

# Brenham | Washington County

## Economic Development

Quarterly Newsletter

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Spring, 2025

### Non-Profits Provide Vital Purpose

**T**he City of Brenham, through their Community Services Grant Funding Committee, recently awarded grants to Non-profits in Brenham. Washington County also has a mechanism to offer financial assistance to our local non-profits. I've been asked why the government awards grants when non-profits have other funding sources, so I thought a response was in order.



Non-profits have an important role in our community. They satisfy needs and provide a framework for the type of assistance that a government entity isn't necessarily equipped to handle.

Cities and Counties provide the services that a community must have like law enforcement, fire, parks and recreation services, emergency medical services, municipal courts and public works. These are the services that are closest to citizens' daily lives. No matter the size of local government, they use public funds to create policies in order to address public

needs with the highest quality services while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Is it ever enough? Elected officials are often asked to do more to provide other vital services that a community needs, but it's just not practical. That's where non-profits come in.

A non-profit is uniquely designed to provide very specific (or hyper-focused) resources that help to maintain a community's viability.

Federal and state rules have been enacted to define a non-profit and provide guidelines for what they can and cannot do.

For Texas non-profits, you can find an abundance of information at

**SOS.State.Tx.Us**

and then type "non-profit" in the search bar.

#### City of Brenham—

##### 2025/2026 Community Services Grants Funding

Adult and Teen Challenge	\$5,000
Boys & Girls Club of Washington County	40,000
Brenham Children's Chorus	4,500
Brenham Next	3,000
Brenham Pregnancy Center	5,000
Faith Mission	20,000
Gather N Grace	5,000
Hospice Brazos Valley	13,000
Mt. Olive District Assoc of Churches	3,000
St Peter's Episcopal Church	2,500
Washington County Health Living Assoc.	40,000

## “Bigger. Better. Texas.”



The State of Texas, through its Texas Economic Development & Tourism Office located in the Governor’s office, recently released “Bigger. Better. Texas.” - a blueprint to build a stronger Texas of Tomorrow. This Statewide Economic Development Strategic Plan outlines the state’s economic success of the past decade and creates a vision for continued growth for the future.

Washington County is located in the Central Texas Regional Profile and includes interesting facts about this region (see below).

The plan includes a list of targeted industry sectors and clusters for the state (see following page) which includes strong and emerging industries of the future.

***“We dare to dream, to innovate. We look to the possibilities—not for ourselves, but for our children and their children. Yet even as we continue to grow, we will keep Texas, Texas. And make it even bigger for the generations yet to come.”***

**- Governor Greg Abbott**

For the full report, go to

**Gov.Texas.Gov**

And type in the word “Bigger” in the search bar.



**Figure 21. “Bigger. Better. Texas.” Strategic Framework**



**How to read this framework:** The strategic framework summarizes our vision for the future and establishes the focus areas and priorities that will help us realize this vision. The framework includes Texas’ 10 economic regions, our 10 target industry sectors and associated clusters, and the four pillars that serve as priority areas for EDT.



## Greater Brazos Partnership



In 2024, Washington County entered into a public/private partnership with the Greater Brazos Partnership (GBP) to elevate business attraction efforts. GBP is dedicated to driving economic growth and fostering investment in the Greater Brazos Region. The five counties involved are: Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Robertson and Washington.

The Greater Brazos Region is located at the heart of the Texas Triangle, one of the fastest-growing economic corridors. This central location provides direct access to a vast market, a robust supply chain, and a pro-business environment, driving cost efficiencies and operational excellence for businesses across various sectors.



The focus sectors for the region include: Aerospace and Defense, Energy, Life Sciences and Semiconductors. These are not traditional sector areas for Washington County so we are anxious to see how our involvement with GBP can help elevate our prospect options.

We have begun participating in committees to see how this new partnership can flourish in terms of new regional opportunities to use our collective competitive advantages.

### Would you like to participate?

All GBP committees need Washington County involvement and include Quality of Life, Workforce Development, Transportation, Real Estate and Policy.

If you would like to be considered for a committee, please scan the QR code below and you will be contacted. Let's take advantage of this great partnership!

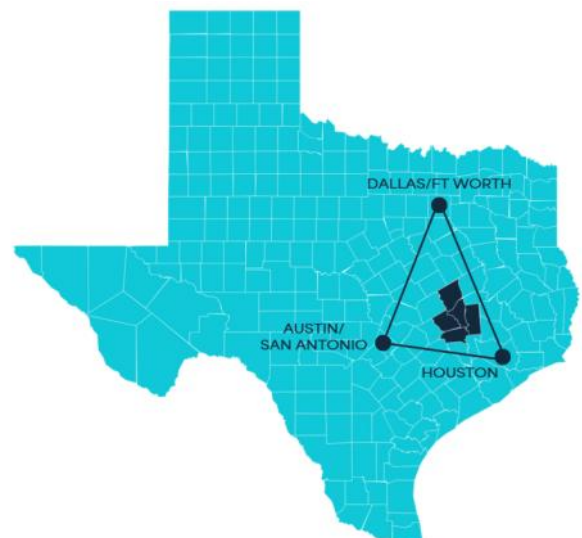


Join a  
Committee

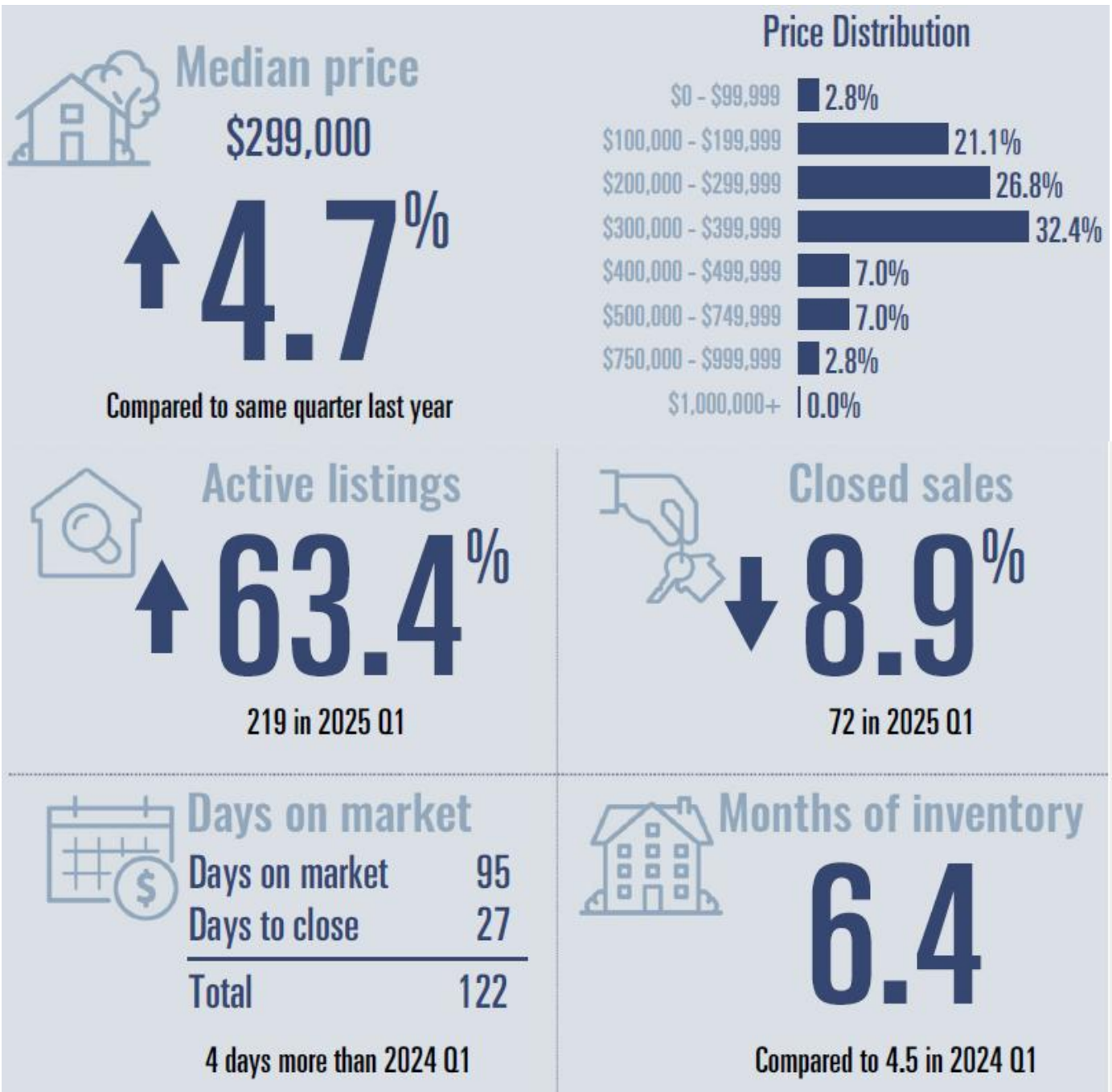


To find out more, including individual county stats and newsletter sign-up, go to

**GreaterBrazos.org**



## 2025 1st Qtr Housing Update—Washington County



Source: South Central Board of Realtors, Texas Realtors and Texas A&M University Texas Real Estate Research Center

## 2025 COUNTY AKA Filings



All owners of businesses in Washington County must file an Assumed Name Form (or DBA—Doing Business As).

January	23
February	19
March	20

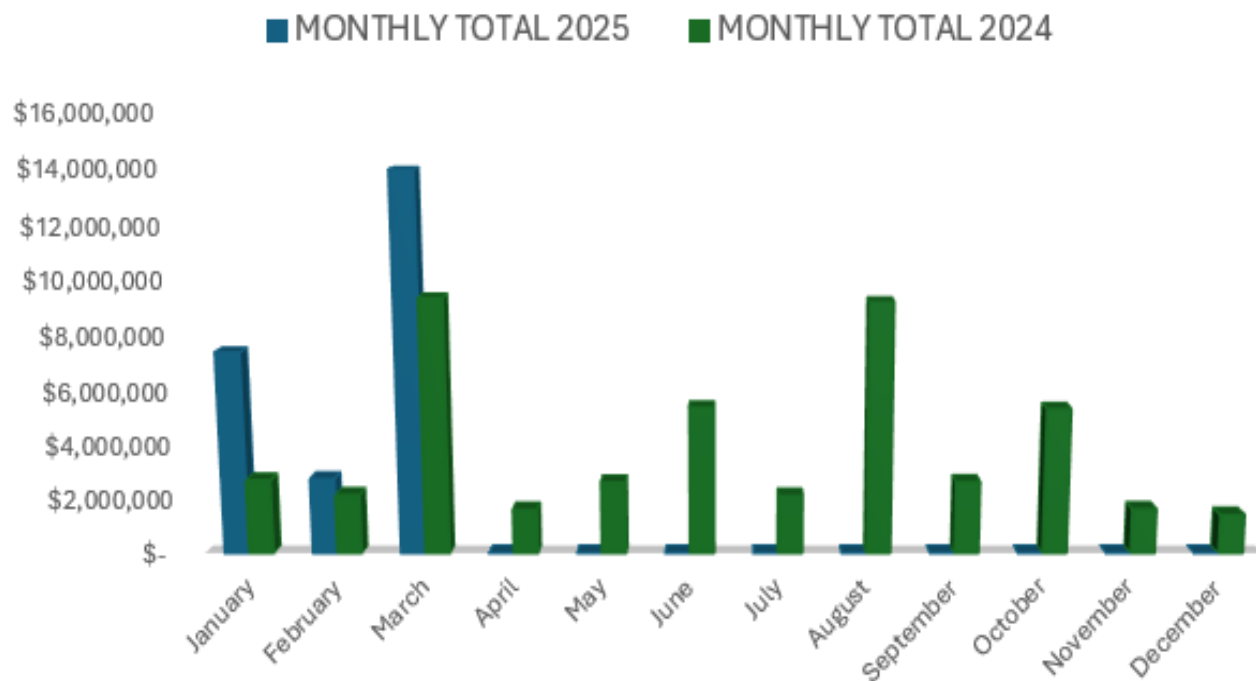
1st Qtr 2025	<b>62</b>
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## 2025 Building Permit Data—City of Brenham, Tx

### MONTHLY PERMIT TOTALS



### MONTHLY VALUATION TOTALS





## Toastmasters Club Forming in Brenham

**TOASTMASTERS**  
INTERNATIONAL

**HYBRID  
CLUB**

**WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE**

**Unlock your leadership potential**

- Build strong leadership skills
- Develop better speaking & presentation skills
- Gain self-confidence
- Boost your ability to collaborate & inspire

Meetings are Mondays from 5:30 to 6:30 pm  
Brenham Police Dept Community Room  
1800 Longwood Dr., Brenham TX 77833.

**Questions or to RSVP, text  
(713) 204-5678**

You must RSVP to get the ZOOM link

**In-Person**



**On-Line**



## Economic Development Partner



### **Thank You to our Non-Profits!**

On any given day as Chappell Hill residents visit their downtown post office, they are welcomed by colorful flowers and beautifully decorated flowerbeds. The flower beds throughout downtown also welcome our visitors as do the large United States of America and Texas flags on Main & HWY 290 – that's due to the work of our friends of the Chappell Hill Garden Club – one of our many local nonprofits that work to make our town welcoming and a place folks will want to return to visit.

The Chappell Hill community is small and

quaint but filled with numerous non-profits that generate tourism and contribute to the economic impact not only for Chappell Hill, but for all of Washington County. We have numerous non-profits that support our community, engage our community members, work with our businesses and serve as ambassadors for Chappell Hill. So the next time you hear from a non-profit asking for support – think about all the time and effort they put into our communities and thank them for their efforts.



Joel Romo  
President

## Economic Development Partner (Continued)



Nonprofit organizations are a driving force in Washington County—enhancing lives, meeting essential needs, and contributing significantly to our local economy. With more than 500 nonprofits operating in our county and over 240 in Brenham alone, this sector represents millions in annual revenue and hundreds of jobs.

These organizations serve across a wide spectrum—education, healthcare, food security, housing, the arts, and more. Their work not only fills vital service gaps but also attracts funding, spurs volunteerism, and builds partnerships that strengthen our community fabric. Groups like Brazos Valley Food Bank, Faith Mission, and the Blinn College Foundation are just a few examples of nonprofits

that make a daily impact while contributing to economic resilience.

At the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, we recognize and support the value of our nonprofit sector. We offer discounted memberships to qualifying nonprofits and provide platforms for collaboration, visibility, and community engagement.

We encourage businesses and residents alike to get involved—volunteer, donate, or partner. Together, we can help ensure our nonprofits continue to thrive and, in turn, help our entire county prosper.

For a full directory of nonprofits in our area, visit [brenhamtexas.com](http://brenhamtexas.com).

Jamie Rankin  
President & CEO



[www.BrenhamED.com](http://www.BrenhamED.com)



[www.WashCoTXJobs.com](http://www.WashCoTXJobs.com)



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Brenham-Washington County

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