

**Meridian Tea Party
2011 Candidate/Incumbent Questionnaire**

Incumbent Name: Jimmy Slay

Currently holding: Lauderdale County Tax Assessor

Campaign Point of Contact: Jimmy Slay

Campaign Address: P.O. Box 4768, Meridian, MS 39304-4768

Campaign Phone: 601-693-3066

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Education/Degrees/Certificates held: Graduate of Meridian High School, Bachelor of Science from Mississippi College, Certified Appraiser, Assessment Evaluator I & II Designations, Numerous certificates and seminars on appraisal and assessing.

Military Experience: Sole surviving son of a deceased veteran.

**Business/Industry Experience/Highest Position held: Store Manager
Years of Service: 25 # Of Employees Managed: 15**

**Own Business Experience: J. Slay, Ltd. Years of Service: 9 # of
Employees Managed: 10**

If elected to office, what will be your three top priorities? 1. Bring real property appraisal back in-house 2. Find ways to save tax dollars while providing better services 3. Treat all taxpayers of Lauderdale County fairly.

Simply put, what qualifies you for this office? Experience- 12 years in the office. Education- B.S. Degree, Certified Appraiser, AEI & AEII designations, Many seminars and certificates, member of the International Association of Assessing Officers. Efficient- Have passed every single audit since I have been in office, Have come in under budget every single year I have been in office.

How would you describe your political views? Conservative
Please comment: I believe in limited government, strong traditional families, the free enterprise system, sanctity of life, individual liberties, and fiscal responsibility.

What are the most important values and ethics you believe in and demonstrate as a leader? Honesty, integrity, fairness, no special favors, operate by the book, strong work ethic, dedication to my job, and I expect the same from my employees.

Identify three of your most important leadership accomplishments: Meridian/Lauderdale County Small Business Person of the Year, Vice-President of the National Alumni Board of Directors for Mississippi College, and Lt. Governor for Ala/Miss District of Optimist International.

What is the proper role of government? Government should secure the rights and freedom of every citizen.

Are ethics as important as economics in elections? Absolutely !

Leaders often deal with conflict. Describe a recent significant conflict you have had to handle, what was the outcome? Are you satisfied with the outcome? Could you have handled it better? How? Conflict is inevitable in all areas of life. There are times when you can find grounds for compromise but there are times when you must stand up for what you believe is right no matter the cost.

What is your position with regard to the statement “....to the people’s right to keep and bear arms”? I believe in the people’s right to keep and bear arms.

America’s federal deficit has reached an all-time high, being measured in numbers never before expressed to the people. If re-elected, what can you do to reverse this trend? The federal deficit is the responsibility of those elected to represent us in Washington. We must elect those who will attack this problem and correct it. As far as my office is concerned, I have come in well under budget every year I have been in office. I have returned tens of thousands of dollars to the general fund. I do not believe in spending money just because you have it in your budget.

How do you feel about the economic outlook of Meridian, Lauderdale County, and/or Mississippi? With proper leadership, the economic future is bright. This leadership must put aside selfish interest and promote the common good. There are some who will go to any lengths to control an office, a county, a state, and even a nation. Self-interest and greed drive these people. They are only interested in how it can benefit them.

The Mississippi Legislature recently tried to pass legislation dealing with illegal immigration(SB2197). What is your opinion about this law and similar laws and/or how should Mississippi be approaching this issue? How do you believe illegal immigration does/will affect this area and specifically your office? I am in favor of legislation dealing with illegal immigration. I have no problem with people coming to this country legally. You must be a legal resident of Mississippi to receive Homestead Exemption.

Are there any tax measures you would advocate to assist in job creation? I do not believe it is the government's responsibility to create jobs.

Do you believe children would get a better education if parents had the right to choose their children's school? Not Applicable

Do you support the "Charter School" concept of education? Not Applicable

Should teachers be required to pass standards examinations pertaining to the discipline they teach? Not Applicable

What are your views of the current school curriculum, textbooks, and educational results in our area and what changes, if any, would you advocate? Not Applicable

It has been suggested that the Department of Education (and the office of the Secretary of Education) is an unnecessary extravagance. Should this government agency be abolished and bring control of education back to a state or local level? Not Applicable

Are you in favor of seeking funds from the Federal Government for projects in Lauderdale County? I am in favor of reducing spending by the Federal Government but I want fair and equal treatment for the citizens of Lauderdale County.

Does Government at any level create jobs? If so, describe examples. The Government should not be in the business of job creation. As I see it, the private sector should create jobs.

Do you favor indefinite extension of unemployment benefits for out-of-work people in Mississippi and how should those benefits be funded?
No

Should Mississippi's public sector employees be unionized or be able to collectively bargain? Not Applicable

Use this space to explain or describe any issues or beliefs that pertain to the office for which you are running or personal information that you feel is important for voters to know about you or your campaign. I want to thank the voters of Lauderdale County for allowing me to serve them for the last three terms. I am asking for your vote and the opportunity to serve another term. I have worked hard for you and will continue to do so. The Tax Assessor can neither raise nor lower taxes. If you have a question or concern, please call me at 601-482-9779. If you call the office, you might hear my voice on the other end of the line. I am a working Assessor.