

**TEXAS  
COMMISSION  
ON *JUDICIAL*  
*SELECTION***



**CHAIR:**

Mr. David J. Beck

**LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS:**

Senator Brian Birdwell  
Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa  
Senator Joan Huffman  
Senator Robert Nichols

Representative Todd Hunter  
Representative Brooks Landgraf  
Representative Ina Minjarez  
Representative Carl Sherman

**CITIZEN MEMBERS:**

Mr. Charles "Chip" Babcock, IV  
Hon. Martha Hill Jamison (Ret.)  
Hon. Wallace Jefferson (Ret.)  
Ms. Lynne Liberato  
Mr. David Oliveira  
Hon. Thomas Phillips (Ret.)

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**Texas Commission on Judicial Selection Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** October 16, 2020

**Convene:** 10:00 AM

**Attendance:** *Megan LaVoie*

**Members in Attendance**

Mr. David Beck  
Sen. Juan Hinojosa  
Rep. Todd Hunter  
Rep. Brooks Landgraf  
Rep. Ina Minjarez  
Rep. Carl Sherman  
Mr. Charles Babcock  
Ms. Martha Hill Jamison  
Mr. Wallace Jefferson  
Ms. Lynne Liberato  
Mr. David Oliveira  
Mr. Thomas Phillips

**Members not in Attendance**

Sen. Brian Birdwell  
Sen. Robert Nichols  
Rep. Carl Sherman

**Minutes from Previous Meeting**

The September 18, 2020 meeting Minutes were approved as presented.

**Invited Testimony**

Judge Mark Davidson discussed the process of electing judges within Texas and strong dependence on the party system, identified discretionary judicial voters (DJV), who represent voters capable of voting for judges of either party, and the differences between voters in rural and urban areas. Judge Davidson also outlined the election process and controversy in funding elections for judges. He also presented alternative methods to the current election process.

**Presentations**

Angela Garcia, Chief Data Officer for the Office of Court Administration presented demographics and turnover data for the Texas judiciary, and discussed past and current elections and length of service of Texas Judges.

Dr. Mark P. Jones from the Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University reviewed the many methods of selecting Judges within the United States and Texas and discussed the advantages and disadvantages of each.

**New Matters**

Chairman Beck discussed the Commission's draft report and asked Commissioners to submit any edits and changes to Chief Justice Tom Phillips. Chief Justice Phillips suggested setting forth in our report the historical efforts to change judicial selection in Texas. Chairman Beck also suggested that the Commission be prepared discuss specific recommendations by the next meeting.

Megan LaVoie reminded the Commission of the upcoming Public Hearing in the Odessa area on October 26, 2020.

**Next Meeting** – November 13, 2020

**Adjourn:** 11:54 am