



*John H. Gothia, County Judge  
Johnny A. Trahan, Commissioner, Precinct One  
Chris Sowell, Commissioner, Precinct Two  
Kirk Roccaforte, Commissioner, Precinct Three  
Robert L. Viator, Commissioner, Precinct Four*

**REGULAR COURT SESSION  
NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA  
OF THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT  
OF ORANGE COUNTY, TEXAS  
APRIL 14, 2026**

Notice is hereby given that the Commissioners' Court of Orange County, Texas, will meet on **Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 10 a.m.** in the Commissioners' Courtroom located at 123 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street for the following purposes to-wit:

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***REGULAR COURT SESSION AGENDA***

***Invocation  
U.S. Pledge  
Texas Pledge***

1. Open Court session for comments from Court and citizens on items which may or may not need to be placed on the following week(s) agenda for consideration. Each person addressing the Court may be limited to three (3) minutes.
2. Acknowledge for the record a proclamation announcing the Lower Sabine Neches Soil and Water Stewardship Week, running from April 26 to May 3, 2026. (Dale Parish, Lower Sabine Neches Soil and Water Conservation District 446)
3. Discussion and possible action regarding a presentation by Clarissa Messinger, Health and Employee Benefits Consultant Supervisor with the Texas Association of Counties (TAC), concerning the mid-year performance of the Orange County Employees health insurance plan. Tasha Brent, Wellness Consultant with TAC will also present a review of Orange County's Wellness program. (Lori Ardoin, HR Director)
4. Discussion and possible action to authorize the addition of the District Clerk, County Clerk and other designated personnel to be custodial account managers for Investing Court Blocked Minor Fund accounts at First Financial Bank on behalf of their respective offices. (Christy Khoury, Treasurer)

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5. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of the monthly reports from the County Treasurer for month ending March 31, 2026, and recording in the minutes of the court:
  - A) Approval of Investments in the amount of \$5,407,239.64
  - B) Approval of Interest Earned to date in the amount of \$958,315.48
  - C) Treasurer's Report of revenues received and disbursed in accordance with the Local Government Code 114.026(d) and affidavit of approval by court. This report will be available on the county's web site for viewing.
  - D) Pledged Security Collateral for a total of \$21,522,190.75 summary as follows:
    - Wells Fargo Bank \$ 14,565,201.82
    - 1st Financial Bank \$ 6,956,988.93

(Christy Khoury, County Treasurer)
6. Discussion and possible action regarding filing in the minutes of the Court the County Treasurer's quarterly investment report as required by HB 2459, Public Funds Investment Act. This report is for Quarter ending March 31, 2026, and will be available for viewing on the County's web site. (Christy Khoury, County Treasurer)
7. Discussion and possible action regarding filing in the minutes of the Court a direct deposit from the State Comptroller of Public Accounts in the amount of \$554,942.62. These funds represent the ½-cent Sales and Use Allocation for the month of February 2026 and have been credited to the General Operating Fund (Christy Khoury, County Treasurer)
8. Acknowledgement for the recording in the minutes regarding payment of bills approved by the County Auditor for **April 7, 2026**. (Pennee Schmitt, County Auditor)
9. Discussion and possible action regarding payment of **April 14, 2026**, bills approved by the County Auditor as per attested listings and also specifically as follows:
  - a. \$21,652.83 from the General Fund (001-111-54235) to UTMB for contract payment due April 2026.
  - b. \$20,000.00 from the General Fund (001-111-54105) to Patillo, Brown & Hill for the 2025 Annual Audit billing.

(Pennee Schmitt, County Auditor)
10. Discussion and possible action regarding receiving the County Auditor's Monthly Financial Report(s). (Pennee Schmitt, County Auditor)
11. Discussion and possible action regarding adoption of a special budget as certified by the County Auditor, pursuant to LGC §111.0106, to recognize/establish operating budgets for funds received from the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) in excess of fiscal year budgeted amount.

|                         |                                     |                |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Revenues: 089-000-46830 | GOMESA Coastal Conservation Revenue | (\$191,125.23) |
| Expenses: 089-841-53001 | GOMESA Expenditures                 | \$191,125.23   |

(Pennee Schmitt, County Auditor)

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12. Discussion and possible action regarding adoption of a special budget as certified by the County Auditor, pursuant to LGC §111.0106, to recognize/establish operating budgets for funds received from the Opioid Settlement Distribution Program in excess of fiscal year budgeted amount.

|                         |                      |               |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Revenues: 037-000-46203 | Opioid Settlement    | (\$53,283.43) |
| Expenses: 037-827-53000 | Opioid Fund Expenses | \$53,283.43   |

(Pennee Schmitt, County Auditor)

13. Discussion and possible action to acknowledge and accept updates to the Orange County Travel Policy as presented by the County Auditor. (Pennee Schmitt, Auditor)
14. Discussion and possible action regarding the certification of the March 2026 Collection Report for the Tax Office as required under PTC 31.10.  
(Octavia Guzman, Tax Assessor/Collector)
15. Discussion and possible action to approve the 2027 Holiday Schedule.  
(John Gothia, County Judge)
16. Discussion and possible action regarding a request from the Sheriff's Office to amend the previously budget approved purchase of six law enforcement vehicles. The original authorization—five Chevrolet Silverado 1500 PPV patrol pickups and one Silverado PPV investigator unit (totaling \$498,302.37), to be replaced with six Chevrolet Tahoe PPV 2WD SUVs, \$497,770.56, saving a total amount of \$531.81. (Richard Howard, Chief Deputy)
17. Discussion and possible action to authorize the County Judge to execute an asset transfer agreement on behalf of the County to Deputy Chris Arriola for the possession, care, custody and control of the K-9 Rudy for the remainder of its life. Also, authorize the transfer of the asset (Asset # 19615) from the inventory of the Orange County Sheriff's Office to surplus in the discretion of the Orange County Purchasing Agent. (Richard Howard, Chief Deputy)
18. Discussion and possible action to receive and act upon projects as presented by Maintenance and Operations Dept. (Kurt Guidry, Maintenance Director)
19. Discussion and possible action to receive and act upon projects as presented by the Road & Bridge Department. (Tracy Leach, Road Administrator)
20. Discussion and possible action concerning an increase in funds for the CDL agreement.  
(Tracy Leach, Road Administrator)
21. Discussion and possible action regarding recognizing and accepting the Veterans Office quarterly progress report as presented by the Orange County Veterans Service Officer, Mark Hammer, Veterans Claims Director. (Mark Hammer, Veterans Affairs Agent)
22. Discussion and possible action to accept the quarterly reporting as presented by the Texas A&M Agri-Life Extension on their programs. (Magen Lee, CEA-AG/NR)

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23. Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of Early Voting locations, dates and times for the May 26, 2026, Joint Primary Runoff Election as follows:

Orange Public Library  
(Main Early Voting Location)  
220 N 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Orange, TX 77630

Raymond Gould  
Community Center  
385 Claiborne Street  
Vidor, TX 77662

Orange County Precinct 2 POD  
5320 Arnel Lane  
Orange, TX 77632

Orange County Precinct 3 POD  
2010 S Hwy 87  
Orange, TX 77630

|             |                 |                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| May 18 – 22 | Monday – Friday | 7:00 am - 7:00 pm |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|

(Donna Alford, Election Administrator)

24. Discussion and possible action regarding acceptance of the Notice of Election for Tuesday, May 26, 2026, Joint Primary Runoff Election. The Notice will be posted on the county's website. (Donna Alford, Election Administrator)

25. Discussion and possible action regarding the use of Opioid Abatement Funds. (Jennifer Blankenship, Social Services Director)

26. Discussion and possible action approving a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Sabine-Neches Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist, and Orange County for repairing the pedestrian bridge that crosses Cow Bayou at Claiborne West Park. (Denisha LaFleur, Parks/Expo Director)

27. Discussion and possible action approving the Orange County/Claiborne West Park Ballfield Rental Guidelines recommended by the ballfield committee that was appointed in court on 9/9/2025. (Denisha LaFleur, Parks/Expo Director)

28. Discussion and possible action to review and approve a Recreational Vehicle (RV) Park application for the property located at 16609 Highway 62, Orange, Texas. All requirements have been reviewed and approved by the Orange County Drainage District, Orange County Road and Bridge Department, and Orange County Environmental Health and Code Compliance Department. (Joel D. Ardoin, Director)

29. Discussion and possible action to approve Amendment No. 1 of the Chapter 312 Tax Abatement Agreement between Orange County and USG Paper, LLC. (Megan Layne, Orange County Economic Development Director).

30. Closed meeting held pursuant to Tex. Gov. Code §551.071, to discuss with Assistant County Attorney one or more discrete and unrelated matters regarding pending or threatened litigation, as well as to seek or receive information and advice from Assistant County Attorney on legal matters that are not related to litigation or settlement of litigation but are matters in which the duty of the attorney to the Court otherwise conflicts with Chapter 551. (Denise Gremillion, Assistant County Attorney)
31. Return to open meeting. Take any action deemed necessary based upon discussion in closed meeting. Possible action may include authorizing the County Judge or Judge Pro Tem to execute release forms relating to settlement offers in the matter of Texas opioid multi-district litigation for the County in the matter of *County of Orange v. Purdue Pharma, Inc., et al.*, MDL PRETRIAL CAUSE NO. 2018-63587, in the 152nd District Court of Harris County, Texas. (Denise I. Gremillion, Assistant County Attorney)
32. Discussion and possible action regarding adjourning Commissioners' Court meeting.

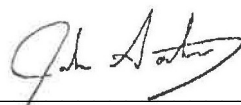
**THE MEETING WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT ALL TIMES IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE "OPEN MEETINGS LAW" AS REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT CODE, CHAPTER 551.**

**THIS NOTICE SHALL BE POSTED FOR AT LEAST SEVENTY-TWO (72) HOURS PRECEDING THE SCHEDULED TIME OF SUCH MEETING.**

**THE ORANGE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CONVENE A CLOSED SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ANY ITEM LISTED ON THE AGENDA WHERE ANY EXCEPTION EXISTS UNDER THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT.**

**THE RIGHT TO CONVENE SUCH A CLOSED SESSION SHALL EXIST REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT THE AGENDA ITEM OR ITEMS EXPRESSLY STATE THAT A CLOSED MEETING WILL BE CONVENEED.**

Dated this 9<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026.  
Posted at 3:00 p.m.



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**JOHN H. GOTHIA, COUNTY JUDGE**  
**ORANGE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT**