

COALITION FOR A BETTER MEMPHIS
Shelby County Mayor Candidate Questionnaire
Election Date: May 4, 2010

Name: Deidre Malone

Section 1: Qualifications and Background (2 questions)

Section 2: Vision and Strategies (3 questions)

Section 3: Improving the System (2 questions)

QUALIFICATIONS AND BACKGROUND

- 1. Describe briefly your qualifications for holding the office of Shelby County mayor. (Please answer in the space below. You may attach a resume or other description to provide us with additional detail.)**

I have served on the Shelby County Commission for the last 7 ½ years and been a part of every major decision made in County Government. I have been either elected or appointed to various leadership roles on the legislative body which include, chairman, chairman pro-tempore, budget chairman, public works chairman, community services chairman and hospitals and health chairman. I have served outside of the commission as member of the board of directors of the Memphis Housing Authority, Shelby County Emergency Management Board, Memphis Fast Forward and Operation Safe Community.

In the private sector, I have worked for one of the largest healthcare charities in this country, ALSAC- St. Jude as a Vice President and for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as a Director. For the last 7 years, I have owned and operated a small business, The Carter Malone Group, LLC. As the President/CEO, I have to tackle some of the same issues the County faces on a daily basis.

I believe my public and private sector experience gives makes me qualified to seek and hold the office of Mayor of Shelby County.

- 2. What events or experiences caused you to decide to run for this office?**

I was asked by supporters to consider running for Shelby County Mayor 2 years ago and made the determination to run after a great deal of consideration. This decision came as a culmination of my experiences as a Commissioner and the needs I see for the community.

I have seen first hand the need for strong leadership and the ability to work through a range of political, economic and cultural differences to address the issues in Shelby County.

SHELBY COUNTY MAYOR CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE 2010

NAME: DEIDRE MALONE

As a legislator it has been my job to approve the policies and financial requests of other elected officials. I would like to have the opportunity to set the agenda for tackling some of the tough policy issues we will face in the next 4 years and be able to work with the County Commission to accomplish those goals. I believe my private sector experience and my experience on the Commission uniquely makes me qualified to work closely with the new Commission to make the right choices for positive change in Shelby County.

2. VISION AND STRATEGIES

1. In your opinion, what are the three greatest issues (problems or opportunities) facing Shelby County in the next four years?

I want to get back to the basics, the County's core business: education, public safety, health care and economic development. With seven municipalities, two public school systems and a great diversity of the citizens in our county, dealing with these issues require experience, understanding, determination and the ability to work across political and cultural lines. I bring all those qualities to the office of the Mayor and will lead Shelby County towards real progress for all.

Shelby County has many opportunities for economic growth that have not been fully utilized. Because of geography and our current infrastructure, we are uniquely positioned to be national leaders of the "Green Economy". Economic growth in this era begins promoting entrepreneurial efforts and making it easier for small businesses to prosper. As a small business owner, I know the challenges facing entrepreneurs and business owners today. I will work with the business community to find incentives that fit the needs of the business without compromising our other obligations. I will push for job training programs that meet not only the current needs of business, but also trains a workforce for tomorrow.

An effective workforce is an educated workforce. I am committed to pursuing a means of funding education that addresses the differing needs of our school systems and provides the resources to give every child the education they need to be successful citizens, and doing this in a sustainable way that does not deplete resources needed for other obligations or increasing the burden on taxpayers. Many of the impediments to learning are addressed more successfully and cost-effectively early in life, which is why I will work to improve early childhood education and put children on the path to success from the very beginning.

Public safety is more than a law enforcement issue, it is a quality of life issue. I believe we can break the cycle of crime in our community through a cooperative effort. As

SHELBY COUNTY MAYOR CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE 2010

NAME: DEIDRE MALONE

Mayor I will work through the schools and communities to address the causes that lead to a life of crime. I will also push for stronger rehabilitation and job training programs that provide other options to those sincerely want to be better citizens. Through these efforts, we can reduce the number of people entering the criminal justice system and the number of people returning to the system.

People come here from around the world to be healed. Our children's hospitals and trauma care centers are some of the best in the world. Yet too many of our own citizens are suffering from a lack of basic healthcare. As a mother and grandmother, I know the challenges and importance of raising healthy children. I believe we can effectively tackle the problems of inadequate prenatal care, infant mortality and childhood obesity. We can also ease the economic burden on the MED by providing cost- effective alternatives to the emergency room for minor health issues and indigent care. This will include working with existing organization, churches and community programs to maximize their impact. This community is blessed with people who are willing to work hard on these issues and I will provide the leadership to work smarter together.

2. Shelby County's debt is seen by many people as a threat to county government. How would you propose that the county pay down its debt? How would you prevent additional debt in the future?

The Wharton administration laid out a solid plan for debt reduction that the commission approved and I agree with. Going forward we should redirect any cost savings toward debt reduction.

Education funding reform has to be a part of the County's debt reduction strategy. The majority of our debt was incurred due to capital needs for the two schools systems. Currently we are moving forward on a pay-as-you-go basis avoiding any non-essential debt. I would continue with this process.

3. Are you satisfied with the economic growth (jobs and income) of Shelby County today? If not, what should the county government do to improve economic development efforts?

I touched on this issue earlier question #1, creating the right strategies to create new jobs is essential to the growth and prosperity of Shelby County. Economic growth in this era begins with promoting entrepreneurial efforts and making it easier for small

NAME: DEIDRE MALONE

businesses to prosper. As a small business owner, I know the challenges facing entrepreneurs and business owners today. I will work with the business community to find incentives that fit the needs of the business without compromising our other obligations. I will push for job training programs that meet not only the current needs of businesses, but also trains a workforce for tomorrow.

IMPROVING THE SYSTEM

- 1. Some people believe that urban communities should adopt policies that encourage what is called “smart growth.” Do you believe Shelby County should have a general policy about new residential and commercial developments? If so, what should that policy be?**

I think creating having a “smart growth” policy and adhering to it is important to our community. The Wharton administration held several summits on this issue and created a Sustainable Shelby plan that should be implemented. It creates a sound basis for future development. Shelby County has been burdened by migration more than true growth. We should incentivize infill development as a part of this strategy.

- 2. What is your view regarding the best way to address financing of The Med and the need for public health options?**

The problems facing the Regional Medical Center are not just a local issue, but a state and national issue. We have to work with legislators on those levels to craft policies to work for us. To date, we have only worked on short-term funding solutions to keep the Med open. We are continuously in a crisis mode. Moving forward, we need to have an honest discussion about the future of this public hospital. The new CEO realizes that for some services such as Trauma, Burn and Neonatal, the Med is the only true provider of this high level of patient care. Dr. Reginald Coopwood would like to make the Med competitive with other hospitals on various services. The goal is to make the Med the hospital of choice for paying patients and insurers. I am committed to finding the right long-term solution to providing these needed services to our community.

- end -