

Ryan Jones
District 3
Birmingham City Council Candidate
July 23, 2017

1. What is your motivation for running for this office?
 - a. I seek to restore a sense of professionalism and accountability to City Hall. We can no longer have petty arguments, or worse, fist fights between. in the chambers of city government. I will be a leader that is responsive to the needs of District 3's constituents and will deliver on those needs.
2. What is your greatest virtue, especially as applied to stewardship and the law?
 - a. Transparency and openness lay at the heart of my approach to honoring the public trust and upholding the rule of law.
3. If you currently attend a house of worship, what is the name of it and how often do you attend?
 - a. My wife and I are members of Bluff Park United Methodist Church, which is the church I grew up in, and where we married in recently. We currently attend services with various congregations as we are looking for a permanent church family closer to our home in Southside
4. What impact will your faith have on the performance of the duties of this office?
 - a. My faith forms the bedrock of my political and social principles and drives me to be active in our community. I will do my best to provide servant leadership and I intend to work closely with religious and non-profit charitable organizations throughout our community towards addressing the needs of our most vulnerable residents.
5. How will you establish a good working relationship with the elected Mayor to ensure the city's success?
 - a. Our city has been held back for too long by petty feuds between Mayor and Council. I will work hard to foster a professional working relationship with the Mayor and my fellow Councilors regardless of whom is elected. We will craft it based on mutual respect and through helping each other accomplish our goals. Any good relationship is maintained through continuous and open, honest communication, and through setting realistic expectations of and for all parties.
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?
 - a. I would seek to address the citizens' concerns. If we can find a way to alleviate their concerns while also moving forward with a proposal that is in good order, that would be the best option. However, even if a proposal "checks all the boxes"

from a legal perspective, if it isn't right for the people of the city, then I would not vote for it. I will not go to City Hall to tell my constituents what it best for them, I will bring their voices to City Hall with me. By keeping in contact with our constituents and listening to their needs and ideas, we can build a better city that works for everyone.

7. How would you stay informed about City issues and what the City Council is working on?
 - a. I will stay informed about City issues by staying in constant contact with my constituents to hear firsthand what issues they're contending with. And I will couple that with a commitment to foster an open and collaborative relationship with my staff and colleagues on the Council to ensure that everyone is up to date on council business and working towards the best public good.

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?
 - a. I believe the Birmingham Water Works Board must be brought back under City control if we are to continue to prosper. No city has ever been successful that did not control its own water supply. As a result, corruption has been an issue with the Board since it became separated from the city, and this experiment must end.

9. How will you determine the City's wants v. needs?
 - a. I think the needs of the City at this point in time are pretty obvious. We have significant infrastructure problems in the form of potholes and inadequate public transit, we have fewer police officers on the streets that we need to address crime, and we have food deserts that cause our residents to drive for miles just to find affordable groceries and healthy food. My policy solutions can address these vital issues. I will not spend energy on projects that do not make our residents safer, healthier, or more successful.

10. What do you see as Birmingham's major challenges and assets?
 - a. Birmingham is currently undergoing a remarkable period of economic growth and development, but not all areas of the city have been able to benefit. Our biggest challenge, in my view, is to deliver the same kind of economic growth we've seen downtown and in some of the neighborhoods into places that have yet to see it, including parts of my own District.

11. How long have you lived in Birmingham, and how would you characterize the City's quality of life? How should it be improved?
 - a. I have lived in the Southside area for almost 20 years. In that time I've seen waves of short-term economic development come and go in my District. One big reason why we haven't been able to sustain locally-driven growth in my District or other parts of the City is our lack of reliable public transit. Bus routes haven't been updated in decades, and the stops we do have often have nowhere for people shelter from the elements, and that assumes that the buses will be

running on time. In order for District 3 and other parts of the City to prosper, this must be addressed.

12. What distinguishes you from the other candidates?

- a. I am offering a vision for a better District 3 and a better Birmingham based on empowering our neighborhood associations and communities so they can have ownership in developing solutions that meet their needs. For example, I have called for the creation of a community-based credit union backed by the city and in partnership with the neighborhood associations as a way to address payday lending and other harmful practices that place a crippling cycle of debt on our already struggling residents.

13. What issue is not getting enough attention?

- a. I believe that a participatory budgeting system should be in place so our constituents have a great voice in how the City spends their money. Few candidates have raised this issue and I would like to see more people highlighting the importance of this issue.