

The Daily Home

VOTERS' GUIDE

Sunday, August 18, 2019

\$1.50



'DEGA DECIDES 2019

Talladega chooses is next slate of leaders

BY CHRIS NORWOOD
Home staff writer

On Aug. 27, the residents of Talladega will head to the polls to elect a mayor, City Council members and members of the Talladega City Board of Education as the city's political representatives for the next four years.

Under Talladega's current form of government, the office of mayor is ceremonial, but that does not mean that it is not a hotly contested race — with field of six candidates. Incumbent Jerry Cooper is seeking a second term, and facing challenges from Vann Caldwell, Katie Campbell, Paul Ledbetter, Timothy Ragland and Jennifer White.

Councilmen Jarvis Elston and Gerald Cooper, representing Wards 2 and 5, respectively, and board of education member Shirley Simmons-Simmons, representing Ward 1, are not seeking

reelection.

The contest for Elston's seat is between Vickey Robinson Hall, John Kidd and Duryea "Dewey" Truss, while former Councilmen Joe Ballow and Travis Ford, as well as Curtis Holman and Howard "Trae" Williams III are vying for Cooper's seat.

Sandra Beavers and Dixie Bonner are running to take Simmons-Sims place.

Board of Education members Mary McGhee and Chuck Roberts, in Wards 2 and 4, respectively, are unopposed.

All of the other races are contested and include incumbents. In Ward 1, Council President Dr. Horace Patterson is being challenged by Rodger Gunter and Dudley Gail Montgomery, while incumbent David Street is running against Tom Lutchendorf and Joseph K. Power Jr. in Ward 3.

Ward 4 Councilman Ricky Simpson will face off against Amy M. Calhoun-Bishop and Betty Spratlin.

On the Board of Education, incumbent Jake Montgomery is running against Angela D. Estelle, and incumbent James Braswell faces Susan Slaughter Gaskin, in Wards 3 and 5, respectively.

All voters will be allowed to cast a ballot for mayor. Residents of Ward 1 will vote at the B.N. Mabra Center, Ward 2 at the Brecon Rec Center, Wards 3 and 4 at the Spring Street Rec Center, and Ward 5 at the Bemiston Rec Center.

In races where no candidate gets more than 50 percent of the vote in the general election, there will be a runoff on Oct. 7 between the top two candidates in each race, with voting at the same locations. Whether elected in August or October, the new city officials will be seated in November.

The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot for the general election is Aug. 22. Under a state law that went into effect Aug. 1, the application for an absentee

ballot must include a photo copy of a state-issued identification. Another copy must be enclosed with the absentee ballot itself in order for the ballot to be counted.

Applicants who do not include a copy of their identification will be issued a provisional absentee ballot. Those who do not enclose a copy of their identification with the absentee ballot will also have their ballots marked as provisional.

In addition to the information included in this special section, voters in Talladega will have an opportunity to see the candidates in a town hall-type setting Tuesday night, Aug. 20, at the Ritz Theater. This candidate forum is sponsored by the Daily Home, the Greater Talladega and Lincoln Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Ritz Theatre.

The event is free and open to the public.



Elect

Vickey Robinson HALL

A Fresh Start, For A Better Tomorrow!

Pd. Pol. Adv. by Vickey Robinson Hall, 519 Broadway Ave., Talladega, AL 35160

000271253r1

**City
Council
Ward 2**

MEET THE CANDIDATES

CITY COUNCIL WARD 1

RODGER GUNTER SR.

Age: 69
Hometown: Talladega
Education: Completed US Army wheeled vehicle mechanic school and US Army tracked vehicle mechanic school 1970-1972. Completed MDTA Welding School in 1974. Completed EMT 1 at NF Nunnelley 1981.
Occupation: Retired welder from Anniston Army Depot after 29 years
Political experience: None
Family: Wife, Vickie Benefield Gunter of Talladega; children, Teresa Goetz of Talladega, and Rodger Gunter Jr. of Charleston.



What is your plan for recruiting business and residents into Talladega?

I would like to see Talladega become a place of destination. Talladega has a rich history with so much to offer along with our surrounding areas. I would like to see the old Wehadkee property renovated, a portion to commemorate the textile industry that once supported this town. Also on the property, build a replica of Fort Leslie with other museums about our history, including the Native Americans that once occupied Talladega. Clean the town up and make it attractive to draw industry, tourists and residents.

How would you grade the incumbent city council? What have they done well? What could they have done better?

80 percent of the present council was not in office during much of the decline of Talladega. The loss of the textile industry was a hard hit. We need to

extend our tax base to a variety of businesses, industry, tourism and other means that will sustain our city government, school system and our citizens. Term limits would be an assurance that council members that have out-stayed their usefulness would not block or hinder progress. Term limits would also give opportunity and experience to up-and-coming leaders in our city.

What role does city government have in supporting the school system?

We should be able to provide security for our students. Our students should be able to learn without being bullied, threatened or challenged by any means that would hinder their progress to a fully educated mind. Our children today are our leaders tomorrow. Let us give them the best we have and a clean path to a bright future. We as citizens can also help by electing BOE members that care about our students and want the

best for them. We can also help to support our students who work hard and represent our city at state and national levels.

What can be done about the recent rash of gun violence in Talladega?

This is an issue that affects almost every city and town in America. I would like to see those sensors that detect gunfire installed in the known troubled areas of our city. They notify our police immediately and give an advance to all emergency personnel for a much faster response time. We all must take responsibility by reporting criminal activity. If you see a problem situation, you need to report it to the proper authorities. Call your councilman with your concerns.

How can we improve the square?

Parking is always an issue. We need to improve the new parking lots on East and Court streets; they need to be opened up for full use. Look into open-

ing up more parking close to the square if possible. When we have adequate parking, we have a chance to see more things coming to the square. A shuttle from the parking lots on special occasions could bring people to the square and surroundings attractions.

What are your thoughts about the need for city government to be transparent?

The mindset "out of sight, out of mind" and "Don't say anything negative, we only want to hear the positive" are not transparent to our citizens. Problems, issues and concerns getting swept under the rug is not healthy for any government. You can't just keep lifting the rug as the obstacles pile up. It becomes a tripping hazard and hinders the progress of the people. These practices are not transparent; the people are not being heard and being represented in a respectful and courteous way.

DUDLEY GAIL MONTGOMERY

Age: 62
Hometown: Talladega
Education: Bachelor's degree in humanities, University of Montevallo
Occupation: Instructional assistant, Talladega City Schools
Political experience: Ran for council, Ward 1
Family: One son, Father Brandt Leonard Montgomery, Episcopal priest



What is your plan for recruiting business and residents into Talladega?

I would like to see if the city has a list of businesses/industries/corporations in the last five years that have approached the city wanting to locate in Talladega. Then I would like to know why the businesses chose not to locate in Talladega, such as not enough land available to build, the availability of buildings that could be rented/bought, etc. Were there any stipulations that both the city and businesses could not agree to. This process could include finding other businesses/industries/corporations that could provide jobs and possible economic stability for many years in the future.

How would you grade the incumbent council? What have they done well? What could they have done better?

Hindsight has always been better than foresight. It is so easy to say what a councilman could have or should not have done without knowing all the facts. It

takes a lot to keep a city operating with as few problems as possible and the city's councilmen are human also. There has been and will continue to be times when the council meetings may become contentious. Disagreements on various issues will occur. City Council meetings are for the purpose of handling city business and solving problems, and people do, at times, become very emotional when expressing their views. However, when a councilman chooses to use a gavel to solidify what he believes is his right to stop people from having the right to speak, how much longer will it be that the councilman feels that it is his right and his power alone to decide who will run for an office, why he has the right to make that decision, and how the people should vote.

What role does city government have in supporting the school system?

The City Council and the school system have roles that require both groups must work together for the purpose of making sure that the children

of this area get the quality education that they need. When students are being sent to other school systems or private schools because the parents are not pleased with the local school system, there is a problem. School-age students do not make the final decision as to where they will receive their education, especially when the students are sent to schools where the parents are financially able to send them. Both the City Council and the school system must work together to enhance the school system.

What can be done about the recent rash of gun violence in Talladega?

Use the laws that are already on the books and enforce them.

How can we improve the square?

The square is beautiful and a lot of activities do occur on the square. I love the square and know that with time, the square will have a lot of businesses again. Let us all keep looking at the positives and keep supporting the businesses that are already

on the square.

What are your thoughts about the need for city government to be transparent?

When city government can explain exactly why a decision regarding an issue has been made and how the citizens overall will be affected, then the need for transparency has been met. If I ask a question for clarification about something, I am asking for a reason. That reason would be for a better understanding of what is being discussed or has been discussed. If I, the citizen, can hear the disdain in a councilman's voice because another councilman is asking questions for clarification, then the need for transparency is more than crucial, it is imperative. I may not always agree with the final decision, but I do, however, want to make sure that I was properly informed when I voted.

HORACE L. PATTERSON

Age: 72
Hometown: Selma
Education: Not listed
Occupation: Pastor of Mt. Canaan Baptist Church, educator at AIDB
Political experience: Talladega City Council 1991 to present; appointed to Talladega City Board of Education for 10 years
Family: Wife, Dolia McIntosh Patterson; children, Horace Patterson Jr., Julian Patterson and Ivy Patterson



What is your plan for recruiting business and residents into Talladega?

My plan is a plan for the future. It is one where we build upon our strengths, and work to overcome our weaknesses. This plan is simple, clear and concise. My goal is to make the 10-mile trip from the interstate into our city more than worth the trip. I have identified no population outcomes that will be a hindrance to the growth of this city. One key to continued growth is tourism! Tourism! Tourism! By leveraging the opportunities that tourism can bring to the city through a plan that is both clear and flexible, those coming can experience all that this mature and special city has to offer. We need to provide

incentives that will be as attractive as those offered by other surrounding cities.

How would you grade the incumbent city council? What have they done well? What could they have done better?

The incumbent city council has served with integrity. It places a high value on honesty. The city of Talladega is currently rated AA by Standard and Poore's Global Ratings. An AA rating is the second highest rating by S&P and Fitch. This rating indicates the city of Talladega has a very strong capacity to meet all financial obligations. The budgeted revenue for this year is \$14,852,365. The general fund reserve balance is \$2,243,720.80.

What role does city government have in supporting the school system?

City government plays a major role in supporting the school systems. In order to attract business investment, we must produce an educated and inspiring work force.

What can be done about the recent rash of gun violence in Talladega?

The best way to end violence is by preventing it before it happens. There are three interactive violence prevention tools that teach with profit: conflict resolution techniques, critical thinking techniques and building and maintaining positive self-esteem. The issue of gun violence should not be a partisan issue.

Those who are marked by the tragedy they survived should be the catalyst that eventually unites us.

How can we improve the square?

We must keep building on the success that we are now enjoying.

What are your thoughts about the need for city government to be transparent?

City government should be transparent except in those areas such as settlements and legal entanglements that could place the city in jeopardy.

Re-Elect

JERRY

COOPER

TRIED & TRUE

*A Mayor For
Everyone*



Pd. Pol. Adv. by Friends to Elect Jerry Cooper, 1013 East St., South, Talladega, AL 35160

000271360r1

Re-Elect


JAMES BRASWELL

BOARD OF EDUCATION WARD 5

I will continue to add professional and business sense to the board.
My priorities will always be about the students. **THANK YOU!**

Pd. Pol. Adv. by James Braswell, 370 Waites Rd., Talladega, AL 35160

000271099r1



BOARD OF EDUCATION WARD 1

SANDRA BEAVERS

Age: Not listed
Hometown: Not listed. (resident of Talladega for 30 years)
Education: 1989 graduate of Talladega College
Occupation: Administrative assistant at the Talladega Fire Department
Political experience: None
Family: Husband, Charles Beavers; son, Chance.



What are your thoughts about the need for city government to be transparent?

Transparency boosts accountability and opportunities for residents to be informed about what is going on in the city. An informed constituency creates dialogue between residents and city officials, builds trust with citizens, which can lead to new undertakings, in my opinion.

How do you see the relationship between the city government and city school system?

City government has a vested interest in a positive perception of city schools and play a crucial role in recruitment of companies/industries. Businesses relocating will want a strong pool of workers and consumers who can afford their products, and schools benefit by providing students with opportunities for success in the workforce.

What are your thoughts about a consolidated elementary school for Talladega?

A consolidated elementary school is welcomed. In my opinion, improved surroundings may enhance children's self-esteem and may have a positive impact on academic performance and their attitudes toward learning.

school system once they reach high school age, rather than transfer to area school systems?

Let's be clear, the transfer of students occurs before high school, and after elementary school. The board should create a survey to collect data from parents of students in the four elementary schools and ask, "Why do they move their children to other school systems after elementary schools?" Based on replies, create a special task group, comprised of parents from elementary schools, and

discuss the responses. It would generate clear-cut data and a path to real solutions.

DIXIE SANDERS BONNER

Age: 67
Hometown: Baldwin County
Education: Bachelor's degree in psychology, Talladega College
Occupation: Retired social worker, Talladega Department of Human Resources
Political experience: None
Family: Husband, Walter Bonner; two children, Kioka Bonner Buckhanon and Phaer Bonner.



What are your thoughts about the need for city government to be transparent?

Transparency is the nucleus from which the community's sense of inclusiveness is cultivated. Thus, the community's sense of inclusiveness will lead to a positive attitude about the city. The positive attitudes will promote city pride. Moreover, when city government is transparent, it keeps everything above board; transparency keeps things clean, as it is the best "disinfectant."

How do you see the relationship between the city government and city school system?

Both entities are inextricably financially connected. More specifically, city government

needs good schools to attract industry and businesses necessary to establish a sound and dependable tax base. Industry, in particular, looks for good schools before they locate in an area. The jobs, taxes, etc., that are secured will help generate the funds necessary to operate the city government. Of course, part of the responsibility of the city is to help fund local revenue for the city's school system(s). Therefore, one entity cannot thrive without the other.

How do we keep kids enrolled in the city school system once they reach high school age, rather than transfer to area school systems?

Working with the superintendent and her/his team, each board member should be tasked with the responsibility of meeting with

his/her constituents to begin helping to understand why so many children leave the system once they reach high school. Various data sources should be used to better understand this critical issue. More importantly, a multidisciplinary team (including the superintendent's team, parents, students, board members, city representatives, business representatives, etc.) should develop a comprehensive plan to re-engage parents and students. I believe it will take all of us supporting the school system in this effort. This issue is too important and too big to lay at any one entity's feet. "It takes a village."

What are your thoughts about a consolidated elementary school for Talladega?

I am open to the idea of school consolidation. The

research I have done has both pros and cons. However, before committing to any initiative, I would like the data that supports and the data that does not support the initiative to be shared with all stakeholders (parents, teachers, board members, etc., alike). In addition I would like to see the breakdown and projections for enrollment trends by school and zone over the past five years and for the next five years. I know these will be estimations based on current trends. Also, I would like the see projections indicating the financial impact on the system, school, community, etc. Finally, if such a move is necessary, I would like the superintendent and the board to work together to help all stakeholders understand what is at stake.

CITY COUNCIL WARD 2

VICKY ROBINSON HALL

Age: Not included
Hometown: Winterboro
Education: Winterboro High graduate
Occupation: Talladega housing authority, Goody's, Custom Pizza
Political experience: Served on the No Trespass Panel for 10 years
Family: Husband, Eric Hall



What is your plan for recruiting business and residents into Talladega?

We must promote our positives and work to resolve our negatives. We must sell our city to potential business. We must sell ourselves by working together for a common cause, supporting our current businesses and the school system. Continue the revitalization of our square and activities that draw newcomers.

How would you grade the incumbent city council? What have they done well? What could they have done better?

Considering the overall performance, including the square revitalization, road work, support of the school system and the work to help get Georgia Pacific back, they

deserve a good grade, but there is always room for improvement. I feel continuing Christmas on the Square was a good idea. Improvement in the dynamics of the members and creating harmony could have been better. I would like to see more transparent leadership and will work hard to make that happen.

What role does the city government have in supporting the school system?

The two are dependent on each other. A mutual bond of respect and trust must be formed and maintained. The school system needs growth to maintain and increase enrollment; the city needs great schools to help recruit business and encourage employees to live in Talladega. I would

like to see closer working relationships between the two bodies. More involvement by the liaisons and joint meetings between the two. The two bodies must work together.

What can be done about the recent rash of gun violence in Talladega?

Support the police department and give them the help they need to increase patrol and surveillance. Encourage citizens to help. Establish neighborhood watch programs. Get the parents more involvement.

How can we improve the square?

There have been some great improvements on the square with activities, sidewalks and renova-

tions. The interest of local citizens has proven successful. This must continue with the support and cooperation of the city. Support the recruitment of more businesses and create an atmosphere that will welcome potential businesses. Work hard to keep the square area clean and work to fill space.

JOHN KIDD

Age: 87
Hometown: Talladega
Education: Attended Talladega County Training School through grade 12
Occupation: Worked at gravel plant in Eastaboga 31 years, worked for city of Talladega for 11 years supervising jail inmates.
Political experience: None, ran for office once
Family: Wife is deceased, four sons, three daughters



What is your plan for recruiting business and residents into Talladega?

We have to make things better, improve things if we're going to get new vendors. I want to make sure my ward is clean, that there are lights in the park, and cut the limbs hanging over the roads. I know we can't do it all at once, but that's the first part of the plan.

How would you grade the incumbent city council? What have they done well? What could they have done better?

They could show some improvement. I know they've had their hands full, but some improvement could be done.

What role does city government have in supporting the school system?

We need to make sure the schools are safe, and that kids are not afraid to come to school. We need that bad.

What can be done about the recent rash of gun violence in Talladega?

We should have background checks; you shouldn't just be able to say you're 21. There's too much killing and crime going on, and we need to crack down on it. When people are convicted, we need to make sure they serve their time. You have all of your rights until

you break the law. I can see somebody maybe getting a break the first time, but if you get in trouble again, you need to serve your time and you need to work. We've got plenty that needs to be cleaned up around town.

How can we improve the square?

Give tickets to people who litter and make a mess, and use some of those people in jail to keep it clean. Keep police on the job, and make sure it gets done.

What are your thoughts about the need for the city government to be transparent?

Everything needs to be done out in the open. We put people in there, we need to know what they're doing. That's what they're there for. Too much is going on behind closed doors now.

in there, we need to know what they're doing. That's what they're there for. Too much is going on behind closed doors now.



VOTE★TRAE WILLIAMS

CITY COUNCIL


≡Ward 5≡

Forward Thinking for the Future

Pd. Pol. ad by Trae Williams, 203 Frank St., Talladega, AL 35160

000271145r1

VOTE
for



•Durability

Able To Withstand Pressure

•Enthusiatic

Eager To Work On Progress

•Inclusive

Ready To Hear Your Input

Joe BALLOW

Proven Leadership

City Council WARD 5

Pd. Pol. Adv. by Joe Ballow, 330 South Oak Dr., Talladega, AL 35160

000271247r1

CITY COUNCIL WARD 2

DURYEA ‘DEWEY’ TRUSS

Age: 65
Hometown: Knoxville Community of Talladega.
Education: Attained degrees in law enforcement, and management and supervision.
Occupation: Retired from U.S. Army after 23 years; Anniston Army Depot division chief, 35 years (over public works). Also worked for Talladega Police Department, Talladega County Sheriff's Reserve (30 years), and Talladega College security.
Political experience: Previously appointed to Talladega Civil Service Board.
Family: Married to Ralphyne Truss; sons, Durand and Dequarious.



What is your plan for recruiting business and residents into Talladega?

I would want the mayor and city manager to work hand-in-hand on both issues. Add additional funding for the mayor and city manager to recruit new industry. With more jobs, we will have more residents. The jobless rate in Talladega is somewhere around 3 percent. This is very good.

How would you grade the incumbent City Council? What have they done well? What could they have done better?

This will be decided by the upcoming election. If you do a good job, you keep your seat. This is clearly the voter's choice. The voters hold the score card for each elected official.

What role does city government have in supporting the school system?

Talladega City School Board controls the role of the city school system. The federal government provides funding for the school system. I will be available to assist the Talladega school system any way possible.

This is why it is very important to complete the census forms so that each citizen can be counted. This determines the funding for the city of Talladega.

What can be done about the recent rash of gun violence in Talladega?

This is a problem that exists throughout our country. I would like to see more church and social groups involved. More of our children need to be involved in sports.

And most of all, have something to keep our children busy and off the streets. Police need to step up patrol in high crime areas, and, parents, we must step up to the plate now, before another life is lost to gun violence.

How can we improve the square?

The city of Talladega and Mr. (Kevin) Smith, they are doing an outstanding job renovating on the square, let's just wait and see when the project is complete.

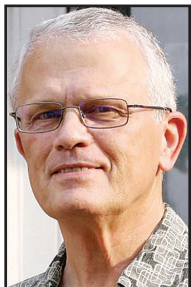
What are your thoughts about the need for city government to be transparent?

Working together as one body, having a clear vision and progress, moving our city forward.

CITY COUNCIL WARD 3

TOM LUTCHENDORF

Age: 74
Hometown: Philadelphia.
Education: Graduated from Penn State. Took graduate and professional development courses in management.
Occupation: Retired Army Airborne Ranger, infantry lieutenant colonel, 1966-1991. Retired North American sales manager with Tape Craft, Oxford, 1992-2015.
Political experience: Talladega Airport Board, Talladega Heritage Commission and current chair of the Talladega Planning Commission.
Family: Wife, Nancy Lutchendorf; daughter, Jana Hadley.



What is your plan for recruiting business and residents into Talladega?

As a retired Army officer of 25 years and a North American sales manager of 24 years, I have traveled extensively and am very skilled in dealing with a wide variety of people at all levels. I would use this experience to meet and communicate with companies and organizations to attract industry, businesses and new residents to Talladega.

How would you grade the incumbent City Council? What have they done well? What could they have done better?

The majority of the incumbent city council members are dedicated and serve the community. I believe there has been an issue with cooperation at times. Based

on my extensive management experience, I would work to build consensus on all issues. I also believe strongly in teamwork and believe the council should work together to move our city forward.

What role does city government have in supporting the school system?

Our city school system is vital to our community. Good schools are key to attracting industry, new businesses, new residents and help encourage our youth to remain here. I believe the city should work to support the school system. This can be done through financial support for specific activities and programs, by recognizing student and team achievements and by supporting all efforts to improve the school system.

What can be done about the recent rash of gun violence in Talladega?

There is no single simple solution to this nationwide problem. One step is to fully support our police force by attracting and keeping high-quality officers. We need to support police interaction with all parts of the city so that we are all working towards the common good of the community. We also need to support grass-roots activities to address the issue.

How can we improve the square?

The square has been improving for the past several years; however, along with businesses throughout the city, we can do more. The city should be "business friendly" in that we should encourage existing businesses and recruit new businesses.

Regarding the square, we should work with the chamber and others to develop activities to bring people to the square and the city in general. I strongly believe in "buy local," which means more revenue for the city and therefore better roads, parks and other city services for our citizens.

What are your thoughts about the need for city government to be transparent?

I strongly believe in transparency in government at all levels. As elected or appointed officials, we are working for the citizens. Although not everyone will agree with every decision, those decisions should be made in the open and in the best interest of the community and not for personal reasons.

JOSEPH K. POWER JR

Age: 72
Hometown: Talladega
Education: Graduated from Auburn University, 1969
Occupation: Retired banker, 39 years service
Political experience: Talladega Historic Preservation Commission, 2011 - 2016
Family: Wife, Pamela O Power; children, Sara Katherine Power and Emily Joe Power.



What is your plan for recruiting business and residents into Talladega?

Gov. Ivey has stated that in 2017, 26 million visitors entered Alabama as tourists, an increase of 800,000 over the prior year, and has become the second-highest revenue generator in our state.

Tourism produces year-round revenue, expanded job opportunities in the areas that support tourism, and an overall increase in the quality of life in our area. Our area has a lot to offer and most likely more to offer than other cities and counties in Alabama. It is somewhat complicated, but at present we do not qualify for tourism grants that other cities and counties are receiving. I can work through that and help us receive grants to support our tourism efforts. Further, I want to establish a tourist information kiosk in the area of the caboose, and a tourism office opened by year-end 2020.

How would you grade the incumbent City Council? What have they done well? What could they have done better?

The present city council seems to respond with contributions to help community events take place that might otherwise not happen. They also respond to emergency funds requests to fix infrastructure emergency problems.

They could have been more "business friendly." For example, the present City Council held a public hearing last December regarding the tables/chairs issue around the square. They still have not made a decision on that issue. That and other issues like that seem to drag on for months or longer.

Another development issue for our City Council would involve planning. We need to plan for longer periods than what we do with our one-year budget each year. I would propose a 5- and 10-year plan for the city, and to follow that planning.

What role does city government have in supporting the school system?

The amount of money from our budget that goes to the school system is very small compared to the overall school budget. I would propose an increase in our

funding, but tie it to technology training or math and science. Any requests would need to show what result is expected and what result was achieved from the prior year.

What can be done about the recent rash of gun violence in Talladega?

My experience in policing is limited and is based on several ride-alongs with police officers and 11 years as a Neighborhood Watch patrol person. I believe that Community Policing programs work and should be continued and intensified. My plan would be to take the best practices of other communities in Alabama that have had success in reduction of crime and gun violence.

How can we improve the square?

At this point, I think we should clean it up and make it more attractive with a good steam clean, by making the square a very safe place at all times, and continue to provide tax abatements and façade grants as requested. When we take control of the streets around the square from the state, I

would request that we reduce the speed limit around the square and to allow no right or left turns on red, which would help our walkability score. Windows on empty buildings will need to be covered with a uniform but friendly city poster, as other cities in Alabama are now doing.

What are your thoughts about the need for city government to be transparent?

Suggested changes are as follows: 1. Publish the City Council agenda online on Wednesday for the next Monday meeting. 2. Allow citizens to register to make comments as late as Friday before the Monday meeting. 3. Stop the practice of mass approving agenda items without discussion. 4. Take the time to discuss crime occurrences at every meeting, with discussion of suggested reduction efforts. 5. Hold more work sessions before the council meetings. I have visited the Sylacauga City Council and Talladega County Commission in the past, and their work sessions seem to be productive and peaceful.

“Amazing things
can happen
when we
believe.”

Elect

JENNIFER
WHITE

Mayor of Talladega - Aug. 27th

Pd. Pol. Adv. by Jennifer White, 525 Leahy Cir., Talladega, AL 35160

000271508r1



One Town ~ One Family

Amy M. Calhoun-Bishop

City Council ... Ward 4



ote

Pd. Pol. Adv. by Amy M. Calhoun-Bishop, 2075 Ashland Hwy., Talladega, AL 35160

CITY COUNCIL WARD 3

DAVID STREET

Age: Not listed
Hometown: Not listed
Education: Not listed
Occupation: Project manager at Dynasafe US, international demilitarization engineering firm.
Political experience: Talladega City Council, four years, president 1 cycle; liaison to Historic Preservation Commission and Top Trails Board; Talladega Historic Preservation Commission, five years, chairman, one term.
Family: Wife, Betty; daughters, Jessica, Jennifer and Hannah.



What is your plan for recruiting business and residents into Talladega?

Industrial. I am proud to say I was the president of the council when we successfully recruited and secured Georgia Pacific to build and open irs \$100 million state-of-the-art lumber mill in Talladega on the site of its previous plywood mill. During negotiations along with the governor’s office, my professional experience helped in assuring GP that Talladega had the leadership and commitment to ensure we were the right choice.

Retail. The Buxton company has a very extensive methodology that identifies the types of businesses that best fit a city’s demographics, and they also have exclusive rights to critical information that greatly enhances successfully recruiting businesses. As a current councilman, I voted for the city of Talladega to enter into a contract with the Buxton company to professionally develop a business recruitment plan for retail and commercial businesses. We are currently working that plan.

Commercial. I have a very good working relationship with a very successful real estate developer that has bought several properties in Talladega within the last year or so. We talk and meet frequently, and good things are coming. With this developer, my experience and membership on the Historic Preservation Commission is a key component to their interest in Talladega. I can’t divulge any further information at this time.

How would you grade the incumbent City

Council? What have they done well? What could they have done better?

Overall the current council has been less than effective as it should have. On a scale of 100, I’d give us a 60. Early in our term, we did very good working with our city manager with our rebranding of Talladega, the very first Christmas on the Square event, identifying the need and purchasing new city-wide software that made many improvements, our employee job classification study that resulted in a higher and more fair pay scale and progression plan for ALL employees, and also major achievements within internal processes.

The council should be more transparent, communicate with one another better, better explain actions in meetings to the public, putting citizens’ needs ahead of personal agendas and should have hired a proven professional city manager through a transparent public interview process.

What role does city government have in supporting the school system?

The health of a school system and the city are intertwined, while the city school board and council are totally separate entities with separate responsibilities and rules to follow. They have separate budgets and funding sources. With this stated, I think the two should have a good relationship with each other and be supportive of each other. I have always made a conscious effort to have good relationships with the school board members and have made

myself available to them. In a community the size of Talladega, we all interact with each other in many ways other than just our elected roles, and I believe that helps us know one another on a personal level. That, too, helps in staying informed in each other’s projects, goals and various other issues that arise from time to time.

What can be done about the recent rash of gun violence in Talladega?

The solution to the gun violence can only be stopped with the support and cooperation of the citizens within the communities where they are happening. The city can and has assigned police to more patrols and have been more visible in the community. The city can and has held the private property owners of housing projects accountable to provide proper security for their residents. The city can and has supported efforts to have cooperative community meetings to address these issues, but until the police and our city officials have earned the full trust of the community, it will be difficult to make big changes. I am confident I have made great progress, but I will continue to do all I can to earn that trust.

How can we improve the square?

The city has spent a tremendous amount of public funds on the square already. Most buildings around the square are privately owned and we also made matching grants available to spark private property owners to perform repairs. We are cur-

rently enhancing public parking in the immediate area that will result in customers wanting to visit the businesses around the square. We have revised our sign ordinance specifically to ease the restrictions within the Historic Square District because of the impact it would have on the success of business owners. We can’t put all our efforts into the square, but it is a very integral part of our identity and our city. Each of these will make having a business on the square more attractive to more people, which obviously will support growth. It’s a slow process and not entirely the responsibility of government to do.

What are your thoughts about the need for city government to be transparent?

Transparency is one of my major concerns for any government or public entity such as school boards, appointed public boards or commissions, whether they have any legal authority or not. If you have followed me even a little, it is evident that my actions support my words. If you have just now heard of me, it isn’t very hard to learn what you have just read is true. My next term will continue as I have done before and everyone will see more of the same, and my hope is the new members will agree. There are distinct differences between politicians and elected public servants; transparency is one of them. Obviously, I am a public servant.

BOARD OF EDUCATION WARD 3

ANGELA DENISE ESTELLE

Age: 60
Hometown: Talladega
Education: BS degree in elementary education, 1991, Jacksonville State University; MA degree in elementary education, 1995, University of Alabama.
Occupation: Retired educator, 37 years.
Political experience: Held various offices with the Talladega City Education Association.
Family: Husband, Phillip Estelle; daughter, Kaneka Jones Lipscomb and son, Roger Darnell Jones.



What are your thoughts about the need for city government to be transparent?

Transparency is empowering for both the city government and citizens because it serves to hold elected officials accountable and enables citizens to know where their tax dollars are spent. Transparency will build trust within the community by making more information publicly available and serve to increase community engagement and feedback. Transparency in city government will create a reciprocal relationship where city government allows citizen accessibility to information in a format that is easy for people to understand and should be a conduit for responsive citizen interaction. Bottom line is city government must be open and honest with the citizens they serve and information requests on city business, action, interaction or inaction should be readily available. Transparency should also serve to deter mismanagement or corruption in government.

How do you see the relationship between the city government and city school system?

The city government and

city school system must work in tandem to ensure viable, attractive, relevant educational opportunities for its citizens to enhance the growth of the city and its economy. The relationship between city government and the city school system is linked both by need and by necessity as the educational opportunities and level of education of our citizens will drive the local economy and attract businesses to employ the community at large. Talladega must make the city school system a top priority to ensure the city can compete and prepare students to compete in the local or global economy. If the school system is failing to meet expectations, it is hard to attract businesses because with businesses comes employees with children who will enroll in the city school system. The cornerstone of a successful municipality is an educated population.

How do we keep kids enrolled in the city school system once they reach high school age, rather than transfer to area school systems?

The Talladega city school system must have offerings for high school students that rival

what other systems are offering to include a variety of courses to challenge their intellect, whether it is academic or career technical education. ... perhaps consider partnering with local and regional employers in direct job-related training programs and internship opportunities in high school that lead to direct hire after graduation. Educators from the top down must be recommitted to nurturing all students in a way that enhances life and independent living skills to let students know they matter and are expected to make a positive contribution to their community and society as a whole. A safe environment and consistent code of conduct would also enhance the learning environment and serve to increase retention in the city school system.

What are your thoughts about consolidated elementary schools for Talladega?

Consolidating elementary schools in Talladega would be advantageous for a number of reasons:


Consistency — one consolidated elementary school would ensure that the best reading, math, language arts, science, etc., is taught to all

students.

Continuity — policies are all written in one handbook for students under one administrative staff, which will help teachers, parents and students understand what is expected of them. Collaboration — with all teachers under one roof, collaboration among grade-level teachers and the administrative staff would increase, allowing educators to meet regularly to discuss goals, expectations, issues, etc. Collaboration would also allow teachers the opportunity to ensure that lesson planning is integrated to allow students the opportunity to connect learning activities.

Improved Communication – One school, a greater voice in determining the direction of elementary education, timely and accurate delivery of messages to all teachers and staff.

Cost Savings — One new large elementary school instead of four old/aging school buildings will save the system money by reducing operating costs, fewer buildings to maintain and administrative costs. Combining all four existing elementary schools into one, with separate wings/areas for pre-K, K, and sixth grade students. This would mean passing a tax to build one large elementary school.



BOARD OF EDUCATION - WARD 3

ANGELA D. ESTELLE

Positive Leadership For A Bright Future!

Pd. Pol. Adv. by Angela Estelle, 123 Debbie Street, Talladega, AL 35160

✓ote Dudley **"Gail" Montgomery**

"COMMUNITY SUCCESS THROUGH SERVICE"
City Council - Ward 1

Pd. Pol. Adv. by Dudley Gail Montgomery, 922 W. Battle St., Talladega, AL 35160



BOARD OF EDUCATION WARD 3

JAMES N. 'JAKE' MONTGOMERY JR.

Age: 69
Hometown: Not included
Education: BS in education from University of Alabama, Juris Doctor from University of Alabama Law School.
Occupation: Attorney
Political experience: Talladega City Board of Education 2015 to present, chair 2015 to 2018.
Family: Wife, Ginny Montgomery; three daughters, Ashley, Mary Elizabeth and Anna Leigh.



What are your thoughts about the need for transparency in city government?

Transparency is important if you expect the public, parents and teachers to understand and support decisions. However, transparency is a two-way street. Parents, teachers and the public advocating for an issue should be transparent as to their real motives. Board members should be transparent by disclosing information supporting their criticisms of or support for issues.

How do you see the relationship between the city government and the school system?

For the past four years,

the relationship has been good. We need more than a good relationship, we need collaboration by working together on specific projects. It is the superintendent and board who should develop and justify the projects requiring financial help from the city. You cannot criticize the City Council if projects are not presented for consideration.

How do we keep kids enrolled in the city school system once they reach high school age, rather than transfer to area school systems?

First, the question is premised on an inaccurate fact. The loss of students takes place after 5th and 6th grades. There are two

reasons we are losing students: reputation and course offerings. We have to do a better job refuting the inaccurate negative reputation. Second, we have to offer courses beyond the customary math, history, etc. We need to offer more advanced courses, art, music and stronger technical training. We have to give parents a strong reason to stay with us. Parents want the best education for their children, and we have to do a better job convincing them we can do that. The state's funding is very restrictive in how it is used. We need the City Council's assistance to fund the extras that will help keep students in Talladega and improve our chances for economic growth in the city.

What are your thoughts about a consolidated elementary school for Talladega?

Consolidation will not be popular. If enrollment is not increased, we will have to consider it. I do not want to lose the community attachment to our elementary schools. I will be reluctant to support any consolidation plan that does not maintain community attachment to the school in their area. The costs of operating a school is extremely expensive. These costs will be difficult to justify if a school's enrollment continues to remain low.

CITY COUNCIL WARD 4

AMY M. CALHOUN-BISHOP

Age: 44
Hometown: Anniston
Education: Not included
Occupation: I have owned a business in Talladega collectively for 14 years. Currently, I own Shear Studios on the historic square, offering embroidery and vinyl personalization.
Political experience: Not included
Family: Husband, Curtis W. "Snowie" Bishop; five children.



What is your plan for recruiting business and residents into Talladega?

First, we have to clean up the streets and clean out the ditches, clean up around our homes and current businesses, but most importantly, change our attitudes! Attitude is everything, and with the right attitude, we can accomplish anything. We should all be lifting each other up. Help your neighbor — if they have a project they are working on, take time to visit with your neighbor and assist them.

Secondly, we have to clean up our current school system. In its current state, the Talladega City Schools leaves a lot to be desired. This has nothing to do with the children or teachers/staff. The current problems revolve around the current board members and superintendent. With the right people elected on Aug. 27, positive change is just over the horizon.

Last, the city government should find the means to accommodate future businesses and offer them incentives to open new business using a building that is currently standing but empty. Occupying those buildings would not only create jobs and revenue but would also help with the cleanup necessary to bring back the beautification

that once was Talladega.

How would you grade the incumbent City Council? What have they done well? What could they have done better?

E for effort — while they have shown effort, they haven't been efficient. The present council lacks teamwork and in order to work as team, all people should work together. Instead, we have a choice few working against one or two and, instead of working to resolve issues, they choose to bicker and the community is left to suffer. Teamwork makes the dream work!

What role does city government have in supporting the school system?

With many of the school buildings in dyer need of repair, I feel we are at a point where the city government should allot a percentage of taxpayer money toward building new school buildings or a central elementary school for grades pre-K through 5th grade and a central high school for grades 6th through 12th. Winterboro recently did something similar. This topic is crucial considering so many of our children are

being withdrawn from the city schools to attend public and private schools outside the city limits.

What can be done about the recent rash of gun violence in Talladega?

Considering that Talladega has nothing to offer our children and youth, I'm not exactly sure. I do know that when youth are encouraged, they succeed, whether that be in school or life choices. There's an old saying, "An idle mind is the devil's workshop." Instead of spending thousands of dollars on a splash pad, Talladega should evaluate the needs for our youth and put in place attractions that bring involvement and positive thinking.

How can we improve the square?

Considering I own a business on the square, I see so many ways to make improvements. The most important issue is with the Historic Preservation Committee. As it stands, many people do not wish to open businesses on the square or are relocating their business due to the demands of the committee. I understand there should be rules and guidelines, but instead

of seeking fault, the committee should also find ways to assist the business owner.

Also, parking is an issue for all businesses on the square. I remember many years ago when Talladega hired an employee to monitor parking on the square and if a car was parked for longer than two hours, the driver was ticketed. Reimplementing this procedure would eliminate the lack of parking, giving shoppers and visitors easy access.

What are your thoughts about the need for city government to be transparent?

In my opinion, transparency is much like communication — how many relationships do you see fail when communication is involved? The city government and the taxpayers should always have open communication. If the residents of Talladega are aware of what is going on and are given the opportunity to be heard, it will in turn bring about positive morale and a stronger city government. This goes back to teamwork — everyone, working together to bring about positive change with no hidden agendas.

RICKY SIMPSON

Age: Not included
Hometown: Talladega
Occupation: Owned and operated Rick's Electric Company for 37 years in the city of Talladega. Also owned Rick's Arcade on the Square (where Campbell's law office is now located) in the late '80s.
Political experience: Served two terms on the Talladega Civil Service Board, elected by the city employees, and served four terms on the Sunrise Village Association in Gulf Shores, and two terms on the Talladega City Council.
Family: Wife, Angela Sides Simpson (40 years in December); daughter, Kristy Dean.



What is your plan for recruiting business and residents into Talladega?

To support all types of business that has an interest in coming to Talladega. I would like to see an industrial park developed in the city, (and) I have personally talked to the city and county administrators about this. If Alabama 21 could be a four-lane from Oxford to Talladega, this would provide better access to an industrial park. I have also talked to our state representatives about this.

How would you grade the incumbent City Council? What have they done well? What could they have done better?

The council has handled

monthly operations of the city, working not only with the council but with the city manager, to see that support is always provided for our residents. Overall, even though everyone has a difference of opinion, there are always improvements that could be made.

What role does city government have in supporting the school system?

The city provides funding to the school system through local tax and is always allotted funding in the city budget each year. The city always provides any support that the city school system has asked for and usually individual council members provide personal funding as well. The city is always open to support the school system and the superintendent in any way

possible. The city school system is a separate organization from Talladega City; it operates under the superintendent and the elected board members.

What can be done about the recent rash of gun violence in Talladega?

The city has already put in operation a task force through the police department to address the gun violence. We have several others that are holding community meetings in different areas to offer help and support. We are always available to any suggestions and comments from residents on this matter.

How can we improve the square?

We have received grants to redo the sidewalks and make

everything handicap accessible. To improve the square, we need additional parking for the businesses that are on the square. The city should help by providing directions and support to anyone who wants to open a business on the square. The square not only needs the support from the city, but also the citizens to survive.

What are your thoughts about the need for city government to be transparent?

The city government must be transparent; all legal business conducted is an open public record. There are times when certain things cannot be discussed openly as per the city attorney. My door is always open to the residents to discuss any concerns you may have.





Please VOTE
TRAVIS
City Council
Ward 5

FORD

Measuring Progress As We Go
256-761-1918
TeamFord@att.net

Pd. Pol. Adv. by Travis Ford, 200 Frank St., Talladega, AL 35160

0002711431

CITY COUNCIL WARD 4

BETTY SPRATLIN
Age: Not included
Hometown: Talladega
Education: Reynolds Business College (associate degree in secretary and office management), courses at Gadsden State Junior College in business management, UAB early childhood education classes, Red Cross training.
Occupation: Retired from American Red Cross as an administrative assistant. Owned Toddle Inn School (kindergarten and pre-K).
Political experience: None
Family: Husband, former Talladega City Councilman Jim Spratlin; three sons Kirk, Kevin and Keith; one daughter, Jody Ingram.



What is your plan for recruiting business and residents into Talladega?
Getting industry brings jobs, jobs bring people to our cities and schools. We have property on our bypass that has been zoned for business. Let's get to work with the Industrial Board, the Airport Board and our new council members to see if we can move our town forward. Let's work together!

How would you grade the incumbent City Council? What have they done well? What could they have done better?
I don't want to focus on our present council. I want to see our new council work together and be a team. I want to focus on the future!

What role does city government have in supporting the school system?
I feel we must support our school system the best way we can. We need to get young people involved in city work through community service or the Chamber of Commerce. Everyone should have the opportunity to live and work in Talladega when they graduate from school, trade school or college. Our school system is important to our community. They are our future!

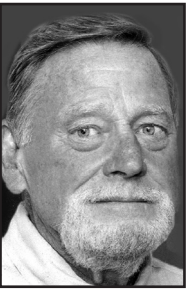
What can be done about the recent rash of gun violence in Talladega?
Gun violence is occurring not only in Talladega, but occurring nationwide. I hope to work with our police, neighbors and other councilmen to establish neighborhood watches. I would like to have awareness classes on gun safety. Increase police presence! Patrol our communities and streets often. I would like to see our police officers set up classes in our schools and talk about crime and gun safety. We as parents and grandparents need to start teaching our young children that guns hurt and kill. Let's work together and look out for each other!

How can we improve the square?
Our square is the focus of our town. The work that has been done to improve our square looks great. I would like to see us work with individuals and franchises to get restaurants and other shops. We have buildings around the square empty; rent is high, buildings need to be repaired and brought up to code, city and state. If we work together and stay focused, the people will come!

What are your thoughts about the need for city government to be transparent?
My main reason for running for City Council Ward 4 is to reflect the people's thoughts and ideas. I want to listen to everyone who wants to be heard. We all need to share information with our citizens and be transparent. I am focused on the future!

CITY COUNCIL WARD 5

JOE BALLOW
Age: 74
Hometown: Not included
Education: Not included
Occupation: Retired from Wehadkee Yarn Mills as vice president of manufacturing.
Political experience: Appointed to Randolph County school board and reelected. Previously elected to Talladega council Ward 5.
Family: Wife, Kay Davidson (first wife, Pat, died in 2018); children, Joe Jr. and Vicki Weber Hayes (deceased), stepson Shane.



What is your plan for recruiting business and residents into Talladega?
That's a tough one to answer. The council has to depend on the manager for a lot of that, but I am willing to get out and work to get new businesses here however I can. I can't say more than that for a direct plan.

How would you grade the incumbent City Council? What have they done well? What could they have done better?
I don't think the council has been that bad for the last four years, but I do hate to see all the infighting. We need things to run smoothly and to try to get along.


What role does city government have in supporting the school system?
We give the city schools money; we always have. Without good schools, we don't have a good city. If they need more money, we will do that. But people look at schools before they decide to locate somewhere. I know I did. Both of my kids went through Talladega City Schools, and now my son is raising his kids here. We need to find a way to keep our kids here, and for that, we need industry.

What can be done about the recent rash of gun violence in Talladega?
I strived for that when I was on there before, and I will do that again.

How can we improve the square?
The first thing we need to do is to give a Man of the Year award to that (developer Kevin) Smith fellow. He's put a million dollars into three buildings on the square, and he should be recognized for that. We've tried Antique Talladega and some other things, but we need to find a way to improve the looks of the buildings there. The theater side looks good, and the side where they've been working on the corner building looks good, but the AJ's side needs work. I think Michael's is the only business still there.

What are your thoughts about the need for city government to be transparent?
Every government needs to be transparent, not just city government. People pay taxes, and they need to know what we're doing with that money. Government needs to be totally transparent.

TRAVIS FORD
Age: 63
Hometown: Talladega
Education: Graduated from Northeast Alabama Law Enforcement Academy, Jacksonville State University.
Occupation: Funeral assistant, Usrey Funeral Home. Worked as a deputy with the Talladega County Sheriff's Office, 1978-1991. Alabama Forestry Commission, 1991-2010, retiring as chief investigator under the Alabama State Police.
Political experience: City Council, Ward 5, from 1995-2003; council president, 1999-2003; liaison to the Talladega Police Department for eight years during tenure as councilman; Airport Board, and the Talladega Adjustments & Appeals Board.
Family: Wife, Mitzi Jordan; two sons, two daughters.



What is your plan for recruiting business and residents into Talladega?
To be supportive of the Downtown Revitalization Project, continued support of the Ritz Theatre and all activities on the Square and offer incentives to property owners and businesses looking to renovate and/or locate in the Talladega area.
Find the best methods of advertising that Talladega is open for business!
Also, I feel that the City Council and city manager should have a close working relationship with the Talladega County Economic Development Authority as they continue to bring in profitable businesses that have a history of providing employment to our citizens.

How would you grade the incumbent City Council? What have they done well? What could they have done better?
I think that the voters of each ward will be doing this when they go to the polls on Aug. 27. I wish good luck to each one.

What role does city government have in supporting the school system?
The first thing that potential businesses/citizens look at when deciding on a location is its schools, public safety — fire and police. It is our duty to offer the very best in these services. People want to feel safe and to educate their children in the best schools available. I pledge to work with the Talladega City School Board to the best of my ability.

What can be done about the recent rash of gun violence in Talladega?
I would like to develop and implement community awareness programs, set up community meetings and educate the public on a much-needed way of helping law enforcement to identify alleged suspects. Also, to work with the city manager and the Talladega Police Department in identifying and supplying the resources needed to carry out their duties. Apply for state and federal law enforcement grants/monies to update technology/equipment that will keep the public and law enforcement officers as safe as possible.

How can we improve the square?
To support those who have already worked tirelessly to improve so much on the square and surrounding area. I think this work needs to continue and needs to be supported. Of course, again, to encourage applications for grants to fund the improvements of buildings. I would like to see a variety of businesses and establishments become a part of this outstanding area. Most importantly, because this is for the residents of Talladega — and out of town shoppers — to support ALL of our local businesses and restaurants.

What are your thoughts about the need for city government to be transparent?
The citizens of Talladega need to be and should be aware of what is going on in their city at all times. This can be accomplished by having fewer closed-door meetings, and by its representatives being available to answer questions from the public and the media, because we are there to serve the people.



CITY COUNCIL - WARD 4
Betty Christie Spratlin
Focused On Our Future!

Pd. Pol. Adv. By Betty Spratlin, 202 Forest Hills Circle, Talladega, AL 35160

000271225r1

CITY COUNCIL WARD 5

CURTIS HOLMAN

Age: 28


Hometown: Tuscaloosa

Education: Graduated from Jacksonville State University in 2014 with a degree in broadcast journalism and a minor in creative writing.

Occupation: Work for The Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind on the EH Gentry campus teaching Braille.

Political experience: None

Family: Wife, Crystal Holman; 1-month-old son, Noah Isaiah Holman; currently have two foster children.



What is your plan for recruiting business and residents into Talladega?

My business plan is to target blue-collar and white-collar businesses to set up here. Right now, the focus leans too heavily on restaurants and shops, but our local economy can only support so many at the moment. But if we had more people coming into the city for work, then we would eventually need more of those shops and restaurants to keep up with the demand.

How would you grade the incumbent City Council? What have they done well? What could they have done better?

I would give the current coun-

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How would you grade the incumbent City Council? What have they done well? What could they have done better?

I would give the current coun-

What role does city government have in supporting the school system?

City government has a massive role to play when it comes to our city schools. If you look at the most successful school systems, they are the ones who have the full support of their local governments. Education should be our first priority.

What can be done about the recent rash of gun violence in Talladega?

If education is the first priority, crime is a close second. I love what the Police Department has done recently with implementing a violent crime task force. Last I heard, they had two officers with more being trained. As councilman, I would make sure this continues and would work with the police department to make sure they have everything they need.

How can we improve the square?

I love the square revitalization project and I desire to see it continue. It's easy to forget how beautiful our town is sometimes, and I would love to show it off.

What are your thoughts about the need for city government to be transparent?

parent?

Transparency is vital for our city government. Right now, the public trust is broken, and we have to bring it back. My plan for this is to have two town hall meetings every year. These would be open to the public and local media. I would also have an interpreter provided so that our deaf community can take part as well. If you rent or own property in the city, then you're an investor in the city and deserve to have a say in the direction of the city.

HOWARD NELSON
'TRAE' WILLIAMS III

Age: 36


Hometown: Talladega

Education: Graduated with a degree in history from Auburn University.

Occupation: Employed by my father's company, Specialty Contracting, and manage daily operations with him doing HVAC, general contracting and plumbing.

Political experience: None

Family: Wife, Shae Pressley Williams; son, James Patton.



What is your plan for recruiting business and residents into Talladega?

We need attractive economic incentives for businesses looking to employ large numbers of citizens, which will generate more jobs and hopefully more disposable income, which in most cases will more than make up for the incentives given to the companies.

How would you grade the incumbent City Council? What have they done well? What could they have done better?

I respect all our council-members and appreciate their commitment to the citizens in their wards. The past term these councilmen served was challenging to say the least. The controversy surrounding the past city manager as well

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What role does city government have in supporting the school system?

Quality school systems are part of recruitment of new business and families moving into our city. Our young citizens are the lifeline to the future of Talladega. It's time to look at the need for new and renovated schools and facilities like the Mary Dumas Stadium.

What can be done about the recent rash of gun violence in Talladega?

corrected in one term, but with a unified council and board, we can make drastic improvements.

What can be done about the recent rash of gun violence in Talladega?

Unfortunately, violence in many cities is on the rise. I believe our city can improve negative events by reaching out to community leaders. We can build stronger/safer communities by building a good relationship between law enforcement and citizens. There's no correct answer to solving violence; we just have to try and provide law enforcement the proper materials to do their job effectively as well as stay in touch with our citizens' concerns.

How can we improve the square?

I believe the square is improving daily. Citizens who have returned home, like Mr. Kevin Smith, have drastically helped our situation. There is so much potential within the area. If we would discuss options with business owners about expansion and outdoor activities, we could really attract a lot of future projects. Our community is struggling to bring

back young professionals because we do not have exciting options that appeal to them. Maybe outdoor seating at local restaurants, an alley attraction, or allowing building owners more opportunities within their property. We need to have an open mindset for everything at this point. Our city needs reason to get excited, and the square is perfect for motivation!

What are your thoughts about the need for city government to be transparent?

We need complete transparency. Over the last decade, it seems our residents have been left in the cold on city activities. Input from voters is vital for the city's success. Too often I hear people have tried to contact someone with a concern and been shunned or passed off by leaving a message. Council people are voted on by the citizens to be representatives. If you're not openly communicating with citizens, how can you properly represent their needs? It's time to listen and make the residents proud of City Hall.


Talladega, It's Your Vote and your Voice

Elect

VANN CALDWELL

MAYOR

on Tuesday August 27th



Putting Talladega First!

Pd. Pol. Adv. by Vann Caldwell, P.O. Box 172, Talladega, AL 35160

DAVID STREET

WARD 3

★ ★ ★ ★

PROVEN LEADERSHIP & COMMITMENT

STREET stands for:

NO HIDDEN AGENDA

NO CORRUPTION

NO LIES

NO COVER-UP

NO BACKROOM DEALS

NO BULLYING

NO RETALIATION


NO PUPPET!!

Why the HARD effort to remove STREET from office by a select group? Think about it...STREET cast his VOTES for the greater good of TALLADEGA not how he is TOLD to VOTE!

If YOU Want a Real Voice with YOUR COUNCILMAN –

VOTE STREET!

(256) 493-0922



Pd. Pol. Adv. by the Committee to Elect David Street, Ward 3, 410 South St., East, Talladega, AL 35160

✓ Vote ✓

JOHN KIDD

WHO WILL WORK WITH OTHERS FOR THE GOOD OF OUR COMMUNITY


City Council Ward 2

Available 24/7

•Served 40 years as a Minister

•Retired from City of Talladega

•Married for 52 years with 7 children



“I’M THE MAN FOR THE JOB”

Thank you for your support on August 27th

If you need a ride to the polls, please call 256-480-8258

Pd. pol. adv. by John Kidd, 20 Lide Rd. Talladega, AL 35160

Every VOTE COUNTS!

BOARD OF EDUCATION WARD 5

JAMES BRASWELL
Age: 72
Hometown: Talladega
Education: Talladega High graduate. Bachelor of science in business/marketing, JSU.
Occupation: Retired school secretary for Talladega City school system, owner of Custom Pizza.
Political experience: Talladega City Council, 1983-1987; Talladega Water and Sewer Board, 1983-1992; president PTA at RL Young, 1983-1987; Talladega Recreation Board, 1983-1987; Talladega City Board of Education, 1992-1998/2005-present.
Family: Wife, Dottie Stewart Braswell; two children.



What are your thoughts about the need for city government to be transparent?

Transparency is very important to all concerned citizens, including myself. Any board or council should absolutely be transparent when legally possible. Most of the time the information is positive and explains the whats, whys, where and whens.

How do you see the relationship between the city government and city school system?

The relationship is good but could always be better. We did in the past and I have suggested again meetings between the two bodies on a quarterly basis. We must work together; we are on the same team.

How do we keep kids enrolled in the city school system once they reach high school age, rather than transfer to area school systems?

Positive and accurate PR.

Increase course offerings. Hire good teachers for good learning experience. Treat every parent or guardian with respect and work toward positive partnerships. Let the community know what is going on — be transparent when legally acceptable. Maintain attractive and clean facilities. Perform exit interviews with students and parents leaving the system so any problems can be addressed. If you look at our city's population in the late '90s compared to current population, you will find school enrollment has mirrored percentage decrease in population. I realize our board over the last 8-9 years has not been a bright spot. We have for the most part surpassed that. Our board meetings are mostly about the students, teachers and achievements. This is the recommended way board meetings should be handled — informative. The board consists of five people and regardless of individual members' performance, we are accountable as a board, not individuals.

What are your thoughts about a consolidated elementary school for Talladega?

The students are our most important assets. Boards should be very observant of any waste in dollars that could be put into funding for learning and materials needed. School systems are like business; you must consider consolidation to maintain efficiencies. Boards should consider all phases of making a school system lean so funding can go where it should — quality education and opportunity for our students. We have discussed consolidation many times over the last few years with decreasing enrollment. One option was a large centralized elementary school for all students. This option was not cost-effective and increases in property taxes and revenue would have been necessary. The option that appeared most favorable to me is:

- 1) Remodel Houston for the middle school. Include 6th- through 8th-grade levels.

Houston is the newest facility and has more acreage than any other. Enough acreage for band room and sports facilities. We have already added the gym. The students currently in Houston could be blended into our remaining three elementary locations.

- 2) We would have three elementary schools versus four. Rezone into three school zones. We would have one South, one Central, and one North.

This consolidation would not require any school closings, but would offer more even distribution of students. Our neighboring system with similar enrollment chose to separate grades in the elementary — K-2nd, 3rd-5th. Their 6th grade is already in the middle school complex. I would consider both options and look at the option best for students and cost savings.

Maintaining current enrollment and working to increase it are two of the important issues facing our system.

SUSAN SLAUGHTER GASKIN
Age: 62
Hometown: Talladega
Education: Graduate of the University of Alabama at Birmingham
Occupation: Retired teacher with Talladega City Schools, 38 years.
Political experience: None
Family: Children, Ashley Springfield Martinis, Regan Gaskin and Connor Gaskin



What are your thoughts about the need for city government to be transparent?

As an educator, we have to be transparent with our parents. It is vitally important for the success of our students that we communicate openly with our parents. As a board member, I feel we need to be transparent to the citizens who elected us. Our success as a school system depends on open dialog with the people who entrusted us with the system. If there is a problem, we need to address it and find a solution as quickly as possible. We also need to recognize and celebrate our successes.

How do you see the relationship between the city government and city school system?

I feel city government and

the school system have to work together as a team. In order for our city to attract new businesses and industries, we have to show a successful school system. Our schools and the crime rate are two things prospective industries/businesses will look at. I feel the crime rate falls squarely on the shoulders of us as educators. We have to show our children options to drugs and violence, starting in kindergarten. The city is only as good as its school system.

How do we keep kids enrolled in the city school system once they reach high school age, rather than transfer to area school systems?

Actually, a few years ago, the county changed their requirements for taking city students. If you are not enrolled in the county by sixth grade,

you can't come. This is when our elementary schools started losing students. I don't think at this point we will get back the students who have left. In order to keep the students we have and attract new students, we have to offer programs from K-12th grade. There are many grants available to us as all our schools are Title I. We can use this money to fund programs like music, art, after-school care, advanced classes at the high school and more options in Career Tech.

What are your thoughts about a consolidated elementary school for Talladega?

I'm old school and I like having community schools. As an educator, I know that grouping all the students in grade levels like K-2, makes more sense. All your kindergarten students and all

the teachers are in one place. It makes planning more efficient, everyone is teaching the same skills and you work together as a team to meet the children's needs. As a parent, I realize it could be a transportation nightmare if you have several children in different schools across the city. It's a decision we'd need community input about.

KATIE CAMPBELL

for
MAYOR

@KatieForOurTalladega

I promise...

✓ To be a part of town halls in each of our wards, open to all citizens, and listening to you.

✓ To collaborate with our city government, council, school board, chamber of commerce, and other organizations and people to find solutions and ways to lower our crime rate, bring more commerce, encourage entrepreneurship of our citizens, help our stores fight the "Amazon Effect," increase pride in our city and schools and ensure safe, appropriate, affordable activities are available for our youth to participate in.

✓ To find ways to push Talladega forward in our rapidly changing world, including pursuing the availability of broadband and internet access to all our citizens and seeing our infrastructure needs are being met in a timely manner. These are needs that we must meet, not issues to be placed on the back burner.

✓ To work and speak for you, the citizens of Talladega. Even though I may not have a vote, I have a voice, and it is your voice.

Pd. Pol. Adv. by Katie Campbell, 106 W. Damon Ave., Talladega, AL 35160

000271515R1

VOTE

August 27, 2019

Brecon Recreation Center

Duryea "Dewey" Truss

CITY COUNCIL

WARD 2

•Retired Anniston Army Depot Division Chief - 35 years

•Department of Public Works

•Retired US Army - 23 years

FORMER EMPLOYERS

•Talladega Police Department

•Talladega Co. Sheriff Reserved - 30 years

•Talladega College Security

BOARD

•City of Talladega - Civil Service Board

EDUCATION

•Eastside Elementary School

•Talladega High School

•Degree, Gadsden State Community College

•Law Enforcement

•Management and Supervision

I want to represent you as your full time Councilman

Sincerely,

Duryea Truss

Duryea Truss

256-493-0075

Pd. Pol. Adv. by Duryea "Dewey" Truss, 419 Davis St., Talladega, AL 35160

000271318R1

Lets put politics and personal interest aside and turn Talladega into the city it could be.

Vote Tom LUTCHENDORF

City Council Ward 3

Paid for by Tom Lutchendorf Campaign for Talladega City Council Ward 3, 600 South St. E, Talladega, AL 35160

000271439R1

TO VOTE YOU MUST BLACKEN THE OVAL (●) COMPLETELY! DO NOT MAKE AN X OR ✓.
IF YOU SPOIL YOUR BALLOT, DO NOT ERASE, BUT ASK FOR A NEW BALLOT.

FOR MAYOR
(Vote for One)

☐

VANN CALDWELL

☐

KATE CAMPBELL

☐

JERRY GENE COOPER SR.

☐

PAUL LEDBETTER

☐

TIMOTHY RAGLAND

☐

JENNIFER WHITE

FOR CITY COUNCIL,
WARD NO.1
(Vote for One)

☐

RODGER GUNTER

☐

DUDLEY GAIL MONTGOMERY

☐

HORACE L. PATTERSONFOR CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION,
WARD NO.1
(Vote for One)

☐

SANDRA M. BEAVERS

☐

DIXIE M. BONNER

FOR MAYOR
(Vote for One)

☐

VANN CALDWELL

☐

KATE CAMPBELL

☐

JERRY GENE COOPER SR.

☐

PAUL LEDBETTER

☐

TIMOTHY RAGLAND

☐

JENNIFER WHITE

FOR CITY COUNCIL,
WARD NO.2
(Vote for One)

☐

VICKEY ROBINSON HALL

☐

JOHN KIDD

☐

DURYEA (Dewey) TRUSS

FOR MAYOR
(Vote for One)

☐

VANN CALDWELL

☐

KATE CAMPBELL

☐

JERRY GENE COOPER SR.

☐

PAUL LEDBETTER

☐

TIMOTHY RAGLAND

☐

JENNIFER WHITE

FOR CITY COUNCIL,
WARD NO.3
(Vote for One)

☐

TOM LUTCHENDORF

☐

JOSEPH K. POWER, JR.

☐

DAVID STREETFOR CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION,
WARD NO.3
(Vote for One)

☐

ANGELA D. ESTELLE

☐

JAKE MONTGOMERY

FOR MAYOR
(Vote for One)

☐

VANN CALDWELL

☐

KATE CAMPBELL

☐

JERRY GENE COOPER SR.

☐

PAUL LEDBETTER

☐

TIMOTHY RAGLAND

☐

JENNIFER WHITE

FOR CITY COUNCIL,
WARD NO.4
(Vote for One)

☐

AMY M. CALHOUN BISHOP

☐

RICKY SIMPSON

☐

BETTY C. SPRATLIN

FOR MAYOR
(Vote for One)

☐

VANN CALDWELL

☐

KATE CAMPBELL

☐

JERRY GENE COOPER SR.

☐

PAUL LEDBETTER

☐

TIMOTHY RAGLAND

☐

JENNIFER WHITE

FOR CITY COUNCIL,
WARD NO.5
(Vote for One)

☐

JOSEPH C. BALLOW, SR.

☐

TRAVIS FORD

☐

CURTIS HOLMAN

☐

HOWARD WILLIAMS (Trae)FOR CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION,
WARD NO.5
(Vote for One)

☐

SANDRA M. BEAVERS

☐

DIXIE M. BONNER


These are examples of what will appear on the ballots for each ward in Talladega.

All ballots will list the candidates for mayor.

City Council and City Board of Education candidates will only appear on the ballot for the ward in which they are to represent.

ELECT
JOE
POWER

Talladega City Council • Ward 3



POWER
To
Make A
Difference

VOTE
POWER
WARD 3


Phone 256-521-1766

Email:
JoePower4ward3@msn.com

Pd. pol. adv. by Joe Power, 610 East St. S., Talladega, AL 35160

TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL
CANDIDATE
FORUM

CITY COUNCIL & SCHOOL BOARD



TUESDAY
AUGUST 20 | STARTS
6 PM

LOCATION

RITZ THEATRE
115 COURT SQ. N.
TALLADEGA, AL.

KNOW THE CANDIDATES.
KNOW YOUR VOTE.
ELECTION DAY - AUGUST 27

HOSTED BY:
THE GREATER TALLADEGA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MODERATED BY:
THE DAILY HOME

Don't miss The Daily Home ELECTION GUIDE Candidate Profile special section inside Sunday, August 18 newspaper.