



Preparing for the NACo Legislative Conference

If you remember I was elected by the Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma (ACCO) to represent ACCO as their only board member on the NACo Board of Directors. I am excited to be able to visit Washington D.C. March 7-12 for the (NACo) Legislative Conference. I am even more thrilled to have the opportunity to visit with our Oklahoma Senators and Representatives about county government issues and concerns during this trip.

The history of our nation can be seen as a prolonged struggle to define the relative roles and powers of our governments: federal, state, county and local. Americans, as well as their leaders, have developed a preference for government close to the people since the inception of the United States. Even today, to examine a detailed map of the United States, or to fly across the country at a modest altitude, is to see in the very land itself how central counties are in our united life.

As an air traveler, I can still detect the regular pattern of roads and planted fields, the remnants of the great grid laid out by the surveyors that prepare the land for inhabitation. The placement of towns and cities, occurring regularly even in the most infinite and empty parts of the nation, recalls the 19th century rule that county seat should be within a day's buggy ride for every citizen.

History is everywhere, and it important to think about where this past evolution and knowledge of history will lead us. Today's counties are arguable the most flexible, locally responsive and creative governments in the United States. Certainly they are the most diverse, varying impressively in size, population, geography and in structure.

As the economic slowdown continues, county officials are looking to state and federal governments for not only assistance but from relief in many instances. As your Grant County Commissioner I will do my best to influence state and national legislation to not only help Grant County but also to help county government in general with pending legislative requirements that will benefit counties while not inflicting un-funded mandates or deliver negative impacts.

As always, your comments and concerns are important to us. If you have a road concern please call the shop at 580-395-2859 or Robert Moss, Foreman, on his cell at 580-541-8953 or me on my cell at 580-541-8950.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy R. Bobbitt, Commissioner
Grant County District 2