

NOTE: This Public Participation Form must be presented to the County Clerk prior to the time the agenda item(s) you wish to address are discussed before the Court.

**BROWN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FORM**

Instructions: Fill out all appropriate blanks. Please print or write legibly.

NAME:

ALLEN ANDREWS DATE: 2/26/24

ADDRESS:

2307 13TH ST BROWNWOOD, TX 76801

TELEPHONE:

626 298-0886

E-MAIL

aeapiano@gmail.com

Do you represent any particular group or organization? Yes No (Circle One)

If you do represent a group or organization, please state the name, address and telephone number of such group or organization.

Which agenda item(s) do you wish to address?

YMCA

I am aware that my comments must be limited to the issues relating to the above referenced agenda item(s), and that I will be limited to five (5) minutes for my comments, subject to the discretion of the Court to allow me more time.

I am aware all speakers are required to adhere to the rules of procedure, conduct and decorum adopted by the Court on August 19, 2019.

(Upon completion of this form, please present it to the County Clerk. Unless this form is presented to the County Clerk, you may not be recognized for comments)

February 26, 2024
(Exhibit # 1)

Signature: _____

Comments to the Brown County Commissioners Court

February 26, 2024

Judge Britton, Commissioners, county officials, fellow citizens:

Why build a “Y”?

1. A YMCA will compete with existing fitness centers. Why should the county property tax payers pay for this? What is it called when the government builds this type of place that competes with private enterprise? You know, it is socialism! Why deny and work against the virtue and value of the free market? What standard of justice or rightness would require existing fitness centers to pay property taxes to finance a competing establishment? I submit that it is not an American standard.
2. Whereas all government officials in the United States are supposed to live under and live by its Constitution, I ask: “Why is this county government considering taxing its property owners for a building for the Young Men’s *Christian* Association?” While I fervently desire Christianity to finish its mission of preaching the Gospel to the world, I don’t want the government, at any level, supporting it. That’s not government’s job. The government that tries to “help” religion will soon start to meddle in it. There is that First Amendment principle of separation of State from Church – meaning: “Government stay out of religion’s business!” But it does allow the Church, much as the Old Testament prophets to the kings of Israel and Judah, to decry government actions when they go amiss. Or Church representatives can, in invocations, call for divine wisdom and guidance for this body’s legitimate actions.
3. This decision to add such a tax burden to the people should not be put to a vote of the citizens. As the founders of our country rightly constructed, we are *not* a democracy, but a

republic. "We the People" elect officials to represent us, which means governing by and under the Constitution and constitutional laws, not necessarily just giving us (or a small group) what we want. You are in these positions for that reason. So don't punt to us voters the decision.

4. So because we are not supposed to be a socialist country, because of the Constitution's First Amendment, and because we are a republic wherein elected officials are supposed to represent us by Constitutional principles: I call upon you to reconsider this matter, stand up and do your duty, remove this flawed matter from the ballot, and vote this bond issue down!
5. So what then should the well-intentioned citizens of Early and Brown County do? The answer is also in the Constitution's First Amendment: The freedom of peaceable assembly. Gather together, discuss your wants and needs, pool your resources, buy property with your money, and then build with your money.

BUT DON'T LOOK TO THE GOVERNMENT TO TAX THE COUNTY'S OTHER CITIZENS FOR A PROJECT THAT LARGELY ONLY BENEFITS YOU!

I thank you.