

## About the Candidate

Michael Masters was born and raised in Glenpool, Oklahoma where he has developed a lifelong appreciation of family and a sense of community that he instills in his children today.

Michael graduated from the University of Oklahoma and quickly chose to return to the area and start a family in Bixby, Oklahoma where he presently resides. Michael is currently an AP Government Teacher with the Owasso Public Schools.

Michael is married to his wife Casey Harper Masters for over six years, and together they are raising two beautiful children, McClain and Max.

## Why I'm Running

My family is what matters the most to me. They are the reason I am running. I know that your family is what matters most to you and I truly believe that we can have a county government worthy of the communities that it represents. With all of our families having to look for new ways of making ends meet, I believe that our county government should do so as well.

I want to bring sensibility back to our county government that ensures legitimate spending of taxpayer dollars. I will always look at the job from the everyday taxpayer's viewpoint — keeping your best interests in mind. I feel we need to actively pursue changing the Tulsa County Ad Valorem Tax, specifically the local Fixed Millage.

## How have I Prepared?

I have spoken with the various members of the Tulsa County Board, and other county and city officials to both introduce myself to them as well as get a deeper understanding of the complexities, challenges and requirements that I would tackle if I am elected to the position of Tulsa County Commissioner for District 3.

I have also been studying both the issues, as well as potential options to save hard earned tax payer dollars. When it comes to the tax payers of Tulsa County, I believe that anything that reduces the tax burden is something that should be seriously looked into. I don't believe that by continuously burdening the tax payers with projects that "could" or would "potentially" bring growth are a viable model to pursue in this economy. They are stretched far enough. I believe it is time to elect people that can stand up for the constituents they represent, not special interest or select business groups within the city and county. Enough is enough! I personally believe that neither of my opponents have that ability or the track record to prove it.

**Michael T. Masters**

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**Tulsa County Commissioner Dist. #3**

I believe the people of Tulsa County should know exactly where their tax dollars are going and how they can be better used.

I am concerned with economic development for District 3 that benefits all taxpayers not just a select few. I believe that roads and bridges are an essential element in a successful economic development plan for our county. We need the current infrastructure properly maintained and developed upon to move goods and services more effectively while also attracting major events that generate revenue for the county.



## **#1 Issue of My Campaign**

To bring sensibility back to our county government that ensures more legitimate spending of taxpayer dollars. Keeping more tax dollars in the pockets of the taxpayers. I see a viable way to do this being to actively pursue changing the Tulsa County Ad Valorem Tax, specifically the local Fixed Millage. I am sure there are more ways to save, and I will look for these ways if I am elected to office.

## **Top 3 issues for My District**

**#1:** Reviewing fixed millage to save the constituents money on their property taxes.

**#2:** Work to be more transparent with all dealings related to the county, more specifically being open to bettering relationships with the surrounding municipalities of the county.

**#3:** Making sure we retain and work to grow the residential population and not lose them to Wagoner or Rogers counties without adding to the burden of the taxpayers. This will also aide in providing funds for our schools that are vitally needed.

## **Communication between the Commissioner and Citizens is important. If elected, what are your ideas to increase the flow between them?**

I feel my focus would be on transparency. First, I would look at the current communication systems and tools in place and work on bettering them. The current website is NOT a useful tool. It does not easily provide any kind of information that the constituents could use to gain better understanding on how the board truly runs, how their tax dollars are spent and current projects that are either being accomplished or up for bid. This is not only my opinion, yet one of hundreds of the constituents I have spoken to over the course of the last six months.

This is only one solution. I would also propose a satellite office for each commissioner to use instead of looking to build a new, large facility when revenues are not only down, but when one is not really needed. I believe that if the county commissioners were more

easily accessed by the constituency, there would be more opportunity for informed, and well thought out decisions that can be made for them. Ones that save tax dollars, not the wasteful spending and or mismanagement that "somehow" just happens.

Everyone works too hard at making a living and providing for their families. I think that both the incumbent and the other candidate have lived far too comfortably to truly understand how hard it is for the constituents of District 3. If they lack in that understanding, then misguided ideals dictate the decisions that are made.