

Name: Dr. Richard Showers, Sr. Phone: (256) 337-1323

Home Address: 6040 Lincoya Drive, Huntsville, Alabama, 35810.

Public Office You Are Seeking: Councilman

Campaign Address: P. O. Box 3235, Huntsville, Alabama 35810

Education: B.S., Masters, and PhD

Work Experience: 36 years in the School System

Community Involvement: See attached

Previous Political Experience: Served on the Huntsville City Council twenty years.

Campaign Organization (staff and key volunteer leaders)

M. Jennings, Jenise Showers, Mack Ford, Ruby Ford, and Alex Adams, Jr.

Are you a graduate of the Committee of 100's Political Training Institute? No

Have you received any other political training? Please describe. Yes

H-Vote and A-Vote, A.E.A. (How to organize a campaign.

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

How much money have you raised to date for your campaign? \$21,000.00.

2008 BizPac Interviews

Huntsville Mayor/City Council Candidate Survey Questions

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**NAME:** Dr. Richard Showers, Sr.**BUSINESS ADDRESS:** P. O. Box 308, Huntsville, AL**TELEPHONE:** 427-5011**HOME ADDRESS:** 6040 Lincoya Dr., Huntsville, AL**TELEPHONE:** 859-1173**OFFICE PRESENTLY HELD:** Huntsville City Council
District 1 Representative**DATE FIRST ELECTED:** October 3, 1988**DATE TERM EXPIRES:** October, 2008**PREVIOUS ELECTED OFFICES:** None**NAMES OF ANY KEY STAFF PERSONNEL:** Rita Dunkin, Carol Jones,
Gay Ann Nelson, Gail Phillips,
Pearlie M. Stamper**ANY PERSONAL DATA YOU CARE TO INCLUDE:** (Marital Status, Children,
Education, Occupation, etc.)**WIFE:** Bettye Ann Showers**CHILDREN:** Richard, Jr.
Felicia
Jenise
Gwen
Wanda**PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT:** Retired, June 30, 2005
Huntsville City School System**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Past President - Johnson High School PTA
Past Member - Advisory Committee Johnson High School
Past Member - Huntsville Council of PTA's
Past Officer - Johnson High School Band Booster Club
Past Officer - Johnson High School Athletics Booster Club
Past Member - Title I Advisory Committee
Member - Vocational Industrial Club of America
Member Services - Y.M.C.A. Counselor, Huntsville Little League, Football Coach, Junior High
School football, wrestling, basketball, baseball, softball and girls' basketball and softball

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PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Basic Career Education Teacher
Vocational Instructor
Elementary School Technology Instructor
Middle School Industrial Arts Instructor
Middle School Earth Science Instructor
Adult Education Instructor
Adult Education Coordinator

PERTINENT INFORMATION

President, Huntsville City Council, 2004-05
President Pro Tem, Huntsville City Council, 2001-04, 2005-06
Past Third Presiding Officer, Huntsville City Council
Past President, Huntsville City Council
CMO, Certified Municipal Official, State of Alabama
Member, Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments (TARCOG)
Past Board Appointment Representative, Huntsville City Council
Past Member, City of Huntsville Insurance Committee
Past Chairman, City of Huntsville Finance Committee
Past Vice President, Finance Committee, City of Huntsville
Past Member, Advisory on Accessibility, City of Huntsville
Past Member, Local Emergency Planning Commission, City of Huntsville
Past Member, Planning Commission, City of Huntsville
Past Member, Metropolitan Planning Committee (MPO), City of Huntsville
Past Member, Clean Community Committee, City of Huntsville
Past Member, Historical Preservation Authority
Past Member, Zoning Subcommittee
Past Member, Local Emergency Planning Committee
Past Member-Handicapped Enforcement Committee
Chartered Trustee, Selma University, Selma, Alabama
Past Member Trustee Board, Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical University
Life Member, Alabama A&M University Alumni Association
Elected Vice President of ABC/LEO (Alabama Black Caucus of Local
Elected Officials)
Elected At-Large Board of Directors NBC/LEO (National Black Caucus
of Local Elected Officials)
President Emeritus, Alabama Baptist State Laymen's Movement Auxiliary of the Alabama State
Missionary Baptist Convention, Inc.
First Vice-President of the National Baptist Laymen's Movement Auxiliary of the National Baptist
Convention, U.S.A., Inc.
Past President, Northeast District Baptist Laymen's Convention
Past Financial Secretary, Mud Creek North Alabama Association
Member, National Education Association
Member, Alabama Education Association
Member, Huntsville Education Association
Past Advisory Member, State Council on Career and Technical Education

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Member, Legislative Contact Team, U.S. Fifth Congressional District
Member, Community Action Partnership (CAP)
Member, 1998 Leadership Alabama Class
Member, Huntsville Alumni Chapter, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.
Past Director, Guide Rights, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.
Life Member, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.
Director, Senior Kappas, Southern Province
Life Member, NAACP

HONORS:

Numerous awards and honors which include: (1) awarded the Presidential Citation as a distinguished Alumni of Alabama A&M University by the National Association For Equal Opportunity In Higher Education; (2) recipient of the 1997 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Award presented at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast sponsored by the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; (3) recipient of the NAACP Award of Excellence presented at the 1998 NAACP Life Membership Banquet; (4) Received the Annual Greater Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship Award in 2002; (5) Overall winner for politics by the Twenty Distinguished Men of Huntsville in 1993; and (6) Dr. Richard Showers, Sr. Recreation Center named in my honor; Honorary Doctorate Degree recipient in 1998.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

The Honorable Dr. Richard Showers, Sr., lives in Huntsville, Alabama. He and his wife Bettye Ann have five children: Richard, Jr., Felicia, Jenise, Gwen and Wanda. Dr. Showers is a native of Baldwin County (Lillian, Alabama) and, a graduate of Alabama A&M University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agribusiness Education. He also received a Master of Science degree in Trade and Industrial Education at Alabama A&M University and completed further study at Auburn University in Adult and Continuing Education. Dr. Richard Showers, Sr., is a Charter Trustee at Selma University, Selma, Alabama, and former member of the Trustee Board and Chairman of the Academic Affairs Sub-committee at Alabama A&M University, Normal, Alabama. Dr. Showers received an honorary Doctorate Degree of Humanities in 1998.

Dr. Showers is an outstanding educator and taught professionally for 34 years with the Huntsville City School System, one year with the Madison County School System and one year with the Auburn School System for a total of 36 years. He held the positions of elementary technology teacher, middle school earth science teacher, middle school industrial arts teacher, vocational education teacher, adult education teacher and adult education coordinator. Dr. Showers officially retired June 30, 2005 from the Huntsville City School System as the basic career/technical teacher at the Huntsville Center for Technology.

He is an active member of the Union Chapel M.B. Church, Reverend Dr. O. Wendell Davis, Pastor. He is a member of the Deacon's Ministry, Laymen's Ministry and serves as Sunday School Teacher in the Senior Adult Department; member of the Northeast State Convention; President Emeritus of the Northeast Laymen's Movement; President Emeritus of the Alabama State Baptist Laymen's Movement Auxiliary of the Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention, Inc.; and the First Vice-President of the National Baptist Laymen's Movement Auxiliary of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.

Dr. Showers has a long and distinguished record of community service during his 41 years as a resident of Huntsville, having been a member of and held office in numerous civic, religious, fraternal and professional organizations, which include the Unified Teacher's Organization HEA, AEA, and NEA. He is a Life Member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., a Life Member of Alabama A&M University Normalite Association and a Life Member of N.A.A.C.P.

On September 13, 1988, Richard Showers, Sr. was the first Black elected to the Huntsville, Alabama City Council since 1907, at which time Huntsville had Black City Aldermen. Following a four-year battle of a suit filed by State Representative Dr. George W. Grayson, the first Black legislator in North Alabama since the Reconstruction, a five-district plan was approved for the City of Huntsville with District 1 as the predominantly Black district. After the approval, Mr. Showers and five other candidates, four Blacks and two Whites, qualified to run in District 1. On August 23, 1988, in a citywide election, he led the ticket for District 1, but did not have a clear majority which necessitated a run-off with Dr. Jorge Kuzmivic, a professor at Calhoun State Community College in Decatur, Alabama. In the run-off, Showers received 59% of the votes cast. After being sworn into office on October 3, 1988, by State Supreme Court Justice C. C. "Bo" Torbert, his four-year tenure on the Huntsville City Council officially began.

Since 1988, one of his major goals has been to bring jobs and economic development to the north Huntsville area. Dr. Showers has been successful with the location of North Industrial Park in north Huntsville, supported the location of the new Toyota plant to the North Industrial Park in District One and naming the Northern bypass in honor of The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard in honor of Dr. King, which is presently open to the public. Dr. Showers was re-elected to a fifth term on the Huntsville City Council on August 24, 2004. Dr. Richard Showers, Sr. established a \$32,000 scholarship in his name to the Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University. He led the support of \$10,000 from the City of Huntsville to the Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University Marching Band to attend the 2005 Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California.

Councilman Richard Showers, Sr., has enjoyed a distinguished career of 36 years of services to boys and girls and adult learners. He has been blessed to have had this opportunity to help those move forward in the educational arena. He brings a strong dimension of stability, dependability and initiative to Huntsville City government, and above all, the commitment and dedication to improving the quality life for the citizens whom he represents.

1. Why are you running for this office and what do you hope to accomplish during the next four years?
2. Do you see a need for a long-range vision for Huntsville and/or Madison County? If so, how should it be developed?
3. What do you believe is the Mayor/City Council's role in economic development? Do you believe it is appropriate for the County Commission to purchase land for future industrial parks?
4. Do you support strategic marketing and incentives such as TIFs to stimulate retail/sales tax development? If so, what is your vision for this effort?
5. What strategic steps should the City take over the next four years to expand and strengthen long-term revenue sources?
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?
7. Do you support the efforts of Big Spring Partners to stimulate downtown development with zoning and code changes, strategic master planning, redevelopment of private and government property, and other initiatives? Do you believe it is appropriate for the city to provide infrastructure improvements that will stimulate additional downtown development?
8. What do you believe is the Mayor/City Council's role in public education?
9. How would you work to improve cooperation between the Mayor and the City Council and within the City Council?
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?
11. How would you work to stimulate state government support for local projects?
12. Do you support collective bargaining for public employees? If so, what do you see as the advantages of a public employee union?
13. Give an example when you believe you did the right thing, but the decision may have cost you votes.

1. To continue to provide quality leadership in District 1 and the City at large. The establishment of more jobs through economic development, community enhancements, i.e., street paving, parks and recreation, enhanced sanitation services, a more diverse city government, reduced crime, and continued educational support.
2. Yes. Long range planning is essential to the proper development of any entity. It should be developed with substantial input of business. Community, regional and national human resources.
3. The City Council plays a vital role in economic development. The Council with the Mayor sets the environment and provides incentives for the creation of local and national businesses to locate to Huntsville.
4. Naturally, I support an aggressive initiative by the City to stimulate economic development. I support TIFs when they are used properly and serve to benefit the community.
5. The City in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce, County, State and Federal representatives should put forth strong initiatives to identify and promote businesses to locate in Huntsville. A strategic long-term plan with reachable goals should be delivered.
6. Yes, providing more opportunities that will attract the interest (social) of the young professional.
7. I support the efforts of all business groups associated with the downtown redevelopment effort. I also support zoning and code changes as coordinated with the city and state agencies with oversight responsibilities for health and safety issues. As to the strategic master planning, redevelopment of private and government properties and other initiatives, I support them as long as they are all inclusive as to the enhanced quality of life for all of Huntsville and not just specific areas.
8. To provide financial support and participate in an advisory capacity in the current and long-term planning efforts.
9. The roles are distinct and unique. They also provide for a system of checks and balances. The City Council is currently working well. As for the Mayor's office, there needs to be a renewed respect for the current members of the Council. For the well being of the City, it is imperative for individuals to put aside their differences and work with the Mayor's office to ensure that Huntsville continues down the path of growth and prosperity.
10. Through joint meetings, strategic planning initiatives and constant communications.
11. By working with our state representatives, teacher organizations, labor organizations, and City initiatives to invite state officials to Huntsville on a consistent basis.
12. The State of Alabama laws do not provide for the creation of public employees unions. Therefore, this becomes a mute issue.
13. In 1996, I voted for sidewalks in the Lakewood area. The homeowners objected and I lost the Lakewood box that year.