - 7:50 a.m.: Breakfast

Palm Park, Level 7

### 7 - 8 a.m.: Access Event Platform and Information Desk

(live online only)

### 8 - 9:05 a.m.: Legislative Discussion Sessions (1-5)

### 8 - 9:05 a.m.: Navigating Long-Term Emergency Management Response and Recovery: Lessons From Texas Counties

Track  
1

*Moderator: Elizabeth Choate, Legislative Consultant - Treasurers' Association, TAC*

*Speakers: Heather Lagrone, Senior Deputy Director, Texas General Land Office*

*Hon. Lisa Johnson, Hemphill County Judge*

From wildfires and hurricanes to floods and tornadoes, Texas counties face diverse disaster challenges. Effective long-term planning is essential to building resilient communities and safeguarding public safety. Our panelists will share practical strategies, best practices and lessons learned from managing emergency response and recovery operations in the aftermath of disasters. Topics include working with response agencies, available funding streams, reimbursement mechanisms, debris, donation management and disaster procurement to support ongoing recovery efforts.

### 8 - 9:05 a.m.: Congress and Counties: Engagement Drives Results

Track  
2

*Moderator: Pete Winckler, Legislative Consultant - Auditors' Association, TAC*

*Speakers: Matthew D. Chase, Executive Director, National Association of Counties (NACo)*

*Hon. J.D. Clark, Wise County Judge, 2nd Vice President, NACo*

The American Rescue Plan Act marked a historic win for counties. Congress sent \$65 billion in direct aid to counties, a powerful demonstration of its confidence that locally elected and appointed officials best know the needs of their communities. Congress' trust in county officials results from the relationships you have built in partnership with TAC and the National Association of Counties. Join us for a discussion on leveraging this success as Congress takes up reauthorization of the Farm Bill, enacts the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and considers additional investments and competitive grants.

### 8 - 9:05 a.m.: Truth in Taxation: What Your County Needs to Know

Track  
3

*Moderator: Caroline Love, Director of Legislative Services, TAC*

*Speakers: Hon. Larry Gaddes, Williamson County Tax Assessor-Collector*

*Brent South, Chief Appraiser, Hunt County Appraisal District*

*Hon. Kevin Kieschnick, Nueces County Tax Assessor-Collector*

Congressional Ballroom, Level 3  
Open during lunch, noon-1:30 p.m.

**9:05 - 9:30 a.m.: Break With Exhibitors**

Congressional Ballroom, Level 3

**9:30 - 10:35 a.m.: Legislative Discussion Sessions (repeat 1-5)****9:30 - 10:35 a.m.: Navigating Long-Term Emergency Management Response and Recovery: Lessons From Texas Counties****Track  
1**

*Moderator: Elizabeth Choate, Legislative Consultant - Treasurers' Association, TAC*

*Speakers: Heather Lagrone, Senior Deputy Director, Texas General Land Office*

*Hon. Lisa Johnson, Hemphill County Judge*

From wildfires and hurricanes to floods and tornadoes, Texas counties face diverse disaster challenges. Effective long-term planning is essential to building resilient communities and safeguarding public safety. Our panelists will share practical strategies, best practices and lessons learned from managing emergency response and recovery operations in the aftermath of disasters. Topics include working with response agencies, available funding streams, reimbursement mechanisms, debris, donation management and disaster procurement to support ongoing recovery efforts.

**9:30 - 10:35 a.m.: Congress and Counties: Engagement Drives Results****Track  
2**

*Moderator: Pete Winckler, Legislative Consultant - Auditors' Association, TAC*

*Speakers: Matthew D. Chase, Executive Director, National Association of Counties (NACo)*

*Hon. J.D. Clark, Wise County Judge, 2nd Vice President, NACo*

The American Rescue Plan Act marked a historic win for counties. Congress sent \$65 billion in direct aid to counties, a powerful demonstration of its confidence that locally elected and appointed officials best know the needs of their communities. Congress' trust in county officials results from the relationships you have built in partnership with TAC and the National Association of Counties. Join us for a discussion on leveraging this success as Congress takes up reauthorization of the Farm Bill, enacts the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and considers additional investments and competitive grants.

**9:30 - 10:35 a.m.: Truth in Taxation: What Your County Needs to Know****Track  
3**

*Moderator: Caroline Love, Director of Legislative Services, TAC*

*Speakers: Hon. Larry Gaddes, Williamson County Tax Assessor-Collector*

*Brent South, Chief Appraiser, Hunt County Appraisal District*

*Hon. Kevin Kieschnick, Nueces County Tax Assessor-Collector*

Truth in taxation requires local taxing units to make taxpayers aware of tax rate proposals and affords them the opportunity to limit tax increases. Exactly how does that requirement come together? Join us as we explore how the dynamics of truth in taxation affect your county.

**9:30 - 10:35 a.m.: Safeguarding Our Courts: Strategies for Protecting Judges, Staff and the Public****Track  
4**

*Moderator: Kelsey Bernstein, Legislative Consultant - Justices of the Peace and Constables Association and Core Legislative Group Coordinator, TAC*

*Speakers: Hon. Holly Williamson, Harris County Justice of the Peace*

*Hon. Ben Zeller, Victoria County Judge*

*Moderator: Nanette Forbes, Legislative Consultant – County & District Clerks' Association, TAC*  
*Speaker: Christina Adkins, Director of Elections, Texas Secretary of State's Office*  
*Jennifer Doinoff, Hays County Elections Administrator*  
*Hon. Heather Hawthorne, Chambers County Clerk*  
*Hon. Laura Rogers, Sherman County/District Clerk*  
*Hon. Brian Hawthorne, Chambers County Sheriff*  
*Mike Jones, Hays County Emergency Management*

Are counties prepared to ensure voter safety and manage emergencies at polling places? As the cost of election administration rises due to recent legislation, will counties have future funding options available? Our distinguished panel will explore these topics and more.

### 10:55 a.m. - noon: Managing First Amendment Audits: Know Your Rights and Responsibilities

Track  
2

*Moderator: Caroline Love, Director of Legislative Services, TAC*  
*Speaker: Thomas Kerss, Law Enforcement & Simulator Consultants Supervisor, TAC*

Do you know what to do if someone enters your county office declaring they are conducting a constitutional or First Amendment audit and begins recording video and making demands of you and your staff? Attend this session to understand your rights and how to handle these situations responsibly and effectively.

### 10:55 a.m. - noon: Grant Funding for Texas Counties: Maximizing Benefits, Minimizing Burdens

Track  
3

*Moderator: Zelma Smith, Financial Analyst, TAC*  
*Speakers: Robert Cottle, Deputy Director for Homeland Security and Justice Programs, Public Safety Office at Office of Texas Governor Greg Abbott*  
*Dr. Kelly Garbee, Executive Director, Texas Rural Funders*  
*Robin Knipling, Grant Administrator, Victoria County*

Explore the ins and outs of pursuing and accepting grant funds for Texas counties. We'll discuss the value of grants for initiatives such as mental health deputies, law enforcement equipment and mandated services like indigent defense while considering the potential strain that federal and state grant standards, administrative requirements and match obligations can place on county budgets and resources.

### 10:55 a.m. - noon: Blueprint for Progress: Setting County Priorities for Texas' Behavioral Health System

Track  
4

*Moderator: Kelsey Bernstein, Legislative Consultant – Justices of the Peace and Constables Association and Core Legislative Group Coordinator, TAC*  
*Speakers: Kristi Taylor, Executive Director, Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health*  
*Lee Johnson, Executive Director, Texas Council of Community Centers*  
*Brett Bray, Blanco County Judge*

Join us for a session exploring how counties have used the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) to assess resources, identify service gaps and engage stakeholders in addressing local behavioral health needs. Learn about the support provided by the Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health, including SIM mapping tools, the County Mental Health Law Plan pilot program and various training opportunities available to counties. Discover how these initiatives can transform behavioral health services in your community.

### 10:55 a.m. - noon: It's Happening: The Use of AI in County Government

Track  
5

*Moderator: Katy Estrada, Associate Director of Legislative Services and Legislative Consultant - County Judges and Commissioners Association, TAC*  
*Speakers: Matthew D. Chase, Executive Director, National Association of Counties (NACo)*  
*Hon. Giovanni Capriglione, Texas House of Representatives*

Artificial Intelligence and emerging technologies are changing faster than governments can adapt. Both public entities and private businesses are at a

Hon. Brian Haworth, Chambers County Sheriff

Mike Jones, Hays County Emergency Management  
Are counties prepared to ensure voter safety and manage emergencies at polling places? As the cost of election administration rises due to recent legislation, will counties have future funding options available? Our distinguished panel will explore these topics and more.

**1:30 - 2:35 p.m.: Managing First Amendment Audits: Know Your Rights and Responsibilities**

Track 2

*Moderator: Caroline Love, Director of Legislative Services, TAC*

*Speaker: Thomas Kerss, Law Enforcement & Simulator Consultants Supervisor, TAC*

Do you know what to do if someone enters your county office declaring they are conducting a constitutional or First Amendment audit and begins recording video and making demands of you and your staff? Attend this session to understand your rights and how to handle these situations responsibly and effectively.

**1:30 - 2:35 p.m.: Grant Funding for Texas Counties: Maximizing Benefits, Minimizing Burdens**

Track 3

*Moderator: Zelma Smith, Financial Analyst, TAC*

*Speakers: Robert Cottle, Deputy Director for Homeland Security and Justice Programs, Public Safety Office at Office of Texas Governor Greg Abbott*

*Dr. Kelly Garbee, Executive Director, Texas Rural Funders*

*Robin Knipling, Grant Administrator, Victoria County*

Explore the ins and outs of pursuing and accepting grant funds for Texas counties. We'll discuss the value of grants for initiatives such as mental health deputies, law enforcement equipment and mandated services like indigent defense while considering the potential strain that federal and state grant standards, administrative requirements and match obligations can place on county budgets and resources.

**1:30 - 2:35 p.m.: Blueprint for Progress: Setting County Priorities for Texas' Behavioral Health System**

Track 4

*Moderator: Kelsey Bernstein, Legislative Consultant – Justices of the Peace and Constables Association and Core Legislative Group Coordinator, TAC*

*Speakers: Kristi Taylor, Executive Director, Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health*

*Lee Johnson, Executive Director, Texas Council of Community Centers*

*Brett Bray, Blanco County Judge*

Join us for a session exploring how counties have used the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) to assess resources, identify service gaps and engage stakeholders in addressing local behavioral health needs. Learn about the support provided by the Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health, including SIM mapping tools, the County Mental Health Law Plan pilot program and various training opportunities available to counties. Discover how these initiatives can transform behavioral health services in your community.

**1:30 - 2:35 p.m.: It's Happening: The Use of AI in County Government**

Track 5

*Moderator: Katy Estrada, Associate Director of Legislative Services and Legislative Consultant - County Judges and Commissioners Association, TAC*

*Speakers: Matthew D. Chase, Executive Director, National Association of Counties (NACo)*

*Hon. Giovanni Capriglione, Texas House of Representatives*

Artificial Intelligence and emerging technologies are changing faster than governments can adapt. Both public entities and private businesses are at a crossroads between innovative use of technology and safeguarding themselves against unforeseen risks. Join us for a robust discussion on the intersection of AI and county government and what counties need to consider as they navigate this changing technology landscape.

**2:35 - 3 p.m.: Ice Cream Social Break With Exhibitors**

Congressional Ballroom, Level 3

**3 - 4:30 p.m.: Meeting of County Affiliate Organizations**

## Friday, Aug. 30

---

### 8 - 10:30 a.m.: Registration and Information Desk

Level 5 Foyer

---

### 8 - 9 a.m.: Access Event Platform and Information Desk

(live online only)

---

### 8:30 - 9 a.m.: Breakfast

Manchester Ballroom, Level 5

---

### 9 - 10:30 a.m.: Closing General Session - Border Barriers

Manchester Ballroom, Level 5

#### Welcome and Introductions

*Presiding: Hon. Cindy Yeatts, Denton County Treasurer and President-Elect, Texas Association of Counties*

#### Border Barriers

*Moderator: Katy Estrada, Associate Director of Legislative Services and Legislative Consultant - County Judges and Commissioners Association, TAC*

*Speakers: Hon. David Stout, El Paso County Commissioner*

*Doug Keller, Legal Director, Lone Star Defenders*

*Nelson Barnes, Project Director, Border Prosecution Unit - Operation Lone Star*

For decades, protecting the border has been a key political issue. The passage of Senate Bill 4 has now pushed counties to the forefront of the immigration conversation. In our closing session, we will discuss the current challenges counties are facing, as well as the potential new challenges they may encounter if Senate Bill 4 goes into effect.



Copyright © 2024 TAC Copyright Information



**Keli Pack**

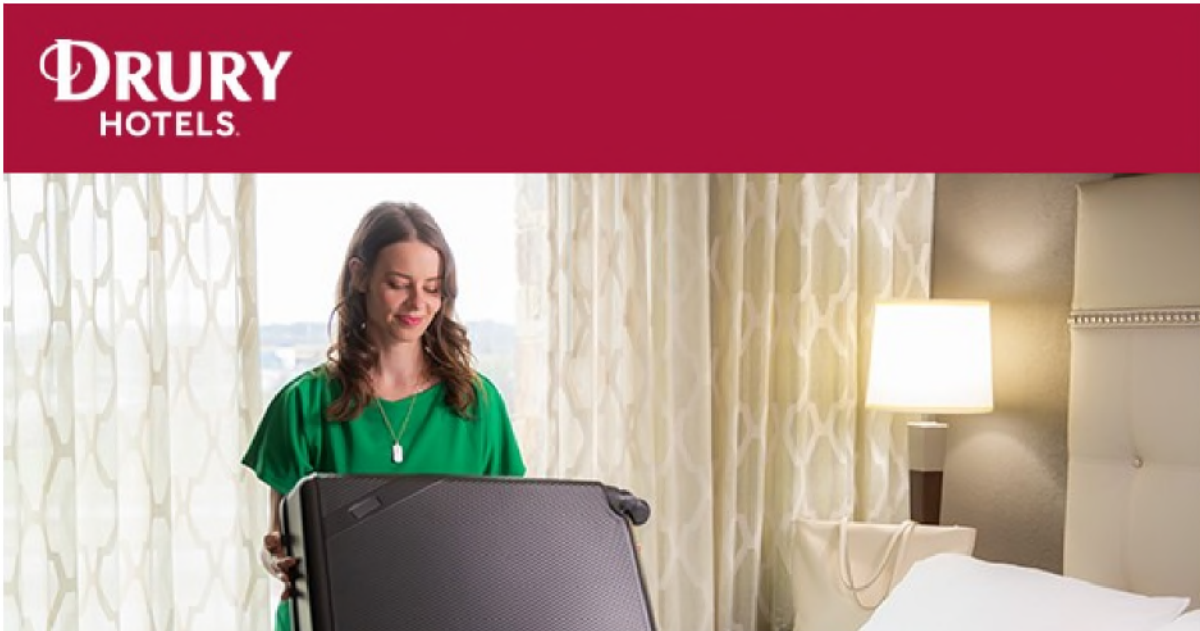
---

**From:** Drury Hotels <reply@email.druryhotels.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 9, 2024 2:29 PM  
**To:** Keli Pack  
**Subject:** Reservation Confirmation #2011216475 | Drury Inn & Suites Austin North

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the Johnson County email system. Use care when opening links or attachments. Report suspicious emails.

To view this email as a web page, go [here](#).

[Sign In](#) ♦ [Modify Reservation](#)



**Confirmation:** 2011216475

Thank you for booking your stay at Drury Inn & Suites Austin North.

[6711 I 35 North Austin, TX 78752](#)

Phone: 512-467-9500

**Hotel Information**

**Arriving**  
August 27, 2024

**Departing**  
August 30, 2024

**Check In:** 3:00 pm ♦ **Check Out:** 11:00 am