

Walking the Talk

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Chairman
Douglas County Board of Commissioners



"The two words 'information' and 'communication' are often used interchangeably, but they signify quite different things. Information is giving out; communication is getting through."
Sydney J. Harris,
American Journalist (1817 - 1986)

It is my goal as your Chairman to *"get through"* to you, our citizens. We send out a lot of information as a County, but we are going to increase our efforts to ensure that you are getting the facts you need and want.

Government should be as open as possible - undisguised and unconcealed. Participatory government is a must. Open and participatory government are requirements for democracy. Democracy cannot survive without them.

All meetings of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners are open to the Public, and the Public may speak during these meetings simply by signing up 10 minutes before the meeting starts. If you cannot attend a meeting, the Commissioners' work sessions (discussion/agenda setting) are now videotaped and are viewable/downloadable from the County web site, www.CelebrateDouglasCounty.com. Work sessions are held at 10 a.m., normally on the day before the Tuesday Commission meeting.

Commission meetings themselves (voting) are broadcast live, are rebroadcast four times a day on dctv23, and are also downloadable from the web site. dctv23 is seen on Comcast channel 23 and AT&T U-verse channel 99. If you don't have cable, dctv23 is streamed live on the County web site. Commission meetings are normally held at 10 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Beginning in March, the third Tuesday meeting will be moved to 7 p.m. so that people who work during the day have the opportunity to attend.

The schedule of Commission work sessions and meetings, as well as other County meetings, is listed under Events on the County web site.

The County web site is now mobile-friendly and contains more than 1000 pages, almost 1500 documents, and much more. Soon each of the District Commissioners will have a District page where information pertaining specifically to that District will be posted. District maps, road project schedules, and other information that directly relates to that District will be easily available.

There is a button on the web site's home page where you can e-mail your citizen concerns and they will be addressed. Talk to us.

I will be hosting quarterly listening sessions beginning in the Spring that will also be in the evening so that working residents may more easily attend. These will be held in our libraries. The dates and times will soon be announced. Come talk to me.

Please remember to subscribe to Douglas County Happenings, our free weekly e-mail newsletter that lists everything we know that is going on in our community. This listing includes government meetings, my listening sessions, and District Commissioner town hall meetings, as well as community events that you may want to attend. Please visit www.DouglasCountyHappenings.com to sign up. We also use Happenings to alert you to weather conditions, major County announcements, job opportunities, and other information that directly impacts you.

Participatory government means involvement in all aspects of our community - not just watching from the sidelines. Tell us what information you need and want. Just click on that Citizen Concern button on the web site. Your concern will be read.

We are going to do our part in getting the information to you. We can't tell you what information to consume, but, like supper, we will fill your plate and you munch on what you want to consider.

Walking the Talk with you,

Romona

