



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: Richard Franklin

District: District 5

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Campaign Website: rfranklinfordistrict5@gmail.com

Campaign Social Media Pages:

1. Please provide a 2-3 sentence biography.

Richard Franklin is a native of Birmingham, Al. He is also a graduate of Parker High School and Lawson State College.

2. Please name any endorsements you have received.

Birmingham American Federation of Teachers

American Federation of Teachers

Saving Our Children through Advocacy

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 greatest issues in District 5 are community blight and gentrification. In my role as councilor I would like to promote additional community development for and by the community. I would also like to promote ongoing dialogue with individuals that desire to bring economic development into these communities in my district and the stakeholders who live in there.

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

I believe the City of Birmingham should provide economic and corporate incentives by providing additional support from the city via safety measures (the police)-- particularly for smaller businesses and with marketing assistance to individuals/corporations desiring to have local businesses/corporations. I believe appropriate advertisements via of the media could promote success.

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?

In my role as councilor, I would address crime and public safety by promoting activities for the youth, job training for young adults and ongoing information about the use of hand guns via of mailers, in person visits to local schools. I would also desire a media campaign about the value of appropriate conflict resolution.

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?

I think that it is essential to continue to fund our parks and recreation facilities. These venues can be used to develop a sense of mindfulness and pride regarding individual communities and also address the social and emotional needs of community stakeholders of all ages.

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?

In my communities I have noticed several businesses that have developed in close proximity to public housing that need facelifts. I think that all individuals should be allowed to live in areas that are aesthetically pleasing through the placement of trees, foliage and clean streets. As councilor, I will address these gaps by providing data based upon my own observations and the information provided by citizen focus groups.