



COMMISSIONERS COURT  
COMMUNICATION

REFERENCE NUMBER CO#132349

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DATE: 03/10/2020

SUBJECT: **RECEIVE AND FILE THE AUDITOR'S REPORT OF THE REGISTRY OF THE COURT ACCOUNTS HELD BY THE DISTRICT CLERK AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2019**

**\*\*\* CONSENT AGENDA \*\*\***

**COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED:**

It is requested that the Commissioners Court receive and file the Auditor's Report of the Registry of the Court Accounts held by the District Clerk as of September 30, 2019.

**BACKGROUND:**

As required by Local Government Code 117.123, the Auditor's Office performed an audit of the registry funds held by the District Clerk as of September 30, 2019. The objective of the audit was to determine whether the registry account balances shown on the attached financial statements were materially correct. The Auditor's Office also determined whether collateral held jointly by the District Clerk and the depository was adequate.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with this item.

SUBMITTED BY: Auditor's Office

PREPARED BY: S. Renee Tidwell  
APPROVED BY:



**TARRANT COUNTY**  
TARRANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING - ROOM 506  
100 E. WEATHERFORD  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76196-0103  
817/884-1205  
Fax 817/884-1104

S. RENEE TIDWELL, CPA  
COUNTY AUDITOR  
rtidwell@tarrantcounty.com

VINCE CRUZ JR.  
FIRST ASSISTANT COUNTY AUDITOR  
vcruz@tarrantcounty.com

February 26, 2020

The Honorable Thomas Wilder, District Clerk  
The Honorable District Judges  
The Honorable Commissioners Court  
Tarrant County, Texas

RE: Auditor's Report – District Clerk, Review of Registry of the Court Accounts

## SUMMARY

As required by Local Government Code 117.123, we performed an audit of the registry funds held by the District Clerk as of September 30, 2019. The objective of our audit was to determine whether the registry account balances shown on the attached financial statements were materially correct. We also determined whether collateral held jointly by the District Clerk and the depository was adequate. In our opinion, the District Clerk's registry account balances shown on the attached financial statements were presented fairly, in all material respects. We also found that the value of collateral held by the clerk and the depository exceeded the amounts required by the contract.

## BACKGROUND

The registry accounts are funds deposited and held for a third party per court order or statute. The funds held in the registry do not belong to Tarrant County. Rather, the District Clerk holds the funds in a fiduciary capacity to satisfy a legal pleading or to await the outcome of a legal proceeding. The registry accounts are recorded into the Trust Information Management System (TIMS) application, the District Clerk's case management system. The clerk is responsible for the deposits, disbursements, and the investment of the registry funds. Currently, the registry accounts are held at JP Morgan Chase.

In accordance with Local Government Code Section 117.121, *Disbursements of Funds*, the Auditor's Office reviews and countersigns disbursements made from the District Clerk's Registry Accounts. The code states, "All checks or drafts issued for the disbursement of the registry fund must be submitted to the county auditor for the auditor's countersignature before delivery or payment. The county auditor may countersign the check only on written evidence of the order of the judge of the court in which the funds have been deposited, authorizing the disbursement of the funds."

During fiscal year 2019, the District Clerk's Office presented 4,331 checks totaling \$15,839,864 for the auditor's review and approval. The auditor approved and countersigned disbursements totaling \$15,837,400. Of the 4,331 checks presented to the Auditor's Office during FY2019 for review and countersignature from the registry account, three checks totaling \$2,464 were rejected for reasons such as an incorrect check amount or payee. The District Clerk's Office voided and reissued the three checks.

**CLOSING REMARKS**

We appreciate the cooperation of the District Clerk's staff during our audit. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

A large grey rectangular redaction box covers the signature area. A handwritten mark, possibly a checkmark or the letter 'A', is visible to the right of the box.

S. Renee Tidwell, CPA  
County Auditor

*Attachments:* Statement of Assets and Liabilities  
Statement of Changes in Assets and Liabilities  
Management's response

*Distribution:* Doug Gowin, Operations Manager  
Andrea Ziton, Registry Fund Manager

*Audit Team:* Kim Buchanan, Audit Manager

**TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS  
DISTRICT CLERK  
REGISTRY OF THE COURT ACCOUNTS**

Statement of Assets and Liabilities  
Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2019

<b>Assets</b>		
Cash (deposits)		\$ 1,404,648
Certificates of deposits, including accrued interest		<u>20,035,337</u>
Total Assets		<u><u>\$ 21,439,985</u></u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Due to beneficiaries		<u>\$ 21,439,985</u>
Total Liabilities		<u><u>\$ 21,439,985</u></u>

**TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS  
DISTRICT CLERK  
REGISTRY OF THE COURT ACCOUNTS**

Statement of Changes in Assets and Liabilities  
Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2019

	<u>Uninvested</u>	<u>Invested</u>	<u>Total</u>
Beginning Balance – October 1, 2018	\$ 1,286,892	\$ 19,127,925	\$ 20,414,817
Deposits	16,494,370		16,494,370
Interest earned		368,198	368,198
Transfer from Invested to Uninvested	14,738,669	(14,738,669)	
Transfer from Uninvested to Invested	(15,277,883)	15,277,883	
Disbursements	(15,837,400)		(15,837,400)
Ending Balance - September 30, 2019	<u>\$ 1,404,648</u>	<u>\$ 20,035,337</u>	<u>\$ 21,439,985</u>



## TARRANT COUNTY

THOMAS A. WILDER  
DISTRICT CLERK

February 27, 2020

Renee Tidwell  
County Auditor  
100 E. Weatherford St.  
Fort Worth, TX 76196

**HAND DELIVERED**

**RE:** Auditor's Report – District Clerk, Review of Registry of the Court Accounts

Dear Ms. Tidwell:

I would like to express my appreciation for your prompt and thorough review of the Registry of the Court Accounts for FY2019. I agree with your findings, and I am pleased that the review was conducted with minimal impact on my staff.

I am pleased to see that the number of rejected checks continues to decline compared to last year's audit and no loss of funds.

Your audit team, working together with my Accounting staff is to be commended for a job well done.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas A. Wilder  
Tarrant County District Clerk