

Ward 5 candidate profiles

Q&A

What makes you the most qualified candidate to represent Ward 5?

What challenges does the city face?

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Name: Cadarrall Eddings
Age: 33
Occupation: Baptist Memorial Hospital – Golden Triangle Central sterile technician
Family: Married to Karla Eddings and two daughters, Imani Eddings and Abigail Eddings
Address: 15th Street North



I'm a leader. Leadership is in my family. I'm not only a leader, but a leader with vision. I know where I am taking those who follow me, so I know where we're going.

I think the biggest challenge right now is we just need leadership. We're starting to see new leaders who are godly placed in influential positions, like the police chief. We just need new leadership who can give direction to the city.

Lack of opportunity. I believe that the biggest need in our ward is to develop people. Individual empowerment is the biggest need for our ward.

Name: Gregory "Gary" Jefferson
Age: 49
Occupation: Supervisor/superintendent at Johnson/Tombigbee Furniture Manufacturing Company
Family:
Address:



I felt that I was the most qualified when it was determined that I was eligible to hold such a position. Now my qualifications begin with being a lifelong resident of this community. Therefore, I can relate to the needs, wants and concerns within this community. Furthermore, I am knowledgeable when individuals express concerns that need looking into. Also, I am best qualified due to the fact that I listen and once faced with these concerns of the people that I am surrounded by daily, I take on the task of getting these concerns resolved. So, in other words, my qualifications include management, researching and problem solving.

Well, this city's challenges are what every other city in this country faces, and that is keeping up with surrounding cities to lure industries and better schools and housing.

Throughout my life within this lovely city I have become accustomed to it being called "The Friendly City." However, it has been given a negative image due to the crime rate, shooting, low employment rate, lack of funding to areas such as healthcare, program for the young as well as the old and most of all, unity. All of these things are what Ward 5 faces. It is my endeavor to turn this around. We as a people are tired of taking. We are seeking ideas, recommendations, advice and suggestions. Let's be about the challenges we face.

Name: Stephen Jones
Age: 46
Occupation: Realtor with Remax Partners
Family: Married to Stephanie Johnson Jones, three children Joel, Brandon and Diamond Jones
Address: Eighth Avenue North



I believe that I will best represent the entire area. As a Realtor, I have worked with people and properties in every corner of our ward, and I know the issues that we all face. In the three months that I have been campaigning, I have heard the good and the bad; and I have a plan in place to try and address our Ward's needs as soon as I get into office.

I think the three major challenges the city faces all relate to one another: crime, education, and our tax base. Our educational system is at the root of all three. Our public schools need the full support of the Council, and of the community to have any chance to overcome the obstacles in their way in order to reach a generation of children at risk. The children who don't believe that education leads to prosperity sometimes choose a life of crime, or dependence on the government. Children that grow up without hope and opportunity don't enter the workforce, don't contribute to society, and don't build business – which leaves our tax base in peril.

Ward 5 is the embodiment of the entire city. We have the haves and have nots, good streets and bad, flourishing businesses and abandoned shells. The biggest challenge in my eyes is to make the environment better: repair the streets and clean up dilapidated properties so that we have the right atmosphere and attitude to build business and give our residents a ward they can be proud of.

Name: Marthalie M. Porter
Age: 58
Occupation: Self Employed/Contractor in the Telecommunications Industry
Family: Husband - Tom Porter; Son - Allen Porter
Address: Ninth Street North



I grew up in Ward 5, graduated from Columbus public schools and MSU, and served as the Columbus Main Street manager for the downtown historic district. I understand how to be a facilitator between the public and private sectors. Plus, I am genuinely interested in and concerned about the quality of life for all the residents of Ward 5 and the entire city.

- Safe Streets are our biggest challenge. Keeping the public safe is a shared responsibility between the police and residents.
- Shrinking City Population
- Continue to Improve & Build Community Support for our Public School System
- Redeveloping Closed Commercial/Industrial sites
- Aging Infrastructure System

- Safe Neighborhoods – We must work closely with our police plus support and build neighborhood watch groups.
- Infrastructure Challenges regarding our streets and aging sewer system
- Redeveloping Empty Lots throughout Ward 5
- Revitalizing Military Road Corridor
- Provide Healthy Activities for Children & Youth
- Clean Up Litter

