

## Report on county commissioner

Sarah Alexi - Montgomery County

On August 18, 2015 I interviewed Jim Matheny, the Montgomery county commissioner. Commissioner Matheny has been on the board for almost 7 years. He has not yet decided if will run again or not his term expires next year. His number one priority is education and working to improve the school system. 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 fun 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."