

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

Name: David A. Pickler

Website: [www.friendsofdavidpickler.com](http://www.friendsofdavidpickler.com)

Candidate for: Shelby County Board of Education, District 5

Why do you believe you are qualified for this position?

I am a passionate advocate and a faithful ambassador for quality education and for Shelby County Schools. As a parent, small business owner, and highly engaged community stakeholder, I recognize the importance of quality schools in our communities. Over the past twelve years, I have demonstrated my ability to serve our children, taxpayers, and all of the stakeholders of Shelby County Schools as an efficient and effective steward of our taxpayer dollars, tireless advocate for the independence and autonomy of our school district, visionary leader for continuous improvement in student achievement, and collaborative partner with our parents, teachers, and community leaders. I have been incredibly blessed to work with a dynamic Board of Education and very humbled to have been given the opportunity to serve at a local, state, and national level promoting the interests of Shelby County Schools and public education. My record of service and our Board and system accomplishments obtained under my leadership reflect the focus on policy, planning, and promotion that defines excellence in school boardsmanship.

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

(1) Our first responsibility must be to ensure that we deliver a curriculum that has rigor, relevance, and relationship, a faculty of highly qualified, dedicated professionals committed to ongoing professional development, a sound and secure policy structure providing clear and concise direction, and the financial and human resources necessary to empower each child the ability to fulfill their potential. In an era of rapidly evolving global economic changes and increased global competitiveness, student achievement must be our most important objective. (2) Preserving the independence and autonomy of Shelby County Schools by embracing all appropriate measures to fight against school district consolidation, loss of local control and Board decision-making, and the encroachment of federal and state

government unfunded and underfunded mandates into what is supposed to be a local responsibility to deliver excellence in public education. (3) Continue to exhibit our faithful stewardship and efficiency in fiscal matters while ensuring the maximum percentage of available resources are directed into the classroom.

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. -

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

Shelby County Board of Education, District 5

1998---won election

2002—won, unopposed

2006—won, unopposed

### **Current Employment**

Company: Pickler Wealth Advisors LLC, The Pickler Law Firm, PLLC, Pickler Properties, LLC

Length of Employment: Pickler Wealth Advisors----5 years( inception of firm, previously spent 21 years as a Senior VP with major investment firms), The Pickler Law Firm—24 years, Pickler Properties---5 years (since inception)

Brief Job Description: President and Chief Executive Officer of Pickler Wealth Advisors. Pickler Wealth Advisors is a full service financial, estate planning and wealth management firm specializing in providing customized advisory solutions for the life goals of our clients. As Senior Partner of The Pickler Law Firm, I manage the firm's efforts as we emphasize tax, corporate, and estate planning law. As Senior Partner of Pickler Properties, I am responsible for the oversight and management of all firm properties.

### **Education**

Please list all college/advanced degrees attained.

<u>College/University</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Graduation Year</u>
University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law	Juris Doctor	1985
Arkansas State University	Bachelor of Science, Business Management	1980
College for Financial Planning	Certified Financial Planner	1987
The American College	Chartered Financial Consultant	1988

Additional information relating to your educational background (optional): As a Certified Financial Planner and a Chartered Financial Consultant and an Attorney at Law, I am required to complete significant annual continuing Professional education. I have also completed coursework at The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. Furthermore, as a School Board member, I am required to meet annual continuing education requirements as well.

How long have you lived in Memphis? I have lived in the Memphis area for the past 29 years. I previously lived in the Whitehaven area for an additional three years. Total years of residency-----32 years

Where did you grow up? Born in Jonesboro Arkansas, moved to Memphis in 1965, moved to Dallas in 1968, moved back to Jonesboro in 1971. Graduated from Jonesboro High in 1977.

Marital status/children: Married to the former Mary Elizabeth Campbell since May 24, 1980. We will be celebrating 30 years of marriage on May 24 of this year. We have two children, Chris (age 26) and Katie (age 21).

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

1. As the campaign has just begun, not aware of any endorsing organizations yet \_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

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

1. National School Boards Association: Executive Board, Southern Region Director, Board of Directors, Chairman of National Affiliate Committee, Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Technology and Leadership Committee, and AdHoc Committee on Pension Reform
2. Tennessee School Boards Association: Past TSBA President, Board of Directors
3. Kiwanis Club Of Germantown: Past President, Past Lt Governor
4. Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District, Kiwanis International: Past Governor
5. Germantown Soccer Club: Past President
6. Leadership Germantown Alumni Association: Past President
7. Chickasaw Council < Boy Scouts of America: Past Council Vice President, Executive Board, BSA National Council Representative
8. Memphis Oral School for the Deaf: Board Chairman
9. International Association for Financial Planning: Past President
10. Memphis Youth Performing Arts Association: Past Chairman

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

1. Memphis Development Foundation, The Orpheum Theatre: Board of Directors
2. Kiwanis Club of Germantown
3. Germantown Area Chamber of Commerce
4. Collierville Chamber of Commerce
5. Leadership Germantown Alumni Association
6. Shelby County Council PTA: Joined every school PTA (52) since I joined Board
7. Germantown Youth Athletic Association: Baseball coach for ten years
8. Germantown Soccer Club
9. Germantown Trails Neighborhood Association
10. Cub Scout Pack 368: Past Cubmaster: Boy Scout Troop 368

Other Contact Information:

Campaign Chair: Tracy Speake

Treasurer: Rosemary Higginbotham

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

Public service is a tremendous honor and privilege. Over my tenure on the Shelby County Board of Education, I have chosen not to accept my Board stipend nor have I ever submitted a request for reimbursement for any travel or any other expense incurred as a Board member. One of my first dreams was to create an Educational Foundation for SCS. We were successful in starting our Foundation in 2000. 100 percent of my Board stipend goes directly to our Foundation in addition to other donations I make to help sustain the vital work of this organization in supporting the programs of SCS. These contributions have endowed two annually awarded scholarships: one to an outstanding graduating Senior who has made a difference both in the classroom and in the community, and two given each year to two outstanding teachers who display creativity and innovation in the use of technology in the classroom. Thank you for the opportunity to share my passion for public education as the cornerstone of our democracy. For over a quarter century, I have dedicated my personal and professional life to the communities I have been honored to serve. My family and my business interests are deeply rooted within the Germantown and Collierville areas.