

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

Name: James O. Catchings _____

Website: www.catchingsforcommissioner.org _____

Candidate for: Shelby County Board of Commissioner, District 3, Position 1 _____

Why do you believe you are qualified for this position? I am qualified for this position because I have served as school principal at several schools providing constituent services to the students, teachers, parents and communities. The job of the commissioner is to provide the same kind of services that I have provided for the last 45 years. I have an earned doctorate degree, which gives me the educational qualifications for the position.

Name three specific things you would like to accomplish if elected: If elected, I would like to (1) help reduce crime, improve blighted communities by focusing on vacant buildings and other sources of crime; (2) increase economic development by attracting new businesses and supporting existing businesses; (3) improve educational opportunities for all youth .

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

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.

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

In 2007, I ran for the district 6 City Council position and lost by less than 200 votes.

Current Employment

Company: Memphis City Schools

Length of Employment: 45 years _____

Brief Job Description: I served as principal for 37 years. During the last seven years, I have served as substitute principal to fill in when the principal is absent. I have also served as a mentoring principal for new principals.

Education

Please list all college/advanced degrees attained.

<u>College/University</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Graduation Year</u>
<u>Tennessee State University</u>	<u>– BS</u>	<u>1962</u>
<u>University of Memphis</u>	<u>–MA</u>	<u>1965</u>
<u>University of Memphis</u>	<u>– Ed.D</u>	<u>1984</u>

Additional information relating to your educational background (optional): Teacher- Hamilton High School, Career Ladder III Principal, Adjunct Instructor, The University of Memphis.

How long have you lived in Memphis? 65 years

Where did you grow up? South Memphis

Marital status/children: Divorced

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

1. Memphis Alliance of Black School Educators
2. Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity
3. Shelby County Democratic Executive Committee
4. Tennessee State Alumni Association
5. Pro Duffers South Golf Club

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

1. First African American president of the Memphis Education Association
2. One of the First African Americans on Tennessee Education Association’s Board of Directors.
3. Director of Community Communication and Stabilization Federal Project
4. Director, “Keep Our Public Schools Strong” Project
5. Chairman: Memphis Effective Schools Project

- 6. Officer: Memphis Public Schools Principals Association _____
- 7. Past President Memphis Regional Lung Association _____
- 8. _____
- 9. _____
- 10. _____

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

- 1. Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church _____
- 2. Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity _____
- 3. South Precinct Neighborhood Association _____
- 4. 100 Black Men of Memphis _____
- 5. Tennessee State Alumni Association _____
- 6. Gemstone Home Owners Association _____
- 7. Shelby County Democratic Executive Committee _____
- 8. Kiwanis of Memphis _____
- 9. Collins Chapel Board of Stewards _____
- 10. President of the PTA at Central High School _____
- 11. NAACP _____

Other Contact Information:

Campaign Chair: George Jones III _____

Treasurer: Nansa J. Catchings _____

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

I am currently retired and would like to devote my time and energy working on improving the conditions in district 3. _____

