

Tristate Defender Candidate Q & A (Shelby County Sheriff) 2010

Q: Why are you running for office?

A: Well, first and foremost, I am passionate for my County. I love Memphis & Shelby County, and I know that it is impossible to hold any office, in any capacity anywhere, without true passion for the people that you represent. That's a trait that you can't fake, mimic, nor learn. The passion I have for Shelby County is deep and it is sincere. With that being said, know this; I will give my all to promote and ensure the safety of all of the citizens of Memphis & Shelby County.

Q: What makes you qualified for holding an office?

A: I'm well informed. I don't act or make irrational decisions based on a whim or political obligation or favor. I listen to problems and concerns, I investigate the validity or accuracy of all information and recommendations presented to me, I consult with my staff, and then, and only then do I act. I'm one man and my office represents many. It would be foolish of me not to utilize all of the resources available to me in running that office.

Q: What previous experience leads lends itself to success in the office?

A: Prior to taking a leave of absence from my position as District Director for Congressman Cohen, I assisted a Mother with her son's TennCare after he was shot. Unfortunately, the young man later died of his injuries. Yesterday on my Facebook page, that same Mother thanked me for personally coming to her home in Castalia and visiting her son and listening to her, just listening to her. You know what she wrote? After first informing me that her son had passed, she said, "on the bright side Mr. Wade, I'm glad you're running for Sheriff." She signed her entry with, "LIVE, LOVE & LAUGH!"

My success is measured by the appreciation of the people that I have helped over the past 30(+) years. Whether it's while wearing a badge, or not, my future success will be based upon the same. Not a day passes that I'm not, in some way reminded of a Mother, Father, Brother or Sister, whose lives have been affected by my efforts to address their issues. Sometimes my efforts have been in vain, yet families are still comforted in knowing that I tried. You can't effectively run any office, from your office day in, and day out. You must stay in touch with the people. You must literally get out and walk the streets and talk with the people. The advantage that I have over all of the other candidates in this regard is that this is routine for me.

Q: What have you accomplished?

You know, what I've have accomplished in the past is a much stronger statement than talking about what I'm capable of doing once in office. From serving aboard the carrier USS Princeton when it recovered the Apollo 10 spacecraft and three astronauts in the Pacific near American Samoa in May 1969, to mentoring Penny Hardaway while he was on the verge of making the biggest decision of his life, my accomplishments are vast, diverse, and profound. Working for the Sheriff's department since 1976, I faithfully and unconditionally served four administrations. Maintaining an administrative position which is an appointed position after 4 elections is a testimony of the respect that was afforded me by 4 very different men. These are accomplishments I stand on proudly!

Q: Who has endorsed or expressed support for your candidacy?

A: The Memphis Police Association, David Porter, Judge Brown are among a few who have made their support publicly known, but the most important endorsement to date, as a whole has been all of my friends and

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supporters who email me, text me, they volunteer for me, they canvass neighborhoods for me, they stand on busy intersections and wave signs for me, they wear my t-shirts saying "Wade is the way, but more importantly; they believe in me. They believe in my vision for this great City & County.

Q: What is your vision for Memphis?

A: Proactive Administration! That's it. Zero complacency as relates to Team Wade. I am surrounded by people who are proactive and excited about my vision of a proactive approach to Law Enforcement. My intent is to attack issues head on, hands on, with 100% transparency.

Q: What is your platform or plan of action for the office that you 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?

A: Maintaining the Jail's accreditation, Supporting the remote monitoring of non-violent repeat offenders, Supporting stronger legislation against violent offenders, Working closely with Memphis City and Shelby County Schools to address Gang concerns, and being instrumental in creating & supporting crime intervention and educational programs and initiatives to alleviate the need for a second chance. The achievement of such goals is based on addressing the root of the source of our communities' daily growing crime concerns. Our Youth! Recidivism is the key.

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

A: First, let me lay down some disturbing facts & statistics: Over 50% of all violent crimes in Memphis are committed by our youth; most under the age of 19. Second only to Pine Bluff Arkansas, the FBI National Incident-Based Reporting System shows that we are one of the most dangerous cities in the Nation. Now, let's turn the page. The annual cost to house an inmate in the Shelby County Jail at \$90.00 per day is \$32,850.00. Now the average cost of tuition for a four degree at a public four year college is \$28,080.00. This data tells us that we need a comprehensive proactive plan, to systematically analyze every single aspect of youth violence; from individual and family group intervention, to psychological assessment and clinical evaluation of every juvenile that enters the criminal justice system. From addressing the environmental challenges of the delinquent, to providing Family, Church, Community, and Law Enforcement involvement in the behavioral modification of the youth prior to him or her becoming a mere statistic and a permanent member of the career criminal fraternity. My goal as your Shelby County Sheriff is to stop the endless cycle of youth and non-violent offender recidivism, and promote the optimum result of our endeavors: DOWN WITH INCARCERATION! ---UP WITH EDUCATION!

Respectfully submitted,

Randy L Wade

Candidate, Shelby County Sheriff