



## **Board of Education 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](mailto:electionguide@gbm.org) by July 2.*

**Name: Dr. Douglas L. Ragland**

**District: 1**

**Campaign Email: [dldrag@bellsouth.net](mailto:dldrag@bellsouth.net)**

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**Campaign Address: 109 68<sup>th</sup> PL. N. Birmingham, Alabama**

**Campaign Website: [www.drdouglasragland.com](http://www.drdouglasragland.com)**

**Campaign Social Media Pages: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram**

- 1. Please provide a 2-3 sentence biography. I am currently the District 1 Board of Education Representative. Prior to my service on the school board, I served for 34 years in 4 school districts throughout the state of Alabama as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, personnel coordinator, and superintendent in two respective school systems. I retired as a School Superintendent in 2010.**
- 2. Please name any endorsements you have received. I have received none at this time.**
- 3. What do you see as the board's roles and responsibilities?**

**The Board's roles and responsibilities are to serve as a fiduciary body in overseeing the district's budget, serve as a policy making body in approving responsible policies for the district, and supervise the Superintendent, Chief School Financial Officer, and the School Board Attorney. It is our duty and responsibility to advocate and provide the necessary resources for the Superintendent and his staff to implement educational excellence for all students so they can be prepared to compete globally, and ultimately become productive citizens**

- 4. What are the biggest issues for students and families in your district and how would you address those issues in your role as a Board Member? The biggest issues for students and families in my district are parental engagement, computer technology, and academic growth. We are addressing those issues by working with the Superintendent and his staff to provide parental and family involvement programs, educate parents regarding their roles via Title I Workshops, provide one on one computer service in providing every child with a computer every year, as well as hotspots for internet connection, and last but not least, we are providing high quality academic programs and services with certified teachers and partners throughout the community to assist in enhancing academic excellence.**
- 5. What role, if any, does the Birmingham Board of Education and Birmingham City Schools play in community and public safety? We play a significant role in community and public safety by providing funding for our schools to be safe, executing safety safeguards at public events held at our schools, and holding forums on school safety in an effort to educate our parents on safety measures and protocols to be adhered to by students, parents, and the community at large. Also, providing opportunities for students to engage in advanced academics, career technical education, internships, partnerships, and the like will aid students in focusing on success, as opposed to being idle and indulging in crime or unproductive activities.**
- 6. As a Board Member, will you advocate for policies that protect queer and transgender youth? If so, how? I will advocate for policies to protect all children.**
- 7. What is your position on charter schools? My position on Charter Schools is that we want the Birmingham City School System to offer educational excellence second to none, and attract all parents, thus eliminating the option for Charter Schools. However, parents should have the opportunity to make the decision as to where they want to send their children to be educated based on what best meet their academic, social, emotional, and physical needs.**
- 8. There is a national conversation on teaching Critical Race Theory in public schools to make public education more equitable. Do you believe the BCS curriculum should be changed to be more equitable? If so, how? I believe the Birmingham City Schools should have an equity policy and curriculum where all students receive the same world class educational standards with not only course offerings, but with Professionally Certified Highly Qualified Teachers. Our children deserve the best and we must provide every resource in meeting the needs of all children, and cultivating their gifts and talents beyond measure.**