Introducing the

Sheriffs' and Constables' Fees

Data Visualization Tool

The following tutorial contains screenshots of the actual Sheriffs' and Constables' Fees Tool, with text and narration explaining how to use the tool.

Please ensure that you are currently sitting at a computer that has sound playing capabilities and that the speakers are turned up to an acceptable volume.

When the narration has finished on a page, please press the [spacebar] to continue. If you would like to review a page, press the [backspace] key.

Note: If you prefer a PDF version of this tutorial please follow the link below.

View PDF Version

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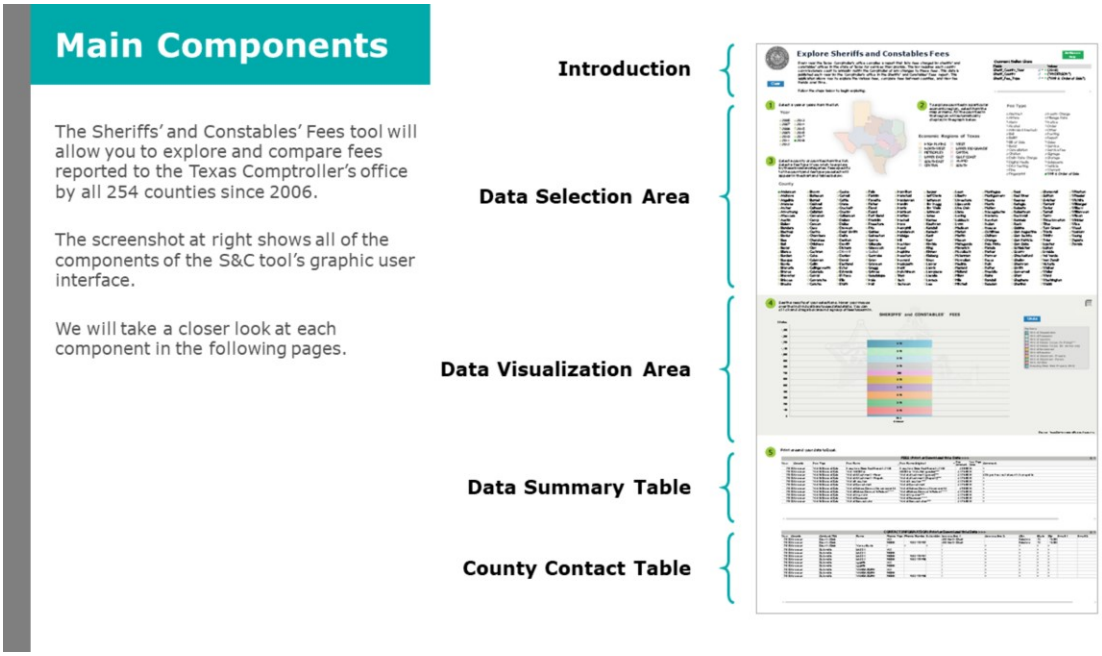


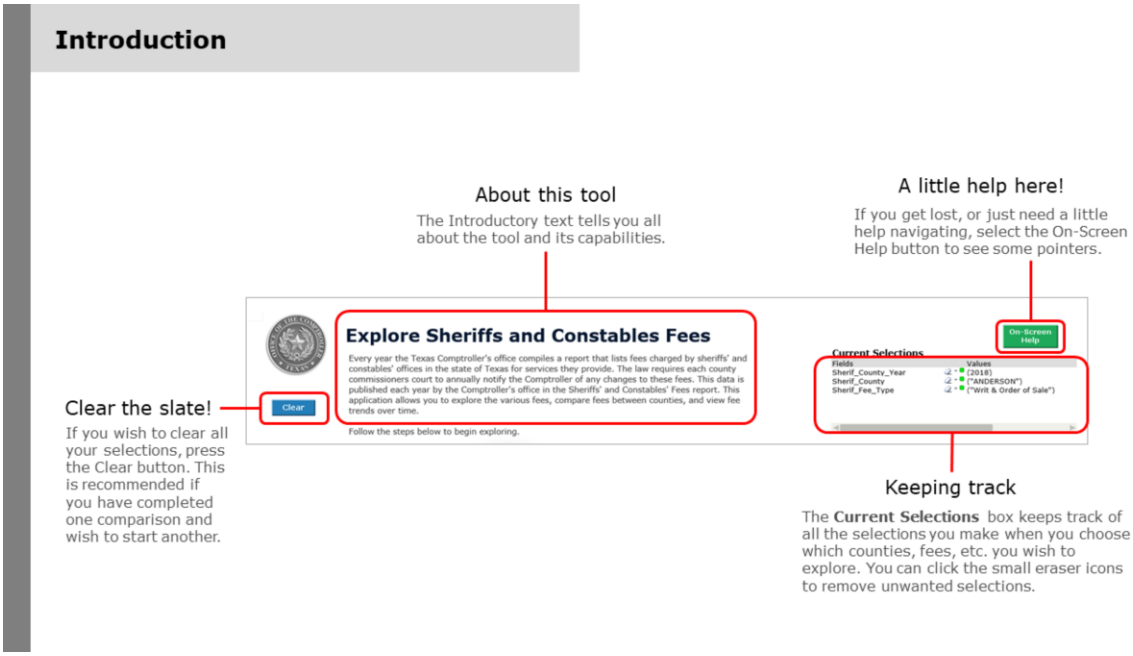
Main Components

The Sheriffs' and Constables' Fees tool will allow you to explore and compare fees reported to the Texas Comptroller's office by all 254 counties since 2006.

The screenshot at right shows all of the components of the S&C tool's graphic user interface.

We will take a closer look at each component in the following pages.

- Introduction
- Data Selection Area
- Data Visualization Area
- Data Summary Table
- County Contact Table



Introduction

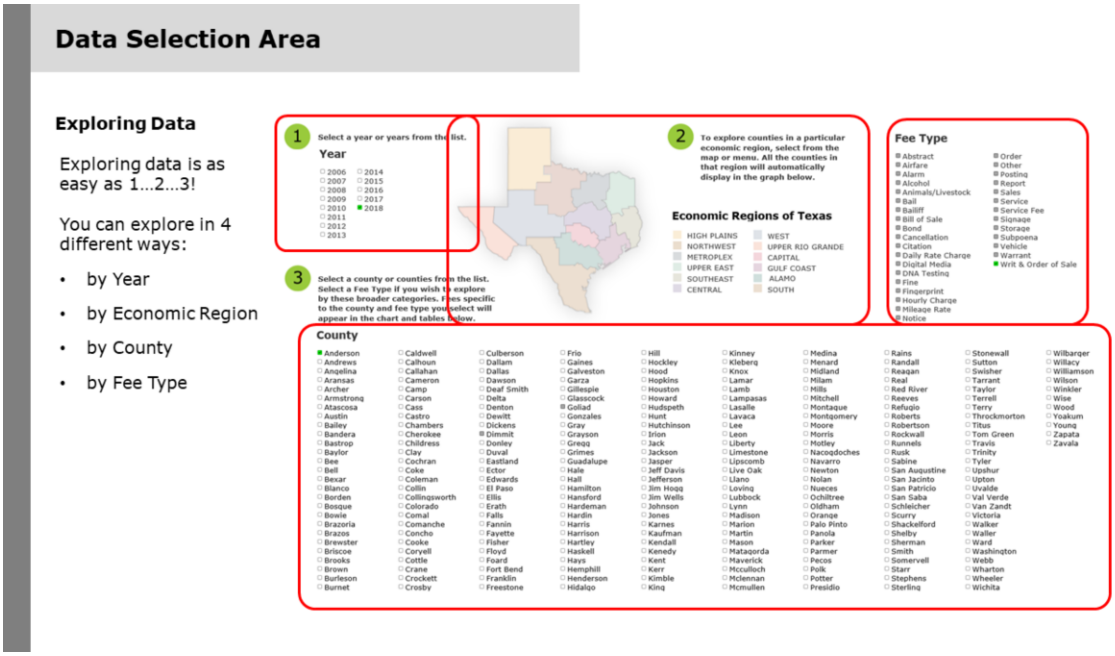
About this tool - The Introductory text tells you all about the tool and its capabilities.

Clear the slate! - If you wish to clear all your selections, press the Clear button. This is recommended if you have completed one comparison and wish to start another.

Keeping track - The **Current Selections** box keeps track of all selections you make when you choose which counties, fees, etc. you wish to explore. You can click the small eraser icons to remove unwanted selections.

A little help here! - If you get lost, or just need a little help navigating, select the On-Screen Help button to see some pointers.

Note: When you first open the S&C tool, the default selections are 2018, Anderson County, and Writ & Order of Sale.

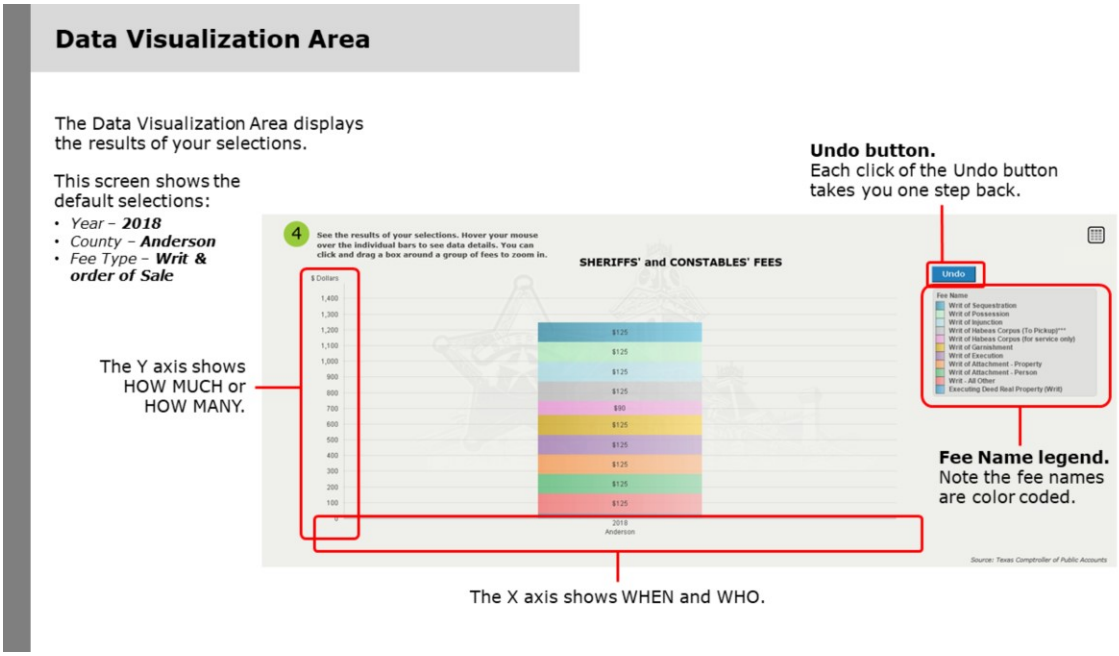


Data Selection Area

Exploring Data

Exploring data is as easy as 1…2…3! You can explore in 4 different ways:

- by Year
- by Economic Region
- by County
- by Fee Type



The Data Visualization Area

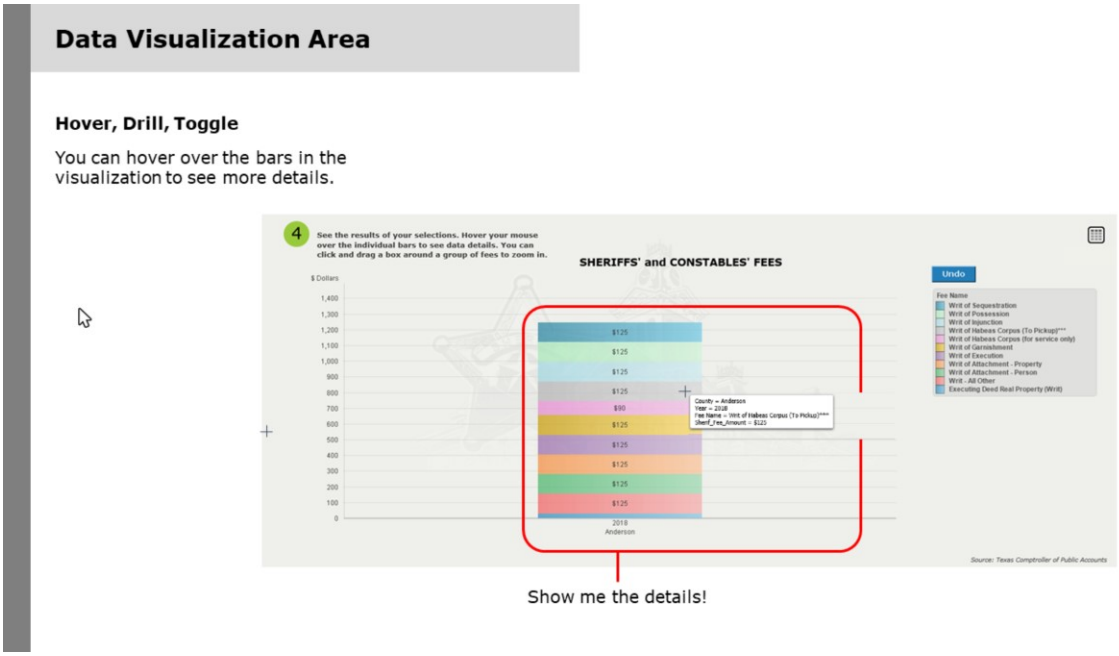
The Data Visualization Area displays the results of your selections.

This screen shows the default selections:
- *Year – **2018***
- *County – **Anderson***
- *Fee Type – **Writ & order of Sale***

The Y axis shows HOW MUCH or HOW MANY.
The X axis shows WHEN and WHO.

Undo button. Each click of the Undo button takes you one step back.

Fee Name legend. Note the fee names are color coded.



Hover, Drill, Toggle

You can hover over the bars in the visualization to see more details.

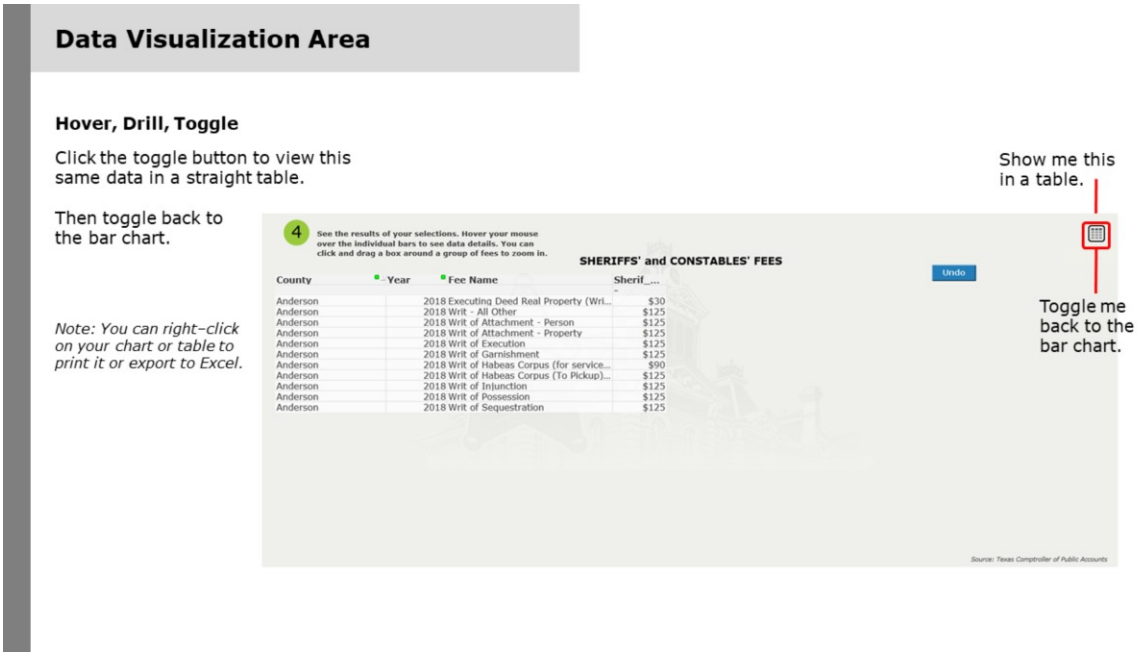
Hover, Drill, Toggle (continued)

You can narrow down the results by clicking and dragging over the Fees you want to see.

Note: You may also select the fee types individually from the Fee Type list.

Hover, Drill, Toggle (continued)

Click Undo to go back a step.

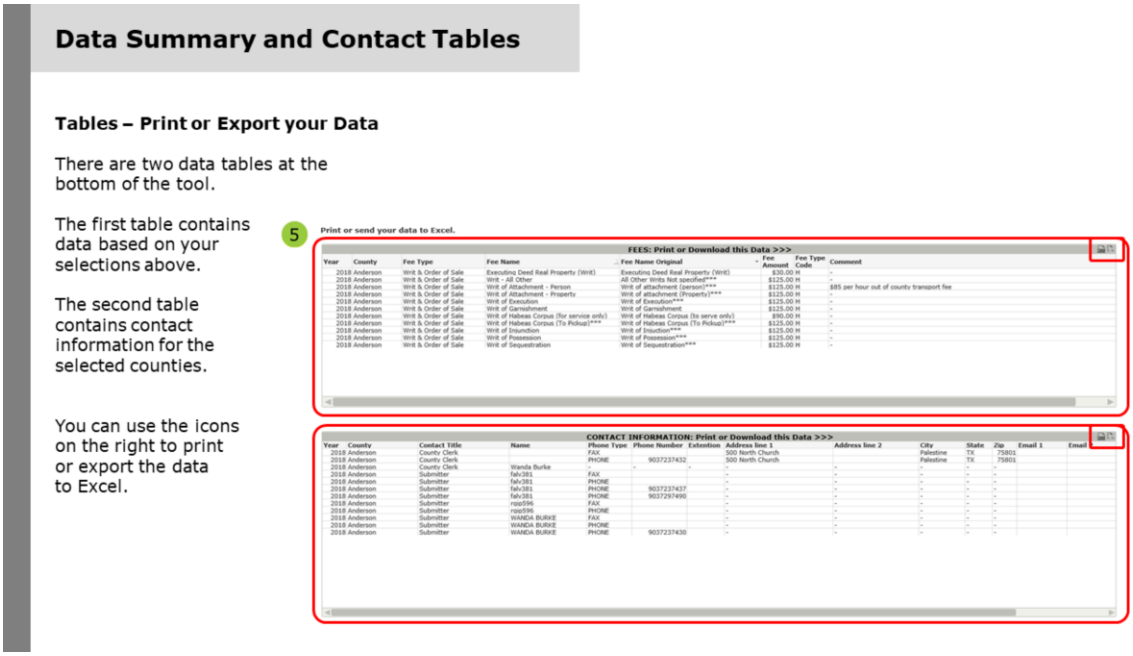


Hover, Drill, Toggle (continued)

Click the toggle button to view this same data in a straight table.

Then toggle back to the bar chart.

Note: You can right–click on your chart or table to print it or export to Excel.



Data Summary and Contact Tables

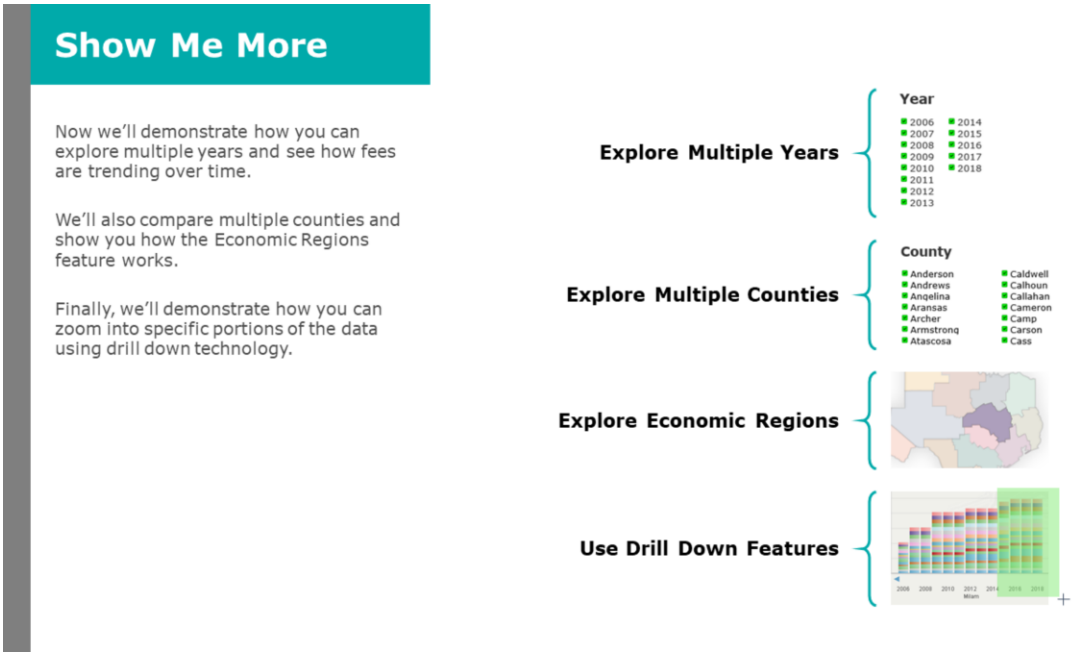
Tables – Print or Export your Data

There are two data tables at the bottom of the tool.

The first table contains data based on your selections above.

The second table contains contact information for the selected counties.

You can use the icons on the right to print or export the data to Excel.

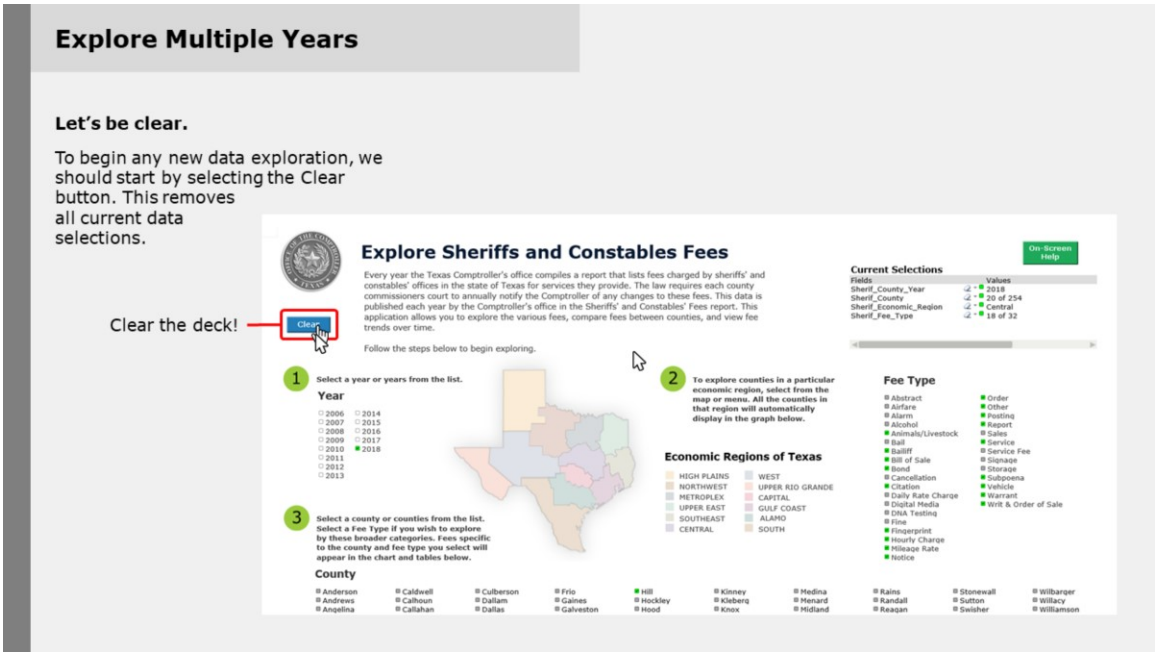


Show Me More

Now we'll demonstrate how you can explore multiple years and see how fees are trending over time.

We'll also compare multiple counties and show you how the Economic Regions feature works.

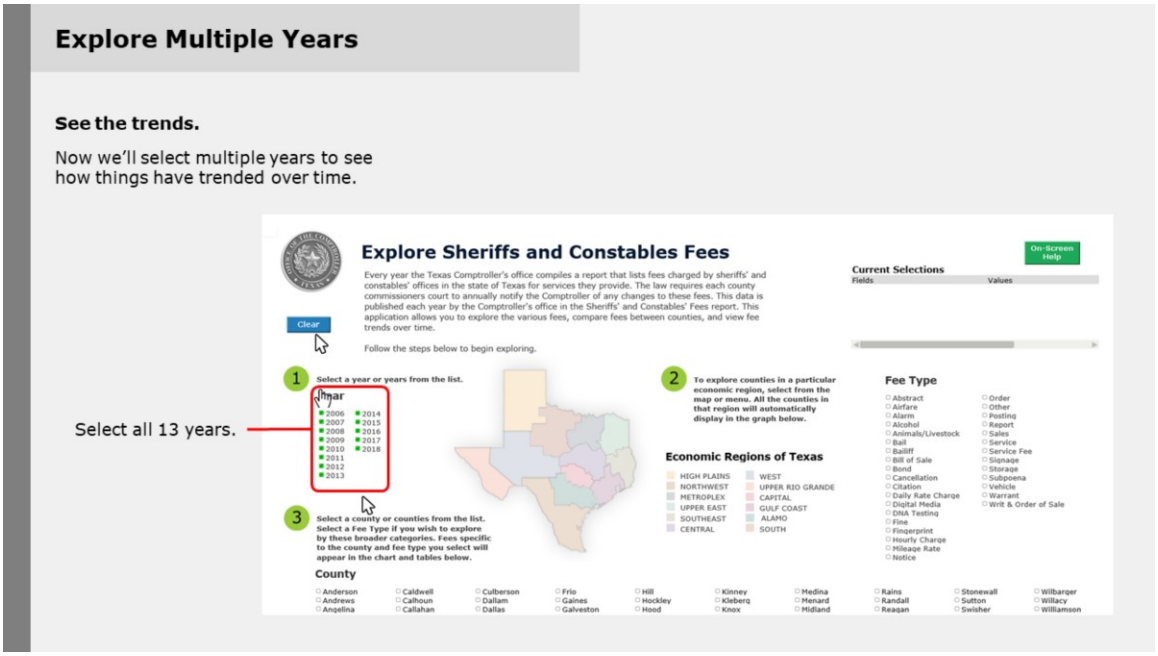
Finally, we'll demonstrate how you can zoom into specific portions of the data using drill down technology.



Explore Multiple Years

Let's be clear.

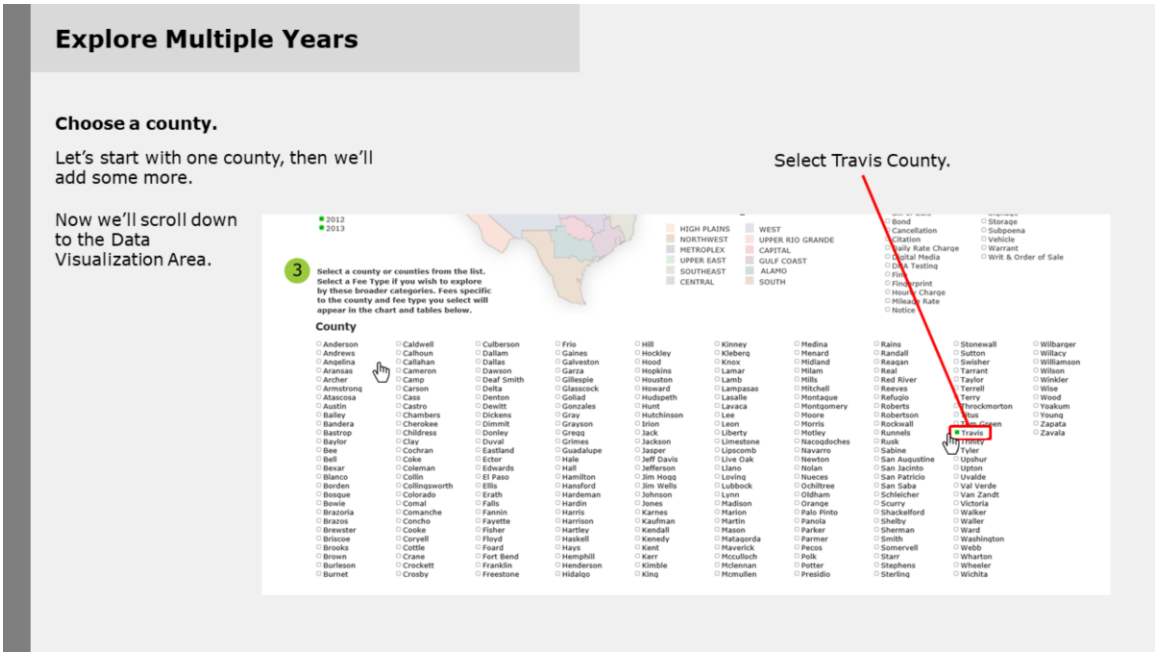
To begin any new data exploration, we should start by selecting the Clear button.
This removes all current data selections.



See the trends.

Now we'll select multiple years to see how things have trended over time.

Select all 13 years.



Choose a county.

Let's start with one county, then we'll add some more.

Select Travis County.

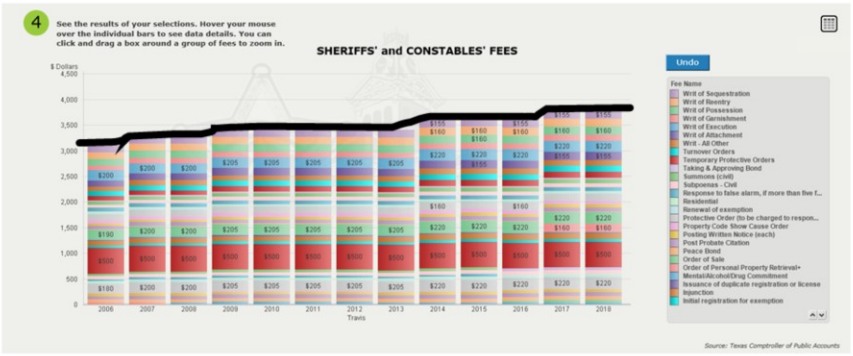
Now we'll scroll down to the Data Visualization Area.

Explore Multiple Years

See the trend line.

You can see how the fees for Travis County have trended gradually upward for the last several years.

Now let's add a county to compare to Travis.



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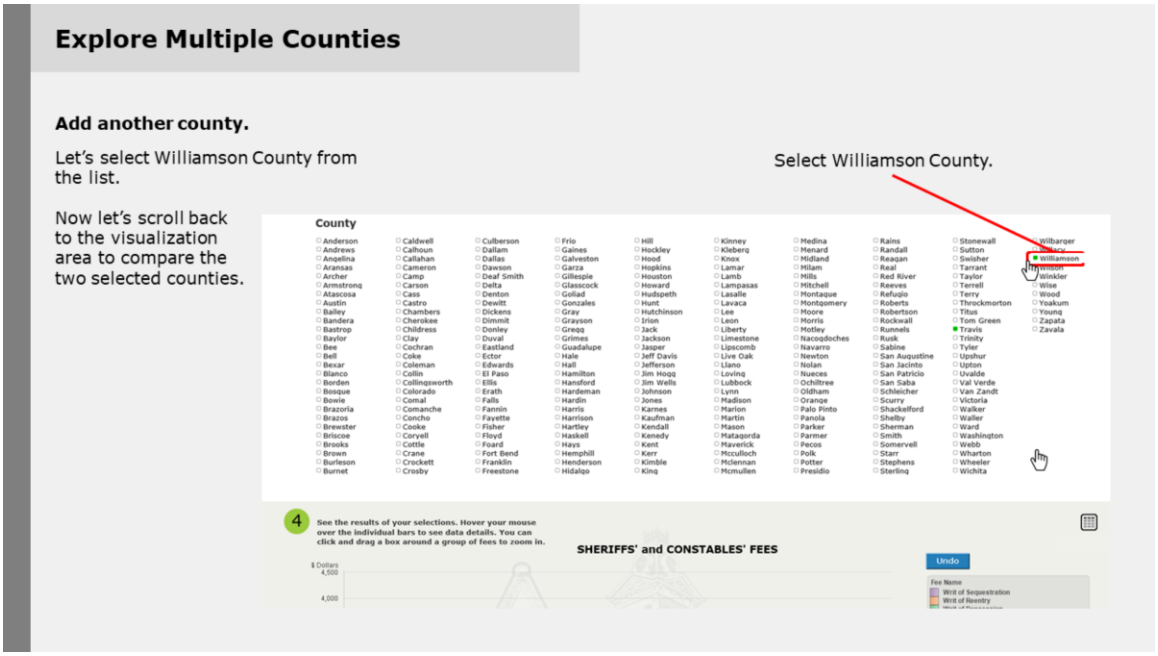
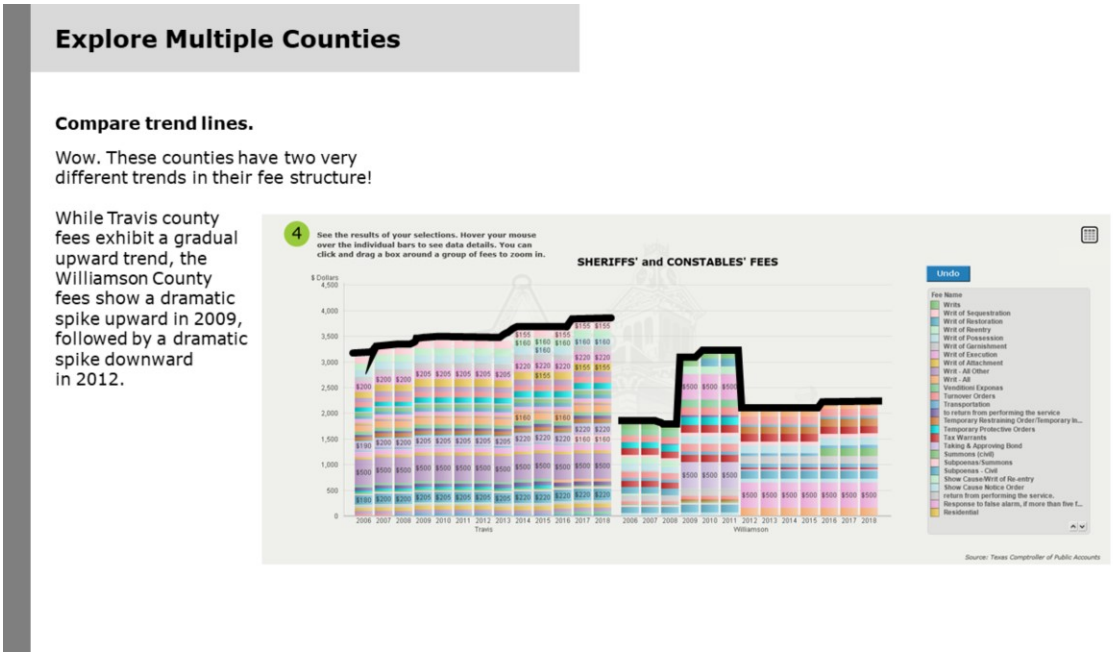


Add another county.

Let's select Williamson County from the list.

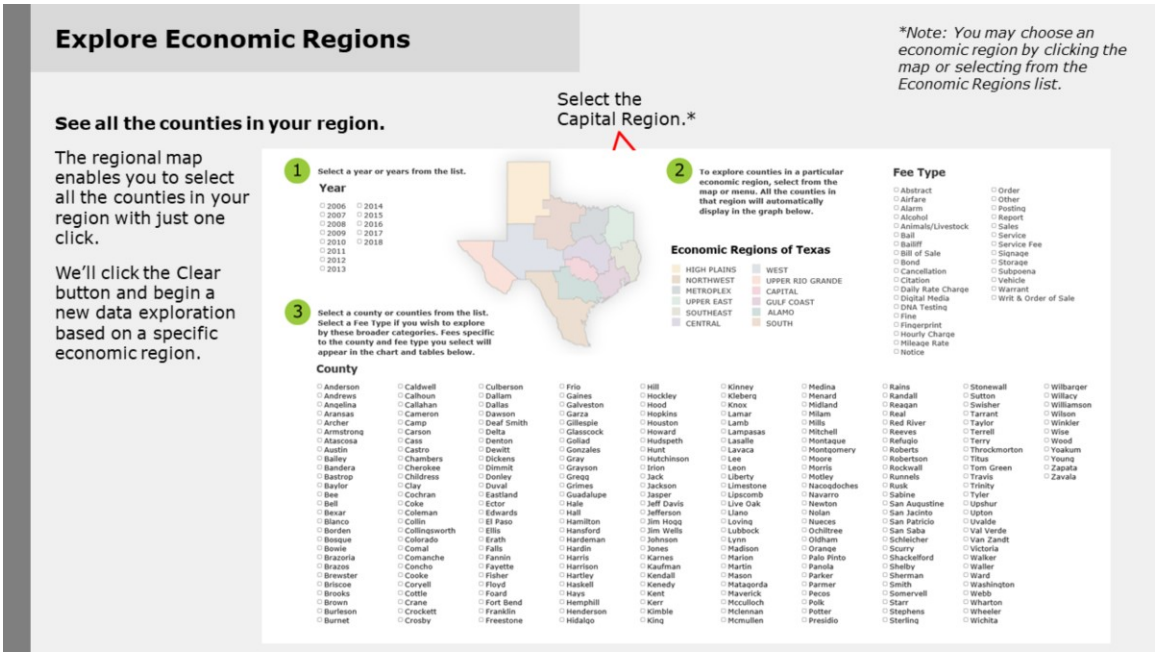
Now let's scroll back to the visualization area to compare the two selected counties.



Compare trend lines.

Wow. These counties have two very different trends in their fee structure!

While Travis county fees exhibit a gradual upward trend, the Williamson County
fees show a dramatic spike upward in 2009, followed by a dramatic spike downward in 2012.



Explore Economic Regions

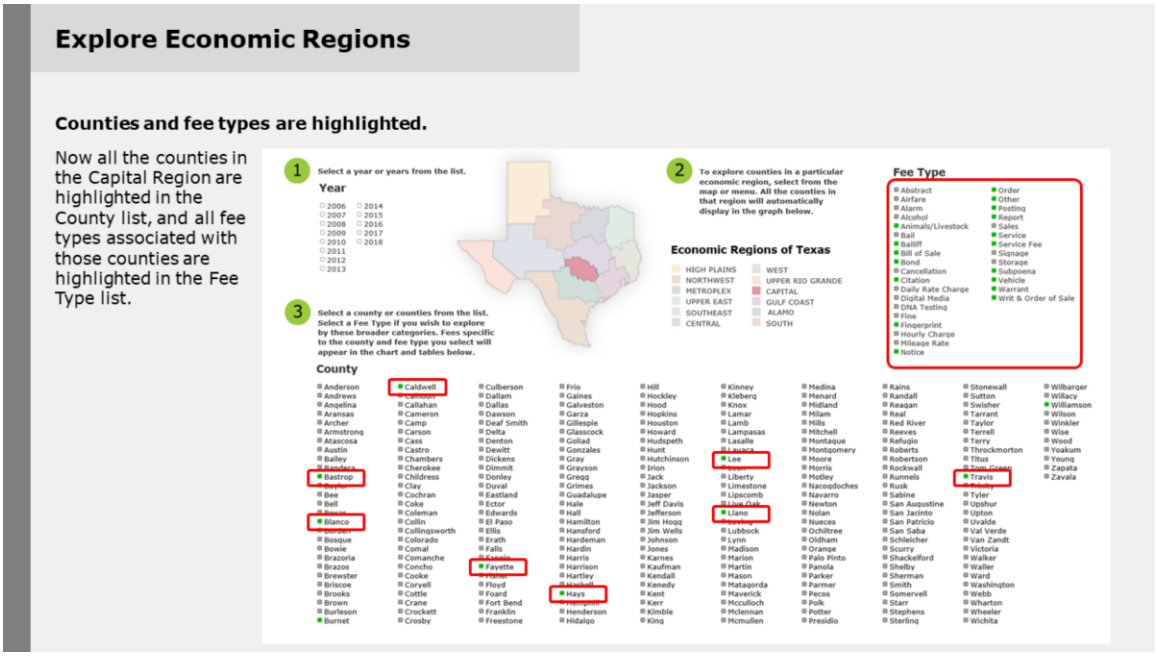
See all the counties in your region.

The regional map enables you to select all the counties in your region with just one click.

We'll click the Clear button and begin a new data exploration based on a specific economic region.

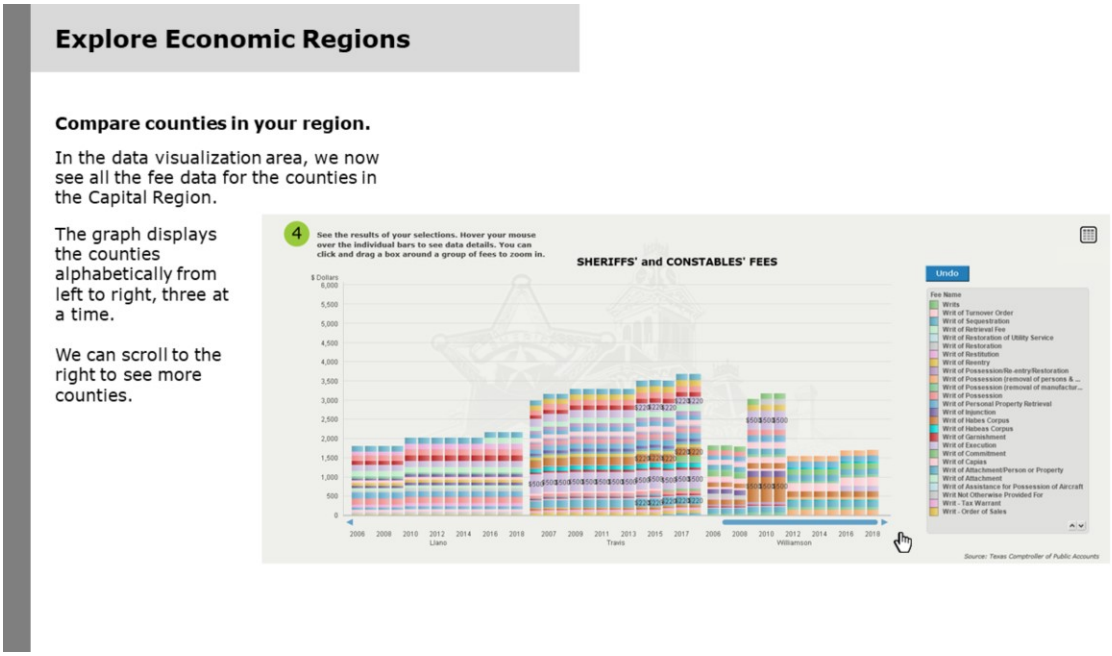
Select the **Capital Region**.

Note: You may choose an economic region by clicking the map or selecting from the Economic Regions list.



Counties and fee types are highlighted.

Now all the counties in the Capital Region are highlighted in the County list, and all fee types associated with those counties are highlighted in the Fee Type list.



Compare counties in your region.

In the data visualization area, we now see all the fee data for the counties in the Capital Region.

The graph displays the counties alphabetically from left to right, three at a time.

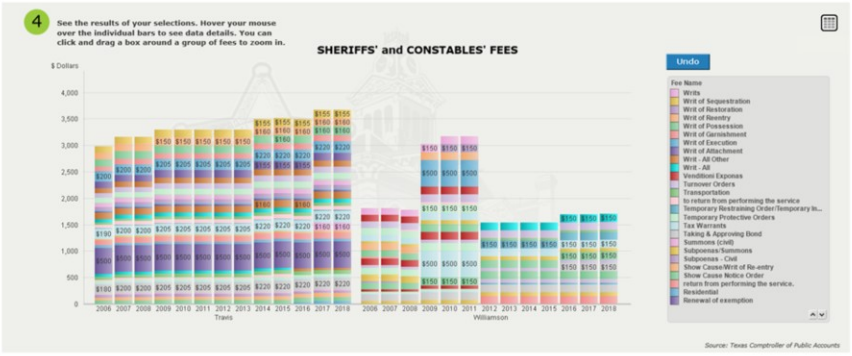
We can scroll the graph to the right to see more counties.

Use the Drill Down Features

Isolate two of the counties.

Let's take another look at Travis and Williamson counties.

We can drag-select them to zoom in.



Isolate two of the counties.

Let's take another look at Travis and Williamson counties. With the mouse, we can drag-select them to zoom in.

Use the Drill Down Features

Isolate Fees

Now we'll take a closer look at what these two counties charge for various kinds of writs.

We'll use drag-select to choose all the writs from the Fee Name legend.

We've now isolated the writ fees for Travis and Williamson counties, and can easily compare them.

Note that currently (2018), Travis has many different kinds of writ fees with varying costs, while Williamson has assigned one cost to all of their writs.

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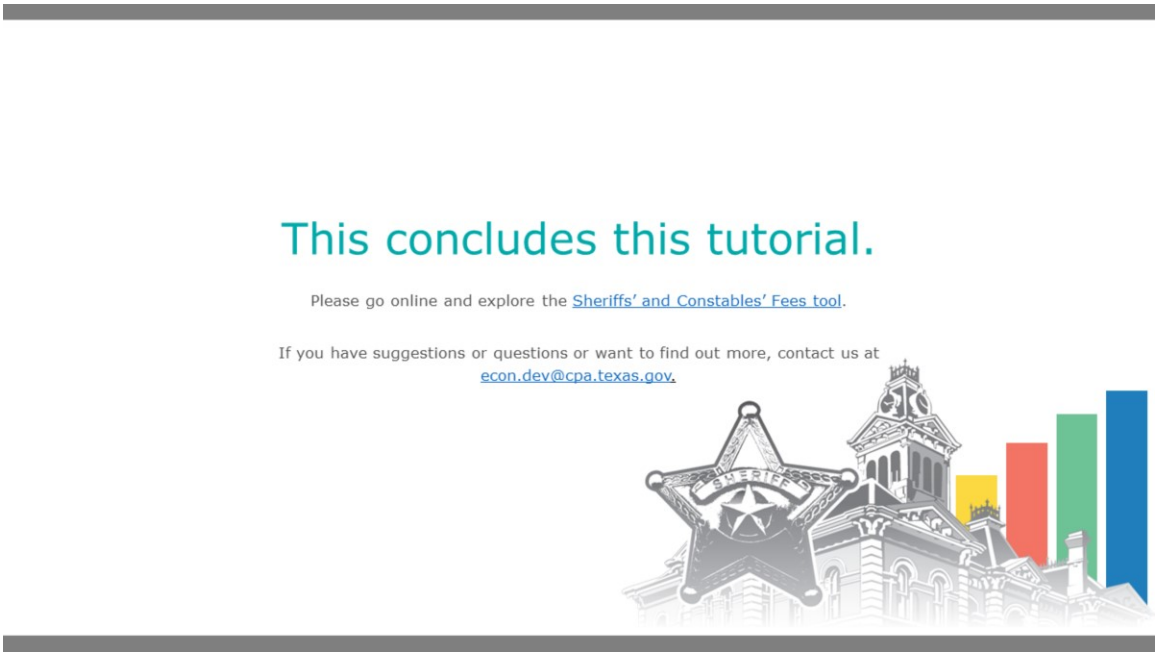

This concludes this tutorial.

Please go online and explore the Sheriffs' and Constables' Fees tool.

If you have suggestions or questions or want to find out more, contact us at transparency@cpa.texas.gov.