

## CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

### Vision and Plans

What is your vision for Memphis?

I envision Memphis as a major attractor in the Mid-South, like Atlanta, a progressive place where we are united in our determination to fight crime, live sustainably, and support the least among us, undivided by race, and sensitive to issues of class.

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?

Major issues include the Med, consolidation, and school funding. I favor doing whatever it takes to preserve the Med as a vital safety net for those who can't afford health care. This includes supporting the hospital bed tax being considered in Nashville. I support consolidation as a step forward to transcend urban-suburban squabbling, increase government efficiency, etc. I support single-source funding of schools to spread the tax burden equitably, eliminate funding distinctions between MCS and SCS, and decrease the tax burden among Memphians.

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

See above answer. Also, I have worked tirelessly for the last four years to increase racial diversity in county contracting and to broaden the county's anti-discrimination protections, to fight for a living wage law and a prevailing wage law. I hope to continue work in this direction--continue fighting for increased racial diversity, broadening the legislative protections against discrimination, and working to ensure good enforcement of the prevailing and living wage laws.

### Qualifications and Experience

Why are you running for elected office?

I believe I did a good job these last four years and want to continue to do so.

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

See above answers. I am a full-time educator, former law enforcement official, former civil rights lawyer for the Bill Clinton Justice Department. I have served on the County Commission successfully for four years.

Who has endorsed or expressed support for your candidacy?

AFL-CIO Labor Council; Mayor AC Wharton; Mayor Joe Ford; Councilman Myron Lowery; Carol Chumney; School Board Chair Tomeka Hart; Former County Mayor Bill Morris; State Sen. Beverly Marrero; State Reps. Karen Camper, GA Hardaway, Ulysses Jones, and Mike Kernell; and many others, including many labor unions. See [www.stevemulroy.com](http://www.stevemulroy.com) for a full list.

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? See above.

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 already served on several task forces working with Memphis City Council and the suburban mayors. I believe I have a good working relationship with all of them and hope to continue to work cooperatively.

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

We need to talk to each other and not talk at each other. We need to tone down incendiary rhetoric, stop accusing each other, and start listening to each other. We need to look for win-win solutions wherever possible. I know this is easy to say, hard to do, but I believe I have established a record among local leaders--city, county, suburbs, at various levels--as a consensus-builder and framer of compromise.

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?

A recent example was my leadership on the first gay rights law ever at any governmental level in Tennessee. I was excoriated constantly during this process, called godless, a communist, satanist, you name it. I never wavered, and I don't apologize. Discrimination is wrong. I went to law school to fight it, spent a decade fighting it for Bill Clinton's Justice Department, and I will continue to oppose it where I find it.