AGENDA ITEM
CA 4

TRAVEL APPROVAL FORM

Department: Road and Bridge PCT 2

Event Name: 2026 TAC Legislative Conference

Location: Austin, TX

Event Dates: 08/26- 08/28/2026

Purpose:
- ☑ Required Continuing Education/Certification
- ☐ Job Training
- ☐ Other: _____

Name of Attendees:

Kenny Howell

Reservation CFBH6PGE

Court Decision:
This section to be completed by County Judge's Office

Johnson County ★ APPROVED ★ Commissioners Court

7.13.2026

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: Kenny Howell

Approved in CC on 9/11/2023

Roxann Rudzavice

From: do-not-reply@county.org
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2026 12:58 PM
To: Precinct #2
Subject: Hotel Information: 2026 Legislative Conference

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

Hotel Information

Thank you for registering for the 2026 Legislative Conference!

The conference is scheduled for Aug. 26-28 at the Fairmont Austin Hotel.

Please use this link to register for a room at the Fairmont Austin Hotel:
https://book.passkey.com/go/TAC0826

Host Hotel:
Fairmont Austin Hotel
101 Red River St.
Austin, TX 78701

The group rate is **$225 single/double**, plus applicable taxes. Please reserve your hotel room before the group rate cutoff of Aug. 6, or until the room block is full; after that, rates and availability are not guaranteed.

The hotel will not accept any call-in reservations.

PLEASE NOTE: If the credit card used for your reservation will not be present at check-in, you will need to fill out a credit card authorization form at least 72 hours before arrival. Contact the hotel directly to receive the form, (512) 600-2000.

If you have any questions, please email Deanna Auert or Rachel Kucera, or contact them at (800) 456-5974.

See you in Austin!

Texas Association of Counties
This email was sent to **pct2@johnsoncountytx.org**.

2026 TAC Legislative Conference

August 26, 2026 - August 28, 2026 **multi-day**

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Fairmont Austin Hotel
101 Red River St.
Austin, TX 78701

Contact Deanna Auert or Rachel Kucera at (800) 456-5974.

Contact Us

Registration

AGENDA

Wednesday, Aug. 26

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

Level 5 Foyer

8 a.m. - 2 p.m.: TAC Board of Directors Breakfast, Meeting and 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 – Courthouse to Statehouse

Moderator: Kirsten Mills, Legislative Consultant - Texas Association of County & Districts Clerks' Association, Texas Association of Counties
Join us for this Core Legislative Group-exclusive session to hear from a legislator who began their career in the county courthouse. They will discuss how working in county government influenced their views and shaped their priorities at the Texas Capitol. You'll learn how county and state governments work together and how local issues can shape policies that affect communities across the state.

Not a Core Legislative Group (CLG) member? Contact clg@county.org for information about the Core Legislative Group.

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

Manchester Ballroom, Level 5
Welcome and Introductions
Presiding: Hon. Cindy Yeatts Brown, Denton County Treasurer and President, Texas Association of Counties
Hon. Susan M. Redford, Executive Director, TAC

Preparation for the 90th Legislative Session: Tell Your Story
Moderator: Caroline Love, Director of Legislative Services, TAC
Speaker: S.C. Gwynne, award-winning journalist, Pulitzer Prize finalist, and bestselling historian
Join New York Times bestselling author S.C. Gwynne to learn how to tell your county's story. He has worked on cover stories about NASA, the King Ranch, Southwest Airlines and White House adviser Karl Rove. With extensive writing experience, including books on American history and features for Texas Monthly, Gwynne offers practical tools to help you reach your audience.

4:30 - 6 p.m.: Exhibit Hall Welcome Reception

Congressional Ballroom, Level 3

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Contact Us

Registration

AGENDA

Thursday, Aug. 27

7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.: Registration and Information Desk Hours

Level 5 Foyer

7 - 7:50 a.m.: Morning Coffee and Continental 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.: From Pennies to Policy: Operational Impacts on Texas Counties

Moderator: Davis Hairston, Legislative Consultant - Tax Assessor-Collectors Association of Texas, TAC
Recent legislative and policy changes are creating new operational challenges for Texas tax offices and counties. This panel brings together tax assessors to discuss three emerging issues affecting county offices: cash tax payments and declining coin circulation, new vehicle registration ID requirements, and the effects of HB 9 on business inventory tax structures. Panelists will provide practical insights, followed by an open Q&A with attendees.

8 - 9:05 a.m.: Natural Disasters in Texas: Practical Preparedness, Response, and Recovery for Counties

Moderator: Pete Winckler, Legislative Consultant - Texas Association of County Auditors, TAC
Across its vast and varied landscape, Texas must confront nearly every form of natural disaster — from droughts to floods and wildfires to winter storms. Preparing your county for what lies ahead is challenging — but essential. Gain practical insights from county and state leaders to help inform the tough decisions you face before, during and after disasters.

8 - 9:05 a.m.: Death Inquests in Texas: Bridging the Gap Between JPs and Medical Examiners

Moderator: Jama Pantel, Justice of the Peace & Constables Association of Texas, TAC
Death investigations in Texas rely heavily on justices of the peace, particularly in counties without medical examiner offices. This session will explore the current statutory framework governing death inquests, the role justices of the peace play across the state, and the growing conversation around expanding medical examiner capacity.

8 - 9:05 a.m.: Miles of Opportunity: Reauthorization, Federal Investment, and the Road Ahead for Texas Counties

Moderator: William Chapman, Legislative Consultant – Federal Issues, TAC
Texas counties maintain more road miles than any other state. With surface transportation reauthorization on the horizon, the federal programs that fund that infrastructure are entering a pivotal moment. NACo's chief government affairs officer joins TAC to walk through the national landscape, including what reauthorization means for county roads and bridges, how federal funding formulas affect local allocations, and where Texas counties fit into the broader conversation.

8 - 9:05 a.m.: Radio Interoperability: Ensuring Communications for All Responders

Moderators: Jason Kirksey, Legislative Consultant - Sheriffs' Association of Texas, TAC
Jack Austin, Policy Analyst, TAC
Recent disasters throughout the state have brought to the forefront the issue of interoperability among first responders. Interoperability is critical because it ensures that systems, agencies and technologies can communicate seamlessly during routine operations and high-stakes emergencies. This panel brings together first responders from diverse agencies to share insights, challenges and strategies for improving interoperability in the field.

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.: Exhibit Hall Hours

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)

1. From Pennies to Policy: Operational Impacts on Texas Counties

2. Natural Disasters in Texas: Practical Preparedness, Response, and Recovery for Counties

3. Death Inquests in Texas: Bridging the Gap Between JPs and Medical Examiners

4. Miles of Opportunity: Reauthorization, Federal Investment, and the Road Ahead for Texas Counties

5. Radio Interoperability: Ensuring Communications for All Responders

10:35 - 10:55 a.m.: Break With Exhibitors

Congressional Ballroom, Level 3

10:55 a.m. - noon: Legislative Discussion Sessions

10:55 a.m. - noon: 90th Legislative Session Preview: A Conversation on the Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee

Moderator: Stefan Silveira, Legislative Consultant - County Judges and Commissioners Association, TAC
Join Chairman Charles Perry for a timely discussion on the work of the Texas Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs. This conversation will highlight key insights from recent interim hearings and outline the committee's legislative priorities before the 90th legislative session.

10:55 a.m. - noon: The State of Elections

Moderator: Kirsten Mills, Legislative Consultant - Texas Association of County & Districts Clerks' Association, TAC
This panel examines how policy translates into real-world implementation, with a focus on the key challenges and priorities as Texas counties prepare for the upcoming legislative session.

10:55 a.m. - noon: Power Without Authority: How Counties Can Shape Development

Moderator: Elizabeth Choate, Senior Legislative Consultant - Texas District and County Attorneys, TAC
Counties are navigating rapid growth in data centers, solar projects and the resulting effects on resources, property rights and communities. Panelists will examine available policy tools to promote responsible development. Plus, a look at what may be coming next at the Legislature.

10:55 a.m. - noon: Counting on You: Strategies for Maximizing Federal Allocations in 2030

Moderators: William Chapman, Legislative Consultant – Federal Issues, TAC
Wendy Cook, Legislative Data Analyst, TAC
How do federal census programs directly affect Texas communities? What is the formula used for funding? How can counties engage with these programs to maximize census-guided funding outcomes and grant opportunities for their residents? Join representatives from the Texas Demographic Center and Texas Census Institute to learn about the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) and the county-level population estimates that are used for federal formula allocations. Highly recommended for county judges, county

commissioners, and any other county officials who want to understand how participation in the census helps Texas counties.

10:55 a.m. - noon: The Gold Standard: How County Judges, Auditors and Treasurers Can Work Together To Safeguard Local Money

Moderator: Amy Bruno, Legislative Consultant - County Treasurers' Association of Texas, TAC
Taxpayers want and expect their county officials to be good stewards of county finances. To accomplish this, county judges, auditors and treasurers must work cooperatively and collaboratively. Join panelists as they discuss their roles in the money management process, what works for their county, and strategies for improving collaboration and communication around county finances. This panel is of interest to county judges, auditors, treasurers, and any county official wanting to understand the roles of each of these officials and learn how their responsibilities interact.

Noon - 1:30 p.m.: Networking Lunch

Palm Park, Level

1:30 - 2:35 p.m.: Legislative Discussion Sessions (repeat 6-10)

6. 90th Legislative Session Preview: A Conversation on the Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee

7. The State of Elections

8. Power Without Authority: How Counties Can Shape Development

9. Counting on You: Strategies for Maximizing Federal Allocations in 2030

10. The Gold Standard: How County Judges, Auditors and Treasurers Can Work Together To Safeguard Local Money

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

Affiliate organizations host a 1.5-hour meeting to discuss legislative issues or association business during the conference. These meetings will not be livestreamed. For more information, please contact your TAC Legislative Consultant or affiliate representative.

4:30 - 6 p.m.: Legislative Reception

This social event is open to all registered attendees and is an opportunity to celebrate all county officials who have volunteered their time and expertise to advocate on behalf of counties. Thank you for your efforts!
Sponsored by: Core Legislative Group

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10:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Fairmont Austin Hotel
101 Red River St.
Austin, TX 78701

Contact Deanna Auert or Rachel Kucera at (800) 456-5974.

Contact Us

Registration

AGENDA

Friday, Aug. 28

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

Manchester Ballroom, Level 5
Welcome and Introductions
Presiding: Hon. Randy Riggs, McLennan County Tax Assessor-Collector and President-Elect, Texas Association of Counties

State Decisions, Local Impacts: The County Impact of State Property Tax Policy
Moderators: Caroline Love, Director of Legislative Services, TAC
Stefan Silveira, Legislative Consultant - County Judges and Commissioners Association, TAC
Panelists will explore how state-level property tax decisions shape the ability of counties to fund and

Roxann Rudzavice

From: Fairmont Austin Team <info@cvent.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2026 1:06 PM
To: Precinct #2
Subject: Fairmont Austin Reservation Confirmation

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

Please do not respond to this email. Inquiries should be directed to the specific hotel or please call 1-800-257-7544

Fairmont
AUSTIN

RESERVATION



Dear Kenny Howell

Thank you for booking online, your reservation was completed successfully.

Your reservation number is:
CFBH6PGE

Please refer to the reservation details below and visit our hotel links for more information to plan your visit.

Below are your reservation details. If you have any questions please call 1(888) 240-7773

Arriving on Aug 24, 2026
Departing on Aug 27, 2026

Number of Guests: 2, 0
Room Rate:

Date	Guests	Status	Rate
Aug 24, 2026	2	Confirmed	225.00
Aug 25, 2026	2	Confirmed	225.00
Aug 26, 2026	2	Confirmed	225.00

Additional Guest Rate

Second Guest	0.00
Third Guest	20.00

Children under 18 stay free with an adult in the room.

Room Type: Run of House, 1 King Bed

Totals:
Room:

Date	Guests	Status	Rate
Aug 24, 2026	2	Confirmed	225.00
Aug 25, 2026	2	Confirmed	225.00
Aug 26, 2026	2	Confirmed	225.00

Additional Guest Rate

Second Guest	0.00
Third Guest	20.00

Children under 18 stay free with an adult in the room.

Extras:

Please note the following taxes and fees are not included into rates:

11.00% City Tax Per Night.

6.00% State Tax Per Night.

0.70% State Recovery Fee Per Night

2.35% Austin Tourism PID Fee.

All taxes and fees are subject to change at any time

Please note if the credit card you are reserving, will not be phyically at check in, a credit card authorization form is required. Conta ct the hotel to retrieve the form. Must be completed no later than 72hours prior to arrival. Thank you!

Total: 675.00
Add-Ons:
Cancel Policy: Credit Card required to guarantee reservation. Deposit Policy: One night's room and tax deposit to be taken 72 hours prior to arrival. Cancellation Policy: Reservations cancelled within 72 hours of booked arrival will incur one night's room and tax.

Fairmont Austin
101 Red River Street
Austin, TX 78701
US
Tel (512) 600-2000
Fax (512) 580-0198
E-mail Reservations.Austin@Fairmont.com
For more information on Fairmont Austin click here

Quick Links

- Hotel Fact Sheet
- ALL Accor Loyalty Program
- Book Destination Tours & Events
- Change your reservation