

MAURY COUNTY MAYOR SHELIA BUTT



1. Why are you running for this position?

I am running for Mayor because I know the people of Maury County, I love Maury County and it was my honor to serve the people here for eight years in Tennessee General Assembly. I want to keep Maury County strong and free! I look forward to serving again in the role of Mayor as we continue making Maury County the best place to live, work and raise our families in the Nation!

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

During my 8 years in the General Assembly, I always kept the interests of my constituents FIRST. I fought egregious government mandates and led the statewide coalition against the Waters of the U.S. Act and because of those efforts, that federal rule was never implemented in Tennessee.

I received several honors and distinctions for my work in the Legislature, including Agricultural Legislator of the Year, Middle Tennessee Development District Legislator of the Year and the Iron Lady Award from the Nashville 911 Project, among others. I served on the State Government Committee, The Agriculture Committee, The Education Committee and the Criminal Justice Committee. I served as the Republican Majority Floor Leader. I know how things work and how to get things done. I sincerely believe that I have been prepared “For such a time as this.” We have challenges in Maury County and I know that working with the County Commission and the municipalities that we can work through them together!

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

I actually believe there are 4 things that most people in Maury County are concerned about. The people of Maury County want a (1) Safe Community, (2) Controlled Growth, (3) Great Schools and to (4) Keep Taxes as Low as possible.

None of these things can be fixed overnight. However, we need a County four year plan, which I intend to pursue.

(1) I strongly supported our law enforcement while in the Legislature and will continue to do that. I believe that part of our growth is because we in Maury County value our law enforcement and the “rule of law.”

(2) I will look at every available tool in the toolbox for the County Commission and the Cities to manage growth. That will include working for an Impact Fee, however, that is only a small piece of the puzzle. An Impact Fee is a one time commitment. We need recurring revenue. The builders should have more skin in the game for infrastructure and schools. We need to make sure that the Cities and the County are following their own guidelines for approving zoning and housing.

Almost 50% of public school teachers are considering other professions right now. And it’s not all about the money! It is going to take families, homes and communities working together and a return to discipline, respect for authority and accountability from students.

It is going to take a return to basics: Phonics, Math, Civics, real History and Science. Having great schools is going to take all of Maury County families working toward that goal. Parents should not just be sending their kids to school. They should be a part of the school!

(3) As far as taxes are concerned, the Budget Committee and the Financial Management Committee along with the Finance Director, are the entities who craft the budget.

The Financial Management Committee consists of the County Mayor, Road Superintendent, Director of Schools, and four (4) members elected by the county legislative body at its regular September session of each year or at any subsequent session.

The four (4) members elected by the county legislative body are not required to be members of the County Commission.

Every effort needs to be made to make sure that we are being good stewards of the money we already collect from taxpayers and receive from the state. I believe that one of the most important things is transparency and that citizens should be better informed about the working budget and what the Budget Committee is proposing. They should show up at meetings to voice their concerns.

When I was in the Legislature and the bureaucracy was pushing the gas tax, I worked against it. Not because TDOT didn't need the money for infrastructure, but because we could have found that money in other places without raising taxes.

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?

First, we have to elect people in those leadership positions who really do care about Maury County as a whole. We need to meet regularly and have open, transparent discussion about what is mutually beneficial.

I have learned that the old saying that "More great things get done when no one cares who gets the credit" goes a long way in the success of entities working together.

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?

As the Mayor, I will be on the Financial Management Committee and will work diligently with them to make a plan and work the plan. I will work closely with the School Board, water systems and the Road Superintendent to understand their needs and requirements.

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

I define thoughtful growth as having vision and a plan and not getting the cart before the horse. As we have seen in surrounding counties, once you get behind the curve, the entire community suffers.

We cannot allow growth to overrun our infrastructure. We need a plan in place for us to manage the growth we know is coming.

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 have seen great results from the STEM Program and Vocational Training. There are strides being made for students to take dual enrollment classes and be on a fast track for employment.

We need to make sure that our students are exposed to many different areas of work such as Agriculture, Marketing, Teaching, Manufacturing, Retail, Entrepreneurship, etc. I hope to work with the Schools and School Boards to have more people who are involved in diverse jobs be able to go into the schools and talk to the students about them and what jobs are available in those fields. I have seen several “city kids” become active in Agriculture after they realized that Agriculture involves not only working the land and with animals, but also working with drones, robotics, genetics and statistics.

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

During my 8 years in the State House, I made myself available and have always been transparent with my Constituents. I wrote a weekly column in the newspaper about what was happening when the Legislature was in Session. I plan to implement that again as a monthly column “From the Mayor’s Desk.” I got constant feedback from those articles and I know the people of Maury County appreciated it and knew what was happening in Nashville when we were in Session.

The Mayor’s position is not a part time job. I plan to keep regular office hours and be available to the people of Maury County. There is a large conference table near the Mayor’s office and I plan to make good use of it!

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

A successful term would look like a vision and plan was implemented when I came into office and that I was able to work with all of the entities involved to see great results and steady, controlled growth that works for all of Maury County.

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?

The Maury County Chamber and Economic Alliance is a vital part of Maury County’s success. Working along with them, the Mayor has the responsibility of being one of the faces and one of the primary promoters of Maury County. I look forward to working with them in that role for the prosperity and security of all of the citizens of Maury County.

[BACK TO LIST OF CANDIDATES](#)