

# Mike Salls Announces Candidacy for County Commissioner Precinct 1, Coke County, Texas

I, Mike Salls, am announcing my candidacy for County Commissioner, Precinct 1, Coke County, Texas.

**Experience equals Knowledge!**

**Knowledge equals Success!**

**Success equals Accomplishments!**

Having only resided in Coke County for 11 years, I feel a proper introduction is needed.

I am of the Christian Faith and have been married to Georgia Salls for the past 33 years. Many of you may know Georgia from the 2010 census campaign in which she headed up Coke County and parts of Tom Green County. Much of my understanding of Coke County came after reviewing the final Coke County census statics and demographics. Upon analyzing these figures, it became very apparent the needs, wants and short comings of this county.

Georgia and I have 3 married children: Christopher (Marissa), Kimberly (Harold) and the youngest Jennifer (Hunter).

Christopher is a school teacher in Katy, Texas. He keeps me up to date on the troubles and problems our county school systems are facing. The hopes and plans of providing a good and solid education for our children are becoming increasingly difficult with so many regulations and tight budget restraints, especially in a small county!

Kimberly is a registered nurse (RN) and leads the surgical teams of the Laser Spine Institute in Oklahoma City, OK. and Philadelphia, PA. I have become very familiar with the dire need of having an efficient and dependable EMT emergency service to small counties through in-depth discussions with Kim and several leading Coke County residents!

The youngest, Jennifer, is a practicing veterinarian in Austin, TX. Her love and respect for animals was inherited from her mother. I know Coke County does the best it can with humane animal control, but more needs to be accomplished. I see many abandoned animals on the side of our roads. My home is full of pets, most of which have been rescued!

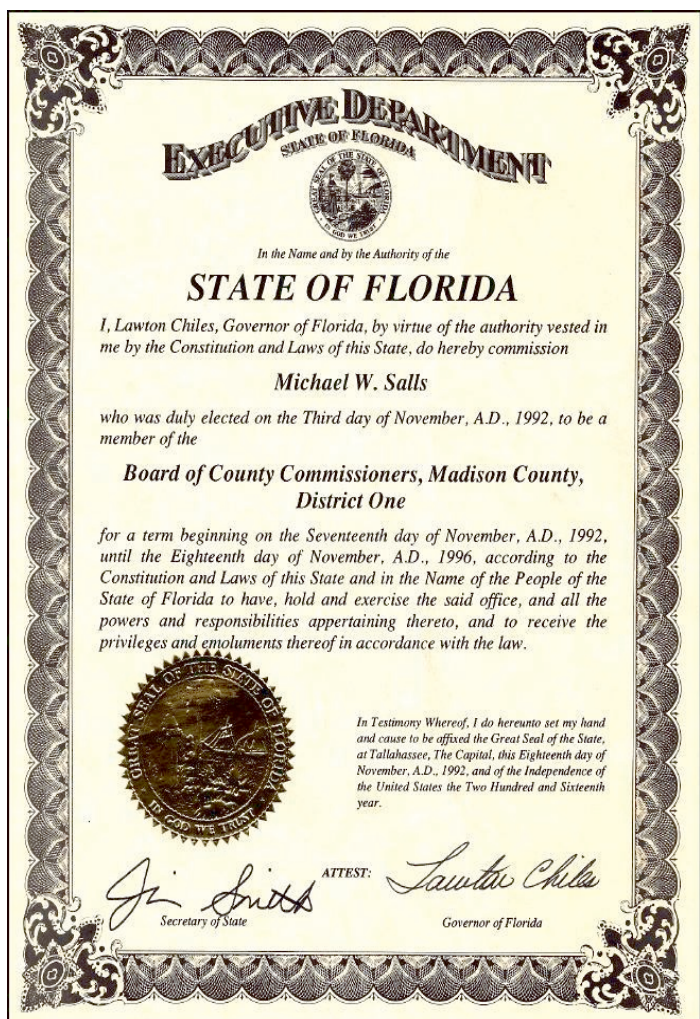
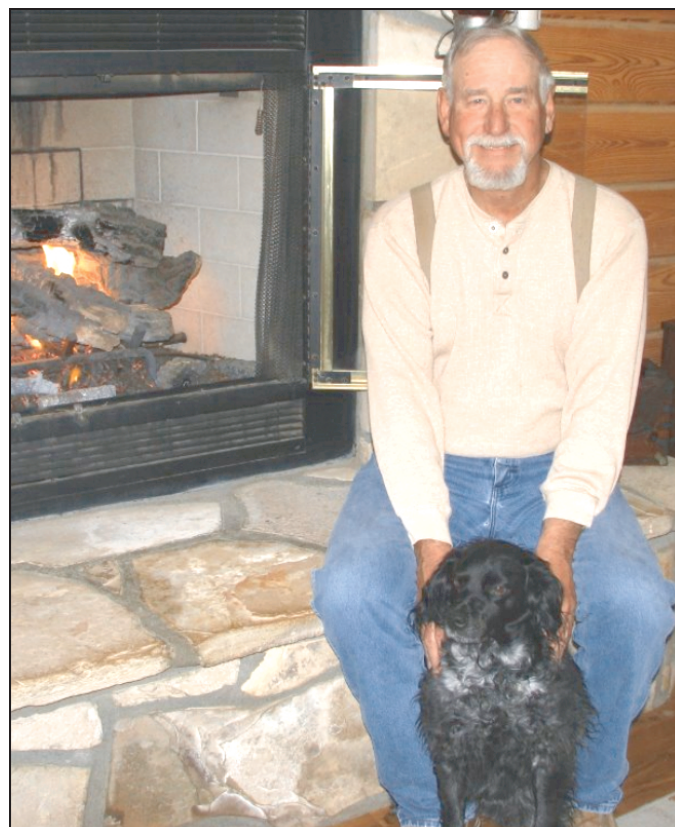
I was born and raised in the **ONCE** very small town of Tarpon Springs, Florida (Pinellas County). The dirt and red clay roads at that time in Tarpon Springs were comparable to the caliche roads here in Coke County. My parents owned and operated a dairy farm and then added beef cattle to their operation. After graduating from high school, I worked and managed the two businesses for several years before accepting an offer for an entry level position at Florida Power. After 3.5 years at Florida Power I became a lineman. I worked at Florida Power for 15 years. By this time Tarpon Springs had grown considerably and my parents were ready to relocate to another small county in Florida. In 1982 my parents asked for my help to relocate the beef operation (500 momma cows) to the **SMALL** north Florida town of Madison, in Madison County, Florida. (countywide population 6,000 in 1982).

Besides the cattle operation, the ranch expanded to successful hay and timber production.

In 1992 our small county was threatened with the building of a large hazardous waste incinerator plant from a Louisiana company ("Waste Tech"). A countywide group was created ("SOC" "Save Our County") and I was asked to run for county commissioner against the incumbent who was in favor of allowing this waste incinerator. This was my beginning in politics. I had only lived in Madison County for about 10 years! I was elected in 1992 and served three 4 year terms being the chairman 3 times (1992-2004). The hazardous waste incinerator plant was defeated!

During my service to the county, (12 years) some of the many accomplishments achieved were:

- \* **Economic Development** – "**Nestles Water**" (Multi-national water bottling facility) located to Madison county and provided over a thousand local jobs! "**Smithfield's Meats** also relocated to Madison County and provided over 600 local jobs. This was accomplished through state and county incentives. But I also felt it very important to retain our "Mom and Pop" businesses that already existed in Madison! Sorry, no Wal-Mart or Home Depot.
- \* **Recreation Facilities** – A major countywide sports complex was built. It consisted of baseball fields, softball fields, soccer fields, walking trails, playgrounds, etc. for both young and old to enjoy. This complex generated income \$\$\$ through tournaments, travel ball, concession stands, fund raisers etc. to help offset operating expenses and maintenance. The complex also provided some jobs.
- \* **Emergency Medical Services (EMS)** - Developed two facilities that operated 365/24/7 days a year! Fully funded by Federal, state and local grants! Coke County needs this!
- \* **Animal Control** – Developed the first county wide humane animal control shelter! Fully set up to offer animal adoptions along with spay/neuters and vaccinations through local vets at reduced fees.



- \* **Regional Landfill** – This landfill was developed with 3 counties. (All small counties) Madison County, Jefferson County and Taylor County. Fully accomplished with federal and state grants. This state of the art containment system provided no threat of contamination or pollution to any surrounding properties! Residents now had a full service facility for all types of trash and waste.
- \* **Recycling Facility** – Collected, sorted and packaged recyclables for sale to offset operating expenses. Also provided local jobs!
- \* **Water Systems** – Our county and cities need to continue their work on a dependable, safe and secure water system. Water was not an important issue in Florida. In fact, Madison County sold water to "Nestles". There is an abundance of water in Florida. People tended to take this commodity for granted. Since moving to Texas I have definitely become enlightened on the subject of water. Water is of great concern here and such a vital importance to this area!

All these things and more can be accomplished for the county if one knows where to go and who to contact. This requires one to work with state and local people. Also Coke County needs to be part of a small county coalition. I spent a lot of time at the capital in Tallahassee representing the small county of Madison, Florida.

As you can see, I am very familiar with the wants, needs, trials and tribulations of small towns and small counties. I believe that with the experience I have, I can help this county prosper!

On a closing note, many of my neighbors have asked how I ended up in Coke County. Did I get lost? No way! I have hunted in Texas since the late 1960's. I fell in love with the state and hoped one day to move to Texas. After retiring from Florida Power, the Madison County Commission and selling my part of "Salls" ranch, my wife and I decided to make the move. I liked the San Angelo area but found it too populous for me. Our real estate agent suggested Coke County. So instead of harvesting pine trees, producing acres of hay and raising lots of beef cattle, my wife and I are now raising trophy whitetail deer. [weatherrockranch.com](http://weatherrockranch.com)

Yes, I am a relatively newcomer to Coke County, but many times new ideas can be the answer to old problems!

I would sincerely appreciate your vote and support in the upcoming election on March 1, 2016!

Please vote for and elect Mike Salls for County Commissioner, Precinct I.