

Williamson County Elections – May 4, 2010
Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Jack Walton

Office/District: Williamson County Commission, District 8

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?

1) During my previous terms in office, Williamson County has grown, and we continue to maintain the quality of life we have come to expect from the #1 County in Tennessee. I have strived to work hard to keep this the most desired County in the State.

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?

2) The top priority of the Commission is to control spending. We have not had a property tax increase in many years. Williamson County continues to grow and the commission will need to monitor the counties spending very closely

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

3) I would like to see more commercial areas developed outside the cities of the county. This would bring in much needed revenue to help fund our schools and infrastructure. Commercial development draws from outside the county. We would receive the revenue but not the expenses. (i.e. Children to educate, etc.)

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?

4) The corporate citizens I have spoken with (Mars Petfood, Nissan, etc) moved here for the quality of life and business climate. (Schools, Parks, low Crime, etc). I will strive to maintain the quality of life Williamson County has become know for. We can maintain this lifestyle by supporting schools, Parks, Law Enforcement, and a positive business climate.

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?

5) NO

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?

6) As I understand the counties right of Eminent Domain, it is only used for the Public Good. During my terms in office this has not been used. I believe the current laws are sufficient and do not need to be altered.

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?

7) Due to land costs, and construction costs it is difficult to build truly affordable housing in Williamson County.
I believe County Government could provide tax relief in reduced property taxes, and impact fees.

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

8) I believe the current sign ordinance may be too strict. As a Commissioner/Realtor I have had numerous complaints from fellow Realtors concerning Pointer signs. The county and cities will pick these signs up if they are in the right of way. I believe this type of sign restriction should be altered to help promote business in Williamson County.

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

9) This is accomplished through proper planning. Williamson County is currently updating their comprehensive land use plan. Through proper planning and implantation a balance can be achieved

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

10) It is my hope Environmental Sustainability will be accomplished through the Williamson County Plan update. The county strongly encourages recycling through the County Convenience Centers, where the proceeds from the recycling go to area schools.

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