

Vernon's Texas Statutes and Codes Annotated  
Government Code (Refs & Annos)  
Title 2. Judicial Branch (Refs & Annos)  
Subtitle A. Courts  
Chapter 26. Constitutional County Courts (Refs & Annos)  
Subchapter A. General Provisions

V.T.C.A., Government Code § 26.001

§ 26.001. Bond

Effective: September 1, 2017

[Currentness](#)

(a) Before beginning the duties of the office, the county judge must execute a bond that:

(1) is payable to the treasurer of the county;

(2) is in the amount set by the commissioners court of:

(A) subject to Paragraph (B), not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$10,000; or

(B) for a county judge presiding in the county court over guardianship proceedings, as defined by [Section 1002.015, Estates Code](#), or over probate proceedings, as defined by [Section 22.029, Estates Code](#), not less than:

(i) \$100,000 for a court in a county with a population of 125,000 or less; or

(ii) \$250,000 for a court in a county with a population of more than 125,000; and

(3) is conditioned that the judge will:

(A) faithfully perform all duties of office; and

(B) for a county judge presiding in the county court over guardianship or probate proceedings, perform the duties required by the Estates Code .

(b) The bond executed as required by Subsection (a) must be approved by the commissioners court.

(c) In lieu of the bond required by Subsection (a)(2)(B), a county may elect to obtain insurance against losses caused by the gross negligence of a county judge in performing the duties of office. The commissioners court of a county shall pay the premium for the insurance out of the general funds of the county.

**Credits**

Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 480, § 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1985. Amended by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., ch. 515 (S.B. 40), § 2, eff. Sept. 1, 2017.

**Notes of Decisions (5)**

V. T. C. A., Government Code § 26.001, TX GOVT § 26.001

Current through the end of the 2019 Regular Session of the 86th Legislature

---

End of Document

© 2020 Thomson Reuters. No claim to original U.S. Government Works.

Texas



# Western Surety Company

## OFFICIAL BOND AND OATH

THE STATE OF TEXAS }  
County of Hidalgo }

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS:

BOND No. 65335471

That we, Ariando J. Marroquin, as Principal, and WESTERN SURETY COMPANY, a corporation duly licensed to do business in the State of Texas, as Surety, are held and bound unto County Treasurer, his successors in office, in the sum of Ten Thousand and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$10,000.00), for the payment of which we hereby bind ourselves and our heirs, executors and administrators, jointly and severally, by these presents.

Dated this 23rd day of December, 2020.

THE CONDITION OF THE ABOVE OBLIGATION IS SUCH, That whereas, the above bounden Principal was on the 18th day of December, 2020, duly Elected (Elected-Appointed) to the office of County Judge in and for Hidalgo County, State of Texas, for a term of 4 years commencing on the 1st day of January, 2021.

NOW THEREFORE, if the said Principal shall well and faithfully perform and discharge all the duties required of him by law as the aforesaid officer, and shall

Faithfully perform all duties of office.

then this obligation to be void, otherwise to remain in full force and effect.

PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that regardless of the number of years this bond may remain in force and the number of claims which may be made against this bond, the liability of the Surety shall not be cumulative and the aggregate liability of the Surety for any and all claims, suits, or actions under this bond shall not exceed the amount stated above. Any revision of the bond amount shall not be cumulative.

PROVIDED, FURTHER, that this bond may be cancelled by the Surety by sending written notice to the party to whom this bond is payable stating that, not less than thirty (30) days thereafter, the Surety's liability hereunder shall terminate as to subsequent acts of the Principal.

Principal  
WESTERN SURETY COMPANY  
By Paul T. Bruffat  
Paul T. Bruffat, Vice President

# Western Surety Company

## POWER OF ATTORNEY

### KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That WESTERN SURETY COMPANY, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of South Dakota, and authorized and licensed to do business in the States of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and the United States of America, does hereby make, constitute and appoint

Paul T. Brufat of Sioux Falls  
State of South Dakota, its regularly elected Vice President  
as Attorney-in-Fact, with full power and authority hereby conferred upon him to sign, execute, acknowledge and deliver for and on its behalf as Surety and as its act and deed, the following bond:

One County Judge County of Hidalgo  
bond with bond number 65335471  
for Armando J Merroquia  
as Principal in the penalty amount not to exceed: \$ 10,000.00

Western Surety Company further certifies that the following is a true and exact copy of Section 7 of the by-laws of Western Surety Company duly adopted and now in force, to-wit:

Section 7. All bonds, policies, undertakings, Powers of Attorney, or other obligations of the corporation shall be executed in the corporate name of the Company by the President, Secretary, any Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, or any Vice President, or by such other officers as the Board of Directors may authorize. The President, any Vice President, Secretary, any Assistant Secretary, or the Treasurer may appoint Attorneys-in-Fact or agents who shall have authority to issue bonds, policies, or undertakings in the name of the Company. The corporate seal is not necessary for the validity of any bonds, policies, undertakings, Powers of Attorney or other obligations of the corporation. The signature of any such officer and the corporate seal may be printed by facsimile.

In Witness Whereof, the said WESTERN SURETY COMPANY has caused these presents to be executed by its  
Vice President with the corporate seal affixed this 23rd day of December  
2020

ATTEST

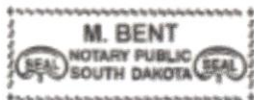
L. Nelson  
L. Nelson, Assistant Secretary

WESTERN SURETY COMPANY  
By Paul T. Brufat  
Paul T. Brufat, Vice President



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA }  
COUNTY OF MINNEHAHA } ss

On this 23rd day of December, 2020, before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared  
Paul T. Brufat and L. Nelson  
who, being by me duly sworn, acknowledged that they signed the above Power of Attorney as Vice President  
and Assistant Secretary, respectively, of the said WESTERN SURETY COMPANY, and acknowledged said instrument to be the  
voluntary act and deed of said Corporation.



My Commission Expires March 2, 2026

M. Bent  
Notary Public

To validate bond authenticity, go to [www.cnasurety.com](http://www.cnasurety.com) > Owner/Obligee Services > Validate Bond Coverage.



SEAL \_\_\_\_\_  
County, Texas

Sworn to and subscribed before me at \_\_\_\_\_, Texas, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the duties of the office of \_\_\_\_\_ of the State of Texas, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and of this State; and I furthermore solemnly swear (or affirm) that I have not directly nor indirectly paid, offered, or promised to pay, contributed, or promised to contribute any money, or valuable thing, or promised any public office or employment, as a reward for the giving or withholding a vote at the election at which I was elected. So help me God.

(General)  
OATH OF OFFICE

SEAL \_\_\_\_\_  
County, Texas

Sworn to and subscribed before me at \_\_\_\_\_, Texas, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the duties of the office of \_\_\_\_\_ of the State of Texas, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and of this State; and I furthermore solemnly swear (or affirm) that I have not directly nor indirectly paid, offered, or promised to pay, contributed, or promised to contribute any money, or valuable thing, or promised any public office or employment, as a reward for the giving or withholding a vote at the election at which I was elected, and I furthermore solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will not be, directly or indirectly, interested in any contract with or claim against the County, except such contracts or claims as are expressly authorized by law and except such warrants as may issue to me as fees of office. So help me God.

(COUNTY COMMISSIONERS and COUNTY JUDGES)  
OATH OF OFFICE

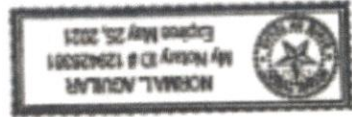
\_\_\_\_\_ County, Texas

Given under my hand and seal of office at \_\_\_\_\_, Texas, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

Expressed before me, \_\_\_\_\_, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein

on this day, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_

Adriana L. Aguilar  
Demetrius T. Mackinnon  
Hilario  
} as \_\_\_\_\_  
County of \_\_\_\_\_  
THE STATE OF TEXAS



ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PRINCIPAL

THE STATE OF TEXAS }  
County of \_\_\_\_\_ } ss

The foregoing bond of \_\_\_\_\_ as  
in and for \_\_\_\_\_ County and State of Texas, this day  
approved in open Commissioner's Court.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ County Judge,  
County Court \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ County, Texas

THE STATE OF TEXAS }  
County of \_\_\_\_\_ } ss

I, \_\_\_\_\_, County Clerk, in and for said County, do hereby certify  
that the foregoing Bond dated the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, with its certificates of  
authentication, was filed for record in my office the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, at  
\_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M., and duly recorded the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, at  
\_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M., in the Records of Official Bonds of said County in Volume \_\_\_\_\_, on page  
\_\_\_\_\_.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of the County Court of said County, at office in \_\_\_\_\_,  
Texas, the day and year last above written. \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk  
By \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy County Court \_\_\_\_\_ County

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SURETY  
(Corporate Officer)

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA }  
County of Minnehaha } ss

Before me, a Notary Public, in and for said County and State on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ 2020, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_ Paul T. Brufat \_\_\_\_\_ to me known to be the identical  
person who subscribed the name of WESTERN SURETY COMPANY, Surety, to the foregoing instrument as the  
aforesaid officer and acknowledged to me that he executed the same as his free and voluntary act and deed, and as the  
free and voluntary act and deed of such corporation for the uses and purposes therein set forth.



\_\_\_\_\_  
P. Dahl  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires June 18, 2025