

Williamson County Elections – May 4, 2010  
Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Greg Davis

Office/District: Williamson County Commissioner - 8th District, Incumbent

1. What is your motivation in seeking election to the Williamson County Commission?  
How does your background and/or experience qualify you to hold this position?

*I am motivated to get involved instead of being one of the crowd saying "someone ought to do something about it." More specifically, I became involved initially to try to continue to promote excellence in education and funding it in a way to accomplish that. I am in the property and casualty insurance business which has given me exposure to many different types of businesses, budgeting and goal setting.*

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?

*A. Education*

*B. Continuing to bring new business opportunities to Williamson County*

*C. Public Safety*

*These top priorities are intertwined. For example, our school system is our best calling card when trying to entice a new business to relocate here. Funding will be a challenge for the foreseeable future. We must be willing to say no to some very nice projects and understand that building debt for "nice to have" projects is only postponing a problem.*

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

*We should follow the Comprehensive plan recently adopted. This still gives localities the opportunity to save or create their own identity. Planning and codes needs to reflect the intent of the plan. The plan recognizes property rights, and allows growth, but attempts to maintain the rural character of much of our unincorporated County.*

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?

*We need to keep on doing what we are doing. That is marketing ourselves and working with the State and other localities to bring high quality jobs and investment home.*

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?

*Tennessee Counties are somewhat restricted in revenue generating activity. Yet, we have state and federal unfunded mandates to address. For the most part Williamson County is nearly maxed out on available revenue streams with the exception of property tax. Too much reliance on property taxes is also problematic. We should never consider a local income tax, but it would be nice to convince the state to make the BEP formula (manner in which state taxpayer revenue is redistributed to Counties for education) fair.*

*Williamson County, as well as other larger Counties are essentially paying more than our fair share.*

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 is no need to expand the powers of eminent domain. This should only be used by any government as a last resort when there is no other avenue available to build a school for example. Government should never take private property, regardless of just compensation, for the benefit of any private concern.*

7. How important is the development and preservation of diverse housing options within Williamson County? What role, if any, should county government play in this effort?

*Housing availability is important for our community and should be encouraged through preservation and planning. However, I do not support mandates on developers to force them to build something that they do not otherwise choose to build. Government can play a huge role through zoning, and partnering with non-governmental entities to build or maintain livable communities.*

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

*I support the right of any property owner to place a sign in or on their property. I do not see a need for sign ordinance changes other than to strengthen them for major thoroughfares such as Interstate 65 or Route 840.*

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

*We need both. The County needs to protect our water resources and provide open green space for the future benefit of our residents. While I support new economic development, any project that clearly damages our environment should be redesigned or not allowed.*

*Outsiders see the beautiful vistas we enjoy everyday and it is one of the things that brings development here. We can't let all the beauty be destroyed as no one wins when that occurs.*

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

*Yes. This would include LEED qualifying construction, being aware of and encouraging private efforts at land conservation, promoting our agricultural attributes and protecting the Harpeth River. I see government's role as being primarily supportive, yet we can lead when it comes to design of schools and other governmental buildings and purchasing land for passive parks.*

11. Other Comments

*Thank you for the opportunity.*

## **Contact Information:**

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