

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE
QUESTIONNAIRE

1 What is your motivation for running for this office? To Restore Power Back to the Citizens of Birmingham. The city of Birmingham is at a crossroad; our city government is divided; our communities are divided. Poor people and extremely poor continue to fight for survival. The working and middle class are struggling against paralyzing pessimism while the privilege sway between self-indulgence and self-gratification. It's paramount that our city leadership focus more on the people and the progression of our city while setting aside personalities and petty politics.

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

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

Attend? I currently attend Peace Missionary Baptist Church, Pratt City where I have served as an Associate Minister for 17 years. I usually attend at least one service weekly.

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

My faith will have a tremendous impact on the performance of my duties. Often when I address community members I quote the famed philosopher, Dr. Cornel West, " In order to lead the people, you must serve the people; In order to serve the people you must love the people." My love and commitment to God and humanity epitomize my service. "God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you helped his people and continue to help them." (New International Version, Hebrews 6:10).

5 How will you establish a good working relationship with the elected Mayor to ensure

the city's success? Whoever becomes Mayor of this great city will have my support considering he/she vision is guided by prioritizing Birmingham citizens first: Investing in our children, infrastructure, safety, opportunities, and neighborhoods.

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? I would first assess the citizen's concerns regarding this development proposal.

Afterward, I would assess the impact this development would have on the city of Birmingham to see how it's advantageous to the growth of this city and its citizens. After considering both I will vote accordingly. As an elected official I realize that every decision I make may or may not be popular. However, I believe that transparency and clear communication is key when making decisions that will affect our city, communities, and constituents.

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

On? Regularly communicating with community members, community pastors, community merchants, neighborhood association leadership and attending scheduled committee meetings and general body meetings.

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? I would like to see the city expand its non discrimination ordinance protecting the rights Birmingham citizens ensuring that people aren't being discriminated against and that all of our residents have equal legal protection in employment, housing, and public accommodations.

9 How will you determine the City's wants v. needs? By weighing the pros versus the cons, benefits versus costs.

10 What do you see as Birmingham's major challenges and assets? In spite of being a city once known as the most segregated city in America for civil rights and city planning; in spite of being coined one of the most violent cities in America; in spite of poor urban communities not having access to fresh foods and groceries; in spite of not having indigent care facilities I remain hopeful because Birmingham has proven to be a resilient city during chaotic times.

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 26 years. Birmingham in reality, is a tale of two cities, on the cusp of two contending visions. Birmingham is a city in crisis, with an institutional problem. We have literally become a city with a lively downtown and broken communities, balanced budgets and homeless citizens.

12 What distinguishes you from the other candidates? I am the youngest and only candidate running that has served as a neighborhood association president. My record of service is consistent. My personal core values represent the Leader I am: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Self-less Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage.

13 What issue is not getting enough attention? Poverty