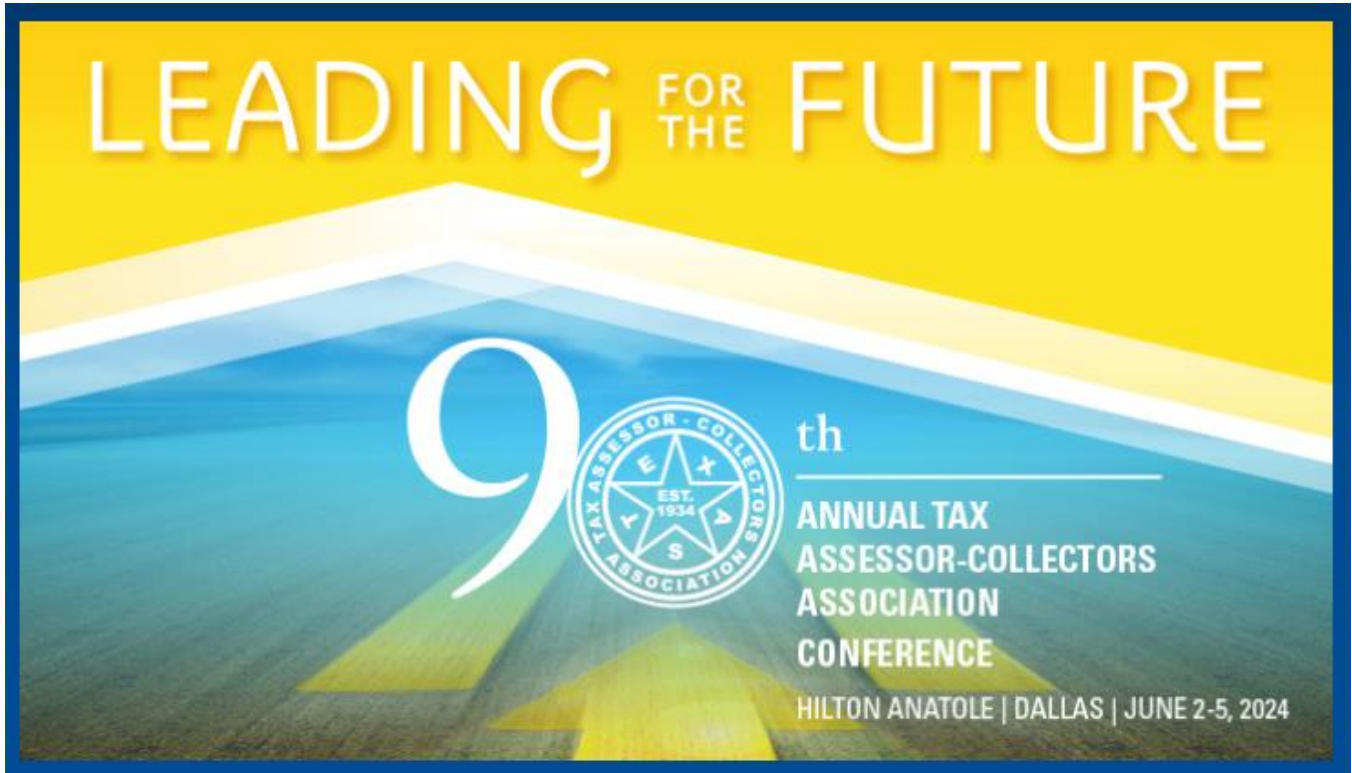




The Official Publication of the Tax Assessor-Collectors Association of
THE COUNTY TAX \$ STATEMENT



SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 2 - 5, 2024

90th Annual
Tax Assessor-Collectors
Association Conference

Hilton Anatole - Dallas, TX

**REGISTRATION
OPENS MARCH 1ST**

"LEADING FOR THE FUTURE"



2023-2024

***TXDMV UPDATES**

***COMPTROLLER**

INFO

***TAC**

***TPWD**

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The County Tax Statement is the official publication of the Tax Assessor-Collectors Association of Texas and is published four times each year for the benefit of its members and interested contributing parties. The purpose of the organization is to promote professional standards, to unify actions for the benefit of its constituents, to be aware and participate in the legislative process, and to provide a vehicle to educate its members in the proper conduct of the constitutional office of the Assessor-Collector of Taxes.

VG Young Conference

On November 16, 2023, the Vehicles Titles and Registration (VTR) Division attended the annual V.G. Young Conference for county tax assessor-collectors in Waco. Prior to attending the conference, VTR had several counties participate in the submission of title and registration related questions that they requested to learn more about during the conference.

Title and Registration Services reviewed the questions that were submitted and provided a formal presentation surrounding the various topics and questions that were received. Some of the main discussion items included questions related to transaction and procedural review, system limitations, updates, and concerns as well as some miscellaneous title and registration questions.

The VTR presenters consisted of Romeo McCain, Registration Services Manager, and Courtney Juarez, Title Services Manager. After the presentation, VTR held a question-and-answer session surrounding the various topics and addressed additional questions from the counties in attendance.

Registration and Title System (RTS) Release 24.1

The department recently implemented Registration and Title System (RTS) Release 24 on January 22, 2024. While there are several items included in the release, some of the more significant items include: programming to prevent the issuance of duplicate general-issue license plates; integration of the Houston Regional Service Center credit card transaction system; and multiple new specialty license plate designs.

Recognizing Outstanding Dedication and Service

Amarillo Regional Service Center Retirement

We said goodbye to a longtime public servant last month. Amarillo Regional Service Center (RSC) Manager Patty Combs retired after 42 years of state service. She was a vital part of the leadership team in the Regional Services Section of the Vehicle Titles and Registration (VTR) Division. Patty began her career as an administrative tech with the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation. She spent her career advancing to become the RSC manager in 2010.



Performance Quality Recognition Program

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles established the [Performance Quality Recognition Program](#) (PQRP) to recognize county tax assessor-collectors that go above and beyond in complying with Texas laws, agency rules, and exceeding expected customer service. The department is charged by statute to establish standards for uniformity and service quality for counties. This program provides the best practices the department has determined to recognize county tax assessor-collectors and their offices for outstanding performance and efficiency in processing title and registration transactions.

This is a voluntary multi-level recognition program available to all 254-county tax assessor-collectors. The three levels of recognition for the program are Gold, Silver, and Bronze. The final award was presented to Tarrant County on August 1, 2023.

➤ **Gold Level Recognition**

Tarrant County – Wendy Burgess, Tax Assessor-Collector (photo below).



See the August 2023 TACA Newsletter for the other winners.

VTR Leadership Summer Workshop

The VTR Leadership Summer Workshop was held from July 11-13 for VTR management. This workshop furthers efforts to provide education to managers and enhance communication. Topics included *Optimizing Operations*, *5 Levels of Leadership*, *Charting the Path Ahead: What's Next for VTR in FY 2024*, *Conflict Resolution for Leaders: Examining the Root*, *Diving Deep: Understanding Intrinsic Motivation*, *Team Building Activity – Group Solving Task*, and *TxDMV's Organizational Strategic Planning for FY 2024* with a final day of round table discussions.





Training for the El Paso County Tax Office

During the week of September 18, leadership from the Regional Services Section and the Quality Assurance Team, as shown in the following pictures, provided in-depth training to the El Paso County Tax Office. The training will contribute to strengthening communications in the region.



Training for El Paso Regional Service Center

The same, detailed training that was presented to the El Paso County Tax Office was presented to the El Paso Regional Service Center (RSC). The RSC staff stated that they enjoyed and appreciated it. This training helps to foster a well-rounded and shared knowledge base that will contribute to the quality information provided to the citizens of the region.



American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators' 2023 Annual International Conference

The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization developing model programs in motor vehicle administration, law enforcement, and highway safety. The association also serves as an information clearinghouse in these areas and acts as the international spokesperson for these interests.

AAMVA's 2023 Annual International Conference that was held on September 26-28, 2023, in Madison, Wisconsin was attended by VTR leadership which included William Diggs, Angelica Rodriguez, Kimberley Jaso, Romeo McCain, Clint Thompson, and Patricia Ueckert. The conference provided an opportunity to discuss relevant driver's license, motor vehicle and law enforcement related issues with peers.

Regional Meeting held in Kaufman County

Kaufman county wants to thank all the counties who attended the regional meeting held at the Civic Center in Kaufman Texas. There were approximately 40 in attendance for this meeting, the counties attending were Dallas, Collin, Fannin, Hunt, Rockwall and Kaufman (host county). We had a great day with TXDMV Speakers, Roland Luna, Annette Quintero and Jeff Armstrong as our first speakers. A great lunch provided by Linebarger. After lunch Texas Association of Counties representative Haley Bever spoke to the group about Stress in the Workplace (something we all know well). To finish off this wonderful day our Tax Attorney from Linebarger went over some of the new legislative updates. I pray everyone an amazing collection year.

Teresa Floyd
Tax Assessor Collector
Kaufman County Texas



What to Do When a County Tax Assessor-Collector is Leaving Office

INFORMATION TO REQUEST A CLOSE-OUT AUDIT FOR OUTGOING CTACs AND HOW TO OBTAIN BOND INFORMATION FOR INCOMING CTACs

TEXAS COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS | TAX POLICY DIVISION | INDIRECT TAX SECTION

It's about that time again! Elections for County Tax Assessor-Collector's (CTAC's) are drawing near. It has been a pleasure working with those who are leaving, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with those who remain, as well as those who are newly elected. The Comptroller's office has some recommendations for outgoing CTAC's, and requirements for new incoming CTAC's.

Outgoing CTAC's

When a CTAC is leaving office, a close-out audit request should be made with the Comptroller's office. The following individuals may request a close-out audit:

- Outgoing CTAC
- Incoming CTAC
- County Auditor

While the Comptroller's office no longer requires a close-out audit, it is recommended that one is performed. To request a close-out audit, send an email to: ta.audit.leads@cpa.texas.gov, and provide the following information:

- Subject line: Request for Close-out Audit
- Name
- County
- 11-digit Taxpayer Number
- Email address
- Phone Number
- Retirement Date or Last Day in Office for Outgoing CTAC

New Incoming CTAC's

If you are a new incoming CTAC, the following information is required for the Comptroller's office to set up with a Taxpayer number, and provide you with your bond information. To be set up, please send an email to motor.vehicle@cpa.texas.gov and provide the following information:

- Subject line: Request for Close-out Audit
- Name
- County
- Email address
- Phone Number
- Beginning Date or First Date in Office

If you have any motor vehicle tax related questions, you can email tax.help@cpa.texas.gov.



Texas Association of Counties

The Texas Association of Counties (TAC) is working on interim activities to help support tax assessor-collectors and county offices. The Legislative Department is in the process of working with select counties and regions for Legislative Exchange meetings to provide counties with an opportunity to candidly discuss legislative issues with our Legislative Department. The first Legislative Exchange will be held in El Paso this March, with other locations and dates to be announced soon. Once finalized more information will be posted on the TACA List Serve and shared with county offices.

Additionally, the Legislative Department is monitoring the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) rulemaking process related to implementation efforts for HB 718 and HB 3297 from the regular session of the 88th Legislature. These bills related to transitioning from temporary paper plates to metal plates and elimination of the safety inspection requirements for vehicles in 2025. TxDMV's Vehicle Titles and Registration Advisory Committee held an organizational meeting on Jan. 10, 2024, with plans to meet again in February (a specific date has not yet been set) to discuss an initial working draft of rules implementing these measures. Denton County Tax Assessor-Collector Michelle French and Bell County Tax Assessor-Collector and TAC Board Member Shay Luedeke are members of this advisory committee, along with other TxDMV stakeholders including auto dealers and law enforcement. TxDMV intends to formally propose these rules at their June 2024 meeting and adopt them at their October 2024 meeting.

The biennial 2024 TAC Salary Survey is underway. One of TAC's most utilized reports, this survey collects pay data for elected and appointed officials, promoting transparency and informed decision-making. TAC has mailed requests to county leadership offices to complete the survey by March 11. Counties can download an electronic version of the survey form in MS Excel format (<https://county.org/salariesurvey>) or submit responses by mail. For more information or questions, your county can reach out to [Tim Brown](#).

Lastly, registration is now open for TAC's 2024 Legislative Conference, happening Aug. 28-30 in Austin. Don't miss this chance for learning, networking and important county discussions. [Learn more and sign up here](#).

Caroline Love
Legislative Consultant
Texas Association of Counties



Boat Titling & Registration

Document Packaging & Transaction Submission

With the pandemic largely behind us and things finally beginning to normalize once again, it's time to review and assess current procedures to ensure they meet or are returned to established protocols. This includes document packaging and timely submission of all processed transactions to the TPWD Boat Titling & Registration section. Per the established document packaging procedures in the BRITS User's Manual (attached here for reference):

"All transaction paperwork, titles, decals and registration cards required for processing transactions must be bundled and submitted to TPWD Headquarters within two weeks of processing. Each Agent shall submit paperwork in bundled order according to the TPWD Document Packaging Procedures stated above. Address all shipments to:

Boat Titling & Registration Section
TX Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744"

Effective immediately, please ensure all processed transactions are bundled in accordance with established standard procedures and submitted within two weeks of processing. See Section V. Document Packaging Procedures in the user manual for a full explanation of all established standards.

If you have any questions, please contact your TPWD Boat Program Liaisons at 512-389-8090 or 512-389-4393.

For all the Counties that collect property taxes, congratulations for surviving another year!

HOW I FEEL



AFTER TAX SEASON