



August 19, 2024

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The following statement was issued today by Bill Petty's campaign. Mr. Petty is the Republican nominee in District 10's open seat on the Williamson County Commission for the November 5 election. The statement is attributed to Don Beehler, a spokesman for Mr. Petty's campaign.

On August 13, District 10 voters selected Bill Petty by a 2-1 margin for the Republican nominee to serve as Williamson County Commissioner for District 10. By any measure this election was a landslide, and we are grateful to the voters who supported him.

Our campaign team worked hard, but what really made the difference was Mr. Petty's connection with District 10 voters, his listening to their concerns and his ability to identify and build on areas of agreement. Mr. Petty's knowledge of the issues that matter to voters, especially the urgent need to get Williamson County's \$1.2 billion debt and growth under control, likewise gained him support.

The next day Joe T. Williams, a bona fide Republican who voted in the August 13 convention, pulled a petition to run against Mr. Petty as an Independent.

His X/Twitter profile describes Mr. Williams as "Christian, husband, dad, writer, broadcaster, speaker, garbage man." We look forward to learning more about Mr. Williams' qualifications, knowledge of the issues and his approach to solving the many challenges our county faces.

While we have many questions about Mr. Williams and his candidacy, what we do know about him is that when he didn't like the primary result, he immediately abandoned the Republican Party and joined another team.

Bill Petty is a team player who is loyal to his country, his community and his party. He is a Christian, husband, dad and grandfather. He also is a military veteran; a retired teacher and coach; and former owner of a construction company.

Mr. Petty is an effective problem solver, collaborator and communicator. He has pledged to listen respectfully to his District 10 residents, work with them to find solutions to the issues that are important to them and to represent all his constituents with integrity and transparency. He is engaged, qualified and trustworthy.

One of Mr. Williams broadcast partners for covering local high school football games is former Franklin Alderman Dana McLendon. In a June 17, 2021, *Williamson Herald* article, Mr. McLendon advised those seeking to become more engaged in their community to "Watch a city meeting."

We think that is excellent advice, but did Mr. Williams follow it? After talking with a number of highly involved citizens, and even elected officials, no one can remember seeing Joe Williams at any local government meeting. In the interests of transparency, we hope that Mr. Williams will disclose how

many city, county, school board and election commission meetings he has attended in the past year, and what he has learned from them that would help him be an effective county commissioner.

In contrast, for more than a year Mr. Petty has regularly attended BOMA, county commission, election commission, school board and budget meetings. Each Friday, he writes a weekly update for the community to keep them informed of developments. Through this engagement with the community, he has learned a great deal about the challenges in Williamson County and is ready to put a lifetime of experience, knowledge and skills to work addressing those challenges.

On his Facebook page, Mr. Williams claims that “compromise for the common good is not a dirty word.” Historically, the words “the common good” have been used to justify all sorts of abuses, especially by governments, so the use of that term begs the question: Who defines what is “the common good” for our community? Does this compromise include one’s principles?

Mr. Petty believes the voters are the best judges of what’s appropriate for the community.

We look forward to hearing Mr. Williams’ answers about how he defines what is the common good for Williamson County, his insights into how he would resolve differences of opinions about what constitutes “the common good” and what role he believes residents should play in making that determination. We also look forward to him providing specifics on what he believes are the key issues for voters and how he plans to protect Williamson County’s quality of life and our children’s future.

For more information about Mr. Petty’s campaign, visit <http://votebillpetty.com/>

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