

2010 RAVEN SOCIETY CANDIDATE POSITION SURVEY

Please feel free to attach as many pages as are necessary to include your complete answers.

1. Name: **Ed Mitchell**
Address: **2400 Wildwood Rd.**
Maryville, TN 37804

Email: **edmitchell123@yahoo.com**
2. Website:
3. For which office are you running?

Blount Co. Mayor
4. What is your professional background and current occupation?

I spent over thirty years as a public servant with the last fourteen and a half as the fire chief of the city of Maryville.
5. Please list high school(s) attended and any higher education with degrees earned, if any.

Everett High 1972 Tusculum College B.S. in Management
6. List professional, governmental, community service or other relevant organizational affiliations you have maintained within the past 10 years. List approximate dates of service.

Maryville Fire Dept. 1982-2009, Boys and Girls Club of Blount Co., 2003-2010 Blount Co. Community Action 1998-2010, Keep Blount Beautiful 1999-2005, Red Cross Board,
7. Please comment on how your own background and skills would assist you as an officeholder.

I have served the citizens as a public servant the majority of my life. I have also worked with multi-million dollar budgets and have never overspent or felt I wasted the taxpayers money in any way. As the Fire Chief I represented each and every citizen equally and was always available for any and all input they may have. I enjoy serving the people of Blount County and I feel as Mayor I can provide the best service for them.
8. The Raven Society Mission Statement is at the top of this page. Do you support this mission? Why or why not? If elected, what will you do in support

of this mission?

The mission is vague. What do you mean by "protect". I am a 6th generation Blount Countian and I love all those qualities you mention in your mission but I also support peoples rights. I believe in limited zoning but it should apply equally for everyone.

9. What do you see as the three most critical issues facing Blount County? Being as specific as possible, please tell us how you will address each of these issues.

1. Debt. We are over a quarter billion dollars in debt with over 50 million due next year. We have to face this headon and that means cuts will have to be made in budgets. I will not support a tax increase. We will have to make other action work. 2. Jobs. We have to continue to recruit businesses that bring jobs to Blount Co. The Mayors office needs to work with and support the industrial development board and the Chamber in anyway it can to recruit this jobs. 3. Education. The school system is going to feel the budget shortfalls more than any other department and we have to work to support them to insure that the high education standards we have in the Blount Co. schools are continued.

10. Rapid development in Blount County has implications for the County budget, as well as for our air and water quality, scenic heritage and community character. If elected, what principles would guide your decisions regarding growth and development?

In todays economy I think any rapid development is not going to be a problem. But as long as Blount County is so attractive to people from other areas they will being comig to Blount County to live. I don't know of anywhere a county has been able to stop the growth. Would I like for Blount County to remain as it was when I was growing up? Absolutely, but in reality it is not going to happen. But if growth is going to happen we need to make sure our roads can handle the volume of traffic safely. To much government regulation can be more destructive to a community than no regulations at all.

11. Do you support the extension of the Pellissippi Parkway (PPE) from Old Knoxville Highway (SR 33) to US 321?

a. **Yes**

b. Please explain *why* you support or oppose the extension, including any statistics or studies you may know of which support your opinion.

The growth in the east end of the County has exceeded the road capabilities making them unsafe at certain times of the day. Also the Parkway would open up some areas for more commercial growth that we need to support the tax base

12. If the PPE is eventually built, how will you address the development pressures this potential new road will bring, including impacts on Blount County's secondary roads, schools, public services, air and water quality?

Development along the PPE is one area I feel every person in Blount County would agree needs to be done in a manner to insure the beauty of the area and the mountains is not adversely impacted. That can be handled through the planning and codes department along with the county commissioners.

13. Which, if any, of the proposals presented by the Growth Management Advisory Committee (GMAC) would you recommend using to raise funds to purchase and preserve green space in the rural parts of the county?

First I would implement the six year capital improvement plan to give us a heads up of known and possible development growth. This would allow the county to begin to work to identify areas where purchases will be needed and a closer time frame of when. I did not see any fund raising method I agreed with totally. The only one that had any merit at all to me was the impact development fee that could be charged based on size of developments and used specifically to purchase the identified green space identified in the 6 year capital improvement plan.

14. If elected, please describe how you would incorporate the Five Guiding Policies of the county's Policies Plan into your own decision-making process.

I have not had a chance to really set down and read the entire growth study, but I will. From what I have read it contains some recommendations doable and some not. I would need to discuss this with the planning department and determine what if any of the study is being used as a guide for growth.

15. What is your vision for Blount County in 20 years?

I see the economy having an impact on the rate of growth, but I do believe we will continue to see some growth at a less than 1% rate. This should slow down to some degree the amount of rural area being consumed. More and more we are seeing a population increase of retired people moving into the area. Normally this causes more growth in municipality and high density areas. As the economy improves growth

will increase somewhat but not at the rate we have seen in the last 15 years. I would hope that in 20 years we will still have open rural space. I think the future jobs will be technical in nature and the population will be in more dense residential settings.