



## JACQUES L. BLANCHETTE

County Judge

The county judge serves as the chief elected official of the county and presiding officer of the commissioners court. The judge also is the director of emergency management as well as budget officer and is required to fulfill a yearly quota of continuing education on matters relating to county government and judicial duties. Additionally, the judge presides over the county, criminal and civil courts.

Constitutional county judges have original jurisdiction in probate matters, guardianship cases and certain mental illness matters. The judge serves on the county adult and juvenile boards and can perform marriages as well as coroner, when necessary. A county judge is not required to be an attorney, but the Texas Constitution stipulates that the judge "shall be well-informed in the law of the state."