

I. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

D. Assets, Liabilities and Net Assets or Equity (Continued)

Fund Balance (Continued)

- **Committed:** This classification includes amounts that can be used only for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by the Commissioners' Court, the County's highest level of decision making authority. These amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Commissioners' Court removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action that was employed when the funds were initially committed. This classification also includes contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.
- **Assigned:** This classification includes amounts that are constrained by the County's intent to be used for a specific purpose but are neither restricted nor committed. This classification includes amounts that are constrained by the County's intent to be used for a specific purpose but are neither restricted nor committed. This intent can be expressed by the County Auditor.
- **Unassigned:** This classification includes the residual fund balance for the General Fund. The unassigned classification also includes negative residual fund balance of any other governmental fund that cannot be eliminated by offsetting of assigned fund balance amounts.

When an expenditure is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted fund balance is available, the County considers restricted funds to have been spent first. When an expenditure is incurred for which committed, assigned, or unassigned fund balances are available, the County considers amounts to have been spent first out of committed funds, then assigned funds, and finally unassigned funds.

II. STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

A. Budgetary Information

The County Judge serves as the budget officer for the Commissioners' Court and submits the annual budget for approval where the legal level of control is by category. Amendments to the budget and additional appropriations must be approved by Commissioners' Court. Following is a summary of the budget calendar:

- The proposed budget is filed with the County Clerk and made available for public inspection.
- The Commissioners' Court holds a public hearing on the proposed budget and subsequently makes changes and approves the budget including the adoption of a property tax levy which is effective on October 1 preceding the beginning of the fiscal year.

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