

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

The CBM will post your completed statement on our website, [www.bettermemphis.org](http://www.bettermemphis.org), exactly as it is submitted. It is important that your information be complete – please use extra space if needed and feel free to attach a resume or any supplemental information. Please email the statement to [peggy@bettermemphis.org](mailto:peggy@bettermemphis.org) or Fax 901-752-0743 by March 5, 2010.

Name: Norma J. Lester

Website: www.votenormalester.com

Candidate for: County Commission District 2 Position 3

Why do you believe you are qualified for this position? \_\_\_\_\_

Extensive background as officer or member of various professional, social and civic boards.

Extensive decision making experience in former administrative and executive roles.

Educational background.

Leadership roles in Shelby County Democratic Party as former 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairs and Secretary

Leadership roles in various employment, civic and social organizations

Knowledge of Memphis Community and issues

Familiar with County Commission and operational process

Name three specific things you would like to accomplish if elected: \_\_\_\_\_

Fund the Med and extensively review overall operations

Consolidation of services within county government

Work with county mayor to establish an overall quality assurance system which would be utilized to establish goals and objectives and hold administration accountable for compliance.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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.

Thirty five years ago, my mother died which was the most devastating period of my life. I withdrew from society, quit full time employment and on a part time basis worked enough to pay my house note and buy food. With the advise and prayers of friends and family I filed bankrupt, returned to full time work, picked up the pieces of my life and have maintained an excellent credit history and state of financial well being every since. I currently own several pieces of rental property fifty percent of which is title free, have a decent retirement nest egg, investments and income which affords a comfortable life style.

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

No other political positions. Have successfully ran for several professional and civic positions.

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**Current Employment**

Company: Retired from State of Tennessee

Length of Employment: 10 years

Brief Job Description: Initially was state director of Nursing for Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, because of federal lawsuit against the facility assumed the directorship of Arlington Developmental Center and became responsible for bringing the nursing department into compliance, which I was able to accomplish.

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**Education**

Please list all college/advanced degrees attained.

<u>College/University</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Graduation Year</u>
<u>UT Memphis</u>	<u>Masters in Nursing</u>	<u>1994</u>
<u>Memphis State</u>	<u>Masters in Health Care Administration</u>	<u>1985</u>

Memphis State	Bachelor of Professional Studies	1982
Union University	Bachelor of Nursing	1992
Shelby State	Associated Degree Personnel Management	1979
Shelby State	Associate Degree Nursing	1983

Additional information relating to your educational background (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Before becoming a professional nurse I was trained and licensed as a Licensed Practical Nurse. I am also trained and certified as a Family Nurse Practitioner, a Developmental Disability Nurse Specialist, a Nurse Administrator, a Legal Nurse Consultant and a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator. I am also a notary in the State of Tennessee. \_\_\_\_\_

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How long have you lived in Memphis? 36 years \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you grow up? Akron, Ohio \_\_\_\_\_

Marital status/children: Divorced with 3 grown children and 1 granddaughter \_\_\_\_\_

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

- Tennessee Nurses Association Ms. Sharon Adkins, RN, MSN 615-254-0350
- Developmental Disability Nurses Assoc Ms. Cora Guimera, RN 901-745-7889
- Teamsters Local 1196 Nate Jackson 901-396-1003
- Teamsters Local 984 William Henderson 901-398-2329
- \_\_\_\_\_

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

- Memphis District Nurses Association Former Secretary \_\_\_\_\_
- National Developmental Disability Nurses Assoc. Former Secretary \_\_\_\_\_
- Shelby County Democratic Party, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair and Secretary \_\_\_\_\_
- Frayser Exchange Club \_\_\_\_\_
- ABetterMemphis.Com Board Member \_\_\_\_\_
- Voice of Raleigh \_\_\_\_\_

7. Network Memphis Board Member
8. Raleigh Community Council
9. Women of Raleigh Secretary
10. Shelby County Democratic Women

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

1. Shelby County Health Department Emergency Response Team
2. Frayser Community Counseling Network
3. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Memphis
4. A voice of Raleigh
5. Abettermemphis.com
6. League of Women Voters
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

Other Contact Information:

Campaign Co-Chairs: Nate Jackson & John Bratcher

Treasurer: Virginia Allen 901-218-6669

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

That we are committed to a campaign absent of global promises and political rhetoric

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