

## Profile in Public Service: Heath Assistant City Manager Kim Dobbs

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*Heath Assistant City Manager Kim Dobbs is an example of the hundreds of hard-working, dedicated city officials serving small cities in Texas. We think it is important to profile these public servants from time to time.*



Kim Dobbs began working for the City of Heath, home to more than 7,500 residents and located in Rockwall and Kaufman counties, in 1997 and has served as Heath's assistant city manager since 1998. Before working for Heath, Kim held positions with the cities of Tyler and Waco and the Texas Workers Compensation Commission.

Kim grew up in Ponca City, Oklahoma, and Kingwood, Texas. Her husband of 21 years, Preston Dobbs, is an attorney with Burford & Ryburn, L.L.P., and they are the proud soccer parents of Laura, 18, and Jay, 15. A Baylor Bear through and through, Kim received a Bachelor of Business Administration in Public Administration degree and a Master of Public Policy and Administration degree from Baylor University.

Kim can often be found volunteering at the boys' and girls' high school soccer booster organizations and at the high school. When not cheering for her kids on the soccer field, Kim jokingly adds that her new hobby is assisting her daughter with college admission and scholarship applications.

Kim is involved in several civic and professional organizations, including the National Charity League, the Rockwall Women's League, the Rockwall Alliance for the Arts, the Texas City Management Association, the International City/County Management Association, the North Texas City Management Association, the Urban Management Assistants of North Texas, and the TML Small Cities Advisory Council, of which she served as the 2010 chair.

### What are your core responsibilities?

- Work, as part of the executive team, with the city manager, city council, and appointed boards and commissions to serve the immediate needs and plan for the future benefit of the citizens of Heath
- Oversee planning, public works, parks, insurance/risk management, information technology, public information, and special events
- Work closely with the city manager and city secretary to support the city council and implement their vision for the city

### What are your short-term goals for the city?

- To position the city to maximize our strengths and create opportunities for development, residential and commercial, now and in the future
- To manage the city's resources to build the infrastructure needed to best serve our residents
- To plan for construction and maintenance of city facilities

### What are your long-term goals for the city?

- To be bold in our innovations and land use planning in a manner that creates energy and excitement
- To diversify the tax base and attract development that meets the current and future needs of our residents
- To direct planning and investment efforts toward our comprehensive plan's vision of Heath being "a place to live a lifetime"

### What are the city's greatest opportunities?

Heath has a wonderful opportunity to advance as an exciting and successful area for high-end, mixed-use and commercial development that is uniquely situated to our community and meeting the desires of our residents.

### What are the city's greatest challenges?

City Manager Ed Thatcher often notes that "what makes Heath so special is that we are hard to get to, and what