



District Courts of Harris County

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Press Release

For Immediate Release

Harris County District Courts' request for five new courts advances to Governor Abbott

June 3, 2025 — The Texas Legislature has approved Senate Bill 2878, which proposes the creation of five additional district courts in Harris County: three in 2025 and two more in 2026. The bill now awaits Governor Greg Abbott's signature to become law.

The addition of these courts will address the significant uptick in civil case filings in Harris County, which have increased by a whopping 46 percent from 2014 to 2024, according to data from Harris County's justice information management system. The last civil district court was established in 1983, marking this expansion as a critical step in meeting the country's current judicial needs. By increasing judicial capacity, the courts aim to reduce case backlogs and expedite the resolution process for residents and businesses alike.

"The addition of these new civil district courts is a game-changer for our judiciary *and* our community," said Judge Latosha Lewis Payne, Administrative Judge for the Harris County District Courts. "For years, our judges have carried overwhelming caseloads, working to ensure justice is served. These new courts will help balance that workload, reduce delays, and allow us to give each case the time and attention it deserves. Most important, it means Harris County residents and businesses will see more efficient resolution of their civil disputes, a faster return to normalcy."

By investing in this expansion, Harris County and the great State of Texas has reaffirmed its commitment to providing expedient, accessible, and fair judicial services for all. The Harris County District Courts extend their gratitude to the Texas Legislature for recognizing the need for additional judicial resources. We also thank the Harris County Commissioners' Court for their support in this initiative.

About the Harris County Civil District Courts:

The Harris County Civil District Courts are dedicated to resolving civil disputes efficiently and fairly. These courts address a broad spectrum of issues like malpractice, damages, breach of contract, personal injury, and multi-district litigation. In Texas, district courts have original jurisdiction over civil matters in which a party is seeking equitable relief, injunctive relief, or where the amount in question is \$500 or more. This includes cases involving land titles, election contests, and other civil disputes.

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