

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

Name: Michelle Smith \_\_\_\_\_

Website: N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate for: City Council – District 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you believe you are qualified for this position?

In 2006, I ran for city council District 4 and received more than 46% of the vote as a first time candidate. In the course of that campaign, I repeatedly heard the need for government to do its job, i.e. efficiently ensure an improved quality of life for all of its citizens.

I bring a unique blend of skills and experience to the Memphis City Council demonstrated business experience and leadership and an ongoing track record of strong community services, coupled with a studied, collaborative approach to problem solving and leadership. The combination of my various degrees obtained fosters a sound, rational approach to problem solving and a thorough understanding of finance and budgets.

As a successful business owner, I bring the knowledge needed to run local government in a businesslike way, including delivering a quality product, managing budgets, meeting payroll and making difficult decisions during tough times in a deliberate way. My active involvement in the Orange Mound community provides me with familiarity about a broad range of issues, from the neighborhood level to broader city wide matters.

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

1. Bridge the gap in communication between the neighborhoods and the city council representative.
2. Assists neighborhoods in reclaiming their communities with economic planning and strategizing for the future.
3. Work closely with our state and federal representatives to identify funding opportunities for community projects that will enable the nonprofits within the community to function on a higher level of success.

Have you ever been delinquent on your property taxes? Yes \_\_\_X\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

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. –

My personal residence property taxes are current. I acquired properties from my grandmother's estate with the goal of restoring them as rental properties as my grandfather had maintained them. The properties were delinquent when I acquired them, but I have been steadily paying down the taxes. I have made payment arrangements with the taxing authorities to resolve this as quickly as possible.

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

2006 City Council – District 4 (Special Election) lost by 599 votes \_\_\_\_\_

### **Current Employment**

Company: The University of Memphis \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Employment: 10 years \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Job Description:

Plans and directs the financial operation of CERI. Develops and prepares monthly financial statements, financial forecasts, and budgets. Oversees grant account reconciliation and manages HR databases. Maintain Banner HR issues and concerns of departments through redistribution and appropriate split percentages allowable within the granting agency. Advises the Director concerning personnel matters and acts as a liaison with the Human Resources department. Assumes administrative responsibility for the Director in his absence. Interact with the Sponsors and University Personnel concerning financial reports and forecasts.

### **Education**

Please list all college/advanced degrees attained.

<u>College/University</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Graduation Year</u>
University of Memphis	B.A. – Political Science	1997
University of Memphis	B.B.A – Finance	2002
University of Memphis	B.B.A. – Accounting	2006
Belhaven College	M.B.A. – Management	2004

Additional information relating to your educational background (optional):

Attended Ray Boudier School of Real Estate and received Affiliate Broker License in 2006. I am a businesswoman that started a tax preparation/financial consulting business nine years ago.

How long have you lived in Memphis? 37 years \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you grow up? The Community of Orange Mound \_\_\_\_\_

Marital status/children: Single, no children \_\_\_\_\_

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

1. Orange Mound Civic Organization Carolyn Randle 901-744-7938 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Melrose Center for Cultural Enrichment Mary Mitchell 901-323-8198 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Cooper Young Community Farmers Market Sue Easley 901-262-3282 \_\_\_\_\_
4. Orange Mound Neighborhood Watch Vernell Miller 901-323-7244 \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

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

1. Tennessee Association of Museums
2. Ready Shelby Task Force
3. Mid-South Kwanzaa- Treasurer
4. NACUBO
5. SACUBO
6. Memphis Area Association of Realtors
7. NAACP
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

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

1. Orange Mound Civic Organization
2. Big Brothers /Big Sisters
3. Memphis City School Volunteer Program – Dunbar Elementary
4. Orange Mound Parade Committee
5. Neighborhood Watch
6. Cooper Young Community Farmers Market
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

Other Contact Information:

Campaign Chair: \_\_\_\_\_.

Treasurer: Carolyn Smith \_\_\_\_\_

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

A vote for Michelle E. Smith is a vote for the future. \_\_\_\_\_

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