

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

Name: REGINA MORRISON NEWMAN _____

Website: www.newmanfortrustee.com _____

Candidate for: SHELBY COUNTY TRUSTEE _____

Why do you believe you are qualified for this position?

I have extensive experience in government, tax collection, finance, administration, personnel management and law. I have attached my resume for further information. I spent 9 years with the City of Memphis, beginning in Community Development, then serving several years as an internal consultant on budgetary and staffing issues, then ultimately serving as Assistant City Treasurer for 3 years. The City Treasurer's office performs the same property tax collection function for the City that the Trustee performs for Shelby County. While serving as Assistant City Treasurer, I implemented procedures which brought collection percentages to their highest points ever at that time, while reducing operating expenses. I left the Treasurer's office in 1987 for an appointment to the TN Department of Revenue under Governor Ned McWherter, where I assisted the Commissioner in researching revenue sources and implementing tax collection procedures for the State. When the Department of Youth Development was formed, I was asked to serve as Personnel Director for the department which ended up having 1200 employees. In 1994, after graduating from law school and passing the bar while working full-time, I returned to Memphis and began the private practice of law concentrating in the area of civil trial law. I have run a business and served individual clients, as well as large and small businesses for 15 years.

I was appointed interim Trustee on 9/28/09 by the County Commission following the passing of Trustee Paul Mattila and have already succeeded in making numerous changes and improvements which I believe benefit the taxpayers and the citizens of Shelby County. In the first 5 months of my tenure:

- Trustee office operating expenses were reduced
- The use of the award-winning payment kiosks was increased from 8 to 14 across the County
- A highly successful new program was implemented sending mobile cashiers across the County during tax season for the convenience of the citizens, thereby reducing the need for many taxpayers and senior citizens to come downtown while also reducing the downtown office lines and workload
- Public access to the Trustee's financial information was increased by publishing more reports online
- Presented and disseminated information on tax relief and tax freeze programs to thousands of senior citizens, disabled citizens and veterans
- Greater emphasis was placed by me on assuring compliance by taxpayers with PILOT agreements and more taxes were collected due to that effort
- Collection percentages were held steady despite the economy
- The Trustee's office was made more employee-friendly

- We have begun a test usage of a 'virtual vault' which we believe will assist other County offices in the securing and accounting for cash, while providing immediate crediting at the bank

The Trustee is responsible for over \$600 million in annual collections and over \$500 million in daily investments. Annual transactions total over \$3 billion. It is vital to the functioning of the entire County government that the Trustee be a responsible, trustworthy individual who can perform the job, maintain the County treasury which is the largest in the state, and serve the people without conflict of interest.

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

I would like to increase the use of technology, such as the kiosk and mobile cashing programs to provide more convenience to taxpayers at less cost, and implement the use of ACH refunding to decrease workload and operating expenses. I would like to continue the restructuring of the office with regard to personnel usage and use technology to allow for job sharing and work-from-home programs for specific personnel, thereby further decreasing operating expenses. I would like to conclude successful negotiations with the City of Memphis to collect Memphis' taxes as the Trustee currently does for the other municipalities. (I would also like to have the County's investments earn more than they have over the past couple of years but that will be difficult in these times.) _____

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 _____

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 2006, I ran Countywide for General Sessions Judge, Division 4, when the incumbent, Russell Sugarmon, retired. There were numerous candidates and over 121,000 votes cast, but I came in second, losing by 2002 votes.

Current Employment

Company: Shelby County _____

Length of Employment: 9/28/2009 to present _____

Brief Job Description: Shelby County Trustee.

The Trustee’s office collects all property taxes for the County and acts as the banker for the County treasury which is the largest in the State. As such, the Trustee’s office handles the accounts for all County elected officials and all fees collected by County offices, as well as handling the disbursement of any funds distributed to the County by the State. The Trustee invests any funds available but not immediately needed. As Trustee, I am currently bonded for \$42 million dollars. _____

Education

Please list all college/advanced degrees attained.

<u>College/University</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Graduation Year</u>
Rhodes College	BA – Political Science	1979
Nashville School of Law	Juris Doctorate	1994

Additional information relating to your educational background (optional): _____

How long have you lived in Memphis? I came to Memphis in 1975 and remained until 1987. After spending 8 years in Nashville with the State of TN, I returned to Memphis in 1994 and have been here since. _____

Where did you grow up? I was born in Berea, KY, moved to Florida at the age of 6 and grew up and graduated from high school in Tarpon Springs, FL. _____

Marital status/children: I am married to Robert Newman. No children. _____

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

1. _____

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

1. Tennessee Bar Association _____
2. Association for Women Attorneys _____
3. TN Lawyer's Association for Women _____
4. Memphis Area Chamber of Commerce _____
5. Prior membership in National Bar Association _____
6. Prior membership in Memphis Bar Association _____

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

1. Board of Directors, Big Brothers/Big Sisters (past) _____
2. Diversity Memphis (present) _____
3. League of Women Voters (present) _____
4. Public Issues Forum (current sponsor) _____
5. Worker's Interfaith Network for Economic Justice (present) _____
6. Memphis Area Women's Council (present) _____
7. Women of Achievement (present) _____
8. NAACP (present) _____
9. Mothers of the NILE –Nat'l Institute for Law & Equity (present) _____
10. Idlewild Neighborhood Association (present) – Vice President _____

Other Contact Information: Regina Morrison Newman (office 545-4802), (campaign: Friends of Regina Newman, P.O. Box 40025, Memphis, TN 38174, 604-4811)

Campaign Chair: Percy Brown, Manager (351-8595)/Maxine Smith, Co-Chair ____

Treasurer: Russell B. Sugarmon (458-3097) _____

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

I believe that our public servants need to realize they are employees of the people, and that the public needs to raise the standards they expect of their elected officials. Every elected official can improve the image of officials and government by living up to the expectations of the public and exceeding those expectations whenever possible. _____