

Williamson County Elections – May 4, 2010  
Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Doug Langston

Office/District: County Commission District 12th

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 have served in elected office for nineteen years. I have the experience necessary to help the county through these difficult economic times.*

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?

*Quality of life issues such as an excellent school system, recreational activities for all ages, top law enforcement throughout the county, are among my priorities. Elected and non-elected officials have worked together to accomplish these goals without increasing taxes and should continue to do so.*

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

*The county has a newly developed Land Use Plan which was established with input from citizens from the various areas of the county. This plan can be used to guide residential and commercial growth in the unincorporated areas. The use of this plan will allow growth without impacting the county in a negative way.*

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?

*I have, and will continue, to support the Williamson County Development Department and in its efforts to recruit corporate headquarters and other businesses. This effort has been very successful in the past and should continue to be in the future without impacting the existing quality of life in our county.*

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?

*Williamson County has a sound tax base which has been established through our existing taxing system. Franklin and Williamson County were in the forefront in implementing "Privilege Taxes and Impact Fees" which expanded our tax base. As a result, I see no need to look for any new tax source.*

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?

*The U.S. Constitution defines clearly the process for governments to exercise the power of eminent domain. This should only be exercised when the public good requires it and only with just compensation. Eminent domain should only be considered as a last resort if the public health, safety and welfare are involved.*

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?

*This is an issue that the city of Franklin has worked with for several years. While my district is in the City of Franklin, I will be open to hear from commissioners of the unincorporated areas of the county in order to make a decision based on what the citizens of those areas might want. Currently, I see no initiative in this area.*

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

*I have not had discussions with anyone regarding this issue. I am always open to discussion regarding this or any other issue.*

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

*Protection of our natural resources and the environment must be accomplished through long range planning and zoning. As a county commissioner I support the efforts of the Williamson County Planning Commission as it works to accomplish these goals. Development must not be allowed to destroy the natural beauty of our county.*

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

*Williamson County should continue to provide and support the recycling centers throughout the county. This effort will continue to reduce the materials deposited into the land field, which in itself is an important goal. In addition we should continue to implement programs such as: geothermal heating and cooling systems in our new buildings and lighting that is environmentally friendly. I will be open to ideas which will improve the environmental sustainability in our county. There are many ways to protect the environment and I am very interested in supporting those efforts which are considered to benefit our purpose.*

11. Other Comments

*I have served in city and county government for nineteen years. During my tenure, I have work to represent the people with honesty and dignity. I have no special interest that I am obligated to or represent.*

## **Contact Information:**

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