

## **ROBERT “ROBBIE” JAMES, JR.**

*Candidate for Brazos County Justice of the Peace Precinct 2*

2014 Election Cycle

### **QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES**

#### **1. Please tell us about yourself, why you are running for Justice of the Peace; and, what background, education and experience you have had to prepare you to execute the duties of Justice of the Peace.**

I am 52 years old and have been a property owner in Precinct 2 since 1981. I grew up in Houston and earned an undergraduate and +a graduate degree from Texas A&M University. My business experience includes my partnership in a privately held commercial real estate investment firm and as a principal in a family-owned investment firm. I come from a family of ranchers and entrepreneurs. In 2003, I married my wife Andrea. Our love for horses lead us to resume our horse showing endeavors and ultimately to move from Houston back to our home in Brazos County in 2006.

I decided to pursue a dream of becoming a peace officer. I personally paid for my academy training at TEEX and was hired by the Brazos County Sheriff's Office. The vast majority of my career with the Sheriff's Office has been focused on the daily Magistrate Court. Because there was no uniform or efficient procedure for Magistrate Court, I took the initiative to prepare, and obtain approval for, the Procedure Manual currently in place.

I am a Lifetime Committeeman in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and hold lifetime memberships in several equine associations as well as membership in the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association. I have continued my involvement with the HLSR through the Brazos County committee. I am a current member and past chairman of the Brazos Extension Horse Committee.

And finally, I am the proud father of Connor, a senior at the University of Texas – Dallas majoring in psychology.

My business and law enforcement experiences provide me with a unique skill set to draw on while performing the duties of JP. I have experience in budgeting, cost-benefit analysis, personnel, day-to-day office management and law enforcement. All of these qualities bring a real world business approach to efficient and cost-effective office management. Those experiences will also be drawn on when making legal and equitable decisions as required by the JP.

I am running for the office of JP because I have the skills, personality and work ethic necessary to bring efficiency as well as a unified work environment in not only Precinct 2, but to the functioning of the JP offices in general. I am committed to being available to the citizens of Brazos County, and especially Precinct Two, during business hours, and to law enforcement whenever called. The responsibilities of JP are not limited to office hours – warrants reviewed for law enforcement and deaths do not adhere to business hours – I am committed to being available 24/7. I will save the tax payers money where I can, be available when needed, and work with my fellow JPs to the benefit of the taxpayers of Brazos County.

**2. Have you read and are you familiar with the Texas Republican Party Platform? Reference pages 4-5 of the RPT Platform (Reforming the Judicial system), do you agree or disagree? Explain differences you hold.**

Yes, I have read the RPT 2012 edition. In regards to the section “Reforming the Judicial System,” I agree with all of the points listed with the following exception: Qualified Juror Service. It is my opinion that there are numerous people that are more than qualified to serve as a juror on all types of cases but for various reasons they may not be registered voters. The reasons for not being registered to vote can cover a wide variety. The person may have recently moved, may have forgotten to renew, or simply not want to be registered with the government. Personal freedoms are a valuable right and I respect that person’s choice.

**3. How do you plan to handle truancy cases in the J.P. position?**

Truancy is a serious problem and should be dealt with swiftly and decisively. I deal with people every day that cannot read or write. Without those skills a person cannot function and be a productive part of our society. If a child is not in school, they are not receiving the skills necessary to advance in life. I consider this a waste of the child’s opportunities, a dereliction of the parent’s duties and responsibilities and a waste of the taxpayer’s money. I believe it is time to get back to basics. Simple questions need to be answered...”Why was the child not in school?” “When will the child be in school?” and “What are the parents doing to ensure the child will be/stay in school?” The parents of the child should be held accountable in order to ensure the education of the child.

**4. What criteria will you use in determining appropriate bond?**

My law enforcement experiences provide me a unique insight into this issue. Bonds are set based on the perception of the “flight risk” of the accused. Brazos County has set threshold bonds for many offenses. As JP performing magistrate duties, I will look at the threshold bond, if applicable, the

accused's criminal history, the circumstances of the arrest and take into account any requests for a higher or lower bond amount provided to me by law enforcement, attorneys or other officials. Bonds should not be unreasonable or punitive but do need to be an appropriate amount to serve justice.

I have been involved in discussions at the Sheriff's Office regarding possible revisions to the current threshold bonds and would be very proactive in working with the District Attorney, County Attorney and other courts in order to establish a fair and equitable bond structure.

**5. How do your personal principles and family values align with most of the Republican principles outlined in the Republican Party of Texas Platform?**

The RPT Platform focuses on an individual's constitutional rights and the accountability and integrity of our government. I agree with those ideals. The people of Brazos County are entitled to elected officials who are dedicated to the preservation of those rights and who conduct themselves and administer justice based on the laws as they currently exist. I am committed to providing the citizens of Brazos County just that. As Justice of the Peace Precinct 2 I will work hard to provide the timeliest, cost effective and transparent justice possible.