



City Council Candidate Survey 2021 Birmingham Municipal Election

Greater Birmingham Ministries invites you to complete this candidate survey. Your responses will inform our non-partisan 2021 Birmingham Municipal Election Guide, which will reach over 20,000 Birmingham residents. Please return your completed candidate survey to electionguide@gbm.org by July 2.

Name: Wardine Towers Alexander

District: 7

Campaign Email: alxnchrg@aol.com

Campaign Phone Number: 205-243-1327

Campaign Address: P.O. Box 28351 Birmingham, AL 35228

Campaign Website: www.votewardine.com

Campaign Social Media Pages: FB – Re-Elect Wardine Alexander for District 7

1. Please provide a 2-3 sentence biography.

I am a Birmingham native, a proud product of Birmingham City Schools and graduate of the University of Alabama in Birmingham. A board-certified medical technologist with a specialty in blood banking, I retired after a long career in clinical laboratory medicine. I have served the community as a former president of the Birmingham Board of Education, a former Trustee of the Birmingham Public Libraries, and Vice-President of the OneRoof Board of Directors. I attend Trinity Baptist Church and have a son Gregory and granddaughter MaKenzie.

2. Please name any endorsements you have received.

August 24, 2021 Municipal Elections – none yet received.

October 2019 Birmingham Municipal Special Election endorsements:

- **Jefferson County Chapter of Alabama New South Alliance**
- **Alabama New South Coalition**
- **Jefferson County Citizens Coalition**

3. What are the biggest issues in your district and how would you address those issues in your role as a councilor?

District 7 is plagued with uncleanliness and blight due to many abandoned homes and overgrown lots. During my tenure on the council I have addressed these issues by accomplishing the following:

- There have been over 150 dilapidated homes demolished in the district.
 - I have hosted approximately 25 community cleanups partnering with residents and volunteers to clean D7 streets.
 - I have created a process where D7 neighborhood associations can partner with the district office to secure vendors to cut overgrown lots in their area(s).
 - I have hosted monthly web-series to educate residents on the process behind bulk trash pickup, how to acquire property thru the Birmingham Land Bank and how to build generational wealth to protect heir property.
4. How do you think the City of Birmingham should provide economic and corporate incentives?

I believe that the Office of Economic Development and the Industrial Development Board should work collectively to attract new businesses and developments to focus on poverty reduction in our area. I believe any economic and corporate incentives must be matched with agreement to promote workforce development and job opportunities in the areas where the new businesses and developments will be placed.

5. In 2020 Birmingham had the highest homicide rate in 25 years. So far 2021 is on trajectory for an even higher homicide rate. In your role as a councilor, how would you address crime and public safety?

I believe the high incidence of crime is greatly influenced by the low socio-economic status in our communities, the lack of jobs, and low availability of social services.

- As a UNUM Fellow I will be receive a \$75,000 grant which will be used to create a workforce development pipeline partnering with Lawson State Community College and Buffalo Rock to provide training for new jobs that will come to the district.
- I have hosted community “ride-alongs” with the Mayor, key administrators, and West/South Precinct captains to bring awareness to quality of life issues (crime/trash/roads).
- I have allocated more than \$15K in D7 discretionary funds to the 5 area Birmingham City Schools to assist with social development of our students along with support of BCS academic and athletic programs.

- I consistently allocate D7 discretionary funds to non-profit agencies and programs that help to improve the quality of life for area residents (i.e., Boys and Girls Club, Boy Scouts of America, Children's Village, Sickle Cell Foundation, Youth Towers, and Brenda's Brown Bosom Buddies).

6. In your opinion what are the most critical public services that the City of Birmingham is funding or should fund and how will you use your position as a councilor to ensure these are funded?

In my opinion, the most critical public services that should be funded are public safety, education and training provided for residents and students, social services to address mental and preventive health, housing assistance, garbage collection and code enforcement. As councilor I strive to create community partnerships and allocate discretionary funding to support these services that are critical to improve the quality of life for our residents.

7. Where in our communities do you see opportunities for Birmingham government to address the inequity between people of different races, genders, and sexual orientations, and how, as a councilor, will you support policies to address these gaps?

As councilor we must ensure that the ordinances and laws that we enact create policies that are fair and equitable. We should also ensure that City services are funded equitably to promote fair housing, workforce development and education for all residents.