Understanding County and Local Governments

Building Connections: Community Leadership Program

“Texas will again lift its head and stand among the nations. It ought to do so, for no country upon the globe can compare with it in natural advantages.”

- Sam Houston

Texas Facts

• Became a state in 1845.
• County government is BIG business.
• County government has re-emerged as the most important form of government.

Texas Facts

• The origin of Texas counties dates back more than 1000 years to England.
• The legal system was built with heavy influence from the Spanish and Mexican cultures.
Understanding County Governments

Texas Facts

• 1821 – Four major settlements in Texas
• 1835 – Texas was divided into departments (3) and municipalities (23)
• 1836 – Municipalities became counties

Texas Facts

• 1861 – 122 counties were in existence
• 1870 – 129 organized counties
• 1876 – State constitution formalized the structure of today’s county government

CONCLUSION

• We are all leaders in our community.
• Expressing our opinions through our vote is a privilege.
• We should appreciate and support our elected officials.