

## Robert Rowland Wants to Be Commissioner...

### Pinning Down The Disaffected Conservative

by William C. Thomas

**With** his slightly western blue suit, his twinkly eyes and his affable manner, Robert Rowland could be easily mistaken for a high-end cattle buyer, a hotelier welcoming guests, or a spirited Preacher after Meeting.

But make no mistake. He thinks he can do the job better than Del Schwab can. This is because Rowland wants to make the County Government transparent.

Isn't the County already transparent? Not as transparent as it should be, Rowland says. Over the course of the last year, he and "others" had met with the Department of Local Affairs, got copies of the Sunshine Law, and talked with the Commissioners about what they'd been doing wrong. The result, Rowland says, is the live video and the Facebook updates as well as the information on the County webpage.

Unfortunately, the information on the County Webpage, Rowland says, "is selective." He would make certain all the issues before the BOCC would be posted, not just on a bulletin board, but where the public can see it.

Rowland founded the Elbert County Tea Party Movement in 2010, because of a frustration with the way current government rules, and like a number of those affiliated with the Tea Party, he wants greater adherence to the idea of representation, enshrined in the words: "We, the People."



Commissioner Candidate Robert Rowland

"We want citizen participation," and Rowland wants to make it more convenient than it is currently. Rowland believes he can marshal the experts and "talented people" in the County to help the BOCC solve problems, and he believes, having been a personnel manager for a number of years, that he is the man to welcome and coordinate those efforts.

Although he is running as a Republican, Rowland does not believe Party should mater at the County level. "I believe in Principle over Party," he says. A conservative, he believes that "Conservative Principles" will make the Country as well as the County, a more livable and better place.

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