



CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

(Please return your email response to besmith@tri-statedefender.com)

Vision and Plans

What is your vision for Memphis?

My vision for Memphis is that it will be a place where people will respect each other and everyone has the opportunity to reach their potential and their dreams in a safe environment.

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?

I believe a primary concern of voters is their economy; therefore, if re-elected, one priority will be to maintain an efficient office that runs exclusively on fees, using zero county tax dollars. I have worked diligently to make sure this office does not become an unnecessary drain on limited county resources.

I believe voters are also concerned with service; therefore, another priority will be to continue expanding the number and types of records available on-line and to continue providing secure and easy access to public records.

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

- (1) Continue to run the office exclusively on fees, using zero county tax dollars
- (2) Continue to expand the number and types of records available on line
- (3) Continue to provide easy and secure access to public records
- (4) Continue to promote respectful and courteous service to customers

Qualifications and Experience

Why are you running for elected office?

I am seeking re-election to maintain an efficient and effective Register's office that is service-oriented. It is important that the office continue to run exclusively on fees and not become a burden to taxpayers while, at the same time, continuing to provide easy and secure access to public records.

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

I have ten years of valuable knowledge and successful experience working with the personnel and implementing advanced technology in the Register's office. Because of this knowledge and experience, I have been called on by the local Bar Association to conduct continuing education seminars for local real estate attorneys. Because of this knowledge and experience, I can walk into a

customers office now and show them how to set up their system to interface with ours so they can successfully file a document saving them and the Register's office time and money.

In the Register's office, I have accomplished the transition from customers having to come into the office, search microfilm, and pay one dollar per page for a document to an office where customers can search for and print documents on our website anytime without any fee.

Who has endorsed or expressed support for your candidacy?

At this point, I have no group or organization endorsements. However, in the 2000, 2002, and 2006 elections for Register I thankfully was endorsed by a majority of the voters. (The timing between elections is unusual because 2000 was a special election to serve out the remaining term of Guy Bates who died in office)

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?

By providing free access to our extensive data base, we are helping people and small businesses reach their professional potential and dreams in areas such as real estate. I even had a roofer tell me they will look at our aerial photographs before going out to bid on a job. Free access also helps people reach their personal potential and dreams in areas such as genealogical research.

Free access is a service taken for granted in Shelby County. Close to 70 of Tennessee's 95 counties have their data on line, they all charge a subscription fee to access the data, except Shelby and Anderson Counties.

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?

We already have a working relationship with cities where we share data. One example of this is the sharing of our GIS aerial photographs with Memphis and other municipalities at no cost to them. We also work with other counties on legislative matters that are important to our customers.

My role in government is to be a public servant. The role of government is to provide services to people that they cannot and should not provide for themselves.

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

Listen first, find the common ground second, and then define the path to accomplish the common goal.

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?

As Register, I have implemented difficult budget cuts and layoffs which were not popular in order to maintain the financial integrity of the office.