Court Structure of Texas

October 2026

State Highest Appellate Courts

Supreme Court
(1 Court – 9 Justices)

- Final appellate jurisdiction in civil and juvenile cases

Court of Criminal Appeals
(1 Court – 9 Judges)

- Final appellate jurisdiction in criminal cases

State Intermediate Appellate Courts

15th Court of Appeals
(1 Court – 3 Justices)

- Statewide jurisdiction
- Intermediate appeals in civil cases
- Exclusive jurisdiction of intermediate appeals in cases brought by or against the state, state entities and state officers and employees
- Exclusive jurisdiction over intermediate appeals from the Texas Business Court

Civil Appeals

1st – 14th Courts of Appeals
(14 Courts – 80 Justices)

- Regional jurisdiction
- Intermediate appeals from trial courts in their respective courts of appeals districts

Criminal Appeals

Office of Court Administration

Administrative Judicial Regions

State Trial Courts of General and Special Jurisdiction

Business Court
(5 Divisions – 10 Judges)

- Concurrent civil jurisdiction with district courts in certain complex business disputes when the amount in controversy exceeds $5 million
- Concurrent civil jurisdiction with district courts in actions in which one of the parties is a publicly traded company
- Supplemental jurisdiction over any claim related to a case or controversy within the courts jurisdiction that forms part of the same case or controversy (subject to certain exceptions in Tex. Gov't Code § 22.220(d))
- No jurisdiction over: claims arising out of Chapter 74, Civil Practice and Remedies Code; claims in which a party seeks recovery of monetary damages for bodily injury or death; or claims of legal malpractice

District Courts
(519 Courts – 519 Judges)

- Original jurisdiction in civil actions over $200, divorce, title to land, contested elections
- Original jurisdiction in felony criminal matters
- Juvenile matters
- 13 district courts are designated *criminal district courts;* some others are directed to give preference to certain specialized areas
- 421 districts containing one county and 98 districts containing more than one county

Appeals of Death Sentences

County Trial Courts of Limited Jurisdiction

County-Level Courts
(541 Courts – 541 Judges)

Constitutional County Courts (254)
(1 in each county)

- Original jurisdiction in civil actions between $200 and $20,000
- Probate, mental health and guardianship (contested matters may be transferred to District Court)
- Exclusive original jurisdiction over misdemeanors with fines greater than $500 or jail sentence
- Juvenile matters
- Appeals *de novo* from lower courts or on the record from municipal courts of record

Statutory County Courts (262)
(in 92 counties plus 2 multi-county courts covering 6 counties)

- All civil, criminal, original and appellate actions prescribed by law for constitutional county courts
- In addition, jurisdiction over civil matters between $200 and $325,000 (some courts may have higher maximum jurisdiction amount)

Statutory Probate Courts (25)
(in 12 counties)

- Limited primarily to probate, mental health and guardianship matters

Local Trial Courts of Limited Jurisdiction

Justice Courts[1]
(797 Courts – 798 Judges)

- Civil actions of not more than $20,000
- Small claims
- Evictions
- Criminal misdemeanors punishable by fine only (no confinement)
- Magistrate functions

Municipal Courts[1]
(954 Courts – 1,241 Judges[2])

- Criminal misdemeanors punishable by fine only (no confinement)
- Exclusive original jurisdiction over municipal ordinance criminal cases[3]
- Limited civil jurisdiction
- Magistrate functions

1. All justice courts and most municipal courts are not courts of record. Appeals from these courts are by trial *de novo* in the county-level courts, and in some instances in the district courts.
2. Some municipal courts are courts of record—appeals from the courts are taken on the record to the county-level courts. As of September 2026, 224 courts indicated that they were a court of record; a list is posted at http://www.txcourts.gov/about-texas-courts.aspx.
3. An offense that arises under a municipal ordinance is punishable by a fine not to exceed: (1) $2,000 for ordinances that govern fire safety, zoning, and public health, (2) $4,000 for dumping of refuse or (3) $500 for all others.