



CITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE

QUESTIONNAIRE

- 1 What is your motivation for running for this office?

~~I'm running because I really see a need to strengthen communications between our~~ \_\_\_\_\_  
~~neighborhoods and city hall. I spent 10 years serving this same community in the Alabama State~~  
~~Legislature, and if you look at my record you'll see that I've always been the type of elected official~~  
~~that is out in the streets being accountable to the people. That's what we need at City Hall right~~  
~~now-- someone who is going to fight for our neighborhoods. The people of District 9 want to see~~  
~~abandoned homes torn down and overgrown lots cut. They want to see meaningful,~~ \_\_\_\_\_  
~~neighborhood-based economic development.~~

- 2 What is your greatest virtue, especially as applied to stewardship and the law?

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~~I would say integrity, and I believe that is one of the most important traits of anyone seeking or~~  
~~holding elected office. I uphold the highest ethical and moral standards in my personal dealings,~~  
~~and I will take that same standard to City Hall. I will make sure that all citizens are treated with~~  
~~equal dignity and respect.~~ \_\_\_\_\_

- 3 If you currently attend a house of worship, what is the name of it and how often do you attend?

~~I regularly attend Church with my family. I'm a long time member of Mt. Moriah of North Pratt~~  
~~and also attend Church of the Highlands where I've been involved in the service days that we~~  
~~host in the community. I also regularly attend the Sunday morning United Fellowship~~  
~~Breakfasts that move to churches across Birmingham.~~ \_\_\_\_\_

- 4 What impact will your faith have on the performance of the duties of this office?

~~No matter where I go I carry my faith with me-- in my personal life, in the businesses that I've~~  
~~founded and run, and I'll carry it with me to City Hall. It's part of who I am. I will also make sure~~  
~~that people of all faiths are respected.~~ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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My strategy has always been to have a constant, open line of communication. Building relationships with the Mayor, my colleagues on the Council, as well as the neighborhood officers is essential to getting the job done and moving our city in the right direction. We have to be honest with one another and find ways to compromise so that we can all reach our shared vision, which is to make Birmingham a better place to live for all our citizens.

- 6 Suppose the City Council faced a development proposal that meets all the regulations, yet a large number of citizens appeared before the City Council to stop it. How would you vote?

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I will always vote in the best interests of my constituents in District 9. I will be sure to keep my hand on the pulse of the community and the neighborhoods to understand the direction in which they want me to move. I will not be beholden to special interests

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- 7 How would you stay informed about City issues and what the City Council is working on?

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I will stay in constant communication with City Council staff members, with my colleagues on the Council, and with the Mayor's office to make sure I am up to date on the issues. I am also committed to doing my own research on the issues, leaning on community organizations for expertise, and answering my phone when the citizens call. I will regularly attend neighborhood meetings and community functions.

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- 8 Have you thought about any legislation you are interested in seeing the City Council enact, repeal or revise? If so, what is it? What would you propose?

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I want to work to make sure that we are supporting legislation in Montgomery that will be good for our City and our citizens. I would like to see the changes to the Mayor Council Act repealed to restore our system of checks and balances. I would also like to see the changes that were made to the Water Works repealed to restore control of our water system back to the City. I also want to see us fighting to keep the maximum amount of our tax dollars in the City.

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- 9 How will you determine the City's wants v. needs?

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I think that is something that will need to be assessed on a case by case basis. We have to be realistic and set priorities. There will be times that the "fun" things may not fall in line with our priorities. My priorities are to make sure we improve public safety so that our citizens feel safe and to invest more in our school system so that our children have the best possible resources and opportunities.

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- 10 What do you see as Birmingham's major challenges and assets?

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The people of District 9 want to see abandoned homes torn down and overgrown lots cut. They want to see meaningful, neighborhood-based economic development and more jobs. Birmingham is a 74 percent black city, and one of my top priorities is going to be making sure we're doing everything we can to grow and support our locally-owned, black businesses.

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

I have lived in Birmingham for 56 years and my family has been here since 1896-- 121 years. My characterization of the city is that Birmingham is full of opportunity, full of wonderful people. We as a city face hard times just like other cities, however historically through those times is when we find our greatest strength. If elected officials find ways to positively work with the faith community, the business community and all of our citizens, then we will create a better Birmingham.

12 What distinguishes you from the other candidates?

I have been working in the community that I'm seeking to serve for 46 years now. I know the needs and wants of the community, and I have a proven track record of service! For me, holding an elected position is really about public service and hard work. I had the honor of serving in the Alabama State Legislature for 10 years. Since then, I've had the opportunity to grow some successful businesses in real estate and bail bonding. My daughter just graduated nursing school and is looking to open her own business. I say all that to say that I'm not running because I need something to do, I'm running because I really see a need in the community. The people of District 9 know me and I know them, and we really need that level of trust and communication to come back to City Hall.

13 What issue is not getting enough attention?

As a real estate developer myself, I want to see more of the citizens in District 9 take ownership of vacant homes and vacant lots and revitalize our own community from within. I want to help people learn to take advantage of the Land Bank Authority. I want District 9 to be a source of pride for all who live here, and I hope that people will honor me with their votes and the opportunity to serve them.