

Leon
Daugherty
County Commission
8th District, Seat A

MEDIA RELEASE

TO: ALL AREA MEDIA OUTLETS
FROM: Daugherty for County Commission
DATE: October 6, 2008

**DAUGHERTY SAYS 8TH DISTRICT FREQUENTLY
SNUBBED FOR KNOX CAPITAL PROJECTS**

8th District County Commission candidate Leon Daugherty is challenging the way the 8th District has been treated in comparison to West Knox County. “The 8th District is by far the largest district in Knox County and deserves to be treated fairly and equally among the other eight commission districts. Too often have we seen West Knox County receive funding for schools (Cedar Bluff Elementary and Hardin Valley Academy) and road projects while parents and kids in the 8th District are ignored (no Gibbs Middle School) and roads in the 8th District (along Emory Road, for example) are constantly in need of traffic lights and repair. The disparity is easy to see.”

Daugherty points to the recent opening of the new Hardin Valley Academy in West Knox County at a cost exceeding \$50 million and to the fact that middle school-age children in the Gibbs Community are bused 30 miles every day to Holston Middle School and back. “It’s inexcusable to continue to force these kids to be bused across town. We need a new middle school in Gibbs, and if the County had its priorities straight, we would already have one.” Daugherty says that “given the lack of discipline in County spending – the purchasing card scandal (nearly \$47,000 in questionable expenses), travel allowance scandal (nearly \$60,000), and the hospitality fund account scandal (nearly \$128,000) – it is unconscionable that this situation has been permitted to continue.”

Daugherty notes that communities in North and East Knox County are continuously locked out of capital projects in favor of the more affluent and populous West Knox County. For instance, Daugherty said “when West Knox County demanded a new high school, not surprisingly that project leapfrogged ahead of many others on the capital fund list, shoving back communities that had been waiting much longer for new or improved schools. School Board members say there’s no plan for a Gibbs Middle School. The only reason West Knox County got that \$50 million school was that the Mayor sold the wheel tax proposal with the promise of the new school, after which West Knox County voted heavily in favor of the wheel tax increase. The wheel tax failed elsewhere.”

However, the snubs, Daugherty says, aren’t limited to schools. “I drive from my home in Gibbs to work in West Knox County every day and can easily see the difference in priorities. If a road in West Knox needs repair or widening, it gets done in a hurry. If a road in North or East Knox needs repair or widening, we better be very, very patient. Frankly, its unsafe, its not right, and its something that needs to be dealt with as soon as possible, and it will be first on my list.”

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