

UCRC QUESTIONNAIRE

John Mathias

- (1) **Why I'm a Republican.** In the long tradition of the Republican Party, I don't believe government is the best solution for everything. I am fiscally conservative and socially progressive. I believe in the inherent dignity of the individual, regardless of their race, religion, gender or economic station. I also believe in personal integrity and responsibility. These are values that have put me in good stead for my entire career. They have served me well the past 10 years I have served as Commissioner, and are values that will continue to guide my life.
- (2) **Pressing needs and priorities.** My priorities for the next four years are:
- a. the continued development of the Resource Center as a vehicle to provide a structure for those in the criminal justice system and those who just need a boost to get their lives on track;
 - b. the continued focus on multi-county regional solutions in the areas of human services, economic development, public safety, technology, and criminal justice taking advantage of economies of scale;
 - c. the transition of the Rail Trail to county oversight;
 - d. internally, the development of a financial forecasting model and continued emphasis on organizational development;
 - e. the disposition of Great Streams Commons.
- (3) **What I bring to being a commissioner.** The job of a county commissioner is largely administrative. Our responsibility is to oversee the programs in the county as set forth by the state legislature, such as human services, elections, county planning, corrections, etc. It is the commissioners' responsibility to maintain the organization and staffing, and to provide the financial resources to manage the delivery of those programs. I have spent my entire career, spanning over 40 years, in the areas of organizational development, financial management, human resources, and information technology. I have utilized that experience and those skills in my last ten years as commissioner to oversee the rebuilding of the financial reporting system to take advantage of the latest technology. Likewise, the salary system was overhauled to reflect current job responsibilities and market compensation data to make the system fairer. Along with the implementation of a real estate assessment and taxation system, we now have the basis to develop longer range financial forecasting models.