

BACKGROUND FOR CANDIDATES QUESTIONNAIRE

We have established a questionnaire/interview process in which we will invite candidates to participate as a way to gather both objective and subjective information. This information will be synthesized and used in the selection of the candidates we choose to endorse. As a multi-media outlet with a primary focus on the African-American community, we've established criterion by which we will select the candidates for endorsement. The process of setting the criterion began with a critical analysis of the current state of African Americans in Memphis.

A brief statistical and empirical journey revealed the following:

- According to the 2000 Census, Memphis had the 8th largest African-American population percentage-wise at 61.9 percent, representing 402,367 people.
- According to the 1997 Census data, there were 10,931 black-owned businesses in Memphis and of that number only 1,335 had paid employees. Among those 1,335 businesses, average annual revenues were \$357,000 in contrast to average annual sales for white-owned firms (with employees) of \$4,818,000. Among the total number of black-owned firms, average revenues were only \$64,000 per year. More importantly, the total amount of revenues attributed to black-owned business was less than one-tenth of one percent of all revenues generated by all businesses in the Memphis-MSA. (That's \$705,000/\$90,391,440,000.)
- According to the U.S Department of Labor unemployment figures for 2009, the percentage for unemployment among African-American men in Tennessee was 20.2 percent compared with 11.1 percent for white men and 17.1 percent for Hispanic men. In some areas of Memphis it was estimated that the rate was 50 percent or more and overall the rate was approximately 30 percent.
- According to www.city-data.com, there is nearly a 30 percent poverty rate in the African-American community of Memphis, representing over 132,000 residents. There are neighborhoods where over 90 percent of the residents live at or below the nationally defined poverty rate. According to city-data statistics, there are fewer than 20,000 white residents living at or below the poverty rate and negligible numbers of other represented residents of other races.
- According to statistics released last year by Memphis City Schools, only 66.9 percent of the students are graduating, indicating a 33 percent dropout rate in a district that is largely African American. According to a 2008 report by the Schott Foundation for Public Education, Memphis had the nation's highest gap in graduation rates between black males and white males, standing at 30 percent in 2005/2006.

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- Significant disparities also exist in imprisonment rates, health care, crime and violence and more importantly in the availability of resources and opportunities that would open the door for these circumstances to begin to dynamically or even moderately shift towards more positive trends.

From our point of view candidates must intrinsically understand these dynamics and how they impact the welfare of our entire city. We will endorse candidates- regardless of race or party affiliation- that represent the best vision, that can present solution-oriented plans of action, and exhibit the best ability to execute and deliver on their plans to address the issues and disparities facing the citizens of Memphis.

We understand that the issues that exist in Memphis and Shelby County are broad and complex. We know that each candidate must serve and govern in the interest of all voters. However, also our contention that understanding the severity and significance of the issues confronting black Memphis and working to address those issues will not only serve to uplift the African-American population of Memphis, but in doing so will improve the quality of life for all Memphians, hopefully allowing us to ultimately and truly be "One Memphis."



CANDIDATES QUESTIONNAIRE

Vision and Plans

What is your vision for Memphis?

My vision of Memphis is that of a city living up to its potential as city where residents earn a good living, have recreational outlets and participate in government. I want to help improve transparency and governmental efficiency.

What is your platform or plan of action for the office that your are seeking? What do you want to ACCOMPLISH while in office and what problems must be addressed in order to achieve those goals and objectives?

I want to make the County Clerk's Office more efficient and assessable to all the citizens of Memphis and Shelby County. I want to add on-line registration and renewal. I would like to provide Saturday Service for working people who are not available during the week. I will decrease the wait time customers experience in the County Clerk's Office. I plan to provide 24-hour email alert to customers using the Internet services.

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How do you plan to address the issues listed above through the office you desire to hold?

I plan to have a transition team to assist me in conducting a study of the clerk's Office and its operations. I plan to meet with all of the employees of the County Clerk's Office to hear what their issues are. I plan to learn every job in the clerk's office by working side by side with employees. I plan to do a 90-day feasibility study and make some practical approaches to create a good working environment by collaborating with employees and other clerk's offices.

Qualifications and Experience

My long-term business experiences have prepared me for this position. I have been in various business operations since the age of 16 and I have managed more than 500 employees. Currently, I am the CEO, of Corey Maclin Advertising Agency for over 15 years. I am the President and Television Personality of Memphis Wrestling for more than 22 years. These experiences have taught me how to plan for success, trouble shoot to determine problems and collaboration to get the best ideas advanced to solve challenges.

Why are you running for elected office?

I am running for the County Clerk because I am qualified and I am a proven leader with more than 30 years of experience. I am ethical and a law-biding citizen. I want to make the clerk's office accessible and customer friendly.

What makes the candidate qualified for holding an office? What previous experience lends itself to success in the office?

I am experienced in dealing with the community. I know this community. I was born and raised here and have lived here all of my life. I understand what the community needs. I am compassionate to my community. My previous and current business experiences along with my success in establishing diverse relationships have prepared me to be successful in the office of County Clerk.

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Who has endorsed or express support for your candidacy?

Thomas Long, City Court Clerk

Memphis AFLCIO Central Labor Council

Edmund Ford, Jr., City Councilman District 6

State Representative Barbara Cooper

State Representative Joe Towns

State Representative Larry Miller

South Memphis Fence Company

Dr. O.T. Sykes, DDS

Local United Steel Workers

And a host of other elective official, businesses and organizations



Ability to Implement Initiatives

A clear vision and a plan for the future are important, but it means nothing if a candidate does not have the ability to get anything accomplished.

How would you tackle the issues identified as critical for the city/county from the seat you are seeking?

It is critical that we make the office of the County Clerk more efficient. I would tackle the issues by first conducting an efficiency study to determine where changes need to be made and what needs to be changed. I would invite recommendations from staff that are currently employed in the Clerk's office. Finally, I would advance a plan to address deficiencies and institute initiatives that would make the office more accessible to the public and more accountable to our citizenry.

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What opportunities do you see in working with other cities and counties in the metro area and how do you define your role in government and the overall role of government?

I have developed relationships with clerks in other counties to determine what works best for them. In many instances, some of their procedures may work for Shelby County. My role in government is that of a servant. It is my desire to serve the citizen of Shelby County as the County Clerk. The overall role of government is to provide for the welfare of its citizens.



How would you go about building consensus or support to accomplish goals?

I will work closely with the employees and build a team so that we as the County Clerk's office can institute procedures increase efficiency and service to the public. I will also work closely with other governmental offices to ensure countywide governmental effectiveness.

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Would you demonstrate the integrity and fortitude to stand on principle to accomplish an important objective despite opposition or lack of popularity for an idea? Give an example. Provide past examples of experiences you had where that was the case?

Absolutely, I have always stood on principles my entire career. I have done special events and promotions where some elements have pulled away but it did not stop the show.

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