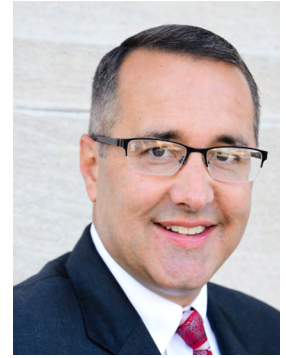


MAURY COUNTY MAYOR DAVID BAKER



1. Why are you running for this position?

I was born in Maury County, and grew up in Santa Fe. When I was 12, the economy in Maury County went down, the company my dad worked for sold, and we had to move up north. I didn't like leaving my school, farm, friends, and horse.

Almost 30 years ago, my wife and I moved back to Maury County with one child, and now we have eleven. All of my adult children with our eight grandchildren have decided to also make Maury County their home.

It has been a great place to raise our family, and I am running to make sure it continues to be the best place in the world to raise a family. I don't want the economy here to go down again, where our kids and grandkids have to move away from this great place.

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

1 - I served in the military as a member of the 82nd Airborne Division. I understand what the mission is here. So many politicians do "something" so they can say they "tried," but don't really accomplish anything. In the 82nd Airborne Division, we had a mission and didn't stop until it was completed. The phrase that is used is called, "Charlie Mike," which means, continue the mission. I will bring that same drive and discipline as I serve the county as mayor.

2 - I have lived abroad for over a year and have visited another ten countries. I have lived in seven different states. I understand the greatness of America and our county. I want to make sure we keep our little slice of paradise here in Maury County.

3 - I have been serving in the ministry for over thirty years. I help people. I have helped them with their marriages, children, and life. I have been either a volunteer or the chaplain at the Maury County Jail for twenty-eight years and have helped thousands of people with their addictions and other problems. I understand that the office of Mayor is that of a servant-leadership position that serves the county.

4 - I have started non-profits and businesses, and coached others in their businesses and can help the business of the county.

5 - I have a Master's Degree in Education in school administration. With all the needs we have with our schools, I look forward to working with the school board, county commission, and parents to help us have the best education for our children.

6 - I am not a politician. I do not bring with me preconceived ideas of "we have never done it that way" to this office, and I have worked multiple jobs in different sectors that will bring a host of new ideas to the office.

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

1 - Growth: We have to deal with the growth of the county by having all the entities work together. The growth entities approve the new housing projects, then the schools have to figure out where to

educate the children that come from the new housing projects, and the county commission has to figure out how to pay for the schools. That isn't an efficient way to handle growth.

2 - Schools: To make Maury County the best place to live, we have to have excellent schools in the area of education, facilities, teachers, and the educational experience. I have heard of so many people who have pulled their children out of the public school because of school bullying. I want to work with the schools and put together a program to fix that. www.theprotectorsclub.com

3 - Drugs: In order to make Maury County the best place to raise a family, we need to do something about the drug issue. No one wants to talk about it, but it is there. Last year, thirty-one people died in Maury County from an opioid overdose. We need to get law enforcement, judges, churches, and elected officials together to put together a comprehensive plan. It isn't enough to say, "Just close the border." Yes, that is an issue, but we in Tennessee and Maury County don't control that. We can do some things here to help with the drug issue.

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?

I believe there needs to be a joint task force or even a joint zoom meeting that meets often that can put these entities together to discuss the issues that effect our county. It appears to the community like the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing, or doesn't care what they are doing, even though it effects everyone.

This task force should include the city mayors, the county mayor, members from the school board, city council and county commission. It should be open as not to break any sunshine laws, but it should be a meeting where the different entities can work together.

The old phrase is still true, "It is amazing what can get done if no one cares who gets the credit." It seems like every entity wants to say it isn't their fault, and push the fault on everyone else. When that is the way "business is done," then nothing gets done.

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?

All I seem to hear anyone talk about when referring to this problem is raising taxes. That seems to be the common go-to. There has to be other ways to fund the schools and infrastructure.

The first thing is the impact fees. Others have tried to get it done and haven't accomplished it. I believe that can be done and must be done. New growth has to pay for new growth. We can't raise the taxes of all the older people who have already paid for their children to be educated and for the infrastructure that was needed at that time. It is not fair to expect people on a fixed income to have to pay more. That just isn't right.

There needs to be a property tax freeze for seniors and veterans who have lived here in Maury County for at least 20+ years. Many on a fixed income aren't going to be able to pay their property taxes and will have to sell their homes and move. That isn't just and fair to do to them.

In the meantime, we can work with responsible builders who understand the impact their new subdivisions will have on our infrastructure and who want to help us pay for the new expenses they are helping to incur.

I also think we should use out-of-the-box thinking to fund schools using private money, non-

profits, foundations, business people, and naming rights to the school, the gymnasium, and other parts of the building.

If we can get many of the home-school and private school families to connect with a school for even music, sports, or math, it can be a help to the home schoolers, and also allow the county to have more educational funds. If there were other families who wanted to home school, but still stay connected to the school in an area, the school still gets the educational funds, and it could help alleviate some of the growth for now until we can get the impact fees and other funding for new schools to be built.

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

Thoughtful and sustainable growth is just that. We have the forethought to see what our growth will do to our residents, the traffic, the taxes, the schools, and the infrastructure. A plan must be in place to deal with all the problems that growth can cause.

Sustainable growth is growth that we can sustain. We want growth. Yes, a growing county is better than a dying one, but out-of-control growth can create more problems than we can handle.

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?

I would love to see the businesses be more involved with education and set up partnerships with the schools for after-school jobs or training with the companies so there are summer jobs, or jobs after high school and college.

The businesses know what skill set they need for their workers and could help make sure they are learning some of those skill sets as a part of their education.

We need to make sure our children are learning the basics of reading, writing, and math, but some electives could be classes that will help them in the workforce. Having more technology training and coding classes would be great to prepare our children to have a good job and future after graduation.

I also want to do everything I can to make sure we have a community free of racism and prejudice. We want this to be a county where everyone's beliefs and background is respected. I believe there is one race, the human race. There are different backgrounds, families, nationalities, and religions, but we should stop trying to point out what separates us, and focus on the things we have in common and the needs we all have.

Also, having a great county in which to live will attract the diversity and talent we need to fill the jobs we are creating.

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

As a paratrooper and a pastor, I have been on call 24/7 for almost all my adult life. I would put myself out there to help people when they need the county mayor.

My office will be open, my email and my phone number will be available. (davidbakerformayor@gmail.com and 931-797-1816)

I would also commit to having regular online town halls to connect directly to the people. The town halls will be done on a zoom webinar and live-streamed on Facebook. People can send in their questions ahead of time or ask them live on the webinar. I want to make sure the residents of the

county know what is going on and feel secure about the direction the county is taking.

On those regular webinars, we will have guests who can help deal with different aspects of the county business to keep them updated on the progress of the issues we face.

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

1 - A successful term to me would be to help balance the growth and infrastructure. To keep getting new jobs and businesses here, but to also make sure we are paying for it without raising taxes.

2 - A successful term would be raising the education level of our county, helping to fix school bullying (which turns into school shootings), and helping to fix the drug problem in our county.

3 - The last part of a successful term would be making sure the county knows the problems that we are solving so they can be at peace and be secure with where they are living.

So many people have fears of the future because we are not communicating to the public on the work we are doing.

Much of the fear of running out of water, or fear of out-of-control growth can be fixed by informing the public about what is being done and making sure they stay involved.

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?

I have been a part of Maury Alliance for years, and I went through Leadership Maury a few years ago. I appreciate the work that they do and would be willing to meet with anyone at anytime to work to fix the problems in our county to make Maury County the best place to raise a family.

I will look forward to working with Maury Alliance to bring in new businesses that will provide our residents with great jobs. It is easy for me to “sell” people on Maury County. I was born here and have lived here forty-two of my fifty-five years. My family generations go back to 1806 when the Bakers moved to Tennessee, a year before Maury County was founded.

Please go to www.DavidBakerforMayor.com if you have any more questions.

[BACK TO LIST OF CANDIDATES](#)