

# MARGARETTE WILLIAMS

**1. 2023 saw an almost total meltdown of the Quorum Court operation and much of county government. What could you do (or what did you do) as JP to improve the situation? I am not aware of what you have termed as a "total meltdown of the Quorum Court operations." Contrary to what is consistently portrayed in the media, Jefferson County legislative officials can document the passage of significant numbers of legislation for the 2023 year.**

**2. What are two goals you would have as a JP in the next term and how would you pay for them if financing is required? I would love to sponsor and/or support legislation to build economic development for training our youth and young adults as county interns throughout the county. These individuals can work alongside county officials to learn the operations of county government while advancing their skills and crafts in the present and for future employment opportunities in the workforce of Jefferson County.**

**Jefferson County Mental Health collaborations with schools, children, youth, family services and county government are, in my opinion, opportunities to build capacity for advancing the county from several pillars of strength within this community.**

**3. What are some of the key issues associated with your district and how would you address them? I live in District 6 of Jefferson County, a majority rural and county geographical area.**



**Key issues for my district include the expansion of broadband infrastructure and capability, new and improved construction for county roads, drainage for ditches, keeping county roads clean and generally free from debris, grass-cutting service along the highways, and communicating with the constituents in the area. Adequate communication is necessary for the people to know they have an advocate on the court who is concerned about what is important to persons living in rural Jefferson County.**

**4. We have heard complaints from county residents about the condition of the roads. Is the county doing enough to keep them in good shape? And what can a JP do to improve them? I believe the county can do more; specifically, in the area of communicating how and when roads are selected across the county for service. Whether the service is a complete resurfacing and building up of a road or just to fill in potholes, gaps, and damages in the road due to age and deterioration, I would like to see more timeline approaches to selecting and completing road work. With that being stated, the county completed 39.52 miles of road resurfacing in 2023. This is a positive increase in work completed on roads for 2022. A resurfacing plan for 2023 includes several roads that are located in District 6.**

**We realize that work for some roads will carry over to 2024. In 2023 and here in 2024, allocations were passed beyond the already approved road budget by the Quorum Court, in excess of 1.2 million dollars to maintain operations and upkeep of county roads. The Jefferson County Road Department is responsible for repairs and for maintaining the integrity of all roads in the county. The County Judge and road department staff oversee the day-to-day operations of road repairs and services.**

**5. One of the jobs of the Quorum Court is to levy the various millages in the county. This year, because of the dysfunction previously mentioned, the levying of taxes went down to the wire and was approved at the last minute, putting at risk all of these millages and the operations those tax dollars fund. School superintendents and mayors became highly concerned because the inaction of the Quorum Court would have had catastrophic consequences for their operations. Can you say how you reacted during this period as a JP and why OR say how you would have reacted as a JP during this period? The tax millage was indeed passed in a timely manner by the Quorum Court. An actual vote of eight to five was provided by the County Clerk's office to the County Judge's office. Why that information was not passed on to the public can be best answered by the County Judge.**

**6. Anything else you want to say?**

**I will continue to work diligently for the constituents of District 6 and all of Jefferson County in 2024 as I did in 2023, my first year serving as a Justice of the Peace on the Quorum Court.**