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**What Is the  
V. G. Young  
Institute  
of  
County  
Government  
at  
Texas A&M  
University?**



**Texas Agricultural Extension Service  
The Texas A&M University System  
Zerle L. Carpenter, Director  
College Station, Texas**

## **What is the V. G. Young Institute of County Government at Texas A&M University?**

The V. G. Young Institute of County Government through the "County Officials Program" is a service to Texas' elected county officials. The Institute is staffed by two full-time specialists knowledgeable in the area of county government who work with county officials every day. Helping county officials become more effective public servants is the task of the program.

## **What is the history of the Institute?**

The 61st Legislature created the V. G. Young Institute of County Government to be conducted by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service of The Texas A&M University System. The land-grant university of Texas was selected because, through the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, there was already established an organized network reaching into all 254 counties of the State.

The Institute was named in honor of the late V. G. Young, who, in his capacity as Assistant Director of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, established in 1956 the first regular program of informal education for the leaders of Texas' county governments.

Activities of the Institute are supported by state and federal appropriations along with nominal tuition charges for conferences, seminars and workshops.

## **What services does the Institute offer?**

### ***Conferences***

County officials from all sections of the state meet annually at Texas A&M University to discuss topics of primary importance to the functions of their respective offices. These two-day programs are held for county judges and commissioners, county and district clerks, and county treasurers.

Staff members of the Institute work closely with elected officers of the various associations of county officials in planning and presenting conference programs that are relevant and enlightening.

Conference subjects have included discussion of new legislation, county road construction and maintenance, judicial conduct, ways to improve public relations, and a mock "Driving While Intoxicated Trial" for county judges. "Round Table" discussions are held, enabling officials to obtain answers to specific problems they may be facing.

Featured conference speakers include outstanding leaders in Texas government, the law, the academic world and private industry.



*County judges learn by doing during a session of "Aggie County Court."*

### ***Publications***

Maintaining a flow of helpful publications is a major educational goal of the V. G. Young Institute of County Government. A variety of pamphlets which are periodically updated, and periodic newsletters are published to help county officials better inform themselves and the public concerning their role in local government.



*County and district clerks review a draft of the new clerk's manual during a handbook committee meeting at College Station.*

### ***Personal Contact***

Extension specialists in the V. G. Young Institute of County Government are available to respond to inquiries and requests for assistance from any elected county official. Extension personnel at the state, district and county levels exist as a point of contact for Texas' county officials in making the resources of The Texas A&M University System available in an expanded program of training and assistance for local government.



*Dallas County Treasurer Bill Melton addresses fellow treasurers during a County Treasurers Seminar at Texas A&M University.*

**How do I contact the V. G. Young Institute of  
County Government?**

Write or call:

The V. G. Young Institute of County  
Government  
Special Services Building, Suite 103  
College Station, Texas 77843  
(713) 845-4572

or

Your local county Extension agent.



*County judges and commissioners "go back to school" at  
Texas A&M University annual conference.*

*Educational programs conducted by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, handicap or national origin.*

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