

# JEFF MAURICE

## FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 4

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### ABOUT Jeff Maurice and his POSITIONS on the key ISSUES

*Williamson County, Texas* -- As stated in his candidacy and filing announcements, Jeff Maurice is running for Precinct 4 county commissioner because he wants the citizens of the precinct to have better representation on commissioners court, and he wants the county as a whole to find better solutions than have been offered for the problems it now faces.

As an active member of the Hutto Citizens Group and the Williamson County Public Policy Coalition, Jeff already has shown that he can be effective in helping to achieve better solutions for pressing issues. Examples include:

> **Participating** in the effort by which the electric transmission lines crossing the Hutto community will utilize single-pole rather than lattice structures, thus mitigating at least to some extent the objectionable nature of the project.

> **Performing** the research and taking the lead in the successful effort to remove County Judge Dan Gattis as the county budget officer, a position in which Gattis was serving illegally, according to an opinion rendered by the Texas Attorney General.

> **Working** to achieve reform regarding the Williamson County landfill north of Hutto, an effort which has resulted in significant gains for the benefit of citizens at the same time that a great deal of work still needs to be done.

> **Leading** the effort with a group of citizens from across the county to secure the agreement of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality that the recycling center at the landfill was at risk because it was not properly permitted, resulting in the county and landfill contractor filing for a modification of the landfill permit so that the recycling center could operate legally.

> **Advocating** the importance of not raising county property taxes in 2009 because of the county's substantial reserve funds now available. (Despite the agreement of the county auditor that property taxes did not need to be raised, commissioners court voted by a 3-2 to raise them anyway.)

> **Promoting** transparency in the operation of county government by working with other citizens in submitting public information requests so that details about the county's financial operations would not be obscured from public view.

Maurice states, “The significant aspect of the above issues—and other issues as well—is that our present Precinct 4 commissioner, Ron Morrison, has been ineffective in working for reform and solutions. He even voted with the majority for that unnecessary property tax increase in 2009.”

According to Maurice, differences of opinion are understandable on controversial and difficult issues. “However,” he adds, “it's another matter completely when a public official won't even discuss the importance issues with his constituents.”

Maurice points out that Morrison reneged on sponsoring a meeting regarding the landfill in mid-2009, and he would not respond to invitations to attend meetings of the Hutto Citizens Group, though several invitations were offered.

“And, in the absence of dialogue, he failed to speak up on the important and controversial issues in his precinct and the county—such as the transmission lines, the budget officer, the lack of proper permitting for the recycling center, and the disclosure of landfill financials which continue to be obscured,” adds Maurice.

Maurice's position is that Precinct 4 needs a commissioner who is not reluctant to talk with all citizens and all interest groups about important issues and who will work with citizens to find solutions

through reason and cooperation. "It's a fact that one can't possibly get there if there is a refusal to attend meetings and sustain dialogue," Maurice says.

Maurice's resume' shows that he will bring a great deal of expertise to the position of county commissioner. As an attorney and former senior corporate counsel at Dell specializing in contracts, his presence on commissioners court would be a major asset in dealing with the complexities of the county's contracts and other legal issues. His work with citizens and organizations at the grass roots level in the county shows his direct experience with critical issues. And his service for some two years as a member of the board of the Jonah Special Utility District shows how that expertise has been put to use.

"You could describe me as a conservative Democrat with a conscience for delivering needed services," Maurice says. "My disagreement with Morrison on raising county taxes this year speaks for itself, and my concern for the environment and attention to other issues shows my approach to the way county government needs to be managed, all within a framework of direct and continuous communication with citizens--especially those in Precinct 4."

"And," he adds, "that's something we're not getting now."