

City of Bessemer Municipal Election 2022

AUGUST 23, 2022



**KNOW YOUR
CANDIDATES**



City of Bessemer
District Polling Locations

District 1, Box 1

Fire Administration Building
1101 2nd Avenue - Bessemer, AL 35020

District 2, Box 1

Dunbar Abrams Community Center
2715 6th Avenue North - Bessemer, AL 35020

District 3, Box 1

Community Center-South Bessemer
Housing Project
2501 Clarendon Avenue - Bessemer, AL 35020

District 4, Box 1

The Station Church
6270 Park South Drive - Bessemer, AL 35022

District 4, Box 2

Parkwood Church of God
1975 Highway 150 - Bessemer, AL 35022

District 5, Box 1

West Hills Primary School
710 Glenn Road - Bessemer, AL 35022

District 6, Box 1

Fire Station No. 4
495 Flint Hill Road - Bessemer, AL 35022

District 6, Box 2

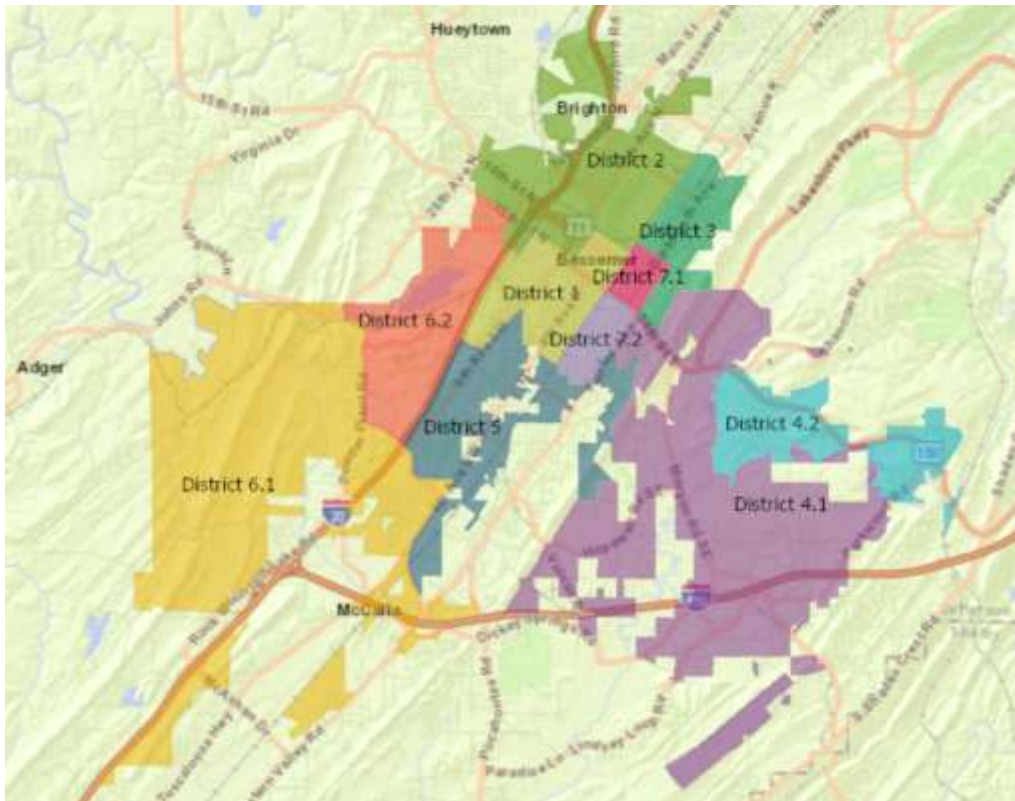
Fire Station No. 5
1709 Long 12th Street N-Bessemer, AL 35020

District 7, Box 1

Thompson Manor
1500 Exeter Avenue - Bessemer, AL 35020

District 7, Box 2

Bessemer Recreation Center
100 14th Street S Bessemer, AL 35020



This information is provided by:
**The Bessemer Area Chamber of
Commerce**

**This information is also listed on
the Bessemer Chamber's Facebook
page; please feel free to share it on
your page or print additional
copies.**

321 North 18th Street,
Bessemer, AL 35020
Phone: (205) 425-3253
fax: (205) 425-4979
email: mmilan1@bellsouth.net



Meet the Candidates

Bessemer City Councilor, Bessemer School Board, and Mayor

Bessemer City Councilors Candidates

District # 1

Jarvis Collier- Incumbent
Michael Knight

District #2

Kimberly Alexander – Incumbent
Chester W. Porter

District #3

Cynthia Stephenson Donald – Incumbent
Sarah Bell Person

District #4

Donna Thigpen – Incumbent
Dana Darby

District #5

Ron Marshall – Incumbent
Geortez Jackson

District #6

Carla Foeman Jackson
Angela Hawkins Murry

District #7

Jay Howton
Cleo King
Donald Wilson

Bessemer Board of Education Candidates

District #1

Regina Cooper
LaTesia Rancher
Anthony Williams

District #2

Terry E. Dawson
Jimenze (Coach Jay) Jennings

District #3

*Renna Soles Scott- Incumbent

District #4

*Sam Morris – Incumbent

District #5

Jerome A. Cook – Incumbent
Margie Varner

District #6

*Remeka Thompson – Incumbent

District #7

*Lee “Coach J” Jones – Incumbent

**Declared Winner*

Bessemer Mayoral Candidates

Kenneth “Ken” Gulley - Incumbent
Louise “LuLu” Alexander
Wallace Anger
Latricia Crusoe



BESSEMER CITY COUNCILOR - DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATES

***Jarvis Collier- Incumbent**

Michael Knight

**Indicates that candidate did not submit information*

Michael Knight

Campaign Slogan: "Let's Keep Moving Bessemer Forward!"

Education:

Jess Lanier High School

Alabama A&M University, Bachelor of Science in Biological Science with a Chemistry minor

University of Alabama at Birmingham with a master's degree in Instructional Leadership

University of Montevallo with Educational Specialist Degree in Instructional Leadership

Occupation / Work Experience: Currently I am an assistant principal at Bessemer City High School. I have worked in the Bessemer City School System for 23 years.



Political Experience: This will be my second time running for city council.

Community/Organization Involvement: I coordinate a yearly young men's conference that focuses on our young males being the best they can be in the community and in life. I coordinate mentoring programs and mental health programs that help our youth with life's challenges. Every year I spearhead Bessemer City High School's toy drive for children in need in the city through the Clay House. I volunteer at the Salvation Army in Bessemer. I am a member of the Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools (CLAS), a member and former delegate of the Alabama Education Association, and a member of New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church in Bessemer.

What is your proudest life accomplishment? My proudest life's accomplishment was earning my master's degree from UAB and earning my Educational Specialist degree from Montevallo.

List the goals you would like to accomplish over the next 4 years in this position:

- I want to meet with the citizens of District 1 to listen and address their concerns about the community.
- I want to improve infrastructure by paving roads that desperately need paving and correct flooding issues.
- I want to reduce crime by hiring more police and promoting community watch, I also want to promote a better relationship between the community and the Bessemer Police Department.
- I want to promote programs that will help our youth in the community and school.
- I want to promote business opportunities in District 1 and the city of Bessemer.



BESSEMER BOARD OF EDUCATION - DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATES

***Regina Cooper**

***LaTesia Rancher**

Anthony Williams

**Indicates that candidate did not submit information*

Anthony Williams

Campaign Slogan: "Bessemer Students Deserve Better!"

Education: University of Alabama – Bachelor's Degree

Occupation / Work Experience: Retired Federal Law Enforcement Agent
Former Investment Associate/Personal Banker
Former Automotive Sales Consultant

Political Experience: None

Community/Organization Involvement: I mentor the youth, peaking with at-risk kids headed down the wrong path and kids in elementary and middle schools about making good decisions. I am also a volunteer coach for youth sports.

What is your proudest life accomplishment? My proudest life accomplishment is helping a former Jess Lanier High School dropout obtain his GED. After having several conversations with him about his interests and potential career fields he has scored, obtained a college degree, and become a productive citizen with a career earning a six figure salary.

List the goals you would like to accomplish over the next 4 years in this position:

- Ensure the school system has an emergency response plan and everyone is trained and aware of their responsibilities to keep the students and themselves safe
- Identify resources needed and implement a plan to get teachers the required resources
- Pursue new funding and resources that will expose our students to new opportunities
- Develop a plan to incentivize teachers who consistently push students to excel



Bessemer City Schools

Abrams Elementary – District #2

Bessemer City High School – District #6

Bessemer City Middle School – District #5

Charles F. Hard Elementary – District #3

Greenwood Elementary – District #4

Jonesboro Elementary – District #7

New Horizon Alternative School – District #1

Westhills Elementary – District #5

BESSEMER CITY COUNCILOR - DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES

Kimberly Alexander- Incumbent

Chester W. Porter

KIMBERLY ALEXANDER

Education: BSN Nursing

Occupation / Work Experience: Registered Nurse –
Travel nurse- Worked the pandemic for 2 years in California, New York, Texas, and Atlanta

Political Experience: Currently holding the office of city councilor District 2

Community/Organization Involvement: Nurturing Golden Hearts: I've worked with this organization on several things throughout the city; Cahaba Medical/UAB: I worked to bring testing and vaccination sites to District 2 and Bessemer.

What is your proudest life accomplishment? Becoming a city councilor in District 2, working to change the district for the citizens and for better living and quality of life, and working to help small business owners become vested in the city

List the goals you would like to accomplish over the next 4 years in this position:

- More community involvement
- Work on getting business on the other side of the bridge on 9th Avenue and throughout District 2
- Land Bank, more home ownership, and for citizens of Bessemer to be able to own a stake in Bessemer
- Bridge the gap and work closely with the school system



CHESTER PORTER

Campaign Slogan: "A Community Servant That's Actively Engaged!"

Education: Jacksonville State University

Occupation / Work Experience: Over 30 years in corporate America as an ERP Analyst; currently employed with the federal government.

Political Experience: Former Bessemer City Councilor District 2

Community/Organization Involvement: Active member of the Bessemer Library Foundation, Latch & Live Foundation, and PTSA/PTSO Bessemer City Schools Member/ supporter of the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce.

What is your proudest life accomplishment? Empowering all citizens. I've also worked to secure over \$500K to employ students with summer jobs and registered over 2,000 people for affordable health care insurance.

List the goals you would like to accomplish over the next 4 years in this position: Work collectively to rebuild a new municipal safety building, improve city infrastructure, continue to address mental illness and continue to heighten the awareness of human trafficking



BESSEMER BOARD OF EDUCATION - DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES

*** Jimenze (Coach Jay) Jennings**

Terry Dawson

**Indicates that candidate did not submit information*

TERRY DAWSON

**Campaign Slogan: "All Hands On Deck...
Children – Employees – Community"**

Education: Alabama A&M University – B.A. Political Science/Accounting
Project Management (P.M.I.)

Occupation / Work Experience: Bessemer Civic Center Executive Director
Assistant Vice President Retail Banking – Regions Bank, Bank of America, and
Washington Mutual Bank
AT&T Communications – Support Manager/Business Analyst

Political Experience: Campaign Manager – Committee to Elect Chester W. Porter to
Bessemer City Council; State Representative

Community/Organization Involvement: Bessemer Library Foundation Board, Big Brother & Big Sister
Adopt-a-Student, Bessemer Housing Authority Commission Chairman, American Red Cross Western Region
Marvel City Federal Credit Union board member, and past Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce board member

What is your proudest life accomplishment? Coaching and mentoring others to achieve their career and life goals.

List the goals you would like to accomplish over the next 4 years in this position:

- Build solid partnerships to support BCSS
- Security and Safety
- Implement effective mentoring program



**Bessemer Board of Education
1621 5th Avenue North * P. O. Box 1230
Bessemer, Al 35021**

**Telephone: 205-432-3000 * Fax: 205-432-3085
Regular Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8a.m.-4p.m.**

BESSEMER BOARD OF EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS

Attendance & Security 205-432-3019
Business & Accounting 205-432-3030
Child Nutrition Program 205-432-3008
Curriculum & Instruction 205-432-3005
Federal Programs 205-432-3004
Homeless Program 205-432-3051
Human Resources 205-432-3009
Maintenance/Warehouse 205-432-3900
Parental Involvement 205-432-3051
School Board 205-432-3000
Special Education 205-432-3002
Student Services 205-432-3007
Superintendent 205-432-3000
Technology 205-432-3027
Transportation 205-432-3910

BESSEMER CITY COUNCILOR - DISTRICT 3 CANDIDATES

Cynthia Stephenson-Donald (Incumbent)
Sarah Bell Person

CYNTHIA STEPHENSON-DONALD

Campaign Slogan: “Proven, Effective Leadership When It Matters Most!”

Education: J.S. Abrams High School, Miles College and Birmingham Easonian Baptist Bible College

Occupation / Work Experience: UAB Emergency Services, Hank’s Ambulance Services, Jefferson County Department of Health, JCCEO, Jefferson County Department of Health OB/GYN Research

Political Experience: Bessemer City Council for District 3 (2014-Present, Council President 2019-2021), Board of Directors – National League of Cities, Human Development Committee member – Alabama League of Municipalities

Community/Organization Involvement: Founder of the Annual Living Legends Awards program, Red Cross Instructor, Past Secretary – NAACP, Partner with Ribbon for Children with Special Need Partner with Nurturing Golden Hearts Food Pantries, First Responder, Secretary to AL Women’s Auxiliary, Sponsor for District 3’s Annual Easter Rally, Partnered with the Bessemer Board of Education to purchase a digital sign board for Charles F. Hard Elementary school, “Back to School” rallies , yearly Christmas toy giveaways



What is your proudest life accomplishment? My proudest life accomplishment is to be able to represent the community that symbolizes who I am and that which I stand in principle. I am proudest of what my community has given to me and my family.

List the goals you would like to accomplish over the next 4 years in this position:

- Work to implement the Vision 2040 Framework for forging Bessemer’s future
- Improve processes for ensuring accountability, transparency and integrity in the City’s visioning and planning
- Work with City’s leadership to promote more sustainable community development activity to meet the uniquely defined needs of District 3, as identified through recognized community values.

SARAH BELL PERSON

Campaign Slogan: “Leadership You Can Count On!!! / Ring the Bell for the Right Person!”

Education: Jess Lanier High School Class of 1987, Miles College, Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, Spring 1999 University of West Alabama- Master of Education, June 2011 University of West Alabama- Education Specialist Elementary Education, July 2014 University of Montevallo – Education Specialist Teacher Leadership, May 2015 University of West Alabama – Instructional Leadership, May 2021

Occupation / Work Experience: Employed with Bessemer City Schools since August 2000. During my tenure I served as a first grade teacher for 7 years and a reading facilitator at Charles F. Hard Elementary. Also, I served as the Bessemer City School District Homebound Teacher K-12. My current position is the Assistant Principal at Bessemer City Middle School.

Political Experience: In 2018, I was a candidate for the City Council District 3 in Bessemer. I have served as a volunteer on several local and government campaigns. I exercise my right to vote in every election.

Community/Organization Involvement: I am a member of Faith Missionary Baptist Church where I served as youth director. I am a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha to be a service to mankind.

What is your proudest life accomplishment? My proudest life accomplishment is becoming a mother to my two beautiful daughters.

List the goals you would like to accomplish over the next 4 years in this position:

- Become City Council in District 3 to be a voice for our constituents
- Become a program director within a school system
- Accompany my daughters in becoming entrepreneurs in their businesses



BESSEMER CITY COUNCILOR - DISTRICT 4 CANDIDATES

*** Donna Thigpen (Incumbent)**

Dana Darby

**Indicates that candidate did not submit information*

DANA DARBY

Campaign Slogan: "Together... We Can Make a Difference!"

Education:

Bessemer Tech – Industrial Electronics and Drafting A.S.

In addition, hundreds of hours in coursework based upon curiosity over necessity.

Occupation / Work Experience:

35 years as a consultant in information technology as an It Solutions Advisor providing solutions to multinational corporations.

Founder and Managing Director, Pound on the Hill Animal Rescue – Alabama and Massachusetts

Political Experience:

Father: WM. F. Darby, Chief Court Clerk – Jefferson County Bessemer Division

His lesson that "Public service is an honor, not an opportunity" has been a constant in my life.

Community/Organization Involvement:

2005 – Current: Began rescuing dogs from our street so children could feel safe to come outside. As the protect grew to all areas of Bessemer, I offered assistance to residents providing computers to help students, tutoring, and providing care in family emergencies.

What is your proudest life accomplishment?

In spite of a stellar career, the decision to help the homeless animals and the residents of Bessemer is by far what fills my heart.

List the goals you would like to accomplish over the next 4 years in this position:

- Through city involvement, humanely address the languishing issue of homeless animals in Bessemer. The over population creates public safety, sanitation, and public health issues.
- Assure that all council decisions are made with thoughtful consideration.
- Implement a Code of Ethics to raise employee morale and ignite public trust.

VOTER REGISTRATION LOCATION

You may register or update your voter record in-person at the Bessemer Public Library.

**400 19th Street N.
Bessemer, AL 35020
(205) 428-7882**



BESSEMER CITY COUNCILOR - DISTRICT 5 CANDIDATES

Ron Marshall (Incumbent)

Geortez Jackson

Ron Marshall

Campaign Slogan: "Working Together Works!"

Education: BA from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa

Occupation / Work Experience: I am currently self-employed in the broadcast industry. I've spent over 30 years in managerial positions in the banking and telecommunications industries.

Political Experience: Currently finishing 3rd term as Bessemer City Council Member

Community/Organization Involvement: Member and supporter of the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce; supportive of any organization that seeks to improve the quality of life in the city of Bessemer.

What is your proudest life accomplishment? Leaving my corporate job and becoming self-employed. I was able to produce the only syndicated gospel radio program at that time and was heard on over 50 radio stations across America.

List the goals you would like to accomplish over the next 4 years in this position:

- Help bring the community together to reduce crime by working with our police department, churches, and other organizations.
- I would like to help improve/implement more programs to self-under-served, such as home renovations, utility assistance, Support continued street paving, removal of dilapidated houses.
- Support the construction of new municipal court and jail.



Geortez Jackson

Campaign Slogan: "District 5 Will Thrive!"

Education: McAdory High School
Devry University

Occupation / Work Experience: Birmingham City Schools - Financial Specialist (2018-Present)
Chambers Funeral Home – Funeral Attendant/Care Team Lead (2013-Present)

Political Experience: None

Community/Organization Involvement: Mabel Chambers Bookbag Giveaway, Valley Creek clean ups

What is your proudest life accomplishment?
When I received the Chick-fil-a Customer Service Award from Birmingham City Schools.

List the goals you would like to accomplish over the next 4 years in this position:

- Work with the mayor and council to obtain pay increase for city workers and first responders
- Advocate for funding to improve access to mental health solutions
- Try to get roads paved and sidewalks in District 5



BESSEMER BOARD OF EDUCATION - DISTRICT 5 CANDIDATES

Jerome Cook (Incumbent)

Margie C. Varner

Jerome A Cook

Campaign Slogan: "Our Children, Our Community, Our Future!"

Education: Bachelor of Science in Education – Alabama State University
Master's in Educational Leadership – University of Alabama at Birmingham

Occupation / Work Experience: Teacher at Charles F. Hard Elementary – Bessemer
Assistant Principal at Forest Hillis Middle School – Fairfield
Principal at Jess Lanier / Bessemer City High School

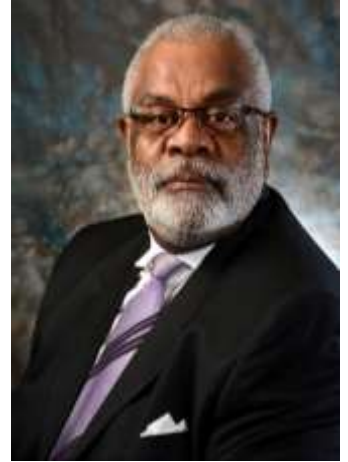
Political Experience: Bessemer Board of Education – District #5

Community / Organization Involvement: Caring Men Caring Women – Past Board member
Member of Macedonia Baptist Church

What is your proudest life accomplishment: Increased the graduation rate at Jess Lanier from 28% to 81% under my leadership. Jess Lanier received a bronze medal from U.S. News, and World Report recognized the school as one of America's best high schools.

List the goals you would like to accomplish over the next 4 years in this position:

- Maintain a balanced budget while maintaining quality educational programs and facilities for our children
- Attract /Retain/Develop high quality teachers and support staff
- Engage all stakeholders in supporting our schools and improving educational outcomes.



Margie C. Varner

Campaign Slogan: "Committed, Dedicated, Motivated to Improving Our Children's Education!"

Education: Hampton Institute, BA in Chemistry; University of Cincinnati, MBA Finance;
Florida A&M University, MBA Accounting; Jess Lanier High School

Occupation / Work Experience: Margie Varner, Inc., Chrysler Corporations, Banks, Finley, White & Co.
CPAs, City of Bessemer, Alabama, Minority Business Development Agency, US Department of
Commerce, Procter and Gamble, Merrell Dow Pharmaceutical Co.

Political Experience: None

Community/Organization Involvement: Member of Bessemer Industrial Development Board,
American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority,
Sixth Avenue Baptist Church, Birmingham Duplicate Bridge Club

What is your proudest life accomplishment?

Raising two amazing daughters to obtain educational degrees from major universities and employment in corporate America.

List the goals you would like to accomplish over the next 4 years in this position:

- For the Bessemer School System, my goals are to promote manageable class sizes, interactive learning and challenging curriculums
- Improved technology and improved educational resources
- Obtaining and retaining highly qualified and motivated teachers and administrators, working with parent teacher engagement, and safe and disciplined schools.



BESSEMER CITY COUNCILOR - DISTRICT 6 CANDIDATES

***Carla Foreman Jackson**

Angela Hawkins Murray

**Indicates that candidate did not submit information*

Angela Hawkins Murray

Campaign Slogan: "Let's Make a Difference!"

Education: Hueytown High School, 1974

Occupation / Work Experience:

Retired from Southern Company Services

Political Experience:

Work and campaign at the voter's poll.

Community/Organization Involvement:

Outgoing and spiritual member of New Mount Moriah Baptist Church

What is your proudest life accomplishment?

Being married, a parent/grandparent to my kids and grandkids, and helping others.

List the goals you would like to accomplish over the next 4 years in this position:

- Speed bumps in residential areas
- Solution for flooding and drainage
- New community center
- Make sure city ordinances are being enforced (abandoned homes, car and junk in yards)



The Bessemer City Council is the legislative body for the city of Bessemer. The Council is comprised of seven members from each of the city's seven City Council districts.

The City Council meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at City Hall in the Council Chambers, unless otherwise noted. The first meeting of the month is a night meeting, held at 7 p.m. The second meeting of the month is a morning meeting, held at 10 a.m. Pre-council meeting is one hour before the regular meeting.

A Planning Session of the City Council is held every second Tuesday of the month at City Hall, beginning at 9 a.m., unless otherwise noted.

BESSEMER CITY COUNCILOR - DISTRICT 7 CANDIDATES

Jay Howton

*** Cleo King**

*** Donald Wilson**

**Indicates that candidate did not submit information*

Jay Howton

Campaign Slogan: "Leadership You Can Count On!"

Education:

BS Degree, double major in Political Science – University of Montevallo, 1980

Occupation / Work Experience:

Self-employed

Commercial/residential Interior Design

Social Editor – The Western Star Newspaper

Political Experience:

None. Not having political experience just might have its advantages.

Community/Organization Involvement:

Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission – City of Bessemer

Vicar, Trinity Episcopal Church – Bessemer, AL

Aldridge Gardens board member

Bessemer Beautification Board, past chairman



What is your proudest life accomplishment?

Being named vicar/minister of historic Trinity Episcopal Church in Bessemer has grounded me in the community.

List the goals you would like to accomplish over the next 4 years in this position:

- Improve city service in District 7
- Establish historic residential district in District 7
- Work on the removal of dilapidated structures and cleaning abandoned lots in District 7

EXERCISE

YOUR RIGHT

TO VOTE

How to register to vote in Alabama:

Start your online application on Alabama's election website.
You can also register to vote by mail or in person on Alabama's election website.

Voter registration deadlines in Alabama:

Online registration deadline: 15 days before Election Day
Register by mail deadline: Must be postmarked 15 days before Election Day
In person registration deadline: 15 days before Election Day

How to check you voter registration:

You can confirm your voter registration status on Alabama's election website.

<https://www.sos.alabama.gov/alabama-votes/voter/register-to-vote>

Bessemer Mayoral Candidates

Kenneth “Ken” Gulley - Incumbent

*** Louise “LuLu” Alexander**

Wallace Anger

Latricia Crusoe

**Indicates that candidate did not submit information*

Kenneth “Ken” Gulley

Campaign Slogan: “Continue the Progress.. Promises Made, Promises Kept - PROGRESS with Gulley”

Education: A graduate of A&M University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management

Occupation / Work Experience: Incumbent – third term Mayor

Political Experience: Incumbent - third term Mayor

Community / Organization Involvement:

Former Chairman of the Board for the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce,
Board of Adjustment and Appeals

Airport Advisory Board

Community Development Authority Board

American Red Cross Board Member

President of the Bessemer Centennial Main Street



What is your proudest life accomplishment?

My greatest personal accomplishments are my family and my faith.

Professionally my greatest accomplishments are the constructing of the Bessemer’s Youth and Senior recreational center and the Bessemer City Hall facility.

List the goals you would like to accomplish over the next 4 years in this position:

- To continue to focus of the revitalization of downtown Bessemer
- Continue to focus on new home construction and upgrading homes in our older communities.
- Build a municipal court and jail (*regardless of people’s mistakes, they deserve to be treated humanely*)
- Continue to work to make sure the finances of the city are fiscally strong.
- Continue to invest in our employees and provide them with the equipment to do their jobs.



**Bessemer City Hall is located at
1700 Third Avenue North
Bessemer, Alabama 35020
(205) 424-4060**

Wallace Anger

Campaign Slogan: "Let's Get to Work!"

Education: Dunbar Elementary
Abrams High School
Miles College

Occupation / Work Experience: Retired Birmingham Police
Retired Jefferson County Deputy
Currently assigned at Brighton School as SRO Deputy

Political Experience: Candidate for Jefferson County Sheriff's Office in 2010-2014;
won Democratic bid in 2014.

Community/Organization Involvement: SRO at Brighton School reading to students

What is your proudest life accomplishment? Becoming a father of two sons.

List the goals you would like to accomplish over the next 4 years in this position:

- Reduce the city's high crime rate
- Re-establishing a relationship of trust with the school board and city hall.
- Redeveloping downtown district for uptown business and night life and improve lighting for the entire city.
- Bring the city into 22nd century technology and recreate it as a green-sustainable community.



LaTricia Crusoe

Campaign Slogan: "Cruising with Crusoe for Accountability, Transparency, and Unity"

Education: Advanced Academic Diploma
University of Alabama at Birmingham – Bachelor of Arts, Social Psychology
Miles College School of Law
Lawson State Community College – Nursing
Licensed Realtor
Certified Tax Preparer

Occupation / Work Experience: Girls, Incorporated - Program Administrator/Program Director
Bessemer Utilities - Business Office Supervisor
City Councilor District 7
Prime Investments - Realtor

Political Experience: Campaign worker for Quitman Mitchell's mayoral campaign
Campaign worker for Edward E. May's mayoral campaign
City Council District 7



What is your proudest life accomplishment? Beyond measure, my proudest accomplishment is being a mother to my beautiful daughter, Erica. With her birth, my heart opened as never before. Watching her grow to the woman she is today may have taught me more than I have taught her. I have learned that children are our future. They must be nurtured, educated and guided. Our children are influenced by everything around them. Schools, environment, church and family. It is up to all of us to make their future and to clear the way for every child to have a life full of hope and opportunity.

List the goals you would like to accomplish over the next 4 years in this position:

- Citizens: Adult – Offer GED courses. Job Readiness and Career Training Programs. Felons – Offer resources to these individuals to nurture and guide them into more constructive and productive lifestyles to reduce recidivism. Seniors – Offer programs to get them more engaged through recreational activities, healthcare assistance and computer skills, etc.
- Communities: Light up the Communities – The city of Bessemer has its very own utility company. We should not be one of the darkest cities. Lighting up the city will help cut down on criminal activities
- City: Clean up our city; hire and retain employees – Make sure the pay scales are comparable and raise employee morale! Cameras are currently being installed as another level of security throughout Bessemer.

IF YOU CAN'T VOTE IN PERSON ~ VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

Absentee Voting Eligibility

A voter may cast an absentee ballot if he or she:

- EXPECTS TO BE ABSENT FROM THE COUNTY on election day
 - IS ILL OR HAS A PHYSICAL DISABILITY that prevents a trip to the polling place
 - IS PHYSICALLY INCAPACITATED AND WILL NOT BE ABLE TO VOTE IN PERSON BECAUSE THEY CANNOT ACCESS THEIR ASSIGNED POLLING PLACE DUE TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING DISABILITIES (neurological, musculoskeletal, respiratory (including speech organs), cardiovascular, or other life-altering disorder that affects his or her ability to perform manual tasks, stand for any length of time, walk unassisted, see, hear or speak) AND: A) HE OR SHE IS AN ELDERLY VOTER AGED 65 OR OLDER; OR B) HE OR SHE IS A VOTER WITH A DISABILITY
 - IS A REGISTERED ALABAMA VOTER LIVING OUTSIDE THE COUNTY, such as a member of the armed forces, a voter employed outside the United States, a college student, or a spouse or child of such a person
 - IS AN APPOINTED ELECTION OFFICER OR POLL WATCHER at a polling place other than his or her regular polling place
 - EXPECTS TO WORK A REQUIRED SHIFT, 10-HOURS OR MORE, that coincides with polling hours
 - IS A CAREGIVER for a family member to the second degree of kinship by affinity or consanguinity and the family member is confined to his or her home
 - IS CURRENTLY INCARCERATED in prison or jail and has not been convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude
- The absentee ballot application must be received by the Absentee Election Manager by the 7th day prior to the election if delivered by mail and the 5th day prior to the election if delivered by hand. EMERGENCY ABSENTEE VOTING applications can be made after the absentee deadline but no later than 5 PM on the day before the election, if the voter:

- is required by an employer under unforeseen circumstances to be unavailable at the polls on the day of the election
 - is a caregiver of a person who requires emergency treatment by licensed physician within five days before an election
 - has a family member to the second degree of kinship by affinity or consanguinity die within five days before an election
- MEDICAL EMERGENCY ABSENTEE VOTING APPLICATIONS** can be made by a voter who has a medical emergency requiring treatment from a licensed physician within 5 days of an election. During that 5 day period, the medical emergency absentee ballot application and the voted absentee ballot must be returned no later than noon on the day the election is held. The medical emergency absentee ballot application requires that the attending physician describe and certify the circumstances as constituting an emergency. The voter may designate someone to turn in the medical emergency absentee ballot application, receive the absentee ballot on behalf of the voter, and return the vote absentee ballot to the Absentee Election Manager on behalf of the voter.

ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION

To obtain an absentee ballot, write or visit the local Absentee Election Manager (usually the Circuit Clerk), request an absentee ballot, and provide the following:

- name and residential address (or other such information in order to verify voter registration)
 - a copy of your valid photo identification
 - election for which the ballot is requested
 - reason for absence from polls on election day
 - party choice if the election is a party primary. (It is not necessary to give a party choice for a general election; however, in a party primary a voter may participate in only one political party's primary; thus, a choice must be designated so that the appropriate ballot can be provided. If the voter declines or fails to designate a choice for a primary or primary runoff ballot, the absentee election manager may send only the ballot for constitutional amendments.)
 - address to which the ballot should be mailed
 - voter signature. (Signature must be original, electronic signatures will not be accepted. If a mark is made in place of a signature, it must be witnessed.)
- The absentee ballot application must be returned to the Absentee Election Manager by the voter in person (or by the voter's designee in the case of medical emergency voting), by U.S. Mail, or by commercial carrier. No absentee ballot application may be mailed in the same envelope as another voter's absentee ballot application. Upon receiving the absentee ballot application, the Absentee Election Manager may request additional evidence on the reason for voting absentee if the voter has a history of absentee voting. Absentee ballot applications returned by mail must be received no later than 7 days before the election. Absentee ballot applications returned by hand must be received no later than 5 days before the election.

BALLOT RECEIPT/RETURN

If the absentee ballot application is approved, the Absentee Election Manager

- forwards the absentee ballot by U.S. Mail, or
- personally hands the absentee ballot to the voter (or to a designee in the case of medical emergency absentee voting)

BALLOT PROCEDURE

The absentee ballot comes with 3 envelopes -- one plain (the secrecy envelope), one with an affidavit, or oath, printed on the outside, and one plain pre-addressed envelope, (the outer envelope). Once the voter casts the ballot, the procedure is as follows:

- Seal the ballot in the plain envelope
- Place the plain envelope inside the accompanying affidavit envelope
- Seal the affidavit envelope and complete the affidavit that is on the outside of the envelope
- Sign the affidavit and have the signature witnessed by either a notary public or two witnesses 18 years of age or older

WITNESSES OR NOTARIZATION

An absentee ballot cannot be counted unless the affidavit is notarized or has the signatures of two witnesses. Electronic or remote notarization is not permitted. The voter has only the following legal ways to return the absentee ballot:

- forwards the absentee ballot by U.S. Mail
- forwards the absentee ballot by commercial carrier
- personally hands their own absentee ballot to the absentee election manager (or delivers by a designee in the case of emergency absentee voting)

**Contact your Circuit Clerk for an Absentee Ballot
Bessemer Division – Circuit Clerk – Karen Dunn Burks**

1851 2nd Ave N, Bessemer, AL 35020 - (205) 497-8510 - Email :Jefferson@vote.alabama.gov