

## BizPac 2008 Candidate Information

Name\_\_ Jerry Jennings                      Phone 464 9940

Home Address \_\_\_244 West Lake Circle, Madison AL 35758

Public Office You Are Seeking \_\_\_Madison City Councilman District #3

Campaign Address \_\_\_ PO Box 2430, Madison AL 35758

Education\_\_\_ Associate Degree Electrical Eng'g (2 yr.)

Work Experience \_\_Retired Engineering Manager from Chrysler Corp.

Community Involvement\_\_\_ Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform, Huntsville Madison Co. Chamber; Madison Chamber ; Leadership program; attend Community Development course at Jacksonville State Univ.; Interface with TARCOG; council liaison to school board.

Previous Political Experience\_\_ Four years as councilman in Madison AL, elected 2004

Campaign Organization (staff and key volunteer leaders) \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Manager Mike Riley  
Finance Manager Chuck Duffy

Are you a graduate of the Committee of 100's Political Training Institute?\_\_ Yes

Have you received any other political training? Please describe.

Experience as a elected councilman

Are you a graduate of the Leadership Huntsville-Madison County program?\_\_ Yes

How much money have you raised to date for your campaign?\_\_ None

JERRY JENNINGS  
DISTRICT #3 COUNCILMAN  
MADISON AL

**1. Why are you running for this office and what do you hope to accomplish during the next four years?**

I am a candidate for re-election to build on my past 4 years of elected office experience and at the urging of many of District # 3 constituents, fellow elected council members, interested parties and local business organizations.

I will see several projects affecting my district to fruition such as an interchange at I #565 and Zierdt road; Zierdt road upgrade to a 4 lane boulevard; development of Breland –DeBartolo Life Style Center at Zierdt rd. and I #565; construction of the Madison YMCA. There are several citywide projects that are very important to the growth and financial success of Madison. Those include Wann Springs mixed-use development; County Line Road and I #565 interchange; continued road construction and repair.

On a broader scale I will continue to promote better cooperation between Madison and all surrounding governmental organizations.

**2. Do you see a need for a long-range vision for Madison and/or Madison County? If so, how should it be developed?**

There is a need for a long-range vision for both Madison County and North Alabama. Planning should be now. Unfortunately I do not expect significant advancement until the present political elected and administrative decision makers retire and are replaced by a new set of individuals who do not carry the baggage of the past 25 years of divisive and non-cooperative philosophy.

**3. What do you believe is the Mayor/City Council's role in economic development? Do you support city contributions and participation in the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville-Madison County?**

The Mayor and City Council must be involved in economic development. I do support, and am a member of the Huntsville-Madison county Chamber. I support better relations between the City of Madison Chamber and the Huntsville-Madison County Chamber to the extent I have arranged a lunch meeting between both chamber presidents for purposes of improving relations and fostering cooperation.

**4. Do you support strategic marketing and incentives to stimulate retail/sales tax development? If so, what is your vision for this effort?**

I do support such actions. For City of Madison I believe the best we can do at the present time would be to continue the improvement of the city's infrastructure such as I #565 interchanges at Zierdt Road and County Line Road, ensure adequate water and sewerage capacities; Gillespie Road extension; Eastview Road extension and most importantly maintaining the excellence of the Madison school system.

**5. Do you support city formation of a Madison ambulance service or do you believe the current non-profit HEMSI countywide service to be the best option?**

I support HEMSI with the caveat that service must be acceptable and such a arrangement is best financial interests of Madison.

**6. Do you support efforts to better attract and retain the young, professional workforce to this community to fill advanced technology and other jobs? Do you have additional ideas to strengthen these efforts?**

I do support efforts to attract and retain young professional workers. I believe the Wann Springs and Brealnd-DeBartolo developments will help in that direction. For Madison, downtown redevelopment will also help, if done properly.

**7. Do you support efforts to revitalize Madison's downtown? What incentives and efforts should be provided by the city?**

I do support the revitalization of Madison's downtown area. The city needs to take the lead in establishing a citizen directed board to collect both business and resident inputs on best direction to pursue. The Madison government needs to take lead in contracting for professional expertise to define possible actions to take to improve downtown and make a collaborative decision on how to proceed..

**8. What do you believe is the Mayor/City Council's role in public education?**

The Mayor and City Council must extend full support to improve our school systems. In the next year we will have to address the financial needs of our schools to accommodate the rising student population increases as a consequence of our local economic growth and the impact of BRAC.

**9. How would you work to improve cooperation between the Mayor and the City Council and within the City Council?**

More and better communication.

**10. How would you work to improve cooperation with Huntsville, Madison and Madison County government entities? What opportunities do you see for shared services to improve our quality of life?**

I will continue to maintain and expand communication with Huntsville and Madison County. I expect to establish like communication channels with Limestone County, Athens and Decatur governmental officials.

**11. How would you work to stimulate state government support for local projects?**

Better and more frequent communication with the State Government is essential to present and “sell” our local needs. Backing up that effort entails unbiased economic analysis of any project that clearly defines the benefit of that project for both our local community and the State.

**12. Do you support collective bargaining for public employees? If so, what do you see as the advantages of a public employee union?**

Fundamentally I do not support collective bargaining for public employees. Having stated that position, I realize that insentive, unfair and excessively demanding management practices lead to both private and public workers to organize. Under some circumstances a union is justified and I would deal fairly and responsively with that union.

**13. Give an example when you believe you did the right thing, but the decision may have cost you votes.**

I did vote against the imposition of excessive building fees in 2004. I do not believe that decision cost me any votes in the general population. I do not recall any other votes that may have cost me votes.