



Refugio County Judge's Office

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*Honoring Our Legacy. Embracing Our Future.  
Rising Together*

Jhiela "Gigi" Poynter  
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### Refugio County is turning 200 in 2036!

To celebrate, we're launching **Horizon Refugio 2036**—a bold, county-wide economic development initiative aimed at shaping our future while honoring our heritage. With a 10-year vision, Horizon Refugio 2036 brings together community voices, local leadership, and regional resources to invest in, and guide the development of public infrastructure, recreational spaces, transportation, and overall economic vitality.

There are already so many exciting developments going on throughout our county, and so much more on the horizon, it just makes sense to establish a **comprehensive, unifying framework** to coordinate these efforts toward a shared community vision. Through open workshops, strategic planning, and inclusive collaboration, this initiative will empower local voices, attract regional attention, and build a thriving future grounded in pride and sustainability, building a more vibrant Refugio County for generations to come.

This is our shared journey—a chance to honor the legacy of Refugio County and those who built it, while embracing the future and creating the opportunities our children and grandchildren deserve. **Your voice matters. Your ideas matter.** Take a look at the plan, apply for your seat on the Horizon Refugio 2036 Steering Committee, and share your vision. Let's rise together into a future worthy of this community's proud legacy.

**Toward the Horizon, For Our Shared Future,**

  
Jhiela "Gigi" Poynter  
Refugio County Judge

## **HORIZON REFUGIO 2036 Development Plan**

### **Phase 1: Program Launch & Coordination (Q3–Q4 2025)**

#### **■ Kickoff Announcements**

- Commissioner's Court soft launch (July 8).
- Official launch via press release, social media, and county website.  
Include summary of 10-year plan.

--Lead: County Judge

--Timeline: July/August 2025

#### **■ Steering Committee Formation**

- Introduce resolution for formation of Steering Committee to Commissioner's Court (August 12).
- Create application
  - Invite leadership from the County (including the County Judge as Chair) and leadership from the towns of Refugio, Woodsboro, Austwell, and Bayside, as well as the Refugio County Chamber of Commerce, Refugio County Community Development Foundation, and representatives from school districts, non-profit organizations, community at-large, etc.
  - Develop school-led student/youth advisory committee.

--Lead: County Judge/Commissioners Court

--Timeline: August 2025

#### **■ Venue & Logistics Planning**

- Fine-tune schedule of community events.
- Secure venues across communities for townhalls or workshops.

--Lead: Steering Committee

--Timeline: August/September 2025

#### **■ Outreach Campaign**

- Press conference and press release with schedule of program highlights.
- Flyers, school communications, church bulletins, etc.
- Social Media

--Lead: Steering Committee

--Timeline: August 2025

## **Phase 2: Community Townhall Series/Programming (Q4 2025–Q1 2026)**

Each program (townhall or workshop) focuses on informing the public, gathering feedback, and fostering engagement on priority projects in development and future projects needed. Other events could celebrate the completion of these endeavors (ribbon cuttings, grand openings, etc.). There could also be potential sponsorship opportunities for local businesses through collaboration with the Refugio Chamber of Commerce and/or the Refugio County Community Development Foundation. To summarize the ongoing efforts, an annual “State of the County” (dinner/luncheon/brunch) will be delivered by the County Judge.

**Townhall 1: Recreation & Quality of Life Improvements** – Focus: Bayside Boat Ramp and Water Access Multi-Phase Project, Bonnie View Community Center & Park Improvements Project, Austwell Pier Replacement Project, Tivoli Cleanup, etc.

--Location: Bonnie View Community Center

--Partners: Santos McBain, Ardurra, Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program, Texas Parks & Wildlife, General Land Office

**Townhall 2: Preserving Our History** – Focus: Courthouse Restoration Project, Refugio County Museum Re-opening, Wood Mansion

--Location: Refugio County Courthouse

--Partners: Komatsu Architecture, Broadus, Contractor TBD, Texas Historical Commission, Refugio Historical Commission, Refugio Historic Society

**Townhall 3: Transportation, Mobility & Infrastructure Workshop** – Focus: County-Wide \$11.6m Road, Water, and Drainage Improvements (GLO MIT-MOD), I-69 Corridor Development, Airport Improvements (Fuel Farm, Wildlife Fene, AWOS, etc.) and Connectivity Improvements.

--Location: Woodsboro Eagle Dome

--Partners: CHARM, Santos McBain, Ardurra, TxDOT, Nueces River Authority, General Land Office, Downtown Revitalization Committee, TxDOT Aviation, Airport Manager

**Townhall 4: Celebrating Our Heritage** – Focus: County Museum Grand Re-Opening, Community Cemetery Association priorities, Lt. Pete Hughes Memorial Plaza, Rodeo Highlights, Athletics legacy

--Location: Refugio County Museum

--Partners: Historical Society, Historical Commission, CCA, Pete Hughes Memorial Foundation, Refugio County Rodeo Association, RFYL, ISDs

**Townhall(s) 6-?: Vision for the Future** – Focus: Future Projects, Community Wish Lists, etc.

--Location: Rotating Townhalls(?)

### **Phase 3: Feedback Review & Strategic Planning (Q2–Q3 2026)**

- Data Consolidation – Analyze community input and identify priorities.  
--(Lead: Steering Committee, Timeline: April–May 2026)
- Draft Bicentennial Strategic Plan – 10-Year Plan document with timelines, estimated costs, funding sources.  
--(Lead: Steering Committee, County + Cities, Timeline: June 2026)
- Public Review Period – Publish draft plan for comment. Host summary town hall(s).  
--(Lead: County & Cities, Timeline: July–August 2026)
- Plan Adoption – Final approval by County Commissioners and City Councils.  
--(Lead: Commissioners Court, Timeline: Sept 2026)

### **Ongoing Initiatives (2026–2036): Execution & Tracking**

- Annual State of the County Address/Event from County Judge
- Website Dashboard
  - Project Updates
  - Comprehensive Community Events Calendar
  - Interconnectivity with Chamber/RCCDF/Cities
- Youth Advisory Committee Involvement
- Business & Industry Partnership Meetings/Sponsorship Opportunities
- Creation of Refugio County Flag (for unveiling at Bicentennial Celebration)
- Bicentennial Celebration Planning (to begin by 2033)
- City Coordination
  - Appoint a Bicentennial Liaison to the Steering Committee.
  - Host or co-host workshops.
  - Provide space for flyers, announcements, and surveys.
  - Support dissemination through schools, civic groups, churches, and businesses.
- Organizations/Businesses/Non-Profits Coordination
  - Appoint a Bicentennial Liaison to the Steering Committee.
  - Sponsor and/or participate in townhalls/workshops.

### **SUMMARY**

By aligning public input with a variety of purposeful infrastructure projects, historic investments, and a regional economic strategy, while facilitating public/private partnerships, intergovernmental coordination, and public participation, Horizon Refugio 2036 ensures an inclusive, transformative path to prosperity, anchored by community pride, as the county celebrates its bicentennial legacy.