

Williamson County Elections – May 4, 2010  
Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Kathy Danner

Office / District: County Commissioner - 4<sup>th</sup> district

**1) What is your motivation in seeking election to the Williamson County Commission?**

*I am running for the open seat on the Commission for two reasons. **One**, I would like to be a new voice on the commission. As a Nissan wife, I represent a lot of the new growth and economic development that has settled here. I have lived in many areas around the country and would like to share what I have seen done well into representing the 4<sup>th</sup> district. **Second**, I come from a family with a heart for public service and I would like to take my turn at serving my local government. My brother is in the Army (out of Ft. Campbell) and is on his third tour in Afghanistan, my mother is a retired minister and a substitute teacher, my stepmother is a retired Col. In the Army Nurse Corps and my dad is a retired USMC Col. and now is a US Congressman (R- MN) <http://kline.house.gov/>*

**How does your background and/or experience qualify you to hold this position?**

*I bring three areas of value to this position.*

***One**, I have 10 years of business experience in a variety of disciplines. I have worked at corporate headquarters with Moore Business Forms in marketing as a product manager and an award winning project manager. I was a national account sales rep for Standard Register. I also have been a small business owner and now am a part time rental agent, an author and speaker. I bring an understanding of the needs for small business as well as corporate experience on how to work as a team to achieve complex goals.*

***Second**, I have good working relationships with many elected officials in all levels of government. I recently worked on staff with Congressman Marsha Blackburn where I developed many positive working relationships with officials in all levels of state and local government. These relationships are valuable in accomplishing initiatives that require multiple government levels.*

***Third**, I am a Christian author and speaker for my book on budgeting for moms. I have a heart for teaching others the need to live beneath their means. Voters could always count on me to bring the same “frugal mom” mindset and discernment to the county budget.*

**2) What should be the top priorities of the Williamson County Commission over the next several years? How would you address and or fund these priorities?**

*It is difficult to look into the future and see what the commission will face, but I think these three items will undoubtedly need to be addressed.*

*1) **Debt management:** As an author and speaker on stretching dollars, I'd like to bring my fiscally conservative views and support for continuing to wring out excess spending. Because impact fee revenue from building is now at an all time low, we have to get more creative. There are many areas in the budget that I question and feel that we could shave down. Some costs can be replaced with ideas or items that don't cost the county anything. I'd also like to see where we could creatively grow some of our (non tax) revenue streams such as maximizing the use of the Ag Center and the Convention Center. Since we own them, we pay for it every time they take a loss. Let's find ways to better promote and utilize them or else let's consider selling them. During tough economic times, you must make tough decisions in making cuts, and possibly selling assets. I'm up to the challenge in supporting these decisions.*

*2) **Meeting the ongoing budgetary needs of the public schools.** As the only parent of children in the*

*Williamson County Schools on the 4<sup>th</sup> district May ballot, I will offer a current and fresh, yet critical eye to the budgetary needs of the school board. Over half of the budget is allocated towards the schools. We all know that the schools are a primary factor in property values. I want to support the budgetary needs of the school board. I am especially supportive of the recently implemented and improved practice of bidding school construction out. This process just recently saved the board over \$2Million. I also am a big fan of school expansion rather than entire new schools when the case applies. These of course are school board decisions, but as a possible future voice on the commission I am in support of these money saving methods.*

*3) **Increasing economic development:** Because my husband and I were part of the Nissan move to middle TN, I bring my first hand experience and input on economic development. In order to avoid tax increases, as a county and as a state, we must “grow the business”. I offer a living testimony to other corporate entities that we may pursue in re-locating here to Williamson County. We must continue to grow and attract economic development as our main source of revenue.*

**3) What is your vision of residential and commercial development within the unincorporated portions of the County over the next 5-10 years?**

*Balance. While we must continue to attract economic development, we must do it wisely. I have lived many places as a Marine Corps kid and as a corporate wife, and have seen development done well and have seen it done poorly. I would offer my experience in an effort to implement a healthy balance of residential development, commercial development and green space.*

**4) Williamson County has realized tremendous success in terms of economic development and corporate recruitment efforts over the past several years. How would you propose to continue and/or enhance these efforts?**

*Again, as mentioned above, I would love to be involved with this process. I am a living testimony to the recent economic growth in Williamson County. Nissan sits in the heart of the 4<sup>th</sup> district. I would offer my personal experience and my relationship selling skill sets in recruiting other large companies to relocate here. I'd like to see Williamson County be “The county with high tech style and a southern smile”.*

**5) Do county governments within Tennessee need broader taxing authority granted from the state legislature? Does Williamson County? If so, what specific revenue-generating options would you support?**

*Simply put, NO. With the current federal culture in a mode of tax and spend, we do NOT need more taxes levied at a local level. I think the county has sufficient taxing authority. I am a proponent of budget cutting rather than taxing when it comes to staying within a budget.*

**6) Under what circumstances should local governments exercise the power of eminent domain? Is there a need to limit or expand this power on the federal or state level?**

*There should never be a need to expand the powers of the Fed government more than they already have been! The smaller the role any government plays, the better. The only circumstance where I see the county government needing to exercise eminent domain would be in an area that provided for increased public safety. For instance the need to widen a county owned road that was unsafe otherwise.*

**7) How important is the development and preservation for diverse housing options within**

**Williamson County? What role, if any, should county government play in this effort?**

*Again, I believe in balance. I'd like to see a balance between larger single family homes, town homes, and apartments. I do think that the fourth district has done a good job of this and is in a position to set the example for other parts of the county. I also feel that the majority of housing diversity planning should come from the BOMA.*

**8) Do you have issues or concerns regarding the County's current sign ordinance? Please explain.**

*My only thoughts towards the county's sign ordinances are that they only apply in the unincorporated areas of the county and so therefore a bit confusing with the different city rules. In an ideal world of sign ordinances, it would be nice if they could all be in agreement.*

**9) How should elected officials in Williamson County balance the need between economic development and the protection of our natural resources and the environment?**

*Elected officials are only one piece. There needs to be input from county and city staff, developers, utility boards, citizens and environmental groups. Once a viable plan is in place, then the elected officials can hammer out and vote on the guidelines.*

**10) Should Williamson County government advocate or promote initiatives aimed at improving environmental sustainability? If so, where should these efforts focus?**

*I personally am very pleased with the work that Franklin has done with promoting environmental sustainability. I am looking forward to the new recycling "blue bag" program that will be launched this July. The only role I could see the county government playing is one of promotion. I wouldn't mind seeing more education. For example, maybe a more formal class taught to the middle school and high school aged children that were more than just recycling. They can learn about sustainability and environmental stewardship.*

*The county could also play a roll in advocating for gas or hydrogen fuel cell buses and perhaps pushing for storm water and gray water use within city municipalities within the county.*

**11) Other Comments**

*The main message of my campaign is that I am dedicated to strengthening Williamson County. Voters can always count on me to vote in ways that strengthen the county not weaken it. I will bring a fresh new positive outlook, conservative values, a strong work ethic, and a high level of professionalism to this position. I represent this county's present and its future. You have the opportunity to vote for 2 and so I am asking for your vote. Go to [www.VoteDanner.com](http://www.VoteDanner.com) to learn more and to join me on FaceBook. Early voting: April 14-29<sup>th</sup> and Election Day is May 4<sup>th</sup>.*