

# HUGH COLEMAN:

## Fighting for the Taxpayer Since 2009



*Photo By Mandy Smithers*

In an era when public approval and trust in our governmental institutions is at historic lows, one name stands out as a steady and consistent voice on behalf of the taxpayer – Commissioner Hugh Coleman. Since taking office in 2009, Coleman has been one of Denton County’s leading advocates for fiscal restraint, open and transparent government, and prioritizing improvements of our roadways and infrastructure.

It was a banner year in 2019 for Coleman’s taxpayer-first agenda. This year, he helped lead the Denton County Commissioners Court in adopting the lowest county tax rate in 33 years. At 0.2153 cents per \$100 of property valuation, Coleman has overseen a 21% reduction in the tax rate since 2014. Additionally, he championed and helped pass a property tax freeze for senior citizens, so that all Denton County property owners who are 65 or older will see their county property taxes drop or be capped at their present level.

Coleman has also opposed the creation of high-tax special districts in the unincorporated sections of Denton County. These governmental entities are created for developers to subsidize residential development, something

Coleman believes impose unnecessarily high taxes, lack transparency and compound community infrastructure problems in rural areas.

“These districts were originally created to provide the needed infrastructure for rural counties in areas that needed economic help,” said Coleman. “But now they’ve just been turned into a way for developers to get low-price financing for their high-density developments outside of urban areas. When I point this out, it doesn’t always make me the most popular guy in town. However, I don’t serve the developers. I serve the taxpayers, and I go to work every day to honor the trust they have placed in me.”

While his efforts to rein in taxes and protect taxpayers have made headlines, no discussion of Hugh Coleman would be complete without talking about roads. Known as a ‘warrior’ for transportation planning during his time in office, he successfully fought for the funding needed with the Texas Department of Transportation to expand FM 423, FM 720, FM 2181, FM 455, FM2499, US 377, FM 2931, FM 1385 and US 380. All of those projects are either being planned, are underway, or are completed. Additionally, he’s partnered with area cities to expand municipal

streets such as Mayhill in Denton, Lake Sharon and Parkridge Blvd. in Corinth, McReynolds Road and Cowling in Sanger, Teal and Stonebrook in Frisco, and Naylor in Crossroads. Coleman said he’s learned that making meaningful progress on transportation issues is all about playing the long game.

“When it comes to transportation funding and road construction, nothing is quick and easy,” Coleman concluded. “You’ve got to fight hard, never take ‘no’ for an answer, and understand that getting a project completed is often a war of attrition. It’s certainly not glamorous, but in my experience those who stick it out and slug their way through the bureaucracy, delays and roadblocks can achieve great things for their community.”

You can find out more about Hugh Coleman on his website at [www.hughcoleman.com](http://www.hughcoleman.com). You can also connect with him on Facebook @HughColeman2020 or on Twitter @HughEColeman.