



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: Hunter Williams

District: 2

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- 1. Please provide a 2-3 sentence biography. Born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama, I have served as neighborhood officer, and the District 2 Birmingham City Councilor since 2017. I chair the Public Safety Committee and sit on Public improvements and Public Utilities Committees.**
- 2. Please name any endorsements you have received.**
- 3. What are the biggest issues in your district and how would you address those issues in your role as a councilor? During my time as the City Councilor for District 2, I have addressed and fixed many issues that have plagued the residents in my district. For example, blight and buildings that have been abandoned for decades were driving down property values and became an invitation for criminal behavior. We have combatted this by transforming buildings such as Century Plaza mall into a new Amazon Distribution Center; Trinity Medical Center will be the new Arbor Terrace, a \$200+ million multi-use development; The Historic Banks High School site is in the process of demolition with the goal to use it as a city asset upon completion. Additionally, I have addressed issues with our infrastructure by making sure money was found in the city's budget to pave critical streets, Oporto Madrid being one of them.**

4. How do you think the City of Birmingham should provide economic and corporate incentives? There are many different factors the city should take a closer look at to provide incentives with one of the main factors being job creation. Instead of the traditional way of just providing capital improvements, the city should look at job creation and providing opportunities to our residents to acquire these jobs by offering job training as well. The creation of more available jobs, along with the proper job training will enable more of our citizens to hold jobs in the city they live in.

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? As the chair of Public Safety, I have worked alongside the Mayor's office to help create initiatives to reduce gun violence and take guns off our streets. We have since implemented the Gun Violence Task Force in partnership with federal and local officials to share information needed to track and confiscate illegal handguns. I am a proponent of utilizing non-law enforcement resources to also combat this violence. This not only means the addition of social workers in respect to domestic cases, but also includes groups that aim to end conflicts as or before they are occurring. Crime reduction requires the entire community and can't solely fall on the shoulders of BPD.

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? We, as a city, have not had a comprehensive plan nor the funding for infrastructure for 35 years. We are now trying to catch up on a backlog of roughly \$150 million dollars of critical infrastructure needs (street resurfacing). We must allocate funding to each budget cycle to maintain the infrastructure that the city is responsible for.

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 must make sure we are the governing body for ALL Birmingham residents regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, etc. I will continue to be an advocate for equality and to support groups like Birmingham Aids Outreach, STAIR (District 2 Reading Initiative), PEER (District 2 Healthy Food Initiative), and Ruffner Mountain (Community Education Programming) with my discretionary funding to ensure that sure all our citizens have access to fundamental programs that create a cohesive community.