

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

The CBM will post your completed statement on our website, www.bettermemphis.org, exactly as it is submitted. It is important that your information be complete – please use extra space if needed and feel free to attach a resume or any supplemental information. Please email the Statement to peggy@bettermemphis.org by September 11, 2009.

Name: A C. Wharton

Website: www.acwharton.com

Candidate for: Memphis Mayor

Why do you believe you are qualified to run for this position? _____

Because I have the right experience, the right understanding of our people's needs, the right platform to produce the progress we need, and equally important, I have the ability to work with others for a shared vision.

Three specific things you would like to accomplish if elected: _____

1) make our city safer; 2) create Memphis as a city of choice; 3) address economic segregation

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

Have you filed for Bankruptcy? Yes _____ No X

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

Explanation of any of the above items _____

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

Shelby County Mayor - 2002 and 2006 -
elected to office

Current Employment

Company: Shelby County Government

Length of Employment: 7 years full time; 22 years part-time

Brief Job Description: As mayor since 2002, I have
managed county government, set priorities
for action, directed a financial plan, conducted
and implement efficiency studies, and maintained
county government's safety net. As public defender
from 1980-2002, I managed the office providing
legal assistance to indigent criminal defendants.

Wharton & Wharton - partner - 1980-2002

Education

Please list all schools you have attended from High School on.

<u>School</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Graduation Date</u>
<u>Tennessee State University</u>	<u>political science</u>	<u>1966</u>
<u>University of Mississippi</u>	<u>law</u>	<u>1971</u>

Additional information as it regards to education: _____

How long have you lived in Memphis? Since November, 1973

Where did you grow up? Lebanon, TN

Marital Status/Children: Married to Ruby Wharton - 6 children

Please identify up to five organizations that are actively supporting your candidacy.

1. Coalition of Concerned Citizens (Baptist Minister Assoc) *
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

* Because of shortness of time before special election, most endorsements have not yet been made.

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

1. Tennessee Higher Education Commission
2. Mayors Against Illegal Guns Coalition
3. National Association of Counties - board
4. Tennessee County Services Assoc. - board
5. Methodist Healthcare - chairman of board
6. Leadership Memphis - founder
7. National Bar Association
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Please list your civic and community memberships.

1. Numerous
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Other Contact Information:

Campaign Chair: Julian Bolton

Treasurer: Ruby Wharton

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



The following scenario was developed by the Center for Ethical Leadership at Christian Brothers University. It is designed to determine how you process information and make decisions. There is no right or wrong answer.

Lost File – Ethical Dilemma Pitting Individual versus Community

You have been involved in a very tight election, opposing a very popular incumbent. About two weeks prior to election day, the local newspaper runs a very negative article about your opponent and some “shady” dealings occurring during his tenure in office. Although the allegations do not point to any illegal activity, the reporter does imply that a particular financial transaction shows questionable decision making.

Your opponent denies the allegations and insists the transaction is above board. He claims he cannot locate the files associated with this particular incident and, therefore, cannot defend his actions with anything other than his honor, reputation, and good name. The press continues to have a field day over this issue, tearing up your opponent and leaving you in the enviable position of not having to comment on the situation.

You win the election by a surprisingly large margin. Exit polls show it was your opponent’s inability to produce evidence proving there was no wrongdoing that swayed voters your way. Your opponent walks away from the election not only defeated at the polls but also in public opinion and reputation.

About three months into your new position you are working on a case that causes you to rummage through some of your predecessor’s old files. There you find the “smoking gun”... the evidence that clears your opponent of any wrongdoing. You are unsure if the information was accidentally or intentionally misfiled.

- (1) What will you do with this information?
- (2) Will you consult anyone before deciding what to do? If so, whom?
- (3) When making your decision about what to do, whose needs did you consider?
- (4) Was this an easy decision for you to make? If not, what were some of the issues that went through your mind that caused conflict?

See attachment - Ethics

Optional – Attach a resume.

Please email the completed Statement and any additional information to:
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MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2009

NAME: A C Wharton

- 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?
- 1b. What previous experience do you have running a business, managing employees or controlling a budget?
- 1c. Beginning with the most recent position, please list all public offices you have held. Please include positions on appointed boards or commissions.
- 1d. If you have previously run for elected office but were not elected, please list those races below.

See attachment - #1

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2009

NAME: A C Wharton

- 2a. What is your vision for the City – how would you use this office to achieve the vision?
- 2b. What are the three greatest issues facing the City of Memphis today?
- 2c. What issues do you believe will shape the City over the next few years?

See attachment #2

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2009

NAME: A C Wharton

3. How do you plan on insuring that there is diversity represented in the development of public policy, staffing and appointments, and city contracting?

See attachment #3

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2009

NAME: A C Wharton

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?

See attachment #4

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2009

NAME: A C (Wharton)

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?

see attachment #5

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2009

NAME: AC Wharton

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?

See attachment # 6

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2009

NAME: A C Wharton

7. Give us your thoughts on a metro form of government and/or consolidated services.

See attachment # 7

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2009

NAME: A C Wharton

8. What is the City's responsibility to Memphis City Schools? How should the relationship between the City and Memphis City Schools be structured?

See attachment #8

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2009

NAME: A C Wharton

9. 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?

See attachment #9

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2009

NAME: A C Wharton

11. Are you familiar with the current budget and what would be your major budget priorities?

See attachment # 11

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2009

NAME: A C Wharton

12. Would you be willing to submit to a background check and allow the results to be published?

See attachment #12