

To: Commissioners Court

From: Bill Bilyeu, County Administrator

Date: June 3, 2015

Re: County Court at Law 7

Senate Bill 1139 from the 84th Texas Legislature created County Court at Law No. 7 effective September 1, 2015.

Interested persons will file candidate applications for the unexpired term at the end of this year. Those seeking a party nomination will participate in the March 1st primary and, if necessary, the May 24th primary runoff.

Voters will fill the unexpired term at the November 8, 2016 general election. This initial term will expire December 31, 2018.

The Commissioners Court, by majority vote, has the authority to fill this vacancy any time after September 1st. The Commissioners Court appointee would serve until the November 2016 general election winner is certified.

Court technology and office furniture (if FY15 funding can be found) will not be in place until October 2015 at the earliest.

The FY16 proposed budget will include full-year funding to operate this and the 2 new State District courts. If needed, a visiting judge and temporary staff could operate County Court at Law No. 7 until a judge is elected or appointed and then hires permanent staff.

As a reminder, the Governor makes the appointments for the unexpired terms for the new state district courts.

I am asking that the Commissioners Court make a determination as to when an appointment to this bench will be made.