Collin County

FY 2010 Budget-in-Brief

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This Budget-in-Brief contains summary information on the most important decisions made during the County's annual financial and operational planning process. If we can be of further assistance or provide additional copies of this document, please call or write:

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COLLIN COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS' COURT
FY 2010

Keith Self
County Judge

Matt Shaheen
Commissioner, Pct. 1

Jerry Hoagland
Commissioner, Pct. 2

Joe Jaynes
Commissioner, Pct. 3

Kathy Ward
Commissioner, Pct. 4

Monika Arris
Budget & Finance Director

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TEXAS COUNTY GOVERNMENT

History of County Government

The origin of Texas county government can be found in "municipality," the local unit of government under Spanish and Mexican rule. The municipalities were large areas embracing one or more settlements and the surrounding rural territory. In 1821, there were four major Spanish settlements in Texas—San Antonio, Bahía (Goliad), Nacogdoches, and the Rio Grande Valley—and three areas of light settlement and ranching and four major roads.

Prior to the revolution of Texas against Mexico, there was no political subdivision at the county level. In 1835, Texas was divided into departments and municipalities. Three departments were established—Bexar, Brazos and Nacogdoches—along with 23 municipalities. Under the new Republic in 1836, the 23 municipalities became counties. When Texas became a state in 1845, there were 36 counties.

Under the state constitution of 1845, county government varied little from that under the Republic. The only major change was one that made all county offices elective positions. When Texas entered the Confederacy in 1861 and adopted a new state constitution, there were 122 counties. Ten years after Reconstruction from the Civil War, the Constitution of 1876 was adopted. It is the present state constitution and contains much detail concerning the governmental organization of the county. The number of counties increased steadily until there were 254 counties in 1931.

Functions of County Government

Today there are 254 counties serving the needs of more than 18 million Texans. The counties range in size from just under 100 residents to more than three million. Major responsibilities include building and maintaining roads, recreational facilities and, in some cases, county airports; constructing and operating jails; operating the judicial system; maintaining public records; collecting property taxes; issuing vehicle registration and transfers; and registering

voters. Counties also provide law enforcement, conduct elections and provide health and social services to many poor county residents. Increasingly, county governments are playing a vital role in the economic development of their local areas.

COLLIN COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Collin County, like other Texas Counties, is considered to be an extension of state government. The focus of the county organization is judicial (civil and criminal justice, adult and juvenile probation), health and human services, law enforcement and jail services. In addition, the County is responsible for the road and bridge maintenance for all unincorporated areas of the County.

The County's governing body, Commissioners Court, is made up of the County Judge who is elected at large and four Commissioners elected from equal precincts based on population. The County Judge is the presiding officer of the Commissioners Court. Budgetary responsibilities are a major function of the Commissioners Court. The Commissioners Court of Collin County has budget authority over all County departments including those headed by elected officials. The responsibility includes setting the tax rate and adopting the budget. Throughout the year the Court, as established in the budget policy, must approve adjustments to the budget. In addition, the Commissioners' Court sets policies by Court Order for the activities of the County.

Other elected officials include the County and District Judges, Sheriff, Tax Assessor, District Attorney, Justices of the Peace, Constables and the County and District Clerks.

WHO'S IN CHARGE

County Judge & Commissioners
A County Judge and four Commissioners serve on the Commissioners Court. This body conducts the general business of the County and oversees financial matters. Collin County created a unitary road system that allows all commissioner precincts to work together on maintaining the County roads and bridges.

Tax Assessor-Collector
This official's chief duty is to assess and collect property taxes for the County and motor vehicle registration.

County Clerk
The County Clerk's Office records the proceedings of the County Courts. They also maintain legal records, marriage licenses, and vital statistics.

District Clerk
Duties of this official revolve around the District Courts and include the collection of child support.

Sheriff
The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement officer for the County and is responsible for the operation of the jail.

District Attorney
The District Attorney serves as the County's chief legal advisor and prosecuting attorney in both the District Courts and County Courts.

Justice of the Peace
The JP's preside in justice and small claims court with jurisdiction over minor misdemeanor offenses, civil issues and truancies.

Constable
These officials are the chief process servers of the Justices of the Peace courts and are certified peace officers.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

County Judge	Keith Self	972-548-4631
Commissioner, Pct. 1	Matt Shaheen	972-548-4631
Commissioner, Pct. 2	Jerry Hoagland	972-548-4631
Commissioner, Pct. 3	Joe Jaynes	972-548-4631
Commissioner, Pct. 4	Kathy Ward	972-548-4631
Constable, Pct. 1	Paul Elkins	972-548-4419
Constable, Pct. 2	Joe Barton	972-547-1860
Constable, Pct. 3	Chuck Presley	972-881-3070
Constable, Pct. 4	Johnny Todd	972-731-7320
County Clerk	Stacey Kemp	972-548-4185
County Court @ Law 1	Corinne Mason	972-548-3860
County Court @ Law 2	Jerry Lewis	972-548-3820
County Court @ Law 3	John Barry	972-548-3830
County Court @ Law 4	Vacant	972-548-3840
County Court @ Law 5	Danny Wilson	972-548-3850
County Court @ Law 6	Greg Willis	972-548-1850
County Court Probate	Weldon Copeland	972-548-3810
District Attorney	John Roach	972-548-4323
District Clerk	Hannah Kunkle	972-548-4320
199th District Court	Robert Dry	972-548-4415
219th District Court	Curt Henderson	972-548-4402
296th District Court	John Roach, Jr.	972-548-4409
366th District Court	Ray Wheless	972-548-4570
380th District Court	Susan Wooten	972-548-4762
401st District Court	Mark Rusch	972-548-4241
416th District Court	Chris Oldner	972-548-4520
417th District Court	Cynthia Wheless	972-548-4658
429th District Court	Jill Willis	972-548-5720
JP, Pct. 1	Paul Raleeh	972-548-4125
JP, Pct. 2	Terry Douglas	972-442-3289
JP, Pct. 3-1	Johnnie Lewis	972-548-3001
JP, Pct. 3-2	John Payton	972-548-3051
JP, Pct. 4	Mike Yarbrough	972-731-7300
Sheriff	Terry Box	972-547-5100
Tax Assessor/Collector	Kenneth Maun	972-547-5014

FY 2010 BUDGET OVERVIEW

The Adopted Budget for FY 2010 continues to hold to the established principles in Collin County of conservative fiscal planning and preparation for the future. Commissioners Court priorities with regards to the budget include producing a balanced budget while maintaining the tax rate at 0.2425 per $100 valuation for the citizens of Collin County through 2014 and continuing to utilize the Five Year Plan as a tool for budget preparation. The challenges faced by Collin County include the population increase in the County as Collin County is one of the fastest growing counties in the nation. Continued funding of programs mandated by the State of Texas and a strains on the transportation and facility space as the Collin County continues its rapid growth are other challenges the County faces. The Adopted Budget represents strategies that bring recurring expenditures in line with revenues while continuing to provide a high level of services to constituents.

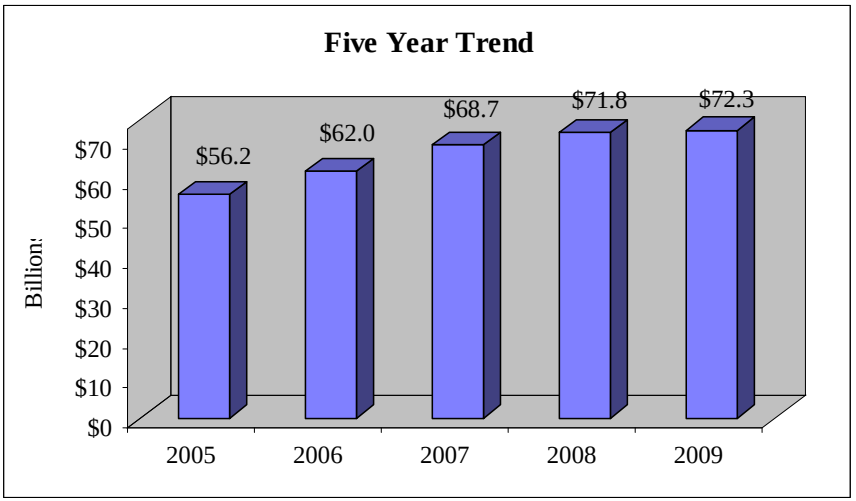
The Adopted Budget also provides for targeted investments in Commissioners Court priority areas. Theses initiatives are included in the Adopted Budget without the need for an increase in the overall property tax rate for the seventeenth consecutive year.

- The addition of an Environmental Deputy Position. This is needed due to the increase of illegal dumping sites in Collin County.
- The addition of a Voting Equipment Service Technician. Vendor support services agreement for voting equipment has been eliminated due to increasing costs. This position will provide support and backup to the Election & Supply Operations Coordinator.
- Funding future post employment benefits to meet the new reporting requirements per GASB 45.

COLLIN COUNTY
ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Appraised Values

Year	Net Taxable Values	Percentage Increase
2005	$56,240,956,250	7.6%
2006	$61,953,733,487	10.2%
2007	$68,685,147,666	10.9%
2008	$71,811,801,200	4.6%
2009	$72,309,574,717	0.7%



FY 2010 Budget Process

The budget is a financial plan for a fiscal year of operations that matches all planned revenues and expenditures with the services provided to the citizens of Collin County. The FY 2010 Adopted Budget covers a twelve-month period beginning October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010.

The purpose of the budget preparation process is to develop a work program and financial plan for Collin County. The goal is to produce a budget document that clearly states what services and functions will be provided with given financial, personnel and other resources. The budget document must be clearly understandable by the taxpayers and citizens at large. The budget document provides offices and departments with a work program to carry out their missions. It also provides the Budget Officer and the County Auditor with a financial plan with which to assure that the County operates within its financial means. Finally, the budget serves as an important reference document that provides extensive information on the nature and scope of County operations and services.

The process for developing the FY 2010 Adopted Budget involved the following overall steps:

- Setting of budget goals for the County in cooperation with Commissioners Court
- Budget Preparation workshops with County departments
- Preparation of Recommended Budget
- Commissioners Court Workshops and Public Hearings
- Budget Adoption

As an ongoing effort to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Collin County, the Budget Office, as directed by Commissioners Court, has been continually working towards Performance Based Management since 2003. The FY 2010 Adopted Budget reflects the next step in achieving a fully implemented performance based budget. During the FY 2010 budget process, offices and departments were asked to submit programmatic allocations, program justifications, and performance measures as a way to

demonstrate how performance will be improved in the upcoming fiscal year. Budget Office staff also worked with County offices and departments to develop systems to better track and manage data related to their performance measures.

Upon adoption of the budget by Commissioners Court, a copy of the budget is filed with the County Auditor and the County Clerk. The County Auditor will use the Adopted Budget to set up the appropriate budgetary accounts for each office and department. The County Auditor is responsible for the financial accounts of the County. The Budget Office is responsible for monitoring expenditures in accordance with the budget and for initiating appropriate budget transfers. Offices and departments are responsible for keeping expenditures within the budgeted amount and for tracking performance indicator data.

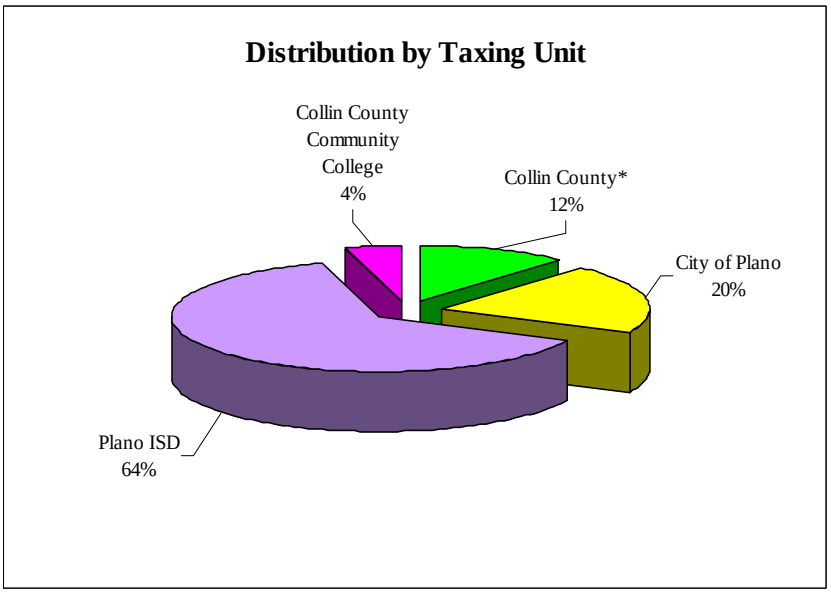
FY 2010 BUDGET PLANNING CALENDAR

March 2, 2009	Personnel Breakdown Report to include department, position, and current salary by position and all open positions to the Budget Department.
May 1, 2009	Departments return completed electronic FY 2010 Budget requests to the Budget Department.
May 18, 2009	Estimated revenues to Budget Department
June 22, 2009	Appointment of County Auditor to perform the Effective Tax Rate and Rollback Rate calculation.
July 24, 2009	Delivery of Final Appraisal Roll to County. Auditor to provide update of detail revenue, summary revenues and expenditure schedule, projected fund balance, calculation of the effective tax rate and roll back rate.
August 17-21, 2009	Budget workshop with Commissioners' Court
September 8, 2009	Finalization of Initial Budget Proposal. Proposed Budget distributed to Commissioners' Court.
September 14, 2009	First Public Hearing on FY 2010 Tax Rate
September 21, 2009	Second Public Hearing
September 28, 2009	Adopt FY 2010 Tax Rate, FY 2010 Budget and County Fees.
October 1, 2009	Fiscal year begins.

PROPERTY TAX DETAILS

The following is a property tax analysis for an average homeowner living in Collin County. The average home in Collin County is valued at $233,591 according to statistics compiled by the Central Appraisal District of Collin County.

Taxing Unit	Rate	Taxes
Collin County	0.242500	$538.14
City of Plano	0.488600	$913.06
Plano ISD	1.328400	$2,903.76
Community College	0.086300	$201.59
Total Taxes		**$4,556.55**



FY 2010 TAX RATE DISTRIBUTION

Fund Name	Fund Number	Tax Rate
Operating Funds:		
General	001	0.18043
Road & Bridge	010	0.00600
Permanent Improvement	499	0.00000
Jury	020	0.00065
Subtotal		0.18708
Debt Service		0.05542
Grand Total		**0.24250**

TAX RATE DISTRIBUTION
FIVE YEAR TREND

Fiscal Year	Operating Funds	Debt Service Funds	Total
2006	$0.19968	$0.05032	$0.25000
2007	$0.19469	$0.05031	$0.24500
2008	$0.19164	$0.05336	$0.24500
2009	$0.18426	$0.05824	$0.24250
2010	$0.18708	$0.05542	$0.24250

COMBINED BUDGET REVENUES BY SOURCE

Revenue Source	FY 2008 Revenue Estimates	FY 2009 Revenue Estimates	FY 2010 Revenue Estimate
Taxes	$171,077,826	$174,822,644	$175,939,506
Intergovernmental	$16,017,506	$18,664,971	$10,763,558
Fees/Charges for Service	$39,520,827	$38,821,618	$40,351,226
Fines	$5,028,906	$4,484,058	$4,596,375
Investment Revenue	$17,328,876	$8,328,276	$8,606,066
Insurance/Employee Benefits	$21,802,800	$21,009,753	$19,563,765
License and Permits	$653,857	$283,457	$335,854
Other Revenue	$2,602,277	$2,237,361	$980,361
Other Financing Sources	$79,496,434	$85,966,736	$9,265,036
	$295,165,665	**$284,042,797**	**$270,401,747**

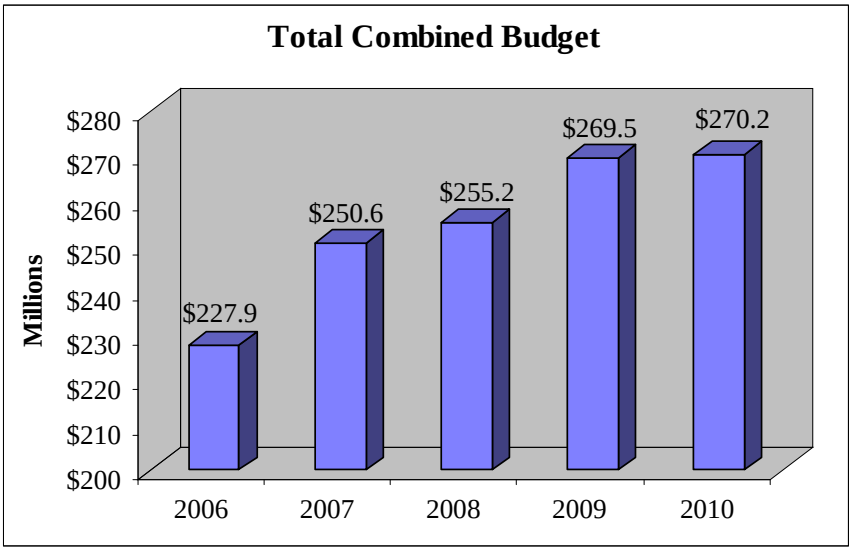
COMBINED BUDGET EXPENDITURES BY FUNCTION AREA

Function Area	FY 2008 Adopted Budget	FY 2009 Adopted Budget	FY 2010 Adopted Budget
General Administrative	$37,639,150	$39,128,938	$40,714,461
Judicial	$16,892,588	$17,278,014	$17,413,314
Culture & Recreation	$1,199,159	$1,209,220	$1,078,918
Financial Administrative	$9,925,189	$10,906,229	$10,604,579
Legal	$10,123,030	$10,462,445	$10,775,827
Public Facilities	$13,190,056	$13,483,773	$13,414,559
Public Safety	$64,075,535	$65,608,655	$65,544,767
Equipment Services	$2,433,415	$3,360,551	$3,263,326
Health & Welfare	$17,183,257	$17,368,061	$17,404,071
Conservation	$370,277	$351,360	$346,531
Debt Administrative	$39,688,692	$42,789,548	$43,665,123
Public Transportation	$17,022,879	$19,861,346	$19,347,332
Unclassified	$25,864,446	$27,673,796	$26,609,348
	$255,607,673	**$269,482,206**	**$270,182,156**

COLLIN COUNTY TOTAL COMBINED BUDGET

(EXCLUDING ALL BOND FUNDS)

Fiscal Year	Budget (In Millions)	Percentage Increase
2006	$227.9	
2007	$250.6	9.9%
2008	$255.2	1.8%
2009	$269.5	5.6%
2010	$270.2	0.3%



COLLIN COUNTY OPERATING BUDGET
TEN YEAR TREND

Fiscal Year	Operating Budget	Percentage Increase
2001	$95,578,080	
2002	$109,178,584	14.2%
2003	$123,873,520	13.5%
2004	$130,123,044	5.0%
2005	$147,834,118	13.6%
2006	$150,274,228	1.7%
2007	$168,712,999	12.3%
2008	$165,882,933	-1.7%
2009	$173,358,571	4.5%
2010	$175,213,505	1.1%

Operating Expenditures consists of the four constitutional funds of the County: General Fund, Road & Bridge Fund, Permanent Improvements Fund, and the Jury Fund.

GENERAL FUND REVENUE BY SOURCE

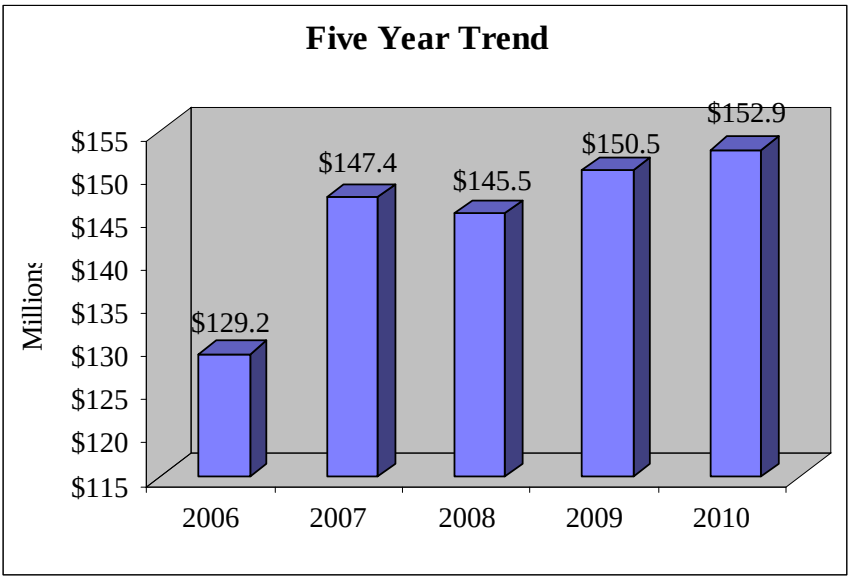
Source	FY 2008 Estimate	FY 2009 Estimate	FY 2010 Estimate
Current/Delinquent Taxes	$117,399,101	$119,221,816	$130,450,730
Inter / Intra Governmental	$3,979,230	$3,678,780	$3,547,135
Charges for Service	$15,930,660	$19,143,500	$16,957,104
Fines / Forfeits	$2,688,476	$2,771,000	$2,301,020
Interest	$6,575,786	$5,168,400	$3,133,290
Miscellaneous	$2,062,983	$503,810	$568,135
	$148,636,237	**$150,487,306**	**$156,957,414**

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES BY FUNCTION AREA

Function Area	FY 2008 Adopted Budget	FY 2009 Adopted Budget	FY 2010 Adopted Budget
General Administrative	$33,930,029	$34,955,768	$36,033,186
Judicial	$14,315,957	$14,967,101	$15,167,797
Culture & Recreation	$458,110	$507,370	$408,370
Financial Administrative	$9,925,190	$10,906,229	$10,604,579
Legal	$10,121,330	$10,460,745	$10,775,827
Public Facilities	$10,506,895	$10,832,424	$10,784,064
Public Safety	$44,215,675	$44,763,416	$45,971,504
Equipment Services	$2,433,415	$3,360,551	$3,263,326
Health & Welfare	$10,253,273	$10,717,626	$11,177,792
Conservation	$326,242	$307,595	$302,496
Transfers	$9,046,853	$8,707,782	$8,370,000
	$145,532,969	**$150,486,607**	**$152,858,941**

GENERAL FUND BUDGET
FIVE YEAR TREND

Fiscal Year	Budget (In Millions)	Percentage Increase
2006	$129.2	
2007	$147.4	14.1%
2008	$145.5	-1.2%
2009	$150.5	3.4%
2010	$152.9	1.6%



TOP 15 COUNTIES IN TEXAS BY POPULATION

Pop. Rank	County	*Pop. Estimate	Total County-wide Tax Rate per $100 Valuation	Total # of County Emps.
1	Harris	3,984,349	$0.392240	17,691
2	Dallas	2,412,827	$0.228100	6,661
3	Tarrant	1,750,091	$0.264000	4,612
4	Bexar	1,622,899	$0.296187	4,734
5	Travis	998,543	$0.421500	4,668
6	El Paso	742,062	$0.338258	2,643
7	**Collin**	**762,010**	**$0.242500**	**1,794**
8	Hidalgo	726,604	$0.590000	2,976
9	Denton	636,557	$0.249800	1,467
10	Fort Bend	532,141	$0.479820	2,081
11	Montgomery	429,953	$0.483800	1,975
12	Cameron	392,736	$0.355881	1,410
13	Williamson	394,193	$0.501655	1,489
14	Nueces	322,077	$0.350930	1,172
15	Brazoria	301,044	$0.426286	1,541

* Population by US Census Population Estimates for Texas Counties to July 1, 2008

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Population

Collin County's population is among the fastest growing in the United States. The population estimate for 2008 shows a 55% growth since the 2000 Census, according to the Texas State Data Center.

The 2008 American Community Survey for the U.S. Census Bureau estimates for Collin County show a population composition as follows:

Age Breakdown	Collin County
65 and over	7%
45 to 64	24%
25 to 44	33%
15 to 24	12%
Under 15	24%

Race and Ethnic Groups	Collin County
White	66.2%
African American	7.7%
American Indian or Native American	.4%
Asian	10%
Other	.1%
Two or more races	1.3%
Hispanic or Latino Origin	14.3%

COLLIN COUNTY
COMMUNITY PROFILE CONT.

Economy

In 2008, for the employed population sixteen years and older, the leading industries in Collin County were Education, health, and social services (16%) as well as Professional and business services (16%). Among the most common occupations were management, professional and related occupations. Second would be sales and office occupations. Eighty-six percent of the people employed were private wage and salary workers; nine percent were federal, state or local government workers; and five percent were self-employed.

Eighty-one percent of Collin County workers drove to work alone in 2008, eight percent carpooled, one percent took public transportation, one percent walked and two percent used other means. The remaining 7 percent worked at home. Among those who commuted to work, it took them on average twenty-eight minutes to get to work.

The median income of households in Collin County was $81,395. Ninety-one percent of households received earnings and ten percent received retirement income other than Social Security. Fifteen percent of the households received Social Security. These income sources are not mutually exclusive.

In 2008, ninety-two percent of people twenty-five years and over had at least graduated from high school and forty-seven percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. Among people sixteen to nineteen years old, seven percent were dropouts; they were not enrolled in school and had not graduated from high school. The total school enrollment in Collin County was 216,992 in 2008. Preprimary school enrollment was 18,056 and elementary or high school enrollment was 152,691 children. College enrollment was 46,245.

COLLIN COUNTY
COMMUNITY PROFILE CONT.

Employment by Industry Collin County 2008

Industry	Collin County
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	1%
Construction	6%
Manufacturing	11%
Wholesale trade	3%
Retail trade	12%
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	3%
Information	5%
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing	11%
Professional and business services	16%
Educational, health, and social services	16%
Leisure and hospitality	8%
Other services	5%
Public administration	3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
2008 American Community Survey

ALL ABOUT COLLIN COUNTY

COLLIN COUNTY. Collin County is located in northeastern Texas thirty miles south of the Red River. McKinney, the county seat, is thirty-four miles northeast of Dallas. The county's center lies at approximately 33°11' north latitude and 96°34' west longitude. With the exception of a small portion of its western edge, Collin County's area of 851 square miles lies entirely within the Blackland Prairie region of Texas. The surface of the county is generally level to gently rolling, with an elevation ranging from 450 to 700 feet above sea level. Deep clayey soils over marl and chalk surface the central and western part of the county. Dark loamy alluvial soils, subject to flooding during the rainy season, lie in the eastern section. The western and central portions of the county are drained by the East fork of the Trinity River. The Elm fork of the Trinity drains the eastern section. Bois d' arc, oak, elm, ash, pecan, and post oak trees grow along the streams of the county but not in sufficient quantity for commercial use. Limestone and sand for making cement are the only mineral resources. Temperatures range from an average high of 96° F in July to an average low of 34° in January. Rainfall averages just under thirty-five inches a year, and the growing season extends for 237 days.

Branches of the Caddo Indians inhabited the area before the arrival of the first white settlers. Occasional outbreaks of violence occurred between the two groups, but there was no extended period of conflict since the Caddos withdrew from the county by the mid-1850s. The absence of organized Indian resistance, combined with the county's fertile soil and an offer of land grants by the Peters colony[qv] attracted settlers to the area in the early 1840s. Even with the offer of free land, the estimated population of the county was only 150 when it was demarked from Fannin County on April 3, 1846, and named for Collin McKinney,[qv] one of the first settlers of the county and a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence.[qv] The original county seat was Buckner. Because

this town Buckner was not within three miles of the center of the county, however, McKinney became the county seat in 1848. Like the county, McKinney was named for Collin McKinney.

The settlement of Collin County can be divided into two phases. The first occurred during the early period of the county's history, from 1840 to 1860. The second phase took place during and after the arrival of railroads. The settlements established before the construction of rail lines seldom survived if the railroads bypassed them. The majority of the first settlers of Collin County were farmers who lived near streams, where water and wood were easily obtained. They established small, family-operated farms that produced mostly wheat and corn. The slave and cotton economy that characterized most of the South, with its large plantations, failed to take hold in the county. In part this was a result of the lack of navigable rivers and railroads to transport cash crops to retail centers. The nearest market was Jefferson, more than 150 miles to the east. In addition, the farmers who settled the county were from the upper South and had little experience in slaveholding or raising cotton. In 1860 only 1,047 of the 9,264 residents were black, and the cotton harvest was of no significance.

These factors, plus the influence of James W. Throckmorton,[qv] a native of McKinney and Texas state senator, resulted in Collin County's vote against secession,[qv] 948 to 405, in 1861. Once Texas joined the Confederacy, however, more than 1,500 residents of the county enlisted in the defense of the South, led by Throckmorton, who rose to the rank of brigadier general. During the war isolated incidents of violence occurred between Union sympathizers and Confederates, including the participation of an undetermined number of county residents in the events that led to the Great Hanging at Gainesville[qv] in 1862. Outbreaks of violence continued after the war. Farmersville, twelve miles east of McKinney, was the site of one of the killings that took place during the Lee-Peacock feud. By 1869 gunplay between the two groups had ended. Except for the military appointments of a few public officials in 1867-68, the county remained under the control of the Democratic party[qv] during Reconstruction.[qv]

For the first thirty years of the county's history farmers had little incentive to take advantage of the fertile soil of the Blackland Prairie, considered the richest agricultural region of Texas. Between the 1840s and 1870s the lack of transportation facilities, limited markets, and absence of mechanized farm equipment restricted the agricultural production of the county. The arrival of the railroad removed these obstacles and initiated a fifty-year period of economic growth. In 1872 the Houston and Texas Central Railway, the first to reach the county, connected McKinney and Plano to tracks that reached as far south as Houston. The Missouri, Kansas and Texas followed four years later and was joined in a decade by the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe. By the mid-1890s six railroads crisscrossed the county, connecting farmers to retail markets throughout Texas. With an outlet for their products farmers began to cultivate the unplowed fertile land in the eastern and central sections of the county. Between 1870 and 1920 the number of farms and crop production increased dramatically. In 1870, 903 farms valued at just over three million dollars produced 674,565 bushels of corn, 4,371 bales of cotton, and 42,827 bushels of wheat. In 1920 the number of farms had increased to 6,001, with a value estimated at well over $84 million. Production of corn had increased to 2,574,689 bushels, cotton to 49,311 bales, and wheat to 956,412 bushels.

By the 1920s, twenty-three Collin County communities had voted road bonds totaling just under $4 million. New roads, combined with State Highway 289, provided county residents with easy access to Dallas, Fort Worth, and Waco. By the end of the decade thirteen communities had electricity, natural gas, and a telephone exchange. Three had a population of over 1,000. In 1920 the county seat had 6,677 residents, and the population of the county was 49,609.

During the next forty years, however, the population declined. The Great Depression,[qv] mechanization of farms, and employment opportunities outside the county contributed to the drop in population. Although Collin County did not suffer the extreme hardships that befell other areas of Texas, the number of county farms declined from 6,069 in 1930 to 4,771 by 1940. The value of

all crops harvested dropped from just over $10 million to just over $6.5 million during the same period. As late as 1940 Collin County's unemployment rate stood at 19 percent.

By the mid-1950s the economy had recovered. The average value of farmland per acre increased from $58.91 in 1940 to $145.52 in 1954. In part this improvement was a result of the efforts of the Texas Research Foundation[qv] and the Collin County Soil Conservation District. The Texas Research Foundation, established at Renner in 1944, used the latest scientific discoveries to improve farming practices. In 1946 the Collin County Soil Conservation District was formed and planned the construction of 144 flood-retarding structures, including Lake Lavon, to prevent the flooding of thousands of acres of rich bottomland in southeastern Collin County. Farmers also benefited from the electric cooperatives established by the Rural Electrification[qv] Administration in the late 1930s. The Hunt-Collin Co-operative (1937), the Fannin County Electric Co-operative (1939), and the Grayson-Collin Electric Co-operative (1937) combined to bring electricity to the isolated communities of the county. New roads also assisted county farmers. In 1946 the county had 138 miles of paved roads. By the early 1970s the paved miles had increased to 2,333. The work of the Texas Research Foundation and improved soil-conservation practices increased the production of wheat, the county's primary cash crop, from 352,229 bushels in 1949 to 1,224,664 bushels in 1959.

The mechanization of farming, however, reduced the number of farms from 3,166 in 1950 to 2,001 in 1960. A corresponding decline in the county's population occurred. Historically the percentage of tenant farmers in Collin County was high; it reached a peak of 74 percent in 1925. By 1960 that figure had dropped to 38 percent. Because of the lack of business opportunities outside farming in the county, the majority of those forced to leave farming also left the county. The population decreased from 47,190 in 1940 to 41,247 in 1960.

Although agriculture, especially developing dairy farming, continued to be an important factor in the county's economy, by

1980 the introduction of light industry, combined with the growth of the Dallas metropolitan area, produced a successful diversified economy. In 1980 the number of business establishments totaled 2,388; 25 percent of the population was employed in manufacturing and 23 percent in wholesale and retail trade. Most of the population, 59 percent, worked outside the county. The economic growth between 1960 and 1980 accompanied a comparable population growth. Plano, eighteen miles northeast of Dallas, had the most dramatic increase of all Collin County towns: in 1960 Plano's population was 3,695, and twenty years later it was 72,331. Overall, Collin County's population increased from 41,692 in 1960 to 144,576 in 1980. Subsequently it continued to grow, largely as a result of the development of the suburbs in and around Plano. By 1990 the number of residents in Plano increased to 128,673, and the population of the county as a whole grew to 264,036, nearly double what it had been only a decade before. Many of the new arrivals in the county are from areas outside of Texas.

Though before 1970 the voters of the county were staunchly Democratic, from 1972 to 1992 they consistently chose Republican presidential candidates, and Republicans also made inroads in state and local races. Other changes have occurred. Due to the large number of young families that have moved to the area, the average age has dropped considerably, and education levels have been steadily rising. Hispanics, traditionally only a small minority in the county, now outnumber African-Americans,[qv] and the number of Asians is increasing rapidly. In 1990 nearly 90 percent of the population was white, 6.9 percent Hispanic, 4.1 percent black, and 2.8 percent Asian. Collin County is well on its way to being one of the most densely populated counties in Texas. The largest city, Plano, overshadows the county seat as the business and educational center of the county. The diversified economy continues to diminish the number of farms. At its 150th anniversary the county little resembled what was settled in the 1840s.

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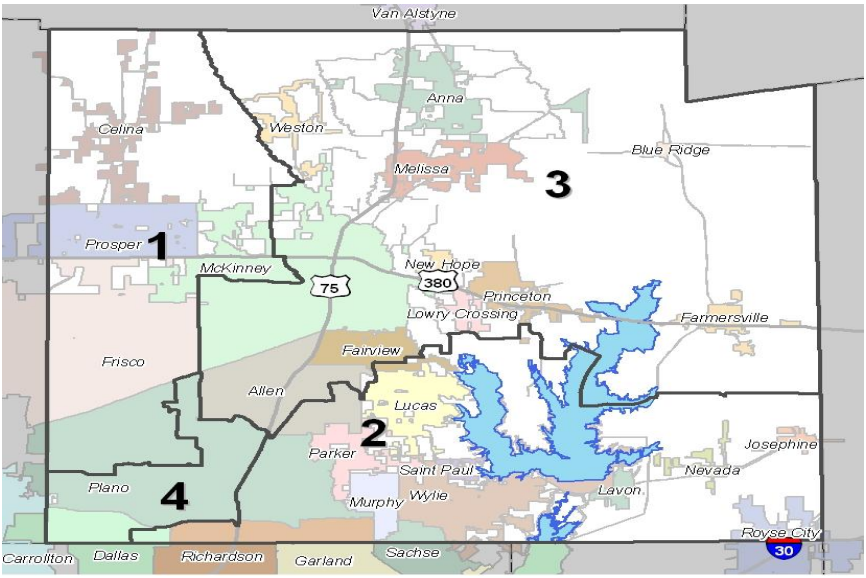
Source: *Handbook of Texas Online*, s.v. "Collin County" http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/CC/hcc16.html (accessed October 19, 2009).

COLLIN COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS COURT PRECINCTS



EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2010

PRECINCT 1
MATT SHAHEEN

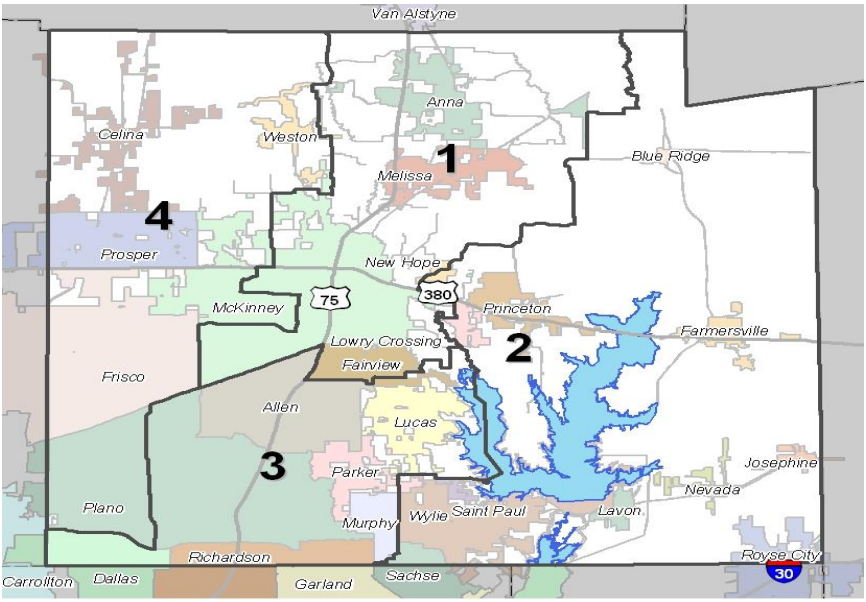
PRECINCT 2
JERRY HOAGLAND

PRECINCT 3
JOE JAYNES

PRECINCT 4
KATHY WARD

For more information go to
http://www.co.collin.tx.us/commissioners_court/index.jsp

COLLIN COUNTY
CONSTABLE PRECINCTS



EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2010

PRECINCT 1
PAUL ELKINS

PRECINCT 2
JOE BARTON

PRECINCT 3
CHUCK PRESLEY

PRECINCT 4
JOHNNY TODD

For more information go to
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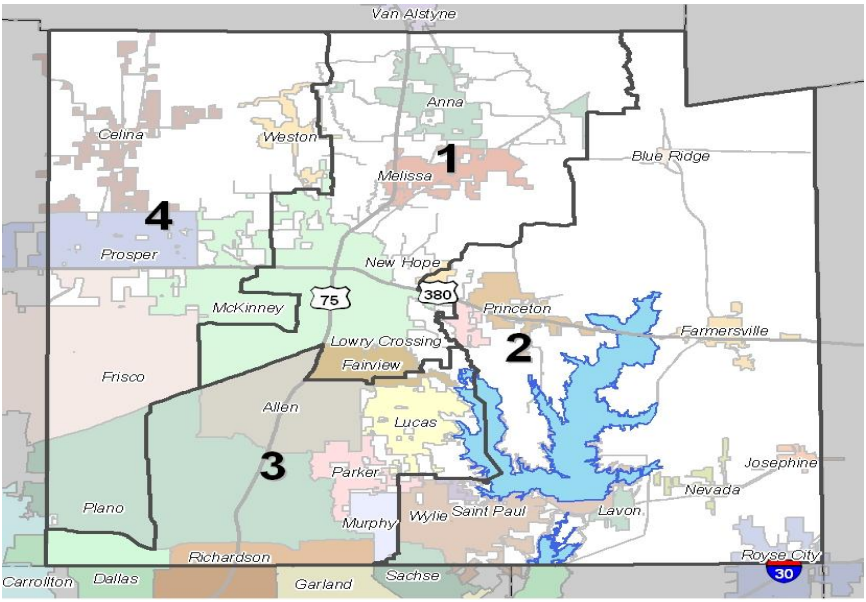
COLLIN COUNTY
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT PRECINCTS



EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2010

PRECINCT 1
PAUL RALEEH

PRECINCT 2
TERRY DOUGLAS

PRECINCT 3-1
JOHNNIE LEWIS

PRECINCT 3-2
JOHN PAYTON

PRECINCT 4
MIKE YARBROUGH

For more information go to
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