

LOCAL

Smith County Commissioners Call Election Concerning Alcohol Sales in J.P. Precinct 4

Smith County Commissioners Court unanimously agreed to call a local option election for the legal sale of alcohol in Justice of the Peace Precinct 4 during a regular meeting, Monday, Feb. 23, 2009. The local option elec-

tion will place two alcohol-related items on the ballot for the May 9 election.

The two potential ballot items are for "the legal sale of mixed beverages in restaurants by food and beverage certificate holders only," and "the legal sale of

beer and wine for off-premise consumption only." The items will only be voted on by the residents of J.P. Precinct 4.

The Smith County Citizens for Economic Growth submitted the 1,509 signatures required to call

for an election to Smith County Elections Administrator Karen Cheney in early February. Ms. Cheney verified the authenticity of each signature as a registered voter in the J.P. Precinct 4 boundary. Commissioners must

call the election by law. The decision to allow alcohol sales in Smith County will be determined by those living in the affected area.

"The outcome of this election is entirely in the hands of the voters J.P. Precinct 4," County Judge

Joel Baker said. Justice of the Peace Precinct 4 includes parts of Tyler, Winona, New Chapel Hill and Overton, and spans the north-east corner of Smith County.

As of this date, no opposition group has filed.

Coe

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and the new water tower for increased storage." Coe said.

Coe and her husband moved to this area to provide better opportunities for their children.

"As a council member, I can work toward providing opportunity for my children and my fellow citizens' children and grandchildren," Coe said. "I would like to have the right businesses come to the city and to see people's desire to live in Bullard match or exceed people's desire to live in the Bullard Independent School District."

Coe said, although she and her family have only lived in Bullard for a little less than 7 years, she grew up in a small town in which she was actively involved in the growth of the community, city government, economic development and county government.

"I understand the processes that must be taken in order to insure the best possible resolutions to issues that directly and indirectly affect the citizens,"

Coe said. "I have an extensive banking and legal background and have been in leadership and management roles for more than 20 years."

For the past year Coe has served as a member and Secretary of the Board of Directors for the Bullard Economic and Development Corporation. She is attending a nine-month Leadership Development course with Dr. Marilyn Young, a professor at the University of Texas.

Coe is currently a Vice President of Austin Bank and manager of the Central Loan Documentation Department and of the bank.

Coe also is on the Bullard Economic Development Corporation board and is a junior high Sunday School teacher at First Baptist Church of Bullard.

She and her husband Jody and have three children, two of which attend Bullard schools.

County adopts new road acceptance infrastructure policy for Tyler ETJ

Smith County Commissioners Court unanimously voted to accept a new subdivision and road infrastructure policy during a regular meeting this week. The new policy will complement and support a recent agreement with the City of Tyler to set new standards for construction within the

city's extra territorial jurisdiction (ETJ).

"These new standards help support an agreement between Smith County and the City of Tyler that will help improve transparency and accountability in the building projects that come into the county maintenance inventory and help

the city and county to promote well-built roads in the future," Smith County Judge Joel Baker Said.

Urban growth, private development, and increasing heavy-haul traffic and stress on county roads are among the reasons that Smith County has needed to update and clarify its subdivi-

sion regulations and policies for acceptance of county roads into its maintenance system.

The new policies comply with state law and streamline the acceptance of roads into county maintenance while being careful not to allow public money to be used on private roads.

Stewart

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tions -- the city's businesses, BISD and the Brook Hill School.

"We need to partner and find a way to grow strategically," Stewart said. "I would like to see the city develop a master plan. We already have some great ordinances in place, but we need to think about future land use."

Stewart said he also hopes to maintain a good working relationship with Texas Department of

Transportation engineers.

"Bullard has three major roadways -- all of which are controlled by TxDOT," Stewart said. "We need open lines of constant communication with these engineers, so they know what Bullard needs."

Another major concern which plagues Bullard is the city's ETJ (Extra Territorial Jurisdiction).

"If we don't work with Tyler they are going to encapsulate us," Stewart

said.

Stewart said, if given the opportunity to represent Bullard, he will be the type of councilman who listens to the needs of the people and addresses the matters brought to his attention.

"If that means sometimes being the voice of opposition, I am comfortable in that role," he said.

Stewart said Bullard is unique in the mixture of life-long residents and new-

comers.

"We all have on commonality; we like where we live," he said.

In addition to his public roles, Stewart is a deacon at First Baptist Church of Tyler, South Campus. He also teaches Sunday School.

Stewart has been in the insurance business for more than 20 years.

He and Aimee, his wife of 19 years, have three sons, who all attend school in BISD.

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- ✓ Chamber of Commerce Chairman of the Board
- ✓ Active Member of First Baptist Church of Bullard

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