

COUNTY COMMISSION - DISTRICT 8

RAY JETER



1. Why are you running for this position?

My decision to run for county commission was not an easy one. I spent many months praying and talking with family and friends about this decision. I am a very busy man with family, work, and a few hobbies. Nevertheless, I decided that I should seek this office. I made my decision because I love Maury County. I've lived here my entire life and I've seen the good, the bad, and the ugly. If I can be a catalyst for positive improvement and help to make Maury the best it can be, then I must get involved. I want more than anything for Maury County to be the kind of community that my kids and future grandchildren will be proud to call home. I am concerned about the future of our County. This new commission will inherit some of this County's greatest problems, but I believe that problems can be opportunities!

2. What specific experience and qualifications do you have that make you the ideal candidate for this position?

I spent over 10 years at the Maury County Sheriff's Department. I started my career there as a patrol deputy and served as Chief Deputy under Sheriff Bucky Rowland. During my time as Chief Deputy, I managed the department's 10 million dollar budget. I worked very closely with the county commission and the budget department. Sheriff Rowland and I had great success with our budgets and overall management of the department - Maury County's second largest department with over 200 employees. I witnessed first hand what it looks like to county employees when the county commission takes an adverse stance toward their needs. I also witnessed when the county commission treated their employees as one of their greatest assets, not a liability. Today, I serve as an Operations Manager & Project Executive for Harness, LLC, here in Maury County. We are a site grading and utilities contractor. I manage and see to the daily operations of our multi-million dollar construction business. My time in the role of Chief Deputy and Operations Manager has uniquely prepared me for service as a commissioner if the people of the 8th district decide to elect me. I don't pretend to know all the answers, but if elected, I will listen to the needs of the county and do my best to find the best solutions to the issues at hand.

3. What do you see as the top 3 priorities for Maury County and how do you plan to contribute to accomplishing those priorities?

Number ONE - Impact Fees. We HAVE to pursue impact fees on new construction. We cannot stand by while development after development is approved that will bring thousands into our county without a way to fund the growth. It is UNFAIR and UNJUST to raise property taxes on the elderly and land owners of this county to build schools for the new families moving into these developments. It is also unjust for new families to spend so much on a house and have their kids go to overcrowded schools, or in some cases, sit in classrooms in trailers. If elected, I will be pursuing all available options and not taking no for an answer from the State Legislators.

Number TWO - Safety. As Maury County grows, we have to ensure that Sheriff Rowland has what he needs to be successful at securing and defending our County from criminal activity and anarchy. If elected, I will do this by making sure he has adequate staffing and equipment. I will also remove any obstacle that stands to hinder his work.

Number THREE - County & Cities HAVE to work together. The days of the City and County pointing fingers at one another are over. We have to work together or both the City's and County's residents will continue to suffer the consequences. If elected, I will pursue resolution(s) to appoint a county commissioner as a liaison to each City within our county, and task this commissioner to be the County's representation during the City's council meetings and planning commissions - preferably the Chair or Vice Chair of the Commission or the County Mayor.

- 4. How do you plan to work collaboratively with each municipality to ensure the decisions being made are in the best interest of Maury County as a whole?**

See the last part of Number Three.

- 5. Maury County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state and country. This tremendous growth will require new and improved infrastructure (i.e., schools, roads, water, etc.). How do you plan to provide these infrastructure improvements, including any required funding?**

See the first part of Number Three.

- 6. How do you define thoughtful and sustainable growth in Maury County?**

Thoughtful and Sustainable growth can only happen if State, City and County work together. I define it by all governing bodies listening to each other and planning the growth together. The school board has a growth plan. The City of Columbia has a growth plan. The City of Spring Hill has a growth plan. The City of Mt. Pleasant has a growth plan. The County has a growth plan, but no one is planning together. Let's create a growth task force with representatives from all agencies and grow thoughtfully together.

- 7. Quality education and a diverse workforce are vital for the successful growth of Maury County and its municipalities. If elected, how would you improve these areas?**

Get the impact fees enacted and properly fund the schools and facilities. As far as diversity in the workforce, commissioners have no control over local businesses and their hiring practices, but I would encourage County Department Heads to follow the law and always be an equal opportunity employer.

- 8. How do you plan to communicate with, and be available to, your constituents?**

My constituents can reach me by cell phone: 931-446-2423, email: raybjeter@gmail.com or through my FaceBook Page: Ray Jeter - Republican Candidate for Maury County Commission D8.

- 9. What does a successful term look like to you?**

Success equals all growth related needs funded without raising property taxes, but I admit this is a daunting task. However, I do like challenges. Success also looks like a growth task force representing all governing bodies created, meeting regularly, and planning together!

- 10. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to make Maury County the best place to live and work?**

Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance is a great asset to Maury County and I'll gladly work with your team of great people to make Maury the greatest place to live and work. Also, I am sure someone from your team would love to join a Growth Task Force.

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