POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENT SPEECH

FOR

KYLE ROWELL

Hello everyone. My name is Kyle Rowell and it is my intention that **you,** the fine citizens of Taylor County, choose **me** to be Taylor County’s next Tax Collector. I am a true son of Taylor County, and I have the experience, knowledge and compassion on many levels, as you will see, that demonstrate that I am the best choice to serve in this capacity in this community. I am a seventh generation Taylor Countian. I was born and raised here, blessed to have been born into a Taylor County family that believes in public service, and so do I. I studied and trained for most of my life to be prepared to make a difference within this community, and the time has come for me to serve my neighbors and fellow citizens. I am a friend, a neighbor, a farmer and a businessman. I am a son, a husband, and a father of Taylor County. And now it’s time for me to be Taylor County Tax Collector.

Let me tell you a little more about myself. As I said, I am 7th generation Taylor County and those of you who know or knew my family, know how much they are a part of the “firmament” of this community. I am the son of Walter Rowell and Gerry Ann Persons Rowell, and if my father’s name sounds familiar, it’s because he served for 12 years as a Taylor County Commissioner. I grew up in and around the courthouse and I knew at an early age that I wanted to serve the people of Taylor County. I am the proud grandson of the late Lawrence and Virginia Tedder Rowell and Al Cribbs. I am blessed to have one surviving grandmother, Geraldine Grubbs Persons Cribbs (**If you want to make a little bit of a light comment, you can say, “And she would love to have her grandson be the next Tax Collector for Taylor County!”**).

I am married to Jodi Drawdy, who is 5th Generation Taylor Countian, and she has taught in the Taylor County School system for the past 15 years. Jodi currently teaches ESE at Taylor County High School and is also at this time, Varsity Cheer-leading Sponsor. In the past, Jodi was chairperson of the Junior Miss Program, Student Council Sponsor and is still an inspiration to so many of the youth in our community and in the whole Southeastern United States. We have an 18-month-old son, Lawton who is the joy of our lives. He attends Happy Time Day Care and gives us hope and a vision of the bright future of Taylor County.

I attended North Florida Junior College and moved on to graduate from Valdosta State where I majored in Accounting and minored in Public Administration. I think it’s pretty clear that I’ve known what I wanted to do and how I wanted to serve, and pursued my destiny from a young age. Early in my career, I was Comptroller at Chromalloy in Tallahassee, and while there I became a Green Belt in Six Sigma-a fine and inspirational business discipline if ever there was one! One fascinating and useful area of concentration through Six Sigma was learning all about cost savings through process analysis. I have been the Chief Financial Officer for the past 7 years at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Once again, all that I do in my professional life serves to teach me and train me to be **YOUR** Tax collector.

I stand before you with the knowledge and passion to serve each one of you. I cannot think of anything more fulfilling than the thought of the citizens of Taylor County **hiring** me, Kyle Rowell, to serve all of you. I believe in service to the public-it is what I am most passionate about. I don’t believe public officials should become rich off the backs of taxpayers, an idea that seems to stretch to the White House. I am a very hard worker and I believe your tax collector should have knowledge of General Accepted Accounting Principles, Governmental Accounting Standards and Financial Accounting Standards when it comes to calculating, collecting and distributing your tax dollars back to the correct taxing authority. I believe in maintaining an open door policy and will do my best to be available even after regular hours if needed, to solve the issues of the citizens of this county. Please feel free to contact me. This is nothing new to me; I have served many with their Federal, State and Local Tax issues over the past fourteen years while keeping up with ever changing laws and requirements. I have also run an agri-business for the past twelve years, Rowell Farms (Cattle & Hay). I am proud to have been a leader in our county in this industry and in organic cattle farming. I was selected Young Farmer of the Year in 2005 and in 2010 Jodi, Lawton and I were selected as Taylor County Outstanding Farm Family of the year. I have served on several local boards and committees since I was 18 years of age. I also want you to know that my Faith, Family Heritage and Friends have always been a very important part of who I am. I am a lifelong member of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church where I serve as Treasurer and Jodi and I are currently the Middle School Sunday School Teachers. I am also, at present, a member of Florida Farm Bureau, Big Bend Gideon Camp, and Taylor County Touchdown Club just to name a few.

In the agriculture business, there is a movement called, “nose to tail,” and it is what it sounds like. Nose to tail dining or eating teaches us to benefit from the entire animal. It teaches us to appreciate, conserve and utilize all of the resources presented to us while minimizing waste. I have a vision of “nose to tail” government, or perhaps more appropriately “dime to dollar” economic practices. The goal is to maximize resources, whether in agriculture, business or government. The economic climate has been challenging for all of us, no matter our financial level or experience and it’s time to have a tax collector who is one of **YOU**-someone who knows the community and has been a part of it for generations-someone who lives and works and functions in the community, just like **YOU** do-someone who has devoted his life to learning and gathering the knowledge and tools to best serve **YOU**.

 I sincerely, whole hearted, and humbly ask for your vote on August 14th, and I will be proud to serve you as the next Taylor County Tax Collector. Thank you all!