

Report on county commissioner

Sarah Alexi - Montgomery County

I interviewed Jim Matheny, the chairman of the Montgomery county commissioner board. Commissioner Matheny has been on the board for almost 8 years. His number one priority is education and working to improve the school system and the board is currently planning to consolidate our two local high schools into one large high school. Also another priority is having a long range plan. His long term concerns are economic development. Also education is in need of public attention. Another thing is that some don't want change, they like things the way they are but commissioner Matheny says "things always need change."

The biggest issues people ask him about are taxes, taxes were raised for education and most people supported it but some did not. Also social services, lots of people in the county depend on it. Another thing is dangerous animals and how to keep the community safe. When he ran for office he was not aware of financial management and the requirements to keep a fund balance. The hardest decision he has faced as a county commissioner is property reevaluation, many people were unhappy with it. He would encourage young people to run for an elected office depending on their interest. It has a great impact on your community. He says they need good people to get involved.

During my interview with Jim Matheny I learned that without government there would be no animal controls, public education, or libraries. Commissioner Matheny also told me "the secret to success is education."

I also attended the September board meeting where I thanked the commissioners for the support of Montgomery County 4-H and Cooperative Extension. Our County Council Officer Team put together glass jars with mints and decorated them with 4-H stickers. We wrote thank you notes and included them with the gift. Our Commissioners do a lot to help with our program and we wanted to thank them for their assistance.

Sarah Alexi

Montgomery County 4-H President