



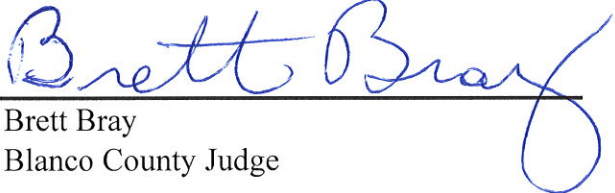
## Mask Wearing

This message is issued on behalf of Carlette Lewis, Blanco County Republican Chairperson, Terry Casparis, Blanco County Democrat Chairperson, and myself. Governor Abbott's most recent applicable order (GA-29) imposed a widespread mask wearing requirement but basically exempts polling places. Earlier this week, a federal district court issued an order overruling that provision and requiring mask wearing at a polling location. Shortly thereafter, the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals overturned that decision and returned the status to Governor Abbott's exemption.

Thus, as of the time this is written, Blanco County voters are not required to wear a mask while participating in the voting process at a polling location. Nonetheless, Ms. Lewis, Mr. Casparis and I urge you, in the strongest terms possible, to wear a mask while visiting a polling location. We believe that polling locations are actually the most logical place to wear a mask as they are gathering points for virtually every household in the county. Mask wearing is your way of protecting your neighbors.

Our County Tax Assessor/Collector, Kristen Spies, has taken extraordinary steps to ensure your voting experience is safe. You might be surprised to know that Blanco County is on the cutting edge of safety precautions for counties throughout the state and nation. I personally believe and am assured that there is no safer place to vote than in our county. Still, we can always improve. The single biggest improvement that can be made right now is for all voters and visitors to the polling locations (this includes poll watchers and anyone else with legitimate business at a polling location) to wear a mask. Because Ms. Spies has made the process so efficient, we do not believe you will have to wear one for an inordinate amount of time.

I recognize that there are some that are against mask wearing. Some want to politicize it. Some are concerned about an infringement on their Constitutional rights. Some believe that it is medically contraindicated. I understand those concerns. However, at this particular moment in time I ask that we rise above our personal interests, take a leap of faith, and do this out of concern and caring for our neighbors and friends.

  
Brett Bray  
Blanco County Judge