

Coalition for a Better Memphis Questionnaire

Name: Manoj Jain M.D.

Website: www.VoteJain.com

Candidate for: County Commission District 13

Why do you believe you are qualified for this position?

I am a passionate community leader, a local doctor and a respected columnist for The Commercial Appeal.

Over the past 20 years in Memphis I have worked to help found Healthy Memphis Common Table, a health improvement collaborative and the Gandhi-King Conference, now in its 10th year. As a leader I want to address the challenges our county faces.

As a doctor, each and every day, I serve many patients: I listen to them, I analyze critical pieces of data, which help me make the right diagnosis, and then I sit and talk compassionately about the treatment plan with the best interests of my patients in mind and heart. Now, I want to serve the public at large.

As a columnist, I have written more than 200 articles in *The Commercial Appeal*, *The Washington Post*, and the *Shelby Sun Times*, which have helped me to gain insight into the problems and issues that trouble our county's citizens. Also, my writings and public appearances have provided me with the skills to communicate clearly to a larger audience.

I also have been a senior leader in Tennessee's Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for the last 15 years. And, I am a small-business owner with 19 years of experience in operating a business, managing people and overseeing a sound fiscal budget. My experience running a small business has also given me an appreciation for the need to make the Mid-South economy a favorable place for businesses and their employees.

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

1. Bring a culture of policy development, based on concrete evidence, facts and proven needs. Shelby County should strive toward quality and performance excellence worthy of recognition, such as the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

Today we have social science research and assessment tools to help guide us on how to improve educating our children, use our property taxes better, streamline operation of our courts and improve public health. We need to take these policy decisions and implement them. We need to review best practices from across the nation and model our school and public health policies after these.

We must begin a structured journey toward excellence, which successful businesses such as FedEx have taken. This can be achieved through process improvements in leadership, workforce development and strategic planning, all of which will make county government more accountable and efficient. With my 15 years of experience at Tennessee's Medicare Quality Improvement Organization, I can champion this journey.

2. Early childhood education. I will work at finding funding to provide pre-K education through private foundation grants as well as state or federal grants. Poor education and lack of educational opportunities lead to lower employability; this leads to poor economic and job growth and poor health outcomes. We need to employ innovative technology such as online video tutorials that have been endorsed by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Also we need to bring best practices in education from across the nation to Shelby County. As a concerned citizen, I have already researched other school districts across the country that have made successful improvements in graduation rates and made connections with those superintendents to better understand how we can help Shelby County Schools succeed.

3. Childhood obesity rates. I will work with schools, teachers, parents and children to take a best practice approach in improving nutrition and exercise. Shelby County ranks 53rd in the state in overall health outcomes according to the County Health Rankings. A process improvement approach with benchmarks and incentives that integrate education with health will help reduce the burden of obesity in our child and young adults.

Have you ever been delinquent on your property taxes Yes ___ No

Have you declared bankruptcy? Yes ___ No

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? Yes ___ No

Explain:

N.B. In 2009-2010 when our family moved from Germantown to Memphis, our property tax bills from the City of Memphis were not received at our new address. Due to this, our payments to the city were delayed. Shelby County property taxes bills were received and paid on time.

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

No elected positions

Current Employment

1. **Company:** Mid-South Infectious Diseases Associates/Jain Infectious Disease Associates

Length of Employment: 19 years

Founder and president of a small business practice. We provide services to patients in Memphis hospitals including Baptist and Methodist health care systems treating diseases such as pneumonia and skin infections. We provide guidance for infection control for eliminating hospital infections and their spread, as well as increasing vaccination rates for the flu to improve overall community health.

Other current positions:

2. **Company:** QSource, Tennessee's Medicare Quality Improvement Organization.

Length of Employment: 15 years as Medical Director

I lead a team of experts across the state on how to use process improvement science (continuous quality improvement) that has been utilized by the business community and best-in-class organizations, like Toyota and FedEx. We use this process to help reduce hospital and community infections.

Adjunct Faculty, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University (Atlanta)

Instructor, Rhodes College Meeman Center for Lifelong Learning

Columnist for The Commercial Appeal, Shelby Sun Times and The Washington Post – (co-wrote numerous articles with former Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist)

Volunteer medical services for Rotary Club of Indore (India).

Educational Background & Training:

Boston University, Bachelor of Science, Engineering (1985)

Boston University, Doctorate in Medicine (1989)

Boston University, Master's in Public Health (1989)

Resident, Boston City Hospital 1989-1992

Tufts University – Fellowship in Infectious Diseases 1992-1995

Training seminars in public health policy at Harvard School of Public Health

How long have you lived in Memphis? 19 years

Where did you grow up? Boston

Marital status/children: Married with three children

Please identify up to five organizations that are actively supporting your candidacy.

Not ready to make announcement at this time.

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

- Healthy Memphis Common Table (HMCT) – A founding member and part of leadership team since 2003
- Memphis Quality Initiative – Medical director of a hospital funded community collaborative with QSource and HMCT as the lead organization
- Memphis Medical Society – Member
- Indian Community Fund for Greater Memphis – Founding member
- Tennessee Medical Association and American Medical Association
- Board of Trustees for Young Jains of America
- Asian American and Pacific Islander Initiative – Founder and leader of Memphis chapter
- Gandhi King Conference – Founder, board member and chairman (four years)

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

Normandy Park Neighborhood Association – Board member

Campaign Chair: None – Liz Rincon, The Rincon Strategy Firm

Campaign Manager: Chris Cobb

Treasurer: Denise Bollheimer

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

Often our community is divided across racial lines. As one of the first Asian American candidates ever to run for public office in Memphis or Shelby County government, I would add a unique perspective and diversity of opinion. In 2012, I was awarded Diversity Memphis' Humanitarian Award.

As a doctor on the commission, I would provide knowledge of the health care arena and health of our residents. Health care is a major part of the Mid-South economy, and is a major concern for the county, for the business community and for all citizens.