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## Grassroots America Endorses Neal Franklin for Smith County Commissioner Precinct 1

Executive Director JoAnn Fleming – a self-retired Smith County Commissioner – speaking on behalf of Grassroots America’s Board of Directors, stated,

“In vetting candidates, we strive to weigh each candidate's abilities, skills, expertise, core principles, values, and the greatest potential for long-term positive impact on the future of taxpaying citizens – as it applies to a wide array of issues.

“**Neal Franklin brings more than 30 years of public service to this race**, along with an inspiring enthusiasm, an evident **commitment to hard work**, and the aptitude to tackle difficult problems. Mr. Franklin will no doubt show up each time the Commissioners Court convenes prepared, but his peers, neighbors, and former colleagues all say that **Neal is the guy who is *always* thinking about how to do a job better** – and how to bring the entire team to the right conclusion. We are confident he will set a very high standard for the Commissioners Court and his budgetary expertise is a huge asset.

“In our interviews and public forum, **Neal Franklin was the only candidate who stated he did not support the November 2019 Emergency Services District 2 sales tax referendum, which added another tax burden to many Smith County citizens.**

“11 Volunteer Fire Departments and a growing administration have had an average of **\$4.7 million of YOUR property taxes to spend every year.** They have taxed Smith County property a total of **\$56,102,650 in the last 12 years!**

“ESD2 Commissioner (now a candidate for County Commissioner) **Paul Perryman** voted to put the new tax on the ballot after Grassroots America told him the ESD2 Board had not explored all of the “no new tax” solutions. His vote said that you aren’t taxed enough. The other candidate – **Pam Frederick** agreed with Paul Perryman.

“Neal Franklin strikes us as a man who has a deep conviction in his heart to do and say the right thing – at the right time – for the right reason. ***We believe him to be an honest man who loves freedom and knows that families and businesses thrive best when government is limited, transparent, responsible, and affordable. We believe Neal will be a TRUE TAXPAYER WATCHDOG on the Commissioners Court!***

“**Neal Franklin is a conservative who not only understands the need for disciplined spending**, but he knows HOW to evaluate government operations to get the most out of every tax dollar. Because Neal Franklin possesses this unique skillset – one that is desperately needed on the Commissioners Court – we urge voters in Precinct 1 to hire him at the ballot box!”