

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: Eric Hall

District: 9

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Campaign Phone Number: 205-381-2345

Campaign Address: 1101 Pebble Creek Parkway Apt K Birmingham, Alabama 35214

Campaign Website: N/A

Campaign Social Media Pages:

<https://m.facebook.com/ElectEricHallD9/>

<https://www.facebook.com/eric.hall.58>

<https://twitter.com/electerichall?lang=en>

1. Please provide a 2-3 sentence biography.

Eric LaMar Hall is an associate minister at Peace Missionary Baptist Church, Veteran of the United States Army, Former President of the Central Pratt Neighborhood Association, Director of the Angel Toy Drive, Founding member Black Lives Matter Birmingham Chapter, and Co-Chair of Our Revolution Birmingham Chapter.

2. Please name any endorsements you have received.

Retail Wholesale Department Store Union

Working Families Party

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

The biggest issues in my community is Poverty - Low wages that's not enough to support a family. Food Insecurity - Limited or uncertain Access to healthy foods.

4. How do you think the City of Birmingham should provide economic and corporate incentives?

I am committed to principled struggle, which means that I honor the critiques of all those who raise a concern with the city's business. I will ensure that people on the margins, the most vulnerable, are prioritized in the budget and business of the City of Birmingham. Moreover, I commit to a plan of increasing taxes on top corporate structures in Birmingham and using revenue from taxes to assist working/struggling families with affordable housing, social services, COVID relief, mental/physical/dental health needs, work-force development, education and arts in Birmingham City Schools. Economic and corporate incentives should be offered to entities who honor/support community based agreements, hire individuals with past criminal history, and pay a livable wage of at least \$15/hour.

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?

We have to re-envision how we address crime and public safety. We have to address how we respond to emergent and non-emergent calls. As councilor I would work with Mayor in assessing effectiveness of policing and addressing crime and public safety by Investing in community-based transformative violence prevention and intervention strategies, that offer support for criminalized populations, investing in voluntary, harm reduction and patient-driven, community-based mental health and substance abuse treatment programs and investing in a Real Time Response Center to hire more social service practitioners and mental health providers to address our communities most pressing issues.

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?

The most critical public services that the City of Birmingham is funding are Emergency Services/Law Enforcement/Public Works, Park and Recreation, and Birmingham Public School System.

As a councilor I plan to make sure Emergency personnel are funded properly to make sure response times exceed National standards. Make sure staff have necessary tools to effectively perform the job and duties they have been hired to serve. I will intensely review the police budget to identify key areas funding can be reallocated to best support crime prevention efforts. I'll recommend increasing funding for public works in an effort to maintain the city's aesthetics in reducing overgrown lots, right-aways, and dilapidated structures. Increase funding for our school system to at minimum \$5 million dollars to ensure our system has a competitive edge in comparison to other districts.

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?

We need to create a city budget grounded in racial equity. We can begin by:

- 1) Clearly define "equity."
- 2) Drill down into the numbers to expose inequities.
- 3) Use data as evidence to hold officials accountable.
- 4) Track and keep assessing the success of investments in equity.
- 5) Include the voices of diverse communities in budget discussions.
- 6) Take a high-level view of funds for greater equity.