



The Need for More District Courts: Part Two

JUDGE TOM NOWAK ON
BEHALF OF THE COLLIN
COUNTY DISTRICT COURTS

Bottom Line Up Front

The Collin County District Judges request a vote, by the Honorable Commissioners' Court of Collin County, in favor of the 88th Legislature adding two (2) new general jurisdiction district courts in and for Collin County.

We believe this request is necessary

- To meet the growing needs of our ever increasing population
- To continue to provide the excellent service Collin County citizens expect
- To ensure that justice is swift and fair
- To keep Collin County as the model of efficiency it has become.

Collin County Population Growth

	Population	Increase
2010	782,341	
2020	1,064,465	+282,124 (#8 in ALL OF U.S.)
2021	1,109,462	+36,313 (#2 in ALL OF U.S.)
2025	Over 1,250,000	+35,135 (per year)??

Collin County will add the population equivalent of a city, the size of McKinney, by the time the next opportunity to add courts comes around.

Our Citizens
Our Jurors
Our Litigants

“Collin County, for example, employers would say, is among the best places they could possibly go in the United States to find a big, deep, well-trained, well-educated pool of potential workers that they can select from, that they can compete for.”

Source: DMN (Jul 18, 2022)

Comparison To Similar Sized Counties

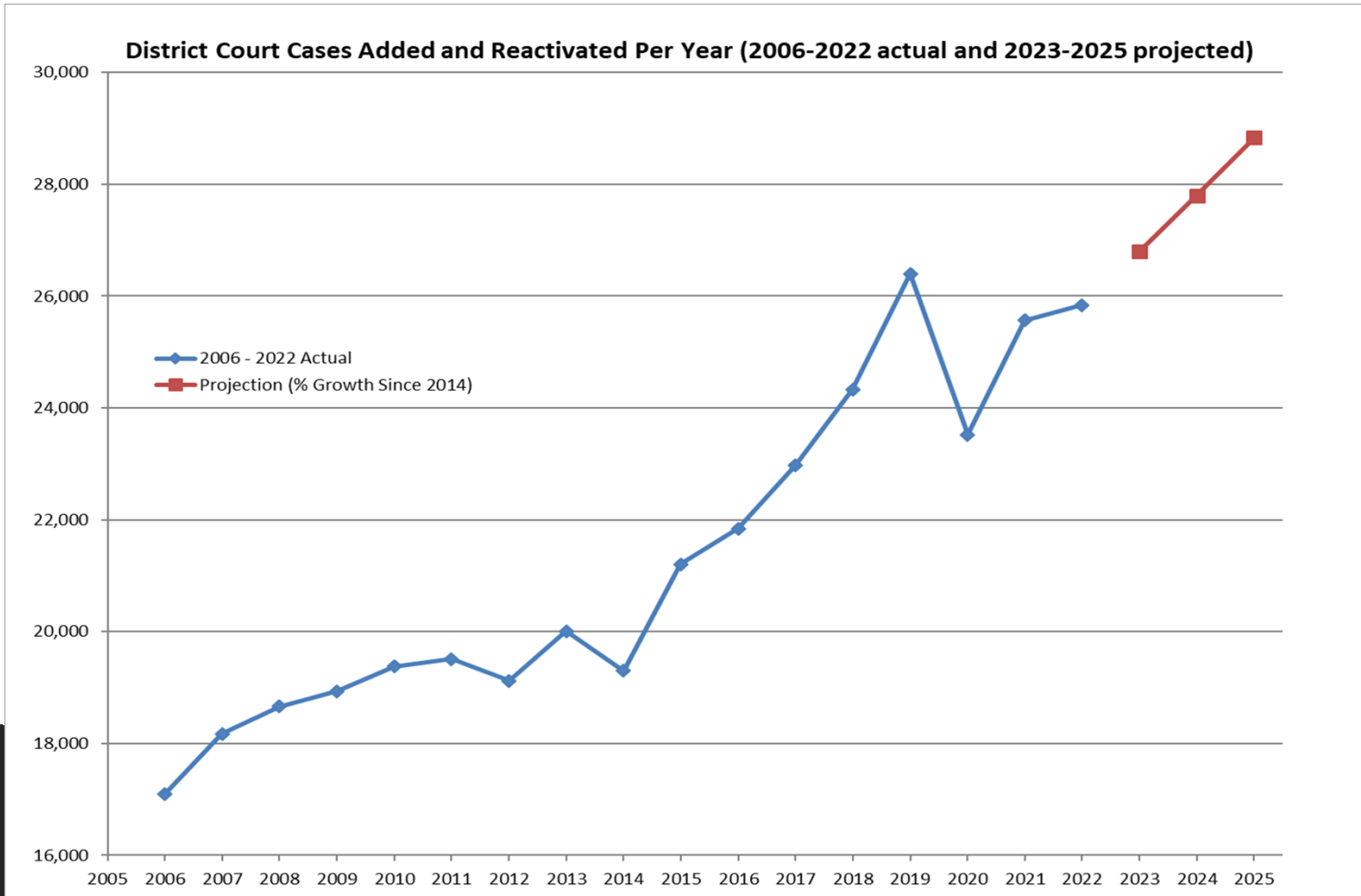
		TOTAL	Population	Pop vs. Collin	Pop per Ct	Disposition Rate '21	'20 vs. '21 Backlog
1	Harris	61	4731145	444%	77,560	90.51%	15,287
2	Dallas	39	2613539	246%	67,014	99.60%	345
3	Tarrant	28	2110640	198%	75,380	101.69%	(1,064)
4	Bexar	27	2009324	194%	74,419	86.19%	4,041
5	Travis	21	1290188	121%	61,438	91.58%	2,249
6	Collin	13	1064465	100%	81,881	102.93%	(732)
7	Denton	11	906422	85%	82,402	98.64%	232
8	Hidalgo	12	870781	82%	72,565	85.03%	2,655
9	El Paso	15	865657	81%	57,710	118.10%	(1,697)
10	Fort Bend	8	822779	77%	102,874	112.65%	(1,765)

1,250,000 Population = **96,154** Per Court!

CY '21 = 25,000+ Case Filings

CY '25 = 30,250+ Projected Case Filings

2,326 Filings Per Court by 2025



Office of Court Administration Projections – Managed by the Supreme Court of Texas

District Court Workload Analysis Collin County

This jurisdiction is currently served by 13 district courts. It is also supported by an Office of Court Administration's Child Support Court (0.4 FTE).

County	Estimated FTEs Needed ¹	% Current FTEs State Funded ²	Filings 2022	Change in Filings 2021-2022	Change in Filings 2018-2022	Clearance Rate 2022	Clearance Rate 2018-2022	Date Last Court Created
Collin	16.8	100%	24,613	-2%	2%	105%	99%	2019 (2 courts)
Total Estimated FTEs Needed	16.8		Statewide Totals, Change in Filings & Clearance Rates	-1%	-13%	99%	92%	
Actual Reported FTEs²	13.4							

1. Based on the application of case weights to FY 2022 filings as reported to the Office of Court Administration. Details regarding case weights [can be found in the following reports, which are available at http://www.txcourts.gov/publications-training/publications/studies-special-reports/](http://www.txcourts.gov/publications-training/publications/studies-special-reports/): "Measuring Current Judicial Workload in Texas, 2007," National Center for State Courts; and "Texas Child Protective Services Workload Assessment, 2016," National Center for State Courts.
2. District judges as of 10/1/2022. Child protection and child support associate judges based on child protection or child support case filings during fiscal year 2022. Other personnel based on survey responses from county auditors/treasurers as of December 2019.

Prepared 11/14/2022



District Court Workload Analysis Collin County

Estimated Need

	Criminal	Civil	Family (incl. Child Support)	CPS	Juvenile	Total
Collin	5.8	4.3	5.8	0.4	0.5	16.8

Existing Associate Judge/Magistrate Resources

	Criminal	Civil	Family	Child Support	CPS	Juvenile	Total
Collin				0.4			0.4

Net Need

	Criminal	Civil	Family (incl. Child Support)	CPS	Juvenile	Total	Existing District Judges	Remaining Need
Collin	5.8	4.3	5.4	0.4	0.5	16.4	13.0	3.4

Prepared 11/14/2022



Regression Analysis

Completed by a student at UTD who works diligently for Collin County.

By Total Volume of Cases
By Court Types (Resulted in direct correlation to Population)

2,023	13	15
2,024	14	15
2,025	14	16
2,026	15	16
2,027	15	17
2,028	15	18
2,029	16	18
2,030	16	19
2,031	17	20
2,032	17	20
2,033	18	21
2,034	19	22
2,035	19	23
2,036	20	24
2,037	20	25
2,038	21	26
2,039	22	27
2,040	22	28

Year	Courts	Low	Mid	High	Pop
2023	15	13	15	17	1,141,293
2024	15	13	15	17	1,168,395
2025	16	14	16	18	1,195,992
2026	16	14	16	18	1,224,169
2027	17	15	17	19	1,252,844
2028	18	16	18	20	1,282,040
2029	18	16	18	20	1,311,706
2030	19	17	19	21	1,341,877
2031	20	18	20	22	1,372,577
2032	20	18	20	22	1,403,874

Number of District Courts vs. Number of ALL* Courts

	District Court Judges	Associate Judges	Magistrates	Juvenile Referee	OCA Child Support Courts	OCA CPS Courts	Total Judges	+/- (%More than Collin)
Dallas	39	7	9	3	3	1	62	45 (265%)
Tarrant	28	6	16	2	3	2	57	40 (235%)
Travis	21	4	1			1	27	10 (59%)
Collin	13		3		1		17	
Denton	11	1	7		1		20	3 (18%)

“All Courts” does not include County Courts at Law, Municipal Courts, Justice of the Peace Courts, but those having District Court duties.

Other Responsibilities

Specialty Courts – Help Dispose of Cases through something other than trial process

- CPS/Drug Court – Helps individuals with drug issues become better parents
- Drug Court – Intensive help to break the cycle of addiction
- GEMS Court – Helps vulnerable Juveniles avoid addiction and being sexually trafficked
- Veterans Court – provides intensive supervision for those who have honorably served
- Mental Health Court – NEW – Grant funded to provide supervision for those with MH/MR issues

Various County Boards and Oversight

Public Service Events and Involvement

Warrants and pre-case issues

State wide committees and judicial groups

Civic and Educational Responsibilities

Meetings with County Partners

Trust Us, We're the Experts

Serving on State and National Boards

- National Center for State Courts – Director
- Texas Supreme Court Advisory Committee
- Board of Directors – Texas Center for the Judiciary (TJC)
- State Bar of Texas – Jury Charge Oversight Committee
- State Bar of Texas - Computer and Technology Section Council Member
- State Bar of Texas - Jury Services Committee
- State Bar of Texas – Military and Veterans Law Section Council Member
- Supreme Court of Texas Remote Proceedings Task Force
- Judicial Committee on Information Technology
- Texas Supreme Court Judicial Advisory Council (JAC)
- Texas Board of Legal Specialization Child Welfare Advisory Commission
- Children's Justice Act Task Force
- Governor's Specialty Courts Advisory Committee
- Texas Children's Commission
- American Judges Association – Criminal and Juvenile Justice, Public Relations Committees
- Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health
- Chair of TJC – Curriculum Committee

Where do we
go from here?

Estimates for Collin County 2050 vary wildly from 1.8 million in some reports to 3.8 million in others.

Workload and weighted case studies are planned by OCA in 2023. These studies will likely show that as we grow, cases become more complex and the length of time to resolution is increasing.

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in favor of the 88th Legislature
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in and for Collin County.

Questions?



Public service must be more than doing a job efficiently and honestly. It must be a complete dedication to the people and to the nation **county**.

[Margaret Chase Smith](#)