

Ryan Williams
Precinct 1

Ron Marchant
Precinct 2



Bobbie J. Mitchell
Precinct 3

Dianne Edmondson
Precinct 4

Denton County Commissioners Court
Judge Andy Eads

January 12, 2022

Mr. Charles Stafford
Chairman, Denton Central Appraisal District Board
3911 Morse Street
Denton, TX 76208

Dear Mr. Stafford:

We are writing to bring our grave concerns involving the Denton Central Appraisal District to your immediate attention. A series of occurrences in the past two years have exhibited a lack of transparency and mismanagement on the part of the Denton Central Appraisal District.

First, in 2020 and 2021, a software conversion resulted in the delay of certified tax rolls to taxing entities and accurate tax statements to property owners. This delay complicated the budgeting process for taxing entities across Denton County and resulted in Denton County having to finalize the budget and calculate the tax rate based on an estimate, which is unacceptable.

Additionally, during this time, the Denton Central Appraisal District opted to shut its doors prompting a number of individuals to contact county offices with inquiries about their tax statements and other related issues. This months-long conversion to new software ended up not working, with an eventual return to the previous outdated software, which has continued to cause challenges with incomplete and inaccurate information.

In an effort to be of assistance, Denton County Judge Andy Eads held a meeting with Chief Appraiser Hope McClure, Deputy Chief Appraiser Don Spencer, yourself, and other county officials and staff, and offered the help of the county's technology team to assist with the conversion, as well as our communications team to assist with improving communication to the citizens in Denton County.

During this meeting, Judge Eads asked that a technology workgroup of IT professionals throughout the county be formed. These professionals could have provided assistance if necessary, but also provide a sense of transparency and increase confidence in the IT department at the Denton Central Appraisal District; however, no one from the Denton Central Appraisal District followed up or took advantage of the offer.

Secondly, several months ago, Ms. McClure sent an email communication with regards to the Board of Directors election process and stated that Denton County *"must determine its vote by resolution adopted at the first or second open meeting of the governing body that is held after the date the chief appraiser delivers the ballot to the presiding officer of the governing body."* A new law, House Bill 988, was cited as the reason. A reminder of the new timeline was also included when the ballot was received at the end of October. It is important to note the law did not go into effect until Jan. 1, 2022, and we were misinformed directly by the Chief Appraiser.

Most recently, in December, the Denton Central Appraisal District released information about proposed changes to agricultural valuations shortly before a board meeting with little notice to the general public. This prompted a strong outcry among property owners.

While we appreciate the Board's decision to table the changes to the agriculture guidelines and post a survey on the Denton Central Appraisal District website to seek public input, we believe continued efforts to improve communication and transparency are needed.

We have outlined several examples that demonstrate our great frustrations and lack of trust with the Denton Central Appraisal District. Denton County taxpayers pay significant amounts of money to fund the appraisal district each year. As guardians of the purse, it is our role as stewards of those funds to make sure they are spent wisely, efficiently and effectively.

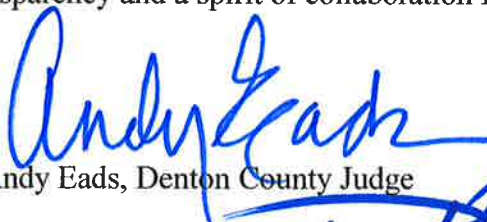
On behalf of the citizens of Denton County, we would request the Board of Directors fully investigate the operations of the Denton Central Appraisal District under the leadership of Ms. McClure and determine what steps are being taken to address these issues.

We would also ask for more open communications from the Denton Central Appraisal District to all taxing entities to ensure transparency and a spirit of collaboration for the benefit of all Denton County taxpayers.

Sincerely,



Ryan Williams, Precinct 1 Commissioner



Andy Eads, Denton County Judge



Ron Marchant, Precinct 2 Commissioner



Bobbie Mitchell, Precinct 3 Commissioner



Dianne Edmondson, Precinct 4 Commissioner

cc: Denton Central Appraisal District Board of Directors
Hope McClure, Chief Appraiser
All Denton County Taxing Entities