

CANDIDATE QUALIFICATION/POSITION STATEMENT

For Coalition for a Better Memphis Website

Name: A C Wharton Jr.

Website: www.acwharton.com

Candidate for: Memphis Mayor

Why do you believe you are qualified for this position?

My experience as the mayor of Memphis and previously as the mayor of Shelby County uniquely prepares me to lead Memphis and gives me an intimate knowledge of government in all its complexities, from policy to budget, from citizen engagement to more efficient government, from personnel management to strategic planning. I know how to make government more efficient and transparent, to give more people a voice in the affairs of government, and to identify the issues that matter most to Memphis' future. From my experience, my knowledge of government, my part in national conversations about cities, and my discussions with countless Memphians in every neighborhood, I know our city's needs and challenges and I have a clear vision for our city and have an agenda which is under way to achieve it.

Name three specific things you would like to accomplish if elected:

My vision and agenda for Memphis are based on three themes: Opportunity, Talent, and Quality of Place. That's why I have embarked on dozens of initiatives in less than two years as Memphis mayor and worked to develop and communicate a vision that every citizen can embrace and support. Because of my knowledge of government and first-hand understanding of every neighborhood in this city, it is difficult to only list three things that I would accomplish as mayor in the next four years. We are assessing every budget item and every service to make them more efficient so every tax dollar is wisely spent. Our game changer in this area will be a 311 system and the city's first performance management system so we can create the "Memphis Dashboard." Another game changer is how we will use the Bloomberg Philanthropies \$4.8 million grant to produce innovative solutions for inner city economic development and juvenile handgun violence. We will continue to emphasize ways to pay for economic projects like The Pyramid, Pinch Historic District, and Fairgrounds without any city funds and to pursue strategies to create jobs, entrepreneurs, and minority businesses.

Candidate: Memphis Mayor A C Wharton Jr.

Have you ever been delinquent on your property taxes? No.

Have you declared bankruptcy? No.

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? No.

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

1982 – Lost the race for Shelby County District Attorney General.

2002 – Won election for Shelby County Mayor.

2006 – Won election for Shelby County Mayor.

2009 – Won election for Memphis Mayor.

Current Employment

Company: City of Memphis Government.

Length of Employment: 2009 to present.

Brief Job Description: The Mayor of Memphis is the day-to-day administrator in charge of city government, a communicator who articulates the aspirations of Memphians and a vision for the future, a salesman recruiting new investment and businesses, an effective spokesman through the local and national media, a strategist to develop effective plans to address complex problems, a convener who brings people together for common purpose, and policy maker who identifies and addresses crucial issues facing Memphis.

Education:

Tennessee State University; B.S. Political Science, 1966.

University of Mississippi, Juris Doctor, 1971.

How long have you lived in Memphis? 38 years

Where did you grow up? Lebanon, Wilson County, Tennessee.

Marital Status/Children: Married with six sons.

Candidate: Memphis Mayor A C Wharton Jr.

Please identify up to five organizations that are actively supporting your candidacy and provide a contact for each.

Organizations have not yet begun to issue endorsements.

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

Memphis Bar Association, Tennessee Bar Association, Ben F. Jones Chapter (president) of National Bar Association, National Association of Counties, Tennessee County Services Association, U.S. Conference of Mayors, Tennessee Municipal League.

Please list up to 10 current or past civic/community memberships.

NAACP, 100 Black Men of Memphis, Masonic Lodge, Rotary Club, Heiskell Longstreet Neighborhood Association, Leadership Memphis.

Campaign Manager: Deidre Malone

Treasurer: Ruby Wharton

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

As when I became county mayor, after taking the oath of office, I encountered the need to deal firmly with controversy and corruption and to get city government's financial house in order. As before, now that we have stabilized city operations, opened up city government, enacted stronger ethics rules, increased transparency, and brought sound management practices to City of Memphis, in the next four years, I can focus even more on strategic issues like a performance management and measurement system and development of the "Memphis Dashboard." I'll continue to emphasize a balanced approach to budget challenges by increasing efficiency and finding new sources of revenue and I'll continue to work to create more good-paying jobs. New jobs allow people to become property owners and invest in neighborhoods, which increase property taxes, support new businesses, reduce crime, and build a stronger city. We have been in a stage where we have been consumed with putting out fires. In a post-recession world, it's imperative that we set a strong direction for Memphis. The next few years will fundamentally shape the future of Memphis, and if elected mayor, I look forward to pursuing a successful agenda for our city.