



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

**Name: Gwendolyn Cook Webb**

**District: 4 City Council**

**Campaign Email: [webbcampaigndist.4@gmail.com](mailto:webbcampaigndist.4@gmail.com)**

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**Campaign Address: PO Box 672, Birmingham, AL 35201**

**Campaign Website: [www.webb4bhamdistrict4.com](http://www.webb4bhamdistrict4.com)**

**Campaign Social Media Pages:**

**<https://www.facebook.com/gwendolyncook.webb>**

**Please provide a 2-3 sentence biography.**

**I was born in Birmingham and grew up during the time of Dr. King and James Bevel. I was a student leader at Western Olin HS during the 1963 demonstrations and later in life, became one of the first Black female police officers in Birmingham. I am Neighborhood President of Inglenook, Community President for the East Birmingham neighborhoods and led the fight for the new Kingston Fire House. I am retired from the BPD and host student groups from across the U.S. teaching non-violence. I am a Board member at the Birmingham Civil Right Institute.**

- **Please name any endorsements you have received.**
- **At this point, wonderful campaign workers, neighbors and family!**

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

**District 4 is diversified economically. However, poverty, pollution and the need for our people to be given the tools to change these conditions is vital. If residents in poor communities cannot get relief, they must be given the opportunity and support to move to other communities. Civics - how our democracy and economy work - should be taught early. Several closed schools in District 4 (Kirby, Calloway and Gate City) should be repurposed as family education centers for student level remedial, continuing adult ed as well as trades training. I also intend to meet my constituents by making myself available in school rooms and neighborhood meetings, and regularly walk a beat like public safety personnel.**

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

**By contract. Tax giveaways do not guarantee secure employment. I would work with the mayor and colleagues on the council to design what a model of a good corporate neighbor would look like.**

- **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?**
- **Promote recruitment of public safety personnel from their own neighborhood. Reach out to success stories from other municipalities nationally. District 4, as most other districts, must have concrete plans to reduce poverty. Poverty continues to create the conditions for violent crime, whether organized or within families. Explore new approaches through UAB's School of Public Health**
- **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?**
- **Our transit system must be capable of getting working people and students to their daily commitments. This goes for paratransit as well. Our Public Works department should be upgraded to meet the challenges of the soon to be initiated federal Infrastructure improvement plans, to be prepared to request funds to modernize our streets and sewer system. The city could partner with the Board of Education to jointly apply for funding to create the educational outlets mentioned in paragraph 3.**
- **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?**

- **City councilors have opportunities to fill positions with boards and agencies. I would make the effort to diversify my staff and recruit based on content of character. I subscribe to the practices of the Birmingham Pledge.**