

# Candidates for County Commission Position 3 give their views

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sources. There will be things we have to cut because we can't afford them. For instance, the sheriff's office depends, for 2/3 (\$2 million) of the jail budget, on jail bed rental and that's not a stable funding base.

Hyde – We need to look at common services provided by other entities, for example the last 5-6 years of emergency management, and collectively come together to allow more strategic use of money available. We've been able to increase our capacity with no extra money. So, we'll have to figure out how to provide core services with less money. A lot is mandated so we have to go back to the State if they cut money from mandated services. I think the only time you have substantive change is when you have catastrophic change and I think we're there.

Maygra – I think in order to keep services in place we need to start pay cuts at the top. As commissioner I would expect to take a pay cut before non-salaried. The natural resource depletion fee has not been fully enforced and has not been updated since 1996. That would go straight to the Road Department.

Ward – It doesn't take a lot of money to run my business. At the county level, we need to use money for the necessary services, not things like a new entrance. The city should not be able to set more restrictive rules than the county or state can.

## 2. Should county commissioners continue to assist department heads or should they hire middle managers?



Jim Gibson

Gibson – I'm not sure we can even afford full-time county commissioners. We should

review that through the Home Rule Charter. We need to look at all the alternatives from the top down and if I cut myself out of a paycheck, so be it. We been putting band-aids on for too long.

Hyde – We don't have the luxury of middle managers with the current budgetary constraints.

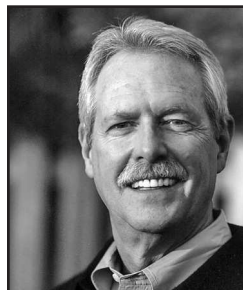
Maygra – I don't think we need middle managers on salary, too.

Ward – I think commissioners should direct department head without middle managers. It's more efficient and allows for more accountability for money spent.

## 3. What do you consider to be the commissioners' duties and responsibilities?

Gibson – Overall policy setting county wide to address how the county is going to function. There are statutory and administrative rules that have to be followed, like on land use decision appeals. Commissioners

set ordinances and then need to enforce them, such as the need to enforce the collection of depletion fees.



Tony Hyde

Hyde – There are quite a few. First and foremost, to see to it that we can deliver both

the mandated services and the rest. I have a list of 47 services the county is responsible to provide, from aging/senior services to the Extension Service. We have to advocate for all the needs of everybody in the county.

Maygra – To be the administrative body for the entire county. Also, I think commissioners need to be more directly associated with citizens. They should help anybody who comes in to see them, rather than passing on the issue. They should go out of their way to help people and mitigate any problems.

Ward – The commissioners responsibility is to operate what goes on in the county; roads, schools, and small business. They should be more hands-on and they need to know in-depth what they are voting on.

## 4. Do you think the incumbents are meeting those responsibilities?

Gibson – I think they've been trying really hard, but the open-

ness side somewhat concerns me. There always appears to be deals being done before we find out about them. I think they work very hard trying to build a good county.

Hyde – I most certainly do. We have a really good team right now with a good relationship. Our knowledge bases give us good background. We don't always agree but we work well together.

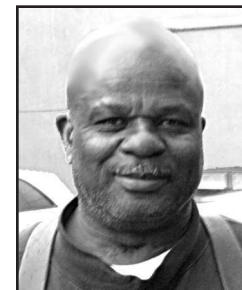


Tammy Maygra

Maygra – No, I don't. On the hospital problem, in 2010 the people voted by 73% to stop

the 38¢ per 1,000 permanent tax and credit the money back to taxpayers. The health district took it to court and had it deemed illegal. The commissioners did not take legal action to defend the measure or support the 73% majority. They did

not listen, people want their money back. If they don't listen to a 73% majority, why would they listen to you?



Reginald Ward

Ward – No, I don't think they are. Because when someone asks them about

something, they voted on they can't answer. If you don't know the answer, you get back to them. Basically, earn your money.

## 5. What improvements or changes would you like to see in county government?

Gibson – I would like, if elected, to create a more open atmosphere and be much more open and responsive to people and their concerns. We have the technological ability to be more open, like posting county

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