



October 2, 2025

## **Jester Community Room**

The Jester Community Room has been available for county departments, including Elections, and external rentals since 2011 when the building was opened as home of the Precinct 1 elected officials offices and tax office annex. It is used, and sometimes abused, frequently, including routinely scheduled events including a church. However, the absence of available, inexpensive space in the region has driven its use and the overhead sky high for the administration of the reservations and all that goes with that.

The Precinct 1 Constable's staff have been the administrator since 2017 as they have the ability to manage money, and the Commissioner's office does not (and no cameras). Additionally, in the absence of strict guidelines for rental versus free use have caused confusion as to who qualifies for free use.

It's clear that elections, county functions (including department parties?) qualify for use at no charge. However, Texas CPS have been using it at no charge, offices from Austin to Temple gather– that's probably not what was intended back in 2011; additionally, they want to use it in increasing frequency.

Kerri Foiles of the Constable 1 office is the primary reservations administrator for the room today, although other personnel in that office receive calls about the room, reservation, doors to Jester not unlocking or locking at the end of night meetings. The workload of the Constable's office is increasing, and this room is an irritating fly circling their heads. The configuration of the room area leaves Jester unsecured under cover of night. We also lack a liability Waiver for any injuries (smashed fingers folding tables, etc.).

Use by elections has seldom been an issue although the entire building is open to the public on evenings and nights for many of the voting days.

## **Community Room Details**

### **Details:**

- Size 54' x 54' with dual screens and HDMI support
- Warming (not commercial) kitchen with 2-refrigerators
- Capacity 200 (Assembly style) with ~20 folding tables on wheels & many chairs

### **Fees:**

- Resident: \$50.00/hr (two-hour minimum)\*
- Non-Resident: \$62.50/hr (two-hour minimum)\*
- Non-Profit: \$37.50/hr (two-hour minimum)\*
- Security Deposit \$200.00
- Additional fee during non-business hours: \$25/hr (two-hour minimum)\*
- Additional charges & restrictions for running over scheduled time