

Morgan County Executive

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EXECUTIVE'S ECONOMY 2-19-14

I want to say first and foremost how thankful Morgan County is to have the Morgan County Correctional Complex (MCCX) in our county. Warden David Sexton and his staff of about 750 do an outstanding job of managing the prison and keeping our community safe in the process. The great people of MCCX, many of whom are your friends and neighbors, perform a tremendous service for the people of our county and frankly, they receive very little thanks in return.

As the chief elected official of our county, I work very hard to let the entire administration and staff at MCCX know that we appreciate their hard work and dedication. My wife, Donita, has worked at MCCX for about 26 years and I have many friends that are a part of the corrections team there. That makes a very personal connection for me to the institution and its people. I attend various functions at MCCX, I make a concerted effort to have periodic meetings with Warden Sexton to ensure a good line of open communications, and we do our best to work cooperatively and symbiotically with the TDOC and MCCX staff.

One specific issue I want to address is concerning privatization. I know that the state government has, incrementally, started privatizing some of the services within the prison system itself. It is my very strong opinion that privatization of our prisons will lead to a loss of jobs for Morgan County, lower wages for our citizens, conditions that are less safe for the staff members, and an environment where the facility is less secure in our community. Many of our families have worked at the prison for generations. Children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren continue that family tradition and we want that same opportunity to be available to our families for decades to come.

As your chief elected official, I will work hard to oppose any attempt at privatization and I will fight for each and every Morgan county citizen that works at the MCCX to ensure the security of those jobs in the future. We will make sure the Tennessee General Assembly and our Governor understands the grave concerns that Morgan County holds relating to this very important issue.

I will be presenting a resolution to the Morgan County Commission at the March 10th meeting that will send a message to our state leadership about how strongly Morgan County feels about the potential negative consequences of privatization.

Morgan County has a lengthy and successful history with the Department of Corrections and, by God's grace, we will keep it that way.

God's Blessings,

Don Edwards
Morgan County Executive