

MERIDIAN TEA PARTY
2011 CANDIDATE/INCUMBENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate/Incumbent Name: Joshua A. Todd

Office aspired to/Currently holding: Lauderdale County Supervisor Dist 3

Campaign Point of Contact/Title: Joshua Todd, Candidate

Campaign Address: 10978 Martin Kemper Rd. Collinsville Ms 39325

Campaign Phone – and – Fax: Home 601-737-4188, Cell 601-917-0625

Campaign email address: joshleah@bellsouth.net Website Address: N/A

Education/Degrees/Certificates held: West Lauderdale High School

Military Experience/Highest Rate or Rank Held/ Occupational Specialty: N/A

Years of Service: _____

Business/Industry Experience/Highest Position held: Lauderdale County Road Foreman

Dist 3 (Sat B) Years of Service: 12 # Of Employees Managed: 12

Own Business Experience: N/A

Years of Service: _____ # Of Employees Managed: _____

If elected to office, what will be your three top priorities? Promote a united board, have an open door policy, and provide the basic services

Simply put, what qualifies you for this office? My 12 years with the past 4 years over seeing the day to day operations of this county, I have good

communication skills, and the ability to understand and balance diverse personalities to make good decisions. Strong work ethics! Go above and beyond
How would you describe your political views?

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

Please comment: I believe we dont need to send out or pay out more than we take in. Set a budget and stay with in that budget.

What are the most important values and ethics you believe in and demonstrate as a leader? I am devoted to serving the people of Lauderdale County and believe that good leaders learn from those around him and I can adapt my leadership style as necessary to deal with diverse personalities and ever evolving situations.

Identify three of your most important leadership accomplishments: By becoming a Deacon in First Baptist Church Collinsville, becoming the youngest Assistant Road Foreman, and becoming the youngest Road Foreman for Lauderdale County

What is the proper role of government? To serve the people, and to set a budget and stay within that budget set for that physical year.

Are ethics as important as economics in elections? Yes, if you don't have ethics you forget where you come from and who you are. It's like a moral compass for making good decisions.

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?

There was a family wanting things done that the County couldn't do for legal reasons and they were getting angry because of it. I sat down with them and explained the reason we couldn't do it and when we left they had a good understanding why we wasn't able to do what they were asking. Communication prevents conflict!

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

Our four fathers used guns to hunt to put food on the table to feed our families and also to protect there families so Yes, I agree "to the people's right to bear arms"

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?

Cut back on spending where we are able to, treat the budget as our money not just one supervisor's money, and give the people an explanation where our money is going. Stay within the budget.

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

It has been an economic struggle for everyone in the City and County. I feel its going to continue to be a struggle, but with a board that can work together with the Town of Marion and the City of Meridian anything can be accomplished.

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?

As of right now, I don't see it as a problem in our area, however, I'm sure it's an issue that needs to be addressed for the future growth in job development for the citizens of Lauderdale County.

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

I think there should be incentives to business of any size to allow them to have an advelorem tax break to assist in job creation which in turn creates tax revenue and job growth.

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

I do have the right to send my children to any school but it's not without a cost. I could move school districts or send my children to a private or Christian school.

Do you support the "Charter School" concept of education? No, because it could over populate one school and under populate another both potentially hurting both schools. All schools have the same goals for our children.

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

Yes, teachers are already required to pass certain examinations pertaining to what they teach (required course work, and certain amount of hours in each specific area)

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

According to my wife which has been teaching for the Lauderdale County Schools for 8 years expressed if budget permitting smaller class rooms meaning a less number of students per teacher would be helpful.

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? _____

No. Why? _____

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

Yes, we need all funds that are available that we can get that are not subject to be paid back by the tax payers of Lauderdale County.

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

Yes, Court House, Schools, Sheriff's Department, Metro and so on. Lauderdale County has an estimated payroll of 375 employees that are on pay role.

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

No, I believe in the "right to work" law and I'm not in support of putting the burden on the tax paying citizens of Lauderdale County to provide indefinite benefits to any category of people.

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

At this time I don't think a union would be a good decision for the county but we do need to look into the salary structure and wage an hour and compare what our men and women make compared to other counties.

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

Education is the foundation which starts a man's or woman's life. It is a very important resource that we need to contribute to as we can. And we don't need to let our home town colleges fall to the waist side.

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 believe in a open door policy, I will be available at the request of the public. I want to help keeping Lauderdale County moving forward, and I see the impact that elected officials have on our communities and I want to be apart of making good decisions for the people of Lauderdale County and District 3. I dont see City or district lines, I only see the people of Lauderdale County.

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,

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