

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

Name: Lee Harris
Website: www.leeharrisformemphis.com
Candidate for: City Council District 7

Why do you believe you are qualified for this position?

I have a background in solving problems, working collaboratively, and moving organizations forward. I am the founding president of the Shelby County Young Democrats. I am a professor at the University of Memphis and is one of the first Memphis-area members of the United Campus Workers, a labor union for employees at the University of Memphis and other public Tennessee schools. Harris was born in Memphis and is a proud product of the Memphis City Schools. I am the son of a retired schoolteacher and air-conditioning and heating repairman.

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

I've spent a lot of time walking the streets of District 7 and talking to voters. First, in District 7, we want safe, stable neighborhoods. It's time to knock down and redevelop vacant and abandoned houses and get code enforcement to write tickets for neighbors that don't take care of their properties. Second, we need reliable transportation. This means expanding bus routes and finally getting around to building a new bus terminal in the district. Third, we want jobs and job training programs. Once upon a time, our communities in North Memphis, Frayser, and Raleigh were the economic engines of the city. With the right leadership, I believe there's enough talent and energy in these communities to do it again.

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

Have you declared bankruptcy? Yes _____ No X

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

If you answered "yes" on any of the above items, please list the year and provide details. -

N/A

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

When I was 27, I ran for Congress. No name identification. No campaign war chest. We held anti-crime rallies; we organized restaurant workers and pushed for higher wages; we put together community cookouts to discuss fatherhood and the meaning of black family. We bought a large 65-passenger school bus and went neighborhood-to-neighborhood with our message of moving forward. Although none of these things garnered media attention and I did not win, I'd like to believe my campaign made a difference.

Current Employment

Company: University of Memphis

Length of Employment: 7 years

Brief Job Description: I am an associate professor of law. I teach courses in business and law. I am also a professor in a university program to recruit minority students to law school.

Education

Please list all college/advanced degrees attained.

<u>College/University</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Graduation Year</u>
---------------------------	---------------	------------------------

<u>Morehouse College,</u>	<u>B.A., International Studies,</u>	<u>2000</u>
---------------------------	-------------------------------------	-------------

<u>Yale Law School,</u>	<u>J.D.,</u>	<u>2003</u>
-------------------------	--------------	-------------

Additional information relating to your educational background (optional): I have also done extensive coursework at the London School of Economics.

How long have you lived in Memphis? I have been a Memphis resident all my life. I was born here.

Where did you grow up? Memphis

Marital status/children: I am married to Alena Allen. We have two children, a 5-year old and a 2-year old. The 5 year old attends public schools.

Please identify up to five organizations that are actively supporting your candidacy and provide a contact (with phone number) for each.

1. West Tennesseans for Progress, Dave Cambron, 830-3283
2. Tennessee Equality Project, Jonathan Cole, 301-3306
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

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

1. Member, United Campus Workers of America union
2. Member of Board of Directors, Goodwill Homes of Greater Memphis (2004-present) (non-profit that provides services to seniors, including senior living facilities, and administers a Head Start program) (Chair of Parents Policy Committee, Goodwill Homes Head Start Program)
3. Co-Founder and Member, New Voices for Social Progress (a speakers bureau and think tank) (<http://www.newvoicesforsocialprogress.com/>)
4. Fellow, Institute for International Public Policy
5. Lifetime Member, Morehouse Alumni Association,
6. Alumni, Socrates Society of Aspen Institute (program for emerging leaders)
7. Former Member, American Inns of Court (invitation-only organization dedicating to promoting ethics in legal profession)
8. Former President and Co-Founder, Young Democrats of Memphis and Shelby County (since 2010)
9. Former Citizen Member, Editorial Board, Commercial Appeal, Memphis, TN

10. Chair, Fundraising/Finance Committee, Shelby County Democratic Party (2009-2011)

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

11. continued from above, Member, Obama Economics, Globalization and Trade (EGT) Policy Committee

12. Professor, Tennessee Institute for Pre-Law (pre-law preparatory program for students from diverse backgrounds)

13. Former Delegate, Memphis Bar Association – House of Delegates (representing the law school)

14. Former Volunteer Big "Sib," Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater Memphis

15. Former Member of Board of Directors, Young Lawyers Division - Memphis Bar Association (Co-chair of Public Service Committee and Co-Coordinator of District 1 (Western Tennessee) High School Mock Trial Competition)

16. Chair, Kennedy Day Committee, Shelby County Democratic Party (2009)

Other Contact Information:

Campaign Chair: Terry Spicer, 289-6040

Treasurer: Lee Harris

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

I am running for City Council because I believe I can make a difference. Elections matter.

I believe Memphis is at a turning point and I can help move the city forward.