



CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE

QUESTIONNAIRE

- 1 What is your motivation for running for this office?
For the last eight years, I've been behind the scenes working on the city council. These years have shown me what working together can do. That experience led me to see what I can do to help improve our school system. Birmingham has been growing successfully and a improved school system will take the city farther.

- 2 What is your greatest virtue, especially as applied to leadership, stewardship and learning? My greatest virtue is my faith and temperance. I have the patience to learn about our school system, to listen to parents concerns and work with our students to help them get through school. My temperance allows me not to overreact, I will be dealing with different egos and hearing about different matters within our school system.

- 3 If you currently attend a house of worship, what is the name of it and how often do you attend?
Life Changers Christian Church. I attend every Sunday.

- 4 What impact will your faith have on the performance of the duties of this office?
Faith is essential to my everyday life. I believe in the students, I believe that this school system can be the best in the state. My faith gives me belief that I can be the best school board member I can be. I have faith that God will be by my side throughout my life and during this school board term, when I'm elected.

- 5 How will you establish a good working relationship with the elected Mayor to ensure the City's success?

Constant communication with the Mayor and Superintendent will be crucial to the improvement in our education for our students. Giving monthly updates on the progress of the system will help the Mayor and Council see what kind of assistance the City can help with financially.

- 6 Recognizing that education plays a vital role on the present and future of a city's economy and job growth, what are your plans for Birmingham City Schools to be seen as one of the top education institutions in the nation?

We have to control the narrative of the public's perception of our school system. Highlighting all the good that students do will help put a positive spotlight and what kind of education they receive.

- 7 What do you see as Birmingham City Schools greatest challenges and assets?

The greatest challenge would be stopping the yearly decline of the student population. The greatest asset we have is the fact that the high schools have vocational classes for students to learn a trade that will be with them after graduation.

- 8 What goals do you hope to achieve if elected?

My goal is to create policies that will make our school system more innovative, I want to work to stabilize the central office, work to go after more funding for after school programs, and give our new Superintendent the time she needs to move our school system forward.

- 9 What in your opinion is the reason for Birmingham City's failed schools and what are your plans to ensure the success of Birmingham City Schools.

My son had been coming home with no school books and he rarely had homework. He didn't textbooks to bring home to read over the days lessons. The constant cutting of the education budget has led to our school system doing so much with so less. It's time for us to be unified and find the funds for additional books, for additional resources so that our principals, teachers, and staff have the tools needed to educate our children.

- 10 What will you, as a board member, do to assure that teachers have the support and materials needed to successfully assist students in meeting state standards?

My job will be to advocate for our teachers, I believe putting a renewed focus on the needs of the teachers will be vital to improving our educational standing. Teachers need to know that they have the support from the school board and continue to encourage them.

11 How would you balance your decisions as a member of the board with the input of parents and teachers?

Determine what the needs are from the teachers, see what the parents expectations are, and then see how our students will benefit from those talks.

12 How long have you lived in Birmingham, and how would you characterize the City's quality of life? How should it be improved?

I was born and raised in Birmingham. The quality of life in the city is affordable, it's growing, and there is a new love for Birmingham that's happening right before our eyes. Improvements to the school system, making this city more family friendly are the big improvements needed.

13 What distinguishes you from the other candidates?

I have a unique perspective from working 8 years on the city council, being involved in the neighborhood associations, and working and being apart of different non-profit boards. I know the job of a school board member and I know the landscape of our city and most important, I have a son that's in the Birmingham City school system.

14 What issue is not getting enough attention?

The lost of students since 1999 has not been brought to the attention of the public. Once we get the school system back on track, the student population will increase.