

Continuing Education for County Officials

- The duties and responsibilities of county government officials are increasingly complex as counties strive to provide an array of governmental services to an increasingly diverse and growing population.
- To effectively manage governmental services and respond to local issues, quality and relevant continuing education is essential.

AgriLife Extension’s Response

- Created in 1969, the *V.G. Young Institute of County Government* provides continuing education programs for local government officials, including county judges and commissioners, emergency services districts, property tax professionals, and county tax assessor-collectors.
- The institute meets the educational needs of county officials and the public by anticipating, identifying, and addressing the challenges and opportunities faced by Texas county governments.
- Educational needs are met through programs, published materials, and counsel to county officials,



community organizations, and citizens across the state.

- In 2015, continuing education hours were provided to 908 county officials through Texas A&M AgriLife Extension programs as well as extension-supported programs. Participants included 550 county commissioners, 58 county judges, 152 county tax assessor-collectors, and 148 other county personnel.



Economic Impacts

- Average annual salaries for county judges and commissioners, county treasurers, county and district clerks, and county tax assessor-collectors were used to value the salary impact of these county officials.
- In 2015, by providing high-quality continuing education and training to the state’s county officials, AgriLife Extension’s V.G. Young Institute directly supported 908 county officials, with an annual salary base of \$45.2 million.
- In addition, this continuing education program equips Texas county officials with knowledge and skills to more effectively manage their annual budgets. In all, county budgets in Texas total approximately \$12.3 billion.