

The Texas State Constitution.

Article 5; The Judicial Department.

Published by the Texas Legislative Council; Austin, Texas. Adopted February 15, 1876. Revised February 1998.

<https://tlc.texas.gov/docs/legref/TxConst.pdf>

<https://www.sll.texas.gov/law-legislation/texas/constitution/>

Sec. 19. JUSTICES OF THE PEACE; JURISDICTION; EX OFFICIO NOTARIES PUBLIC.

Justice of the peace courts shall have
original jurisdiction in criminal matters of misdemeanor cases punishable by fine only,
exclusive jurisdiction in civil matters
where the amount in controversy is two hundred dollars or less,
and such other jurisdiction as may be provided by law.
Justices of the peace shall be ex officio notaries public.
(Amended Nov. 7, 1978, and Nov. 5, 1985.) ...

Sec. 18. DIVISION OF COUNTIES INTO PRECINCTS;
ELECTION OF CONSTABLE AND JUSTICE OF THE PEACE;
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT;
CHANGE IN PRECINCT BOUNDARIES.

(a) Each county in the State
with a population of 30,000 or more, according to the most recent federal census,
from time to time, for the convenience of the people,
shall be divided into not less than four and not more than eight precincts.
Each county in the State with a population of 18,000 or more but less than 30,000, according to the
most recent federal census, from time to time, for the convenience of the people,
shall be divided into not less than two and not more than five precincts.
Each county in the State with a population of less than 18,000, according to the most recent federal
census, from time to time, for the convenience of the people, shall be designated as a single precinct or,
if the Commissioners Court determines that the county needs more than one precinct,
shall be divided into not more than four precincts.

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A division or designation under this subsection
shall be made by the Commissioners Court provided for by this Constitution.

Except as provided by Subsection (e) of this section,
in each such precinct there shall be elected one Justice of the Peace and one Constable,
each of whom shall hold his office for four years and until his successor shall be elected and qualified;
provided that in a county with a population of less than 150,000, according to the most recent federal
census, in any precinct in which there may be a city of 18,000 or more inhabitants,
there shall be elected two Justices of the Peace,
and in a county with a population of 150,000 or more, according to the most recent federal census,
each precinct may contain more than one Justice of the Peace Court.

(b) Each county shall,
in the manner provided for justice of the peace and constable precincts,
be divided into four commissioners precincts
in each of which there shall be elected by the qualified voters thereof
one County Commissioner,
who shall hold his office for four years
and until his successor shall be elected and qualified.

The County Commissioners so chosen, with the County Judge as presiding officer,
shall compose the County Commissioners Court,
which shall exercise such powers and jurisdiction over all county business,
as is conferred by this Constitution and the laws of the State,
or as may be hereafter prescribed.

(c) When the boundaries of justice of the peace and constable precincts are changed,
each Justice and Constable in office on the effective date of the change, or elected to a term of office
beginning on or after the effective date of the change, shall serve in the precinct in which the person
resides for the term to which each was elected or appointed, even though the change in boundaries
places the person's residence outside the precinct for which he was elected or appointed,
abolishes the precinct for which he was elected or appointed,
or temporarily results in extra Justices or Constables serving in a precinct.

When, as a result of a change of precinct boundaries,
a vacancy occurs in the office of Justice of the Peace or Constable,
the Commissioners Court shall fill the vacancy by appointment until the next general election.

(d) When the boundaries of commissioners precincts are changed,
each commissioner in office on the effective date of the change,
or elected to a term of office beginning on or after the effective date of the change,
shall serve in the precinct to which each was elected or appointed
for the entire term to which each was elected or appointed,
even though the change in boundaries places the person's residence
outside the precinct for which he was elected or appointed.

...

(g) The Legislature by general law may prescribe the qualifications of constables.

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