

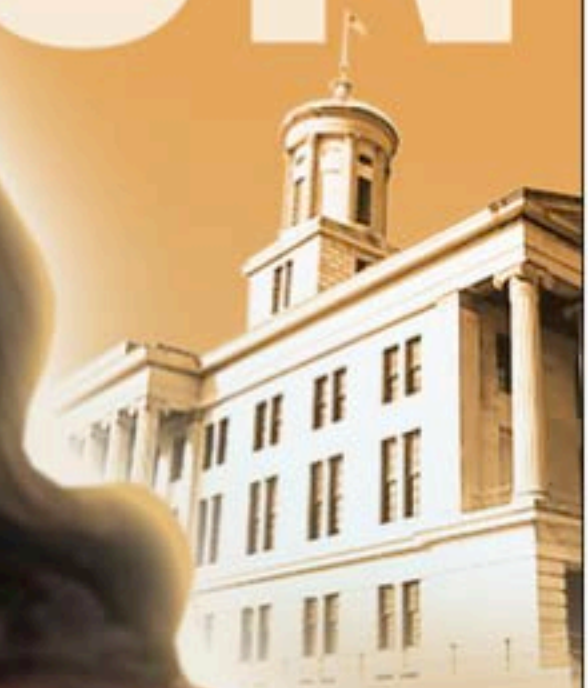
LONDON

OCT 2025

SHELBY

DEMOCRAT

POLITICAL MEDIA OF SHELBY COUNTY



STATE
SENATOR
**LONDON
LAMAR**

POWER
IN THE
HOUSE

DISCLAIMER:
THE SHELBY DEMOCRAT PUBLICATION IS NOT A PRODUCT OF THE SHELBY COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY. THE SHELBY DEMOCRAT PUBLICATION ENDORSEMENTS ARE NOT OFFICIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY ENDORSEMENTS AND ARE NOT THE OFFICIAL OR UNOFFICIAL BALLOTS OF THE SHELBY COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY. THE BOARD MEMBERS OF THE SHELBY DEMOCRAT PUBLICATION RESERVE THE FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHT TO MEET, DISCUSS AND GUIDE VOTERS TO CONSIDER CANDIDATES THAT CAN BEST SERVE OUR READERS REGARDLESS OF PARTY AFFILIATION. THE BALLOT CONTAINED IN THE SHELBY DEMOCRAT PUBLICATION IS INTENDED TO BE A VOTER'S GUIDE AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS BEING MISTAKENLY PRODUCED OR REPRESENTED BY THE SHELBY COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY. THE SHELBY DEMOCRAT PUBLICATION IS A NON-PARTISAN PUBLICATION OPEN TO UNRESTRICTED PARTY ADVERTISEMENTS.

A large, clear portrait of Mickell Lowery, a Black man with a beard, wearing a dark blue suit, white shirt, and red tie. He is smiling slightly and looking directly at the camera. The background is a collage of smaller, semi-transparent portraits of diverse people of various ethnicities and ages, all smiling.

**MICKELL
LOWERY**

SHELBY COUNTY MAYOR

**A CHAMPION FOR
SHELBY COUNTY**

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF MICKELL LOWERY / ALUCIA HILL, TREASURER

MIKE POPE

SHERIFF



"A NEW ERA"
2026

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF MICHAEL POPE FOR SHERIFF / LEMON LOWERY, TREASURER



SHELBY

DEMOCRAT

POLITICAL MEDIA OF SHELBY COUNTY

PUBLISHER **exfe**

PUBLISHING INC / LEXIE CARTER, EDITOR / FELIX WALKER, BRAND LAYOUT DESIGN

EDITOR'S PAGE LEXIE CARTER PUBLISHER

Greetings, The past few weeks have been a challenge for me and many of you. We are living in incredibly unpredictable times. Things that we thought would not, could not and should not happen, have strolled past us like the parading procession of faceless figures while we watch stunned and frozen while helplessly praying that this too shall pass.

In spite of these unprecedented and concerning occurrences, nothing is more pressing than the loss of some of our Community Champions. I know I speak for the majority when I extend my deepest sympathy to;



Kontji Anthony
and family for the loss
of her mother, **Doris Marie
Spencer Anthony.**



Jason Smith
and family mourning
the loss of his father
Les Smith.



Mickell Lowery
and family for the
loss of his father,
Myron Lowery.

I OFFER THIS POEM TO ALL...
I HOPE YOU KNOW

I hope you know how much you're loved. How many people care... How often someone says your name, whispered in a prayer.

I hope you know how many lives are touched by what you do... How high the hopes, how deep the need to know you're being true.

I hope you know how heaven sees the difference you can make... the unique role, the special road that only you can take.

I hope you know God's love for you since long before your birth, his great desire to go with you anywhere on earth.

For if you know, you'll venture fourth with faith and joy and power... *and rest within the love that's yours every single hour!*

By: Hope Harrington Kolb



You might want to rethink coming to Memphis!



CHAIRS CORNER Greetings Democrats of Shelby County



Willie Simon

We are at a pivotal point in this experiment called democracy in our country, state, county, and city. Democracy has been turned on its head by the recent actions of a wannabe, tough guy dictators, a congress where the majority party has turned a blind eye to the needs of everyday Americans, a state government where the majority party has developed

bully mentality and practices near sighted, over-reaching political tactics, and a local government that is disjointed and dysfunctional due to political in-fighting and some leaders operating in self absorbing silos. In the words of the great lyricist Marvin Gaye, today's issues "Make Me Wanna Holla" and ask the world "What's going on?" because we are in "Trouble Man"!

So what are we gonna do Shelby County? Just sit on the sidelines and complain. Write letters with a lot of mean words expressing dissatisfaction with today's political climate. Post memes all day demonizing leaders on both sides of the coin. Or will we look in the mirror, and finally realize that we are the "Greatest American Heroes" that we are looking for! We have to realize that we have to be the change that we want to see. We've come from a lineage of brave Americans that have valiantly and successfully fought all forms of injustice, disenfranchisement, and discrimination. When we fight, we will win?

SO HOW DO WE FIGHT?

Organize- To be optimally effective every Democratic group, club, and voter needs to come together with the SCDP to fight the dismantling our democracy as one. **Show up and Show out!**

Educate- We all need to be actively educating ourselves and others on the tactics being used to take away our liberties, our viability, and our voices.

Communicate- Communication lines from the precinct to the party, from the voters to the elected officials, and from one Democratic elected to another have to be clear and consistent.

Mobilize- We have to be seen and heard in ever forum that makes decisions on how we live, work, and thrive in Shelby County. I believe that the best is ahead of us if we stand and act together in the now!

Yours in service,
Willie Simon, SCDP Chair



GORTRIA BANKS, - DWSC

The Democratic Women of Shelby County (DWSC) has remained steadfast in its commitment to advancing Democratic values, empowering women, and fostering civic engagement. Over the past six months, our club has increased its membership, strengthened local partnerships, supported educational access for young women, and actively participated in local and statewide political initiatives.

Membership & Leadership

- **Membership Growth:** We continue to experience steady increases in membership, attributed to intentional outreach efforts and a strong presence in the community.

Community Engagement & Partnerships

- **Myra C. Stiles Scholarship Program:** We awarded four \$500 scholarships to exceptional young women preparing to begin college, reinforcing our long-standing investment in the next generation.

Partnerships:

- Partnered with NAACP and TNBC to support their scholarship selection process.
- Co-Sponsored a Meet & Greet for the DNC Vice Chair, Shasti Conrad with East Memphis Democrats

Public Awareness:

- Members participated in a Breast Cancer Awareness Walk.
- Scheduled a visit to Alliance Healthcare's new facility for awareness and to be able to recommend them as a resource to the community.
- **Back-to-School Support:** Donated and participated in multiple back-to-school events, Every Child Should Smile and United Way of the Mid-South.

Political Events & Advocacy

- Hosted a candidate forum for the Shelby County Democratic Party reorganization.
- Planning a comprehensive forum for the 2026 local elections.

Member Development & Visibility

- Attended the Three Star Dinner in Nashville.
- New website <http://dwosc.org/>, new signs, and push cards for increased awareness and visibility. Copies attached

Civic Engagement Commitments

- Outreach Chairs and members have participated in multiple events across the city/county, No Kings March, etc.
- Members committed to attending City Council, School Board meetings, and town halls.

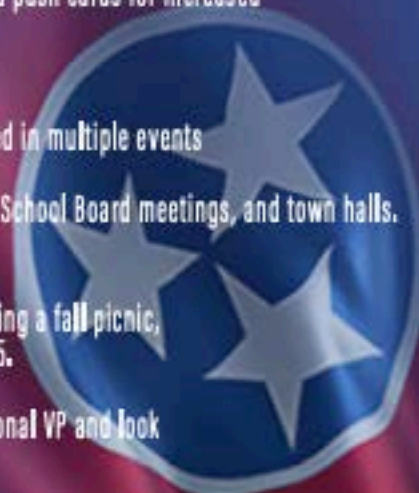
Internal Operations

- Working on filling leadership vacancies, planning a fall picnic, and our annual Holiday Party in December 2025.

We appreciate the continued support of our regional VP and look forward to collaborating on future initiatives.

Respectfully submitted,


President, Democratic Women of Shelby County



SENATOR LONDON LAMAR: LEADING TENNESSEE TOWARD A BRIGHTER FUTURE

In a time when bold, visionary leadership is urgently needed, Senator London Lamar stands at the forefront of progress in Tennessee politics. As the youngest woman and African American elected to the Tennessee Senate—and now serving as Chair of the Senate Democratic Caucus—Lamar's leadership is not just historic, it's transformative. She is widely regarded as the future of Memphis and the future of Tennessee.

A proud graduate of Central High School in Memphis and Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana, Lamar's path into public service began with a passion for community and a deep understanding of the challenges facing everyday families. That passion quickly evolved into purpose as she emerged as a tireless advocate for youth, working families, and underserved communities. Her early career included roles in nonprofit leadership, policy advocacy, and grassroots organizing, helping her build the foundation for the strong, people-first leadership she is known for today.

Before her groundbreaking election to the Tennessee Senate, Lamar served in the Tennessee House of Representatives, where she championed legislation to expand healthcare, support public education, promote economic equity, and reform the criminal justice system. Now in the Senate, she continues to lead with both courage and compassion—fighting to improve maternal health outcomes, reduce gun violence, and secure resources for the people of Shelby County.

Her legislative victories include laws expanding postpartum care, strengthening penalties for those who involve children in crime, and cracking down on dangerous gun modifications. She has also worked to reform expungement laws to give more people a second chance and has been one of Tennessee's most vocal advocates for reproductive freedom and democracy.

As Chair of the Senate Democratic Caucus, Lamar is not only shaping policy—she's shaping strategy. Under her leadership, Democrats have sharpened their message, grown their coalition, and pushed back against extremist legislation that threatens the civil rights and futures of Tennessee residents, especially in Black and urban communities.





Outside of the legislature, Lamar continues to empower and inspire. She is a mother, an entrepreneur, and a community builder. Whether supporting young people through the Elite Performance Foundation, or helping others grow through her leadership and consulting firm The L2 Company, Lamar proves that leadership is about service—and that real change starts with showing up for your people.

Senator London Lamar is not just a trailblazer—she is a blueprint for the next generation of leadership in the South. Her work today is laying the foundation for a stronger, safer, more just Tennessee. For anyone looking toward the future of Memphis and the state, one thing is clear: the future is London Lamar.



4th Annual Willow, Inc.

CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS DINNER

Celebrating Passion & Excellence

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025



TRAILBLAZER:
COMMUNITY EDUCATION

RUBY
Bright

President and CEO, Retired
Women's Foundation for a Greater
Memphis



TRAILBLAZER:
COMMUNITY HEALTH

DR. MARYE
Bernard

Spirit Health
Family Practice Physician



JUDGE BERNICE B. DONALD
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

RUBY
Wharton
Esq.

The Wharton Law Firm



TRAILBLAZER:
COMMUNITY SERVICE

DR. QUYNH
Tran

President
Vietnamese-American Community of
West Tennessee



TRAILBLAZER:
SOCIAL JUSTICE

CHEF TAKIETHA
Tuggle

Assistant Chief
Shelby County Sheriff's Office

RENASANT CONVENTION CENTER

255 NORTH MAIN STREET • MEMPHIS, TN • 38103

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

TICKETS:

VIP \$150 (5PM)

GENERAL \$100



WillowAwards2025.eventbrite.com



WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP LEANING ON WISDOM, INC. [WILLOW, INC.]

PROUDLY ANNOUNCES THE 2025 MEMBERSHIP

Leslie Smith-Thomas, President
Felecia Bean Barnes, Vice President
Jeanette Edmond, Treasurer
Jdg. Gina Higgins, Board of Directors
Cncl. Michalyn Easter-Thomas, Board of Dir.
Regina Perry, Board of Directors
Cncl. Janika White, Board of Directors
Lexie Carter, Founder
Jdg. Michelle Alexander Best
Charity Blanca
Kim Bond
Dr. Shirley Brown
Rep. Karen Camper
Jdg. Carol Chumney
Cherl DelBrocco
Dr. Zonja Glover
Atty. Monice Hagler
Tomeka Hart Wiggington
Jerrika Henderson
Evelyn Holcombe Morrow
Ebony Howard
Phyllis Jeans
Marilyn Kennard
Carolyn Mason
Rholedia Morgan
Janeese Murphy
Mignon Perry
Catina Price
Ebony Richey
Amber Sherman
Sandra Smith
Dr. Angela Snyder
Angela Stockton Galloway
Vicke Terry
Chf. Takietha Tuggle
Kathryn Winsley

Katrina Thompson, Vice President
Cncl. Jana Swaengen Washington, Secretary
Dr. Brinders Jones, Fin. Secretary
Atty. Carlissa Shaw, Board of Directors
Gale Jones Carson, Board of Directors
Virginia Crump, Board of Directors
Dr. Keevla Porter Carson, Board of Directors
Deborah Alexander
Gortria Banks
Regina Blount Williams
Felecia Boyd
Jalisa Calhoun
Christine Carter
Jdg. Damita Dandridge
Jdg. Bernice B. Donald
Carolyn Goodwin-Willett
Atty. Linda Harris
Jdg. Deborah Henderson
Norma Henderson
Mary House
Betina Hunt
Martel Jones
Kimberly Lee
Jdg. Betty Moore
Patrice Moses
Cassandra Palmer
Lisa Pope
Tiffani Richardson
Fmr. Cncl. Patrice Robinson
Carol Sherrod
Jdg. Valerie Smith
Lois Stockton
Shun Stotts
Dee Dee Thompson
Dr. Juanita Wilchie

IT IS TRULY MY HONOR
TO WORK WITH YOU.
THANK YOU.

Leslie Smith-Thomas
President



SHELBY
DEMOCRAT
POLITICAL MEDIA OF SHELBY COUNTY

LET'S GET READY TO RUMBLE!

PRESS
RELEASE

PRE
RELEASE

State Representative Justin Pearson, House District 86, challenges Congressman Steve Cohen, 9th Congressional District to become the next congressional voice for Memphis and Shelby County!

Cohen has served since 2006, becoming the victor of a split primary vote between about 15 candidates. Pearson gained worldwide notoriety after being expelled from the Tennessee House (April 2023) for demanding safer gun legislation in the aftermath of mass murders in Nashville, TN. Stay tuned for the next edition of the Shelby Democrat for updated information on this upcoming dynamic race.



ELECT

Will Richardson
County Commissioner
DISTRICT 8

WHERE THERE IS A **WILL** THERE IS A WAY

PND FOR BY FRIENDS OF WILL RICHARDSON / TREASURER

ANTHONY BUCKNER
for
SHERIFF

★ ELECTION DAY ★
MAY 5TH, 2026



WWW.BUCKNERFORSHERIFF.COM

PND FOR BY FRIENDS OF ANTHONY BUCKNER, PATRICE ROBINSON, TREASURER

PEOPLE

LIVE FOR THE PEOPLE AND YOUR COMMUNITY...

PURPOSE

DISCOVER GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU AND ALIGN YOUR ACTIONS WITH IT.

POWER

BUILD POWER, BUT ALWAYS REMEMBER, THE PEOPLE AND YOUR PURPOSE..



JAMES JONES



RAINBOW
PUSH HOUR
WITH

PASTOR
**KEVIN
BROOKS**

FM 105/AM 1340

WLOK

STILL A FAMILY TRADITION



SHELBY

DEMOCRAT

POLITICAL MEDIA OF SHELBY COUNTY



HISTORY OF MYRON LOWERY FORMER MEMPHIS COUNCILMAN, AND INTERIM MAYOR

SUBMITTED BY JAVIER BAILEY

Most of you believe you are familiar with former Councilman Myron Lowery. He served on the Memphis City Council and a short term as interim Mayor of Memphis. But that is not the whole story. Allow me to introduce you to the Myron Lowery of Memphis Black History. In 1971, a young intern who entered into a journalism program sponsored by Columbia University got a job at WMC Channel 5 in Memphis. This was only 3 years after the assassination of Dr. King in Memphis. Lowery worked hard. He quickly moved from carrying equipment to field reporter. As a reporter Lowery outworked all of the other reporters. According to former Manager Mori Greiner, Lowery could not be touched as a reporter. In fact in 1974 he was considered the best reporter in the Memphis market. However WMC was not ready to break the color barrier and give a Black male a spot as anchor. Lowery then put together a ground breaking documentary about the only Black hospital in Mount Bayou, Mississippi closing because federal funds had been choked out of them.

Lowery did the story, editing, chose the scenes, and final cuts. The documentary was award winning. At this point WMC began bringing in others such as Mason Granger and Joe Birch and placing them above Myron Lowery. In fact Granger came to the station in 1977 and Birch came in as an intern in 1982 and both of them ended up as anchors before Lowery. Finally Lowery had seen and experienced enough. In 1981 he successfully sued WMC for discrimination. The case took several years to reach its conclusion. Although he won the suit, this action assuredly blackballed him from having any successful career as a news anchor in this local television market. Can you imagine doing all the ground work for success in an industry only to have others get all the benefits of your sacrifice? However by serving as the sacrificial lamb, Lowery opened the door to numerous personalities we now know and love. All of the stations in this market began hiring at least one Black anchor to avoid the inevitable claim of discrimination that they too would face. So every time you turn on your television news and see Markova Reed or Stephanie Scurlock, remember who kicked that door open for them. Today's Black History focus is Myron Lowery.



SHELBY

DEMOCRAT

POLITICAL MEDIA OF SHELBY COUNTY

Moving Memphis Forward: Memphis' Moment to Talk, Listen and Act By Dr. Telisa Franklin

Something powerful is stirring in Memphis. A city known for its music, culture, faith, and resilience is answering a bold call to action. This October, every Thursday, Memphis will host a city-wide series of community conversations an initiative called Moving Memphis Forward. These conversations will bring residents face-to-face with elected officials, civic leaders, and community partners to discuss the real issues affecting Memphis and to build solutions together.

This is more than a meeting. This is a movement.

Led by me, Dr. Telisa Franklin II, a lifelong Memphis advocate, and supported by the Mayor of Memphis and the City of Memphis, Moving Memphis Forward is designed to break the mold of the usual community meeting. The conversations won't happen in a single location they will travel the city, going to neighborhoods where the voices of residents must be heard. Our conversations will take place in North Memphis, South Memphis, Whitehaven, East Memphis, Midtown, and Cordova ensuring no voice is left out.

Too often, communities feel unheard. Town halls happen in distant places. Decisions are made without true input. Moving Memphis Forward changes that. It meets people where they are in their own neighborhoods creating space for real dialogue. This initiative matters because it changes the relationship between leaders and residents. It moves beyond speeches and statements. It turns talk into action.

When leaders step into churches, gyms, and community centers, they say:

"We see you. We hear you. You matter."

Each conversation will feature:

- **Panel Discussions**
- **Open Q&A Sessions**
- **Solution Presentations**
- **Opportunities to Connect**

"This is not a town hall," I say. "This is a call to action. Leaders must commit to solutions and residents must hold them accountable."

Some of the key issues will be:

- **Public Safety & Crime Prevention**
- **Youth & Education**
- **Economic Opportunity**
- **Community Accountability**

Memphis your voice matters. Your presence matters. Your participation matters.

This is not an event for spectators. This is an invitation to engage. Bring your questions, your ideas, your passion. Come ready to be heard. Come ready to listen. Moving Memphis Forward is a chance to build trust, share solutions, and unite our city around the issues that matter most.

"Don't sit this out," I say. "This is your city. This is your moment. Let's move Memphis forward together."

For full details on dates, locations, and panelists, visit www.movingmemphisforward.org.

Volunteer opportunities, sign-ups, and resources are available there as well.

**This October, Memphis will not just talk about change
Memphis will be change.**



The Chief Administrative
Officer for Shelby County
Assessor of Property is
“Ready to Serve” as Assessor
and asking for your Vote.

Elect
**JAVIER
BAILEY**
★ **ASSESSOR**



*To learn more about his platform
and to make a donation, please visit:*
baileyassessor2026.com

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF JAVIER BAILEY / TAURUS BAILEY, TREASURER



DR. WILLIAM STOVALL

2026 ELECTION



SHELBY COUNTY CLERK

Experience Matters



Relevant Experience

IMS Consulting, LLC | Chief Executive Officer
Shelby County Government | Chief Administrative Officer
LeMoyne-Owen College | Vice President
Additional Higher Education Administrative Experience

- Central State University
- Kansas State University
- University of Missouri-Columbia
- Mississippi Valley State University
- Mississippi State University

Education

Doctor of Philosophy | University of Missouri-Columbia
Master of Science | Mississippi State University
Bachelor of Science | Mississippi Valley State University

YOUR VOTE MATTERS!

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF DR WILLIAM STOVALL / WILLIAM STOVALL, TREASURER

Magistrate Shayla Purifoy



Fair, Proven, and Respectful.

- Nearly 10 years of judicial experience
- Past Ben F. Jones, National Bar Association President (BFJ)
- Awarded President's Award from the Memphis Bar and BFJ
- Cyclist, gardener, wife, dog mom, and wellness enthusiast

Hon.shayla



Shayla Purifoy



Magistrate Shayla Purifoy

