

Candidate Qualification / Position Statement For *Coalition for a Better Memphis* Website

The CBM will post your completed statement on our website, www.bettermemphis.org, exactly as it is submitted. It is important that your information be complete – please use extra space if needed and feel free to attach a resume or any supplemental information. Please email the Statement to peggy@bettermemphis.org by June 6, 2008.

Name: *Joe Clayton*

Website: *jnclayton@mindspring.com*

Candidate for: ***Shelby County School Board, District 4***

Why do you believe you are qualified to run for this position? ***I am very qualified to serve on the Shelby County Board of Education because of my successful 52 year career in education. Ten of those years have been as a member of the Shelby County School Board. I have served successfully as teacher, coach, guidance counselor, assistant principal, principal, and president of a private Christian school with two degrees in education.***

Three specific things you would like to accomplish if elected:

- 1. Change the status of Shelby County Schools to a special school district to save millions in tax dollars.***
- 2. Complete the plan to build a high school in the southeast area of Collierville by 2012 to relieve overcrowding at Collierville, Germantown, and Houston high schools.***
- 3. Establish more early childhood classes.***

Have you ever been delinquent on your property taxes? Yes _____ No **X**

Have you filed for Bankruptcy? Yes _____ No **X**

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? Yes _____ No **X**

Explanation of any of the above items _____

List other elected positions you have run for and the outcome of the election:

Shelby County School Board in 1998, 2000, 2004- I won all of these elections.

Current Employment

Company: **Retired educator**

Length of Employment: **42 years plus 10 years on School Board**

Brief Job Description: **20 years in Shelby County and Memphis City Schools as a teacher, coach, assistant principal, and principal; 22 years as principal and president of Briarcrest Christian Schools**

Education

Please list all schools you have attended from High School on.

<u>School</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Graduation Date</u>
Collierville High School, Diploma		May, 1950
University of Memphis, BS		May, 1954
University of Memphis, MA		May, 1962

Additional information as it regards to education: _____

How long have you lived in Memphis? **Only during 4 years of college**

Where did you grow up? **Collierville, TN (for life)**

Marital Status/Children: **married (55 years), 3 children, 10 grandchildren**

Please identify up to five organizations that are actively supporting your candidacy.

- None, because I have not requested support**
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Please list your association memberships and identify any leadership positions you have held in the past.

- 1. Memphis Principals Association**
- 2. West Tennessee Principals Association, President**
- 3. Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association Board of Control**
- 4. University of Memphis "M" Club, President**
- 5. Shelby County Board of Education, Vice-President**
- 6. Memphis Association of Independent Schools, Vice-President**
- 7. Deacons at First Baptist Church (Collierville), Chairman**
- 8. Tennessee Education Association, former member**
- 9. Heart Association, Collierville Chapter, Chairman**
- 10. National Education Association, former member**

Please list your civic and community memberships.

- 1. Collierville Chamber of Commerce**
- 2. Collierville First Baptist Church, deacon**
- 3. Collierville High School Alumni Association**
- 4. Collierville PTA, Shelby County PTA Life Member**
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Other Contact Information:

Campaign Chair: **Joe Clayton**

Treasurer: **Nell Clayton**

Any other information you would like to share with the voters:



The following scenario was developed by the Center for Ethical Leadership at Christian Brothers University. It is designed to determine how you process information and make decisions. There is no right or wrong answer.

Lost File – Ethical Dilemma Pitting Individual versus Community

You have been involved in a very tight election, opposing a very popular incumbent. About two weeks prior to election day, the local newspaper runs a very negative article about your opponent and some “shady” dealings occurring during his tenure in office. Although the allegations do not point to any illegal activity, the reporter does imply that a particular financial transaction shows questionable decision making.

Your opponent denies the allegations and insists the transaction is above board. He claims he cannot locate the files associated with this particular incident and, therefore, cannot defend his actions with anything other than his honor, reputation, and good name. The press continues to have a field day over this issue, tearing up your opponent and leaving you in the enviable position of not having to comment on the situation.

You win the election by a surprisingly large margin. Exit polls show it was your opponent’s inability to produce evidence proving there was no wrongdoing that swayed voters your way. Your opponent walks away from the election not only defeated at the polls but also in public opinion and reputation.

About three months into your new position you are working on a case that causes you to rummage through some of your predecessor’s old files. There you find the “smoking gun”... the evidence that clears your opponent of any wrongdoing. You are unsure if the information was accidentally or intentionally misfiled.

(1) What will you do with this information?

I would contact my opponent immediately and express my regret that he was falsely accused. Next I would notify the press and ask them to apologize to my opponent. I also would ask them to expose the mistake by printing a true story.

(2) Will you consult anyone before deciding what to do? ***No***

If so, whom?

(3) When making your decision about what to do, whose needs did you consider? ***My opponent’s needs***

(4) Was this an easy decision for you to make? *Yes. As a Christian, I believe it would be the right thing to do.*

If not, what were some of the issues that went through your mind that caused conflict?

Optional – Attach a resume.

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peggy@bettermemphis.org by June 6, 2008.