

An Answer

Since our District Clerk's Office is one of the most highly regarded in the State, hopefully, the gray, gloomy, negative adds about our office will not be effective. We are always striving for improvements and technological enhancements, but budgets must also be maintained.

The career my opponent refers to "starting" in the District Clerk's Office consisted of 8 MONTHS 25 years ago as an entry level clerk with no management duties, no computers, and a 300 % turnover in personnel. I don't believe it could have been much of a learning experience.

Our office hours are 8:00 am. until 4:30 pm. We do not close for lunch. We are open for business for 8 ½ hours daily. We are in the office until 5:00. All the Judges are aware we are there and available for any emergency issuance of process. The time spent between 4:30 and 5:00 is used for individuals to balance their cash drawers, assemble passport transmittal forms, and complete filing documents in case jackets delayed during the day due to serving customers. After cash drawers are balanced, they are turned over to the Financial Manager, who must then compile the daily deposit and run the daily Financial Reports.

My opponent does not understand that cut-off times are necessary. Courthouse Security leaves at 5:00, leaving a single guard in the Courthouse Lobby. You can't plan flextime around a family of 4 or 5 coming in at 4:50 for passports. Each passport takes a MINIMUM of 15 minutes and an average of 20 minutes. By the time each passport is processed, transmittals are complete and the cash drawer is balanced, you're into some major overtime. AND, the monies still have to be turned over to Financials, the deposit still has to be compiled, and the daily reports still have to be run. It's not fair to employees, especially the two in Financials, who would have to work late every night. They have husbands and children that they would like to see at dinner and certainly before bedtime.

My opponent claims the legal community supporting her outnumbers my support 2 to 1. Not true – I would offer the Ethics Commission Campaign Finance Reports to dispute that claim. The numbers of attorneys contributing to my campaign outnumber hers 2 to 1 and other citizen contributions by 6 to 1. My monetary contributions exceed hers by 2.5 times, yet her expenditures are double mine, with over \$56,000 spent from her own personal loans. Not the act of a conservative or fiscally responsible person, in my opinion.

In closing, I would state again that I am very proud of the Collin County District Clerk's Office. With a staff of 68 employees and a 5 million dollar budget, inexperienced management would be devastating to the Office, the District Courts, and the Collin County taxpayer.

Please vote for experience.

Vote Patricia Wysong Crigger for Collin County District Clerk