

Coalition for a Better Memphis Candidate Questionnaire Memphis Mayor

Kenneth Robinson – Memphis City Mayor

- 1a. Please describe your background and your qualifications for this position. What experiences caused you to run for this office. What previous experience qualifies you more than your opponents to lead on Day 1? The experiences that has caused me to run for this position is seeing how Memphis is portrayed and our youth falling to the wayside. We are losing control of our schools and the gap between our citizens is getting wider and the current administration does not seem to care. My previous proven experience as a Marine has given me the integrity, administrator, leadership and management skills to lead this city to new highs. I have a talent for putting people in the right position to make the team successful. On Day 1, I will hit the ground running with one of the most talented administrations ever put together in this city.
- 1b. What previous experience do you have running a business, managing employees or controlling a budget? I recently managed a team of 126 employees. Directed, coordinated and managed the assignments of the employees. Counseled and evaluated employees on the performance of their duties. Trained and developed mid-level managers in the performance of their duties. I also managed the budget for the operation.
- 1c. Beginning with the most recent position, please list all public offices you have held. Please include positions on appointed boards or commissions. N/A
- 1d. If you have previously run for elected office but were not elected, please list those races below. N/A

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- 2a. What is your vision for the City? How would you use this office to achieve the vision? I envision renewed trust and confidence in our city leaders. I would like to see that community pride go along with a successful Tiger sports program. I envision better job skill and creation development while teaching the citizens to become small business owners. I would like to keep our young professionals in the city.
- 2b. What are the three greatest issues facing the City of Memphis today? The three greatest issues in the city are poverty, crime and lack of traditional and non-traditional education.
- 2c. What issues do you believe will shape the City over the next few years? Education is the passport to our future. If we get that right it will alleviate other problems and have a snowball effect of positive outcomes. We need to generate other streams of income and not allow outside sources to take us to the barn.

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3. How do you plan on insuring that there is diversity, (including race, age, gender and socio-economic) represented in the development of public policy, staffing and appointments, and city contracting? I will ensure that information is distributed city wide by print, social media and television. Everyone will get a chance to succeed, if they want it.

4. What role should the City of Memphis government play in promoting the economic development for the community? What specific initiatives or actions would you promote and/or support regarding both large and small businesses? The Mayor is supposed to be the leader of the city. I will reach across the board to everyone to ensure that we are promoting economic development in the community. I will support the small businesses by bringing more business expos to the city. We will provide education and workshops to help mentor them and make them more profitable. In turn, this should open up needed jobs for the community. I will call on the big businesses to lead the way and provide mentorship.

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5. How would you strengthen and support existing neighborhoods that are within the City of Memphis and what barriers to community redevelopment do you see in these areas? How do you propose to address the neighborhood blight in a proactive manner? I would like to see each community take care of itself. Before you can clean up someone else's place you should clean up your own. There are many barriers due to poor roads, pot holes, abandoned properties and reduction in community places to go. There are many programs out there helping others that are helping others. These organizations get no media attention and they are still making a positive impact. I will highlight those programs and help them get funding.

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6. Discuss the current administrative structure and do you have a vision for altering this structure? How would you strengthen a culture of accountability and outcome based on performance standards for Divisions of City Government as well as appointed positions? I will overhaul the administrative structure in the city. There are a lot of people holding jobs that do not help the city prosper. I will hold people accountable. There is no magic pill for that. Each employee will receive an honest day of pay work for an honest day of work. I will inspect what the city of Memphis expects from their employees. Remember, this is public service.

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7. How can the Mayor effectively contribute to the reduction of the crime rate in the City of Memphis? What current strategies would you continue to support and what changes would you propose? I will give full autonomy to the Police Director. I will support the Police Director and his subordinates as long as the citizens are beginning to feel safer in their homes, churches, schools and neighborhoods. I will not hang over the Director's head. He has my full support. They have a difficult job, because they can never stop. They are doing an outstanding job and they do not get the credit that they deserve even while getting a pay cut.

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8. Are you familiar with the current budget and what are your major budget priorities? Yes, I am familiar with the current budget. I would like to see information on the 2010 Payment in leau of payments program (PILOT). This is a very interesting program. Education remains to be seen based on litigation proceedings. I would like to look at our retirement and health benefits system. My major priority is to put the city back in the positive continuously and not allowing the burden to be carried by our tax paying citizens. I want everyone to help eliminate the burden if possible.

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9. Would you be willing to submit to a background check and allow the results to be published? I am good, I have a secret clearance.