



LAW OFFICES OF

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March 24, 2010

Letter to the Editor  
Temple Daily Telegram  
Temple, Texas

Re: Judge Burrows Delusion

I didn't know whether to laugh or cry when I read the article ("Bell County in good shape", TDT, 24 Mar 10) about Judge Burrow's "State of the County" presentation before a fawning audience. I did not attend the event because, like most Bell County taxpayers, I needed to work in order to earn money to pay for sky-rocketing property taxes. Judge Burrows supposedly peppered his presentation with slides – are they available for free on the County website so we can see what he got so excited about? Or must we file a FOIA request and pay an administrative fee to get a copy?

Personally, I want to see the slide show *sans* the County Judge's spin. I am curious: did the slides depict the significant number of County residents who live below the national poverty line; did they expose the significant salary increases our elected officials have enjoyed over the past several years; did they outline retirement perks and other bennies our local politicians enjoy; did they address the burdensome property tax increases most of us shouldered this past year or did they just highlight Judge Burrows' standard sanitized mantra about "tax rates"? Most importantly, did any slide specify when this cluster of officials will terminate seemingly perpetual political careers?

Judge Burrows heralded the County's fiscal state as "good" – a bit disingenuous, I think, inasmuch as revenues did not meet expenses. So he was forced to admit that the County will have to "take \$5.8 million out of reserves to balance the budget." Wow – what if we could all just follow suit and dip into private "reserves" in order to make ends meet? Of course, we can't! When our expenses exceed income, we must close shop and face financial ruin. We do not share the politician's luxury of shifting funds between coffers and accounts when the going gets rough. I suspect none of the Judge's slides focused on these troubling issues. Let's not forget - he presented "a slide show" whereas the rest of us live in "the real world."

Sincerely,



John P. Galligan



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March 21, 2010

Letter to the Editor  
Temple Daily Telegram  
Temple, Texas

**Re: The Obama – Burrows Connection**

Watching Congressional action on the so-called Health Care Reform brought back many memories of the Bell County Jail Bond Elections several years ago. Last minute deals cut by the White House and questionable legislative procedures will no doubt land the President with a bill to sign that he will herald as historic. For many, however, that same process will harden the negative opinions they harbor about Congress, politicians, and President Barack Hussein Obama. The whole process reminded me of the procedural tinkering that Bell County Judge Burrows employed to circumvent the voice of the people in two bond elections. However viewed, Judge Burrows and President Obama were willing to do just about anything to achieve their objectives. In both cases, the voice of the people and the value of our vote were irreparably harmed as we found the commonweal subjugated to the whim of political arrogance.

by

Sincerely,

John P. Galligan