

Pleasanton Express

Judge Weldon P Cude Article – 6/28/2023

For readers who may want to learn or fully understand the role of the County Auditor, I'd like to further explain the purpose and functions of the County Auditor's Office to you. Back in the 1980s, the Legislature required Counties with a population of more than 10,000 to have an auditor; the District Judge is who appoints the County Auditor. You've probably heard of checks and balances, which, simply put, is what the Auditor fulfills in County government. The County Auditor maintains the integrity of the financial administration by overseeing the County's financial records and assuring all expenditures comply with the County budget and the Law. The Auditor prepares accounting records for all County funds, administers the County Budget as approved by the Commissioner's Court, and forecasts financial data for budgetary purposes, among other duties. Tracy Barrera has served as the Atascosa County Auditor since 2018. She came to Atascosa well-versed in finance and governmental accounting processes since she was formerly the County Auditor for Frio County. Her experience, strategic planning, and problem-solving skills have served Atascosa County well over the years; I very much appreciate her skills and experience as she and I have worked together throughout the budget preparation process. It is fascinating that the integrity of the County's financial administration is entrusted between the County Auditor and the Commissioner's Court; as a dual-controlled system. This system is successful because neither the County Auditor nor the Commissioner's Court has authoritative control over the other, hence the checks and balances system. Ms. Barrera's role as County Auditor is vital to County Government and the team. I'm thankful to have her as a resource and want to stress how much of a resource her role is to all Atascosa County Elected Officials and Department Heads. Atascosa County taxpayers should feel assured that the County has trustworthy Officials in place to facilitate processes and ensure our taxpayers are always of the highest priority. As always, if you need to reach my office, email me at countyjudge@co.atascosa.tx.us or call 830-769-3093. Together we are Atascosa Proud!