

District Clerk Chris Daniel



If can-do spirit is in the air that Houstonians breathe, Chris Daniel has caught the infection.

He was a high achiever as a youngster even though he was only 12 when his dad was killed in a car crash caused by a drunken driver and all parental duties fell on his mom, a secretary.

When computer issues hampered his little sister's efforts to register at Lone Star Community College, Daniel, then 24, ran against a long-time board member at the school in 2006 - and won. That made him one of the youngest elected officials in the state.

Daniel, a lawyer and engineer, has brought a similar energy to the Harris County District Clerk's Office, where he often prefers that things were done yesterday rather than today. Elected in 2010 and re-elected in 2014, Daniel heads an office with about 450 employees and oversees a \$32 million budget that has remained lean even as the county has put the recession behind it. His office staffs 76 courts with clerks, maintains records for these courts and runs jury service.

During his first term, Daniel kept the office focused on turning more and more courts into efficient, cost-saving e-courts, modernizing the subpoena process and offering additional services to aid residents, such as a quick, convenient passport operation.