

I am Tom Blog, Candidate for County Commissioner, District 2, District 2 serves the NW and W part of the county as well as the S. Capital area.

Thanks:

Voices of Santa Fe

My Wife & children for support and patience – only 26 more days!

The People of Santa Fe, both here and at home – there has been a lot of politics this year, and it a credit to your good citizenship and your concern about the community that you are watching and listening. Only 26 more days!

Let me tell you about myself:

I was born in Panama, my father was an air traffic controller. We moved to Albuquerque when I was 14. I went to Jr. High and High School in Albuquerque. I then earned a degree in computer science with minor study in economics at UNM. There weren't many jobs in New Mexico so I went to work in Chicago. There I met wife and have been happily married for 13 years. We move back to New Mexico, this time to Santa Fe in 1995, in time to have two lovely twins at St. Vincent. I have lived in Santa Fe for 9 years and in New Mexico for 18. There is no better place to live!

While in Chicago, I started a high tech company that grew to over 45 people. Many employees were political refugees. Often I went without pay to pay them. My proudest professional achievement was seeing them buy houses and putting their kids though college. I understand how business can and should work to serve owners, employees and the community!

I have always been involved in my community. I served on a Village Planning Commission in Chicago, focusing on land use. I worked on a suicide prevention hotline, I have been a hotline worker and court advocated for a domestic violence shelter, I

volunteer for the Rape Crisis center teaching Project Aware to 4<sup>th</sup> graders. My wife and I have received an award from Archbishop Sheehan for our work with Catholic Charities and the Teen Mom program. I am on the board of AYSO providing low cost summer soccer for almost 700 kids.

I am a pilot and the New Mexico coordinator for Angel Flight, providing free air transportation for people needing to get to medical treatment.

I am a strong believer in working ‘on the street’ with the community.

Santa Fe is a historical and good place to live. The County Commission, along with the City Council, plays an important role in our quality of life, and our children’s quality of life. We face many hard issues, all of which must be addressed with honesty, hard work, debate and open communications.

My priority is water, growth and city/county relations. Everything flows from this. The County and city must work together to develop, build and operate a regional water system. This doesn’t just mean RG diversion projects – this means planning and building a truly conjunctive regional water and sewage system. There must be consistent water use rules between the city and the county. Zoning and land use must be coordinated between the two and based on realizing that water will always be scarce, and that growth, good or bad, is what we make it.

Simply providing water does not insure sensible growth. The County must step up to the plate and link land use and zoning to real water. Much of the early work has been done – staff and citizens worked for years to developed the Growth Management Plan. The Commission must find the backbone to change this plan into enforceable ordinances.

The County must face up to the cost of growth. Growth is an investment, but that investment should not be made only by current citizens. There must be fair impact fees, based on the services impacted: Fire & Police protection, schools, water, roads, and that lurking time bomb, the jail. Money collected from these fees must go only to the budgets of the services impacted, and not to general revenue.

Water and sewage are necessary but not sufficient for a good quality of life. The county must continue taking bonds to the people for open space, trails and small community parks.

None of this is possible if the citizens don't trust their elected leaders. People must believe their leaders are looking out, not for themselves, but for all citizens. Honesty is the cornerstone of my involvement with anything. I will push for an ethics and disclosure ordinance. To this end, I have posted my land ownership, my property & federal taxes, and all campaign income and expenses on my website. I have posted all special interest questionnaires and my replies. I have pledged not to do business with the County during my term and for two years after leaving office.

Too much is at stake. The Commission must be more open and transparent. I pledge minimum use of executive sessions. By law, the County does post agendas, but they must raise the bar and post quarterly financials, all minutes and all voting records to the web in a searchable format. All of county government must be accessible to you!

Thanks for being here. Listen and ask hard questions. I'm Tom Blog, and I hope to earn your vote for County Commissioner on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

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