



BEVERLEY MCGREW WALKER

FORT BEND COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK

District Clerk Beverley McGrew Walker Announces her Jury Pool Enhancement Plan

District Clerk, Beverley McGrew Walker, has developed a plan to increase jury pools in Fort Bend County. She said, "The number of summoned citizens who actually appear for jury duty is disturbing. We have to summon more people than we actually need in order to have enough people show up to form juries for all of the requiring courts." According to Ms. Walker, the appearance rate at jury duty is approximately 27%, making it more difficult to get a random cross-section of the population to form a jury of one's peers.

Walker explains that in order to be summoned to jury duty in the State of Texas, one must fall into one of three categories: (1) be a registered voter on the electoral rolls, (2) have a valid Texas driver's license, or (3) have a valid Texas identification card issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety.

The Elections Administrator sends the names of registered voters to the Texas Secretary of State, and the Department of Public Safety sends the names of persons holding valid driver's licenses and/or valid identification cards to the Texas Secretary of State. It is from these combined lists provided to the Texas Secretary of State that counties get the names of individuals who comprise the source list from whence citizens are summoned to jury duty.

Walker says her Jury Pool Enhancement Plan will help the average citizen get the opportunity to serve on a jury and decide fundamental matters of justice.

ENHANCEMENT PLAN

Beverley McGrew Walker's

5-Point Jury Pool Enhancement Plan

POINT 1: REGISTER TO VOTE AND KEEP YOUR REGISTRATION CURRENT

Do not allow your registration to lapse and be placed on the Suspense List. Update your voter registration when you change your address.

POINT 2: KEEP A VALID TEXAS DRIVER'S LICENSE AND/OR A VALID TEXAS IDENTIFICATION CARD

If you do not have a valid Texas driver's license, please get a valid Texas identification card.

POINT 3: NEVER POSTPONE JURY DUTY WITHOUT A GOOD REASON

Jury duty cannot be postponed forever. If you are qualified to serve, you will be given a substitute date to return for service.

POINT 4: DO NOT USE THE AGE EXEMPTION UNLESS YOU MUST

If you are physically and mentally able to serve, you may still serve.

POINT 5: DO NOT USE OTHER LEGAL EXEMPTIONS AVAILABLE TO YOU, UNLESS YOU MUST

LEGAL CUSTODY OF A CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF 12 YEARS - Use only if you cannot find adequate supervision for the child with someone else.

A PERSON ENROLLED AND IN ACTUAL ATTENDANCE AT AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING

Use only if you are not able to make up your assignments virtually or later.



"Adherence to these five points will help to significantly enhance jury participation among the citizenry of Fort Bend County. It is my hope and prayer that our jury participation will achieve levels that will provide the random, cross section of people envisioned by the framers of our Constitution and will serve as a role model for counties throughout our state and our nation."

Beverley McGrew Walker is a licensed Texas Attorney.