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Wimberley Democrats Endorse Three Candidates

Democrats in Wimberley (WimDems) have endorsed three Democratic candidates who are running for Hays County Judge, Hays County Clerk, and Hays County Court-at-Law #1.

WimDems' endorsement committee, representing more than 600 registered Wimberley Democrats who helped Joe Biden win the vote in Hays County, is endorsing incumbent County Judge Ruben Becerra, incumbent County Clerk Elaine Cardenas, and Jimmy Allen Hall, who is running for a judgeship for Hays County's Court-at-Law #1.



Ruben Becerra Hays County Judge

Ruben Becerra, a life-long Democrat, is running for re-election as Hays County Judge.

During his first term, Becerra created the Citizens Advisory Commission for Redistricting, the Citizens Election Commission, the Criminal Justice Commission, and a Mental Health Task Force. He led the way in creating a public defender's office. He launched efforts to create a centralized no-kill animal shelter and a Center for Mental Wellness, Education, and Research with a dedicated VA wing. He also presented and adopted the lowest Hays County property tax rate in more than 30 years.

In his next term, Becerra will focus on

- increasing transparency in county government,
- encouraging responsible business-friendly growth,
- protecting Hays county's valuable water resources,
- protecting Hays county residents, and
- continuing his citizen-focused projects he launched in his first term.

Judge Becerra sees unprecedented opportunities to maximize new federal infrastructure funds for roads and bridges, water and wastewater, and high-speed broadband.

Texas county judges are presiding supervisors of commissioners courts. According to Ballotpedia: "County judges help govern county government, including providing safety protection, public transportation, parks, hospitals and buildings, providing zoning, waste, water and permit regulations, levying and collecting taxes for county and municipal organizations, and overseeing and enforcing more specific duties, as laid out by Texas statutes. Though county judges are presiders, they may not veto the commissioners."

Despite the terms "court" and "judge," the county commissioners' court has no judicial function, and although the county judge presides over its meetings, the county judge does not render judicial rulings.



Elaine Cardenas Hays County Clerk

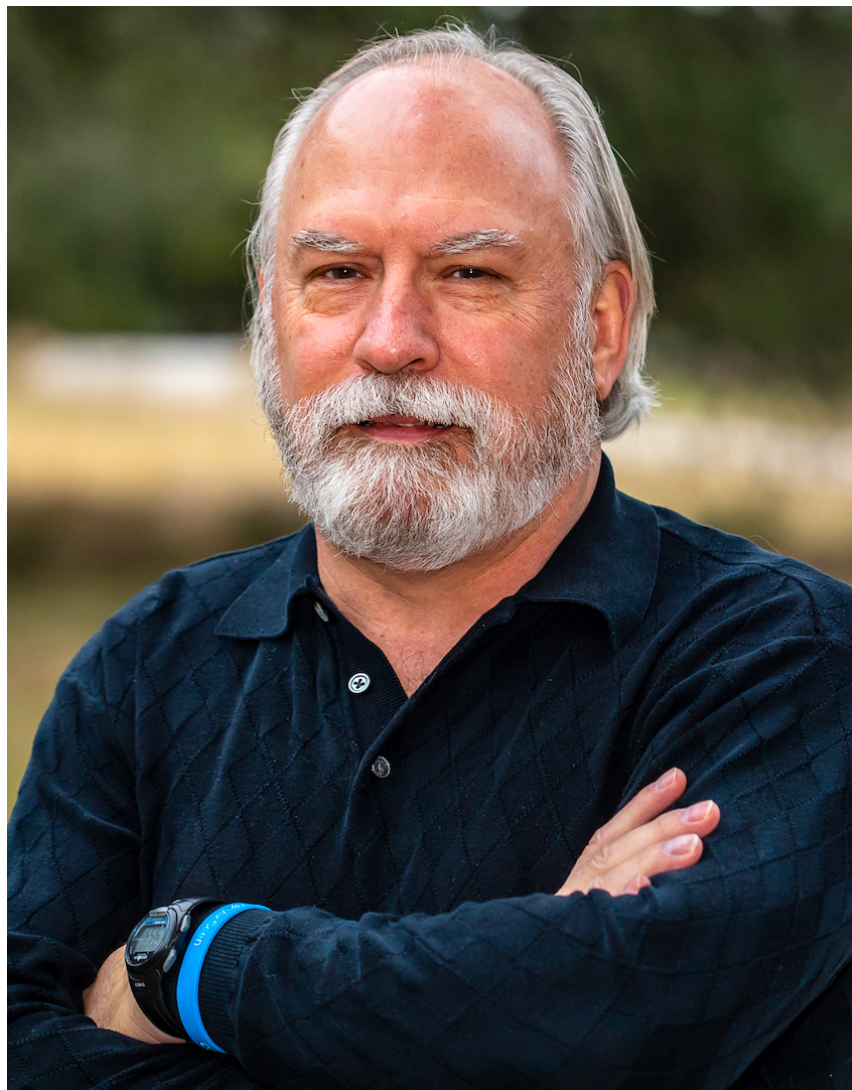
Elaine Cardenas is running for re-election as Hays County Clerk. She won the position decisively—one of two countywide positions won by the Democratic Party in 2018--after coming out of retirement. Prior to that, she worked for many years as a senior executive for several Washington-DC social policy think tanks, including Gallup. In addition to her PhD in Cultural Studies, she has an MBA, which has served her well in modernizing the office and upgrading the management practices to keep pace with the county's rapid growth and changing demographics.

“What worked for a small Texas county will not work for Hays County, the fastest growing county in the United States,” says Cardenas. “In the last two years, our workload has doubled. We face cyber-security challenges and a constant need to

improve our IT infrastructure.”

When she is re-elected as county clerk, Cardenas plans for more customer research, improvements in efficiency, and continued cooperation with all branches of Hays County government.

According to the Texas Association of Counties. “The main duties of the county clerk are to serve as clerk of the county court and the county commissioners court, act as recorder of deeds and other instruments, issue marriage licenses and take depositions. The clerk is also responsible for conducting countywide special and general elections and for handling absentee voting.”



Jimmy Alan Hall

Hays County Court-at-Law #1

Jimmy Alan Hall, who is running for judge of Hays County Court-at-Law #1, is an experienced, well-respected, and reliable attorney who will be an excellent judge. He earned degrees from the University of Texas in architectural studies, public affairs, and law.

Over the last 40 years, he did Texas legislative redistricting, was an environmental attorney for the State and a municipal prosecutor, championed environmental protection, and represented numerous clients in administrative and civil matters.

“I care deeply for my community,” says Hall. “I believe in fairness and the pursuit of justice for all. Under increasing demands on the court, I promise to provide a more efficient, transparent, and agile court.”

According to the Ballotpedia, "Texas County Courts at Law are trial courts in Texas with concurrent jurisdiction over many cases with the district courts and county courts in the county. The County Courts at Law were created by the Texas Legislature for the counties with larger populations to aid the single county court in its judicial functions."

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WimDems Newsletter Editor

Patty Nilsson

pattynilsson@mac.com



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