

2024 MAURY COUNTY CANDIDATE GUIDE

STATE, FEDERAL, AND LOCAL ELECTION

EARLY VOTING BEGINS
Wednesday, October 16th

ELECTION DAY
Tuesday, November 5th



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



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NOVEMBER BALLOT

President of the United States

*Kamala Harris (D); Donald Trump (R); Jay Bowman (I); Claudia De La Cruz (I);
Rachele Fruit (I); Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (I); Jill Stein (I)*

US Senate

*Gloria Johnson (D); Marsha Blackburn (R);
Tharon Chandler (I); Pamela Moses (I); Hastina Robinson (I)*

US House - District 5

*Maryam Abolfazli (D); Andy Ogles (R); Yomi Faparusi (I);
im Larkin (I); Bob Titley (I)*

Tennessee Senate - District 28

Joey Hensley (R); James Dallas (D)

Tennessee House - District 64

Scott Cepicky (R); Eileen Longstreet (D)

Tennessee House - District 71

Kip Capley (R); Tim Coy (D)

Columbia City Council - Ward 1

Davena Hardison; Michael Kuzawinski; Robert Plageman

Columbia City Council - Ward 2

Charles Huffman; Deborah Wiles

Columbia City Council - Ward 3

Christian Linares; Cheryl Secrest

Columbia City Council - Ward 4

Kenny Marshall

Columbia City Council - Ward 5

Andy Hart; Brian McKelvy

Mt. Pleasant City Commissioners

*Willie Webster Alderson; Jacqueline Grandberry; Loree Knowles;
Lonnie R. Thomason; Bill White*

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EARLY VOTING

Spring Hill Library:
Oct 21-26, 8AM-4PM

Columbia Tradewinds:
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Columbia Tradewinds:
Oct 28-31, 8AM-7PM

Election Commission Office
1207 Tradewinds Drive
Columbia, TN 38401

ELECTION DAY

November 5th, 2024

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

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

TN SENATE - DISTRICT 28 JOEY HENSLEY



1. Why are you running for this position?

I have had the honor and privilege to serve in this position for the last 12 years. I have worked hard to represent the citizens of this district and will continue to be a voice for the people that have issues with state government. I am conservative and I firmly believe in the 2nd amendment and protecting the unborn.

2. What specific experience and qualifications do you have that make you the ideal candidate for this position?

I served 12 years on the Lewis County School Board, 3 years as chairman, and on the County Commission before being elected to the House of Representatives where I served for 10 years. I serve as chairman of the Revenue Sub-Committee on the Finance Committee in the Senate, and I serve on the Health Committee and on the Education Committee. I have the experience and qualifications to represent the people of this district and feel like I am the best candidate for this position.

3. What do you see as the top challenges for Maury County and how do you plan to contribute to addressing those?

Top challenges for Maury County are growth, infrastructure, education, and water issues for the county and communities. I have already been involved in all these issues and will work with the county and city governments to deal with these issues as Maury County continues to grow.

4. What do you see as the top opportunities for Maury County and how do you plan to utilize those to move our community forward?

The people of Maury County are its greatest asset. While growth creates problems, it also provides many opportunities for improvement in the lives of many in the County. Maury County has great educational opportunities with the location of Columbia State Community College in Columbia, and vocational schools close by in Pulaski and Hohenwald, as well as a UT Campus in Pulaski. These assets can provide the training that industries need to locate in Maury County. I am a proud alumni of Columbia State and I see the immense value that it provides as Maury County continues to grow. Maury County also has excellent county officials with a commission that is working hard to improve the County and I have been a partner with them to provide assistance from state government. Maury County also has communities in the county in Columbia, Spring Hill, and Mt. Pleasant that have officials that work with the county and state government for the betterment of the citizens of those communities which in turn benefits the county.

5. How do you plan to work collaboratively within the Tennessee General Assembly to ensure the decisions being made are in the best interest of Maury County as a whole?

I have already worked in the General Assembly to make sure decisions made at the state are in the best interest of Maury County. I have been a strong vocal advocate for the county and its citizens. I have sponsored legislation to improve education in Maury County and issues that the county commission needs at the state level. My office is always open to hear opinions and needs of the local government in Maury County as well as individual citizens.

- 6. With the growth facing Maury County, we are in great need of additional, and diversified, revenue streams to help fund the infrastructure to support the inevitable growth. Last session, legislation was passed to allow high growth County Governments to implement certain fees to assist with infrastructure related to growth. Do you feel this is an adequate solution? Why or why not?**

The legislation that we passed last year was only one way to help the county to fund education. I co-sponsored and worked with the county through many meetings with groups that were involved with the legislation that passed in the senate. I personally worked with the members of the senate committee to get the legislation passed. It will allow high growth counties like Maury County and a few others to implement an adequate facilities tax on new development to help fund education specifically new schools in the future and to prevent increases in the property tax to other homeowners. The legislation is a good start, but is not all the answers to the growth that is occurring in Maury County and I will work with the Mayor and County Commission to find other solutions in the future.

- 7. What does thoughtful and sustainable growth in Maury County look like to you?**

Sustainable growth is planned growth that is orderly and provides the needed infrastructure for the new development of residential and new businesses. Without thoughtful planning by the local government with help from the state, growth becomes a burden on local residents rather than a benefit. Also an issue that is happening is the ability of the cities and county to provide an adequate water supply for future growth. We are already making plans and working with the state and surrounding counties for a plan going forward to protect the beautiful scenic Duck River now and in the future and still provide adequate water for growth and continue the present need for water.

- 8. Quality education and a diverse workforce are vital for the successful growth of Maury County and its municipalities. If elected, how would you improve these areas?**

Maury County already has an excellent school system both public and private schools that we need to support and help grow. Also, Columbia State Community College is a great resource for education and training for the jobs of the future. I serve on the Education Committee in the Senate and have worked to improve education all the time I have been in the Senate. Columbia State is building a new Health Science building that will improve their ability to provide expanded and diverse training that will be needed for future jobs. We need to provide the same opportunities for all of our citizens no matter their background or experience. We have the Hope Scholarship and the Tennessee Promise so that any student can afford Columbia State or a Vocational School free of charge. We need to encourage more students to take advantage of the opportunities and continue

to instill in high school students the need for continuing education after high school. I will continue to focus on improvements to education in Maury County and In the State of Tennessee.

9. How do you plan to communicate with, and be available to, your constituents?

I have always made myself available to anyone that might need me. I attend community events, Chamber of Commerce meetings and events and meet with constituents any time that they need me. I publish my office contact number, as well as my cell phone number in the newspaper and on social media. I have always and will continue to make myself available to anyone in the district that need help with state Government or just has an opinion or solution to problems that I need to know. I go to the grocery store at least once a week and go to the same places that everyone else goes, so I am in the community and always open to help anyone in the district.

10. What does a successful term look like to you?

A successful term is one that I can look back on and say that Maury County and its citizens are better off now than they were before and know that people in the district can be proud of the accomplishments. I will be a voice for the citizens of Maury County and when they say it was a good successful term, then I will consider it to be good. When I can say Maury County citizens have more opportunities than they had before, then it will be successful. We don't necessarily need more new laws, but sometimes we need to modify and change some of the laws and regulations in place now to make the lives of Maury County and Tennessee citizens better.

11. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to make Maury County the best place to live and work?

I have already partnered with the Maury County Chamber of Commerce and Economic Alliance. I am an active member of the Chamber and attend most of their events, meetings and ribbon cuttings for new businesses. I make myself available to the businesses that locate in the county and let them know I am available if they need assistance. I am also a member of the Spring Hill Chamber and attend their events. I believe that it is important for all elected officials at every level to interact with businesses and individuals regularly. I represent the citizens of District 28 in the Senate and I have worked with the Chambers and will continue to work with them in the future. The Chambers work hard to attract new business to the county and I help when they need assistance from the state. I have a good working relationship with other state officials from Maury County as well as the County and City Officials. The Maury County Chamber and Economic Alliance is a great asset to Maury County and they have helped to attract many businesses to the County over the years. I am happy to work with them in the future as I have in the past to improve the lives of all Maury County Citizens.

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TN SENATE - DISTRICT 28 JAMES DALLAS



1. Why are you running for this position?

I am running for Tennessee State Senate because, after more than a decade of one-party government, I believe our state is on the wrong path, and we need an alternative.

We are a growing state, but our economy is not growing sustainably or equitably. Our state is frequently among the lowest-ranking states in important quality-of-life metrics; for example, we rank 45th in air pollution, 37th for infant mortality, 44th in medical debt, 48th in violent crime, 42nd in commute time, and 41st in teacher salaries. Our state's leadership is in a "race to the bottom" with other Republican-led states and is increasingly focused on ideological hobbyhorses such as school vouchers instead of on improving the well-being of our people.

I believe you deserve a meaningful choice this November for the State Senate between more of the same and a hopeful, progressive vision for Tennessee.

2. What specific experience and qualifications do you have that make you the ideal candidate for this position?

I am a native Tennessean, and my parents and grandparents raised me to believe that we all can and should seek to make a positive impact in our community.

I have lived in Columbia for almost seven years, and I have put that belief into action by serving as a leader in the Maury County Democratic Party, a member of the Kiwanis Club, and a church volunteer.

I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government from the University of Texas at Austin and a law degree from the University of Houston. I currently work as a database administrator at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. If elected, I believe I would be the only information technology professional in the State Senate. My unique experience in both law and technology will allow me to be a leader on increasingly important issues relating to government online services and online safety.

3. What do you see as the top challenges for Maury County and how do you plan to contribute to addressing those?

At a recent candidate forum in Spring Hill, Rep. Cepicky, Sen. Hensley, and I all agreed that growth is the most significant challenge facing our area. I think each of us would have a slightly different take on what "growth" means, however. For me, the biggest challenges related to growth are preserving our environment, affordability for homebuyers, and ensuring that we have adequate schools and roads to serve our residents.

There are two main issues concerning the preservation of our environment. First, we must ensure we have enough water to go around, and second, we must have a plan for waste disposal. These issues must be addressed in a way that does not harm the Duck River or other sensitive areas. We desperately need more regional planning in Middle Tennessee as we share those challenges with neighboring counties.

The most effective way to ensure affordable housing for Tennessee families is to encourage construction, particularly of smaller homes. Moreover, some tenants have recently seen large increases in their rents. While I generally do not favor government price control legislation (because it will discourage construction and hurt the rental market), I think in some cases it may be appropriate for the state or local governments to limit rental price increases, particularly for renters with limited or fixed incomes.

When speaking about rent and housing prices, it would be careless not to mention the broader cost-of-living challenge. Because our friends and neighbors are stretching dollars farther than ever, the General Assembly must have a real conversation about repealing the state sales tax on groceries and other necessities such as women's hygiene products.

Regarding growth as it relates to schools and roads – I will address those elsewhere.

4. What do you see as the top opportunities for Maury County and how do you plan to utilize those to move our community forward?

First, we have had tremendous investment in local businesses, which has created jobs in Maury County. And that is an incredible opportunity for our county, particularly if jobs pay well. We should be proud of our neighbors who now have a generous UAW contract, but only because Ultium moved to town before the state's ban took effect on "card check" for companies taking state economic incentives. I will push to end state government meddling in labor organizing.

Secondly, we have fantastic health care at Maury Regional Medical Center. We can help Maury Regional care for us by expanding TennCare (our state Medicaid program). Tennessee has, over the last decade, passed up billions of dollars of federal aid that would provide health insurance coverage to hundreds of thousands of Tennesseans, which will help both patients and providers. Expanding TennCare will also help stabilize rural health care.

5. How do you plan to work collaboratively within the Tennessee General Assembly to ensure the decisions being made are in the best interest of Maury County as a whole?

Breaking the Republican supermajority in the General Assembly will ensure better decision-making for Tennessee because one party (the GOP) currently has a stranglehold on the legislative process. If Democrats and Republicans both have the power to bring bills out of subcommittees and to hold meaningful debates about those issues on the floor, then we will have better and more reasonable laws in this state that truly respect the interests of everyone.

About what I intend to do: I can certainly find common ground with local Republican state representatives. I have had several pleasant conversations with Scott Cepicky, and I appreciate the

work he has done on the Duck River issue. I agree with Todd Warner on school vouchers. I think Kip Capley has some interesting ideas regarding tax relief for senior citizens.

- 6. With the growth facing Maury County, we are in great need of additional, and diversified, revenue streams to help fund the infrastructure to support the inevitable growth. Last session, legislation was passed to allow high growth County Governments to implement certain fees to assist with infrastructure related to growth. Do you feel this is an adequate solution? Why or why not?**

I do have to recognize the work that our current state legislative delegation put into reforming the County Powers Relief Act (CPRA), the state law that governs impact fees and the adequate facilities privilege tax.

However, the Maury County Commission repeatedly asked our state legislative delegation for the power to levy impact fees on par with cities (and counties that levied impact fees before the CPRA was passed, such as Williamson County). While significant and beneficial, the 2024 amendments to the CPRA did not include what the Maury County Commission specifically asked for. If we take that as the bar for measuring success, the 2024 amendments were not adequate.

Third, I think the real measure of success is whether we have adequate funding that Maury County needs. We have transportation needs in Maury County that justify the State of Tennessee breaking its long-standing taboo of “no state road debt” to ensure that TDOT is not wasting years and decades while our residents sit in traffic jams.

- 7. What does thoughtful and sustainable growth in Maury County look like to you?**

To me, thoughtful and sustainable growth means that every new family and new business moving into Maury County should have the same opportunity, freedom, and dignity that our current residents have – but at a marginally lower per-person environmental impact and cost to our public services.

We need more alternatives to quarter-acre single-family home subdivisions, such as apartment and duplexes. The grass in rural Maury County ought to be eaten by cows and mules, not by developers and lawnmowers.

- 8. Quality education and a diverse workforce are vital for the successful growth of Maury County and its municipalities. If elected, how would you improve these areas?**

We must protect our public schools, not privatize them. I am strongly against universal school vouchers, which will undermine Maury County Public Schools by taking money out of your child’s classroom to subsidize private schools. The proposals floated in the General Assembly and by Governor Lee are like those tried in several other states, blowing up budgets while mostly benefitting wealthier families already sending their children to private schools. If voucher proponents care about “kids trapped in failing schools,” then we need to improve our public schools rather than abandon them!

We should continue to improve teacher pay and benefits. The House voucher bill contained

several worthy ideas that would have helped teachers—these should be considered in a standalone bill rather than as part of a cursed bargain. Pay and benefits are important for recruiting and retaining the best teachers. We must also let teachers teach, stop grinding culture war axes, and exercise caution about over-emphasizing standardized tests.

The General Assembly must ensure adequate local and state funding and should also continue acceptance of federal grants. These grants help us fund educate of children with special-needs, career and technical education (CTE), and school lunch programs.

We must remember that not all students are headed to flagship universities. That is why we must equitably fund Tennessee State University, community colleges, and TCAT schools. We should also support and expand CTE programs so that we can help train more career-ready graduates.

With regard to diversity, I think it is important that the General Assembly focus on issues we all care about (such as education and growth) and stop stoking culture war nonsense. I'd be happy to speak to folks personally if they need to have this point clarified, but suffice it to say we are losing out on some very talented people because of misguided legislation.

9. How do you plan to communicate with, and be available to, your constituents?

As a candidate, I have worked hard to build relationships and make myself present in all five counties in the 28th District. I believe one-on-one communication is important, and I look forward to making time for constituents to discuss their issues in person, on the phone, or by e-mail. I also believe it's important to hold community town hall meetings several times a year. Broader approaches such as social media, newspaper columns, and newsletters are also important, but having personal contact is key to building trust.

10. What does a successful term look like to you?

I will consider my term in office a success if, in four years, we have a state that is not only more prosperous but also fairer and more welcoming. I will consider my term a success if more people have health insurance and fewer children die from gunshot wounds.

11. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to make Maury County the best place to live and work?

In any community, the Chamber of Commerce is an important source of forward-looking ideas. Businesspeople are often some of the most progressive, pragmatic, and serious thinkers in their communities. I look forward to meeting regularly with Maury Alliance members and learning about your visions for bettering yourselves, your families, and your employees.

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TN REPRESENTATIVE - DISTRICT 64
SCOTT CEPICKY



1. Why are you running for this position?

I will continue serving the people of Maury County representing our Conservative values.

2. What specific experience and qualifications do you have that make you the ideal candidate for this position?

Over the last 6 six years I have built a reputation of respect in the General Assembly. This benefits Maury county greatly being able to secure needed funds for our County.

3. What do you see as the top challenges for Maury County and how do you plan to contribute to addressing those?

Education and Growth are two of the main challenges. We must have the best educational system for our students and we need to be careful with our growth and what is approved locally.

4. What do you see as the top opportunities for Maury County and how do you plan to utilize those to move our community forward?

We need a new water resource in Maury County and that will be a focus in the next General Assembly as to how we are going to address that need.

5. How do you plan to work collaboratively within the Tennessee General Assembly to ensure the decisions being made are in the best interest of Maury County as a whole?

I have built a level a respect in the General Assembly that allows our County to receive the grants we need to continue providing a great living experience for our citizens.

6. With the growth facing Maury County, we are in great need of additional, and diversified, revenue streams to help fund the infrastructure to support the inevitable growth. Last session, legislation was passed to allow high growth County Governments to implement certain fees to assist with infrastructure related to growth. Do you feel this is an adequate solution? Why or why not?

I feel this is adequate as long as the local governments approve and spend money wisely. We need to make good decisions at the local level that will benefit all our citizens.

7. What does thoughtful and sustainable growth in Maury County look like to you?

We need to make decisions at a local level that does not overburden the infrastructure system in our County. We need to be thoughtful as to what businesses we incentivize to come to Maury

County.

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

Over the last 6 years as chairman of education we will continue working to improve the educational system in Tennessee. All students must be challenged to engage in education so that we get the best qualified and educated student to give them multiple options in employment decisions.

9. How do you plan to communicate with, and be available to, your constituents?

I do weekly videos on what is happening in the General Assembly. I also speak at many events around the County. We have Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

10. What does a successful term look like to you?

We need to continue making Tennessee and Maury County the best place to work. Live and raise a family.

11. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to make Maury County the best place to live and work?

If the Alliance needs something I am sure they will ask. I am unaware of anything that has been asked of me over the last 6 years that we have not addressed.

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TN REPRESENTATIVE - DISTRICT 64 **EILEEN LONGSTREET**



1. Why are you running for this position?

To help the people Maury County in identifiable ways:

- A. To get more money for Maury County schools with an emphasis on Title 1 schools. To work hard to design after-school tutoring programs for 1st and 2nd grade students at risk of not being able to read by 3rd grade
- B. To work on getting guns laws improved to protect our children, teachers and other innocents from AR-15s and any emerging military-style guns to be sold on the open market.
- C. To get legislation passed to limit fees charged to the uninsured by hospitals, doctors, labs and related medical supply organizations to the average fee "allowable" for payment by an insurance company and/or Medicare.
- D. To get Medicaid expanded to encompass all working people with salaries that are not sufficient to purchase insurance in the marketplace and are not eligible under current Medicaid rules unless they are unemployed or effectively living in poverty
- E. To get grant money from the State of Tn to develop temporary and reimbursable assistance to Veterans who are unable to obtain needed equipment in a timely manner
- F. To push for all human beings regardless of race, gender identification, lack of confirmed gender identification, homosexual, or fluid gender to be accepted equally as part of the human race.

2. What specific experience and qualifications do you have that make you the ideal candidate for this position?

35 years in the health care and health insurance industries including senior management roles and consultancy roles; expert testimony to US Senate healthcare Committee, 1999; Board membership in a publicly traded health care company (WellCare); 3.5 years executive leadership of a non-profit serving seniors; 11 years as volunteer-reading tutor of 1st and 2nd graders; Meals on Wheels delivery for 7 years; Treasurer of my Homeowners association; and pleasure in helping others

3. What do you see as the top challenges for Maury County and how do you plan to contribute to addressing those?

- A. Addressing School infrastructure, including more schools for Maury County by redirecting State money from business tax breaks to children's education
- B. Establishing community programs to support tutoring of first and second graders reading ability to create reading fluency by third grade.
- C. Properly assessing the value of Charter Schools and other private schools funded by the State of Tn in terms of purely academic achievement of children and outcomes of certain methods of teaching rather than using meaningless statistics.
- D. Taking the politics out of decisions to fund charter schools and vouchers. Hiring qualified consultants to lead the evaluation of the total of the Tn elementary school system; addressing the

evaluation of secondary schools at a later time. Elementary schools should be the start of the process of fixing the schools. Keeping AS MUCH OF THOSE TAXES IN OUR COMMUNITY (or getting them back from the State) IS PARAMOUNT FOR SUCCESS. Without an educated population nothing can succeed and poverty persists.

4. What do you see as the top opportunities for Maury County and how do you plan to utilize those to move our community forward?

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5. How do you plan to work collaboratively within the Tennessee General Assembly to ensure the decisions being made are in the best interest of Maury County as a whole?

I have the ability to talk with people whose ideas are different from mine. I have the ability to listen closely to theirs; I have the ability to foster others' listening to my ideas. Respect is paramount. This is what softens resistance over time. It doesn't guarantee results but it can ultimately engender the respect that can LEAD to compromise.

6. With the growth facing Maury County, we are in great need of additional, and diversified, revenue streams to help fund the infrastructure to support the inevitable growth. Last session, legislation was passed to allow high growth County Governments to implement certain fees to assist with infrastructure related to growth. Do you feel this is an adequate solution? Why or why not?

I have not studied the subject yet to be able to answer this question. Taxes are low here however tax increases are never popular. The Sales Tax in the State of Tn is regressive. It hits the poor the hardest. It is time to be able to offer reasonable tax breaks to small businesses and less generous ones to large businesses. It is time to focus on businesses who will hire the people with the kind of skills Maury county citizens have now, even if those skills are not adequate for some types of larger businesses. How to generate infrastructure revenues should largely be the responsibility of City and County planning and implementation. Municipal agencies have been too late to increase utility fees thus creating dissatisfaction. Fees should increase with 'cost of living' increases.

7. What does thoughtful and sustainable growth in Maury County look like to you?

A. Good solid planning and time-sensitive implementation and periodic adjustments as the environment changes.

This is good business practice. Government should be run like a business that serves the people fairly, adequately, in a timely manner, with minimum bureaucracy. Adequate roads, improved safety measures for the increasing traffic, maximizing traffic tickets and violations by drivers and truck drivers to increase county revenues.

B. Implementing auto inspection again to get unregistered, expired registration, dangerously impaired automobiles, and poor attention to good driving practices remedied and to produce additional income. Being a friendly town doesn't mean ignoring revenue opportunities. Communities thrive on order.

C. Ending the prolific licensing of new housing construction prior to having adequate roads and

bridges

D. Improving schools to attract and retain population growth, and do so with much better teacher pay.

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

A. The City and County are responsible for providing adequate funds, in addition to the state funds, for education. They should actually PROVIDE the needed funding, as should the State.

B. Maury County is already diverse. Its workforce is diverse. The actual respect for diversity on the part of employers and public officials goes a long way to promote diversity.

9. How do you plan to communicate with, and be available to, your constituents?

Email, Text, Monthly, newsletter, continuing to communicate with constituents even when Assembly is not in session.

10. What does a successful term look like to you?

Please refer to all of the above.

11. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to make Maury County the best place to live and work?

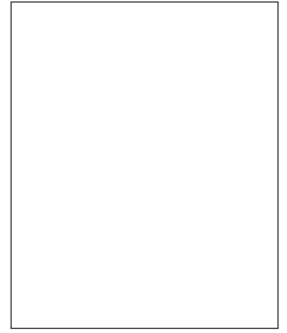
Staying in touch with leaders and having them keep me in the know about local issues that are emerging and affect Maury County. A monthly newsletter to inform Maury County Chamber of what I'm working on. Having Maury County Chamber, City and County inform me of what they are "hearing from residents".

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TN REPRESENTATIVE - DISTRICT 71
KIP CAPLEY

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED.

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TN REPRESENTATIVE - DISTRICT 71 **TIM COY**



1. Why are you running for this position?

After I had a chance to visit our Capital and saw first hand how the controlling party was treating their opposition I could not just sit back and do nothing. From the Tennessee three being ejected to the silencing of the voices of the Covenant Moms, enough was enough!

2. What specific experience and qualifications do you have that make you the ideal candidate for this position?

Ever since I got out of the Army I have worked in factories. I worked my way up from a line worker to a welder, a machinist and into the Engineering Department. I have run small departments, all the way up to the entire production floor. Now I have a small business myself. I know the challenges of every aspect of business.

3. What do you see as the top challenges for Maury County and how do you plan to contribute to addressing those?

Health care costs have sky rocketed and they need to be addressed. Women need to be able to make their own choices about their health, the Draconian laws in Tennessee are literally killing our women. Big corporations are getting big tax cuts at the expense of the every day working class people. We need to stop the voucher scam and get better funding to our public schools. We need common sense gun control laws in place so we can protect our children and feel safe in our own neighborhoods.

4. What do you see as the top opportunities for Maury County and how do you plan to utilize those to move our community forward?

Maury County is a beautiful place and we need to work to keep divisive forces out of our community. We should keep the community open and inviting to all kinds of folks.

5. How do you plan to work collaboratively within the Tennessee General Assembly to ensure the decisions being made are in the best interest of Maury County as a whole?

Collaboration to me, means looking at data from current research and using that to form the basis of any law, in the sense that we know before enacting laws who or what could possibly be impacted. The collaboration comes from working to find the best way to positively impact the greatest number of people.

6. With the growth facing Maury County, we are in great need of additional, and diversified, revenue streams to help fund the infrastructure to support the inevitable growth. Last session, legislation was passed to allow high growth County Governments to implement certain fees

to assist with infrastructure related to growth. Do you feel this is an adequate solution? Why or why not?

County Powers Relief Act Has not kept up with the cost of living for Maury County. The growth that we have seen has been amazing! We need fresh ideas and open minds on how to keep the infrastructure growing to support the people and businesses coming to the area.

7. What does thoughtful and sustainable growth in Maury County look like to you?

Growth needs to look future forward, with planning for needs beyond the current ones. These plans need to be economically maintainable – to benefit our residents and environmentally sustainable – to benefit our future

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

I plan on fighting any Voucher Scam that may come out and support our Public schools and teachers. I went to a Community College myself to improve my work skills and I encourage anyone who wants to improve themselves to find the right pathway that works for their life goals, If that is a Community College , Tech School or pursuing a higher degree.

9. How do you plan to communicate with, and be available to, your constituents?

I believe in an open door, I want to be available to calls, emails, text messages as well as being out in the public places where ever people gather to discuss their issues.

10. What does a successful term look like to you?

I want to see an environment formed where all voices are heard and where the best interests of the people are served, not those of the big corporations and lobbyists.

11. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to make Maury County the best place to live and work?

I would start by addressing their needs and building upon their expertise. I believe in allowing the people to provide insight, input and feedback throughout the process, and allowing our local governments to govern as they do best!

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COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL - WARD 1 DEVENA HARDISON



1. Why are you running for this position?

I am running for this position because I have a passion for serving the community. 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 encourage more involvement of Columbia citizens and to continue to be a part of the change I want to see in my community. I want to be a strong voice for my neighbors to get concerns answered and assist in getting problems resolved. This includes also being transparent with my community about available resources and updates on their concerns are paramount.

2. What specific experience and qualifications do you have that make you the ideal candidate for this position?

I am a member of a dynamic leadership team in the nursing profession. This role has allowed me to make critical decisions that can impact over 100 individuals. I too hold a seat as a board member for a prestige group who provides services to multiple governing bodies throughout Tennessee. 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. What do you see as the top challenges for Columbia and how do you plan to contribute to addressing those?

Liveability and growth in the city, homelessness, and educational improvements. These areas provide challenges for the city of Columbia but will not defeat the citizens. I plan to acknowledge that there is a concern in all three of these areas. Working together and brainstorming with others on the council and commissioning board we can put resources together to work toward addressing these challenges.

4. What do you see as the top opportunities for Columbia and how do you plan to utilize those to move our community forward?

Top opportunities for the city of Columbia include enhancing green projects, downtown revitalization expanding to each side of the city, and investing more in public safety needs. Introducing more green projects within the city include but are not limited to reducing emission, energy efficiency with building upgrades, and increasing recycling opportunities throughout the city. Downtown revitalizations are in place and continue to take place. This revitalization should be encouraged to extend beyond North Garden Street. Public safety projects continue to be upgraded. Fire and police equipment and training courses are encouraged to keep up with innovative ways to care for and protect the citizens of Columbia.

All of these opportunities can not be done solely by myself. I would collaborate with all other councilmembers, the vice mayor, and the mayor and the departments within the city of Columbia to move our community forward.

5. How do you plan to work collaboratively with each municipality and the county to ensure the decisions being made are in the best interest of Maury County as a whole?

Having quarterly meetings with all municipalities is one way to collaborate. This allows for the goals of the city to be understood and discussed amongst all.

6. Columbia is located in one of the fastest growing areas in the state and country. This tremendous growth will require new and improved infrastructure (i.e., schools, roads, water, etc.). How do you plan to provide these infrastructure improvements, including any required funding?

The city of Columbia has done a great job of preparing for further infrastructure needs. There are still improvements that need to be done in collaboration on a city and county level. One of many improvements to prepare for future growth within the city includes the wastewater treatment plant expansion, the increasing number of water pump stations throughout the city to provide service for current and future city residents. Funding has the opportunity to be available through conservative spending and grants. The city of Columbia has done a great job with financial budgeting and still providing needs to the citizens of Columbia.

7. What does thoughtful and sustainable growth in Columbia look like to you?

Thoughtful and sustainable growth looks like being aware of the influx of residents. Preparing for ways to support all the needs of the increasing residents. Being aware of areas in which the city can improve is the first step to prepare and be ready for the current and future growth of the city.

8. How do you plan to communicate with, and be available to, your constituents?

I believe that being available to constituents is vital. Various ways in which I would communicate would be in person, by phone, or by email. Social media is a great platform to get information out to the city of Columbia as a whole. These available avenues are able to be tailored based on the constituents preference.

9. What does a successful term look like to you?

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 are proud of the growth while still keeping the suburban/country life we enjoy in Maury County. Being able to have a continual relationship and collaboration with other governing bodies within the city.

10. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to make Maury County the best place to live and work?

I plan on partnering with the Maury County Chamber and Economic Alliance by sharing the needs of Maury county residents to make the city of Columbia and Maury County a priority.

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COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL - WARD 1

ROBERT PLAGEMAN



1. Why are you running for this position?

Since settling in Columbia and becoming part of this community, I've been eager to give back and contribute to its development. As a veteran of the US Navy for almost 9 years, I am committed to finding ways to continue serving my community. Raising my family here has deepened my appreciation for what this town offers, and I want to ensure it remains a vibrant and welcoming place for future generations. I believe in the potential of this community and want to work together to create an environment where families can thrive and feel supported.

2. What specific experience and qualifications do you have that make you the ideal candidate for this position?

My diverse background makes me an ideal candidate for this position. As a veteran of the US Navy, I bring discipline and leadership, sharpened through my experience in nuclear engineering and recruiting. I've worked as an ERP consultant and data analyst, gaining expertise in data analysis and process improvement. With my project management certification and experience leading teams, along with an MBA and ongoing studies in applied business analytics, I am committed to using my skills to benefit our community.

3. What do you see as the top challenges for Columbia and how do you plan to contribute to addressing those?

The top challenges for Columbia include fostering economic development, improving infrastructure, ensuring public safety, and maintaining fiscal responsibility. To address economic development, I am committed to creating a business-friendly environment by supporting local entrepreneurs through different incentives and reducing burdens, which will stimulate job creation. For infrastructure, I advocate for a strategic approach to maintaining and upgrading existing systems, prioritizing projects that deliver clear community benefits. Furthermore, public safety is crucial as we grow, and I support adequate funding for law enforcement while emphasizing transparency and effective crime prevention initiatives. Finally, I recognize the importance of fiscal responsibility; I am committed to a balanced budget that wisely manages taxpayer funds and prioritizes sustainable expenditures, ensuring Columbia remains financially healthy and able to meet its community's needs. Together, these strategies will help address Columbia's challenges and contribute to its growth and well-being.

4. What do you see as the top opportunities for Columbia and how do you plan to utilize those to move our community forward?

I see several key opportunities for Columbia that can propel our community forward. First, the continual growth of small businesses is essential; by fostering a supportive environment through tax incentives and streamlined regulations, we can empower local entrepreneurs to thrive, which

in turn will create jobs and enhance our local economy. Second, there is significant potential for strong economic growth and development if approached strategically. By prioritizing smart planning and sustainable practices, we can attract new businesses while ensuring that our community's needs are met. Lastly, the greatest asset Columbia has is its people. Engaging residents in the decision-making process and harnessing their diverse talents and ideas will strengthen our community bonds and lead to innovative solutions.

5. How do you plan to work collaboratively with each municipality and the county to ensure the decisions being made are in the best interest of Maury County as a whole?

To ensure decisions are in the best interest of Maury County, I plan to foster strong collaborative relationships with each municipality through open communication and engagement. This approach will help align our goals and facilitate joint initiatives that leverage resources for greater impact. By prioritizing transparency and inclusivity, we can build trust and create effective solutions that serve all Maury County residents.

6. Columbia is located in one of the fastest growing areas in the state and country. This tremendous growth will require new and improved infrastructure (i.e., schools, roads, water, etc.). How do you plan to provide these infrastructure improvements, including any required funding?

As Columbia experiences rapid growth, it is essential to approach infrastructure improvements with fiscal responsibility and strategic planning. I advocate for prioritizing necessary projects that align with our community's needs while ensuring we do not overextend our budget. To fund these improvements, I propose exploring public-private partnerships that can leverage private investment to alleviate the burden on taxpayers. Additionally, we should seek state and federal grants specifically designed for infrastructure projects, allowing us to enhance our roads, schools, and utilities without raising local taxes. By carefully managing our resources and focusing on sustainable growth, we can ensure that Columbia's infrastructure meets the demands of our expanding community.

7. What does thoughtful and sustainable growth in Columbia look like to you?

Thoughtful and sustainable growth in Columbia means balancing development with the preservation of our community's character and resources. It involves strategic planning that prioritizes infrastructure improvements, green spaces, and affordable housing while supporting local businesses. By engaging residents in the decision-making process, we can ensure that growth benefits everyone and enhances the quality of life for all Columbia residents.

8. How do you plan to communicate with, and be available to, your constituents?

I plan to communicate with my constituents through our regular city council meetings and social media accounts, ensuring open dialogue and feedback. Additionally, leveraging social media will allow me to keep residents informed and make myself available for one-on-one conversations to address their concerns directly.

9. What does a successful term look like to you?

A successful term for me means achieving balanced growth that does not overburden our current systems while fostering a thriving environment for small businesses to flourish. I envision continual support for existing small businesses and the successful launch of new ones, alongside the creation of Accessory Commercial Units (ACUs) and Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) to enhance our community's vibrancy and diversity.

10. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to make Maury County the best place to live and work?

If elected, I will collaborate with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to support local businesses and attract new investment. Together, we can develop strategies for workforce development and enhance networking opportunities to ensure Maury County remains a vibrant place to live and work.

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COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL - WARD 1 **MICHAEL KUZAWINSKI**



1. Why are you running for this position?

A couple of reasons. One, because I've had several people ask me to get involved in local government again. Second and more importantly, because I want to do my part to ensure Columbia remains a great place to raise a family for many generations.

2. What specific experience and qualifications do you have that make you the ideal candidate for this position?

City Council is all about customer service, with the constituents being our customers. I've built my businesses around customer service, and plan to bring the same environment to City Hall.

I am confident that I can bring positive, respectful discussion and debate, even on issues where not everyone will be in agreement.

3. What do you see as the top challenges for Columbia and how do you plan to contribute to addressing those?

The top challenge is definitely infrastructure, with water supply dominating that category. The only way I see to immediately address this issue is with common sense and logic as opposed to making plans based on emotions or financial gains.

4. What do you see as the top opportunities for Columbia and how do you plan to utilize those to move our community forward?

People love Columbia and it's no secret they've moved here for a reason. It's imperative that we keep the heritage and nostalgia that we love about our community while improving the way of life for our citizens.

5. How do you plan to work collaboratively with each municipality and the county to ensure the decisions being made are in the best interest of Maury County as a whole?

Conversation, conversation, conversation. We must keep our doors of communication open and transparent between all, including our constituents, the county, other nearby cities, the school board, and any other dealings we have.

6. Columbia is located in one of the fastest growing areas in the state and country. This tremendous growth will require new and improved infrastructure (i.e., schools, roads, water, etc.). How do you plan to provide these infrastructure improvements, including any required funding?

Taking care of our current citizens is number one. We must provide proper service to them for the tax dollars they are already spending. Our city is obviously in decent shape financially since they are able to approve a 5% raise without tax cuts. We've seen numerous additions to the city, in the way of beautification and upgrades, however our citizens still deal with traffic and safety issues on the roads. We need to shift our focus to our "customers" and provide services to them that they deem important use of their tax dollars.

7. What does thoughtful and sustainable growth in Columbia look like to you?

Very simply prepare and have it in place before we need it. We cannot continue to just draw in rooftops in order to draw in tax dollars. We need to have water supply, adequate roads, schools, etc. in place before we bring in more rooftops. It must be done in order to be thoughtful and sustainable.

8. How do you plan to communicate with, and be available to, your constituents?

I am very reachable via phone, email, social media currently. I also plan to hold a town hall meeting once a month in my ward, to make myself available to my constituents who may want to talk face to face.

9. What does a successful term look like to you?

- Customers aka constituents, who are satisfied that their voice was heard and represented in city hall.
- Halt unsustainable and uncontrolled growth.
- Securing a viable, sustainable, responsible water source for generations, without the added pressure on citizens to face a water conservation ordinance.
- Improve, and expand as necessary, the road system in Columbia.
- Make owning a business in Columbia easier, more pleasant, less confusing, with less government involvement.
- Revisit and revise city codes and ordinances that cause division among the citizens.

10. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to make Maury County the best place to live and work?

The Maury Alliance has proven to be a valuable asset to our community.

By proving that Columbia is: supportive of business, makes decisions to protect our resources long term, proactive on our road systems, and eager to give the citizens of Columbia the services they need and deserve; we can strengthen the Alliance's confidence in "selling Columbia".

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COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL - WARD 2

DEBORAH WILES



1. Why are you running for this position?

I have been grateful for the opportunity to serve our community since being appointed to the City Council after my husband, Ken Wiles, passed away in 2022. I am thankful to be part of a growing, dynamic community and am committed to helping Columbia succeed as we move into the future.

2. What specific experience and qualifications do you have that make you the ideal candidate for this position?

I have been involved in our community since moving to Columbia in 1972. I served for 37 years in Maury County Schools as both a teacher and a district administrator. I participated in and led accreditation review teams for numerous schools and school districts within Tennessee and other states as well. Additionally, I have taught graduate courses at Tennessee State, Middle Tennessee, Lipscomb, and Freed Hardeman Universities. I've also been very involved with my church over the years. While servicing on City Council, I've seen first-hand how our local government operates and have been involved in important decisions to help Columbia.

3. What do you see as the top challenges for Columbia and how do you plan to contribute to addressing those?

We want to continue to manage our growth in a way that benefits all of Columbia. An example is our new \$97 million wastewater treatment plant now under construction. We recently saved \$10.5 million on the borrowing for the new facility. Whenever you can save money for our citizens, that's good government.

4. What do you see as the top opportunities for Columbia and how do you plan to utilize those to move our community forward?

Columbia is becoming a destination city. We want to continue to promote our community as a great place to visit but also ensure that it remains a great place to live.

5. How do you plan to work collaboratively with each municipality and the county to ensure the decisions being made are in the best interest of Maury County as a whole?

I recently voted to waive \$325,000 in city building fees for the new Maury County Justice Center and County Archives. The reason I voted for these savings is because Columbia taxpayers are also Maury County taxpayers. I will continue working with our new County Chairman and County Mayor in the future.

6. Columbia is located in one of the fastest growing areas in the state and country. This tremendous growth will require new and improved infrastructure (i.e., schools, roads, water,

etc.). **How do you plan to provide these infrastructure improvements, including any required funding?**

The city recently approved the construction of a new \$97 million wastewater treatment plant to replace our 40-year-old plant and also accommodate growth. We also recently applied for a Tennessee Department of Transportation grant to expand the lanes on Bear Creek Pike and pledged \$10 million to cost share this much needed transportation project. We have also earmarked approximately \$9 million in state and federal funds to redesign and build a new intersection at US 412 (Nashville Highway/Bear Creek Pike intersection) to better accommodate traffic. Finally, CPWS is in the final stage of beginning the renovation and expansion of our water treatment plant on Nashville Highway to accommodate future growth as well.

7. What does thoughtful and sustainable growth in Columbia look like to you?

Smart growth to me is the type of growth that does not take away from Columbia's charm and hometown hospitality. We have a wonderful, historic downtown that we want to protect for future generations. I have loved this community from the time I arrived, am thankful to have raised two children in our family friendly city, and want to continue serving on the Council to help maintain and enhance the qualities we all love about our city.

8. How do you plan to communicate with, and be available to, your constituents?

I will continue to be visible in and around the community and while participating in local events. I can also be contacted digitally via city email, text, and social media. A link to my city email can be found at <https://www.columbiatn.gov/777/Councilwoman-Debbie-Wiles> and my phone number is available by calling 931.560.1510 or messaging me at Facebook/Deborah Wiles. If I have left out your favored contact method, please don't hesitate to let me know.

9. What does a successful term look like to you?

We have a lot of projects underway or are planning to initiate. By the end of the term, I would like to see our new splash pad completed, Bear Creek Pike widened, the new Wastewater Treatment Plant built and gone into operation, Fire Station One renovation and expansion completed, Public Works facility expanded to provide sheltered storage for all equipment to extend longevity, Parks and Recreation improvements and additional recreational opportunities such as pickle ball courts constructed, and other items as need or opportunity arises to enhance the community in which we live.

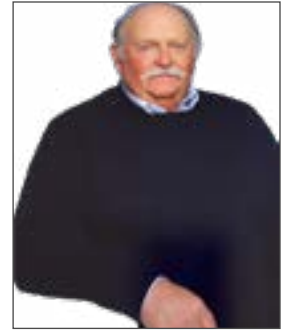
10. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to make Maury County the best place to live and work?

The City of Columbia financially supports Maury Alliance annually and I will continue to support this partnership. I dedicate significant time to supporting their important efforts, including attending monthly coffees, ribbon cuttings for new businesses, and attending events such as the recently held Education Luncheon.

I was introduced to the work of Maury Alliance and its collaboration with county and city government as a member of Leadership Maury in 1993. I also conducted an extensive survey of the business community for the Alliance prior to 2000 to identify the essential skills needed by graduates of Maury County Schools to successfully move into secondary education or careers. Inclusion of the results were clearly seen in the conversation and current programming in Maury County Schools. I later served on what was then called the Education/Community/Business Committee for Maury Alliance. I have seen firsthand how important this partnership is for maintaining Maury County as the best place to live and work, and will continue to support it.

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COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL - WARD 2 **CHARLES HUFFMAN**



1. Why are you running for this position?

I am a lifelong resident of Columbia having worked my entire life to make Columbia a great place. I'm retired and have the time to fully focus on our community.

2. What specific experience and qualifications do you have that make you the ideal candidate for this position?

As a lifelong resident of Columbia and 41 years of dedicated service with Columbia Power and Water Systems, I know our community. I know about infrastructure and what it takes to make sure Columbia is ready now and for the future. Power, water, and roadways are essential in city government and for our community to thrive, I have the experience to address these issues and prepare Columbia for the future.

3. What do you see as the top challenges for Columbia and how do you plan to contribute to addressing those?

Growth- infrastructure is key and preparation is a must when planning for the future.
Traffic- residents are frustrated with traffic. Our citizens are calling upon the officials to control the massive growth occurring within our community.
Water and Power Supply- we must maintain our power and water supply. As a retired member of Columbia Power and Water Systems, I have the knowledge and experience when dealing with these issues.

4. What do you see as the top opportunities for Columbia and how do you plan to utilize those to move our community forward?

Location allows us many opportunities between Nashville and Huntsville. I believe we must invest in infrastructure projects with our tax dollars. The Columbia economy is doing well and we have a great education system. Together we must focus on the challenging issues and address the top challenges mentioned. Growth, Traffic, Water Supply.

5. How do you plan to work collaboratively with each municipality and the county to ensure the decisions being made are in the best interest of Maury County as a whole?

We need to meet with the elected officials from Mt. Pleasant and Spring Hill to understand the issues they are dealing with and how they plan to handle them. I will work with local, state, and federal leaders to see that we address the problems and challenges facing Columbia. Good communication between city and county leaders is important to the success of Maury County and Columbia.

- 6. Columbia is located in one of the fastest growing areas in the state and country. This tremendous growth will require new and improved infrastructure (i.e., schools, roads, water, etc.). How do you plan to provide these infrastructure improvements, including any required funding?**

I will work together with all members of the city council to address these issues and concerns. It is important that we work with our county commissioner, School boards. And power companies to address the growth occurring.

- 7. What does thoughtful and sustainable growth in Columbia look like to you?**

Control growth with infrastructure funding. Make sure adequate funding and planning takes place before large developments are approved with shared input from all.

- 8. How do you plan to communicate with, and be available to, your constituents?**

My phone number and contact information will be available to the public. I will communicate effectively with our marketing team at city hall to make sure all forms of communication are successful to our citizens.

- 9. What does a successful term look like to you?**

Solving problems, addressing, concerns, and achieving goals set by management, community and elected leaders.

- 10. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to make Maury County the best place to live and work?**

Be a good communicator and always available to answer questions and concerns.

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COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL - WARD 3 CHERYL SECREST



1. Why are you running for this position?

To give the residents in the 3rd ward a presence and voice so as to keep them informed of decisions and happenings in the City, County, and their Community.

2. What specific experience and qualifications do you have that make you the ideal candidate for this position?

I am a Board Member for Columbia Peace and Justice Initiative.

I serve on the Habitat for Humanity Home Selection Committee.

I hold the office of Phylactor (Bylaws) for Psi Phi Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated.

I am a member of the Maury County Branch of the NAACP.

I am the Charger Childcare Coordinator at Columbia State Community College.

I am an Executive Board Member for the Maury County Democratic Party.

I attend Mosaic Church, a multicultural service oriented church.

I am the owner of Cheryl Secrest Services.

All the above are service organizations. I love helping and working with others for the better good.

3. What do you see as the top challenges for Columbia and how do you plan to contribute to addressing those?

Collaboration of residents in all wards. By keeping the residents of the 3rd Ward informed of the events, programs, and meetings for the city and county so they will have input and a voice in decisions, especially those involving the 3rd Ward.

4. What do you see as the top opportunities for Columbia and how do you plan to utilize those to move our community forward?

To utilize or redevelop abandoned buildings for low income housing and to provide places to hold activities for the youth, teenagers, and young adults.

5. How do you plan to work collaboratively with each municipality and the county to ensure the decisions being made are in the best interest of Maury County as a whole?

By making myself available for meetings and events whether for the city or the county as deemed necessary.

6. Columbia is located in one of the fastest growing areas in the state and country. This tremendous growth will require new and improved infrastructure (i.e., schools, roads, water,

etc.). **How do you plan to provide these infrastructure improvements, including any required funding?**

By working with the other council members, city and county officials and reaching out to those who have helped in the past and developing new connections to obtain the necessary funding.

7. What does thoughtful and sustainable growth in Columbia look like to you?

Developing projects in the city and county that will benefit and serve all citizens in the city and rural areas.

8. How do you plan to communicate with, and be available to, your constituents?

My plan is to use social media, email, snail mail, to meet in-person and to encourage the residents in the 3rd ward to have a presence at the city and county meetings.

9. What does a successful term look like to you?

Keeping the residents updated and informed and to communicate and listen to other council members to keep the City of Columbia a welcoming place to visit and to live.

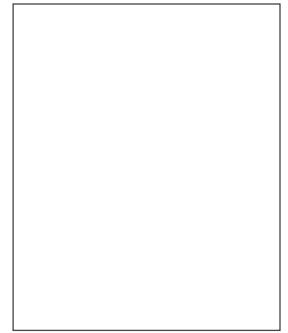
10. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to make Maury County the best place to live and work?

Being involved with the events that the Chamber hosts then sharing with the community and residents.

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COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL - WARD 3
CHRISTIAN LINARES

WITHDRAWN



1. Why are you running for this position?

Having lived here for 10 years, Columbia has tremendous potential to be a thriving community and one of Tennessee's best places to live. We have parks, a cute downtown, and a little buzz! We just need to make it all work together. I have seen good businesses come and go, and I want to help make Columbia more attractive for creative businesses and endeavors while also lifting up and helping underserved portions of our community..

2. What specific experience and qualifications do you have that make you the ideal candidate for this position?

I have been in branding and experience design for my entire career. As my day job, I lead and direct a User Experience design team. Columbia has so much to offer that we have not yet uncovered, and I want to use my design skills, leadership, and business acumen to help everyone experience Columbia better whether it is digitally or physically.

3. What do you see as the top challenges for Columbia and how do you plan to contribute to addressing those?

I see creative businesses and artisanal endeavors having a hard time staying, I also see portions of our community that are underserved. On one hand, we want "nice things" but on the other hand, we are neglecting improvements to what we have. We need equal effort towards people and infrastructure.

4. What do you see as the top opportunities for Columbia and how do you plan to utilize those to move our community forward?

I think our parks are some of the best in area, but are under utilized and not promoted enough. Yanali had a great master plan of creating a greenway to downtown, I would like to help make that happen and push that further to connect our parks and promote active lifestyles. I hear people saying "I dont want to turn into Franklin" and they have a point! No reason to be Franklin when it's only 30 mins away, however, I see us as a small version of Chattanooga because we are family-friendly, have an artisanal spirit, have plenty of outdoor recreation options and provides a little something for everyone.

5. How do you plan to work collaboratively with each municipality and the county to ensure the decisions being made are in the best interest of Maury County as a whole?

Collaboration is one of my strongest skill sets. However, this is only possible to answer directly once I meet everyone or understand who I will be working with. Communication is key to collaboration, and I look for ways to get what needs to get done.

WITHDRAWN

6. **Columbia is located in one of the fastest growing areas in the state and country. This tremendous growth will require new and improved infrastructure (i.e., schools, roads, water, etc.). How do you plan to provide these infrastructure improvements, including any required funding?**

I know this should be my soapbox question, but let's just keep it real. Honestly, let's hear what plans are coming and see what they have to say. Every project needs its own lens and can't be treated the same. I will say, that increasing taxes is not the only way to make this happen. I will be a proponent of standing by a "no increase in property taxes" unless it's fully justified with no perceived controversy.

7. **What does thoughtful and sustainable growth in Columbia look like to you?**

Being proactive with things before you need them. We need to look at the current trajectory and start building for Columbia 5-10 years from now instead of the Columbia we needed 5 years ago.

8. **How do you plan to communicate with, and be available to, your constituents?**

I will have a form on my site when it is up to subscribe for updates from me. I plan to at least send an update 2 times a month.

9. **What does a successful term look like to you?**

Having completed at least one thing my ward is advocating for. Government is a slow process. Hopefully, I can bring some efficiency to this process. But if we can't, knowing my Ward knows I am listening to them and advocating as much as possible for them is success to me.

10. **If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to make Maury County the best place to live and work?**

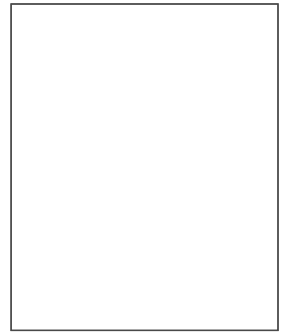
As I mentioned earlier, I am very collaborative, and I will use those skills to help contribute my vision and my ward's to make Columbia better.

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COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL - WARD 4
KENNETH PAUL MARSHALL

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED.

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COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL - WARD 5 **BRIAN MCKELVY**



1. Why are you running for this position?

I am running for City Council because I want to serve again for my community. I served as a county commissioner from 2018-2022 and while I learned a lot, there is more to learn and more to do for our community.

2. What specific experience and qualifications do you have that make you the ideal candidate for this position?

I am not sure there is an ideal candidate. We are all human and have different opinions. My whole career has been based on service. As a Nurse Anesthetist, I have served patients in the most critical time, during surgery. I also serve on the Board of the Maury County Historical Society, African American Heritage Society of Maury County and the Crossroads to Home Board. I served on the county commission on multiple committees- Budget Committee, Building Committee, Health & Environment Committee, Safety Committee, and Audit Committee. I was also appointed to be on the Public Records Commission and the Library Board. I will use these experiences to work hard for the betterment of Columbia.

3. What do you see as the top challenges for Columbia and how do you plan to contribute to addressing those?

When I go door to door and talk with people in Ward 5, the biggest topic is growth of Columbia and how it has grown too fast. As a county Commissioner, I went to the city planning and council meetings to take a stand against some of the growth plans. I won some and I lost some. I also have this feeling that Columbia is growing too fast. I would like to see more control on growth. I would like to see more collaboration between the City of Columbia and Maury County. It feels like there is a lack of cooperation between the city and county. I know when I was on the commission, the city and county worked together on some projects. I feel that this process has gone by the way side. Let's face it, what the city does affects the county and vice versa. There is a need to work together! When businesses are looking for places to move to, they look at the dynamics of the whole community; i.e. How do city and county interact, how do other municipalities interact with each other, How the schools interact with the County. All of this comes into play.

4. What do you see as the top opportunities for Columbia and how do you plan to utilize those to move our community forward?

I feel the greatest challenges and the greatest blessings in Maury County are the people of Maury County. Whether they have been here 5 generations or just moved here from California, these citizens bring their knowledge and experience to these challenges. We need to tap into that knowledge and experience base and get these folks engaged in the process to help tackle these issues. I have witnessed this first hand. There are folks on the Cross to Home Coalition. This group

of people are from all over the country and are citizens in Maury County working on the homeless issues of the county. It is an amazing experience to sit and listen the ideas and suggestions. New perspectives can generate new businesses and non-profits that can enhance the community.

5. How do you plan to work collaboratively with each municipality and the county to ensure the decisions being made are in the best interest of Maury County as a whole?

That is the trick, right?! Every decision that leaders make should be backed up by facts and statistics. Our community has the benefit of Maury Alliance and thriving companies that will help us determine what our needs are. Do the projections for growth among school-age children over the next 5-10 years warrant a new school? Two more? How much water is required from the Duck River to service our growth and industry? Is that amount sustainable to the river, and what conservation measures can be put into place to make sure the Duck River remains the most bio-diverse in North America? Bringing all the stakeholders to bear is what local government should be all about.

6. Columbia is located in one of the fastest growing areas in the state and country. This tremendous growth will require new and improved infrastructure (i.e., schools, roads, water, etc.). How do you plan to provide these infrastructure improvements, including any required funding?

As a county commissioner, the Commission tried to get legislation passed for an impact fee. These monies would be used for capital projects for the schools. This would have freed up money for roads, water, and other infrastructure needs. Unfortunately, the state legislature was not for this. The city has sewer impact fees which are dedicated to the new waste water treatment. There are also water impact fees. There are no impact fees for the general fund for the city. The city gets funded through sales tax, property tax, gas tax, grants, etc. So, when infrastructure has improved, revenue has to be generated, and unfortunately.... We as a city need to need to think outside of the box. After talking with CPWS, I think they are doing that with the new waste water treatment plant and the possible new water intake on the Duck River. I want to applaud Spring Hill for their pilot study to maximize their share of water, reusing waste water. They are the only city in the state of Tennessee trying this and I think it is a great idea. We have a lot of industry in Maury County, and I know of one company that 80% of their water usage is not returned as waste water. The industrial sector, which uses large amounts of water, should have a higher stake in the water sustainability and conservation issue.

As far as schools go, the county takes care of the schools. However, the city and the Maury County Public Schools (MCPS) need to communicate. I have talked with the MCPS and they are reporting the safety concerns to the city planner and how that relates to the school system. They also report the capacity rates to the city planners to remind them of the capacity of the school that will be affected by a development. I hope this communication continues.

Roads are funded through gas tax dollars and are matched by general fund dollars to the tune of about \$3 million dollars. I would want to see that increased somewhat.

7. What does thoughtful and sustainable growth in Columbia look like to you?

Sustainable growth should be just that...a level of growth that contributes in a positive manner to residential, commercial, and industrial growth. If any of those become a strain on the taxable

incomes of the people, that's a problem. If any of those deplete the environment, that's a problem. When education suffers, or if we see a rise in homelessness, those can be byproducts of unsustainable growth. As community leaders, it is our job to maintain positive levels of growth, and not be afraid to slow or increase growth as needed to ensure a favorable lifestyle for citizens.

8. How do you plan to communicate with, and be available to, your constituents?

My phone number and my e-mail will be available. While I was on the county commission, I consistently put on social media the agendas of all committee and commission meetings and answered questions about certain items on the agenda. That seemed to work well, and I will continue to do that as a city council member. I also want to hear from the constituents from my ward.

9. What does a successful term look like to you?

A successful term for me would be to make Columbia better than I found it. I want to build a bridge between the city and the county to make this community better. I want the city to pump the breaks a little bit on growth. I want to see more commercial projects to help with job growth. I want to work with all the entities of the city to make our city safer for everyone.

10. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to make Maury County the best place to live and work?

I know it seems I go back to when I was on the Commission, however, this experience has helped me so much in my understanding of how our local government works. The Maury Alliance always gave the commissioners reports on unemployment rates in the county, job growth rates, how many folks worked in health care, manufactory, etc. They also told us what was in the pipeline as far as industry goes. This was valuable information to use for planning for infrastructure, schools, etc. I value and will continue to use this information to make educated decisions that will affect Columbia.

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COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL - WARD 5 **CURRY ANDREW HART**



1. Why are you running for this position?

I'm running for City Council in Ward 5, because as the fastest growing ward in Columbia I feel an obligation to slow down the growth of Columbia so that we don't outgrow our infrastructure. I grew up in Spring Hill and I've seen firsthand what poor planning can do to a community.

2. What specific experience and qualifications do you have that make you the ideal candidate for this position?

Being newer to the political scene, I believe that I carry strong, faith-filled leadership skills. I feel confident when speaking the truth and expressing what I believe is in the best interest of the community.

3. What do you see as the top challenges for Columbia and how do you plan to contribute to addressing those?

I see the slowing down of growth in Columbia as the biggest challenge. We all know that we live in an incredibly special community, and nothing would hurt worse than to see too much growth too quickly.

4. What do you see as the top opportunities for Columbia and how do you plan to utilize those to move our community forward?

For Columbia, I believe in the right to have multi-use properties. If we can enable our community to start businesses in Accessory Commercial Units, I believe that will stimulate our economy in Columbia. And if we are able to provide Air BnB's through Accessory Dwelling Units, that only helps to attract out of town visitors to come to our town and spend their money in our town.

5. How do you plan to work collaboratively with each municipality and the county to ensure the decisions being made are in the best interest of Maury County as a whole?

I believe in working together as much as possible. We NEED to be communicating with our community and listening to the aches and pains they're experiencing. And my goal is to work together as much as possible with each municipality to help resolve these issues in our community.

6. Columbia is located in one of the fastest growing areas in the state and country. This tremendous growth will require new and improved infrastructure (i.e., schools, roads, water, etc.). How do you plan to provide these infrastructure improvements, including any required funding?

Being new to the political arena, I'm not 100% positive about how to tackle this one yet. I believe

that clarity will come if & when I get elected and after I begin to get into the trenches. My goal is to keep living expenses down for families as much as possible, while still helping our city have the funding that it needs. With everyone just trying to keep food on the table, I believe that fighting to lower our community's day to day expenses is crucial.

7. What does thoughtful and sustainable growth in Columbia look like to you?

I mentioned this at the last candidate forum, but I cannot begin to express how thankful I am to get to enjoy Mama Mila's Italian food, Bradley Mountain's coffee, get my haircut at Buffalo Co, etc etc. While growing up in Spring Hill, I saw countless chains come to town and how they drove out the mom and pop businesses around town. As a small business owner myself, I believe we have a responsibility to empower our local small businesses and fight to protect our community from having too many chains. Empowering our mom & pop business around town will help to keep growth slow and sustainable.

8. How do you plan to communicate with, and be available to, your constituents?

As important as being available to my constituents is, my first calling is to be a husband and a father. Part of that role includes running full steam in my own business as well. As long as I can keep the main things the main things, I am available to talk on the phone or email with my constituents. As needed, I also believe there may be in-person meetings from time to time, as well.

9. What does a successful term look like to you?

To me, a successful term looks like being a man who is an advocate for our community. If elected, I would absolutely love to look back at the end of my term and have a list of accomplishments that we collectively pushed for and put into place.

10. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to make Maury County the best place to live and work?

Even BEFORE getting elected, I need to join the Chamber and Alliance, especially as a small business owner. And then if elected, I believe that all of us as small business owners have an obligation to use our gifts and talents to give back to the community that we love so much. I would also love to explore ways for us to work together and honor our active duty troops and veterans here in town. I don't believe anything like that has been done in the past (I could be wrong).

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MT. PLEASANT CITY COMMISSION

LOREE KNOWLES



1. Why are you running for this position?

As a lifelong citizen of Mt. Pleasant, I can no longer sit back and not get involved. I feel I have strengths and resources to offer concerning some of the ongoing issues in Mt. Pleasant. I watched my father, Willie Baker, run this city for 12 years. There were lots of issues/problems that he dealt with daily, making the citizens of Mt. Pleasant feel safe living in an environment where they did not have to be as concerned about high water bills and taxes. I want to provide the same sense of ease with our citizens now. I can do this by being transparent and fair to everyone. I come with background, determination, empathy, and a goal to propel out city forward.

2. What specific experience and qualifications do you have that make you the ideal candidate for this position?

Former Chairperson for South Central Commission on Children and Youth, Former President for South Central Tennessee Alliance for Children and Families, Present Board of Directors for Boys and Girls Club, Present Chairperson for Maury County Community Advisory Board (CAB), Present Board member for City of Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreations.

I am the voice for children and families on a daily basis at my job and I am well qualified to be a voice for the citizens of Mt. Pleasant.

3. What do you see as the top challenges for Mt. Pleasant and how do you plan to contribute to addressing those?

There are 3 major challenges that neighbors have expressed and I am in full agreement.

1. Excessive water bills: water usage in Mt Pleasant went up years ago because of a law suit against the city of Mt. Pleasant's Water Plant. Since then, additional fees have been added to the bill contrary to the commission's promise to its citizens. In many instances, neighbors complain that their water bills are much higher than their power bills. This needs to change.
2. Rising taxes: The commission has stated previously there wasn't going to be an increase yet time again taxes have been raised without strict budgetary accountability. This has to change.
3. Youth activities: As a park and recreations board member for the city of Mt. Pleasant, I have consistently advocated upgrades to our parks for our neighborhood youth to have safe and revitalized parks. Additionally, as a Boys and Girls' Club board member, I advocated for a Mt. Pleasant location to focus on our youth; however, there is still more to be done. Our youth of all ages needs fun-safe outlets for youth activities. We need to continue to push forward with change.

4. What do you see as the top opportunities for Mt. Pleasant and how do you plan to utilize those to move our community forward?

In order for our city to grow, there has to be more living wage job opportunities to keep up with the cost of living. Recently there have been plants closings and many jobs are lost. There needs

to be more courting and recruiting of industries to replace those lost jobs. Mt Pleasant also needs more retail stores that will cater to Mt. Pleasants' demographics.

5. How do you plan to work collaboratively with each municipality and the county to ensure the decisions being made are in the best interest of Maury County as a whole?

Each of municipality has a chamber of commerce in addition to leadership Maury. It is the informational hub for retail and industrial industries. Additionally, Leadership Maury garners leader within the community to tour county businesses, develop relationships with leaders, and provides training for understanding municipality growth.

6. Mt. Pleasant is located in one of the fastest growing areas in the state and country. This tremendous growth will require new and improved infrastructure (i.e., schools, roads, water, etc.). How do you plan to provide these infrastructure improvements, including any required funding?

A full and complete review of budgetary resources that have been allocated for this fiscal year. I will focus on redundancy within the infrastructure to propose reallocation of funds in more needed areas and to eliminate waste. I would seek alternate funds through possible grants to provide additional resource that can be utilized to fill gaps within the budget.

7. What does thoughtful and sustainable growth in Mt. Pleasant look like to you?

You have to have a balance of available resources in order to have sustainable growth.

8. How do you plan to communicate with, and be available to, your constituents?

My intent is to utilize all media resources available to me including social media, phone calls, text messages, and personal conversations. My intent is to align with my neighbor's needs.

9. What does a successful term look like to you?

A successful term is cohesion amongst commissioners. A transparent and available commission, a balance budget, and a small-town comradery amongst our neighbors.

10. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to make Maury County the best place to live and work?

Each of municipality has a chamber of commerce in addition to leadership Maury. It is the informational hub for retail and industrial industries. Additionally, Leadership Maury garners leader within the community to tour county businesses, develop relationships with leaders, and provides training for understanding municipality growth.

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MT. PLEASANT CITY COMMISSION **JACQUELINE GRANDBERRY**



1. Why are you running for this position?

I am running for Mount Pleasant City Commissioner for another term is because I do not believe my work as a commissioner is complete. Over the past 8 years, I have had the honor of serving the community as Vice Mayor and City Commissioner. The stance I have taken to be a Voice for the residents of Mount Pleasant has been steadfast. I have worked tirelessly to improve our community by focusing on infrastructure improvements, revitalizing our city's parks, enhancing public services, and advocating for sustainable growth. My goal is to continue the revitalization of our tight net community while preserving its hometown charm.

2. What specific experience and qualifications do you have that make you the ideal candidate for this position?

I believe my love for Mt. Pleasant, governmental experience, and educational qualifications make the ideal candidate for position. I am a lifelong resident of Mount Pleasant. My children were raised in this community because I love my city. I am a 1974 graduate of Mount Pleasant High School. I am a 1976 graduate of Tennessee School of Nursing, and I have worked as a nurse for 32 years, and even then I enjoyed being a servant to my patients. I completed two years of Pre Law training at Columbia State Community College. I received certification in the Reality program for the first time youth offenders. In 2022, I completed the University of Tennessee Professional Leadership Program for municipal commissioners, MTAS Elected Officials Academy, Elected Officials Academy Municipal Operations, and many other MTAS training and conferences. And in 2024, I completed the MTAS Municipal Leadership academy. I firmly believe that continuing education courses are vital in adhering to the most current governmental policies and procedures as a commissioner when making decision for Mt. Pleasant.

3. What do you see as the top challenges for Mt. Pleasant and how do you plan to contribute to addressing those?

Mount Pleasant's top challenge is infrastructure. A vast majority of our streets are in poor condition that has caused tremendously wear and tear on our citizens vehicles. Many neighbors do not have adequate sidewalks. Our water and sewage systems are not adequately equipped to handle that growth that our city faces, and the amount residents pay for water is their number 1 complaint. There needs to be more diversity reflected in all areas of city government. Recently our city manager met with Maury Alliance and local water providers to discuss infrastructure and to identify additional water resources. This discussion included creating a regional water management plan that identifies water leaks and repairing those leaks as soon as possible. I will also continue to push for a 5 year strategic plan for the water, sewage, and eliminating budgetary waste for fund more street repair.

4. What do you see as the top opportunities for Mt. Pleasant and how do you plan to utilize those to move our community forward?

Our top opportunities for Mount Pleasant is the same as most Tennessee towns. It is growth. So many people are choosing to relocate in Tennessee, and more so in rural small towns like Mount Pleasant that still have that home town look and feel. Although we are pleased to have newcomers, we are beginning to experience the challenges associated with an influx of new residents as it relates to infrastructure. We are maneuvering through the infrastructure needs, changing culture, and varying expectations of our new residents.

Our goal is to keep Mount Pleasant attractive. This requires funding to meet the demands of our rapidly growing in population. Cherry Glen Industrial Park has supplied many new jobs and a new plant is opening soon with more jobs. This in turn will assist with the additional funds needed to overhaul the current infrastructure.

5. How do you plan to work collaboratively with each municipality and the county to ensure the decisions being made are in the best interest of Maury County as a whole?

I feel that it's important for municipalities, counties, and the state to work together so that we are all understand various perspectives and create solutions together. Our cities and towns thrive most when those around them do too. The choices we make will help the surrounding communities sustain and grow along with us. It will also strengthen their economies as ours. Mutual respect and working together is vital for a healthy municipalities and for the preservation of the character by which they are idealized.

6. Mt. Pleasant is located in one of the fastest growing areas in the state and country. This tremendous growth will require new and improved infrastructure (i.e., schools, roads, water, etc.). How do you plan to provide these infrastructure improvements, including any required funding?

As I have previously stated, an improved infrastructure is the key and most vital component to growth.

7. What does thoughtful and sustainable growth in Mt. Pleasant look like to you?

Thoughtful and sustainable growth in Mount Pleasant looks like to me is more small business uptown, improved streets and more sidewalks; definitely more affordable housing; A more centralized one-stop shopping plaza while remaining a small town with a big heart.

8. How do you plan to communicate with, and be available to, your constituents?

Eight years ago when I was first elected as a Mount Pleasant City Commissioner, the Commissioners had an office at City Hall. During my second term, the office was eliminated. I will push to get the Commissioner's office back. I believe that we are servant of the people, and we should have a space, with an open-door policy, to meet with residents so they can freely voice their concerns in a setting other than meetings. I will also continue to be in public settings, engaging residents in various activities throughout our community. Lastly, my phone number and email address are available on the city's website for any resident to contact reach when needed.

The citizens must see their commissioners out for community engagement.

9. What does a successful term look like to you?

A successful term looks like improved infrastructure, lower utilities cost, cutting budgetary waste, park and recreation improvements, affordable housing, and more living wage paying jobs. Most of all, residents being proud of the city they live in.

10. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to make Maury County the best place to live and work?

I plan to work hand and hand with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to make Maury County the best place to live in and work as I have done for the last 8 years. Without them, we wouldn't have all the job opportunities that we have now. This partnership is key. And our city is thriving because of our outstanding relationships. We must continue to work together for a better future.

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MT. PLEASANT CITY COMMISSION
WILLIE WEBSTER ALDERSON



1. Why are you running for this position?

I am running to continue to go in the right direction for our city.

2. What specific experience and qualifications do you have that make you the ideal candidate for this position?

I have been a commissioner for the last four years. I am a mother, foster parent and in my four years on the commission the city has made great strides in the right direction.

3. What do you see as the top challenges for Mt. Pleasant and how do you plan to contribute to addressing those?

Addressing growth will be a priority as well as assuring our utilities (water and sewer) can keep up and are maintained for the growth.

4. What do you see as the top opportunities for Mt. Pleasant and how do you plan to utilize those to move our community forward?

We have great opportunities for the growth to bring in new jobs, restaurants and improve our streets.

5. How do you plan to work collaboratively with each municipality and the county to ensure the decisions being made are in the best interest of Maury County as a whole?

I will keep an open dialogue with our neighbors, work together to solve problems and be accountable in all that we do.

6. Mt. Pleasant is located in one of the fastest growing areas in the state and country. This tremendous growth will require new and improved infrastructure (i.e., schools, roads, water, etc.). How do you plan to provide these infrastructure improvements, including any required funding?

The city has been working towards this and the priority is for a planned smart growth. One way to help with the cost of infrastructure is to have access fees when a developer wants to build new homes and become a part of the utility system. Now they will pay per single family home to do so. We also have several industrial sites that will come off of their tax abatement and the city will have that money in the general fund (for roads, etc.) going forward.

7. What does thoughtful and sustainable growth in Mt. Pleasant look like to you?

We want to continue to diversify the “mix” of industry and make sure we have a variety of

manufacturing and not just automotive suppliers. On the residential development; the areas being developed are along a main road artery (Hwy 43) where there should not be a major impact on regular in town traffic. Also, the utility infrastructure must be available with off site improvements being the responsibility/cost of the developer.

8. How do you plan to communicate with, and be available to, your constituents?

Communication is an issue. Not many are reading a local paper anymore and some do not access social media. The city has a great texting program, posts meetings on line and the commission meeting each month is live. We always need to find ways to communicate better.

9. What does a successful term look like to you?

Improving our roads is a priority (to also include the infrastructure beneath the road). Having jobs with competitive pay is also a priority. That would make for a successful term!

10. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to make Maury County the best place to live and work?

As stated in #8 it is very important to keep communication open with Maury County, the Alliance and other municipalities. We need to all work together and have a regional approach to resolve issues such as water and growth.

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MT. PLEASANT CITY COMMISSION **LONNIE THOMASON**



1. Why are you running for this position?

I am running for City Commission because I feel I would be an asset to the city of Mt. Pleasant. I enjoy helping people that need someone they can rely on to help them.

2. What specific experience and qualifications do you have that make you the ideal candidate for this position?

I have knowledge in several areas such as roads and streets, concrete, sewer and water lines, building & equipment all of which are important when taking a vote on such issues. I served on the Regional Planning Commission and served as vice chair. I am familiar with subdivision regulations and planning and growth. I owned and operated a trucking company for over ten years, I am also a real estate and land investor.

3. What do you see as the top challenges for Mt. Pleasant and how do you plan to contribute to addressing those?

Mt. Pleasant is in a situation where the availability of industrial and or commercial property is becoming unavailable, it is at a point where we are becoming a subdivision town. Subdivisions and homes don't pay their way; they cost you money. It is a situation that is going to have to be looked at.

4. What do you see as the top opportunities for Mt. Pleasant and how do you plan to utilize those to move our community forward?

The top opportunity, we have a new city manager that is motivated and seems to want to get things done. If we can elect a good group of commissioners I feel we can make a positive change for the city.

5. How do you plan to work collaboratively with each municipality and the county to ensure the decisions being made are in the best interest of Maury County as a whole?

I have no problem working with any municipality, our closest would be Columbia, there are projects coming up involving them, but I can work with any of them

6. Mt. Pleasant is located in one of the fastest growing areas in the state and country. This tremendous growth will require new and improved infrastructure (i.e., schools, roads, water, etc.). How do you plan to provide these infrastructure improvements, including any required funding?

I am not sure Mt. Pleasant is ready for tremendous growth. We need to see where we are with the funds situation and how to get the best bang for our buck. The town is riddled with problems with

the current rate of population.

7. What does thoughtful and sustainable growth in Mt. Pleasant look like to you?

Growth is good, but I do Not want to see the amount of growth that Spring Hill has seen. I want to see a nice town with good streets and sidewalks and a low cost of living.

8. How do you plan to communicate with, and be available to, your constituents?

I will be available by text and phone and I want people to let me know of any issues they have. I will do my best to get them an answer or resolve the problem. That is why I am running for office.

9. What does a successful term look like to you?

A successful term for me would mean that the citizens would be able to say that: I was fair , honest and I got something done, the people of Mt. Pleasant have to realize this is not a popularity contest, you have to decide who you would give your checkbook to.

10. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to make Maury County the best place to live and work?

The Maury County Chamber and Economic Alliance are a valuable asset to the city of Mt. Pleasant. I worked with the Chamber during my term on the planning commission and I look forward to working with them again toward the progress of Mt. Pleasant.

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MT. PLEASANT CITY COMMISSION **BILL WHITE**



1. Why are you running for this position?

I am deeply committed to our community and dedicated to ongoing service. The momentum initiated by Mayor Bailey several years back currently me must continue, and I am determined to see our efforts through to completion.

2. What specific experience and qualifications do you have that make you the ideal candidate for this position?

With eight years in office—six as mayor and two as vice mayor—and over forty years of experience as a senior executive in banking, I bring a wealth of expertise. I hold both an undergraduate and a master's degree from LSU. Most importantly, I have a deep understanding of the community where I have lived and worked my entire life.

3. What do you see as the top challenges for Mt. Pleasant and how do you plan to contribute to addressing those?

Funding Sources, Aging Infrastructure, and Parks and Recreation
Funding Sources: Primarily rely on grant funding. Additionally, ensure fiscal integrity by making informed decisions to address aging infrastructure, including water distribution lines, streets, sidewalks, and recreational facilities for the entire community.

4. What do you see as the top opportunities for Mt. Pleasant and how do you plan to utilize those to move our community forward?

Our top challenges can translate into significant opportunities. With numerous requests for residential water taps in Mount Pleasant, the potential for growth is substantial. This growth will generate additional revenue, enabling us to fix, repair, and replace aging infrastructure. Furthermore, increased property taxes, local sales taxes, and state-shared revenue will support the city's long-term plans for maintaining streets, sidewalks, and parks.

5. How do you plan to work collaboratively with each municipality and the county to ensure the decisions being made are in the best interest of Maury County as a whole?

Mount Pleasant now has a significant seat at the table, a position we haven't always enjoyed. Here are some of our notable accomplishments:

- More recent: 2 projects Landmark expansion 85 million /Project Exentria / Project X-Men: In collaboration with Maury County and the Maury Alliance, we've secured a \$45 million investment, creating 85 new jobs with an average salary of \$59,000 per year. Additionally, during my tenure : Smalticeram, Fuel Total Systems , Doug Jeffords, Brazilian Professionals totaling more than \$120,000,000 investments .
- Maury Regional Airport: We continue to strengthen our partnership with Columbia, Maury

County, and Spring Hill to support and enhance the airport's operations.

- 6. Mt. Pleasant is located in one of the fastest growing areas in the state and country. This tremendous growth will require new and improved infrastructure (i.e., schools, roads, water, etc.). How do you plan to provide these infrastructure improvements, including any required funding?**

Addressing Key Issues with Strategic Actions

Great question! Here's what we've already implemented:

- **Utility Access Fees:** We've established utility access fees of \$3,500 each for water and sewer. This approach funds capital projects without burdening existing utility ratepayers.
- **Roads:** The additional revenue generated will enable us to pave and repair existing streets, improving overall infrastructure.
- **Schools:** We must first communicate expected housing developments with the school board. Additionally, we need to find creative solutions to ensure the school board has the necessary funding capabilities.

- 7. What does thoughtful and sustainable growth in Mt. Pleasant look like to you?**

First, what does affordable housing look like in 2024? It could mean areas of high-density housing or thoughtful growth with larger lot sizes and more green spaces in various parts of our city. These concepts can be achieved with the right framework, such as a comprehensive transportation plan, up-to-date zoning regulations, and incorporating technology to design sustainable growth.

- 8. How do you plan to communicate with, and be available to, your constituents?**

Utilize technology and assessable communication channels, encourage feedback, create inperson opportunities.

- 9. What does a successful term look like to you?**

Recruiting and Retaining Employees

The old model of offering minimum pay and hoping employees stay is costly in the long run. Instead, we need to find creative ways to provide benefits that enhance employees' quality of life. The reality is that traditional pension plans and post-retirement health insurance are largely a thing of the past. Elected officials must support city leadership and empower them to prioritize employee retention.

- 10. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to make Maury County the best place to live and work?**

I currently serve on the Board of Directors for the Maury Alliance and the Maury Alliance Economic Committee. Additionally, I am the Vice Chair of the Maury County Industrial Development Board (IDB) for Cherry Glenn and a member of the Education Board for the Maury Alliance.

I also collaborate with Maury County Parks to enhance the quality of life for both community residents and visitors by improving city and county parks.

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

NOVEMBER 5, 2024 ELECTION

LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE

October 7th, 2024

EARLY VOTING

Spring Hill Library:
Oct 21-26, 8AM-4PM

Columbia Tradewinds:
Oct 16-26, 8AM-4PM

Columbia Tradewinds:
Oct 28-31, 8AM-7PM

Election Commission Office
1207 Tradewinds Drive
Columbia, TN 38401

ELECTION DAY

November 5th, 2024

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

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

