

Hello everybody. I have had nice discussions with both candidates for District 2 County Commissioner. I ran for the County Commission, because I felt that there were several important challenges facing individual communities, and Cobb County as a whole.

One of our biggest long-term challenges is traffic. Past overdevelopment is already straining the capacity of roads in various places throughout the County. Continued overdevelopment in the wrong places will cause severe traffic problems, and the cost for expensive improvements will fall on Cobb taxpayers.

Bob Ott understands the importance and the relevance of planning future development so that it will not exceed the capacity of our roads and other infrastructure. Bob wants to work with communities throughout the District to develop appropriate plans for their areas, including planning future development that would not exceed the capacity of our roads.

We have been told that our biggest long-term challenge is water. I like Bob's focus on exploring a variety of innovative ideas. I also think Bob has achieved a better understanding of the need to consider the impact on our water supply, when making zoning decisions.

The Cobb County Civic Coalition (CCCC) has made important recommendations to protect neighborhoods, and to plan where Cobb County can accommodate high density, but also plan where such development would adversely impact other neighborhoods, and where we don't have the infrastructure capacity to support such development. During the campaign, Bob was already talking about the need for planning future development. During our discussions, Bob has expressed his agreement with many of the CCCC recommendations.

Many individual communities have different challenges throughout the District. Bob does not want a one-size-fits-all approach to planning. He wants people in each community to plan their future. The Vinings Homeowners Association developed a plan for the Vinings "impact area" several years ago. We have repeatedly tried to get the County to adopt our recommendations. Several County officials were willing to support our recommendations, if Commissioner Thompson would support them. He refused. This week, Commissioner Thompson has reversed his opposition to adopting such a plan. But Bob Ott has expressed a superior understanding of the need for such guidelines for Vinings, and the appropriateness of our specific recommendations. Adopting such guidelines is consistent with his advocacy of adopting such plans based on community input.

I'm not interested in criticizing anybody, or rehashing the past. In fact, I want to thank Commissioner Thompson for his many years of service to the community. But, now, it's time for a change.

My agenda has been to protect neighborhoods, improve traffic congestion, and protect our water supply. Of the two remaining candidates, I believe that Bob will do a better job of managing these issues. I urge you to support and vote for Bob Ott.

Thanks

Ron Sifen