The Death Penalty in North Texas

- With **108 total death sentences** since 1974, Dallas ranks second behind Harris County in use of the death penalty in Texas. Tarrant County juries are responsible for **74 death sentences overall**.

- New death sentences in Texas have **decreased precipitously** since peaking in 1999, when juries sentenced 48 people to death. In 2018, there were **7 new death sentences** statewide.

- Although Dallas and Tarrant Counties remain among Texas’ top sentencing counties, juries in those jurisdictions have imposed just **three new death sentences** over the last five years.

- In 2017, prosecutors in Dallas County pursued the death penalty in two capital murder trials; both ended with **sentences of life in prison without parole**. A Tarrant County jury also rejected the death penalty in a 2017 trial.

- All 10 men sentenced to death in Dallas or Tarrant County since 2012 are **African-American**.

- Since 1973, **166 individuals** – including 13 people in Texas – have been released from death rows nationwide due to evidence of their wrongful conviction. This includes **Randall Dale Adams**, who spent more than a decade in prison for killing a Dallas police officer, and **Michael Toney**, who was wrongfully convicted in Tarrant County and released in 2009.

- More than **50 individuals in Dallas County** have been exonerated of other serious crimes since 2001; many of those exonerations were based on DNA evidence and/or mistaken eyewitness identification.

- Collectively, more than **40 people** sentenced to death in Dallas or Tarrant County have been removed from death row; in most cases, their sentences were commuted.

- The State of Texas has executed **561 people** since 1982. This includes **60 people** who were convicted in Dallas County and **41 people** who were convicted in Tarrant County.

- **Two men convicted in Tarrant County** have execution dates in the fall of 2019.

- Currently, there are **220 people on death row** in Texas, including 6 women. Of these, **24 were convicted in Dallas County** and **16 were convicted in Tarrant County**.

07/01/19