



**Date:** February 19, 2009  
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## NEWS RELEASE

### **HARRIS COUNTY JUDGE ED EMMETT REVEALS HIS VISION FOR THE COUNTY IN 2009** *Emmett Vows Harris County Will Not “Slip Under the Waves” Of Economic Turmoil*

Harris County Judge Ed Emmett said Thursday that Harris County remains in “very healthy” condition despite a precarious national and worldwide economy, and he predicted the county would remain on solid financial footing throughout 2009, thanks to its conservative economic leadership.

“Who knows what the coming year will bring, but I can guarantee you that Commissioners Court and the county’s financial managers will not allow this county to slip under the waves of economic turmoil,” Emmett told the crowd of 1,200 gathered at the Greater Houston Partnership’s annual State of the County Address. “The four commissioners have a combined 68 years of experience. The county’s budget office, headed by Dick Raycraft since its inception 27 years ago, has always taken a fiscally responsible approach, and that approach will no doubt continue.”

Emmett, who was appointed county judge in March 2007 and elected in November, used his speech to the region’s community leaders to call for a heightened level of cooperation across party lines and governmental borders. He called for the area’s leaders in state, county and city governments to work together to solve the region’s transportation, health care and environmental challenges. Given the area’s natural and economic advantages, he said, there is every reason to believe that effort will be successful.

The root of that economic success, Emmett said, also lies in regional cooperation.

“Harris County, while itself a complex government organization, is part of a larger whole,” he said. “No matter what the state of Harris County is at this moment, our future condition is inextricably tied to others. We must act cooperatively with the wide range of entities in our region to make sure that the state of all of us remains sound.”