

MERIDIAN TEA PARTY
2011 CANDIDATE/INCUMBENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate/Incumbent Name: VAN LEWIS

Office aspired to/Currently holding: LANDERDALE CO. TAX ASSESSOR

Campaign Point of Contact/Title: VAN LEWIS

Campaign Address: PO BOX 8095 MERIDIAN, MS 39303

Campaign Phone - and - Fax: 601.938.4483

Campaign email address: VAN@INNOVATIVE.MS Website Address: LEWISFORASSESSOR.COM

Education/Degrees/Certificates held: BS IN FORESTRY FROM MSU IN 1979,

REGISTERED FORESTER, LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKER

Military Experience/Highest Rate or Rank Held/ Occupational Specialty: NONE

Years of Service: _____

Business/Industry Experience/Highest Position held: ① INTENTIONAL PAPER ② FBI

Years of Service: ① 2 ② 2 # Of Employees Managed: ① 10 ② 0

Own Business Experience: FORESTRY / REAL ESTATE / REAL ESTATE BROKER

Years of Service: 16 YRS # Of Employees Managed: 0 - 3

If elected to office, what will be your three top priorities? ① ASSIST ALL TAXPAYERS WITH PROPERTY

TAX ISSUES IE HOMESTEAD, OVERASSESSMENT, ETC ② IN HOME APPRAISERS ③ CENTRALIZED MAPPING

Simply put, what qualifies you for this office? MY EDUCATION, EXPERIENCE IN REAL ESTATE,

KNOWLEDGE WORKING WITH OVER 25 DIFFERENT TAX ASSESSORS

OFFICES IN THE COURSE OF MY CAREER

How would you describe your political views?

Very Conservative - Conservative - Moderate - Liberal - Very Liberal - Socialist - Other

Please comment: I BELIEVE GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION SHOULD

BE MINIMAL

What are the most important values and ethics you believe in and demonstrate as a leader? _____

HONESTY, WILLINGNESS TO BE OF SERVICE TO ALL TAXPAYERS

AND TO PROVIDE KNOWLEDGE AND LEADERSHIP FOR EMPLOYEES

Identify three of your most important leadership accomplishments: ① THE ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE WITH INDIVIDUALS FROM VARIOUS BACKGROUNDS ② THE ABILITY TO DELEGATE EFFICIENTLY ③ EFFECTIVELY RESOLVE CONFLICTS

What is the proper role of government? _____

To serve the people

Are ethics as important as economics in elections? YES, MOST DEFINATELY

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?

AS A REAL ESTATE BROKER, I'VE OFTEN DEALT WITH BUYERS/SELLERS VARIOUS CONCERNS WITH REAL ESTATE ISSUES. I BELIEVE MY WILLINGNESS TO LISTEN TO THEIR ISSUES AND TO HELP RESOLVE CONFLICTS HAS BEEN VERY GRATIFYING. I FEEL I CAN OFFER THIS SAME POSITIVE ATTRIBUTE IN THE OFFICE OF TAX ASSESSOR

What is your position with regard to the statement '... to the people's right to keep and bear arms?'

I THINK OUR FORD FATHERS INTENDED FOR INDIVIDUALS TO BE ABLE TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AS WELL AS FAMILY AND FRIENDS

America's federal deficit has reached an all-time high, being measured in numbers never before expressed to the people. If elected/re-elected, what can you do to reverse this trend locally?

A STREAMLINED, EFFICIENT TAX ASSESSOR'S OFFICE WOULD AIDE IN KEEPING OUR LOCAL BUDGET IN LINE

How do you feel about the economic outlook of Meridian, Lauderdale County and/or Mississippi?

SLOW GROWTH NEXT 3 YEARS, BUT LONG TERM DUE TO LOCATION AND ITS PEOPLE I THINK WITH GOVERNMENT WORKING TOGETHER THIS AREA HAS ENDEMOUS POTENTIAL

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?

Yes Why? I BELIEVE THE CLOSER GOVERNMENT IS TO THE PEOPLE THE

~~No~~ Why? BETTER AND MORE EFFICIENT IT IS, LOCAL NOT FEDERAL

Are you in favor of seeking funds from the Federal Government for projects in Lauderdale County?

NO, I DO NOT FEEL THAT THE OFFICE OF TAX ASSESSOR WILL HAVE A SITUATION WERE YOU WOULD HAVE THE CHANCE TO REQUEST OR OBTAIN ANY FEDERAL FUNDS

Does Government at any level create jobs? If so, describe examples:

BY BRINGING REAL ESTATE APPRAISALS BACK TO THE ASSESSORS OFFICE, 2-3 LOCAL PEOPLE WILL HAVE JOBS INSTEAD OF TAX DOLLARS LEAVING LAUDERDALE COUNTY

Do you favor indefinite extension of unemployment benefits for out-of-work people in Mississippi and how should those benefits be funded?

NO, I FEEL THAT AFTER A TIME AN INDIVIDUAL HAS TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THEIR PROBLEM OTHER THAN THE GOVERNMENT

Should Mississippi's public sector employees be unionized or be able to collectively bargain?

NO, WHILE I BELIEVE AT ONE TIME UNIONS WERE GOOD FOR THIS COUNTRY, I BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE BECOME TOO POWERFUL AND ARE ONLY DOING WHATS BEST FOR THE UNION, NOT THE INDIVIDUAL THEY REPRESENT

Comments on any of the above topics you may wish to address further. Thank you for your input.

I HAVE NO FURTHER COMMENTS

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 should you win?

I FEEL ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS BURDEN OUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT SERVICES WITHOUT CONTRIBUTING TO THE FUNDS THAT PROVIDE THOSE SERVICES TO THEM

Are there any tax measures you would advocate to assist in job creation?

I AM NOT IN FAVOR OF RAISING TAXES, HOWEVER I FEEL VERY STRONGLY ABOUT KEEPING COUNTY TAX DOLLARS IN LAUDERDALE COUNTY - THUS THE NECESSARY FOR IN HOUSE APPRAISERS IN THE TAX ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Do you believe children would get a better education if parents had the right to choose their children's school?

I FEEL I AM NOT PROPERLY QUALIFIED TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION AS WELL AS THE NEXT THREE QUESTIONS.

Do you support the "Charter School" concept of education?

SEE ABOVE

Should teachers be required to pass standards examinations pertaining to the discipline they teach?

SEE ABOVE

What are your views of the current school curriculum, textbooks and educational results in our area and what changes, if any, would you advocate?

SEE ABOVE

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:

30 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN COMMERCIAL, RESIDENTIAL, AND
RURAL REAL ESTATE, LICENCE REAL ESTATE BROKER,
REGISTERED FORESTER + BS DEGREE IN FORESTRY

I HAVE SEEN, WALKED ON, EVALUATED, OWNED, SOLD, ETC
MORE REAL ESTATE IN LAUDERDALE COUNTY THAN
BOTH OF MY OPPONENTS COMBINED

Thank you for completing this survey!

Meridian Tea Party members are grateful for your responses to our questions and in exchange for returning the completed survey to us, we will extend an invitation for you to participate in our Local Candidates Forum we plan to hold at The Temple Ballroom on a date to be announced.

Please return your completed questionnaire to the address below.

Respectfully,

Meridian, Mississippi Tea Party
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Meridian, MS 39303

www.MeridianTeaParty.com

Email: candidates@MeridianTeaParty.com