

The Duncanville Chamber of Commerce &
The Duncanville Rotary Club
Presents 31st Annual

2014 Candidates Forum



Thursday, April 24th 7:00 PM
Shine Performance Hall

School Board Candidates

Place 4

Renee McNeely
**Louis McElroy, Sr.

Place 5

Patrick LeBlanc
Elijah Granger

** denotes incumbents*

City Council Candidates

DISTRICT 2

**Stephen L. Jones
Steven E. Rutherford

DISTRICT 4

Grady Smithey, Jr.
Lorraine Hood-Jack
Ronald Lee Dotson, M.D.
Kymberly Beard

MAYOR (At Large)

**Deborah Hodge
David L. Green
Mark D. Cooks

Early Voting begins April 28—May 6 at the Duncanville Library
VOTE MAY 10, 2014 at your precinct location

We asked our candidates to provide a brief biography
and to respond to the following questions:

1. What is the biggest issue you see facing (the City of Duncanville or the Duncanville ISD) and what would you do to address it?
2. Why are you running for the office and why should voters consider you the most qualified Candidate?

We have shared their responses on the following pages.



Duncanville ISD School Trustee Place 4 Renee McNeely - Biography



RENEE McNEELY

I graduated from Texas Christian University in 1979 with a B.S. in Education. I earned my Master's Degree from Texas A&M Commerce in Education with an emphasis in Special Education in 1984. I earned my counseling certification from Texas Women's University a few short years later. I am a 32 year resident of this fine city. I retired from the Duncanville School District in 2011 after 29 years of service. My husband, Phil, also retired from Duncanville after 25 years as the head basketball coach for the Duncanville Panthers. Our daughter, Kristin, spent her entire educational experience in Duncanville, graduating in 2006. Last but not least, I am now the proud grandmother of twin girls, Grace and MaKayla. It goes without saying, that their educational experience is and always will be of utmost importance to me.

I have worked at every level (elementary, middle, and high school) as either a teacher or school counselor. I served as the District Special Olympics Coordinator during my tenure at Reed Middle School as a special education teacher. In 2009, I was chosen as the "District Secondary Teacher of the Year". I currently serve as Secretary to the Duncanville Education Foundation. I believe I will offer a unique perspective as a school board member. I helped to develop and implement new programs at both the elementary and the secondary levels such as a pilot program for special education (Hastings), gifted and talented strategies for all students (Fairmeadows) not just those students who had been identified as "gifted", and I helped to begin the Support Counseling Program (DHS). I had hands-on experience in working with each of these successful programs in our district.

I gave my "heart and soul" to DISD for 29 years. I welcome the chance to work with our community, parents, and students. I desire to be a part of the transition that must take place in our City of Champions. These are a few of the issues that are important to me:

- State Accountability Rating
- Project Based Learning (PBL)
- Educational choice for students within our district
- School funding
- College Readiness
- Staffing in our schools

Work History

1982-1987

Special Education teacher—Reed Middle School

Special Education teacher—Hastings Elementary

1987-2011

Counselor—Hastings Elementary

Counselor—Reed Middle School

Counselor—Mary E. Smith PACE High School

Support Counselor—Duncanville High School



**Duncanville ISD School Trustee
Place 4
Renee McNeely - Responses**



**Response to questions from
Duncanville Chamber and Rotary Club**

Question 1: What is the biggest issue you see facing the Duncanville DISD and what would you do to address it?

Parents have choices in choosing the educational paths of their children nowadays with charter schools, private institutions, and home schooling. I want the Duncanville School District to be a viable option for families. Our leaders must be innovative and provide learning opportunities that meet the needs of our school population as well as providing school choices that will carry our students successfully into their future. It is my desire that our district provide innovative and varied learning opportunities for students at every grade level, and that families who are relocating to this area will see Duncanville as a viable educational option. Our district must be able to compete with other schools of choice.

Question 2: Why are you running for the office and why should voters consider you the most qualified Candidate?

I have been a part of this community for 32 years; I retired with 29 years of experience in the Duncanville ISD. I worked at every level (elementary, middle school, and high school) as either a teacher or counselor. My expertise gives me a good perspective of strengths and weaknesses within our district. My hands on experiences gave me opportunities to work with administrators, teachers, parents, and students from many walks of life. These experiences will be invaluable in working with other members on the board.



Duncanville ISD School Trustee Place 4 Louis McElroy, Sr. - Biography



LOUIS McELROY, SR.

My name is Louis McElroy, Sr. First let me state that I love the Lord Jesus Christ with all my heart. That should be enough. I am a deacon at Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship and a leader of facilitators for our Spiritual Growth ministry.

I have lived in the Duncanville School District 25 years. My wife Yolonda and I purchased our home purposely in the Duncanville School district because of its fine schools. I am a college graduate. I have been a sales executive for major corporations for 30+ years. I was director of sales for 10 years at The Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce and the past 7 years Sales manager for a national helicopter ambulance service. I have years of experience managing large monetary budgets. We have a daughter in her sophomore year at Rice University and a son in his senior year at University of Texas in Arlington. Both are graduates of Duncanville ISD and doing very well in college. As parents we have always been thoroughly involved in our children's education. My wife has been PTA president for the district and I have been on numerous school district committees. I am a strong supporter of Project Graduation. We were once awarded with being volunteer parent for the year. My goal is to assure each and every child in the Duncanville school district an opportunity for a high quality education.

For the past 9 years I have served as Duncanville School Board Trustee.

It takes about 3 to 5 years of meetings, workshops and continuing education classes to really get grounded in the ever changing state laws and available opportunities for the children and community of Duncanville. This community has invested 9 years in equipping me to serve in this position to the best of my ability. I do not want to just walk away.

Some of the accomplishments we attained in the last year or two:

- * Duncanville ISD was invited to join the Texas High Performance Schools Consortium, an elite group of 23 out of 1030 Texas school districts.
- * Duncanville ISD earned its eleventh consecutive rating of "Superior Achievement," the highest of four possible ratings by the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST).
- * For the third consecutive year, Duncanville ISD earned the Gold Leadership Circle Award from Texas State Comptroller Susan Combs, recognizing local governments across Texas that meet a high standard of online financial transparency.
- * Eight DISD High School students advanced to the regional level in UIL Academic completion.
- * A student was awarded a Best Southwest scholarship.
- * A number of awards and honors for DISD athletics, band and fine arts.

One of the districts weaknesses' is the lack of parental and community involvement. I attend a great number of Chamber and community events. I plan to give a strong effort to attend more parental events like PTA's and I plan to make my appearance known at elementary school events. Our children's success is extremely dependent on parental involvement in their education.



**Duncanville ISD School Trustee
Place 4
Louis McElroy, Sr. - Responses**



**Response to questions from
Duncanville Chamber and Rotary Club**

Question 1: What is the biggest issue you see facing the Duncanville DISD and what would you do to address it?

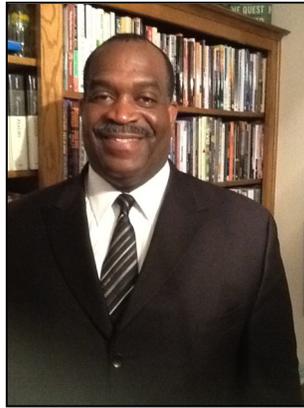
One of the biggest issues facing our school district is the lack of parental involvement. It is well known children do well when supported by their parent. I presently attend a great number of Duncanville events but most of the attendees have no children in school. I will make great efforts to attend and participate school events that include parents; elementary to high school PTAs, events and celebrations. I will continually promote these parents to communicate with teachers and the school board. I will discuss investing in their child's education.

Question 2: Why are you running for the office and why should voters consider you the most qualified Candidate?

I know I am the most qualified to serve as DISD board of trustees because of my 9 successful years of serving as DISD school board of trustee. It takes 3 to 5 years of meetings, workshops and continuing education classes to really get grounded in the ever changing Texas state laws and the available opportunities to serve the children and community of Duncanville. This community has invested 9 years in equipping me to serve in this position to the best of my ability. I do not want to just walk away at this time.



Duncanville ISD School Trustee Place 5 Patrick LeBlanc - Biography



PATRICK LeBLANC

A native of Louisiana, Patrick attended Grambling State University where he played football under the legendary Coach Eddie G. Robinson. Patrick lives in Duncanville, TX with his wife Wanda; they have six children and two grandchildren. He has a bachelors' degree in Physics and Christian Ministries from Dallas Baptist University and Master's from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth in Christian Education. He is currently pursuing a Master of Pastoral Studies from Andersonville Theological Seminary in preparation for doctoral studies. Patrick is a published author; the title of his book is *On Earth as it is in Heaven*. Patrick enjoys baseball, football, and cooking (his specialty is Cajun food).

Patrick has been the Director of Business Development for Hickory Trail Hospital since October 2012. He enjoys the opportunity to develop and establish relationships that help provide positive solutions to problems impacting young people within the Dallas – Fort Worth community. Patrick has done trainings and presentations on Suicide Awareness and Prevention to several school districts in North Texas including: Arlington, Brock, Cedar Hill, Crowley, Dallas, Desoto, Fort Worth, Granbury, Grapevine-Colleyville, Gordon, Hurst-Eules-Bedford, Keller, Lipan, Mansfield, and Weatherford. He has also presented at the Adolescent Symposium and reached many others with this message of hope by speaking at five of Texas' Regional Education Service Centers (Region XII, Region XI, Region X, Region IX and Region VIII).



**Duncanville ISD School Trustee
Place 5
Patrick LeBlanc - Responses**



**Response to questions from
Duncanville Chamber and Rotary Club**

Question 1: What is the biggest issue you see facing the Duncanville DISD and what would you do to address it?

The biggest issue facing the Duncanville ISD is the deficiency of the graduation mix of students. This needs to be addressed by the Board working with the Superintendent and teachers to increase the number of students that are college ready upon graduation. I plan to work with other Board members and the Superintendent to ensure the adequate resources and learning objectives are in place to match the new Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for grades 3–8 in the STAAR program thus preparing more DISD students to be college ready.

Question 2: Why are you running for the office and why should voters consider you the most qualified Candidate?

It has been an honor and a privilege working with Duncanville ISD students in the past. I am running for Board Trustee simply because I want Duncanville ISD to remain one of the leading districts in educating students in the state of Texas. As Board Trustee, I plan to listen to the voice of our community while working with the Superintendent and other Trustees to keep Duncanville ISD moving forward.

My vision for the Board is Trustees and the Superintendent working together, with courtesy and respect, to transform public schools by improving student learning through the development of innovative, next-generation learning standards that meet the educational needs of every student.



**Duncanville ISD School Trustee
Place 5
Elijah Granger - Biography**



ELIJA GRANGER

Elijah Granger is an experienced educator. He holds a Master of Education in Educational Administration from Prairie View A&M and obtained hours beyond a Master's at Stephen F. Austin State University. Mr. Granger has a wide range of educational experiences which includes being a middle school teacher, high school teacher, assistant principal, principal and executive principal. He believes that all students can learn, given the right environment and opportunity to excel.



**Duncanville ISD School Trustee
Place 5
Elijah Granger - Responses**



**Response to questions from
Duncanville Chamber and Rotary Club**

Question 1: What is the biggest issue you see facing the Duncanville DISD and what would you do to address it?

Project Based Learning (PBL) experiment. The implementation of certain programs such as PBLs has been ineffective! Our students are falling behind and the teachers are forced to endure decisions that do not promote academic success. Until we take a corrective course of action, Duncanville ISD will continue to decline academically.

Question 2: Why are you running for the office and why should voters consider you the most qualified Candidate?

I am concerned with the direction of our district. Duncanville ISD is experiencing a precipitous decline in academic success. Out of all the school districts in the greater southwest area, Duncanville ISD is the only district that has a negative rating by the Texas Education Agency. This is totally unacceptable! We are a City of Champions and we need a school district that is reflective of who we are. It's time to get off the slippery slope of low performance and reverse course.

As a no-nonsense educational leader that believes in a common sense approach, I have led two campuses from low academic performance to exemplary/distinguished status and one campus from academically acceptable to exemplary. I know how to turn around failing schools. I will use my knowledge and experience to return Duncanville ISD academic ratings to reflect the level and passion of the hardworking community members, teachers, parents and students.



**City of Duncanville
District 2
Stephen L. Jones - Biography**



STEPHEN L. JONES

Dr. Stephen Jones is married to the lovely Andrea Joseph and they have two children currently Joseph (age 12) and Stephen II (age 10). Dr. Jones is currently employed at Mountain View College as the Interim Executive Dean of the SNAP Division and Program Administrator for the STEM SUCCESS grant. Through this initiative, Dr. Jones is responsible for overseeing the development of programs and activities that will encourage underrepresented minority groups to major in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Through this and other STEM initiatives Mountain View College students had the opportunity to conduct scientific research at Los Alamos National Laboratory, to shadow STEM professionals at various United States Department of Agriculture research centers, and attended STEM professional meetings. The CCRAA-STEMI is also responsible for the establishment of a Pre-Mechanical Engineering program. Dr. Jones also serves as Pastor of the Mount Sinai Baptist Church. During his tenure at Mount Sinai, Dr. Jones led an initiative that resulted in the creation of the Willie F. Cornelius Montessori Academy. WFCMA is specifically created to bring exemplary educational experience to the Pleasant Grove area of Dallas, Texas.

Dr. Jones began his professional career at the Center for Research and Development (CORD). CORD is a nonprofit organization that focuses on educational reform through contextual learning. While at CORD he co-authored CORD Biology, a high school science textbook and made significant contributions to other textbooks that have been used throughout the United States, Mexico, and Hungary.

Dr. Jones received his B. S. in Chemistry from Bishop College, a M.S. in Chemistry from Texas Southern University, and his Ph. D. from Clark- Atlanta University. His doctoral thesis examined the synthesis and the antiviral activity of a series of modified Purine Nucleosides.

Dr. Jones has received numerous awards including: Mountain View College Administrator of the Year, The Outstanding Texan Award (Texas Black Legislative Caucus), Man of the Year (the Dallas Metropolitan Business and Professional Women's Club), the Distinguished Ecumenical Service Award (the National Business and Professional Women's Club), the Torch Award (Dallas Urban League) and was inducted into the Paul Quinn College Hall of Fame. In May of 2010 the citizens of the city of Duncanville, Texas elected Dr. Jones to the Duncanville City Council.



City of Duncanville
District 2
Stephen L. Jones - Responses



Response to questions from
Duncanville Chamber and Rotary Club

Question 1: What is the biggest issue you see facing the City of Duncanville and what would you do to address it?

The biggest issue that I believe the council will be facing, is the selection of a new city manager. The council's choice will determine the future direction of our city. If given the opportunity to participate in this process I will support an individual that will take a wholistic approach to serving our city. Someone that will emphasize the importance of building up our communities to make Duncanville a better place to live. Our new city manager must be willing to explore opportunities for our city that will allow us to build on past successes, but will not require us to sacrifice our quality of life.

Question 2: Why are you running for the office and why should voters consider you the most qualified Candidate?

I am running for office to make a difference in the lives of others and to protect the common interest of the citizens of Duncanville. I choose not to make comparisons between myself and my opponent. I simply ask the citizens of District 2 to look at where Duncanville is today. Revenue for our city is UP, property values are UP and the Duncanville Field House is BUSY almost every week. While no one councilman can take credit for these changes, I can say that I was a clear and unequivocal voice in this positive transformation. If the Citizens of District 2 would vote for me I will continue to work with you to get things done.



City of Duncanville District 2

Steven E. Rutherford - Biography



STEVEN E. RUTHERFORD

Steve is the oldest son of a housewife and a Dallas printer who owned his printing business for many years before he retired. Steve grew up in Oak Cliff and graduated from Kimball High School in 1970. He graduated from Texas Tech University in 1974 with a degree in accounting. He then went to work for the international public accounting firm of Haskins & Sells (currently known as Deloitte) and received his CPA designation in 1976. He worked there for 7 years on the audit side of the firm. In 1981 he was asked by one of Haskins & Sells clients, Tetra Pak, Inc., to become the Controller of Brik Pak, Inc., the American subsidiary of this international packaging company. Brik Pak grew from annual sales of less than a million dollars to over \$70,000,000 and Steve was promoted to Vice President – Finance. In 1985 that company moved to Connecticut and Steve and his wife opted to stay in Duncanville. He worked as Controller/CFO for two more companies before opening his own CPA practice in Duncanville in 1991.

Steve and his wife Janie have been married for 30 years and have 3 children. They are Kyn-dall Dollar, a Speech Therapist and mother of two, Garrett Rutherford, a Service Manager at Sewell Infiniti, and Kylie Rutherford, a soon to be student in the Physician Assistant Program at the LSU School of Allied Health Professions. They are also the proud grandparents of Carson and Karis Dollar.



**City of Duncanville
District 2
Steven E. Rutherford - Responses**



**Response to questions from
Duncanville Chamber and Rotary Club**

Question 1: What is the biggest issue you see facing the City of Duncanville and what would you do to address it?

One of the things I learned when I first opened my practice was that I was going to lose clients each year for a variety of reasons, some of which I could not control. I realized that I needed some sort of marketing effort to both maintain and grow my client base. The City of Duncanville is no different. It has to maintain and grow its tax base. I would like to see that a capable director is hired to lead the Duncanville Economic Development Corporation so that we can revitalize our economic development efforts.

My plan is to become a strong advocate for the hiring of a capable director and appointment of qualified board members for the Duncanville Economic Development Corporation so that they can develop a plan to attract businesses to our city.

My goals as your Councilman would be to:

1. Economic Development – hire a capable director to lead this effort.
2. We need to hire a permanent City Manager and then give them and their staff the support to do their job.
3. Restore the morale of our fine Duncanville city staff.
4. Rebuild the trust that the city will be behind potential business owners.

Question 2: Why are you running for the office and why should voters consider you the most qualified Candidate?

Let me begin by saying that I am not a politician. I have lived in Duncanville since 1976 and have had my CPA practice here since 1991. Our family has been blessed to live in this city and we have had 3 children grow up in the school district and graduate from Duncanville High School. We believe that they received an excellent education from the Duncanville schools. I was asked by multiple individuals in the city to run for the District 2 City Council position. I thought about the request and decided that it was time to give something back to the city.

We have been members of First United Methodist Church – Duncanville since 1985. We volunteered to help with the construction of Kidsville Park. While my kids were attending Duncanville High School I served as the Treasurer of the Duncanville Soccer Boosters for seven years and was the Treasurer of Duncanville Project Graduation for several years. My family and I are committed to Duncanville.

As a small business owner I have learned that to build trust with my clients I must always look at what is best for their interests and not my own or some outside group. With this belief, my strong business background and being a CPA I believe that I am the best candidate for the District 2 position on the Duncanville City Council.



**City of Duncanville
District 4
Grady W. Smithey, Jr. - Biography**



GRADY W. SMITHEY, JR.

The elder son of a Duncanville Public School teacher and a Dallas City Fireman, Grady W. Smithey, Jr. was raised to believe and live public service to others. For 22 of the past 30 years, he served as the District 4 Duncanville City Councilman. His fellow Councilmembers elected him to serve seven terms as Mayor Pro Tem of Duncanville. He served as the first president of the Duncanville Economic and Community Development Corporation. He is a graduate of Leadership Southwest Class of 1999.

Leadership Southwest named Grady their Distinguished Leadership Alumni for 2013. In 2007 Grady was honored by the Texas Transportation Commission who conferred their prestigious volunteer "Road Hand" award. In 1998, Duncanville Chamber of Commerce selected Grady as "Man of the Year".

Grady was selected by the American Political Science Association as a Fellow in Congressional Operations in Washington, D.C. While working on Capitol Hill, Grady learned about the "Older Americans Act" of 1968. Upon his return home, he brought that information to Duncanville leaders and worked with them to apply for the grant which allowed us to establish our Senior Center. As a retiree from 33 years of service with the U.S. Agriculture Department, he has the time serve as a full-time Councilmember.

He holds a Bachelors Degree in Political Science and a Masters in Public Administration with a 4. GPA from North Texas State University. Grady taught State and Local Government at Dallas Baptist University as an adjunct professor.

Grady has been a member of the First Baptist Church of Duncanville for 62 years. He and his wife Judy have been married for 49 years and have one son, Grady Smithey III, a certified software engineer at Samsung in Plano and one daughter, Dr. Shannon Smithey, a political science professor at Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA. Grady and Judy are proud grandparents of three granddaughters, Kate, Claire and Lucy.



City of Duncanville
District 4
Grady W. Smithey, Jr. - Responses



Response to questions from Duncanville Chamber and Rotary Club

Question 1: What is the biggest issue you see facing the City of Duncanville and what would you do to address it?

The lack of experienced and positive leadership over the last two years has caused great damage to Duncanville's image and led to a loss of over 10% of our experienced city employees. One result of inexperience is the disastrous lawsuit which cost Duncanville taxpayers at least \$890,000.

During my years of Public Service, Duncanville practically doubled in population. Just a few of the many positive and exciting changes, in which I had a role, were the Hilton Garden Inn, Main Station, Pappadeaux Seafood Restaurant, and COSTCO. Sales tax revenue from these economic development projects and others help keep down our property taxes. These developments help to make Duncanville a better place in which to live and raise a family. These developments produced a positive "Duncanville image" in Southwest Dallas County.

I pledge to you that I will never vote to waste your tax dollars on a lawsuit that our own legal advisors tell us we cannot win. I have the necessary experience to make sound decisions on judicious use of your hard-earned tax dollars.

As your Councilman, my goals are to:

- Demonstrate civility and stability to our neighbor cities and all the Metroplex.
- Revitalize our economic development efforts.
- Hire a capable director to lead the Duncanville Community & Economic Development Corporation.
- Hire a permanent City Manager.
- Restore the morale of Duncanville city staff which has been very low.

Question 2: Why are you running for the office and why should voters consider you the most qualified Candidate?

I am the only District 4 candidate who is qualified by education, vocation and experience. I have lived in Duncanville since 1950 and in District 4 since 1978. I love my hometown of Duncanville. I went to college on a football scholarship which a knee injury cut short. I had to work my way through North Texas State University (now UNT), on the Dallas freight docks while earning a Bachelors Degree in Political Science. Working full time for the US Department of agriculture, I earned a Masters in Public Administration with a 4.0 GPA from NTSU and became the first MPA from NTSU to earn a prestigious "Fellowship in Congressional Operations" from the American Political Science Association. I worked for Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM) and authored two section of the Disaster Relief Act of 1974. On the House of Representatives, I worked for Congressman Tom Foley (D-WA), Chair of the Agriculture Subcommittee and wrote the House version of the Agriculture Act of 1974.

The Mary E. Smithey PACE School is named for my Mother who taught in the Duncanville School District for many years. I have served the Citizens of Duncanville on the Parks Board, the Economic and Community Development Board and for 22 years on the City Council.



**City of Duncanville
District 4
Lorraine Hood-Jack - Biography**



LORRAINE HOOD-JACK

Lorraine is a native Texan, born and raised in Taylor, Texas. She moved back to her beloved state four years ago and brought with her over 25 years of professional leadership and community service expertise.

As a Regional Manager for Granite Services, a subsidiary of the General Electric Company, Ms. Hood-Jack managed power plant construction and maintenance crews for a twelve state region, which included maintaining budgets, payrolls, regulatory compliance, hiring and disciplinary concerns for over 17 years. Other areas of experience include, Senior Investigator for the Oregon Bureau of Labor Civil Rights Division, Manager of Crew Dispatching-Union Pacific Railroad and she is currently Manager of Corporate Training for Dallas County Community College-Mountain View campus.

While juggling the responsibilities of a demanding career and home, Lorraine built strong relationships with her community. She received the prestigious White Rose Award from the March of Dimes, which is given to community leaders for volunteerism, professional excellence, commitment to improving the status of women in the region and overall community contribution. In addition, she was awarded the Delta Sigma Theta 'Women of Excellence' award for Community Service and was named one of Taylor's Amazing Women in 2011.

Ms. Hood-Jack holds a BA in Government from the University of Texas at Austin, Texas and a Master of Public Administration degree from Portland State University, Portland, Oregon. She is a 2013 graduate of the Leadership Southwest program and has served as Vice President of the Daniel Farms Advisory Board and Vice-Chair of the Duncanville Multicultural Commission.

Lorraine has a proven track record for working collaboratively with business, service, and youth organizations because she believes that youth must be mentored in order to take their rightful place as future leaders.

Ms. Hood-Jack's uncanny ability to problem solve, her natural love of people, coupled with her extensive business and professional background, make her an ideal candidate for the Duncanville City Council.



**City of Duncanville
District 4
Lorraine Hood-Jack - Responses**



**Response to questions from
Duncanville Chamber and Rotary Club**

Question 1: What is the biggest issue you see facing the City of Duncanville and what would you do to address it?

The City of Duncanville is a beautiful community with a diverse population of caring and concerned citizens who want what any community desires-sound business decision making from its leadership, a sincere and listening ear to their concerns; safe and livable neighborhoods; schools that will nurture and develop their children and businesses that meet their needs, bring revenue to their communities and offer services that are convenient to where the live.

While the city is limited in its ability to expand it is not limited in exploring creative ways to make the best use of available space, forge partnerships with new businesses and improve the conditions of existing businesses to improve the quality of life and the tax revenue to the city.

For me, the biggest issue facing the city is it's 'leadership brand'- the inability to work in concert with one another and its operational arm, to prioritize and address the issues facing Duncanville. Nothing is insurmountable if the 'team' works together. To that end, I would work diligently to be the driving force in bridging whatever divides this council and put a positive face on its leadership. We need to turn the negativity to a positive in order to move forward for our community.

With regards to the Duncanville ISD- the primary goal of any district is to provide the best instruction and learning environment for the students that are served. In order to accomplish that, the district needs sound leadership, great educators, adequate resources, sufficient space and community support. Our district seems on target in providing a sound and resourceful educational environment for the students of Duncanville and I am thoroughly impressed with the 'Project Based Learning' that will provide an early initiation in team building skills to these young/developing minds. As we grow, the need for facility growth and improvement will be an inevitable concern for this district and will be an issue that will have to be addressed based on resources.

Question 2: Why are you running for the office and why should voters consider you the most qualified Candidate?

Voters should consider me because I am passionate about service. I come with no extended history with the city and no personal agenda, I come to serve them! A fresh perspective, a new way of looking at old issues is just what this council needs to refresh and rejuvenate it. I am an avid listener and I work through problems to resolution. Allowing old ills to fester and an inability to let go stifles any organization, I am results oriented by nature and by design. I have the educational background, the professional expertise and years of community service as a solid foundation. Why should they consider me-because I would consider them in every decision I make on their behalf.



City of Duncanville District 4

Ronald Lee Dotson, M.D. - Biography



RONALD LEE DOTSON, M.D.

I was born in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida in 1957. My father, "Pete" Dotson was a mechanic and my mother, Alma, was a church secretary. I graduated from Deerfield Beach High School in 1975. I graduated from Lee University in 1979 with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and Chemistry, with a minor in Bible. My parents moved from Florida to Duncanville in 1981. I moved to Duncanville in 1982 to attend Southern Methodist University. I graduated from SMU in 1985 with a Master's Degree. I was accepted into medical school at Texas Tech Health Sciences Center School of Medicine, where I graduated with a Doctor of Medicine Degree in 1990. I completed my four-year residency in obstetrics and gynecology at St. Joseph's Hospital in Phoenix, Arizona in 1994. I began my private practice in Duncanville in 1994, where I have been the sole practicing obstetrician for most of the past 20 years. I have been married since 1996 and have two children. My family and I moved to Duncanville from DeSoto in 2004, after an eighteen-month renovation on our home.



City of Duncanville District 4

Ronald Lee Dotson, M.D.- Responses



Response to questions from Duncanville Chamber and Rotary Club

Question 1: What is the biggest issue you see facing the City of Duncanville and what would you do to address it?

There are a number of major issues that need tackling, but I believe the most imminent need is to increase the number of available jobs. Jobs provide salaries, increase your sales tax as people begin to prosper and have enough extra to buy “things”, can improve the real estate market, and ultimately lead to an environment where new businesses and further jobs become a reality. I believe the sales tax fund available to the 4B Economic Development Board can be used to entice new businesses and boost existing businesses into stability, instead of funneling the taxpayer dollars to insider developers. While Main Street has significant historical value, I believe it is unrealistic to think that Main Street is ever going to be the center of some development “goldmine”. After its recent renovation, it is cute at best. The driving is actually more congested and confusing to motorists, parking is a minimum, and it is just not a Granbury town square or historic Grapevine that is going to attract major businesses or tourists. There are numerous cities that have historic areas, as well as, new, more modern areas where new businesses have developed. I believe to be really progressive and determined to bring in new development, areas around the I-20 and highway 67 corridors need to be carefully looked at as new centers of city growth. I am not suggesting to ignore Main Street, but I believe people drive to businesses on Main Street because the Jespersons and other owners, have created businesses like Ben Franklin’s, Kitchens, A-1 Feed, etc. that make the drive worth the effort; not because Main Street is an attraction. I propose creating a sports center with the existing field house, which should be named Duncanville Fieldhouse, not Bob Knight’s at its center. New complexes, like a recreation arena, racquetball courts, etc. could be developed on nearby empty lots on Main Street. One option for the empty Hanging Gardens would be to renovate the existing structure into bathrooms, locker areas, and offices and place a new city pool in the already fenced-in area, thereby completing a sports complex on the south end of Main Street with easy access off of Highway 67. These are the kind of ideas I would like to bring to Duncanville, and I believe, if areas like this were to be developed, there would be new major restaurants, stores, etc., that would be moving in the empty strip malls nearby. It’s time for new leadership and ideas in the Duncanville City Council.

Question 2: Why are you running for the office and why should voters consider you the most qualified Candidate?

Through our campaign against the Wintergreen Road Project, I not only learned a lot about the political environment of Duncanville, I also realized how interested I became in hearing the various issues that concerned the citizens of Duncanville. After the outpouring of support by the vast majority of Duncanville voters, I felt compelled to bring the same drive and passion I had on the Wintergreen Road Project to help address those issues important to the District 4 citizens. I think voters in District 4 should vote for me because I am committed to lower taxes, ending insider deals, and making city government serve the people, not special interests. I am patient, level-headed, and determined. I have worked hard to obtain the level of education I have. It was not handed to me. Despite this, I have never forgotten how blessed I am. I believe these basic character traits differ from my opponents and enables me to relate and respond to the needs of the District 4 citizens more readily. I went into medicine because I always genuinely cared about people, and I know that if the citizens of District 4 vote for me, they will know that their issues do concern me, and I will vote accordingly; not vote to pass some need of a sponsor or some personal agenda.



**City of Duncanville
District 4
Kymerly Beard - Biography**



KYMBERLY BEARD

My name is Kymerly Beard. I was born in Little Rock, Arkansas and relocated to Texas in 2005, making Duncanville my home.

I am a May 2014 Doctorate of Nursing Practice -Executive Leadership graduate at Loyola University, New Orleans. I currently hold a Master's of Science in Nursing, with a focus in Healthcare Systems Management, an Associate Degree in Nursing, and a Bachelor of Science in Health Education, with a minor in Child Psychology. I have over 15 years of experience in pediatric nursing and healthcare. I am a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society for Nursing, Dallas Metroplex Black Nurses Association, Certified Pediatric Nurse, and Trauma nurse certified.

I believe in investing to build a greater community and city. While in Little Rock Arkansas I served as Director of a youth program for students at risk, and as Case Manager for a drug and alcohol prevention program for women and children. At the city level I sat on several boards, and grant initiatives for youth at risk, drug free programs for youth, abstinence programs, and afterschool intervention programs.

When I moved to Duncanville it did not take me long to nurture the same love for this city and community. I currently sit on the Duncanville school health board, scholarship committee for Concord Baptist Church, volunteer for Dallas Independent school district (helping with special needs students, and mentoring others), served on the Duncanville Parks and Recreation board, served 2 years as a volunteer for Big Sister program, and offer my assistance as mentor for any youth in Duncanville.

I am a Christian and worship at the amazing Concord Baptist Church under the leadership of Reverend Brian Carter. I love the LORD, he orders my steps.

I am married to JC Beard Jr, a wonderful, loving, Christian man. He is my very best friend, and also shares a love of children and education. He serves as an administrator in Dallas ISD. I have 3 children, all boys, two former students of Duncanville High School, and one who is currently enrolled, 2015 graduate.

I believe in volunteerism, and community involvement. My most recent activities have been Current member for Duncanville school health advisory board, Scholarship committee Concord Baptist Church, Big Sister program 2009-2011, 2007-2009 member of the Duncanville Parks and Recreation Advisor Board, and member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.



City of Duncanville
District 4
Kymberly Beard - Responses



Response to questions from Duncanville Chamber and Rotary Club

Question 1: What is the biggest issue you see facing the City of Duncanville and what would you do to address it?

City:

The city of Duncanville continues grow. From 2010 – 2012 the U.S. Census recorded our city to have a 2.5% increase in population. As a small, stable, community, residents don't leave. At least 89.7% of current residents remain in their home dwelling for more than year, staying within city of Duncanville for years. Currently because we have an image as being a quiet, homely, and settled city, business and merchants find us attractive. Therefore our growth in business and merchants has increased. Although I find this as a positive for generating community revenue, I also worry about losing that "quiet community atmosphere". Our elder are our roots, being at least 11.8% of the population, with 70% of the citizens being between the age of 18 -65. If we as citizens are remaining in the community, I don't want to risk losing that quiet community feel. We must continue to manage business and merchants coming to our community. To address this I believe that knowledge is power. Knowing and evaluating purpose of merchants and their effect on the community is imperative.

Duncanville ISD

Duncanville ISD is facing a risk decrease in student success, due to dropout rate, and lack of teacher/educator empowerment. As this district continues to excel in its status of exemplary schools, and passing the STAR examinations, our students continue to fall below the average in college admissions, and rank lower than students in surrounding districts. Likewise, our teachers are not empowered to teach as professionals. I would like to see the district involve the students in evaluating their education, educational needs and solicit feedback on the instructor and curriculum; develop mentoring programs, and prevention programs for those students at risk. We concentrate on the STAR, yet ACT and SAT determines college admission. We need to address issues with our students. Teachers should be encouraged and recognized throughout the school year for their performance and student success, not totally focused on results of STAR but preparing them to pass the ACT and SAT with high score. This offers our children to opportunity for higher education, and to become productive citizens for Duncanville.

Question 2: Why are you running for the office and why should voters consider you the most qualified Candidate?

As a professional, I understand the importance of quality in education and learning. It is a tool that is essential for success. As the economy, health care, and education continues to change it is pivotal for community to meet those demands by investing and serving as citizen. We cannot do the same as we always have, because things are just not the same. It is important to understand the different factors that influence our young people today, and be open to those differences. Likewise we must care for our elderly, the root of the community.

The more we actively care about our city, and seek to help our students to become productive citizens the more we improve the probability of them investing and giving back to the maturation of this city. It creates a cycle of excellence.

I am qualified candidate for this position because I have experience working with children, students, and adults at all economical level. I love education, have children in the Duncanville ISD, and open-minded, with an understanding that change may be difficult but sometime necessary. I also bring with me experience in leadership, management, process assessment, evaluation, design and implementation, and healthcare.



**City of Duncanville
Mayor (At Large)
Deborah Ruth Hodge - Biography**



DEBORAH HODGE

Deborah Hodge was born in Davenport, Iowa on November 15, 1950 and moved to Texas in 1985 with her husband, Dr. Lyle Hodge, and their 5 children who have all since graduated from Duncanville High School. They have been married for 43 years and have 4 grandsons. Deborah is the Manager of Business Affairs for Hodge Chiropractic Clinic on Cedar Ridge Road in Duncanville.

Deborah is the previous City Councilmember representing District 4 and a former member of the Duncanville Community and Economic Development Corporation.

Deborah Hodge was elected for a two year term as Mayor in 2012.

In addition to her church, family, business, and civic responsibilities, Deborah supports and volunteers for numerous other charitable organizations.

In her free time, Deborah enjoys gardening and bowling at Red Bird Lanes.



**City of Duncanville
Mayor (At Large)
Deborah Ruth Hodge - Responses**



**Response to questions from
Duncanville Chamber and Rotary Club**

Question 1: What is the biggest issue you see facing the City of Duncanville and what would you do to address it?

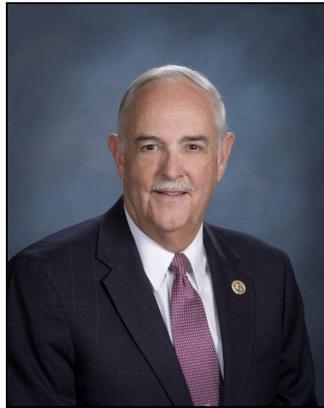
There is a perception that crime is a big problem in some areas within Duncanville. I want to determine if that perception is true or false and then deal with the issue accordingly. Whatever it takes. This is a top priority for the health and wealth of Duncanville.

Question 2: Why are you running for the office and why should voters consider you the most qualified Candidate?

I originally ran for this office in 2012 because Citizens deserved more respect and better representation than they were receiving. I am now running for re-election in order to continue the work that I have started. When I ran in 2012, I promised integrity, accountability and representation for citizens. I have stood true to that promise. For this campaign, I am still keeping that promise and as a slogan have added "Standing Strong for You". I am not associated with any political group or party. I do not owe anyone any favors so that I am free to represent citizens without any hindrances. I am a leader who listens to citizens and follows through with what I hear. I do not compromise my principals and do not believe that the end justifies the means.



City of Duncanville Mayor (At Large) David L. Green - Biography



DAVID L. GREEN

Occupation/main source of income:

Retired President and CEO of Dallas Commercial Warehouses (1961 to 2001)

Current civic involvement/highlights:

Duncanville ISD Education Foundation, Board of Directors
Duncanville Chamber of Commerce
Duncanville Rotary Club
Keep Duncanville Beautiful Board – Recycle Man

Previous civic involvement/accomplishments:

Duncanville Planning and Zoning Commission (1998-2001)
 Planning and Zoning Committee, Vice-Chairman (1999-2001)
Duncanville Police Department Volunteer, 500+ hours
Duncanville Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association, Past President
Partners for A Safe Duncanville, Member and one of the organizing founders
Duncanville Citizens on Patrol, Member
Duncanville Citizens Fire Academy, Graduate
2007 Duncanville Man of the Year, Duncanville Chamber of Commerce
Southwest Dallas County Regional Transportation Committee (Past Chairman)
Metroplex Mayors Association (President 2006-2007)
Best Southwest (Chairman of the Board of Directors 2009)
North Texas Commission, Board Member
National League of Cities, Transportation and Infrastructure Steering Committee Member
Duncanville Representative on the Policy Work Group of the Southern Gateway Project and the
 Southwest Dallas County Regional Transportation Committee
Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition, Past Executive Committee Member
Tex-21 (Transportation Excellence for the 21st Century), Past Member and Vice-Chairman of the
 Board of Directors
River of Trade Corridor Coalition, Founding Member
United States Conference of Mayors, Former Member of the Transportation and
 Communications Policy Committee
Joe Pool Lake Planning Council, Member
Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau, Past Member of the Board of Directors
Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce, Past Chairman of the Board of Directors
Guaranty Bank – Oak Cliff, Bank Director and Chairman of the Loan and Discount Committee
Distinguished Service Award, Oak Cliff Jaycees
Dallas Independent School District, Past Chairman of the ESAA Advisory Committee
Dallas Motion Picture Classification Board, Past Vice-Chairman
Cliff Temple Baptist Church, Past Chairman of Deacons

Education:

Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas
Bachelor of Business Administration (1961)
W.H. Adamson High School, Dallas, Texas (1957)

Previous public offices sought/held:

Mayor of Duncanville, Texas (2004 – 2012)
Duncanville Mayor Pro-Tem (2002)



City of Duncanville
Mayor (At Large)
David L. Green - Responses



Response to questions from Duncanville Chamber and Rotary Club

Question 1: What is the biggest issue you see facing the City of Duncanville and what would you do to address it?

I believe there are four major priorities for the next few years:

- * Reinvigorate Economic Development by appointing a qualified Economic Development Board and hiring an Economic Development Director
- * Improve the quality of life in our community
- * Rebuild our city staff to capacity with permanent, and not interim employees
- * Restore the morale of our city employees and trust in our City Council

Most of the things I feel are important will not take a huge financial commitment from the city. What we do need is strong leadership and a mayor who can lead our council to work together with respect and courtesy for the good of the city as a whole. With that said however, we must have a major economic development effort and better coordination of city services.

Question 2: Why are you running for the office and why should voters consider you the most qualified Candidate?

I am running for mayor for a very simple reason – I want to make Duncanville a better place to live, work, and raise a family. As mayor, I plan to work to restore economic development, to improve city services, and to ensure fiscal responsibility.

I am the best choice for Mayor of Duncanville because I have experience serving as Mayor of Duncanville and as a representative on the City Council. My background in operating a corporation for 40 years and serving as a Bank Director, as well as my varied city and community leadership positions, has given me a wide background of experience that I will use to benefit the City of Duncanville. I participated in many hours of continuing education as a Councilmember and Mayor. This prepared me to understand the operations of municipal government from planning and zoning, economic development, finance, and the responsibilities and limitations of a City Manager-Mayor/Council form of government. I am retired and have the time and energy required to serve as a full-time leader for our city. I have demonstrated a commitment to our community and have the experiences to support that commitment.

Since the May 2011 elections, Duncanville has had a divided City Council which has resulted in continuous and embarrassing displays of behavior by council members at City Council meetings. Since that election, the City Manager and City Secretary have resigned, the Economic Development Director's contract was not renewed, the Duncanville Community Economic Development Board was replaced with the new council members' selections, and the City Attorney was fired and replaced with a candidate of the new council's choosing. There is a great deal of turmoil among city workers because of these actions. The uncomfortable truth is that relatively few people vote in municipal elections and voter turnout in Duncanville averages about 8%. Duncanville residents are allowing a relative handful of others to make the decisions about who governs their everyday lives.



**City of Duncanville
Mayor (At Large)
Mark D. Cooks - Biography**



MARK D. COOKS

Mark D. Cooks is a senior vice president and community banking district manager for Wells Fargo Bank in Dallas, Texas. He is responsible for managing business units with multiple store locations that provide retail and business products. He guides his team through strategic leadership to achieve the Wells Fargo vision. Mr. Cooks has over three decades of financial service experience. He joined Wells Fargo in 1994 after gaining management and operations experience with Cullen Frost Bank and Nations Bank. He has won several awards for service excellence and continues to achieve service recognition for his quality customer management performance.

Over this eventful first term, Mr. Cooks was appointed by fellow council members to serve as Chairman of the Duncanville City Council Audit Committee, and served as Mayor Pro Tem in 2013.

With a strong commitment to his community, he continues to serve on several boards; Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce, Dallas black Dance Theatre, Community Service Board for Urban League Dallas, Pro Duffers USA Southwest Chapter and the Duncanville Economic Development Board.

Mr. Cooks previously served on the board for the Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce, Dallas Southwest medical Center hospital, City of Cedar Hill Park Board, Duncanville Board of Adjustment, Gateway Charter School, and the Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center High School Advisory Board. He has also served as Finance Chairman for the Circle Ten boy Scouts of America and coached the Desoto Youth Basketball League.

Mr. Cooks educational background has provided him valuable knowledge to professionally and spiritually support the people in the community which he lives. He attended Dallas Baptist University, the American Institute of Banking and has completed copious leadership and financial courses throughout his banking career. Mr. Cooks is a member at Concord Church of Dallas.



**City of Duncanville
Mayor (At Large)
Mark D. Cooks - Responses**



**Response to questions from
Duncanville Chamber and Rotary Club**

Question 1: What is the biggest issue you see facing the City of Duncanville and what would you do to address it?

We have not been as aggressive at addressing our future, choosing – instead – to do things “the old way.” We sometimes bog down because of a reluctance address 21st century concerns. Unfortunately, the other criticism is directed is toward our city council. Residents don't believe we " work well together." I believe that my approach to leadership - cooperation , collaboration and consensus -will change the current council climate and make a dramatic difference in both citizen perception and civic engagement.

Question 2: Why are you running for the office and why should voters consider you the most qualified Candidate?

I am running because Duncanville deserves a mayor dedicated to addressing the concerns of all residents, who has no problem with diversity of opinion, and who – most importantly – will work to weave diverse opinions into cohesive solutions for our city.

The Duncanville Chamber of Commerce &
The Duncanville Rotary Club
Presents 31st Annual

2014 Candidates Forum

Thursday, April 24th 7:00 PM
Shine Performance Hall



School Board Candidates

Place 4

Renee McNeely
**Louis McElroy, Sr.

Place 5

Patrick LeBlanc
Elijah Granger

** denotes incumbents*

City Council Candidates

DISTRICT 2

*Stephen L. Jones
Steven E. Rutherford

DISTRICT 4

Grady W. Smithey, Jr.
Lorraine Hood-Jack
Ronald Lee Dotson, M.D.

MAYOR (At Large)

**Deborah Ruth Hodge
David L. Green
Mark D. Cooks

Early Voting begins April 28—May 6 at the Duncanville Library
VOTE Saturday, MAY 10, 2014 at your precinct location

Thank you for coming.
Remember YOUR vote is important.

Responses to our request for biographies, responses to the 2 questions put forth and pictures came directly from the candidates and were not edited for content. We did make an effort to size photographs the same for each candidate and we may have cropped photographs to accomplish this.