

I am Greg Middents and with your vote, I'll be your next County Judge. This is my last "Open Letter" in this campaign. As County Judge I will continue these "Open Letters" as a way to keep you informed and ask for your input. If you have missed reading other "Open Letters" please go to my web page at gregmiddents.com

These letters have been very hard hitting and direct. I share my vision for our county. In the four debates, the incumbent County Judge says I am questioning his integrity and character by talking about his record in office. Well, his record just like mine is fair game and his record is not a proud one.

It is important that we voters finally have called him on the carpet.

I) Economic Development:

Last months' "Open Letter" was on economic development. I need to add more information on that topic because at the last four debates, the incumbent County Judge reinforced his desire to be the "Economic Czar of Grayson County."

I have no desire to be the "Economic Czar of Grayson County." As County Judge I will do everything possible to attract businesses to our county, but we will work as a **TEAM** with the economic development professionals in the cities and the area Chamber of Commerce's. These entities have budgets, professional staff and expertise in bringing in business and industry to Grayson County. I am bewildered / amazed that the incumbent Judge thinks this is one of his roles. In fact, if you look at what a County Judge in Texas is required to do, economic development chief... in this case "**Czar**," is not in the job description. If you look at the budget for our county there is no "line item" for economic development. How can you legitimately propose economic development without even a budget?

There is no "**I**" in **TEAM WORK**. The incumbents reputation for "**Bullying**" and using "**Strong Arm Tactics**" are not successful to attract business or provide positive leadership. In fact, we lose credibility and trust with such actions.

Maybe the incumbent County Judge has another secret deal with his buddies at "Black Knights" that he is keeping us in the dark about? Maybe MD Helicopter is really

coming to Grayson County and he just wants to surprise us five days before the election with the big announcement?

Serious intentions need budgeted money to back up all the rhetoric ... this is another mistake I see with the current incumbent County Judge.

HE IS ALL TALK. As a former Texas Governor once said, **“All Hat and No Cattle.”**

2) Highway 289 Expansion --- Unanswered Concerns:

With the expansion of Highway 289, Grayson County is becoming a huge magnet to attract major businesses and growth to our county. Additionally, we have two things other cities and states want --- we have **WATER** and **CLEAN AIR** so I would say Grayson County is in good contention to attract major businesses to our area.

I am also troubled that the citizens of our county have been largely / somewhat “kept in the dark” about how “the Highway 289 expansion came about. Are you aware that county taxpayers put up \$64,000,000 in bonds without a vote “of the people” for a public / private partnership with a road contractor? Many if not most of our citizens are not aware of this so many are confused.

This partnership was created through a bill passed by the Texas Legislature called “Passed through Financing.” An entity, city or county, could go into a partnership with a private company to build a road. The promise was that the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDot) would pick up the bill (after they accept it.)

TxDot has not yet accepted this road. Another concern is the TxDot is going broke. They are running out of money. Even if they accept Hwy 289, and I hope they will, what will happen in three or four years when there is no money to repay the bill? Are the taxpayers of Grayson County going to end up paying the bill? These are big unknown problems. In fact in today’s Dallas Morning News (October 24th) one of the news article said that the up-coming Texas Legislature will have to deal with a state debt between \$20,000,000 – \$25,000,000. So you see major cuts are going to happen. I hope Grayson County is not stuck with a huge bill that you and I as tax payers will have to pay.

It is interesting but troubling that since that debate when this issue came up, I have been contacted by “some of the powers that be” asking if I have any questions that they might be able to address. YES, I have major questions on your behalf:

- 1) Why wasn't there competitive bidding?
- 2) Why did the contractor not only make his typical profit, but then had a “set up” receiving \$8,500,000 additional extra profit?
- 3) Why should citizens be required to pay for both a non-competitive bid for Hwy 289 plus pay for excessive profits by the contractor?

Our Commissioner's Court has become “a little too friendly” with contractors who business with the county. Taking “free fishing trips to Alaska” and other “favors” is very dubious. In fact, the incumbent County Judge said publicly that he wanted to go on that “Alaska fishing trip,” but he realized it didn't pass his “smell test.” **I commend him for saying that.**

4) It's Your Choice Grayson County?

We are in the closing days of this campaign. I want you to know that I have enjoyed talking and listening to you. I like that one on one, person to person contact when you meet me and I meet you.

On the Fourth of July, we spent the day in Tioga. In fact, Tioga had the best fireworks display in Texoma. These last few weeks we have been at several main street events plus “National Night Outs” around the county. In Collinsville I met a man who relative was the first Grayson County Judge.

As your next County Judge, these are some of the items that I will do:

Be a leader who has the KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS and ABILITIES to get the job done.

Be a “Full-Time County Judge” who will work for you.

- I will not leave the office at 2 pm and be unavailable.

I will bring LEADERSHIP, ACCOUNTABILITY and TRANSPARENCY.

LEADERSHIP ---

- In November of 2009 I finished my Master's Degree in Organizational Leadership from the University of Denver.
 - This degree provided me with the latest skills in leadership, teamwork, and financial management.

ACCOUNTABILITY ---

- Follow the "Open Records Act" and the "Open Meeting Act."
 - One of the first thing an elected official does is follow the law.
 - I will do that.

TRANSPARENCY ---

- Have Commissions' Court meetings shown live on the web where the citizens can hear and see their elected official in action.
- Letting citizens speak at Commissioners' Court.
 - I will restore the "Public Comment" at the weekly meeting.

5) Closing Remarks:

For 16 years I have had the honor and privilege to serve as your Justice of the Peace, serving our county seat. Working in the Courthouse / Justice Center gave me first hand knowledge and insight about the operation of our county government. I saw the good and unfortunately I also saw the bad. As Justice of the Peace, I was on call 24 /7 for 16 years. In fact, I jokingly tell people that my home away from home was the county jail and the local ER at the local hospital because I was there so often.

Public service and community service is what I am about. My core beliefs and values will be based on what is best for the people of our county. One of my favorite passages from the Bible comes from the Old Testament, Book of Micah: "Doing justice, showing kindness and walking humbly among my neighbors and with God." That is my creed and my oath to you as your next County Judge."

Transparency and Openness are two of the best ways to restore trust in our county. I would be honored and humbled if you give me that opportunity.

