

Coalition for a Better Memphis

Candidate Questionnaire

Memphis Mayor

Martin Merriweather – Memphis Mayor

1a.

-Servant of Memphis for 13yrs. In the role of teacher, coach, athletic director, counselor, program manager & asst. director.

- B.S. & MEd.

Personally, I am not satisfied with the current administration. Decision-making, cutting jobs, employee salaries, etc... trying to keep jobs here and tend to the citizens of Memphis.

-Being from Memphis, being in the community, service learning, working with the youth to prepare them to become better citizens and also working with the senior citizens.

1b.

Teacher- classroom management, athletic director, coach, community advocate, counselor, asst. director, program manager, east high alumni president, youth coordinator, & involved with several senior programs such as senior Olympics.

1c. N/A

1d. N/A

2a.

The vision is to move the city forward.

-Improve the youth, create jobs- bring jobs to Memphis and keep jobs in Memphis, enhance the pilot program, get investors involved with the city, work with education, increase tourism, improve safety, work with agencies to makeover Memphis "Blight"

2b.

Education

Jobs- pay cuts, employment, unemployment

Crime

2c. (See 2b)

3. Analyze the current local state and federal system, have a fair selection process, hold the workers accountable, enforce policies and procedures, set consequences for those who do not adhere to the city's policies.

4. It has to have the lead role. Continuing the policy of tax breaks for large businesses that can provide citizens of Memphis jobs. However, I would like to see that citizens of Memphis, if qualified, that they would be considered for the jobs first.

- Create a small business consortium where concerns can be addressed.

-Develop or strengthened relationship with the U.S. small business Administration

-Create a national entrepreneurial program in schools.

-Give government grants to for-profit companies

-Create a small business under-employment program

-Get rid of payroll taxes for small companies

-Start making more construction loans

- Back private investors
- Eliminate the red tape for new businesses
- Guarantee bank loans
- Create a federal venture fund
- Require banks to lend money

5. Strengthened the neighborhood watch program

A barrier to improve would be to decrease food desserts “to equal a healthier lifestyles”

- Reduce crime, provide continuing educational opportunities for youth such as: tutoring in community centers, bringing in community agencies such as Big Brother/Big Sister and ministry programs, continue partnership(s) with The White House’s Strong Cities, Strong Communities Initiative,
- Look at creating a means of placing affordable houses for low income families and small businesses yet place stipulations that would detract from negative images of the neighborhood/community such as: junk cars & lawn care
- Accountability; tougher actions for those who do not adhere to city’s request

6. Wrong people for jobs: Putting qualified applicants into administrative positions, streamline departments as necessary, take jobs if necessary if it benefits the administration

- I feel the current structure in place is effective; However, it is those that are in place within the structure that causes it to become ineffective.
- Lead by example, examine & possibly implement performance based salaries, tougher accountability

-Establish and consistently use clear standards to evaluate and strengthened government departments and programs.

-Continuous evaluations & measure progress, motivate employees, build trust, engage employees to take ownership

7. Educating the youth and the public, add more officers to the COACT unit to patrol the high volume areas.

-Build and strengthen partnership w/ MPD, provide necessary funding or increase funding, assist in changing perception of MPD

-assist/add community base police

-Current strategies would be: Blue Crush, Cyberwatch (communication with public), crimestoppers, CIT program (possibly change), and Real Time Crime Center

-Changes (60hrs- Assoc. Degrees)

8. Somewhat familiar with the budget

-Jobs, school funding , and safety

9. Yes