

**COALITION FOR A BETTER MEMPHIS**  
**Shelby County Commissioner Candidate Questionnaire**  
**Election Date: May 6, 2014**

**AN ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THIS FILE CAN BE RECEIVED BY SENDING AN EMAIL  
TO [peggy@bettermemphis.org](mailto:peggy@bettermemphis.org)**

Name: Steve Basar \_\_\_\_\_

District for which you are running: 13\_\_\_\_\_

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**Section 1: Qualifications and Background (2 questions)**

**Section 2: Vision and Strategies (4 questions)**

**Section 3: Improving the System of Government (4 questions)**

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| <b>1. QUALIFICATIONS AND BACKGROUND</b> |
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- 1. Describe your qualifications for holding the office of Shelby County Commissioner.**

**I have been serving as a County Commissioner for the past 18 months (elected in August 2012). I have the leadership experience, integrity, and common sense required to be an effective County Commissioner. I have over 20 years of experience working for Fortune 500 companies and am a detail oriented professional.**

- 2. What events or experiences caused you to decide to run for this office?**

SHELBY COUNTY COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

**I was elected in 2012 and believe that I am the best candidate running for District 13. I have detailed my priorities and goals and believe that I will be able to make significant progress during the next four years.**

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| <b>2. VISION AND STRATEGIES</b> |
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- 1. In your opinion, what are the three greatest issues (problems or opportunities) facing Shelby County in the next four years?**

I detailed my three priorities in the Commercial Appeal:

<http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2014/jan/01/guest-column-basar/>They are education, workforce development, and completion of the Wolf River Greenway. There are many issues and priorities, problems and opportunities but I have chosen three that I believe I will be able to impact over the next four years.

- 2. How would you recommend we continue to pay down County debt and still fulfill the financial obligations of the County? What budget priorities must take precedence?**

The Mayor and his administration have a debt payment plan and we need to adhere to it.

SHELBY COUNTY COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

- 3. What are your views regarding the best way to fund public education of Shelby County and Memphis children?**

**The County has an obligation to fund education. Education is funded by the County, the State, and the Federal Government. A better question would be how can we improve educational attainment?**

- 4. Some people believe that urban communities should adopt policies that encourage what is called “smart growth.” Do you believe Shelby County should have a general policy about new residential and commercial developments? If so, what should that policy be?**

**This is not a very good question. Regardless of what policies Shelby County adopts, the majority of development will happen in areas controlled by the various municipalities. We do need to consider smart growth when approving**

SHELBY COUNTY COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

**future residential and commercial developments but I do not believe a general policy is warranted.**

- 5. Are you satisfied with the economic growth (jobs and income) of Shelby County today? If not, what should the county government do to improve economic development efforts? What incentives would you support or oppose be used to attract future economic development?**

No I am not satisfied. We need to urgently address jobs and workforce development. We have made some progress and I have monthly meetings with the President of EDGE to keep myself informed of the issues. I have met with the leader of WIN and will be proposing some recommendations on workforce development and also look forward to working with the Chamber of Commerce.

SHELBY COUNTY COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. IMPROVING THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT**

- 1. What do you regard as the greatest obstacle or barrier to economic growth in Shelby County today? What can the County Commission do to reduce that impediment?**

**The greatest obstacle is ourselves. The citizens of Memphis/Shelby County need to work together – city and suburbs, urban and suburban. The county commission can lead by example and show the community that we can work together toward common goals which include economic development, jobs, and improving education.**

SHELBY COUNTY COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. What is your philosophy about offering incentives to companies that are considering major new investments or job expansions in Shelby County?**

**We need to retain jobs and we often need to provide incentives because we are in competition with other communities. I believe we can do a better job negotiating the deals and PILOTS but in the end we are investing in jobs and I would rather get 20% of something than 100% of nothing.**

**3. What is your position on consolidation of city and county governments?**

Sounds like a great idea but I am not in favor of consolidation because the city is in terrible financial shape. If the city were to get their house in order and the community supported consolidation I could be persuaded to support it.

SHELBY COUNTY COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

- 4. When you complete your service as commissioner, what do you want your legacy to be?**

**I would like to be seen as someone who is fair, unbiased, a fiscal conservative, and a good leader and steward of the County.**

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