

Williamson County Citizen's Report

September 30, 2008



*Issued by:
David U. Flores
Williamson County Auditor*



From the Williamson County Auditor:



March 25, 2009

AUDITOR'S OFFICE
Williamson County Courthouse
710 South Main Street, Suite 301
Georgetown, Texas 78626
Phone: 512/943-1500
Fax: 512/943-1567



Dear Citizens of Williamson County,

I am pleased to present the annual Williamson County Citizens' Financial Report, (also known as the Popular Annual Financial Report or "PAFR") for fiscal year ended September 30, 2008. This financial summary provides a less technical discussion of County finances. It also includes discussions of County initiatives and trends in the local economy. This important economic data presents a brief explanation of where county-wide resources come from and how they are spent; then, focusing only on the County's major funds and how they affect you, the citizen.

The Williamson County Auditor's Office has generated this Citizens' Report using financial information taken from the 2008 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) that was audited by Pattillo, Brown & Hill, LLP, and received an unqualified opinion. Unlike the CAFR, this report is not presented in Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and reporting standards, meaning it's a financial report that is user friendly.

This report is not intended to replace the CAFR; it is simply presented as a means of increasing public confidence in County government. For a complete set of County financials, please refer to the CAFR, which is available from the Williamson County Auditor's Office located in the newly-restored Williamson County Courthouse at 710 Main St., Ste #301, Georgetown, TX 78626. In addition, both the CAFR and PAFR are on the County website at www.wilcogov.org. I invite you to share any questions, concerns or recommendations you may have with this office.

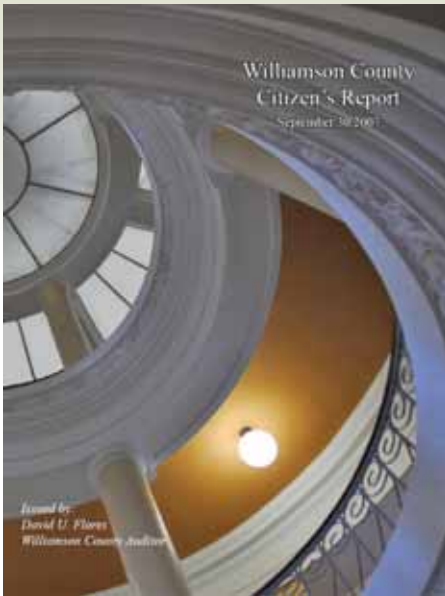
Respectfully submitted,

David U. Flores
Williamson County Auditor



David U. Flores has a BBA from Texas A&I University-Kingsville, Texas. He was a teacher and a merchant before becoming the County Auditor for Dimmit County. He served as the County Auditor for Dimmit County for 9 years from 1980 - 1988 and has since served as the County Auditor for Williamson County having been sworn in during January of 1989. He has been a trustee for the Texas County and District Retirement System and is a past president for the Texas Association of County Auditors. Mr. Flores currently serves as the Chairman of the Investment Committee for the Texas Association of Counties.

The Goal of this Popular Report to Citizens



As in previous years, the purpose of this report is to present an easy to read financial position of Williamson County government, to help instill taxpayer confidence in their government and to highlight some of the services provided to our citizens and taxpayers. In the past, we have focused on Emergency Medical Services, the County and District Court Systems, Law Enforcement, the Road and Bridge Department and the financing and completion of some of the many and varied capital projects around the county.

This year, we are highlighting our services that improve the quality of life for the citizens of Williamson County. From the beauty of our parks to the care of our animals to our excellent economic picture, many factors combine to make Williamson County a terrific place to live! We hope you find this report helpful and informative about what County government does for you.

The Award-Winning Report for 2007!

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to Williamson County for its Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2007. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.

In order to receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report, whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability and reader appeal.

An Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current report continues to conform to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA.





The Office of the County Auditor acts as the Steward of Public Funds

The Williamson County Auditor's Office is the supervisory body of County funds. Maintaining the integrity of financial administration in County government is essential and is provided by the Auditor's Office through an independent system of checks and balances. As the County's chief financial officer, it is the Auditor's responsibility to:

- **Properly account for millions of dollars received by the County each year.**
- **Manage and account for County debt.**
- **By statute, audit all books and records of County officials.**
- **Enforce all Texas laws governing County finances.**
- **Advisor to Commissioner's Court concerning financial conditions and County policies as they affect the decision-making process.**
- **Dual role with the Commissioner's Court in the process of approving and issuing payments with authorized funds.**
- **Administer, report, and forecast revenues in the County budget as set by the Commissioner's Court.**
- **Issue payments for all County obligations through Accounts Payable, including administering the County payroll.**
- **Prepare the County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) as required by law.**
- **Provide day to day financial information on the County web-site through the Financial Center; a fully integrated Oracle system.**

Cutting edge of Technology:

Unlike many other local governments, the Williamson County Auditor's office is committed to providing state of the art accounting and analysis of the public funds.



Our completely interactive, real-time Financial Center has been developed to provide all county departments with current, up-to-the-minute financial information in order to facilitate sound financial decision making. This information can be accessed from any web-connected desktop, wireless access or personal hand-held devices.



Williamson County Government

Your Elected Officials:

District Judges:

Billy Ray Stubblefield
Ken Anderson
Burt Carnes
Michael Jergins
Mark Silverstone

Judge, 26th Judicial District
Judge, 277th Judicial District
Judge, 368th Judicial District
Judge, 395th Judicial District
Judge, 425th Judicial District

County Court at Law:

Suzanne Brooks
Tim Wright
Don Higginbotham
John McMaster

Judge, County Court at Law #1
Judge, County Court at Law #2
Judge, County Court at Law #3
Judge, County Court at Law #4

Commissioner's Court:

Dan A. Gattis
Lisa Birkman
Cynthia Long
Valerie Covey
Ron Morrison

County Judge
Commissioner, Precinct #1
Commissioner, Precinct #2
Commissioner, Precinct #3
Commissioner, Precinct #4

Justice of the Peace:

Dain Johnson
Edna Staudt
Steve Benton
Judy Hobbs

Justice of the Peace, Precinct #1
Justice of the Peace, Precinct #2
Justice of the Peace, Precinct #3
Justice of the Peace, Precinct #4

Constables:

Robert Chody
Dale Vannoy
Bobby Gutierrez
Marty Ruble

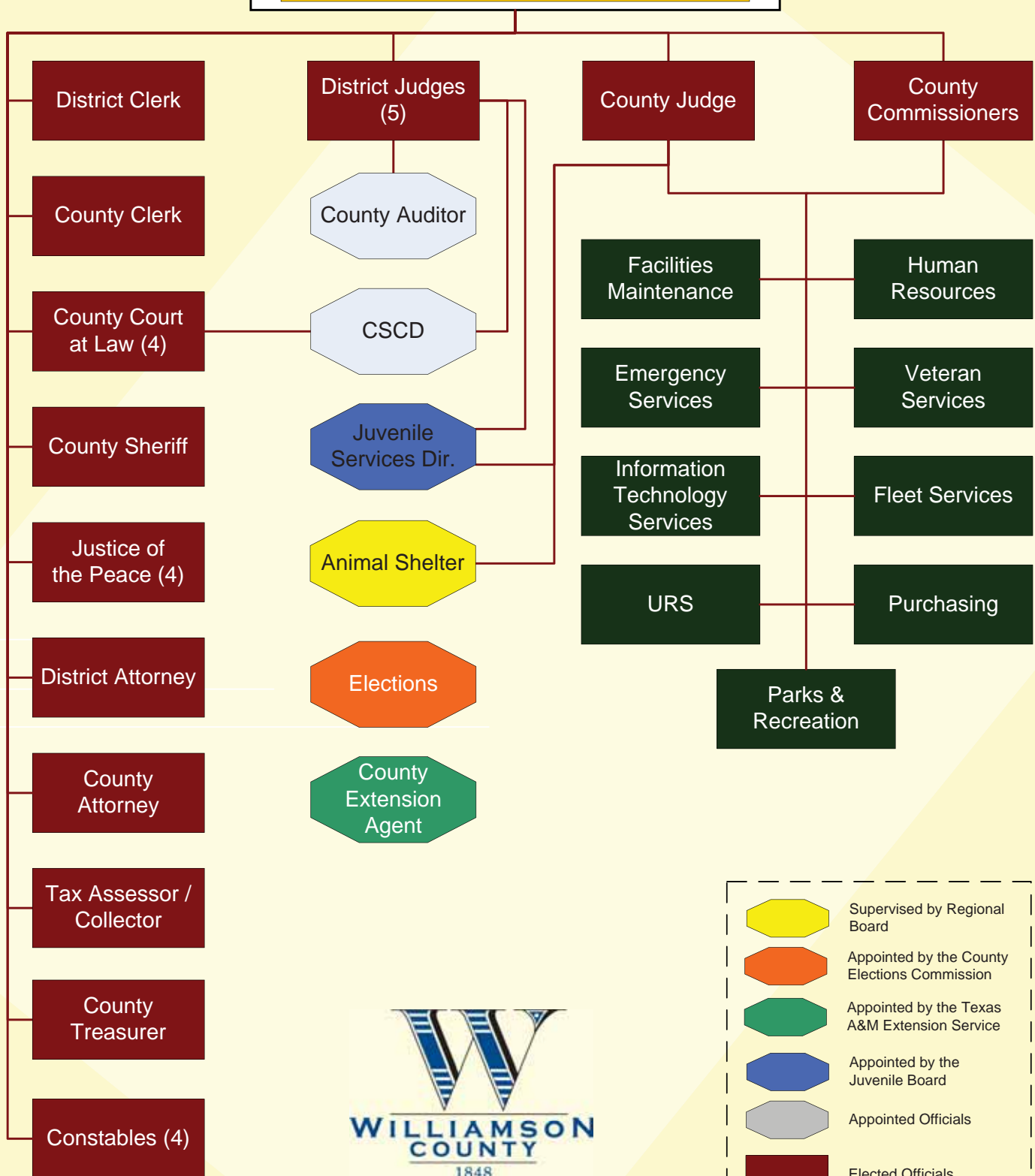
Constable, Precinct #1
Constable, Precinct #2
Constable, Precinct #3
Constable, Precinct #4

County Offices:

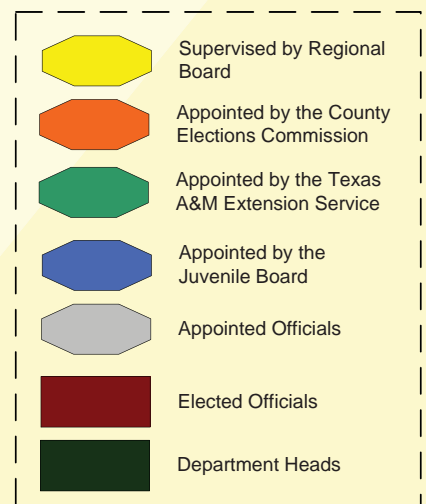
John Bradley
Jana Duty
Lisa David
Nancy Rister
James Wilson
Vivian Wood
Deborah Hunt

District Attorney
County Attorney
District Clerk
County Clerk
County Sheriff
County Treasurer
Tax Assessor/Collector

County Voters



Organizational Chart



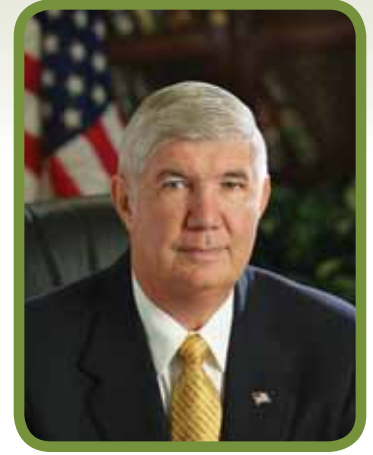
Williamson County Commissioners Court

The Honorable Dan A. Gattis – County Judge

Dan A. Gattis is a fifth generation Williamson County resident and a rancher actively involved in his family business -- Gattis Cattle Company L.L.C. As Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Gattis was responsible for planning and implementing the Rodeo's multi-million dollar budget, overseeing distribution of youth education scholarships and interacting with county and state government on regulatory and development issues.

Gattis has served as a community volunteer in many capacities. He currently serves on the board of directors of Children at Heart Ministries, which includes the Baptist Children's Home of Round Rock, and serves on the board of Miracle Farm, a boys home in Brenham, Texas. A proponent of higher education, Gattis is a graduate of the Advanced Management Program of the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania and a fellow of Class XV of the Houston chapter of the American Leadership Forum.

Gattis first earned a Bachelor of Science degree and then a Master's degree in Education from Southwest Texas State University (now known as Texas State University) where Gattis has been recognized as one of the University's Distinguished Students. Judge Gattis has been married to his wife, Karen, for 44 years. They are the proud parents of two sons, Dan M. and Brent, and proud grandparents of grandson Sterling and granddaughters Carson and Kennedy. Judge Gattis and his wife Karen are members of First Baptist Church of Georgetown, where Gattis serves as Deacon.



Commissioner Lisa Birkman – Precinct 1

Commissioner Lisa Birkman is a native Texan whose family first settled in Williamson County six generations ago. Her family located here in about 1851, when Commissioner Birkman's ancestors founded the town of Bagdad, located just north of present day Leander. They lived on the family farm which is still owned by her family today. Mrs. Birkman was born, however, on the army base at Ft. Hood, Texas, as her father, Marvin Lackey, was a career military officer. She spent most of her early years on Army bases throughout the world. After retirement, the family moved back to her father's hometown of Georgetown, where Mrs. Birkman along with her sister, Nancy, mother, Ann, and father lived in the Precinct One section of old Georgetown while she attended Georgetown High School. After graduating from GHS in 1978, Commissioner Birkman then graduated from Texas A & M University in 1982. She taught public elementary school for thirteen years, mainly in Austin and Round Rock schools.

In 1989, Commissioner Birkman married her husband, Rick. They have four children, Virginia, Randy, Elizabeth and Ricki. In 1995, Mrs. Birkman and her husband opened a commercial roofing company, which they still own today. Mrs. Birkman and her family live in the Cat Hollow neighborhood and have lived in that area of the county since 1989. After serving in a variety of leadership roles in her church and community organizations, Mrs. Birkman was elected in 2000 to represent the 15,000 or so residents of the Brushy Creek Municipal Utility District. When Commissioner Birkman was sworn in on May 3, 2004, she became the first woman to ever hold a seat on the Williamson County Commissioner's Court. Ms. Birkman was re-elected in November of 2008 and sworn in on Jan. 2, 2009, her current term will expire Dec. 31, 2012.



Commissioner Cynthia Long – Precinct 2

Cynthia Long received her BBA from Texas A & M University. She worked for the State of Texas for ten years before starting her own IT consulting company in 1997 that focused on information technology and project management. Cynthia was elected County Commissioner for Precinct Two in November of 2006. Prior to that, she was elected twice to the Cedar Park City Council and served as Mayor Pro-Tem. She served on the Cedar Park Planning and Zoning Commission, Round Rock Medical Center Board of Directors, the Williamson County Metro YMCA Board, was founding Chairman of the Twin Lakes Family YMCA, and served as Vice-Chairman of the Williamson County Republican Party for three years. Since beginning her first term as Commissioner for Precinct Two, she has served as Vice Chairman of the Capitol Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) Transportation Policy Board; Chairman of the CAMPO Transportation Finance Committee; and serves on the CAMPO Executive Committee. In addition, Commissioner Long serves on the Capitol Area Planning Council of Governments (CAPCOG) Executive Committee and is a member of the Capital Area Regional Transportation Planning Organization. She is the executive sponsor of the Williamson County Public Safety Technology Project. The project team will implement a new countywide Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, Mobile Data, Automatic Vehicle Locator and Records Management. Cynthia serves on the Healthy Women Board of the Cedar Park Regional Medical Center and has been active in Hill Country Bible Church since 1989. She and her husband Donn have been married for 21 years and are the proud parents of one daughter.



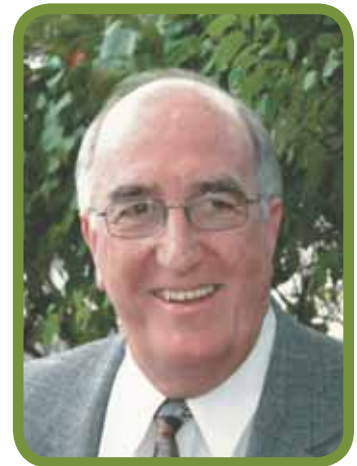
Commissioner Valerie Covey – Precinct 3

After two years of serving out the unexpired term of the late Tom McDaniel, Valerie Covey was elected to a four year term in November 2008. Valerie is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, where she earned a degree in accounting and has been licensed as a certified public accountant for more than 20 years. She serves the county by participating on various boards and committees, including: the Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter Board, the Williamson County Mental Health Committee, the Williamson County Conservation Foundation, the Williamson County Audit Committee, and the Williamson County Investment Committee. In November 2007, Valerie became the representative for Williamson County in the Adopt-a-Unit program that supports the 4th Combat Aviation Brigade stationed at Fort Hood. She and her husband of over 22 years, Mark, are blessed with three sons: Matthew, a freshman at Baylor University; Zachary, a sophomore in high school; and Joshua, a 6th grader, and for more than 14 years Valerie and her family have built a life in Georgetown, Texas.



Commissioner Ron Morrison – Precinct 4

Commissioner Morrison is a lifetime resident of Williamson and Milam Counties. He has been married to Glenda Morrison for 43 years. They are members of the Round Rock Church of Christ. Ron and Glenda operated Morrison Auto, Inc. in Round Rock for 25+ years. Commissioner Morrison graduated from Round Rock High School and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and a Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies, both from Texas State University. He served six years with the 900th Military Intelligence Unit in the United States Army Reserves. He is a former school teacher at Round Rock High School and instructor at Texas State University. In 2004, Commissioner Morrison was the Round Rock Chamber Citizen of the Year. He serves on the YMCA Metro Board of Directors and is a member of the Friends of Higher Education. He has also served as chair of the Round Rock Chamber of Commerce, President of the Round Rock Rotary Club, member of the Texas Independent Auto Dealers Association, member of the Round Rock Noon Kiwanis Club and Charter President of the Williamson County Pop Warner Football League. Commissioner Morrison was appointed by Williamson County Commissioner's Court to serve on the CLEAN AIR Force of Central Texas Executive Committee and has since been elected Vice-Chair. He was also appointed to the Capital Area Council of Governments Clean Air Coalition and the Capital Area Transportation Planning Organization Committee, the Round Rock Economic Development Partnership Committee and the Central Texas Resource Conservation & Development Council. Commissioner Morrison also serves on the Williamson County Fleet Committee, the Landfill Committee, the Public Assistance Committee and the Space Assessment Committee.



The State of Texas sets the duties of the Commissioners Court. The general duties of the court are as follows:

- *Establish a courthouse and jail*
- *Build roads and bridges*
- *Assure the safe-keeping of land and citizen records*
- *Let contracts in the name of the County*
- *Provide law enforcement through the County Sheriff*
- *Administer the County's public welfare services*
- *Administer the County's public health services*
- *Perform numerous duties in regard to elections*
- *Operate County parks*
- *Appoint numerous officials*
- *Set the County tax rate*
- *Issue bonds*
- *Adopt the County budget*

For more information on the members of Commissioner's Court, please visit our website at www.wilcogov.org/commissioners

Williamson County at Work:

Emergency Medical Services



2008 brought the opening of a new EMS Station in the John H. Coats Fire Station serving the people of Hutto.



Honor Guard



The primary responsibility of the Williamson County Sheriff's Honor Guard is to provide ceremonial representation for law enforcement funerals. They also participate in the annual color guard parade during Law Enforcement Memorial Week. The Honor Guard occasionally posts colors during ceremonies of Law Enforcement functions or at other events when requested by the sheriff as representatives of his office.



Left to right: Dep. L. Hawkins, Dep. J. Badder, Dep. J. Knutson, Sgt. P. Erickson, Dep. M. Gomez, Dep. B. Dirner, Dep. A. Perez, and Lt. M. Gleason. Not shown: Sgt. R. Gremillion, Dep. B. Adkins, Dep. C. Cox, Dep. M. Vivas.



Victim Assistance Unit



The Victim Assistance Team is a group of volunteers that are trained in crisis intervention to survivors, witnesses and families who have been traumatized by the experience of death, serious injury, violent crime, or natural disaster. Following a traumatic event, people often feel helpless, confused and emotionally shocked. Victim Service response teams can remain with the victims in the immediate aftermath of a tragedy to assist them with temporary support through the first very difficult hours.

Recycling Center

The Williamson County Recycling Center at Hutto, TX is located off of F.M. 1660 north of Highway 79 at 101 Landfill Road. The Recycling Center accepts scrap metal, cardboard, newspapers, phonebooks, magazines, aluminum cans, computers, used oil, plastic, appliances with the Freon removed, and cell phones for the Williamson County Crisis Center. Anyone in the county may use the Recycling Center(s) at no charge.

Some recycling can also be done at the Williamson County Unified Road System yards at Taylor and Granger. See Hours of Operation information for a contact information and a detailed list of items accepted at those locations.



For more information go to: www.wilcogov.org/countydepartments/recyclingcenter

Animal Shelter



The Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter (WCRAS) is located on approximately five acres on the Inner Loop in Georgetown. The shelter is a collaborative effort between the Williamson County and participating cities of Round Rock, Cedar Park, Leander and Hutto.



Mission:

To provide humane care to the unwanted or abandoned pets and to assist the participating entities in enforcing state law and local ordinances, and to otherwise serve the citizens in a cost effective manner.



1855 S.E. Inner Loop, Georgetown, TX 78626
(512) 943-3322



(Top) Dr. Ilse Black and Ethel Spence in surgery.
(Left) Michael French and Renee Oertle care for one of the residents.



Kennel Manager, Ethel Spence, takes care of a kangaroo that had escaped from its home in Leander. Happily, he was reclaimed by his owner.



Conservation Foundation

The Williamson County Conservation Foundation (WCCF) was established in December 2002 as a pro-active measure to further the conservation of endangered species in Williamson County while helping to further responsible development. All parts of Williamson County have experienced rapid growth in the past decade. This growth has necessitated a regional approach to balancing the needs for development with the needs for conservation.



The Future Is Ours To Pass Along



WCCF already has worked to establish three important cave preserves, two that form natural areas within Williamson County's Southwest Regional Park and a third for a cave near Lake Georgetown.



Georgetown salamander



Black-capped vireo



Golden-cheeked warbler

In addition, the foundation has successfully obtained almost \$3,000,000 in federal grants to assist it in conserving endangered species through compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

WCCF operates from a regional perspective and has received financial support and direct participation from various local governmental entities and landowners. With a generous \$1,000,000 grant from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), WCCF is beginning the process of developing a comprehensive regional habitat conservation plan for Williamson County. Through participation in the WCCF's plan, governmental entities including cities and school districts, landowners and developers can navigate the requirements of the Endangered Species Act in a more expedient manner. The plan honors the county's tradition of good land stewardship. WCCF and its partners are breaking new ground in regional planning for endangered species conservation.

For more information go to: www.wilcogov.org/countydepartments/conservationfund

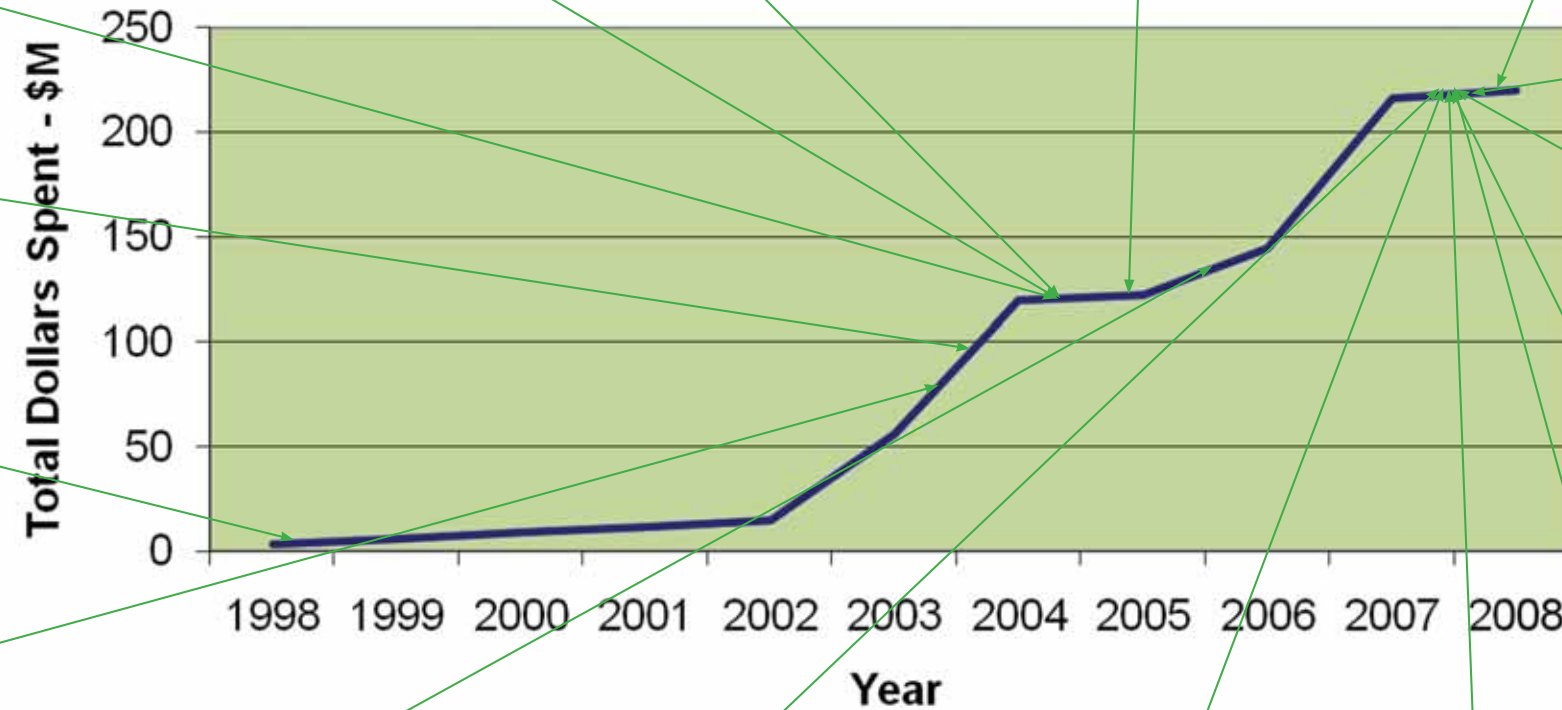
Projects-Timeline



Clockwise from top left:
County Jail; Innerloop Annex; US 79;
IH35 turnarounds at SH29; Twin Lakes
Park; Lakeline Boulevard;
Regional Animal Shelter;
Ronald Reagan Boulevard; 183A;
Courthouse Renovation; Hutto Annex;
Berry Springs Park; Juvenile Justice
Center; Cedar Park Annex; Regional
Park; Criminal Justice Center



Timeline of Recent Capital Projects Spending



Parks and Recreation

Williamson County Parks and Recreation maintain parks in the area with something for everyone. Whether you are looking for a relaxing way to spend your weekend, a collection of sports facilities or a family outing, Williamson County has a park for you and your family.

Southwest Regional Park has nearly 100 acres of sports amenities including ten soccer fields, two softball fields, eight tennis courts, six basketball courts, and a stadium field with a quarter-mile surface track. The park also has an 18-hole disc golf course, 4 miles of trails for bike riding, jogging and dog walking, a huge playscape for the kids and the Cedar Rock Railroad miniature train that runs on weekends weather permitting.



Champion Park is ideal for families with small children with swing sets, rocks for climbing, a large sandpit where kids go for an archaeological dig for dinosaurs and a whale tail shaped sprayscape for cooling down on those hot summer days. The park also offers fishing areas, picnic areas and a pavilion that can be reserved for larger parties. The park connects to the *Brushy Creek Regional Trail* for joggers and bikers.



Berry Springs Park and Preserve is perfect for nature lovers. The 300-acre park contains 28 campsites, 2½ miles of trails, a fishing area, bird viewing area, playscape and a pavilion.



Twin Lakes Park offers a playscape, fishing dock, pavilion and picnic areas. A spray park and a water slide are connected to the outdoor pool at Twin Lakes Family YMCA.



To learn more about Williamson County Parks and Services, go to www.wilcogov.org.



WILLIAMSON COUNTY PARKS <http://wilcogov.org/parks/>

- Twin Lakes Park
- Southwest Regional Park
- Champion Park
- Berry Springs Park and Preserve
- Eastern Williamson County Regional Park

Georgetown

Taylor

Loatler

Round Rock

Cedar Park

WILLIAMSON COUNTY TRAILS

- Brushy Creek Regional Trail
- Lake Creek Trail

COUNTY FINANCIALS...

Statement of Activities

Summary

The Statement of Activities provides readers with an overview of money received and spent during the year in the County *as a whole*, in an approach similar to a private-sector business. Explanations of these accounts are provided as a tool to understanding these activities.

Monies Received

The County receives money from various sources in order to pay for the services it provides. Property taxes come from three different sources: 1) taxes for general purposes (\$.275) 2) taxes for road & bridge purposes (\$.03) and 3) taxes for debt service (\$.1841) to repay debt of the County. The total tax rate for 2008 was \$.4891 per \$100 value and was composed by the total of these three purposes.

Charges for Services are monies received from the public when the County performs a service to the citizens; such as, emergency medical service (EMS).

Operating Grants & Contributions is money the County receives from other governmental agencies, corporations, and private contributors.

Investment Earnings is interest earned on County investments.

Miscellaneous is money received that does not fit in the above mentioned accounts but are still classified as revenue.

Services Rendered

This is money spent to provide services to citizens.

General government is money spent on administrative offices including Elections, Commissioners, County Auditor, County Clerk, and County Treasurer.

Public Safety expenditures are the costs of the Sheriff Department, Constables, Jail & Law Enforcement, EMS, Juvenile Services, Adult Probation, 911 Communications and 911 Addressing.

Transportation Support are expenditures used to maintain county roads.

Judicial are services provided by the courts, County Clerk, District Attorney, and District Clerk.

Community Service includes the Health Department, Veterans Services, Parks, and Child and Public Welfare.

Williamson County Financial Activity Statement		
Money Received	2008	2007
Property Taxes:		
Levied for general purposes	\$81,973,085	\$72,536,843
Levied for road & bridge	10,376,729	9,688,093
Levied for debt service	54,244,437	46,495,030
Other taxes	558,929	493,372
Charges for Services	34,153,059	65,785,722
Operating grants & contributions	7,373,406	11,570,786
Capital grants & contributions	1,807,836	1,998,962
Investment earnings	14,777,336	12,767,274
Miscellaneous	124,575	91,256
Total Money Received	\$205,389,392	\$221,427,338
Services Rendered		
General government	\$24,893,815	\$23,497,198
Public Safety	61,670,538	90,897,137
Transportation support	70,415,173	20,028,127
Judicial	17,135,891	15,557,642
Community services	11,981,593	9,646,823
Interest on long-term debt	34,786,909	25,108,101
Total Services Rendered	\$220,883,919	\$184,735,028
Monies Received over Services Rendered	\$-15,494,527	\$36,692,310

Statement of Net Assets

Summary

The Condensed Statement of Net Assets includes all funds to provide *an overall picture* of County-wide finances.

Benefits

Current Assets include items such as: cash on-hand to pay obligations, accounts receivables, prepaid items, and inventory.

Capital Assets include items such as: land, buildings, infrastructure, equipment, and construction in progress.

The difference between benefits of the County and the obligations that it must pay provides the net worth of the County.

Obligations

Current Liabilities include items such as: accounts payable, accrued liabilities, unearned revenue, and accrued interest payable.

Non-current Liabilities include items that are due in more than one year.

Net Assets

Restricted Assets include: debt service, road & bridge, conservation, tobacco and other purposes that limit the use of certain assets.

Unrestricted net assets are items that do not have to be held for specific reasons.

Williamson County Condensed Statement of Net Assets		
Assets	2008	2007
Current Assets	\$385,224,262	\$425,674,977
Capital Assets	\$360,877,814	\$352,814,398
Total Assets	\$746,102,076	\$778,489,375
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities	\$19,425,125	\$26,930,343
Noncurrent Liabilities	\$709,252,166	\$718,639,721
Total Liabilities	\$728,677,291	\$745,570,064
Net Assets		
Invested in Capital Assets, net of Related Debt	\$140,117,628	\$184,660,300
Restricted	\$37,344,812	\$31,411,957
Unrestricted	(\$160,037,655)	(\$183,152,945)
Total Net Assets	\$17,424,785	\$32,919,312



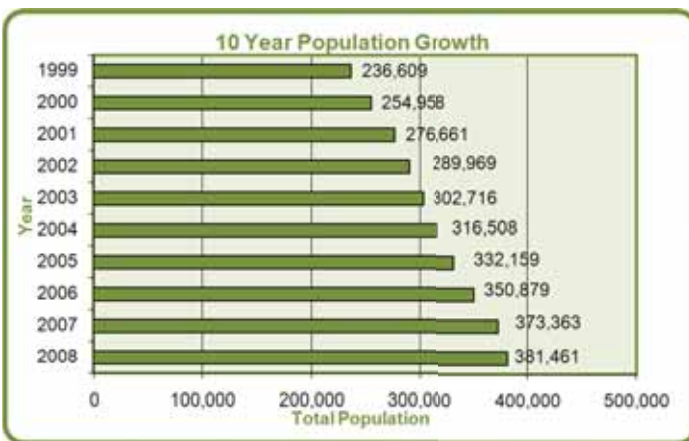
*The Financial Position Statement shown does not conform to generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The purpose of this presentation is to provide the citizen with a summarized version of the information contained in the County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

Economic Factors

Population Estimates

Williamson County's estimated population at September 30, 2008 is 381,461. This area's population has grown 61% in the last 10 years.

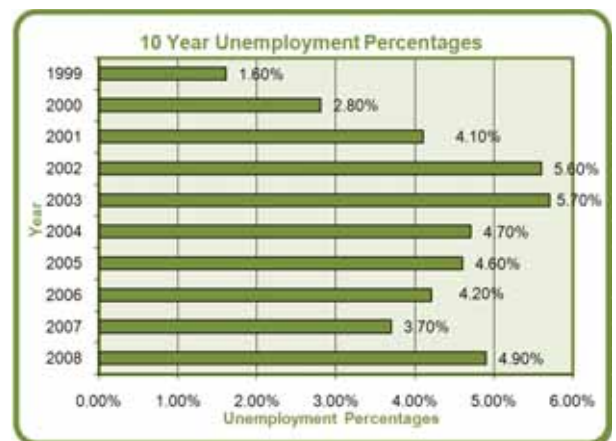
The United States Census Bureau ranked Williamson County as having the 16th fastest growing population in the US, and the 3rd fastest growing county in Texas.



Employment Statistics

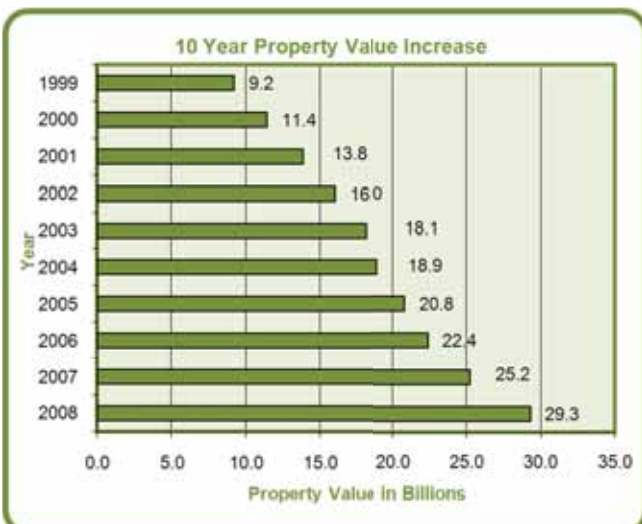
The unemployment rate for Williamson County as of September 30, 2008 was 4.9%. This is an increase from the 2007 rate of 3.7%.

Although unemployment rates show an increase in 2008, Williamson County's rate is significantly lower than the 2008 national average of 7.2%.



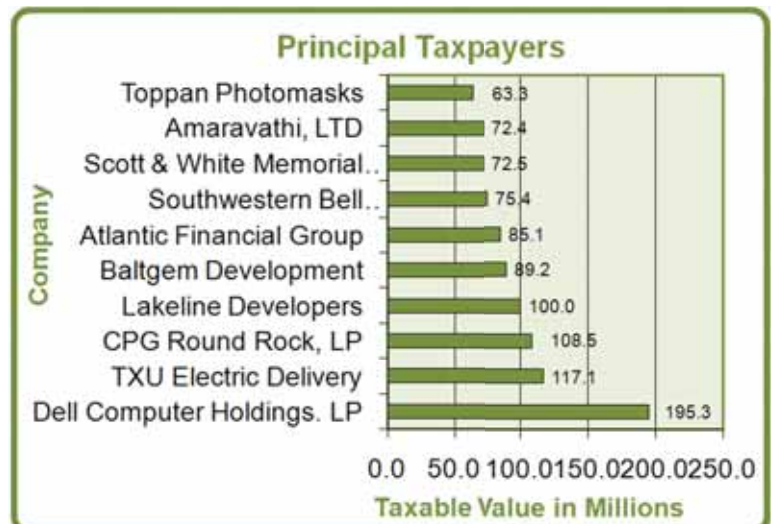
Property Values

Property values have increased as the County has grown in recent years. In 1999, the taxable values were \$9.2 billion; in 2008, the taxable values have increased to more than \$29 billion.



Principal Taxpayers

The top 10 principal taxpayers in Williamson County are outlined below and make up approximately \$1B in assessed taxable value



General Fund

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2008	
Revenue	
Taxes	\$82,484,535
Fees of Office	8,417,399
Fines & Forfeitures	4,655,996
Charges for Services	8,759,115
Intergovernmental	2,506,063
Investment Income & Other	2,993,489
Total Revenue	\$109,816,597
Expenditures	
Current:	
General Government	\$19,278,412
Public Safety	55,576,053
Judicial	15,271,423
Community Services	7,399,909
Lease Principal and Interest	92,743
Capital Outlay	2,841,577
Total Expenditures	\$100,460,117
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	\$9,356,480
Other Financing Sources (Uses)	
Transfers In	\$6,534
Transfers Out	(1,657,385)
Capital Lease Issued	844,078
Proceeds from Sale of Capital Assets	123,771
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	-\$683,002
Net Change in Fund Balances	\$8,673,478
Fund Balance, Beginning	40,663,713
Fund Balance, Ending	\$49,337,191

The General Fund is the main operating fund of the County, which includes services to citizens such as protection of life (law enforcement and 911 communications) and community services (parks and public welfare).

Collection of taxes is the largest source of funds for Williamson County, totaling 75.1% in 2008. Citizens paid \$.275 per \$100 property value for General Fund purposes.

The next largest source of funds was from charges for services and fees of office, totaling 7.7% of total revenue.

The largest share of expenditures was spent on public safety for our citizens, totaling 55.3% in 2008. The money was used for things such as emergency vehicles, juvenile services, and EMS.

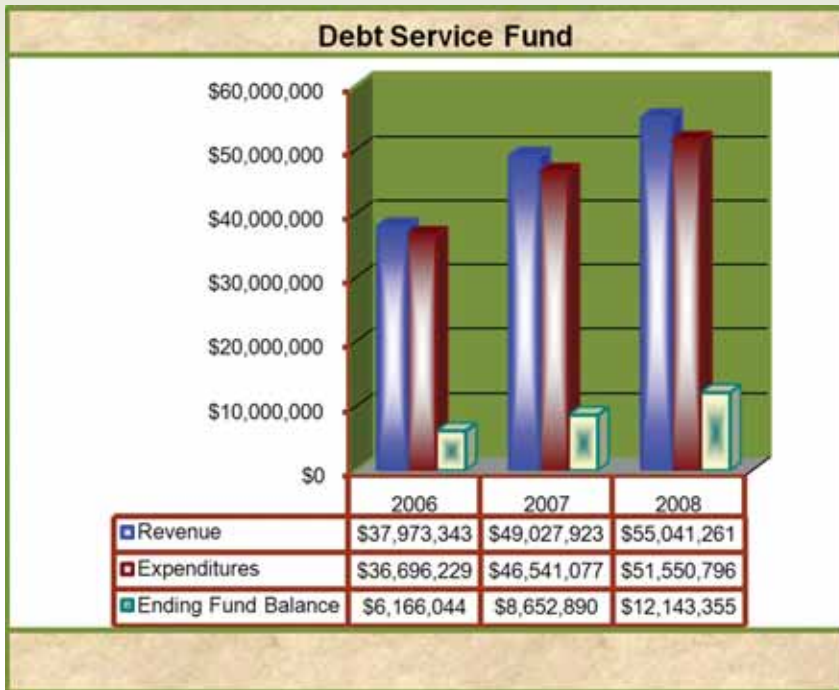
The next largest share of money spent was on general government, totaling 19.2%. The County affects each and every citizen from birth certificates, to public records, to vehicle registration, to voter registration, collection of taxes, marriage licenses, and all the way through to death certificates.

A positive General Fund Balance is an indicator of a healthy operating environment. Due to sound fiscal management, Williamson County's General Fund Balance has continuously increased over the last 10 years by a total of \$40 million.

The County's fiscal plan is to have 30% of total annual operating expenditures (approximately 4 months) in the fund balance at any given time. Any excess fund balance over this goal should not be budgeted to carry on day to day operations but should be limited to the use of one-time extraordinary items, thus reinforcing the fiscal discipline of funding annual costs from annual revenues. Some examples of extraordinary items include but are not limited to tax rate stabilization, capital improvement needs and reduction of debt. Fund balance is a vital component used by financial institutions in analyzing and determining the County's bond ratings. A high bond rating leads to lower costs, thus resulting in lower taxes for citizens.

Debt Service Fund

The Debt Service Fund is used to account for the accumulation of resources for, and payment of, general long-term debt, principal, interests and costs.



In order to fulfill the demands of a growing population, the County periodically issues debt which enables the building of new and improved infrastructure both in response to and as a result of economic development. The chart shown here compares revenues, expenditures and fund balance to over the last three years.

Williamson County maintains an “AA+” bond rating from Standard & Poor’s and an “Aa2” rating from Moody’s Investment Services for certificates of obligation (Commissioners’ Court authorized) and general obligation debt (voter-authorized). According to Standard & Poor’s, “The stable outlook reflects the county’s deep, diverse, stable, and expanding economic base. The stable outlook also reflects the expectation that management will maintain its sound financial position while undertaking a significant capital

program and that management will adhere to managing the overall direct debt position by maintaining annual debt service expenditures at roughly \$51 million annually.”

High bond ratings allow the County to borrow money at low interest rates, saving the County millions of dollars in future borrowing costs. This benefit is passed to citizens in the form of reduced taxes.

Tax Rate

Williamson County determines tax rates in three areas: the General Fund, Debt Service, and Road & Bridge. Therefore, existing debt is a factor in the County’s tax rate. The 2008 tax rate was \$.4891 per \$100 value and was separated as follows: \$.275 for General Fund, \$.1841 for Debt Service, and \$.03 for Road and Bridge. The graph shown here reflects the increases in taxes by each source since 1999 when the total tax rate was \$.3476. The majority of this \$.1415 increase in the last 10 years is from the \$350 million voter-authorized debt for road improvements and parks in 2000 and 2007. In all, population has increased by 61% since 1999, and the tax rate has increased by \$.1415 per \$100 value.



County's S&P credit rating improves to AA+

By Callie Enlow

Williamson County is moving up in the financial world. Tuesday morning, a representative from Standard and Poor's contacted County Auditor David Flores to inform him the County now had a AA-plus credit rating.

The higher rating will mean better luck in the bond market come January, said Mr. Flores. "It's very good timing considering the market," Mr. Flores told the Williamson County Commissioners Court on Tuesday.

"We're better than Citibank," quipped County Judge Dan A. Gattis.

For municipal bond issuers like Williamson County, the rating is used by potential bond buyers to evaluate the risk of investing in that issuer's debt. Once issued, the entity offering the bond receives a cash payment in exchange for a promise to repay the bond at some determined interest rate.

According to a forthcoming report by Standard and Poor's, Williamson County's credit rating now ranks among the top 13 in Texas. Seven other counties hold the AA-plus distinction in Texas, according to the Standard and Poor's rating, while six have the highest rating of AAA.

Edward McGlade, the primary credit analyst at Standard & Poor's who reviewed Williamson County's rating, said that primarily what changed was his company's criteria. Previously, he said, "there was an anti-rural bias in a lot of ratings. If it wasn't a major metropolitan area, that was a problem."

In September of this year, Standard and Poor's reconfigured their criteria to the benefit of counties like Williamson, which are not a regional or metropolitan center.

Mr. McGlade said the county, which had been upgraded to AA only in August 2007, has managed to keep their tax rate consistent while maintaining a high debt burden.

"We feel very comfortable with [Williamson County's] financial management policies," Mr. McGlade said.

The vote of confidence from Standard and Poor's "gives the county a little bit of added weight," said Mr. Flores, "because only people with exceptional credit ratings will get to sell bonds."

The rating comes at a time when several local governments are fretting over a tighter credit market.

Mr. Flores said that financially, the county is still exhibiting the healthy signs he reported on his 2008 Financial Auditor's report in October.

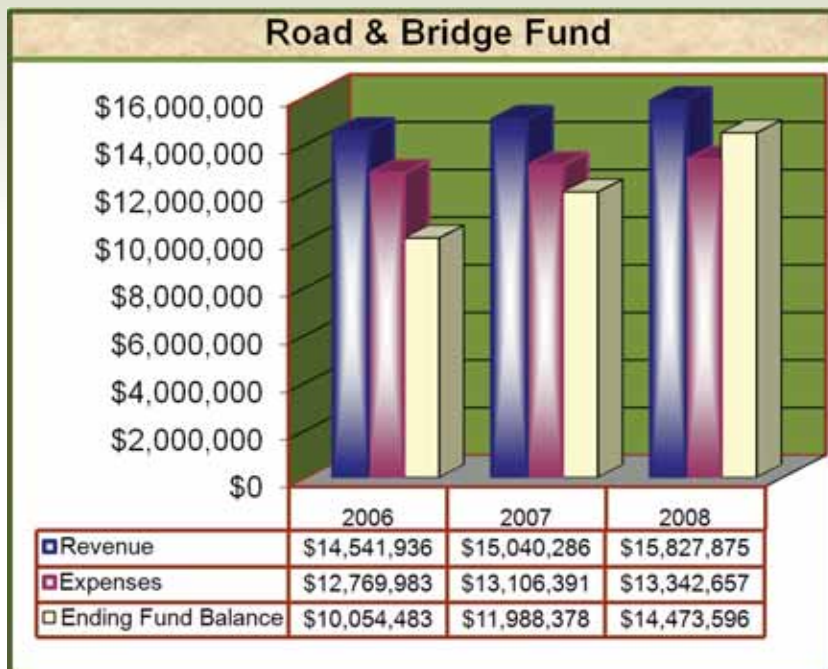
"We are still looking at growth even though the rest of the country is in a recession," said Mr. Flores. "I'll give you an example, presently the U.S. has an unemployment rate of around 6.5 percent while the unemployment in Williamson County is around 4.5 percent. That really says a lot for us."

County Judge Dan A. Gattis also cited Williamson County's robust economy as an alluring quality to lenders. "We're very fortunate we still have growth," said Judge Gattis. "The previous court and this court has been pretty prudent in maintaining cash-ending, or savings, that we can use to stabilize our budget."

Richard Ramirez of First Southwest Financial Advisors, credited the "great management by the county," for the higher rating. Mr. Flores elaborated saying that "everything from how we stabilized the tax rate to how we have built up our cash-ending consistently for more than 10 years," had positively affected the County's credit rating.

"We're going to come through this [economic downturn] looking very good," Judge Gattis said.

Road & Bridge Fund



The Road & Bridge Fund is a special revenue fund used to account for money received from taxes, vehicle registration and rebates from the State of Texas. Expenditures in this fund are for maintenance and construction of County roads and bridges.

During fiscal year 2008 major capital project road work was done on such roadways as: CR104, CR 276, CR 111 / Westinghouse Road, Ronald Reagan Boulevard and Chandler Road.

The chart provided illustrates the fund's revenue, expenses, and ending fund balance over the past three years.



Capital Projects Fund

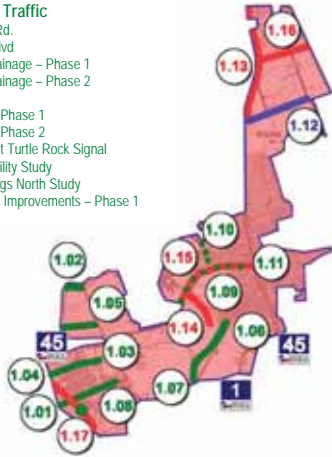
Major construction projects completed during fiscal year 2008 are Limmer Loop Phase 1B and 1C, Ronald Reagan Boulevard Phase II, IH-35/SH 29 Turnaround Bridges and CR 104/SH 29 Turn Lanes at the new Georgetown High School Ninth Grade Center. During fiscal year 2008, major capital project road construction began and continues on: CR111 / Westinghouse Road, Williams Drive and US 79 Section 5B.

Major Capital Projects FY 2008		
Project Name	\$M	Type
Brush Creek Trail Ph 3	\$1.0	Park
Byer Park	\$2.8	Park
CR 104 / SH 29 Turn Lanes	\$2.7	Road
CR 111 / Westinghouse Rd	\$2.4	Road
CR 276	\$1.6	Road
Chandler Road	\$3.8	Road
IH-35 / SH 29 Turnaround	\$3.9	Road
Limmer Loop Phase 1C	\$1.6	Road
Ronald Reagan Blvd	\$11.8	Road
San Gabriel Ranch Park	\$10.6	Park
County Tax Office - Building	\$2.4	Building
Twin Springs Preserve	\$2.3	Park
US 79 Section 5B	\$2.3	Park
Williams Drive	\$1.0	Road

PRECINCT 1 COMMISSIONER BIRKMAN

Completed/Open to Traffic

- 1.01 Anderson Mill Rd.
- 1.02 Avery Ranch Blvd
- 1.03 Lake Creek Drainage – Phase 1
- 1.04 Lake Creek Drainage – Phase 2
- 1.05 Lakeline Blvd.
- 1.06 McNeil Road – Phase 1
- 1.07 McNeil Road – Phase 2
- 1.08 Pond Springs at Turtle Rock Signal
- 1.09 RM 620 Feasibility Study
- 1.10 Wyoming Springs North Study
- 1.11 RM 620 Interim Improvements – Phase 1



Under Construction

- 1.12 CR 111 (Westinghouse Rd)

In Design

- 1.13 IH-35 Northbound Frontage Rd and Ramps
- 1.14 O'Connor Extension
- 1.15 RM 620 Interim Improvements – Phase 2
- 1.16 Georgetown SE Inner Loop
- 1.17 Pond Springs Road

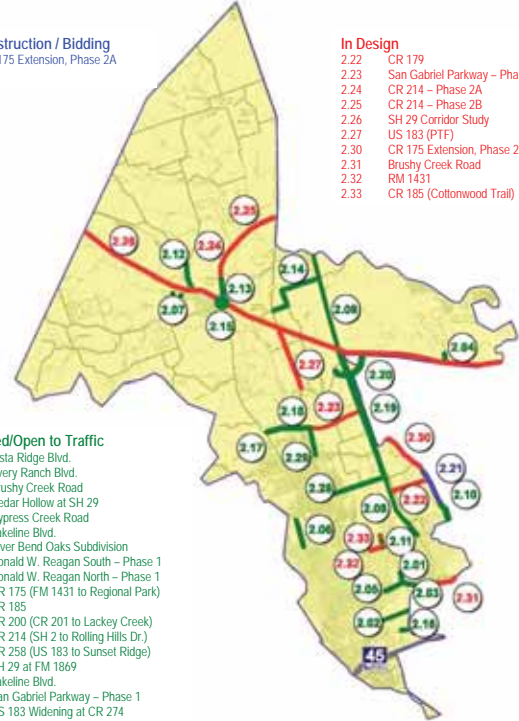
PRECINCT 2 COMMISSIONER LONG

Under Construction / Bidding

- 2.21 CR 175 Extension, Phase 2A

In Design

- 2.22 CR 179
- 2.23 San Gabriel Parkway – Phase 2
- 2.24 CR 214 – Phase 2A
- 2.25 CR 214 – Phase 2B
- 2.26 SH 29 Corridor Study
- 2.27 US 183 (PTF)
- 2.30 CR 175 Extension, Phase 2B
- 2.31 Brushy Creek Road
- 2.32 RM 1431
- 2.33 CR 185 (Cottonwood Trail)



Completed/Open to Traffic

- 2.01 Vista Ridge Blvd.
- 2.02 Avery Ranch Blvd.
- 2.03 Brushy Creek Road
- 2.04 Cedar Hollow at SH 29
- 2.05 Cypress Creek Road
- 2.06 Lakeline Blvd.
- 2.07 River Bend Oaks Subdivision
- 2.08 Ronald W. Reagan South – Phase 1
- 2.09 Ronald W. Reagan North – Phase 1
- 2.10 CR 175 (FM 1431 to Regional Park)
- 2.11 CR 185
- 2.12 CR 200 (CR 201 to Lackey Creek)
- 2.13 CR 214 (SH 2 to Rolling Hills Dr.)
- 2.14 CR 258 (US 183 to Sunset Ridge)
- 2.15 SH 29 at FM 1869
- 2.16 Lakeline Blvd.
- 2.17 San Gabriel Parkway – Phase 1
- 2.18 US 183 Widening at CR 274
- 2.19 Ronald W. Reagan South – Phase 2
- 2.20 Kaufman Loop
- 2.28 CR 272
- 2.29 CR 273

PRECINCT 3 COMMISSIONER COVEY

Under Construction / Bidding

- 3.24 Williams Drive (RM 2338)
- 3.26 CR 175 Extension, Phase 2A

Completed/Open to Traffic

- 3.01 Chandler Rd. – Phase 1
- 3.02 Georgetown Inner Loop East
- 3.03 Georgetown Inner Loop East Extension
- 3.04 Georgetown Inner Loop – Project 1
- 3.05 Georgetown Inner Loop – Project 2
- 3.06 Georgetown Inner Loop – Project 3 Study
- 3.07 Georgetown Inner Loop – Project 4 Study
- 3.08 Georgetown Inner Loop – Project 5 Study
- 3.09 CR 124
- 3.10 CR 142
- 3.11 CR 145
- 3.12 CR 152 Bridge Replacement
- 3.13 CR 157
- 3.14 CR 175
- 3.15 CR 234
- 3.16 CR 245
- 3.17 CR 311
- 3.18 CR 314
- 3.19 Wyoming Springs North – Study
- 3.20 Ronald W. Reagan South Phase 2
- 3.21 Ronald W. Reagan North Phase 2
- 3.22 SH 29/CR 104 – Phase 1
- 3.22 IH-35 @ SH 29 Turnarounds (PTF)



In Design

- 3.25 CR 104 – Phase 2
- 3.27 IH-35 Northbound Frontage Rd and Ramps
- 3.28 Ronald W. Reagan North Phase 3
- 3.29 Ronald W. Reagan North Phase 4
- 3.30 RM 2338 (PTF)
- 3.31 SH 29 Corridor Study
- 3.32 Georgetown SE Inner Loop Widening
- 3.33 CR 175 Extension, Phase 2B
- 3.34 SH 195 ROW and Utilities

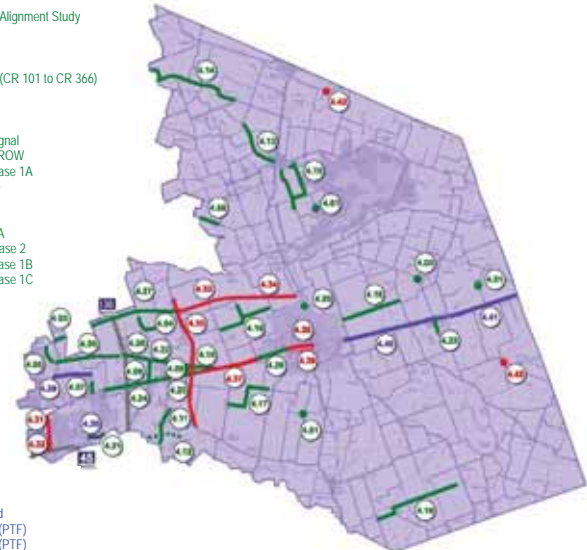
PRECINCT 4 COMMISSIONER MORRISON

Completed/Open to Traffic

- 4.01 Bridge Replacements Phase 1 (CR 406, CR 390, CR 427)
- 4.02 Bridge Replacements Ph. 2A (CR 424)
- 4.03 Chandler Rd. – Phase 1
- 4.04 CR 100
- 4.05 CR 112 – Phase 1
- 4.06 CR 119
- 4.07 CR 122 at US 79
- 4.08 CR 124
- 4.09 CR 132
- 4.10 CR 136
- 4.11 CR 137
- 4.12 CR 138 & CR 139 Alignment Study
- 4.13 CR 300 & CR 301
- 4.14 CR 302
- 4.15 CR 347 & CR 348
- 4.16 CR 368 & CR 369 (CR 101 to CR 366)
- 4.17 CR 404
- 4.18 CR 412
- 4.19 CR 466
- 4.20 FM 37 at SH 95 Signal
- 4.21 Gattis School Rd. ROW
- 4.22 Limmer Loop – Phase 1A
- 4.23 Thrall School Zone
- 4.24 US 79 – Section 1
- 4.25 US 79 – Section 2
- 4.26 US 79 – Section 3A
- 4.27 Chandler Rd. – Phase 2
- 4.28 Limmer Loop – Phase 1B
- 4.30 Limmer Loop – Phase 1C

In Design

- 4.31 Arterial A – Phase 1
- 4.32 Arterial A – Phase 2
- 4.33 Chandler Rd. – Phase 3A
- 4.34 Chandler Rd. – Phase 3B
- 4.35 FM 1660 (PTF)
- 4.37 US 79 Section 3 (PTF)
- 4.38 BUS 79/2nd Street Improvements
- 4.39 BUS 79 Drainage Improvements
- 4.42 Bridge Replacements Phase 2B (CR 351 & CR 434)



Under Construction

- 4.29 CR 113
- 4.36 Gattis School Road
- 4.41 US 79 Section 5B (PTF)
- 4.40 US 79 Section 5A (PTF)

Williamson County at a Glance:

- *Growing Population*
- *Increasing Property Values*
- *Outstanding Credit*
- *Award Winning Technologies*
- *Outstanding Infrastructure Development*
- *Beautiful, Well-Maintained Parks*
- *Adequate Cash Reserves*
- *Stable Tax Rates*
- *Long Term Planning*
- *Financial Sustainability*
- *Quality Public Services*
- *Strong Concern for the Environment*
- *Responsible Animal Control*
- *Lower Average Unemployment*
- *Slower Economic Downturn*
- *Excellent Quality of Life!*

Williamson County

*Preserving the Past
and
Embracing the Future
Providing
Dependable, Quality Service and Leadership
with
Talent, Tradition and Technology*

*An electronic version of this report can be found at our website
www.wilcogov.org/countydepartments/countyauditor*

