

January 2004

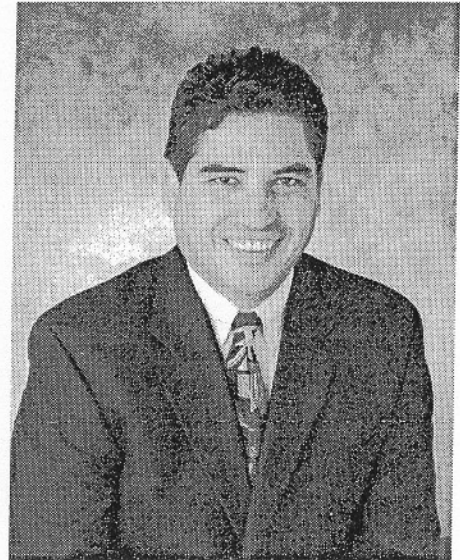
# JAIME OLIVAS

## ATTORNEY AT LAW

210 North Campbell  
El Paso, Texas 79901-1492

Dear El Paso County Voter:

Greetings and Happy New Year. I wish to introduce myself to you as a candidate for public office. My name is Jaime Olivas and I am a candidate for Eastside El Paso County Commissioner, Precinct 1. I will be challenging the incumbent, Charles Scruggs in the March primary election in my first attempt for an elected position.



*Jaime Olivas*

It is a common belief in our community that the current County Commissioner's Court is seriously deficient in direction, discipline and dedication to the citizens and residents of El Paso County whom they serve. I read such comments in our local newspaper and I hear them from my friends and associates. I strongly believe this to be the case as well and in order to help restore accountability to the voters *people like you, me, our families and our neighbors* - I decided to enter this race.

My history is rather simple. I was born and raised in El Paso. I attended college at the University of Texas at El Paso in 1986 while I worked as a truck driver and at Cashway to pay for my schooling. I temporarily left El Paso to attend the University of Notre Dame Law School in Indiana. I returned to El Paso in 1989 after obtaining my law degree, and started my career as a lawyer. I served as a Federal Public Defender and then I started my own general practice with an emphasis on criminal defense.

My entire family has deep roots in our El Paso region. My mother, who is now retired, was a seamstress for the garment factories and my father, who passed away when I was one year old, worked at Fort Bliss. I have three brothers. My oldest brother who retired from the military works at Beaumont Army Medical Center, my next brother works for the United States Customs and my youngest brother like me works as a lawyer. We are all committed to our city and county and we do what we can to contribute to the rich culture and quality of life that our community enjoys. Needless to say, I love El Paso and I am teaching my three young children to love their hometown, too. I suppose that is the reason that I have decided after much thought and reflection to offer myself for public service on the El Paso County Commissioner's Court.

In the past three years, month after month and sometimes week after week, our local newspaper and media sources carry stories about the “abhorrent behavior,” the poor judgment, the “mistakes,” the secrecy, the intransigence, wastefulness, increased spending, “inexcusable conduct,” “mismanagement,” and lack of leadership all arising from actions of our current County Commissioner's Court.<sup>1</sup>

A continual barrage of what the El Paso Times has called “illegal meetings” has also confronted all of us as we read our morning newspapers and watch our evening news.<sup>2</sup>

Heaped on top of these repeated headlines and criticisms of our county government have been a steady stream of reports of criminal investigations into the actions of Commissioner Charles Scruggs by both the El Paso County Sheriffs Department and the FBI.<sup>3</sup> The result has been a loss of trust and respect by our citizens for those who steer our county government.

Also troubling is the fact that Commissioner's Court shows absolutely no regard for the ever-growing burden on our belabored taxpayers. The Court has raised property taxes two years in a row and approved over \$100 Million Dollars in debt without voter approval.

Friends and fellow voters, if we are to set our County government right; we must do it at the ballot box. This is the reason my family members and colleagues have urged and convinced me to run for County Commissioner. However, before I can ask you to consider casting your vote for me, I want you to know more about what I believe in and what I hope to bring to Commissioner's Court.

Although I am not a politician or an experienced government insider, I am an attorney who knows, understands and believes in the law, especially the laws about misconduct, ethics and nepotism. I believe that there is a sacred trust between those who are elected to office and the people they serve. I believe that public officeholders in whom the citizens have entrusted their votes and their government, should make every conceivable effort and take every conceivable action to do what is right and ethical and responsible as well as avoid the appearance of impropriety. I believe that public officials should be held to a higher standard, not a lower standard.

I am a fiscal conservative. I believe that the County should limit its expenditures and resources to the mandated functions delegated to county government, with the only exception being the quality of life initiatives concerning senior services, county parks, athletics and recreation for our youth. I believe that tax increases should be the absolute last resort after every other possible means of

1. Please see the El Paso Times articles on June 30, 2002, June 13, 2002, October 1, 2003.

2. Please see the El Paso Times on November 6, 2002.

3. Please see the El Paso Times articles on November 14, 2002, November 15, 2002, October 3, 2003 and the El Paso Tribune on February 2, 2003.

meeting our county obligations have been exhausted, including administrative cuts, program changes and department consolidations as well as inter-local agreements with other local government jurisdictions to reduce duplication in government services.

My number one priority as a county commissioner will be to live within our means. The flagrant disregard of our taxpayers and our future taxpayers such as our children and grandchildren reflected in the extravagant use of debt without voter approval (also known as certificates of obligation) and perpetual tax increases must stop. Capital improvements such as a courthouse annex, an additional jail annex, a parking garage, all should be submitted to you for your approval or disapproval since you will be paying the price tag as taxpayers.

The issues that confront County Government are too numerous to discuss thoroughly in this opening letter of my campaign. I plan to communicate with you again through your mailbox before the close of the election and address more of the specific contrasts between Mr. Scruggs and myself. However, if you would like to communicate directly with me in the mean time, please call me at my office at 532-3601 or at my home, 629-0480. You may also contact me by email at [jvjolivas@aol.com](mailto:jvjolivas@aol.com). I would be delighted to share more of my thoughts, ideas and positions with you.

Frankly speaking, I firmly believe that Commissioner's Court needs a strong and independent voice of reason, a voice that stands up for the taxpayer. I am confident that I can be that voice for you.

In closing, I thank you for taking the time to read this letter and I respectfully ask for your vote and support in the upcoming election. Together we can make a difference in our County Government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jaime Olivas', written in a cursive style.

Jaime Olivas

Important Dates :

Democratic Primary Election Day: March 9, 2004  
Early Voting: February 23, 2004 to March 5, 2004