



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: Kimberly Jeanty

District: 2

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1. Please provide a 2-3 sentence biography.

Public service was a huge part of my life growing up. In my family, God, family, and country was our motto. Everyone must do their part to make life better in their corner of the world. With nearly thirty years of corporate, nonprofit, and government experience, I know what it takes to find solutions, navigate the complicated governmental agencies, and get things done.

2. Please name any endorsements you have received.

No endorsements to date.

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 district 2 are the same as the rest of the city. District 2 needs more public safety personnel with updated equipment and improved roads and sidewalks. As councilor, I will advocate for district 2 to get its fair share of funding in the city budget. A councilor's job is to legislate for the city, advocate for their district, appropriate a balanced budget, and communicate those things to the public.

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

I am a firm believer in economic and corporate incentives. The City of Birmingham has an outstanding Department of Economic Development. I would advocate for more small business incentives and resources, as well as more big business recruitment and retention. Small businesses built Birmingham, but tend to get lost in the fervor of wooing corporations.

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 find the rise in homicides very disconcerting. The City of Birmingham is in a difficult situation. We are short of the appropriate number of officers needed for a city this size. At the same time we have officers retiring and transferring out of the department faster than new officers can be recruited and trained. The best course of action is to support law enforcement by making sure they have the funding, personnel and equipment to keep us safe.

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 the city are funding are public safety, public works, and Birmingham City Schools. Fortunately, public safety and public works tend to be well funded. That is not to say they can't use more funds. However, Birmingham City Schools need our support. Without a strong workforce, we will not be able to compete for big corporations and we will see small businesses suffer as well. If I am honored enough to represent district 2, I will always advocate for our schools, and work to secure more funding.

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?

District 2 is one of the most diverse in the city. The inequities I see, that the city can immediately address, are that of distributing resources evenly. When a neighborhood with a higher socioeconomic status appears to receive more city resources than one of the largest neighborhoods in the city, I say there are opportunities for improvement. If elected, I will work to make sure every neighborhood gets their fair share of city funds.