

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

CHC APPOINTEE CRITERIA

The following is taken from the Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 318, Subchapter A, noting county historical commission (CHC) appointments; the statutes can be found online at <http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/>.

Sec. 318.003. COMPOSITION; TERM (a) *The commission must be composed of at least seven residents of the county. Members of the commission must be individuals who broadly reflect the age, ethnic, and geographic diversity of the county.*

(b) *The members of the commission shall be appointed during the month of January of odd-numbered years and are appointed for a term of two years. The commissioners court shall fill a vacancy on the commission for the remainder of the unexpired term.*

(c) *Each commission member must have an interest in historic preservation and an understanding of local history and resources.*

(d) *The commissioners court shall provide to the Texas Historical Commission a list of appointed members and the mailing address of each member.*

The methodology for appointing county historical commissions may vary somewhat from county to county, however, the criteria stated within the CHC statute must be adhered to/met. To provide the most complete representation of cultural and historical resources throughout your county, it is important that the group selected reflect county demographics and geography.

When selecting CHC appointees, keep in mind the skills and abilities below.

- Should be a positive influence for the cause of preservation in your county and throughout the state.
- Able and willing to provide service beyond attending the required four meetings per year, and to participate in cultural and heritage events.
- Willing to work and partner with people and organizations for the good of the county.
- Will ensure information collected today will be accessible in the future.
- Will provide ongoing updates on CHC activity to county commissioners court.
- Is able to receive and respond to inquiries about historic resources of their county in a timely manner.
- Is able to provide site visits to historic properties around the county to update surveys, update property inventories, and provide current information on site conditions for THC staff.
- Will be a steward over all county cultural and historic resources.
- Has a working knowledge of county history, is able to identify gaps or untold stories, and understands the need to address and promote a more diverse interpretation for the county.
- Is willing to attend preservation education opportunities outside of their county.

The time and energy provided by your CHC is a true service to the vitality of your county. Please consider the following ways to support your county historical commission and by extension, your county.

- Attend CHC meetings
- Schedule regular meetings with your CHC Chair to discuss ongoing business

- Provide office space for your CHC
- Provide a consistent CHC email address through the county
- Provide internet access to CHC appointees at the county courthouse to conduct CHC business and access THC web site and other preservation tools.
- Consider matching funds to volunteer CHC hours.
- Consider increasing budgeted financial support, especially if amount has not been increased in recent years.
- Consider funding continuing preservation education opportunities even when located outside the county.

Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711-2276
512.463.6100
fax 512.475.4872
thc@thc.state.tx.us



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories

www.thc.state.tx.us