

George "Jody" Sweeney 2020 Announcement Letter
January 3, 2020

Over these last ten years, it has been my privilege to serve the residents of the 5th Levy Court District as their Commissioner on Kent County Levy Court. Over these 10 years, Levy Court has accomplished many great projects, like the addition of the Kesselring Park, the Tidbury Bark Park, and expanding trails for walking in Brecknock, Brown's Branch, and Kesselring Parks, and one of the best additions, the Kent County Recreational Facility on New Burton Road. We have expanded the Paramedic Service areas by adding an Outpost at the Frederica Volunteer Fire Company station to better serve the southeast quadrant of our county, and soon will start the renovation of a standing building for the West Dover Paramedic Outpost serving the northwest quadrant of our county. Kent County supported Economic Development for Kent County with the Kent County Regional Sports Facility and DE Turf, as well as the two new Employment Centers along Rt. 1 in Frederica and Little Heaven. DE Turf has already proven itself to be a tremendous economic driver by attracting thousands of visitors who spend their money in our hotels, restaurants, gas stations, and retail stores, then go home.

All this comes with no increase in the County portion of your Real Estate taxes over the last 10 years, and only a minor increase in the last 30 years. In fact, 2010 included a tax DECREASE. Check it out! The County portion of my personal Real Estate taxes in 2010 was \$119.97 and in 2018 it was \$118.80.

However, more than all of this, my ten years on Levy Court has been one of constituent services. I receive calls for help from residents all over the county who have heard that I am a Commissioner who can help them. I have helped with rerouting a new DeIDOT road to avoid tearing down a family home. I have helped with sewer permits and tree trimming or removal approvals from DNREC and I have helped with animal welfare through the Department of Ag. I have helped with reigning in a rogue cemetery manager and engaged the Attorney General to investigate. But most of all, I have helped with navigating the permit process at Kent County for sheds, barns, pools, and wheelchair ramps, assisting HOA's with neighbor vs neighbor conflict and stormwater management options, snow removal issues, and the occasional neighbor who refuses to clean up trash or abandoned cars on their property.

If I am re-elected to Kent County Levy Court, I promise to continue great constituent service. I promise to question why we have some cumbersome ordinances. I promise to continue to improve the permit process and to make the process friendlier to homeowners who want to make their lives better. I will continue to question where and how your money is spent.

When considering whom you will support, do not just listen to what they say they are going to do, but look at what they have done. With that, I am announcing my campaign for re-election to continue to be the Commissioner from the 5th Levy Court District for Kent County and look forward to continuing to represent you.