

## Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Rules

### 07.03.99.X1 | County Extension Agents as Candidates for Certain County Offices



Reviewed: October 27, 2023

Next Scheduled Review: October 27, 2028

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#### RULE SUMMARY

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This rule provides guidance regarding the eligibility of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension) County Extension Agents as candidates for certain county offices.

This rule is developed to clarify the eligibility of county extension agents as candidates for certain county offices in the county where they are assigned and to ensure compliance with The Texas A&M University System (A&M System) Policy *07.03, Conflicts of Interest, Dual Office Holding and Political Activities*.

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#### RULES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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##### 1.0 GENERAL

- 1.1 A&M System Policy *07.03, Conflicts of Interest, Dual Office Holding and Political Activities*, provides that an employee of a member of The Texas A&M University System must request from the member's chief executive officer (CEO) an unpaid leave of absence if the employee wishes to announce as a candidate and seek election to a county, state, or federal office. The member CEO may approve or deny such a request.
- 1.2 AgriLife Extension has a unique relationship with the Texas counties it serves. The county provides financial support for AgriLife Extension operations in the county through an established and/or contractual relationship with the agency, including funding part of the salary of county extension agent(s) assigned to the county. A county's commissioners court formally approves AgriLife Extension's employment of county extension agent(s) assigned to that county, even though these individuals are AgriLife Extension employees. A county's commissioners court also provides input on the performance evaluation of county extension agent(s) assigned to the county.

##### 2.0 AGRILIFE EXTENSION'S INTEREST

AgriLife Extension has an important interest in the integrity, efficiency, loyalty, and nonpartisanship of its employees, including county extension agents.

##### 3.0 COUNTY EXTENSION AGENTS NOT ELIGIBLE TO RUN FOR ELECTION FOR COUNTY JUDGE OR COMMISSIONER IN COUNTY OF ASSIGNMENT

- 3.1 Based on the important interest identified in section 2, the director finds that a conflict of interest may exist when a county extension agent announces as a candidate and seeks election as a county judge or commissioner of the county in which he or she is assigned.
- 3.2 A county extension agent will **not** be granted approval by AgriLife Extension to announce as a candidate and seek election for county judge or commissioner of the individual's county of assignment. **In the event that a county extension agent wishes to become a candidate for county judge or commissioner in the county in which he or she is assigned, the individual must resign AgriLife Extension employment prior to announcing his or her candidacy.** An employee failing to comply with this subsection will be subject to immediate dismissal.

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**RELATED STATUTES, POLICIES, OR REQUIREMENTS**

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[A&M System Regulation 07.03, Conflicts of Interest, Dual Office Holding and Political Activities](#)

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**CONTACT OFFICE**

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Questions concerning this procedure should be referred to the AgriLife Extension Service Director's Office at 979-845-7967.

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**REVISION HISTORY**

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Approved: February 24, 2012

Reviewed: October 27, 2023

Next Scheduled Review: October 27, 2028