



Marilyn Burgess

HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK

201 Caroline | P.O. Box 4651 | Houston, Texas 77210-4651 | 832-927-5800 | www.hcdistrictclerk.com

The importance of jury service

By Harris County District Clerk Marilyn Burgess

As Harris County District Clerk, I want to express my deepest gratitude to all the residents of our county who report for jury service. I appreciate your effort to serve and I understand your time is valuable.

Guaranteed by both the state and federal constitutions, the right to trial by jury is one of the cornerstones of American democracy. History has proven that our jury system strengthens our democracy by safeguarding ordinary citizens against abuses of power by government, business, and even by the judicial system itself.

However, Harris County courts have had a history of being unable to form juries that are truly representative of our diverse communities. That is why it is crucial that we all answer our call to serve as jurors so that we honor the right to be judged by a jury of our peers.

I recognize the challenges and inconveniences jurors face in order to serve so our office is always looking to improve the jury service experience. As part of our expanded online services, you can now pre-register online on our jury webpage (www.hcdistrictclerk.com/jury). You will receive a confirmation email with all the information you need for your day of service. And a reminder email and/or text the day prior to your service.



In addition, you can claim disqualifications and exemptions online without having to go to the courthouse. Our office also allows jurors to re-print their jury summons from our website, which can be used to get a free ride on METRO buses and METRORail by simply presenting their dated summons.

Next time you receive a jury summons, think about all the citizens you could be helping by simply responding to it. While you may not be called to serve on a high profile murder trial or one that makes the news, you could serve in the trial of a business like your very own, deliberating an issue that affects people like yourself, your neighbors, or your community as a whole.

Help the justice system by participating in jury service. It strengthens our community and our nation and it can be rewarding and educational.

**Join us in serving our community.
Report for jury service.**