

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

**Name:** Mike Ritz

**Website:** www.mikeritz.org

**Candidate for:** County Commission District 1 Position 1

**Why do you believe you are qualified for this position?** I have served as a County Commissioner since 9/1/2006. Much more important as a qualification, to me at least, is my good fortune to be a retired bank executive. Being retired, I have no conflicts in advocating good public fiscal policy. My early career (1969-1983) as an urban planning director, including service as the first Director of the Memphis and Shelby County Office of Planning and Development, provide me with a unique understanding of urban development, smart growth, urban policy from a macro regional view.

**Name three specific things you would like to accomplish if elected:** 1. Attract new employment opportunities to the Memphis area. 2, Seek fair, equitable, and non—discriminatory state funding of the MED. 3. Continue to reduce the number of County employees and capital spending to keep overall expenses and taxes down.

**Have you ever been delinquent on your property taxes?** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

**Have you declared bankruptcy?** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

**Have you ever been convicted of a felony?** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

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

Except for my campaign for this position in 2006, I have not run for public office before.

## **Current Employment**

**Company, Length of Employment, and Brief Job Description:** I am retired, however since 2001 I have owned Ritz Investments within which I manage personal investments and provide real estate and urban planning advice and services on a very limited basis.

**Education**

**Please list all college/advanced degrees attained.**

| <u>College/University</u> | <u>Degree</u>                         | <u>Graduation Year</u> |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Oklahoma University       | B.S. in Civil Engineering             | 1967                   |
| Oklahoma University       | Masters of Regional and City Planning | 1969                   |

**Additional information relating to your educational background (optional):** None

**How long have you lived in Memphis?** 33 years

**Where did you grow up?** Norman, Oklahoma

**Marital status/children:** Married 43 years with two adult children. Daughter Michele is married, lives in Atlanta and is a law partner with Carlock, Copeland, Sember and Stair. Son Kevin is an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Memphis.

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

I have sought no endorsements because I have no opponent in the Primary or General Election.

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

1. Memphis Rotary Club (1978-1996), Secretary and Board of Directors
2. Memphis Chapter of Lambda Alpha Honorary Professional Land Economics Society, (1978 to Present), President 1984-1986
3. Memphis Economic Club
4. Memphis Urban League Board of Directors
5. Memphis Area Board of Realtors
6. American institute of Certified Planners, Charter Member

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

1. Memphis Depot Redevelopment Corporation, Past Chairman
2. Shelby County Emergency Communications E911 Board, Past Chairman
3. Memphis Housing Authority
4. Vineyards Homeowners Assn., Vice-President

5. Leadership Memphis, 1983
6. Leadership Germantown, 2002
7. Cordova Leadership Council
8. Shelby County Republican Party
9. East Shelby Republican Club
10. Boy Scout Troop 359 Advancement Chairman

**Other Contact Information:**

**Campaign Chair:** None

**Treasurer:** Bill Watkins

**Any other information you would like to share with the voters:** I have Real Estate Broker licenses in Tennessee and Mississippi and am an Inactive (Retired) Professional Engineer in Tennessee. Resume is attached.