

February 2007

Collin County has changed rapidly since I was first elected in 1996. Our population then was approximately 400,000 people. Today it is close to 730,000 and still climbing. As rapid as the growth has been the past ten years it will be even faster over the next ten.

In response to this growth, Collin County has taken the following initiatives:

- The expansion of SH 121
- Setting the alignment and beginning construction on the Outer Loop
- Working with the state for the expansion of US 75, US 380, SH 289 and SH 121N along with our FM roads
- Continued extension of the Dallas North Tollway-\$10 million worth of right of way donated
- Working to "drought proof" our water supply
- Upgrading our county roads at record levels
- Assisting in the creation of over \$50 million in parks projects
- Managing almost \$2 billion in road construction projects
- Upgrading salaries and benefits for county employees
- Constructing a new courts facility
- Assisting on the opening and restoration of the Old Courthouse on the Square
- Expanding out detention facilities
- Reforming our indigent health care program
- Bringing county services online
- Creating a homeland security department which has become a national model
- Increasing funding and educational opportunities for volunteer fire departments.
- Working to bring commuter rail to northern Collin County
- Continuing to lower the tax rate

At the end of this term I will have had twelve years of service and I believe it will then be a good time to hand off the responsibility for these issues to someone else who can continue and build on the initiatives listed above. Therefore, I will not be a candidate for county commissioner in 2008.

Even though I am stepping down as county commissioner, I still plan to remain active in politics. I also plan to continue to work hard

throughout this term and to thank you--the citizens of Collin County--for allowing me to serve. Being county commissioner is a job that I have truly loved.

I would also like to thank my colleagues on the commissioners' court. Their leadership is a major reason why this county has grown so successfully. Most of all, I want to thank my family, for without their support none of this would have ever been possible.

Thank you Collin County.