

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: **Paul Mattila**

Website: **www.votepaulmattila.com**

Candidate for: **Shelby County Trustee**

Why do you believe you are qualified to run for this position?

Basically there are three (3) important reasons that I am the most qualified candidate for this position:

#1 After eleven years of public service in the Trustee's office with an emphasis on community and legislative outreach, I have experienced first-hand the tremendous burden of taxes on people throughout the community, particularly on the elderly and the disabled. This first-hand knowledge convinces me that every effort needs to be made to keep taxes as low as possible for all taxpayers.

In order to do that, I am committed to:

- **provide Shelby County Government with current and accurate financial information so that good decisions can be made**
- **look for ways to create additional cost savings and efficiencies within the office itself**
- **work with local and state leaders to expand Tax Relief and Tax Freeze programs for senior citizens**
- **extend community outreach and personal service to taxpayers**

#2 As Shelby County Trustee, I understand the requirements of the job and I have the proven ability to work effectively with a wide variety of people with different backgrounds, educational levels, and work experiences-- from general clerks to elected officials. In addition, I have made presentations, submitted

recommendations for improvements, and developed meaningful relationships across the board with County Commissioners, state legislators, local leaders, and community taxpayers. Realizing the value of strong communication and supportive working relationships, I have the experience and the desire to work in a cooperative and effective manner for good government in Shelby County.

#3 Knowing that Trustee's office is nationally recognized for providing the county with 20 years of excellent service, I am committed to continuing the progress and returning the highest value to the taxpayers of Shelby County by working with experienced and knowledgeable professionals and using the latest technologies to reduce costs and increase revenue.

Three specific things you would like to accomplish if elected:

- 1) Provide meaningful community assistance to low-income taxpayers by implementing the first Tax Freeze Program for Senior Citizens in Shelby County (There are at least 32,000 eligible seniors in Shelby County)**
- 2) Increase tax collections by expanding the number of locations and delivery channels throughout the county where taxpayers can conveniently make payments or inquiries**
- 3) Offer other collection services to the county and to other municipalities in an effort to increase revenue and create cost savings**

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: **Not applicable**

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

Not Applicable

Current Employment

Company: **Shelby County Trustee / Shelby County Government**

Length of Employment: **11 years**

Brief Job Description:

By law, the Trustee is responsible for four (4) key functions within the county:

- 1) Billing and Collections**
- 2) Banking and Operations**
- 3) Accounting and Reporting**
- 4) Revenue Forecasting**

Education

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

<u>School</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Graduation Date</u>
High School Diploma from St. Bernard's High School, Fitchburg, MA		1961

Additional information as it regards to education:

University of Tennessee Certified Public Administrator Level II	
University of Tennessee Certified Public Administrator Level III	Fall 2008

How long have you lived in Memphis? **40+ years -- Shelby County resident since 1966**

Where did you grow up? **Fitchburg, Massachusetts (50 miles outside Boston)**

Marital Status/Children: **Married / 4 children**

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

- 1. Shelby County Democratic Party**
- 2. Shelby County Young Democrats**
- 3. Local exchange clubs including Millington and Frayser Exchange Club**
- 4. Various Unions – Carpenters Local, Steamfitters Local 614, UAW Local 988**
- 5. Numerous Commitments pending Official Board Action**

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

- 1. Graduate, Leadership Millington**
- 2. President, Frayser Exchange Club**
- 3. Charter Member, Millington Exchange Club**
- 4. Board of Directors, National Foundation for Organ Transplants**

5. **Member, Germantown Democrat Club**
6. **Elected Official (10 years), UAW local 988**
7. **Chairman (3 years), Bargaining Committee UAW local 988**
8. **Member, UAW National Negotiating Committee**
9. **Member, National Constitutional Committee Member for 25th Constitutional Convention**
10. **Founder & Chairman (10 years), Bob Patterson Golf Classic to benefit the National Foundation for Organ Transplants and the Memphis Academy of Health Sciences Middle School**
11. **Shelby County Democratic Party Executive Committee**

Please list your civic and community memberships.

1. **Millington Exchange Club**
2. **Frayser Exchange Club**
3. **Local UAW 998 Retirees**
4. **Germantown Democrat Club**

Other Contact Information:

Campaign Chair: **Matt Kuhn**

Treasurer: **Gordon Crisp**

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?
- (2) Will you consult anyone before deciding what to do? If so, whom?
- (3) When making your decision about what to do, whose needs did you consider?
- (4) Was this an easy decision for you to make? If not, what were some of the issues that went through your mind that caused conflict?

- 1) I would notify the predecessor that the information had been found in the office. Then, I would take the information to the press and make it available to the public.**
- 2) No, the decision in my mind would be straight-forward.**
- 3) The needs of the predecessor as the person who had lost his job and reputation.**
- 4) Yes, it is a matter of doing the right and wrong and considering how I would want to be treated if the situation was reversed.**

Optional – Attach a resume.

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