

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Burnet County Commissioners Court
May 27, 2025

Good morning, Judge Wilson and Commissioners.

Claire Nybro, Burnet County voter, taxpayer, and interested person.

Trust is the lifeblood of our democracy, yet in Burnet County, it's been fractured by a decade of mismanagement under the former county judge. Your leadership now holds the power to heal this divide and rebuild a thriving community. But trust isn't restored with words – it demands bold, transparent action. Today, I urge you to take three critical steps to renew public faith in this court.

First, champion the public's right to engage. For years, Burnet County residents have spoken at these meetings, shaping our shared future. Yet, too often, voices are sidelined. Actively invite questions and discussion on agenda items. This simple act – rooted in our county's tradition – signals you value every resident's perspective, fostering trust through inclusion.

Second, show us your deliberation. Routine items like variances or asset transfers may need little debate, but major decisions – like appointing a new county judge or spending \$850,000 on voting equipment – demand open, robust discussion. Silence breeds suspicion. When you deliberate transparently, you prove this court respects the public's right to know. Let us hear your reasoning, your debates, your commitment to our future.

Third, keep us informed. Commissioners, dedicate a few minutes each quarter to update us on your precincts' projects, on the record. These updates aren't just reports; they're a promise to keep us connected to our government's work. Likewise, Judge Wilson, revive the budget workshops that Commissioner Dockery led in 2023. Those sessions, where residents offered input while respecting decorum, sparked hope. Their absence now feels like a step backward. Bring them back to show you're listening.

The path to trust is straightforward: open the doors to participation, debate with transparency, and communicate consistently. These aren't just suggestions – they're the foundation of a government that serves its people. Burnet County deserves leadership that acts with courage and accountability. You have the chance to rebuild what was broken. Seize it.

Thank you.