

2020 CANDIDATE GUIDE

MAURY COUNTY, TN | GENERAL ELECTION



**EARLY VOTING BEGINS
Wednesday, October 14th**

**ELECTION DAY
Tuesday, November 3rd**



Columbia | Mt. Pleasant | Spring Hill
MAURY COUNTY
Chamber & Economic Alliance

NOVEMBER BALLOT

President of the United States
Joe Biden (D); Donald Trump (R)

US Senate

*Marquita Bradshaw (D); Bill Hagerty (R);
Yomi Faparusi (I); Jeffrey Grunau (I); Ronnie Henley (I); Dean Hill (I);
Steven Hooper (I); Aaron James (I); Elizabeth McLeod (I); Kacey Morgan (I);
Eric William Stansberry (I)*

US House - District 4

Scott DesJarlais (R); Christopher Hale (D)

US House - District 7

Mark Green (R); Kiran Sreepada (D); Ronald Brown (I); Scott Vieira, Jr. (I)

Tennessee Senate - District 28

Joey Hensley (R), James Gray (I), James Trusty (write-in)

Tennessee House - District 64

Scott Cepicky (R); James Campbell (D)

Tennessee House - District 69

Michael Curcio (R); Eddie Johnson (D)

Columbia City Council - Ward 1

Davena Hardison; Carl McCullen

Columbia City Council - Ward 2

Ken Wiles

Columbia City Council - Ward 3

Anthony Green

Columbia City Council - Ward 4

Kenny Marshall; Andrea Sykes Poynter; Eric Previti

Columbia City Council - Ward 5

*Danny Coleman; Adam Runyon; Tim Thomas; Jeremiah Wright;
Brandon Sprowl (write-in)*

Mt. Pleasant City Commissioners

Willie Webster Alderson; Jacqueline Grandberry; Eric Harvey; Cedric Hollis; Monya Hunter; William E. Roddy; Lonnie R. Thomason; Bill White

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LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE

October 5th, 2020

EARLY VOTING

October 14th - October 29th

Monday - Saturday
8:00 am to 4:00 pm

October 26th - 29th
8:00 am to 7:00 pm

Election Commission Office
1207A Tradewinds Drive
Columbia, TN 38401

ELECTION DAY

November 3rd, 2020

Polls open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm

[Click here to find your voting location](#)



TN SENATE - DISTRICT 28

JOEY HENSLEY



1. Tell us about yourself and why you are running for this position.

My name is Joey Hensley. I am a physician with a Family Practice office in Hohenwald, Tennessee. I have been in solo practice for 34 years. I graduated from Lewis County High School, Columbia State Community College, Memphis State University, and The University of Tennessee Medical School in Memphis. I was named one of the Top 40 Alumni from the first 40 Years at Columbia State.

I have been in the Tennessee State Legislature since 2002, serving 10 years in the House of Representatives and 8 years in the Senate. I am running for re-election because I want to continue working for and being a voice for the people in this district. I have the experience and the drive to get things accomplished for Tennessee and the citizens in District 28.

2. What experience and/or qualifications do you have that make you the optimal candidate for this position?

I served 12 years on the Lewis County School Board, 3 years as the Chairman and 4 years on the Lewis County Commission. I have my own business and understand what it takes to run a business and manage payroll. I have served on various committees in the House and Senate and now serve as the Vice Chairman of the Senate Finance, Ways, and Means Committee, Chairman of the Revenue Subcommittee, and a member of the Education and Health Committees. I know what it takes to get legislation passed and have the privilege to serve as the Vice Chairman of the Finance Committee, which approves all financial legislation.

3. Maury County is the 5th fastest growing county in the state and 87th fastest growing in the nation. What concerns do you have about our ability to thrive amidst this growth? What plans do you have to address these concerns?

I believe Maury County is thriving now and will only continue to improve as the years go by. I think it is important to expand businesses and provide a sustainable workforce for the citizens of the county to continue and sustain this growth. Communication is very important, especially during times of growth. I would continue to work with local officials to ensure that the needs of the county were heard and addressed at the state level. We need to continue to address infrastructure improvements so that we are able to support new businesses.

4. Better education and a viable workforce are vital for the successful growth of Maury County and its municipalities. If elected, how would you improve these areas?

Vocational Programs are very important and we have encouraged more people to enroll in TCAT programs at the legislature in the past few years. I would continue to encourage people to enroll in these programs and make them more accessible to citizens in the district. Improving the public-school system and providing greater assistance to public school teachers is always a

priority too. I plan to continue to make sure that public schools receive the support and funding that they need to continue the tough task of educating our youth. Maury County is fortunate to have Columbia State Community College located here to provide a quality education. I support the conversion of Martin Methodist in Pulaski to a University of Tennessee Campus, which would give Maury County citizens another option to obtain a quality education from the UT system while staying at home.

Tennessee is a great place to own and operate a business. We continue to grow and expand job opportunities all across the state. We were ranked #1 in small business job growth this year. The state also consistently ranks in the top 3 of states with best business climate in the U.S. I will continue to support the rights of small business owners and find ways to bring additional job opportunities to this area. During 2020 Tennessee has landed 49 projects with company commitments to create 9,660 new jobs and invest \$3.2 billion in private capital and I only see that continuing to increase in the years to come. Maury County is positioned to benefit greatly from Tennessee's attraction to new businesses.

5. Livability is also extremely important for sustainable growth in Maury County and its municipalities. What is your plan to address issues such as roads, downtown vibrancy, retail, green spaces, and traffic? Do you support raising taxes for these issues? If not, how do you plan to address them?

Maury County is continuing to grow and improve each and every year, so it is very important to address these issues. I will work with Tennessee Department of Transportation at the state level to start and complete projects that will improve the transportation system here. I do not support raising taxes but will support Maury County receiving all the help from the state that is available to them. As the Vice-Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Maury County will always have a voice in receiving funds from the state budget.

6. What are your top priorities for Maury County?

I have many priorities for Maury County. I believe it is always important to focus on job-growth, business development, and education. I will support and pass legislation that supports these advancements in Maury County while upholding the conservative principles that I believe in and base my opinions on.

7. At the conclusion of your term (if elected) what does success look like?

Holding public office is a great honor and I have been blessed to have represented this area at the Tennessee General Assembly for several years. My job is to represent the views of the constituents in the district and ensure their voices are heard at the state level. I look to improve education, jobs, and businesses and make Maury County an even better place to live than it is already. I would consider it a success to have passed legislation that positively impacts this area and improves it for future generations.

Tennessee currently ranks top in the nation in fiscal management and we have an all-time low tax rate. Ensuring the state is at a good place fiscally is very important. As the Vice-Chairman

of the Finance Ways and Means Committee, I will continue to cut taxes and support fiscally conservative initiatives that ensures Tennessee continues its success in fiscal management. Making sure Tennessee continues to have good fiscal management and low taxes would be a great success.

8. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to further the goals of our members and investors?

I am and will continue to be an active member of the Chamber as I believe it is very important to partner with the Chambers in the district. I have done so in the past, and will continue to in the future. I will make sure to listen to the concerns and proposals from the Maury County Chamber and will do whatever I can to support those and pass legislation that will make a positive impact on Maury County citizens. The Chamber has direct contact with the constituents of Maury County and I will make sure to do whatever I can to make sure their needs are met and represented here in Nashville. I appreciate the hard work and dedication of the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance and it shows in the past achievements that have come to Maury County.

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TN SENATE - DISTRICT 28
JAMES GRAY



No Response Received

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TN SENATE - DISTRICT 28
JIM TRUSTY (*write-in candidate*)

No Response Received

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TN REPRESENTATIVE - DISTRICT 64 JAMES CAMPBELL



1. Tell us about yourself and why you are running for this position.

My name is James Campbell and I am a longtime resident of Maury County.

I'm running to be the next State Representative for the 64th District for a number of reasons. I believe that most representative in Nashville take direct marching orders from party leadership and, ultimately, produce little for their respective district. This ultra-partisanship consistently holds back progress and I've seen it first-hand from our current representative and in years past.

2. What experience and/or qualifications do you have that make you the optimal candidate for this position?

While I've been involved locally for a number of years, there are too many people that view politics as a profession instead of a constituent and community oriented position. Individuals run for the county commission only to run for something else in a few short years. This is not how I operate.

I'm a blue-collar worker and I understand the work that most people in our district accomplish day in and day out. I'm running to represent these folks and not as a career politician or looking for advancement. I will go to work represent the common Maury Countian from day one and continue on that path until I no longer serve.

3. Maury County is the 5th fastest growing county in the state and 87th fastest growing in the nation. What concerns do you have about our ability to thrive amidst this growth? What plans do you have to address these concerns?

We have to be prudent and careful in our growth. Although this growth is undoubtedly good, we must also invest in the infrastructure around the growth so we can ensure an element of stability. Specifically, our state representative needs to make sure the funding is in place for adequate road widening and general repair.

We have been taxed on the infrastructure issue previously, but we need a representative that can ensure Maury County and 64th District have funds allocated to this area so we can continue growing and meeting the needs of the citizens living here.

4. Better education and a viable workforce are vital for the successful growth of Maury County and its municipalities. If elected, how would you improve these areas?

Education is the ultimate key to long-term viability in our county. If we fail to properly educate the students in the Maury County system, our county will suffer enormously and fall behind other counties in attracting business, families, and more.

Our public school system here in Maury County is one of the more important aspects of the county as a whole. I've seen no leadership come from our current representation regarding the empowerment of local schools and educators. We need a dynamic plan to attract the best teachers from around the state so we can help our schools reach new heights. Improving our schools will lead to a well-prepared workforce as well.

5. Livability is also extremely important for sustainable growth in Maury County and its municipalities. What is your plan to address issues such as roads, downtown vibrancy, retail, green spaces, and traffic? Do you support raising taxes for these issues? If not, how do you plan to address them?

Maury County has come a long way in terms of growth over the past decade. Many of us have seen the downtown area transform into a social destination with a variety of different stores and restaurants. Other aspects, such as the Columbia Arts Building, are welcome growth to an area that was once rather empty. With this growth, as previously mentioned in an answer, it's important to have infrastructure available to handle it.

It is certainly not my desire to raise any taxes. In the past, there have been times where taxes have been viewed as monetarily sensible for the cause at-hand. Rather than increased taxes on residents, I would much rather see investments placed by entrepreneurs and self-funding for private ventures.

6. What are your top priorities for Maury County?

Not only attracting business and jobs to Maury County, but attempting to bring in jobs that invest in our county and our people. The last thing I want to see is Maury Countians applying for jobs that pay poverty wages. We need businesses willing to put forth an investment towards the people of our county and help move us forward.

We have made strides with parks and greenways over the last several years, through a multitude of means, and I would like to continue making Maury County an outdoor destination for folks all around middle Tennessee. Forming greenways and nature-trails will further enhance the county. Further developing parks for recreational use will do much the same. Our growth over the past several years provides an opportunity to continue growing the recreational aspect of the county.

Finishing the agricultural center is also a top priority if I were to be elected. This has been a largely forgotten topic during the past year and I am more than willing to finish the job and help provide a destination agricultural center for the county.

7. At the conclusion of your term (if elected) what does success look like?

Success would be if I successfully represented and advocated for a better Maury County. This means not only representing a select few individuals or donors, but representing the individuals consistently overlooked. This also means not constantly following a political party's platform, but doing what is best for the constituents in Maury County.

8. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to further the goals of our members and investors?

The work done in recent years by the Maury County Chamber and Economic Alliance is invaluable to Maury Countians and businesses in the county. I fully believe in a strong partnership with the organization to advocate for a better Maury County for all.

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TN REPRESENTATIVE - DISTRICT 64 SCOTT CEPICKY



1. Tell us about yourself and why you are running for this position.

I believe Maury County is in the position to be a great leader in Tennessee. I am confident that I have the skill set necessary to garner the support Maury County needs to thrive and grow. We have a great team in our county, and I know we can move Maury County to Tennessee's forefront.

2. What experience and/or qualifications do you have that make you the optimal candidate for this position?

I have served four years on the County Commission and two years as its Chairman. As a State Representative for the last two years, I have built the necessary relationships crucial to our county success. My goal is to move into a leadership position in the General Assembly, enabling Maury County to grow even bigger politically, which will benefit our citizens.

3. Maury County is the 5th fastest growing county in the state and 87th fastest growing in the nation. What concerns do you have about our ability to thrive amidst this growth? What plans do you have to address these concerns?

Education and infrastructure will be challenges moving forward. We need to be laser-focused on early educational outcomes for our students. The success of our students depends on how successful we are in early education. In later years, we need to be a dual pathway to graduation. We must recognize not only college-bound students but also the importance of technical education. As we grow, Maury County roads and broadband expansion will be crucial to our success. We will continue to advocate for the Bear Creek expansion to Columbia. We must work to bring quality broadband to all Tennesseans. By bringing broadband to all of Tennessee, we will be able to shift some of these high paying jobs to a more rural setting. Therefore this will give our citizens more opportunities to work in their communities.

4. Better education and a viable workforce are vital for the successful growth of Maury County and its municipalities. If elected, how would you improve these areas?

Over the last two years, I have taken a lead in the education committee. We are focused on making Tennessee the best educational system in the Country. A better-educated individual will most likely be a better citizen and, for that matter, a better employee. Education has always been the pathway to opportunity. We must make sure that all students have the opportunity to become the best student possible.

5. Livability is also extremely important for sustainable growth in Maury County and its municipalities. What is your plan to address issues such as roads, downtown vibrancy, retail, green spaces, and traffic? Do you support raising taxes for these issues? If not, how do you plan to address them?

I do not believe that a tax increase will solve Maury county's problems. I believe in making our communities the most attractive that they can be. Maury County will attract great paying jobs with the Innovation Park in Spring Hill, the Industrial Park in Cherry Glen, and Columbia's new park. We need to look at attracting retirement communities, which will increase tax revenue shared by all without putting more burdens on our school system. The future Ag Center will go a long way to solving our county's revenue problems for decades to come.

6. What are your top priorities for Maury County?

Education, Health Care, Broadband Access, and Infrastructure needs.

7. At the conclusion of your term (if elected) what does success look like?

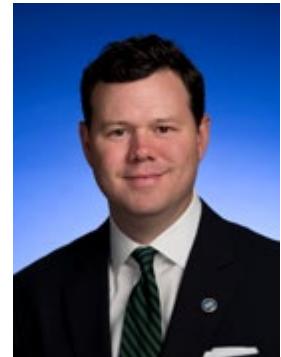
We are moving Education in Tennessee to being the best in the country. We are expanding broadband to all parts of Maury County. We are growing at a steady but controllable pace. Lastly, Maury County is known as "the" best place to work, live, and raise a family.

8. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to further the goals of our members and investors?

I am available and will continue to be available to the Chamber for any important issues to be addressed. The open lines of communication are essential to the success of our county. As your Representative, I have made sure that the needs Maury County are met to the best of my ability, and I will continue to do my best. My job is to build relationships in Maury County, the Tennessee General Assembly, and across the state. My goal is to make Maury County the "first" people think of Tennessee's greatness.

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TN REPRESENTATIVE - DISTRICT 69 MICHAEL CURCIO



1. Tell us about yourself and why you are running for this position.

I am a sixth-generation Tennessean, proud husband, and father to three wonderful children. As a businessman and entrepreneur, I have tried to serve the 69th District with the same level of care and energy that I would expect from a leader in business. It has been an honor to serve my community in this role since 2016, and I believe I can serve the people of this district well into the 112th General Assembly of the State of Tennessee.

2. What experience and/or qualifications do you have that make you the optimal candidate for this position?

Our community is uniquely positioned on the vanguard of growth and opportunity in Tennessee. I am proud to have been a part of the leadership team that bolstered our reserves when times were good so that Tennessee could weather the storm that came in 2020. My experience leading government in good and bad times, combined with my experience as a business executive, make me uniquely qualified for this position.

3. Maury County is the 5th fastest growing county in the state and 87th fastest growing in the nation. What concerns do you have about our ability to thrive amidst this growth? What plans do you have to address these concerns?

Community growth is an incredible opportunity, but one that must be properly managed. With new population comes the need for expanded funding for schools, roads, wastewater infrastructure, and – all too often overlooked – an increased capacity for the criminal justice system and the Judiciary. I have a track record of helping our community with infrastructure needs of all types, and I will continue to advocate for increased resources for the City of Columbia, Maury County, and the 22nd Judicial District. Only with increased infrastructure funding is growth healthy and sustainable.

4. Better education and a viable workforce are vital for the successful growth of Maury County and its municipalities. If elected, how would you improve these areas?

If elected, I will continue to work closely with the Maury County Board of Education to address funding shortfalls. While many increases in funding were put on hold this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I was proud to successfully advocate for fully funding the BEP, and next year, if elected, I will also advocate for a return to funding priorities such as teacher raises. Workforce readiness is an area where the Lee Administration and the General Assembly have seen great agreement. With the funding of skills training in our high schools, we hope to have more Tennessee students career and college ready.

5. Livability is also extremely important for sustainable growth in Maury County and its municipalities. What is your plan to address issues such as roads, downtown vibrancy, retail, green spaces, and traffic? Do you support raising taxes for these issues? If not, how do you plan to address them?

Livability is the “intangible” piece of industry recruitment. You can’t quite put your finger on it, but you know when it is missing from a community. I am proud to say that since being elected in 2016, Columbia and the surrounding areas have seen exponential growth and revitalization. The square is a vastly different place than it was when I first began campaigning in 2014. While government does not drive the private sector, we can certainly create the environment for business to thrive. As your state representative, I will continue to advocate for projects such as the West 7th Street infrastructure project which will keep our community looking great for years to come.

6. What are your top priorities for Maury County?

Maury County will continue to grow in healthy ways as long as we can keep up with critical infrastructure. The improvements to Bear Creek Pike and other road projects that are badly needed would be my top priority for Maury County in the coming years.

7. At the conclusion of your term (if elected) what does success look like?

Success is measured in serving the citizens the way I would want to be served. Being elected to the General Assembly is not about personal gain or prestige, but rather the satisfaction of serving a community I love and a region that has been home to me my entire life. As Tennessee continues to lead, we will all succeed. I will work every day to help Tennessee lead.

8. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to further the goals of our members and investors?

I will continue to advocate daily for the interests of all of Maury County. I hope the members of the Maury Alliance have enjoyed working with me as much as I have enjoyed working with them. If elected, I will continue this valuable partnership.

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TN REPRESENTATIVE - DISTRICT 69

EDDIE JOHNSON



1. Tell us about yourself and why you are running for this position.

I'm a regular guy. I'm not a businessman who's known for closing deals or a socialite who's known for everyone knowing him. I'm a union pipefitter who works hard every day to put food on my family's table. I'm running for this seat because I think we need more of that in Nashville. We should be represented by folks who live the life most of us lead.

2. What experience and/or qualifications do you have that make you the optimal candidate for this position?

I know of very few jobs that really prepare or qualify someone to be a state representative. I think what happens is that people become leaders in their companies or industries and think that leadership ability will translate into being a good elected official. The problem with that is, somewhere along the way, these people forget that they were elected to serve, not lead.

Whether at work, at home, or in my community, I've served my whole life. That's the spirit we need in Nashville and that's why I think I'm well-suited to be a state representative.

3. Maury County is the 5th fastest growing county in the state and 87th fastest growing in the nation. What concerns do you have about our ability to thrive amidst this growth? What plans do you have to address these concerns?

Maury County has a unique opportunity on the horizon. As more and more jobs come to Middle Tennessee, the population will continue to grow. The opportunity will be in making sure that Maury county recruits jobs which allow folks who have lived here for generations and maybe aren't prepared for a job in Williamson or Davidson County to still earn enough to keep up with the cost of living increases that come along with a population boon.

As far as plans go, it's pretty simple: we have to work to bring good-paying jobs to this area while also providing opportunities for the entrepreneurs in our community to start and expand their own businesses. The cornerstone to building that kind environment doesn't start with tax incentives as many people will argue, but with building an educated workforce.

4. Better education and a viable workforce are vital for the successful growth of Maury County and its municipalities. If elected, how would you improve these areas?

The first thing we must do is invest more in public, K-12 education. Tennessee ranks towards the bottom in per-pupil funding and towards the top in minimum-wage jobs per capita. That isn't a coincidence. The next thing we must do is expand opportunities for vocational training a stop telling our kids that a four-year degree is the only path to success. As the population grows, so does the need for plumbers, electricians, healthcare workers, etc. Let's set ourselves up to meet that demand.

5. Livability is also extremely important for sustainable growth in Maury County and its municipalities. What is your plan to address issues such as roads, downtown vibrancy, retail, green spaces, and traffic? Do you support raising taxes for these issues? If not, how do you plan to address them?

If elected, I wouldn't have much say as a state official, but I would offer this advice to our local officials: reach out to the communities in our state that have already experienced this growth. Rutherford County comes to mind; reach out to their leaders, both past and present, and see what they did wrong and what they did right.

Growth is exciting, but it must be done responsibly. I fully believe that Maury County can and will grow the right way.

6. What are your top priorities for Maury County?

Though my seat only contains a small part of Maury, geographically speaking, that community faces many of the same problems as the rest of TN-69. At the top of that list is education. We cannot expect to enjoy growth without fully preparing the next generation for success. We must start building the foundation for the next generation now instead of "kicking the can down the road", a path that our legislature has traveled for too long.

That's just the start, though. I want to make sure that the generation we're investing in has opportunities right here, not just in other parts of the state. That's why it's imperative that we bring new employers in and create a climate for growth for small businesses who already have a footprint in the area.

7. At the conclusion of your term (if elected) what does success look like?

Too often, success is measured in number of bills passed and headlines made, but that's not what I'm looking for. Success for me is knowing that I did everything I could to improve the lives of my community through public service.

8. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to further the goals of our members and investors?

I believe that a business is only as good as the folks who wake up every morning and "make it happen" for their employers. My true alliance is with the working men and women of this area.

Small business is the lifeblood of any community and Maury County is certainly no exception. If the goals of your members are to create opportunities for their employees and grow a business that practices with integrity, then I'll be the most vocal ally they could ask for in Nashville.

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COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL - WARD 1

DAVENA HARDISON



1. Tell us about yourself and why you are running for this position.

I am a Columbia native and I am eager to serve my community. I have a special passion to be of service to others. Hard work and integrity are traits that were ingrained in me at an early age. I am a compassionate healthcare provider where I exhibit these characteristics. I am running for City Councilman to become a part of the change I want to see in my community. I want to be a salient voice for my neighbors to get concerns answered and assist in getting problems solved. To be transparent with my community about available resources and updates on their concerns are paramount.

2. What experience and/or qualifications do you have that make you the optimal candidate for this position?

I am a charge Nurse at Maury Regional Medical Center where I am team oriented. I hold leadership skills through communicating with a wide range of diverse citizens and professionals from physicians to nurses. I possess skills for problem solving. I am a multitasker, but I am able to delegate and prioritize tasks without detouring from the plan. I am confident and unashamed to stand up for an idea or topic that I am passionate about.

3. Maury County is the 5th fastest growing county in the state and 87th fastest growing in the nation. What concerns do you have about our ability to thrive amidst this growth? What plans do you have to address these concerns?

Concerns are to ensure proper sewage systems are able to accommodate the increased capacity, for the safety of the community. We want to ensure adequate staffing within the police force and fire departments and continue to provide excellent service to the growing community.

4. Better education and a viable workforce are vital for the successful growth of Maury County and its municipalities. If elected, how would you improve these areas?

Partnership with the school board to ensure teachers have the support needed to properly educate and prepare the students to be successful future citizens. To ensure quality schools to continue to attract more residents. Helping schools partner with different businesses and companies so that they can have an intern program so that students can see that staying home and working in their own community is worth it. This will help build a viable workforce.

5. Livability is also extremely important for sustainable growth in Maury County and its municipalities. What is your plan to address issues such as roads, downtown vibrancy, retail, green spaces, and traffic? Do you support raising taxes for these issues? If not, how do you plan to address them?

By planning on collaborating with the existing Maury County Chamber and Alliance committee and voicing concerns to the city manager, public safety, and other entities is how I would address plans for the community. Discussing the possibility of synchronizing traffic lights to decrease some of the local traffic. Still designating certain off limit areas for walking parks for community members and their pets. I also believe it is necessary to keep our community active and embrace our beautiful landscaping.

Tax increase should be the counties last resort to improve infrastructure and increase economic development. Other options should be considered as far as cutting cost, where appropriate in other categories. Tax increase should be considered if the majority of the community can afford the influx.

6. What are your top priorities for Columbia?

My priorities include ensuring safe neighborhoods and recreation locations. To increase knowledge of available resources to the community. To secure public and private partnerships with internet providers to provide free Wi-Fi for students engaged in virtual learning to continue to ensure they are able to complete their education.

7. At the conclusion of your term (if elected) what does success look like?

Success looks like safe and accelerating schools. Community members being proud of their community and feeling that their voice is heard when decisions are being made. Community members being proud of the growth while still keeping the suburban/country life we enjoy in Maury County.

8. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to further the goals of our members and investors?

Continual communication with the community to bring forth to their needs and request to the community. Next, collaborating with Maury County Chamber and Alliance to formulate a plan to direct business opportunities and jobs for the community. High school and adult mentorship/internship programs to allow on the job training.

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COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL - WARD 1

CARL MCCULLEN



1. Tell us about yourself and why you are running for this position.

I am a candidate for re-election, I have served Ward 1 with integrity, honesty, passion, and a desire to see things grow healthy. I am a visionary, open minded, a veteran and the pastor of a growing congregation. I am willing to service my community to make it a better place to live. Columbia has a bright future. Government provides a high quality of life, builds highways and bridges, provides a safe water supply, provides reasonable electric cost, sanitary sewage, water treatment, and sidewalks for its citizens. Over the last four years, Columbia city council has made investments in establishing a new direction for downtown using new and fresh ideals, while keeping much of our local dollars in our community. I want to see Columbia continue to grow and that growth be controlled growth. Much of what does and does not happen in our city is not without the suggestions and communication by the citizens, the stakeholders! I place emphasis on direct communication with our citizens. I have done this through Town Hall meetings, personal contacts, and other forms of communication. I Intend to continue to do that.

I have several projects I want to see developed and completed, namely the completion of the training facility at fire station #2 which would service other stations in the region and state. The city has received \$1.5 million in TVA and state grants to purchase land for a new 220- acre Industrial Park adjacent to Oakland Park which I would like to see developed to provide new jobs, these projects are in Ward 1. I would like to see a recreation center with a swimming pool and other inside recreational activities. I would like to be a part of the ribbon cutting at the completion of West 7th Streetscape scheduled to be completed by the end of the year, changing of all LED lighting in the city and many other city-wide projects.

2. What experience and/or qualifications do you have that make you the optimal candidate for this position?

I am the current representative of Ward 1, I have been a part of making Columbia safe, livable, attractive and a great place to live and raise a family. I have worked to bring businesses back to downtown Columbia. I have served Ward 1 with clear direction, town hall meetings, and open communication. I am a team player and always look for the big picture with vision and clarity. I graduated from the University of Missouri Kansas City (UMKC) BA Psychology, attended two years at Rockhurst Business College, now Rockhurst University. I have a Doctorate in Theology at Emmanuel Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee. I was employed for 17 years at AT&T Communications, working in downtown Kansas City maintaining customers' communication accounts, City Hall, State and Federal Buildings and other downtown businesses. This experience afforded me the opportunity to understand the working of government business.

3. Maury County is the 5th fastest growing county in the state and 87th fastest growing in the nation. What concerns do you have about our ability to thrive amidst this growth? What plans do you have to address these concerns?

The City of Columbia is well positioned for growth with our infrastructure in place. We need to continue to plan for future growth. That is why I have supported our efforts to get the state to four lane Bear Creek Pike to help address future traffic needs. The new fire station built on Bear Creek Pike is another example of our planning for the future. City council recently heard an engineering report regarding our sewer treatment plant. We know in the future, the plant's capacity will need to be addressed due to growth. We also need to make sure our various city departments are staffed and equipped as our population increases.

4. Better education and a viable workforce are vital for the successful growth of Maury County and its municipalities. If elected, how would you improve these areas?

Public education in Maury County is the responsibility of the Maury County Board of Education. Funding the school system is the legal responsibility of the Maury County Commission. The City of Columbia has helped the school system in several ways. I supported the new traffic signal light at Whitthorne School, which is in my ward. I also supported the installation of a new traffic light at EA Cox Middle and Howell Elementary Schools. These two signal lights cost the city over \$500,000. The city also maintains the athletic fields behind Cox Middle School due to our partnership efforts. The school system uses the city's soccer fields and tennis courts at no charge. A little known fact is that the city has paid the electric bill at the Maury County Football Stadium since it was built in the 1960s. This has saved the school system hundreds of thousands of dollars in lighting costs over the years. Regarding workforce development, I have always supported the industrial recruiting efforts by Maury Alliance.

5. Livability is also extremely important for sustainable growth in Maury County and its municipalities. What is your plan to address issues such as roads, downtown vibrancy, retail, green spaces, and traffic? Do you support raising taxes for these issues? If not, how do you plan to address them?

An attractive livable community is one of our city council's long-range strategic planning goals. Recent examples of this include the \$6 million West Seventh Streetscape project under construction and the creation of the Columbia Arts District. A future streetscape project is planned for the Arts District. The city built a new \$7 million soccer complex to support sports tourism. We also have a marketing effort underway to promote Columbia. The city has received a \$100,000 downtown façade grant to help downtown businesses. Our fire department has an ISO number one ranking, which saves property owners money in insurance premiums. We also have a nationally recognized accredited police department. Currently, the city is partnering with CPWS to convert all our streetlights to LED lighting. This \$3 million project will save the city money in the long run and provide better lighting for our citizens. We have done all this without raising taxes.

6. What are your top priorities for Columbia?

My top priorities include Columbia continuing to have the strong financial condition we have built. Recently, I voted to purchase over 200 acres in my ward for a new industrial park. I would like to see that park develop good paying jobs from businesses locating there. It was announced Thursday morning, September 17, 2020, press release by Governor Lee, and Commissioner

Rolfe that Smile Direct Club will be locating a new manufacturing facility in Columbia, bringing \$34 million investment and 600 new jobs. The new facility is locating in my ward, Ward 1, and I would like to be a part of the ribbon cutting when it is finished. We need to continue to support four lanes for Bear Creek Pike (US412). I would like to see a Columbia Community Center. I would also like to see the historic East Eighth Street developed and the bridge replace on Iron Bridge.

7. At the conclusion of your term (if elected) what does success look like?

Columbia's population will be close to 40,000 with the next census. We will be well on our way to 50,000 by the end of my term. Success to me is the city responding to the growth in a reasonable, responsible manner. Columbia is a thriving, growing community and I want us to continue to be that after my term.

8. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to further the goals of our members and investors?

I have always supported Maury Alliance. I voted to increase the city's appropriation to the alliance from \$82,000 to \$100,000 annually. City council receives quarterly reports on the alliance's economic recruitment efforts. I will continue to support these efforts.

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COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL - WARD 2

KEN WILES



1. Tell us about yourself and why you are running for this position.

Following graduation from undergraduate college in Nashville I moved to Maury County to begin a teaching career. I taught at three schools and served as principal at two schools in Maury County. Two of the schools are in Ward 2.

I'm retired from the Maury County School System. I've been married to my wife Debbie for over 40 years, have two grown children and six grandchildren.

I have served as Ward 2 City Councilman since October of 2019. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving and want to continue serving the citizens of Ward 2 and the entire Columbia community.

2. What experience and/or qualifications do you have that make you the optimal candidate for this position?

In addition to the months served on the City Council, I served on a large Chamber committee as well as a committee providing the planning for the Columbia River Walk. I was on the Board of Directors of the Maury County Water System for seven years. I also was a member of an early Leadership Maury Class.

3. Maury County is the 5th fastest growing county in the state and 87th fastest growing in the nation. What concerns do you have about our ability to thrive amidst this growth? What plans do you have to address these concerns?

Being on both the Columbia City Council and the Columbia Planning Commission puts me in a unique position to view and monitor the growth of Columbia. It also provides me an opportunity to insure that the growth is managed so as not to overwhelm the infrastructure of the city. Steady growth will help allow us to thrive without the fear of overgrowth.

4. Better education and a viable workforce are vital for the successful growth of Maury County and its municipalities. If elected, how would you improve these areas?

The City of Columbia is one of the largest employers in Maury County. Keeping competitive salaries and improving recruitment efforts for new city employees helps bolster the workforce. Fostering good relationships and opportunities for students of all ages is a priority of mine. Collaborative efforts with our community college have increased the viability of our workforce and I will support such continuing efforts.

5. Livability is also extremely important for sustainable growth in Maury County and its municipalities. What is your plan to address issues such as roads, downtown vibrancy, retail, green spaces, and traffic? Do you support raising taxes for these issues? If not, how do you plan to address them?

The City of Columbia has recently been able to greatly increase the road paving schedule and has just this year opened a staffed tourism office next to the CPD headquarters downtown. Encouraging retail growth with good relationships with organizations promoting downtown growth helps bolster the economy. A recent traffic study and changes to some downtown parking is allowing more folks to park nearer to their destination.

The recent purchase by the City of Columbia of the remaining tract of land off Oakland Parkway will provide industrial growth for Columbia and Maury County. This collaborative effort among Columbia, The Alliance, and the IDB will help provide a stronger fiscal base for the entire community.

Even with uncertainties related to COVID-19, the city of Columbia has been able to prevent a tax increase. This is due to the fiscal integrity of the City Hall Staff, employees, as well as elected officials.

Good fiscal management is one key to avoiding tax increases.

6. What are your top priorities for Columbia?

My top priority is to foster the maintaining of strong fiscal management and a steady, controlled growth rate. I will promote the continuation of current and proposed projects in Ward 2, including the Arts District, Presidential Park, and South Main Street revitalization project. I will always support good projects in any Ward. I am a big supporter of competitive grant writing to support the local economy. Much of what we're able to accomplish fiscally in Columbia is due to successful grant writing.

Also I'm looking forward to meeting more Ward 2 residents during the next term to determine their needs and wishes for a stronger community.

7. At the conclusion of your term (if elected) what does success look like?

Success will be found in a continued low tax rate, effective and efficient city services, increased retail opportunities for business owners and customers, and a community where everyone is treated as important and feels a part of the community.

8. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to further the goals of our members and investors?

I plan to stay active in Chamber and Economic Alliance matters and will be willing to promote and serve in any way possible to promote the relationship between the city and these organizations.

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**COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL - WARD 3
ANTHONY GREENE**



No Response Received

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COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL - WARD 4

KENNY MARSHALL



1. Tell us about yourself and why you are running for this position.

I am a 62-year-old who has been fortunate enough to have grown up and worked in this wonderful city my whole life. My grandfather was elected vice mayor in 1970 and now I feel it is my time to step up and be a public servant like he was.

2. What experience and/or qualifications do you have that make you the optimal candidate for this position?

All of my life I have spent helping others through boy scouts, my job, coaching youth baseball, softball, and soccer, starting and growing Columbia Cycling Club, and race director for bicycle races.

3. Maury County is the 5th fastest growing county in the state and 87th fastest growing in the nation. What concerns do you have about our ability to thrive amidst this growth? What plans do you have to address these concerns?

Columbia is growing fast and I want to help keep it growing in a positive way so our youth can thrive and enjoy this place as much as I have.

4. Better education and a viable workforce are vital for the successful growth of Maury County and its municipalities. If elected, how would you improve these areas?

I am a product of the Maury County Public School system and will always work to make it better.

5. Livability is also extremely important for sustainable growth in Maury County and its municipalities. What is your plan to address issues such as roads, downtown vibrancy, retail, green spaces, and traffic? Do you support raising taxes for these issues? If not, how do you plan to address them?

As an athlete, parks and green spaces are very important to me in Columbia. I have spent many years working with the young citizens in most of our parks (coaching). As Columbia grows our streets will always need improving because it's the quality of the streets that can have an impact on safety and economic development.

6. What are your top priorities for Columbia?

Public safety, city infrastructure, city parks and recreation

7. At the conclusion of your term (if elected) what does success look like?

Working together with city council and fellow citizens to make Columbia the best place to live, work and raise a family.

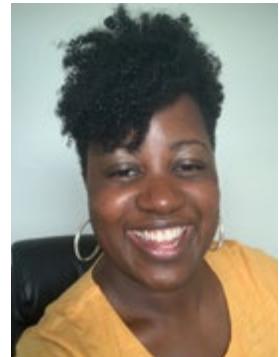
8. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to further the goals of our members and investors?

If elected, I plan to be accessible and work with everyone to make Columbia the best.

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COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL - WARD 4

ANDREA SYKES POYNTER



1. Tell us about yourself and why you are running for this position.

My name is Andrea Poynter and I am number 11 of 13 children (grew up with 6 of them the rest were grown and living in Florida), born and raised in Columbia, TN by the late Rev. Louis Sykes and Martha Sykes. I am married to Christopher Poynter, and we have 3 children: Nylah, Layla, and Christian. I work as a nursing professor at Columbia State Community College and as needed as a Critical Care Nurse at Maury Regional Medical Center.

I am running for this position because it's time to encourage diversity and cultivate change in how we do life (relationships, business, activities) in Columbia. This does not mean a complete overhaul of the government, but it does mean take into consideration what benefits the majority and pursue those options and opportunities. Create a diverse table of people from different backgrounds who have a vested interest in Columbia and allow them the opportunity to make decisions about the future of Columbia.

2. What experience and/or qualifications do you have that make you the optimal candidate for this position?

Experience as an elected official, none! I am not a politician but as a citizen I'd like the opportunity to put my work and life experiences to work for Columbia.

My qualifications:

- I am honest- not only with my words but my actions. They must match up, I strive to be a woman of my word and if I am not able to accomplish the task as expected then it is my duty to notify those I represent with an explanation of what happened, why, and what needs to be done differently.
- I believe in fairness, justice, and balance- meaning I represent all people and I will not be a champion for a special interest group or just a narrow perspective. If I don't agree with a particular action, person, or idea it doesn't mean that my mind is completely made up. I need to hear different perspectives regarding the matter, different rationales before ever making a decision to minimize the risk that a decision could be tainted with my biases. As a researcher my biases must be removed as much as possible when I am working with or for someone else, it's about what is the greatest good for the whole and not just a part.
- I am motivated and committed- meaning that my purpose is to serve Columbia and be proactive about what needs to happen to ensure that Columbia remains a great city. I am committed to doing the job, attending the meetings, meeting with key stakeholders, and surrounding myself with a diverse group of people who want to see great things for the city of Columbia.
- I am a servant leader- my whole career has been built upon providing service for and to individuals I may or may not know. People who like me and people who are very transparent about their dislike for me. I don't do my job for likes, I do it because I am good at it and I want what's best for my students and my patients regardless of their feelings or

thoughts about me. My intent is always to strive for Excellence, not perfection. When I provide patient care or working with my nursing students my goal is to make sure they are better after having encountered me. As much grace and mercy that has been extended to me, I strive to return the favor to individuals that I encounter.

3. Maury County is the 5th fastest growing county in the state and 87th fastest growing in the nation. What concerns do you have about our ability to thrive amidst this growth? What plans do you have to address these concerns?

My biggest concern is do we have the workforce that is capable, ready, and willing to do what is needed for the change that is coming? Will people that currently live in Columbia be priced out of the market? Looking at our school graduation rates, and how our schools are performing compared to TN overall I am concerned. I am concerned that we will be limited on what type of companies we can pursue to come to Columbia. I am concerned about forced growth, I want smart growth where we set the standards and expectations and not one that is forced upon us because we weren't prepared. Growth is coming and I want businesses, major corporations, and families striving to get into Columbia because we made the best decisions economically, educationally, and financially in preparation for the growth.

Plans to address these concerns will start with identifying what is already taking place in Columbia and having meetings to identify what are the next steps and plans for growth now and through the next 10 years. Taking those intended plans and speaking with people in the community to identify their issues, concerns, and/or suggestions they have with the plans for Columbia and ensuring that we take the route that is beneficial for All of Columbia. I need to know what the vision is for Columbia and work backwards from there. Identifying what needs to change and happen in order for us to make it to our intended destination and how to maintain once we arrive.

4. Better education and a viable workforce are vital for the successful growth of Maury County and its municipalities. If elected, how would you improve these areas?

Education is such a difficult issue to tackle because it is multifaceted. Education is overseen by the county therefore I would strive to develop a better city county relationship because the public school system has a huge impact on us in the city of Columbia. There should be a good working relationship/partnership and mutual respect not only between the city of Columbia and the county but all of the cities that are governed by the county to ensure that we all receive equal and adequate schools, supplies, and funding. Ensuring that there's fairness with that process and also transparency so that we can trust that what is being done is good for the whole and not just part.

I believe our workforce is intricately connected with our educational system and if there is lack on one part it will be displayed in the other. I would love for us to see better results with trade programs or college/university dual enrollment options as soon as students start high school, and offer opportunities for internships/job shadowing/or certificates starting in the 11th grade to prepare them for their future careers. This again is where I would start at the end. What jobs are available, what needs do they have, what skills do they need from their workforce and then

work backwards to see if we can provide that. If not identifying what we need to do in order to make it happen.

5. Livability is also extremely important for sustainable growth in Maury County and its municipalities. What is your plan to address issues such as roads, downtown vibrancy, retail, green spaces, and traffic? Do you support raising taxes for these issues? If not, how do you plan to address them?

- **Roads**- I know there is a lot of frustration with what is occurring downtown on West 7th Street but there is a logical reason as to why it is taking longer than expected. Keep people updated and aware of what is going on and why there are delays and how they can help to make the process as smooth as possible. If financing is a problem we need to identify what the best options are for obtaining the funding, being very transparent about it, and instituting a road project plan to maintain the roads in a timely fashion. Bring all parties to the table because not all roads belong to the city. Some roads belong to the county, state, or federal government, so ensuring that we have all parties to the table when it comes to making these decisions will have a major impact on the citizens of Columbia.
- **Downtown vibrancy**- is important because it shows the life of a town. In order to maintain or attain vibrancy we need to connect with the people who come to downtown. People need multiple options in the downtown area, people need options for transportation to the downtown area, and it would also be wonderful to provide more housing options for the downtown area. I love the events that we offer in downtown Columbia but we need more events, I love that we have an arts district but we need more activities, creativity, and publicity from the city of Columbia to attract and bring people in. Safety is also a major part of vibrancy in the downtown. People need to see our police officers, people need to interact with officers, officers need to engage and communicate with people in attendance, and ultimately people need to feel safe and that the officer's presence is to ensure that they remain safe. I want to see revitalization in all of downtown Columbia, including the E Ninth, E Eighth, and E Seventh Streets. It's ok to have different and diverse cultures set up around the square but there should be standards for what this needs to look like, how we plan to maintain it, and holding people accountable to make sure they uphold whatever standards are set for Columbia.
- **Retail**- in the downtown district is on the rebound after having lost a lot of clientele to major department stores, malls, and online ordering. We took for granted that people still like to shop with other people and where their friends or family members shop. Downtown we need diverse shopping options that represent the people in the city of Columbia or the people coming into Columbia to visit. We should be able to identify where people prefer to shop and where our residents spend a lot of their time and monies. Retail is important because it provides tax dollars but we need great jobs (competitive pay, chance for advancement, and benefits) so that people can have more discretionary funds to shop. It also doesn't all need to be centered downtown. There is enough room to provide retail options in different parts of town that maybe population dense. That would decrease the need to commute to the same area of town for the same needs, but get items that they need closer to their homes. I went to school in Clarksville, TN at Austin Peay. There were at the time 5 Wal-Mart Stores in Clarksville located at different locations around the town, and depending on the neighborhood the culture was evident in those stores. There were

also restaurants, car dealerships, and kid play options close to those stores. I am in no way suggesting that we pursue that many stores but we can consider options to spread retail around so everyone is not confined to one area.

- **Green spaces**- are beneficial for health purposes and recreational activities which are much needed in Columbia. We need a process (and there may already be one) that provides a rapid assessment of land available and plans for construction or expansion. We need to intentionally designate green spaces throughout the city and make it easily accessible. We have a lot of old/worn down factories or buildings that are in walking distance of downtown that could be wonderful green spaces for working individuals. Anywhere we have major industry in Columbia we should work to develop some sort of green space for citizens to enjoy. It doesn't always have to be a park (because of expense) but we could convert some unused parking lots or building tops (downtown) into green space hangouts.
- **Traffic**- is going to increase because of the increase of people to the city but there are rules/regulations that can be instituted to assist with traffic. Make Columbia pedestrian friendly and promote/encourage bike riding or walking to work (especially for people who live close to their jobs). Decrease speed in areas that will be pedestrian heavy and hold people accountable for breaking laws that could endanger or harm pedestrians. Post signs with travel times through certain parts of Columbia that may encourage individuals to take the bypass or side streets to decrease the amount of traffic on the main roadways. Develop or partner with a traffic/travel app for Columbia that will provide live, up-to-date information for travelers.

Regarding taxes, I would love to find out what our policy is in order to institute impact fees for new construction or businesses that will feed back into our community. Currently where we are as a city I don't think raising taxes is the first thing we need to run to especially since so many are impacted economically and/or financially by Covid. I think that with continued growth we will eventually have to raise taxes but it needs to be planned, discussed, documented regarding what the purpose is, and give people ample time to adjust to the coming changes.

6. What are your top priorities for Columbia?

1. Attract more jobs and businesses to Columbia. We need more tax payers that contribute financially to the growth and development of Columbia.
2. Improve the city/county relationship
 - a. Includes better schools
 - b. Infrastructure
 - c. Community Events
3. Communication and Transparency- there are a lot of changes taking place and often times we feel that no one is communicating what is happening and why. Creating easy access to information is important and also a way for people to ask questions and submit suggestions.

7. At the conclusion of your term (if elected) what does success look like?

1. A council that thinks and acts strategically and intentionally about decisions that need to be made for the future of Columbia, 10, 20, 30 years down the road. Decisions that determine what the citizens desire and how to put those desires into action.

2. An improved working relationship between the city and the county. The decisions made by one impacts both so demonstrating a sense of respect and understanding for the other's job and decisions that must be made. There is often times overlap with services that are offered so identifying where there are duplications of services and determining who should remain responsible, who should step back, and what to do with the remaining resources or funds. In areas where there is waste, bringing it to the forefront and creating a plan that will benefit the citizens we are serving.
 3. Increase youth and elder opportunities for building community. I would love to see more venues that are created with kids in mind. More activities, places to play, and safe places to hangout. I would like to see an increase in what our senior citizen center is able to do. A place for elders, who are able to stay home with family, that provides them with options for adult care and activities during the day.
- 8. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to further the goals of our members and investors?**

My first goal with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance would be to attend the Leadership Maury class for 2021- 2022. Being a native of Columbia I often times take for granted that there is so much more than what I've experienced from my perspective. I want to learn, to grow and develop my knowledge about Columbia, network with other community leaders, and to identify ways to advocate for Columbia's future. I would like to promote the youth leadership Maury because knowledge is power and I want our citizens knowledgeable about Columbia and all of the opportunities available.

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COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL - WARD 4

ERIC PREVITI



1. Tell us about yourself and why you are running for this position.

About me, well I grew up here in Columbia, graduating from Columbia CHS in 1983. I am married to my high school sweetheart Lisa. We live in the same house I grew up in. If you want to know more, please reach out to me at epreviti@me.com. When I was elected to the County Commission in 2014, I was eager to serve. As people would come to me with questions and problems, I was happy to say sure, I'll look into it. Many times, the answer was, it's a city issue, the county had nothing to do with it. So, when I learned Mike Greene was not running for reelection, I saw it as the time to switch positions from county to city so I can do more for the people in my local district. I do need to make it clear; I can't do both. If I'm selected as the next Ward 4 City Councilman, I will have to resign my commission seat.

2. What experience and/or qualifications do you have that make you the optimal candidate for this position?

6 years serving on the county commission. 4 of those years as chairman of the Building Committee, all of those years working with the city as needed. In 2017 I was able to lead the Building Committee in a process that ended up constructing a brand new court house in Mt Pleasant with no burden to the property tax payer. This has led to a safe environment for all the employees and all persons having to use the court system there. I believe in smaller government. I brought forward resolutions shrinking the size of the building committee from 15 to 7. By shrinking the size of the committee, we were able to operate more efficiently and make progress with the projects at hand. The biggest qualification is being a team player, working together. I along with the other commissioners serving in 2018 brought forth the County Financial Management System which has helped bring oversight to spending by bringing all county and school board finances under one more efficient roof.

3. Maury County is the 5th fastest growing county in the state and 87th fastest growing in the nation. What concerns do you have about our ability to thrive amidst this growth? What plans do you have to address these concerns?

The city and county need to work together to come up with a long-term solution to solid waste. With all the growth comes more trash. We, being the county commission recently closed the landfill at Chickasaw Trace. All that class 3 material now is being shipped out of the county. It's expensive. We also need to address where all these new residents will send their kids to school. An example of the working together would be the county recycling dumpsters on 8th. They are county property for recycling. The dumpsters were not used properly and were removed by Solid waste. By the Mayor working with the city, and the city agreeing to help, the dumpsters were returned. We need to keep Columbia Beautiful, all of it.

4. Better education and a viable workforce are vital for the successful growth of Maury County and its municipalities. If elected, how would you improve these areas?

In 2015, I along with the other commissioners after years of nothing getting done to fix and repair the old Central High School, voted to build the new fantastic facility you see now. During my term on the commission I lobbied for the rebuilding of McDowell. The School board has made their decision to close the school. It's their decision to make. That said, going forward, whether I'm a city councilman, or county commissioner, I intend to work to make sure all Columbia's school children have a save facility to go to school in.

5. **Livability is also extremely important for sustainable growth in Maury County and its municipalities. What is your plan to address issues such as roads, downtown vibrancy, retail, green spaces, and traffic? Do you support raising taxes for these issues? If not, how do you plan to address them?**

As a longtime resident of Columbia, I have seen the good roads and the bad roads. I think for all the new growth coming in, the developers who come and go need to pay for the expansion of the roads to account for all the people they are building for. It should not be the burden of the tax payer to pay for that. Columbia is also not all about downtown, it's about James Campbell, it's about Riverside, it's about Carmack Blvd, it's about Sunnyside. It's about all of us working to make a better city for all of us. Traffic, widen Bear Creek Pike now! Lobby the state to get this moving. This is the only piece of this road all the way to Lawrenceburg that is not 4 lanes. To the livability part, Columbia needs more affordable housing for young families looking for their first home. Inventory on affordable housing is too low. As to downtown, Covid19 has put a temp pause to existing problems, but downtown parking is still an issue. I hope to help in all these avenues.

6. **What are your top priorities for Columbia?**

1. Affordable housing for 1st time buyers, and good housing for low income families.
2. Long term sanitation fix, possibly working with county and other municipalities (Counties) to come up with a large-scale recycling facility to deal with the growing trash problem.
More people, more trash. We need a long-term solution. I say that because we all just write a check and ship it out of the county now. Well, the place we ship it to is going to fill up one day. Then what?
3. I would also like to see a study to see if something can be done about the flooding we have seen recently. There is nothing we can do about the rain, that's not the issue. The issue is moving the water away faster. Can a reservoir be created to capture the water? Can the creeks be cleaned out to allow better flow to the river? It is a broad and difficult topic with no local only answer. The city can't stop the rain, but is there something that can be done to help keep my neighbors houses from flooding? I've been in Sunnyside for decades and since the 2010 floods. The flash floods have happened more frequently than I recall ever happening. This is not just a Columbia issue. It happened all over the county, but the question was about Columbia.
4. The mall.

7. **At the conclusion of your term (if elected) what does success look like?**

Everybody working together, sustainable growth, with the infrastructure to properly handle it. More parking for down town, a solution to entice builders to bring in more affordable homes for

first time buyers, making sure the proper infrastructure is in place for any future developments. Did I say downtown parking? I would also like to see a plan in place to revitalize, replace, reinvent the mall. Something needs to be done with it, badly.

8. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to further the goals of our members and investors?

I already have an excellent working relationship with the Alliance. I have been a member of the Maury Alliance Board of directors for the past 6 years. If elected, I hope to serve at the city level. If not, I will become an ambassador. I am a graduate of Maury Alliances program Leadership Maury. I also served on its board for 2 terms.

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COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL - WARD 5

DANNY COLEMAN



1. Tell us about yourself and why you are running for this position.

My name is Danny Coleman, I'm 32 years old, 11 years happily married to my wife, and am dad to 2 small children, the oldest being a student at Riverside Elementary. I work for the TN Small Business Development Centers which is a nonprofit that consults with small businesses for free and connects them to local, state, and federal resources. I was raised in Knoxville, TN but have lived in Columbia since 2012. I'm running because my experience and passion for Columbia are exactly what we need in local government. I want to help lead our community to intelligently facilitate our rapid growth, improve our local economy, and streamline government services for the citizens of Columbia.

2. What experience and/or qualifications do you have that make you the optimal candidate for this position?

I love this town and strive to serve it however I can. I currently do so in the following capacities:

- Local TN Small Business Development Centers Consultant
- Training Director at Cowork Columbia - Muletown's Entrepreneur Center
- Noon Rotary member
- Leadership Maury Alumni (2019)
- 4 year long (and counting) volunteer with the Harvest Share Food Pantry in downtown Columbia
- Host of "Made in Maury" - a podcast produced by the Maury Alliance
- City of Columbia Arts Council committee chairman
- Community Organizer for charitable fundraising initiatives and community issues

These opportunities I've sought out not only are a testament to my long-term commitment of improving our community, but also serve as a successful track record of my ability to bring people together to accomplish a common goal. I know what it takes to lead a team of varied individuals and achieve compromise that benefits all of those involved.

3. Maury County is the 5th fastest growing county in the state and 87th fastest growing in the nation. What concerns do you have about our ability to thrive amidst this growth? What plans do you have to address these concerns?

My main concern that could hold us back is a lack of information being accessible for all the stakeholders. Context is crucial for helping the public to know how to contribute to solutions. The issues we face have many moving parts and so my plan is to improve how information is made available by our city government. To solve complex problems, we need to engage the public in meaningful ways to get their contribution and support.

Additionally, our small business and nonprofit communities need better support - especially during these times. As a local business consultant, I'm acutely aware of the needs our small businesses have. As such, I plan to create a Small Business Council and Nonprofit Council which will serve to assist and advise the Mayor, City Manager, the Maury Alliance, and their staff on strategic and practical matters related to small businesses and nonprofits. This volunteer council will consist of a mix of small business owners, nonprofit directors, and other engaged citizens who are interested in serving on our Council to recommend actions, policies and programs to better facilitate and accelerate the city's small business and nonprofit communities. This has been implemented successfully in places such as Birmingham, AL, Austin, TX, and elsewhere, and I plan to do the same here.

4. Better education and a viable workforce are vital for the successful growth of Maury County and its municipalities. If elected, how would you improve these areas?

The aforementioned councils I mentioned can engage local experts and our local families in making sure we're attracting quality talent and creating robust opportunities for our student populations - both college and K-12. Additionally, I plan to work with a variety of entrepreneurial organizations such as the Kauffman Foundation to build a first-class small business environment in Columbia. Government cannot improve these issues as efficiently and effectively as private entrepreneurs can, so I plan to do everything in my power to help support the efforts of state and nation-wide programs that will bring funds into building up Columbia as a hub for start-ups and an appealing place for the new wave of remote workers to live and work from.

5. Livability is also extremely important for sustainable growth in Maury County and its municipalities. What is your plan to address issues such as roads, downtown vibrancy, retail, green spaces, and traffic? Do you support raising taxes for these issues? If not, how do you plan to address them?

No one likes taxes, however, politicians aren't honest when they say they'll never raise taxes. I'd rather be an honest politician and admit that this eventually will have to happen. That said, empowering our nonprofits and creating a better place to start and own a business greatly removes the burden or quality of life improvements from the shoulders of government and instead creates more economic activity which generates jobs, sales tax, and creates private and public investment. As mentioned before, creating a place for educated experts to impact local government policies is what I will accomplish by creating the aforementioned Small Business/ Nonprofit Councils. No single leader can have all the right answers, so it's important that we elect leaders who can attract and assemble teams that can.

6. What are your top priorities for Columbia?

- Make Columbia the most Small Business and Nonprofit friendly city in the South East
- Improve livability by (1) working with nonprofits and other groups that will help us tackle social issues like affordable housing, homelessness, and greenspaces, (2) by improving how we work with real estate developers and promoting smart growth that keeps our character intact while bringing more housing inventory to Columbians, (3) working closely

with county, state, federal, and other local governments to address transportation (i.e. Bear Creek and better public transportation systems) rather than kick the can down the road. Large infrastructure improvements need all stakeholders to contribute to the solution both monetarily and strategy-wise.

- Improve transparency in government by addressing how we become aware of and access information about local government and city services. I will work collaboratively with private contractors and our public servants to use technology to improve city services which include ease-of-use for city websites so that constituents can get the information they need to have informed input on city decisions as well as access the services they pay for via their taxes

7. At the conclusion of your term (if elected) what does success look like?

Success would be the implementation of exactly what I'm promising above. I will never make promises that I'm unable to deliver on. Building a team of smart, passionate, people to help me is how I and any other leader will be successful. We have to stop expecting one person to have the answers and instead demand honesty and collaboration from our leaders.

8. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to further the goals of our members and investors?

I'm thankful to have already been working with the Maury Alliance over the last few years on various boards and special projects. That relationship has been even more beneficial since starting my job as the local TN Small Business Development Centers representative. Both in my professional capacity and in my capacity as an elected official, I will regularly call on the Maury Alliance to provide accurate data and informed input on the many various economic decisions I'll be asked to make and will look to them and other educated experts to guide our future economic policies.

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COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL - WARD 5

ADAM RUNYON



1. Tell us about yourself and why you are running for this position.

I love Columbia and want to serve the town that has brought so much good to my life. I'm an optimistic person and believe that Columbia's best days are ahead. Columbia has a unique community spirit and way of life that is worth protecting and I believe that I have the talents and service mentality to help keep our town on the right trajectory.

On a personal note, I am a bit of a traveler, and enjoy kayaking and DIY projects at my home in Jackson Heights.

2. What experience and/or qualifications do you have that make you the optimal candidate for this position?

First of all, I will listen to what matters to constituents and am always available for a call or text [931.623.3080]. I plan to have frequent listening sessions to communicate with the voters in Ward 5.

My career expertise is in both project management and client relationship management. I work with small, midsize, and Fortune 500 companies on local and nationwide marketing, signage, and print projects. I have helped build an efficient team and company that is among the best in our industry. The team I lead has won accolades for our skills, and many of our clients have turned into friends. I see the City Council as using similar talents: listening to various concerns and interests, and finding cohesive, pragmatic solutions that are good for our entire City. I will say though, that what really makes it all worth it in the end is serving people well and truthfully. If you don't have that mentality, then all the good work or ideas in the world really mean nothing.

I've always been one to volunteer in community-based organizations. Among other things, I'm the past chairman of the Maury County Republican Party, and a graduate of Leadership Maury 2017-2018; I also lead a life group at my church, and volunteer with Middle Tennessee ministries and food banks. Just being around people, regardless of background or ideology, and finding commonality is a joy to me. I have a unique way of connecting with people that helps me build friendships and partnerships with a broad range of individuals.

3. Maury County is the 5th fastest growing county in the state and 87th fastest growing in the nation. What concerns do you have about our ability to thrive amidst this growth? What plans do you have to address these concerns?

Ours is a great position to be in. The main things that people seem to be talking about now are livability and infrastructure. Growth is inevitable, especially being so close to a city like Nashville. Ward 5 is the fastest growing Ward of Columbia.

We have to be very strategic in the types of developments that we attract and approve. We can't afford to leave anyone behind in the growing prosperity. This is a fantastic opportunity to broaden our tax base so that the individual tax liability doesn't increase. We cannot scare away growth, but have to embrace it on our terms and what is best for our City.

I personally am a fan of mixed use and low density neighborhoods, appropriately situated so that they do not heavily disrupt commuting patterns. As we grow, we cannot allow ourselves to lose the character that made us such an attractive town in the first place. Columbia should always stay Muletown and not morph into just another suburb.

Ideally, any new development would have a self-sustaining neighborhood feel with parks, green spaces, and sidewalks/bike paths instead of just being a collection of houses. Our current neighborhoods should be protected as well. I would also love to see a local greenway connecting some of our key parks. Lastly, I plan to help further the exploration of regional transit options.

4. Better education and a viable workforce are vital for the successful growth of Maury County and its municipalities. If elected, how would you improve these areas?

The two definitely go hand in hand. I've been encouraged by the partnerships between local businesses and the schools. I will do everything in my power to be a liaison to continue those partnerships. Businesses provide so much more than a paycheck: they promote opportunity, upward mobility, and the stability families need to make big decisions. Encouraging the culture of companies that invest in the community and in the next generation of workers is something I will always do. I would like to see more vocational and trade programs. STEM programs are also a huge benefit.

Anytime a company relocates to the area and receives an incentive, the size of that package should be tied directly back to how many opportunities they will provide our workers and young citizens.

5. Livability is also extremely important for sustainable growth in Maury County and its municipalities. What is your plan to address issues such as roads, downtown vibrancy, retail, green spaces, and traffic? Do you support raising taxes for these issues? If not, how do you plan to address them?

Road maintenance and improvements should always be a high priority. Infrastructure has to outpace growth so that livability isn't affected. We need to increase green spaces throughout the city core, in new developments and in major thoroughfares. We also need to look at regional transit solutions for the long term.

I would definitely encourage everyone to read the City's Strategic Plan on the City website. It lays out a broad and cohesive plan for the next 15 years.

My solutions will be definitely neighborhood-based. I want each neighborhood to be able to maintain its character and be very livable. That's what I'm hearing from virtually everyone as I'm campaigning.

I can not support raising taxes and am running on the platform of no tax increases. I'm very proud of the City Council for making it through even this tough year without raising taxes. We can increase revenue, though, by encouraging tourism, expanding local retail opportunities, supporting the appeal of downtown, broadening the tax base through proper growth, and in certain situations, through public-private partnerships.

I would love to see a hotel with a conference space near downtown that would be capable of hosting events of 400+ people. It would increase revenue to the city and would be a great resource for current companies to use and for regional events. That is the plan with the Courtyard by Marriott, but as we've seen, that development's progress is in question.

6. What are your top priorities for Columbia?

- Livability
- Public Safety
- Business Support
- Balanced Budgets
- Smart Development
- City Beautification/Green Space Increase
- Preserving our character amidst growth
- To be approachable as a Councilman

There are more details on all of these items on my social media and at arunyon.com.

7. At the conclusion of your term (if elected) what does success look like?

Accomplishing the goals that I ran on, but mostly for everyone in Ward 5 to be able to say that I am a good citizen, friend, and neighbor who served them and our City well.

8. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to further the goals of our members and investors?

Continuing the relationships I have with business leaders and the Alliance. I would have routine meetings with the leadership and with business owners to know about the ideas and concerns of existing businesses. Healthy businesses lead to a healthy community and vice versa. I also plan to be heavily involved in recruiting and encouraging businesses to relocate to Columbia. I've been proud of the work the MCCEA has done over the years, and will seek to further their goals of positive community impact in whatever way they need. Again, I'm always available for business owners, the community, and the Alliance

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COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL - WARD 5

TIM THOMAS



1. Tell us about yourself and why you are running for this position.

A little about myself is that I'm a local Pastor, I also worked in the utility industry over 18 years and now a local business owner in Insurance as well as home renovations. Married to wife Tamela for 27 years with 2 grown children and 3 grandchildren. I'm running for this position to help make positive decisions for our community in regard to education, livability, economic developments and jobs.

2. What experience and/or qualifications do you have that make you the optimal candidate for this position?

As a local business owner and member of our chamber of commerce for the past 8 years I've been fortunate to serve in many capacities such as chamber ambassador and a Board Member for Maury Alliance, Boys & Girls Club, United Way, Kiwanis Club of Columbia, City of Columbia Housing & Development, County Planning Commission and graduate of Leadership Maury!

3. Maury County is the 5th fastest growing county in the state and 87th fastest growing in the nation. What concerns do you have about our ability to thrive amidst this growth? What plans do you have to address these concerns?

I'm concerned because Maury County has become one of the most desired locations to live and work, we need to continue investing in education beyond high school with entrepreneurial innovations to keep pace with other communities our size. I believe having a strategic plan that will continue being addressed is important to not only meet the needs of city but also addresses concerns of our community.

4. Better education and a viable workforce are vital for the successful growth of Maury County and its municipalities. If elected, how would you improve these areas?

As I've stated we have to be innovators in education to help prepare our graduates to enter college or prepared to work in the fields our local companies building and investing in Maury County to help fill their needs so jobs can stay local.

5. Livability is also extremely important for sustainable growth in Maury County and its municipalities. What is your plan to address issues such as roads, downtown vibrancy, retail, green spaces, and traffic? Do you support raising taxes for these issues? If not, how do you plan to address them?

I believe we must be prepared to make the best decisions for all that live in our community whether you live on the east, west, north or south of downtown a family feels safe, welcome and can't wait to return. With that being said we must also know it doesn't come without a price so strategic planning in regard to taxes and allocations will be a must.

6. What are your top priorities for Columbia?

My top priorities for Columbia are education, livability and job creation. If we fill those areas we create an environment for places that invite our youth can go and be involved so they're not overlooked.

7. At the conclusion of your term (if elected) what does success look like?

If elected at the conclusion of my term the City of Columbia and Maury County would be the desired location south of Nashville to live, shop and retire.

8. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to further the goals of our members and investors?

If elected my goal is simple in that I would like to see our chamber member size double with new business owners, entrepreneurs and investors because of the network it has to help build their business to be successful.

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COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL - WARD 5

JEREMIAH WRIGHT



1. Tell us about yourself and why you are running for this position.

Born in Pontiac Michigan but has been in Columbia and surrounding areas for over 30 years. Graduated from Page High and furthered my education at ITT Tech in Nashville Tennessee. I am a husband and father of five.

I decided to run for Councilman because I feel I am the right person for the job. The job at hand is to make sure our city is progressive and prepared for the future.

2. What experience and/or qualifications do you have that make you the optimal candidate for this position?

My qualifications are working with budgets while being a adult manager for Hilton Hotels for over 8 years. I have been a community advocate for a while now. Being the driving force behind Columbia's Unity Rally. Working with Columbia United and Operation Cryloud, my own nonprofit youth advocacy program mentor teens and helping them prepare for adulthood.

3. Maury County is the 5th fastest growing county in the state and 87th fastest growing in the nation. What concerns do you have about our ability to thrive amidst this growth? What plans do you have to address these concerns?

Our growth is awesome and there is nothing wrong with that! My only concern is unless the salary for living rises the cost of living will force some Columbians to move elsewhere. My remedy is already in action, I am working with a developer bringing truly affordable housing to Columbia. We are in the development stage of it so I cannot give out specifics.

4. Better education and a viable workforce are vital for the successful growth of Maury County and its municipalities. If elected, how would you improve these areas?

I believe that education falls under County jurisdiction but as a concerned parent of students I do attend school board meetings.

5. Livability is also extremely important for sustainable growth in Maury County and its municipalities. What is your plan to address issues such as roads, downtown vibrancy, retail, green spaces, and traffic? Do you support raising taxes for these issues? If not, how do you plan to address them?

I feel that we will address each situation head on as soon as it arises. I have been to other cities with downtowns like ours and hands down Columbia is more beautiful and efficient! I would like to address Bear creek pike with the possibility of widening it out to help with congestion.

6. What are your top priorities for Columbia?

My top priority would be hearing and helping with the concerns of our residents, at the same time also working on affordable housing, bringing in better paying jobs and keeping Columbia a beautiful place to live and raise our families.

7. At the conclusion of your term (if elected) what does success look like?

At the end of my term success would look like the community and city wanting me to keep representing them as a councilman.

8. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to further the goals of our members and investors?

Either way as a councilman or concerned citizen, I would love to be apart of the Alliance.

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COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL - WARD 5

BRANDON SPROWL (*write-in candidate*)



1. Tell us about yourself and why you are running for this position.

I'm a father, poet, community activist, photographer & videographer. I want to run because my platform was built by not only myself but pastors , business owners, community leaders and influential members in local politics. We call it #ProjectEqual ... I'm running because this platform is addressing the things Columbia needs to be greater going into the future.

2. What experience and/or qualifications do you have that make you the optimal candidate for this position?

I've been a vocal and active community member since I was young. Being apart of the youth NAACP, creating writing workshops at central high school, going back to my high school to teach creative writing for 10 years. Organizing the Stolen Lives Matter meeting where families of the victims from police brutality got to speak and share their stories. Organized community meetings at the American Legion post 170. Having set up the "Shut Up & Ink" tattoo competition to bring all tattoo business together for a day , doing the "Shut Up & Cook" grill competition to promote independent business.

My agenda has already been to promote the voices that aren't heard loud enough and the small businesses to support each other and get support from their city. The WhoDat Podcast which I Co-Host went live from the picket line during the GM strike last year and gave the members of the union virtually their only platform to address the issues and inform the community. I've been trying to change the face of the city for the better. Helped organize and start the Juneteenth festival that has been going on for the past 4 years.

These qualify me to work with all different types of people and having a pure intentioned purpose for the betterment of others. Small businesses, independent vendors, workers and children.

Last year I was a coach in the inaugural Columbia Boxing Gym youth summer program. These endeavors I've made have prepared me for the next step in a life of serving the greater good. The people of Columbia.

3. Maury County is the 5th fastest growing county in the state and 87th fastest growing in the nation. What concerns do you have about our ability to thrive amidst this growth? What plans do you have to address these concerns?

I have no concerns about the growth of our city. A lot of the things I've been doing over the years as been to grow our city. My platform addresses growth in columbia. Alleviating traffic conditions, adding to the public transportation system, more community gardens being build and farmers markets being held. Three years ago I was one of the four people that built the community garden on the east side , "For The Love Of" community garden and the reaction to

that showed me that community gardens and farmers markets can help us be sustainable and supportive of one another. That's the approach to take with everything when faced with growth. Make it so we can sustain and support it along with those apart of it.

4. Better education and a viable workforce are vital for the successful growth of Maury County and its municipalities. If elected, how would you improve these areas?

Education is my biggest point I'd like to make as a councilman. I want to start youth and adult classes on finances, taxes, credit and budgeting. Our educational system needs improvement but the school board is over that so the progress would be up to them to enact those changes in schools. The city of Columbia can set up outside classes for youth and adults covering the things that aren't taught in schools at all but are so vitally important. This will help the kids to be prepared for life, adults to get themselves in a better situation, workers to be able and fix any issues they have and through an apprenticeship program with local small businesses we can cultivate the next generation of entrepreneurship in our community.

5. Livability is also extremely important for sustainable growth in Maury County and its municipalities. What is your plan to address issues such as roads, downtown vibrancy, retail, green spaces, and traffic? Do you support raising taxes for these issues? If not, how do you plan to address them?

I don't support raising taxes for these issues because if you look at the revenue reports, we have the money to address them already.

I want to alleviate traffic by adding turning lanes on side road coming into town and utilizing side roads off Nashville highway. I want to add to the public transportation system we have and also push more people to become active themselves through Uber or Lyft. I want to make the community gardens and farmers markets a city funded program so children can learn agriculture and healthy dietary choices. I will say through the financial literacy classes we can increase home ownership, county retention and better quality of life standards for our next generations.

6. What are your top priorities for Columbia?

To support the workers and entrepreneurs of our city. Educated and cultivate the children. Take the growth we're seeing and use it to diversify the portfolio of Columbia going into the next 10 years.

7. At the conclusion of your term (if elected) what does success look like?

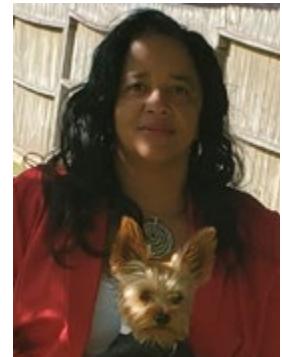
Success looks like, online financial literacy classes having helped 10% of our city. Apprenticeship and youth boxing programs being something parents know will help their children in business, health and life. Community gardens and farmers markets bringing positive commerce between everyday people. Through #ProjectEqual we can enhance the productivity of our own. From healthy living, to business and commerce, to more diverse public events bringing in tourism and showing our newest residents what Columbia really has to offer.

8. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to further the goals of our members and investors?

Yes I'll partner with anyone that wants to see Columbia growth and expand in a positive inclusive way. I look forward to meeting with the alliance.

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MT. PLEASANT CITY COMMISSIONERS WILLIE WEBSTER ALDERSON



1. Tell us about yourself and why you are running for this position.

I am wife a mother, foster mother, and grandmother. Also I am a very caring family member and friend, that loves her town.

2. What experience and/or qualifications do you have that make you the optimal candidate for this position?

I have done a lot of charitable work for this community, and would like to look into doing bigger things to help our town. I have been in the community for about 40 plus years. I have seen the good and the bad. And through my charitable work I have spoken with many individuals and listened to their concerns for our town. I would like to work with other commissioners on keeping our town prosperous.

3. Maury County is the 5th fastest growing county in the state and 87th fastest growing in the nation. What concerns do you have about our ability to thrive amidst this growth? What plans do you have to address these concerns?

As far as MP I have no concerns on the ability to thrive amid this growth, as we need more business to come in so we can have revenue to support our town. My plans would be to work with other commissioners and city managers to help this town grow in away that works best for our community.

4. Better education and a viable workforce are vital for the successful growth of Maury County and its municipalities. If elected, how would you improve these areas?

If I get elected MP city and county commissioners can work together in the future hand in hand, to address some of our schools concerns and issues. However MP Schools are already award winning school.

5. Livability is also extremely important for sustainable growth in Maury County and its municipalities. What is your plan to address issues such as roads, downtown vibrancy, retail, green spaces, and traffic? Do you support raising taxes for these issues? If not, how do you plan to address them?

For the city of MP I would like for our roads to get repaired. And business is brought in to be more affordable for the community. This way we can keep the money in our city. I would like to revamp our parks so they can be more efficient. No I don't support raising taxes and think we need to look at our budget to see if there are unnecessary spending. With growth comes more tax money without raising taxes.

6. What are your top priorities for Mt. Pleasant?

I will Listen to the citizens of Mt Pleasant. The flooding, roads, parks, having a safe place for activities for family and children to come together in our community, are all priorities.

7. At the conclusion of your term (if elected) what does success look like?

The city commissioners and City managers have worked together to better our town. You'll see planned growth, more jobs and retail.

8. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to further the goals of our members and investors?

The "MCCEA" is vital to the growth of MT Pleasant. The partnership I see, will be a continued support to our community.

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**MT. PLEASANT CITY COMMISSIONERS
JACQUELINE GRANDBERRY**



No Response Received

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MT. PLEASANT CITY COMMISSIONERS ERIC HARVEY



1. Tell us about yourself and why you are running for this position.

My name is Eric Harvey. I grew up in Lexington, AL. My parents are Larry and Evone Harvey. They raised me and my sister in a wonderful Christian home. They taught me the value of hard work. They also taught me the value of being committed. In 2000, I graduated from the University of North Alabama with my degree in Elementary Education. I immediately began working on my master's degree in Elementary Education, also at UNA. In 2001, I was hired to teach 5th grade US History at Mt. Pleasant Middle School of the Visual & Performing Arts. This was a dream come true to me! I had fallen in love with this little town during my visits to Lumpy's during my college weekends. For those that do not know me, I am a born-again Christian. I have sung bass in several southern gospel quartets over the past 25 years, and currently sing bass with the Kellys from Lawrenceburg. When I was offered the opportunity to teach at a performing arts school, I was ecstatic! As of today, I am in my 20th year of faithful service to the Mt. Pleasant community.

2. What experience and/or qualifications do you have that make you the optimal candidate for this position?

At this point in my career, I have helped raise around 2,400 kids from the Mt. Pleasant community. That is equal to roughly half the population of Mt. Pleasant! As Title I Facilitator at MPMSVPA, I have managed the Mt. Pleasant Middle School Title budget of \$150,00-190,000. I have also served as Co-Athletic Director at MPMSVPA for 5 years (2002-2004, 2018-present). During this time, I helped manage our athletic department, helped our coaches and teams, and helped keep our small sports funded by budgeting. This experience, as well as being a familiar face to the community, make me a natural choice to represent the Mt. Pleasant community.

3. Maury County is the 5th fastest growing county in the state and 87th fastest growing in the nation. What concerns do you have about our ability to thrive amidst this growth? What plans do you have to address these concerns?

We have got to have growth. I want Mt. Pleasant to continue to grow. Growth will bring about the tax base that will allow us to fund new projects. We need to create a plan for our growth. We need proper crosswalks, sidewalks, streetlights, and increased public servants as needed based on the growth of the community. We need a 24-hour restaurant like Waffle House, Steak & Shake, or Denny's to provide 3rd shift workers with a place to eat during their workday/night. We need clothing stores, a bookstore, entertainment places for the kids and families, and more restaurants. We need to build and keep as much revenue in our town by increasing the opportunities for the families in Mt. Pleasant. We need to centralize the spending of individuals in Mt. Pleasant, as well as draw in people from other areas.

4. Better education and a viable workforce are vital for the successful growth of Maury County and its municipalities. If elected, how would you improve these areas?

I believe that Dr.'s Jackson and Drinkwine, and Mrs. Tidwell have an amazing plan for our kids. As a teacher at MPMSVPA for the past 19 years, I have seen the focus of our education shift from the No Child Left Behind protocols to the current push for STEAM/PBL learning. This will prepare our students for the future. By becoming the first Pre-K through 12 TSIN STEAM campus in Tennessee, our school is ahead of the education game as we are FINALLY preparing students for college AND careers. We have had 826 Industry Certifications earned by MPHS students in the past 2 years! That means those students are prepared to work in a career from the moment they graduate from high school. Those students will still need some assistance after earning that certification and graduating. I am proposing that we get a branch of the Maury County Career Center to come to Mt. Pleasant. This could be a hub for our community to help fill our available jobs with people from our Mt. Pleasant Community. The career center could teach valuable soft skills such as interviewing skills, personal evaluation skills, communication skills, conflict resolution skills, job and attendance policies, and job retention/sustaining skills. This will help our local economy as more businesses see that our town has dependable, committed workers. We need more local businesses to partner with our schools. By doing so, they can help ensure that their workers for tomorrow are trained up to do the jobs today.

- 5. Livability is also extremely important for sustainable growth in Maury County and its municipalities. What is your plan to address issues such as roads, downtown vibrancy, retail, green spaces, and traffic? Do you support raising taxes for these issues? If not, how do you plan to address them? (answered below)**
- 6. What are your top priorities for Mt. Pleasant?**

I am answering these two questions together because I feel they overlap. I believe flooding is an issue and will be addressed and fixed. This needs to happen so our town can grow. In my neighborhood, developers are wanting to build 49 new houses. I love that we will have those new construction houses, but I will not vote for it until the flooding issues in my neighborhood are fixed. At MPMSVPA, I am beginning to plan and have discussions with our teachers about developing a Project Based Learning (PBL) Unit around our flooding issue. Our students are very intelligent and are getting experienced at the Engineering Design Process. Our PBL will connect our students with flood engineers, the local codes department, and TVA engineers, where they can work together to come up with an idea that will fix our storm water drainage problem. 30 % of MPMSVPA's current remote learning students are having trouble learning from their houses due to not having consistent internet access. For Mt. Pleasant to thrive and grow, we need reliable high-speed internet for those that live in our city and our outlying communities. I want to bring in companies like JTM in Hohenwald, that provide wireless internet from a tower. In this day and time, high-speed internet is a necessity.

Before Covid 19, Donna Morency posted a survey for city residents to complete on a google form. My plan is to take her tremendous work and dive into the data that our local people want to see in Mt. Pleasant. This survey will allow us as a commission to identify our targets. We can also use the survey to show prospective businesses that they are needed and wanted in our town.

I do not want to raise taxes. As a teacher, I must get creative in how I raise funds for my classroom. I would love for our community to rally together and plan events where we can raise

funds for city projects. A downtown music festival, haunted houses, corn mazes, and a farmer's market/ artisan market. We can charge a booth fee for the farmer's and artisans to set up and sell their things.

I also believe we need to build more youth and family programs for our community. We have a great start by building the Splash Pad. MPMSVPA has been in discussions to design and create a mini golf course beside the Splash Pad. My desire is that the commission and the schools continue to partner together to develop projects and involve students in the design process.

7. At the conclusion of your term (if elected) what does success look like?

I will feel successful at the end of my term if we have fixed our flooding issues, our town has grown in population, our industry has grown, our schools are thriving, and despite this growth, we keep the "Mayberry" vibe we have now.

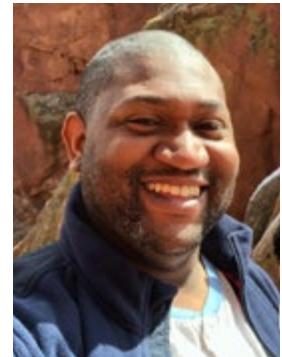
8. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to further the goals of our members and investors?

A partnership with the Maury Alliance will continue to benefit Mt. Pleasant. Their partnership will continue to provide assistance and guidance to the Mt. Pleasant community. Together, we can provide new industry with motivation to move to Mt. Pleasant. Together we can properly explain the tax benefits of moving a business here. Together we can provide the companies with info that show why they need to move here...maybe we are close to a shipping hub that they use, maybe we are close to the main plant they are supplying parts for. Together we can provide the companies with statistical and analytical data that moving here makes sense.

Our commission will need to work together to make Mt. Pleasant better. The fundamental idea of bettering our town is based on Evolution not Revolution. Evolution is when proper steps are taken to build something from the ground up. We need to lay those fundamental pieces so that our town can grow and sustain that growth. We need to be prepared for what is coming. We are seeing a mass exodus from big cities, and those families are looking for a place to settle. A place that is affordable, friendly, and has entertainment opportunities for their families. If we want to see positive, sustaining growth, we need to be prepared. My hope is that we can elect a commission that will work together for the future of Mt. Pleasant!

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MT. PLEASANT CITY COMMISSIONERS CEDRIC HOLLIS



1. Tell us about yourself and why you are running for this position.

My name I Cedric Hollis I am a husband to Kelly Grace for 13 years and counting and a father to Zion, Isabel, Malachi, and Ezekiel. I also work as the Operating Partner at our local Chick-fil-A in Columbia. My reason for running is due to the fact that I believe my personal and professional experience will help me lead our small community into the future. I have experience leading teams, managing budgets, and growing businesses.

2. What experience and/or qualifications do you have that make you the optimal candidate for this position?

My experience comes from leading and growing teams for Chick-fil-A while managing budgets for the company. I also served in several churches at different capacities, that I believe will help me grow and develop systems in our community.

3. Maury County is the 5th fastest growing county in the state and 87th fastest growing in the nation. What concerns do you have about our ability to thrive amidst this growth? What plans do you have to address these concerns?

I believe if you are looking ahead it helps with not getting behind. I believe if the community and its leaders has a growth mindset you will at the least stay a step ahead. Growth is going to happen and the only concerns would be if we as leaders don't prepare. The plans to address these concerns are to make sure the leaders are thinking growth, make sure the community prepares for growth, and give opportunities for people and businesses alike to see that we welcome growth.

4. Better education and a viable workforce are vital for the successful growth of Maury County and its municipalities. If elected, how would you improve these areas?

The way to help with education and workforce is to look at the needs these two areas have while having the right people in the right places to give our students and community the opportunity to have the best education and job opportunities available. People placement and a strong budget can help our community in many ways and you must have both in order to be successful.

5. Livability is also extremely important for sustainable growth in Maury County and its municipalities. What is your plan to address issues such as roads, downtown vibrancy, retail, green spaces, and traffic? Do you support raising taxes for these issues? If not, how do you plan to address them?

Our community is small and roads, sidewalks, etc. needs updating and repair. I hope that our board will use funds to improve these areas. Mt Pleasant has a great community atmosphere

and we have done a great job utilizing the small town vibe to do some big time things in Maury County. I think raising taxes is something that will always be a sore spot for our communities. I feel raising taxes is good if it will help the community as a whole.

6. What are your top priorities for Mt. Pleasant?

My top priorities for Mt. Pleasant are as follow;

1. Leadership transparency and communication
2. Community repair and cleanup
3. Community involvement in growth and planning

7. At the conclusion of your term (if elected) what does success look like?

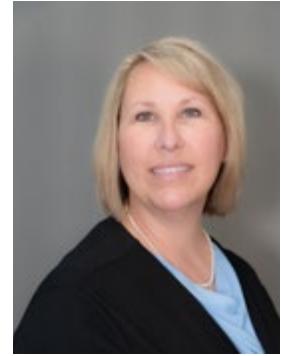
Success for me is if our community has better systems to aid and maintain the growth in our community, more community involvement, more transparency of our local government, and financial stability.

8. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to further the goals of our members and investors?

I would partner with the Chamber and the Alliance by encouraging the Mt. Pleasant citizens to shop local and in doing so would put into practice investing in our cities to stimulate growth.

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MT. PLEASANT CITY COMMISSIONERS MONYA HUNTER



1. Tell us about yourself and why you are running for this position.

I have lived in Maury county for approximately 25 years. Our family moved to Mt. Pleasant almost two years ago, we love being part of this community. Drawing on my education and professional work experience I will be a strong leader that helps our community grow and prosper while still maintaining the nostalgic feel that drew myself and others to Mt. Pleasant.

2. What experience and/or qualifications do you have that make you the optimal candidate for this position?

Throughout my career I have worked in technology, finance, operations, and human resources which gives me a well rounded set of experience to problem solve, evaluate processes and opportunities.

3. Maury County is the 5th fastest growing county in the state and 87th fastest growing in the nation. What concerns do you have about our ability to thrive amidst this growth? What plans do you have to address these concerns?

Fast growth is exciting but brings with it a significant responsibility. Decisions must be made that ensure the growth coming to Mt. Pleasant protects and nurtures the nostalgic feel that is drawing people here today.

I have held key leadership roles at successful Nashville healthcare startups. This experience gives me a unique insight into how decisions made in a fast growing environment can impact infrastructure, environment, and people – which is precisely the knowledge needed to make decisions related to growth in Mt. Pleasant.

4. Better education and a viable workforce are vital for the successful growth of Maury County and its municipalities. If elected, how would you improve these areas?

For companies that look to build or relocate facilities, education and a viable workforce are extremely important in the decision making process. If we want Maury County and the City of Mt. Pleasant to compete in these areas we have to support our current schools by making sure we have top educators, infrastructure to ensure an appropriate class size and learning environment, and promote long term learning programs for both technical and college programs. I will support decisions related to expanding offerings that increases enrollment at local colleges and technical programs.

5. Livability is also extremely important for sustainable growth in Maury County and its municipalities. What is your plan to address issues such as roads, downtown vibrancy, retail, green spaces, and traffic? Do you support raising taxes for these issues? If not, how do you plan to address them?

Our sidewalks and roads desperately need attention, along with having more small businesses on Main Street. We need to make a favorable impression on people that visit our city and ensure a process for the maintenance of this infrastructure for generations to come.

Mt. Pleasant was recently accredited as a Tennessee Main Street Community, this program provides training, support, and grant opportunities to assist revitalizing our downtown. If we continue to pursue these types of opportunities, it should reduce the need to increase taxes to improve and maintain our city.

6. What are your top priorities for Mt. Pleasant?

Increase the number of small businesses on main street, fix roads and sidewalks.

7. At the conclusion of your term (if elected) what does success look like?

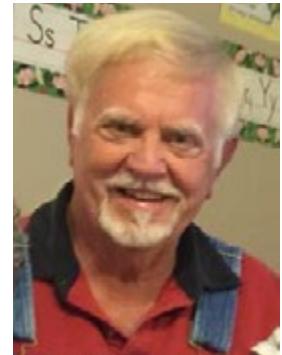
A vibrant downtown, smooth pothole free roads, repaired and weed free sidewalks and curbs. New businesses and companies that support the nostalgic feel of our city.

8. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to further the goals of our members and investors?

Collaboration is essential when working in a startup organization, because of my work experience, I understand the importance of collaboration within and across organizations. A strong partnership with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance facilitates exchange of information that increases business opportunities, so it is an essential partnership for an acting City Commissioner.

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**MT. PLEASANT CITY COMMISSIONERS
WILLIAM E. RODDY**



No Response Received

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**MT. PLEASANT CITY COMMISSIONERS
LONNIE R. THOMASON**



No Response Received

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MT. PLEASANT CITY COMMISSIONERS BILL WHITE



1. Tell us about yourself and why you are running for this position.

- Resident of the City of Mt. Pleasant most all of my 60 years.
- Graduate of LSU and their Graduate Banking Program.
- I chose to run 4 years ago to offer my help, Nothing More. I saw the inefficiency in the government as a whole and decided to run.
- We are already experiencing significant improvements in our efficiency.

2. What experience and/or qualifications do you have that make you the optimal candidate for this position?

- 35+ years of Banking experience.
- Graduate of LSU and their Graduate Banking Program.
- Prior 4 years of serving on the commission and the last 2 as our Mayor.
- Managed large budgets with my career in Banking.
- Have a broad understanding of how Municipal Government works.

3. Maury County is the 5th fastest growing county in the state and 87th fastest growing in the nation. What concerns do you have about our ability to thrive amidst this growth? What plans do you have to address these concerns?

- In Mt. Pleasant it is critical that we continue to work diligently on our infrastructure.
- Ensure continued growth in housing and workforce.
- Continued support for Cherry Glen Industrial Park. Recently recertified as a Select TN Site.
- Just approved a new Spec building in cooperation with Maury County, Mt. Pleasant Power System and others.

4. Better education and a viable workforce are vital for the successful growth of Maury County and its municipalities. If elected, how would you improve these areas?

- Continue to work with our Local area schools in any capacity that is needed, support, etc.
- We are the only system in Maury County that has all 12 grades State Certified in STEAM.
- We are very proud of the work that has been done and continues to be done!

5. Livability is also extremely important for sustainable growth in Maury County and its municipalities. What is your plan to address issues such as roads, downtown vibrancy, retail, green spaces, and traffic? Do you support raising taxes for these issues? If not, how do you plan to address them?

- I would oppose a tax increase at this time.
- Continue working closely on budgets and financing for continued reduction in our Debt Service annually.

- Applying for any and all Grants that may be available to reduce the debt burden to the city.
- This will enable us to continue the important infrastructure and roads needed.

6. What are your top priorities for Mt. Pleasant?

- Continue to work with TEMA, FEMA and MTAS to aid those families that have been displaced, distressed with the recent 3 flooding events.
- Complete the Sewer/Infrastructure project that is just in the beginning stages.
- Continue working closely with our Main Street group that just recently received their designation from the state.
- Continued Balanced Budget and continued improvement of our reputation.

7. At the conclusion of your term (if elected) what does success look like?

- Continued balance budget without the need for a tax increase.
- Completed Sewer/Infrastructure projects.
- Downtown Revitalization completed.
- Paved Roads
- Additional Jobs

8. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to further the goals of our members and investors?

- Over the last 4 years we have worked very hard to develop the GREAT working relationship that we have with the Chamber/Alliance. Just look at Cherry Glen and the success that has been enjoyed by both the City and the Chamber/ Alliance.
- Continued work and support of the Chamber/Alliance for the growth of both Mt. Pleasant and the County as a whole.

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NOVEMBER 3, 2020 ELECTION

LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE

October 5th, 2020

EARLY VOTING

October 14th - October 29th

Monday - Saturday
8:00 am to 4:00 pm

October 26th - 29th
8:00 am to 7:00 pm

Election Commission Office
1207A Tradewinds Drive
Columbia, TN 38401

ELECTION DAY

November 3, 2020

Polls open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm

[Click here to find your voting location](#)