

# Coalition for a Better Memphis

## Candidate Questionnaire

### Memphis Mayor

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?

\* I am a concerned citizen. I am over 35 years of age and a resident of Memphis, TN. I have a college background in business administration and am, presently President and CEO of A.E.O.M., Inc trucking firm here in Memphis. I have seen so many people in need and without help because of decisions and agendas of the politicians currently holding office. I feel it's time that Memphis has a Mayor who is dedicated to the citizens of this city that really NEED to be heard such as seniors, the ever increasing number of unemployed, and our children.

1b. What previous experience do you have running a business, managing employees or controlling a budget?

\*President and CEO of A.E.O.M., Inc trucking firm here in Memphis.  
Associate minister of Pure Holiness Institutional Church of God in Christ  
I was Quality Control Manager of a major company here in Memphis, and Manager of a restaurant.

1c. Beginning with the most recent position, please list all public offices you have held. Please include positions on appointed boards or commissions.

\*None

1d. If you have previously run for elected office but were not elected, please list those races below.

\*2007 Mayoral Race

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2009

NAME: \_DEWYANE JONES\_\_\_\_\_

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

\*My vision is to bring more big businesses back to Memphis by finding ways to lower taxes and by making our neighborhoods safer and more desirable to live and work in. I want to revitalize and beautify ALL of Memphis. I, also, want to create more jobs for unemployed adults and extracurricular programs for children that will keep them off the streets and out of trouble.

2b. What are the three greatest issues facing the City of Memphis today?

\*1. Property taxes – Because more and more businesses and residents are moving out of the city and across the state line to escape high taxes and leaving the rest to carry the city's tax burdens. This only serves to create even higher taxes to make up for the losses.

2. MLG&W - We are at some of the highest, if not THE highest utility rates in Memphis history and we need to work on concerted efforts to bring this city into a more efficient and Greener generation.

3. Sanitation & Public Works – We need to work towards improving the benefits and pensions of the workers.

2c. What issues do you believe will shape the City over the next few years?

\*The issues that I feel will shape the future of Memphis are lowering property taxes, implementing programs and policies that will improve our schools, and working to solve the problems of ever increasing crime rates.

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2009

NAME: \_DEWYANE JONES\_\_\_\_\_

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

\* By insuring that all cultures are recognizes and represented as well as possible when considering candidates for positions and appointments to be filled. Memphis government should be a well mixed melting pot of diversity. Any qualified candidate will be considered whether they be African American, Caucasian, Hispanic, Asian American, or Native American; whether they are Christian, Muslim or any other religion; male, female, heterosexual, or homosexual. The City of Memphis should and will be a truly equal opportunity employer.

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2009

NAME: \_DEWYANE JONES\_\_\_\_\_

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?

\*City government should be the leader in promoting economic development. All of the issues that keep new businesses, large or small, from choosing Memphis start with city government such as taxes, crime, and even the aesthetics of the city's appearance need to be addresses and improved.

We would do this by allocating state and federal funds towards solving issues like crime, schools, and working to find ways to lower property taxes. The Mayor should be the main tool we use to promote all that Memphis has to offer new businesses.

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2009

NAME: \_DEWYANE JONES\_\_\_\_\_

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?

\*The first means of support would be getting a well qualified police department on the streets by redefining the residency issues that prevent a lot of desirable candidates to join the force.

Second, by promoting neighborhood clean-ups, most especially abandoned buildings and neglected vacant lots. This, in turn, goes back to beautifying the city and reducing some crimes such as arson and places for gangs and drug dealers to hang out.

Finally by focusing on the children and schools, in every Memphis neighborhood, with mentoring programs and community involvement.

I do not see any barriers that can not be overcome with the combined efforts of city government, community leaders and businesses, and neighborhood citizens to work together to solve these issues.

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2009

NAME: DEWYANE JONES

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?

\*The current structure is not diverse enough. My vision is to fairly make appointments across races, genders, and backgrounds with the most qualified people available.

I would strengthen a culture of accountability by conducting more of the city's business in a more open forum, rather than behind closed doors, so that the citizens can see the actions of elected leaders and hold them accountable for those actions.

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2009

NAME: \_DEWYANE JONES\_\_\_\_\_

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

\*I know that consolidation is a hot topic. In order to make a reasonable decision on this topic, we need a more in depth study of the pros and cons so that we will not disenfranchise our citizens

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2009

NAME: \_DEWYANE JONES\_\_\_\_\_

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

\* The city should be part of the supportive cast to fund schools so that our children get the very best education available. We need to bring up the standards of our schools to compete with the rest of the nation in test scores. Much can be done through motivation and the boosting of morale. Our teachers need better pay and a means to motivate the children to learn.

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2009

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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?

\*One of the most effective ways that I feel the Mayor can contribute to crime reduction is by being a visible role model to our children. By instituting structured after school programs, for children of all ages that will show our youth that there is a better and more productive way to live, and to give them something to believe in.

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2009

NAME: \_DEWYANE JONES\_\_\_\_\_

10. State your position regarding residency restrictions for City workers, including police officers.

\*We need to redefine the residency restrictions so that we will be able to consider all qualified candidates for any job, regardless of residency inside or outside the city limits.

MEMPHIS MAYOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2009

NAME: \_DEWYANE JONES\_\_\_\_\_

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

\* Yes I am familiar with the current budget.

My priorities would be to go through the budget line by line to cut the fat and create a lean machine that will increase the city's bond rating. These can be done by cutting wasteful spending such as over-inflated paychecks, expensive auto allowances, and eliminating the over abundance of supervisory positions within the city government. Bringing "Green" options to Memphis needs to start at the top with such things as smaller, more fuel efficient or Hybrid vehicles for city use up to and including the vehicles used by those in the top offices, as well.

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

\*Yes, I would be willing.

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