

Shelby County Commissioner Candidate Questionnaire 2010

Name: _____JUSTIN J. FORD_____

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

Name: Justin J. Ford

District for which you are running: District 3, Position 3

Section 1: Qualifications and Background (2 questions)

Section 2: Vision and Strategies (4 questions)

Section 3: Improving the Education System (4 questions)

1. QUALIFICATIONS AND BACKGROUND Im a licensed funeral director who has been working in the funeral industry for ten years now. I understand the importance of dealing with people who face tremendous problems and are looking for help and hope. I am a member of the Ford family so I have seen first hand the importance of constituent service and how important it is to put people first. I have develop a passion for service that motivates me everyday in my business

1. Describe your qualifications for holding the office of Shelby County Commissioner. (Please answer in the space below and attach a resume.) I have met all qualifications requisite for this position. Also I feel I will bridge the generation gap that is clearly relevant on the county commission.

**2. What events or experiences caused you to decide to run for this office?
Its simple public service is what i do so its only quite natural to help the
people of the district politically. Not just during there time of need. The
young men and women of my district need to see that there is a need for
our participation in government.**

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? Crime,
Economic Development, and Education**

**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? I support any
proposals that will reflect sound government and responsible spending.**

3. The Memphis City Council has taken steps over the last few years attempting to shift the burden of funding both city and county schools to Shelby County residents. What are your views regarding the best way to fund public education of Shelby County and Memphis children? I believe we all have a inherent responsibility to educate our children and give the best opportunity to succeed. We should not forget that education is key to success.

4. 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? This is a issue that I will look at closely and make a decision that will be great for the county residents and those individuals who want progressive growth.

3. IMPROVING THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

1. What do you regard as the greatest obstacle or barrier to economic growth in Shelby County today? What can the County Commission do to reduce that impediment? There are many obstacles that are foreseen in economic growth but with improvements and visionaries who forecast business and development i believe we can overcome those obstacles

2. What is your philosophy about offering incentives to companies that are considering major new investments or job expansions in Shelby County? Being attractive to new business and expansions are important. Making sure that shelby county residents are receiving those jobs that offer living wages are essential.

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

Over the last two months I have heard numerous ideas that can help save the med. I will support those options that make sense to both me and the constituents of the district.

4. When you complete your service as commissioner, what do you want your legacy to be? A commissioner that served far and beyond my call of duty. I want to leave a legacy of great works.

