



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“The Ellis County Courthouse Doors Open Once Again”

County Judge Todd Little casts the tie-breaking vote to give access to the Courthouse back to the citizens, remove the “lockdown”, and open all four of its doors, on the eve of the 124th dedication anniversary”

Waxahachie, TX – July 03, 2019 – Following much debate that began on May 21, the long time discussion of whether the Historic Ellis County Courthouse doors should be opened to the public has come to a conclusion ending in a 3-2 tie breaker.

Since 2015, safety concerns persuaded the decision making of the Commissioners Court’ to “lockdown” the Courthouse, and provide a single basement entrance for visitors including metal detectors and security personnel. Furthermore individuals licensed to carry have since been denied access to carry within the walls of the Courthouse.

Citizens have voiced their concerns that it is in contrary to their Second Amendment right to be prohibited from carrying within the Courthouse walls. *Paxton vs the City of Austin (2019)*, had led to a re-evaluation of the current security plan for the Courthouse.

On July 2, 2019, the vote concluded with Commissioners Lane Grayson, Paul Perry, and County Judge Todd Little motioning to approve. The Ellis County Commissioners felt it necessary that the County comply with the laws of the State of Texas and honor citizens Second Amendment right. This included the ability to open carry within the Ellis County Courthouse, and open all four doors once again to allow access for every citizen.

“I am excited the commissioners are standing with me to reopen our beautiful Courthouse to its citizens, tourists, and downtown area merchants. This marks a new chapter for a Commissioners’ Court that is transparent and open to the people they serve. I believe this will continue to support our partnership with downtown Waxahachie as it relates to increasing tourism and with our Ellis County tax payers.” Todd Little Ellis County Judge.

This change arrives on the eve of July 4th, the 124th anniversary of the cornerstone dedication for the Courthouse, in which it was deemed in 1895 as the “the grandest day in the history of the county”. Citizens may once again have the opportunity to openly embrace this truly historic wonder.

Ellis County will host a reopening and open house for the public this Thursday, July 11, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Citizens are invited for a ribbon cutting to be followed by tours, refreshments, and music.

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