

# Coalition for a Better Memphis Candidate Questionnaire Memphis City Council

1. Please describe your background and your qualifications for this position? What experiences caused you to run for this office? What unique qualities would you bring to this position and what differentiates you from other candidates in your race?

I have been elected to the City Council 5 times and served as chairman 4 times during the past 20 years. I was also elected at large to the Memphis Charter Commission where I also served as chairman. From August 1, to October 15, 2009, I served as Mayor after the resignation of Dr Herenton. I am the best qualified for this position.

2. What is your vision for the City? How would you use this office to achieve the vision?

Each year we are moving closer to achieving my vision. We have secured at least two major corporations Mitsubishi, and Electrolux, thereby enhancing the economic development of our citizenry. Second, our educational system is becoming stronger; we are leading with educational reforms that will elevate our youth as they prepare to compete. ( But as everyone knows we still have a long way to go.) Thirdly, crime in Memphis has been on a steady decline via efforts such as the real time crime center. My vision is to continue to Move Memphis Forward, closer to the City of Choice we should be

We should also continue striving toward a Metro governmental structure.

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 and government?

By continuing to encourage the need for everyone to be involved. When I served as Mayor I had the opportunity to appoint a wide group of diverse citizens to many boards and commissions and as city directors and assistant directors.

MEMPHIS City Council Questionnaire 2011

Name: Memphis City Council Chairman Myron Lowery

4. What are the three greatest issues facing the City of Memphis today?

Dual governmental structure, thus causing duplication of services, taxes, and paperwork.

Separate educational systems, and separate justice systems.

5. 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?

My voting record shows strong support for economic development. EDGE is our future in this area.

6. How would you strengthen and support existing neighborhoods that are within the urban core and what barriers to community redevelopment do you see in these areas today? How do you propose to address the current blight in many of these areas?

We should strengthen code enforcement.

7. What do you regard as the greatest obstacle or barrier to growth in the City today?

The dual governmental structure of Shelby County is the greatest obstacle to growth.

8. What is the role of the City Council? What do you think about the relationship between the Council and the City Mayor; as well as other elected or appointed bodies, such as: Shelby County Commissioners, State of Tennessee Shelby County Delegation, MLGW, Greater Memphis Chamber, Downtown Memphis Commission, etc.

The primary duty of the City Council is to represent its constituents and provide governance by bring forth legislation that will promote, maintain, and guide behaviors deemed appropriate for our citizens. As no body should be completely autonomous, our system of checks and balances requires cooperation and compromise for our system of government to survive.

MEMPHIS City Council Questionnaire 2011

Name: Memphis City Council Chairman Myron Lowery

9. With regard to the crime rate, what current strategies would you support and what changes would you propose if any?

Continue with the real time crime center. Enhance community policing and neighborhood involvement.

- 10 Would you be willing to submit to a background check and then allow the results to be published?

I have done this several times. I expect it every election year.

- 11 Do you support the local ethics ordinance? Is the Ordinance sufficient, and if not, what changes would you recommend?

Yes

- 12 What are your ideas with regards to the City's responsibility for funding Memphis City Schools?

The City will fulfill its legal obligation to the schools. However, the one sided accountability is not fair for the citizens of Memphis. MCS is completely autonomous; the City has no authority of how the funds are spent. There should be some check and balance as to how these funds are dispersed

- 13 What are the Council's responsibilities for making the City contract bidding process more equitable and transparent?

The RFP process is open and transparent.