



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: Lawrence Conaway

District: 2

Campaign Email: LawrenceConaway.com

Campaign Phone Number: (205) 281-2997

Campaign Address: 7400 Toulon Ave, Birmingham, AL 35206

Campaign Website: LawrenceConaway.com

Campaign Social Media Pages:

1. Please provide a 2-3 sentence biography.

I'm a native of Birmingham and have lived here all of my life with the exception of living in North Alabama for six years. I have a BS degree in Electronics, MBA, and MA in Ministry. I currently pastor Fellowship Bible Church located at 341 Roebuck Drive 35215. I have worked in full time ministry since 1998. I've served in various capacities: Children and Adult Daycare Director, Facilities Director, Youth Pastor, Assistant Pastor, and Senior Pastor. I'm currently on Birmingham's first Civilian Review Board, board president of Neighborhood Housing Services of Birmingham and Charity In Action, and I'm the Director of Birmingham's first WINDS Wealth Building Center. I serve on the United Way of Central Alabama Community Impact Committee and I've been a VAT leader for six years. I've served on the board of several non-profits: Literacy Council, former Board President of Birmingham Education Foundation (Ed), former Secretary of Cahaba River Society, and former sector champion of Yes We Can Birmingham.

2. Please name any endorsements you have received.

None at this time

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

The three top issues Birmingham is facing is crime rooted in poverty, economic opportunities for youths and young adults, and deteriorating communities. These issues are related and require all of us to get involved. One of my strength is that of a bridge builder. I will use this strength to regularly engage residents, neighborhood leaders, and stakeholders in an effort to get them to work together collaboratively to solve problems in the district and inspire other councilors to do the same thing in their districts. I will work with the mayor and fellow councilors to solve issues that are common across districts. I will research other cities to determine best practices as it relate to the issues and seek to influence other leaders to consider implementing programs that include these practices.

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

The City should use incentives for leverage to expand our tax base, but it should be a strategic approach with all districts in mind. There should be effort made to boost economic develop in all districts with priorities focused on the areas that are suffering the most.

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 will work with the mayor and the Birmingham Police Dept. in efforts to reduce crime. I will work to organize neighborhood watch programs where they do not exist, and I will bring residents, neighborhood leaders and stakeholders together to develop solutions to address the systemic problems that result in criminal activity.

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 top three public services being funded by the City are Public Safety, Public Transportation, and Public Works. I will do everything in my power as a Councilor to make sure these services are being properly funded and that they are operating in an efficient manner.

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?

I will support policies that address inequities between people in our City. I will work to eliminate inequities in minority participation when it comes to contracts with the City and advocate for small businesses getting more opportunities.