



# Gavel & Badge

*The Official Newsletter for the Justices of the Peace and Constables Association*

## JPCA Day at the Capitol

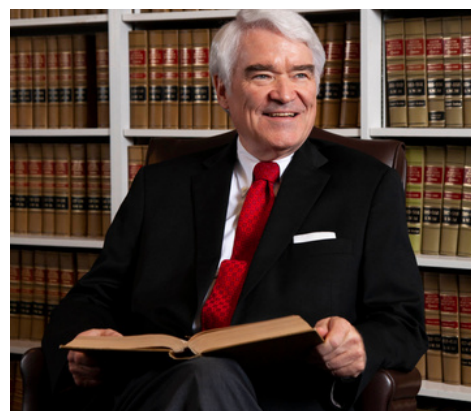
**February 7, 2023**

**We hope to see you there!**

The Justices of the Peace and Constables Association of Texas invites all justices of the peace, constables, deputies and court personnel to attend the 2023 JPCA Day at the Capitol. It is set for Tuesday, February 7, 2023, in Austin. Join our JPCA team and make your voice be heard.



Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court Nathan L. Hecht will address JPCA Day participants on the afternoon of February 7th at the Texas State Capitol.



### *In This Issue*

JPCA Day at the Capitol

JPCA Freshman Legislative Breakfast

JPCA Day @ the Capitol Information

JPCA Legislative Team updates

Help the Legislative Committee

JPCA 2023 Conference Committees

Sponsors



# JPCA 2023

## Day at the Capitol Information

JPCA will be sponsoring shuttle buses for Judges & Constables enrolled in School Seminars offered by Texas Justice Court Training Center and whom will be staying at the Austin Marriot - South. Shuttle buses will transport JPCA Day attendees to and from the Texas State Capitol.

JPCA participants who are not registered for a class in Austin will be responsible for their own travel, lodging, and meals. The Constable School is full; however, a few slots remain open for Justices of the Peace who wish to register for the 10 hour seminar.

### JUDGES

Did you know you can get 10 of your required judicial education hours right before JPCA Day? The Texas Justice Court Training Center is holding a 10-hour Justice of the Peace seminar on February 6 and 7th, ending just before JPCA Day begins. There are still slots available, but hurry fast to secure your place. Visit [www.tjctc.org](http://www.tjctc.org) to sign on to your account and register.

Immediately following JPCA day at the capitol please join us for JPCA Day Reception from 5 pm-7pm at Higher Ground (720 Congress Ave., Austin, TX 78701). Attendees will enjoy complimentary appetizers. A cash bar will be available.

For those members whom are NOT enrolled in a school seminar you may reserve a room at some suggested nearby hotels;

Double Tree Suites by Hilton Hotel - Austin  
303 W. 15th Street  
Austin, Texas 78701  
512-478-7000

Omni Hotel  
700 San Jacinto Blvd.  
Austin, Texas 78701  
512-476-3700

Hilton Garden Inn  
500 N. Interstate 35  
Austin, Texas 78701  
512-480-8181

\*JPCA & TCJTC is unable to reserve and pay for hotel rooms. Attendees not enrolled in classes must book their own hotel room and shall be responsible for their own travel, lodging, and meals.

Time and meeting location information to follow soon. Click the link below to register for this upcoming event.

**REGISTER NOW**





# JPCA Freshman Legislative Breakfast

The Texas Legislative Session is underway and continuing with tradition JPCA sponsored the “Freshman Legislative Breakfast” at the historic Austin Club on Wednesday, January 18th.

Despite many competing events the breakfast was a tremendous success and was attended by 11 Texas House members and 1 State Senator. Additionally, JPCA hosted staff from other house and senate members.



Constable Carlos Lopez, JPCA President Judge Sergio De Leon, Judge JR Woolley, Judge Nick Chu

JPCA President Judge De Leon kicked off the meeting by sharing information about about JPCA and the Texas Justice Court Training Center. Additionally, he shared success stories of JPCA’s many Legislative accomplishments including defeating a bill that would abolish Texas Constables.

Waller County JP, Judge J.R Wooley, JP Legislative Chair and Travis County Constable and Constable Legislative Chair, Carlos López, also spoke and shared organizational priorities and vowed to serve as a resources for members.

Attendees appreciated the information and departed with a greater understanding of JPCA.



JPCA President Judge De Leon and Travis County JP Nick Chu with State Senator Morgan LaMantia, District 27



Constable Carlos Lopez with Representative Janie Lopez, District 37.



JPCA President Judge Sergio De Leon



# JPCA Legislative Committee

**Constable Carlos Lopez**

*Travis County*

**Constable Legislative Chair**



7am Tuesday TAC breakfasts have been very productive meetings. Discussing legislative issues with the other associations such as a bill filed to abolish the Treasurers office in Galveston county which we are against. County treasurer Jennifer Henderson and I recorded a podcast for TAC live regarding our positions and made a pitch for the TAC legislative core group. Along with Judge Wooley we have made over 30 personal visits to invite the new legislators to our freshman breakfast. With over 1600 bills filed already it is promising to be an interesting session.

## **Constable Legislative Committee (2022-2023)**

Const. Carlos B. Lopez (Chair) Travis County  
Const. Buck Stevens (Vice-Chair) Brazoria County  
Jama Pantel Travis County CN office, Pct. 5  
Const. Justin West Galveston County  
Const. Georgia Estrada Potter County  
Const. Sammy Knapp Collin County  
Const. Larry Gallardo Hidalgo County  
Const. Chad Jordan Hood County  
Const. Mike Truitt Denton County  
Const. Michael Orozco Dallas County

**Judge JR Woolley**

*Waller County*

**JP Legislative Chair**



On the JP side of the Legislative Committee, we are involved in several issues and have identified several priorities. Those include Senate Bill 6 reform, Occupational Driver's License clarification (of which we have a bill filed), increasing the jurisdiction of repair and remedy cases to \$20,000, Juvenile diversion and truancy, opposing abolition of county offices, and many other issues. Your Legislative Committee has been working throughout the legislative interim to ensure the issues you deal with are being addressed at the legislature. Several members testified at committee hearings on various topics and represented JPCA favorably.

## **JP Legislative Committee (2022-2023)**

Hon. J.R. Woolley (Chair) Waller County  
Hon. Nick Chu (Vice-Chair) Travis County  
Hon. Wayne Mack Montgomery County  
Hon. Mark Russo Rockwall County  
Hon. Lynn Holt Bandera County  
Hon. William Ragsdale Kerr County  
Hon. Naomi Doyle Jefferson County  
Hon. Gregory Johnson Bell County  
Hon. Jackie Miller Ellis County  
Hon. Bobby Gonzalez Nueces County  
Hon. Harold Kennington Camp County  
Hon. Tricia Krennek Fort Bend County  
Mrs. Katie Chancia Harris County



# Here is how you can get involved!

- Your Legislative Committee is asking for your help, we would like for you to inform us when you have contact with a legislator, executive official, or their staff about legislation. We have a form online that we ask be completed after these conversations. The link to the form will be emailed out to all members, the link will never change so please bookmark the page or save the email.
- Stay informed about upcoming bills that may impact JPCA by signing up for emails at <https://www.jpca.com/2022-legislative-session>
- Click the Bill report below or visit TAC.org to track which bills are currently being proposed.



TAC BILL REPORT  
Justices of the Peace



TAC BILL REPORT  
Constables

## Save THE DATE



We hope to see you in  
**SAN ANTONIO**  
June 26 – 30, 2023  
for the 79th annual  
JPCA Conference

Registration opens in March, check the link below for updates!

**CLICK HERE**





## JPCA COMMITTEES

Committees are the thread that keeps JPCA running. Committee members volunteer countless hours each year to ensure that our association is responsive, informed, and friendly. Click the link below to see all of your committee members.

[CLICK HERE](#)

### Interested in joining a committee?

Contact JPCA at [jpcsoftx@gmail.com](mailto:jpcsoftx@gmail.com) for more information about serving on a committee.

## JPCA 2022 Conference Sponsors

