



# A Record of Local Impact: The Pintail Landfill

*Why longtime residents remember this fight — and why newer residents should know it*

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## Why Pintail Still Matters

For many longtime residents of Waller County, the **Pintail Landfill** controversy remains a defining moment in local governance.

What began as a proposed landfill site evolved into a **multi-year public battle that stretched over roughly seven years**, involving repeated hearings, legal challenges, and sustained community opposition.

For newer residents, it is important context — not because it involved a landfill, but because it raised lasting questions about **transparency, process, and whose voices are heard when large projects are approved**.

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## What Was the Pintail Landfill Proposal?

In the early 2010s, a proposal to site the **Pintail Landfill** in Waller County generated intense public concern related to environmental impact, proximity to nearby communities, and the approval process itself.

Residents repeatedly questioned how decisions were being made and whether proper public procedures were being followed.

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## The Jury Verdict

In **2014**, the Pintail dispute reached a civil jury trial.

A **Waller County civil jury found that county commissioners — including Stan Kitzman, who was serving as a Waller County Commissioner at the time — met illegally in closed sessions with landfill developers prior to approving the project**, in violation of Texas open-government laws, according to reporting by the **Houston Chronicle**.

The verdict focused on **process and transparency**, not on the merits of landfills generally.

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## Why the Verdict Was Significant

The Pintail case reinforced a core principle of local governance:

Decisions that affect communities must be made openly, with proper notice and public participation.

For many residents, the jury's finding confirmed concerns that had been raised throughout the process — that key discussions occurred **outside of public view**.

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## Why This History Is Relevant Today

The Pintail Landfill case is not about revisiting the past. It is about understanding **patterns and expectations**.

Large developments — whether industrial, commercial, or recreational — place long-term demands on:

- roads
- water resources
- drainage and floodplains
- emergency services

When decisions about those projects are made without transparency, public trust erodes.

That lesson remains relevant as Waller County continues to face growth pressure.

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## What Voters Should Take Away

- Pintail was not a minor dispute; it resulted in a **jury verdict**.
  - The finding centered on **illegal closed-session meetings**, not policy disagreement.
  - **Stan Kitzman was a Waller County Commissioner at the time**.
  - For many residents, Pintail remains a touchstone for why **process matters as much as outcomes**.
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## Where This Fits in the Bigger Picture

This page exists as a historical **record and context**.

It is referenced in:

- the **Primary-Season FAQ** (for voters seeking background)
- broader discussions about transparency and public authority

It does **not** compare projects, speculate about motives, or draw conclusions for the reader.

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## Learn More

- [District Power explainer: Public Authority for Private Benefit — Without a Public Vote](#)
- **Primary-Season FAQ: A Record Worth Knowing This Primary**

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### Citizens in Defense of Waller County (CDWC)

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