

DISTRICT 2 ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

Updated October 5, 2026

Sad and Blue in District 2

Transparency • Accountability • Real Ethics • Election Integrity

An Independent Watchdog Resource for Dallas County District 2

Introduction

For four years, District 2 has been represented inside a 5–0 One-Party Machine on the Commissioners Court, with virtually no real opposition or independent oversight. The result is a consistent pattern of failures in three places:

1st — Trust. Radical associations, weakened election integrity, and ethical conflicts.

2nd — Wallet. Fiscal irresponsibility and unchecked spending.

3rd — Safety. Public safety, property rights, and accountability for core services.

This report documents the key failures of the incumbent Dallas County Commissioner for District 2 using public records, official documents, meeting minutes, budget documents, court filings, video recordings, and primary sources. It is a voter resource.

The problems follow a pattern enabled by one-party rule with no meaningful checks. Because District 2 carries a disproportionate share of the county's tax burden — roughly 40 percent — the consequences fall especially hard here.

TRUST: Radical Associations

The incumbent used his official position and taxpayer-funded communications to advance networks tied to organizations Texas leaders have designated as terrorist groups, and to Marxist-Leninist outlets that promote revolution.

At his August 21, 2025 re-election kickoff, he took credit for opening permanent polling locations at three mosques. He said 1,689 people voted at mosques for the first time. He said almost every one of those new voters voted for his party. He said those mosques and those new voters were the difference in electing Judge Tina Clinton. He described the result as power. A second recording, at a community gathering, has him taking credit for making the Islamic Association of North Texas the first mosque polling location in Dallas County. After that record was put in front of newsrooms on August 26, 2026, both videos disappeared from Facebook. They had already been saved.

That is not religious liberty. A church, a mosque, or a synagogue can lawfully serve as a polling place. The concern is the conduct: private facilities used where public buildings are available, and an officeholder using official authority to embed election infrastructure inside locations tied to designated networks, then claiming political credit for the votes those rooms returned. Texas Election Code § 43.031 already prefers a public building when one is practicable. A public building costs the county nothing on a day it is normally open.

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One of those sites later hosted the ideology. In May 2025, the Islamic Association of North Texas hosted “From Marxism to Islam: The Revolutionary Road to Allah,” organized by the Islamic Circle of North America Dallas. A RAIR Foundation report on the May 2 event describes speakers, including a former Black Liberation Army and Black Panther member who served 22 years for bank robbery, arguing that Islam and Western society cannot coexist. The incumbent had already taken credit for turning that institution into a permanent polling location.

His official January–February 2026 newsletter, hosted on the county website, linked to Fight Back! News, the newspaper of the Freedom Road Socialist Organization, and to an article on a March 2, 2026 protest at Dealey Plaza. FRSO describes itself as a national organization of revolutionaries fighting for socialism and says it is recruiting toward a new Communist Party based on Marxism-Leninism. The Dealey Plaza action promoted in that item was backed with groups that include the Palestinian Youth Movement, DFW Shias for Justice, and Revolutionary Front DFW. Texas Government Code § 557.022 bars a communist from the ballot. The same material appeared on the official county website.

He has also used official communications to promote institutions tied to CAIR. In November 2025, Governor Greg Abbott designated the Muslim Brotherhood and CAIR as foreign terrorist organizations and transnational criminal organizations. His public associations track the far-left wing of his party — the faction represented nationally by Zohran Mamdani, Rashida Tlaib, Ilhan Omar, and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez — not the common-sense Democrats of District 2. One person featured in his own newsletter, former State Representative Terri Hodge, had already pleaded guilty to fraud and served federal time.

These actions were possible because of the 5–0 structure. With no real opposition, he could establish the polling locations and link to Marxist sources without being stopped.

Sources: Saved videos of the August 21, 2025 kickoff and the community gathering; RAIR Foundation, June 10, 2025; Dallas County District 2 newsletter, January–February 2026; FRSO, frso.org/about; Governor Abbott, November 18, 2025.

TRUST: Election Integrity Failures

The incumbent fought against protecting the constitutional right to a secret ballot. He attacked precinct-based voting and defended countywide vote centers that make a ballot identifiable and an election harder to audit.

Texas Election Code § 122.001 requires secrecy of the ballot. Section 123.002 lets the Commissioners Court rescind a voting system at any time. On October 1, 2024, Barry Wernick stood at Commissioners Court with copies of ballots in hand, including those of County Judge Clay Jenkins and Commissioner Elba Garcia. He had already taken the same evidence to the Dallas County Election Commission. Four of the five members of that board had ballots that could be tied to them: Democratic Party Chairman Kardal Coleman, County Judge Clay Jenkins, County Clerk John Warren, and Tax Assessor-Collector John Ames. He told the Court the system violates Democrats at a higher rate than Republicans, and that redaction does not restore a secret ballot once countywide voting has broken it. The Court did nothing.

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The incumbent then pushed countywide voting forward and attacked the warning. A fundraising appeal claimed the effort to restore precinct voting would disenfranchise voters and make it hard to vote. The opposite is the record. Precinct assignment keeps the polling place close to home. It protects chain of custody. On Election Day of the March 2026 primary, assigning voters by precinct is how roughly 10,000 ballots stayed secret that early voting had put at risk.

In that same March primary, 9,682 Dallas County voters lost a secret ballot during early voting: 7,324 Democrats and 2,358 Republicans. In the May 2026 municipal special, 4,211 more had a ballot public records could connect to them. After the October 2024 warning, the same right was taken from the incumbent's deputy chief of staff, Todd Hensley — the only voter from his precinct at the Esperanza Community Center during early voting — and from Commissioners Elba Garcia and Theresa Daniel and Democratic Party Chairman Kardal Coleman.

On September 1, 2026, he answered the public outcry by adding more private facilities, including Temple Shalom as a first-time vote center, Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, and SMU. He floated RISD's Arzell Ball Center, called it a "ballroom," and credited a Richardson city councilmember. He did not adopt public-buildings-first as the rule, and he did not replace IANT. Public buildings already exist near the private sites he has chosen, including Hollabaugh Recreation Center, the Carrollton Senior Center, and Richardson ISD facilities. Renting a private room where a public vote center already exists nearby is a cost the county does not have to pay, and a room an incumbent can pick for the votes it returns.

Sources: Dallas County Elections, dallascountyvotes.org; Commissioners Court testimony, October 1, 2024; fundraising appeal, April 27, 2026; Commissioners Court, September 1, 2026, Item 16; Texas Election Code §§ 43.031, 43.033, 43.007(f).

TRUST: Ethical Concerns and Conflicts of Interest

Before he joined the Court, the incumbent represented County Judge Clay Jenkins. On January 1, 2023, Jenkins swore him in and called him "my friend and my lawyer." Jenkins said he really wanted to swear that one in.

The representation was not a routine client. On June 27, 2020, Jenkins wrote Governor Abbott asking that a 30-day Stay Home, Stay Safe order be put back in place: universal masking with fines, restaurants limited to takeout or outdoor seating, and gyms, bowling alleys, theaters, pools, youth sports, and bars closed. The incumbent later took the mask case against the Governor's order. He did not take it for a fee. In September 2022 he told the Dallas Morning News his firm had never taken a fee for the work with Judge Jenkins. On April 4, 2022, he wrote: "We have waived our fees. It's our honor to represent Judge Jenkins."

The Texas Supreme Court settled the question the other way. In *Abbott v. Harris County*, 671 S.W.3d 960 (Tex. 2023), the Court held that where state and county authority conflict on a contagious-disease response, the county yields, and the Governor can prohibit a local mask mandate. He had litigated the other side, waived the fee, and called it an honor.

His firm still practices in justice, statutory county, and district courts that the Commissioners Court funds and controls. Texas State Bar Ethics Opinion 530 flags that arrangement. He swore

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an oath under Texas Local Government Code § 81.002 and Article XVI, § 1 of the Texas Constitution. The same official newsletter that carried the FRSO link is a use of the office, not a private post.

The 5–0 Court has never made him answer for any of it. After he represented Jenkins, Dallas County redrew District 2. He then defeated the commissioner who had pushed back on those emergency powers.

Sources: Dallas Morning News, January 1, 2023, and September 27, 2022; The Texan, April 11, 2022; Jenkins letter, June 27, 2020; Texas Scorecard, April and May 2020; Abbott v. Harris County (Tex. 2023).

WALLET: Fiscal Irresponsibility

The Court treats District 2 like a personal ATM.

In May 2026 the incumbent voted for \$350 million in certificates of obligation. No public debate. No voter approval. With interest, that debt costs about \$700 million. District 2's share of the burden is about \$280 million: roughly \$1,300 a person, \$2,600 if you are married. The package included \$25 million for a deflection center aimed at this district, with no detailed plan and no public input. This district's share of that piece is about \$10 million, about \$47 from every District 2 taxpayer.

He voted for the first county tax-rate hike in 16 years. He then moved a higher permanent levy onto the November ballot for homelessness programs. The Dallas Morning News put that proposal at about \$103 million a year. District 2 would shoulder about \$41 million of that new annual cost. An earlier motion, which he supported, was framed at about \$150 million. On a \$350,000 home, the Morning News calculated the county bill rising from about \$754 to \$886, more than \$130 a year. The county's own notice showed the rate rising 17.47 percent, from 21.55 cents to 25.31 cents per \$100, while the average homestead bill rose closer to 25 percent because values rose at the same time. On the ballot it is Prop A. It is Andy's tax: about 22 percent over the no-new-revenue rate. Commissioners John Wiley Price and Elba Garcia voted no. He called it stewardship.

He was also ready to place a childcare levy on the ballot, projected at about \$132 million a year, with District 2's share about \$53 million. His position was to let the voters decide. Measures framed this way, and funded by the groups that want them, usually pass. Declining to take a stand was the nudge.

Before any of that money is wired to Housing Forward, the City of Dallas already audited the agency. The City Auditor's June 18, 2025 report, covering October 1, 2022, through February 29, 2024, found two city contracts with Housing Forward totaling more than \$5 million. About 2 percent was spent: \$52,326 of \$3 million on master leasing, and \$1,707 of \$2,354,314 on street outreach. The cited reasons were alternate funding and missing performance information. The Point-in-Time count met 18 of 23 HUD requirements and only partly met the other five. Veteran status was not a required question. Auditors could not verify that the 2024 count happened in the required window. That is the record of the agency in line for the pass-through.

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The county has not had a third-party forensic audit in more than a decade. It handles on the order of \$3 billion a year. A TPPF/Pulse poll found 90 percent of Texans want local governments to face regular efficiency audits.

He also took \$2.5 million, bought a burned church property and the house next door, and said he would put 30 houses on it for teachers, sell \$750,000 homes for \$400,000, and attach a seven-year work rule he called golden handcuffs. No public vote. District 2 carries the disproportionate share of that cost. The Court also approved \$600,000 for an interim chief financial officer at Metrocare, which faces a projected \$18 million loss. This district's share of that projected loss is about \$7.2 million.

Sources: Dallas Morning News, May 20, August 5, and August 11, 2026; Dallas County Notice of Public Hearing, proposed rate \$0.253150; City Auditor, June 18, 2025; Richardson Area Democrats, October 28, 2025; FOX 4 on Metrocare.

WALLET AND SAFETY: Homelessness and Property Rights

A good commissioner demands a result for every dollar. The incumbent has supported more spending on homelessness without requiring one.

He told Richardson Area Democrats he wanted the landlord constable fee raised from \$70 to \$400 so the extra money could fund a deflection center. That is a tax on the legal act of removing a non-paying tenant. Landlords already carry the vacancy, the legal fee, and the lost rent. Multnomah County's deflection program, the model being cited, showed completion in the range of 16 to 29 percent in its own reports, with few reaching treatment or housing. A meta-analysis of day-reporting centers found no overall reduction in recidivism against ordinary supervision. He has also described the Esperanza center as a womb-to-tomb site — prenatal care, childcare, dental, mental health, and senior services in one former school — a permanent dependency hub funded in part by that fee.

Dallas County already spends heavily on the downstream cost: about \$20 million a month to run the jail and about \$5 million a month at Parkland on care for unhoused people. District 2's share is about \$8 million a month on the jail and \$2 million a month at Parkland. That is about \$38 a month from every District 2 taxpayer for the jail alone, more than \$450 a year. He held up a budget vote to add another \$5 million for Housing Forward. This district's share of that add is about \$2 million.

He went to Austin and opposed House Bill 32, the bipartisan bill to make it faster for an owner to remove an illegal squatter. His newsletter said the bill would be a burden on Dallas County and its taxpayers. Visible encampments did not recede because the fee went up.

The \$150 million proposal he advanced, and the roughly \$103 million version now on the ballot, would lock a permanent levy onto a regional problem two Democrats on the Court already said the county should not own alone. Housing Forward is not the Sheriff. The city's audit is the diligence the Court skipped.

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Sources: Richardson Area Democrats, October 28, 2025; Dallas Morning News, August 5 and August 11, 2026; KERA, May 12, 2026; Multnomah County deflection reports; Journal of Offender Rehabilitation; District 2 newsletter, March–May 2025.

SAFETY: Jails, Justice, and Immigration

He has not demanded that the Sheriff honor detainers or join 287(g). The Sheriff's office has claimed it lacks the resources, while taking budget increases. Attorney General Ken Paxton has said the refusal violates state law. The incumbent's own advice, to Richardson Area Democrats on October 28, 2025, was: "If you're in that community and ICE comes to you and knocks on the door, don't open it. Just don't open the door. If they have a warrant, they're going to have to show you. Don't open the door is the answer."

He joined the full Commissioners Court in opposing Dallas HERO Propositions S, T, and U. Those measures would have required a minimum of 4,000 police officers, directed revenue to police and fire pensions and officer pay, and given residents a way to hold City Hall accountable. The Dallas Morning News reported that at least 50 current and former officials told voters to reject the three, including the entire Court, and that two PACs raised more than \$1 million for the opposition.

The largest share of the county budget is criminal justice. Paper-ready inmates can be moved to state prison inside the statutory window, in county vehicles the state reimburses for mileage. Leaving them in the county jail past that window is a cost the county chooses. Deflection has been offered as the alternative. The Oregon record does not show it cutting recidivism, and under current Texas law a person taken to a diversion center can walk out.

Sources: Richardson Area Democrats, October 28, 2025; Texas Tribune and Texas Scorecard, May 13, 2026; Dallas Morning News, October 31, 2024.

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, AND PARKLAND

The incumbent has backed major increases at Parkland and in human services without an independent audit or a published result. Parkland's budget must be approved by the Court. County taxpayers do not fund the whole budget. They do fund a large share of it, on the order of a third, which is still hundreds of millions of dollars. District 2 carries about 40 percent of whatever the county sends. Expanding that line without a forensic audit is the same pattern as the certificates of obligation and Prop A: spend first, measure never.

THE ONE-PARTY MACHINE

Without real opposition, the Court has been able to:

- Pass hundreds of millions in debt without a voter, with District 2 shouldering about \$280 million of the \$700 million cost.
- Move Prop A onto the ballot after Price and Garcia voted no — a permanent homelessness levy on the order of \$103 million a year.

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- Raise the eviction fee and aim it at a deflection center.
- Direct taxpayer money into a teacher-housing deal with a seven-year restriction.
- Advise residents not to open the door to ICE, and oppose the HERO measures that would have required 4,000 officers.
- Hide major decisions in executive session, including the redo that advanced the homeless tax.
- Leave a conflict of interest unchallenged, including a lawyer who waived his fee to represent the County Judge and now sits on that Judge's Court.
- Use the county website to promote a Marxist-Leninist newspaper.
- Attack the effort to restore a secret ballot, then add more private polling rooms when the videos came out.

These are not isolated mistakes. They are what one-party rule produces.

Barry Wernick will serve as an independent watchdog with zero conflicts of interest and no radical associations. He will fight for transparency, accountability, and putting the people of District 2 first.

In 1776 we fought to be citizens, not subjects.

Vote No on Prop A — Andy's reckless 22 percent property-tax hike.

Vote Yes for a watchdog.

The record: andysommerman.com

The plan: wernickfortexas.com/land-of-milk-and-honey