

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

Candidate Name: **William E. Shirley Jr.**

Office aspired to: **Mississippi House of Representatives District 84**

Campaign Point of Contact: **William E. Shirley Jr.**

Campaign Address: **William E. Shirley Jr., 911 CR 140, Quitman, MS 39355**

Campaign Phone: **601-513-9428**

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Education: **Graduate of Quitman High School. Attended MCC. Electrician training within United States Coast Guard.**

Military Experience/Highest Rank Held/ Occupational Specialty: **Served 4 years in United States Coast Guard, Petty Officer 3rd class, Electrician.**

Business/Industry Experience/Highest Position held: **Worked for BellSouth for nearly 15 years and served as District Manager and served as Statewide trainer for upwards of 70 people.**

Own Business Experience: **Owner of The Family Fish Camp of 2 years.**

If elected to office, what will be your three top priorities: **1st STOP unnecessary Spending, 2nd STOP unnecessary Spending 3rd STOP unnecessary Spending. 1st Look at every opportunity to use taxpayer's money wiser. 2nd Education, 3rd Sanctity of Marriage.**

How would you describe your political views? **VERY CONSERVATIVE**

Please comment: **It appears that we just spend, spend and spend more and more. If elected, I will be a good steward of the people's affairs. As a small business owner I don't use money that I don't have and we strive to live within what we make.**

What are the most important values and ethics you believe in and demonstrate as a leader? **A good effective leader should be honest, a good listener and communicator. If as a leader we keep morals and ethics at the forefront we will be a better people and earn respect from others.**

What is the proper role of government? **The primary role of government is to secure “unalienable” rights- those rights which are “endowed by our Creator”. God gives to individuals the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and individuals delegate to government the power to protect those rights.**

Are ethics as important as economics in elections? **Yes. If we don’t elect Ethical and moral people in office then we will have more of the same problems that we have with economics. Elections and the amount of money someone has been given for campaign could be a sign as to whom those candidates are indebted to.**

What is your position with regard to the statement ‘... to the people’s right to keep and bear arms? **My opinion is this as I interpret 2nd Amendment. The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed on. I love my right to have my guns and like to hunt and all three of my children and wife can and have shot a weapon before. I will support and fight for this right.**

America’s federal deficit has reached an all-time high, being measured in numbers never before expressed to the people. If elected, what can you do to reverse this trend locally? **We should look at every program and expenditure to see if it is really needed, if so at what amount. As in business look at cost versus benefit. We should have people in office not just there to say “YES” to every spending opportunity. STOP spending beyond our means.**

How do you feel about the economic outlook of Meridian, Lauderdale County and/or Mississippi? **East Mississippi is and has been sitting in a prime location for economic improvements. We should have all elected officials working together with business leaders to help promote industry in our area.**

The Mississippi Legislature tried to pass legislation dealing with illegal immigration. What is your opinion about this law and similar laws and/or how should Mississippi be approaching this issue? **The entire Country has an issue with illegal immigrants. We as a State should take the Bull by the horns and take the Federal Government to task on this issue like other states have. The LACK of enforcement by the Federal Government is something that we as a State will have to passing our own legislation. Stronger laws that deals with employers who knowingly hire illegals.**

Are there any tax measures you would advocate to assist in job creation? **I’m opposed to any and ALL measures to increase any taxes.**

Do you believe children would get a better education if parent had the right to choose their children’s school? **Yes. Mississippi is 50th in National Achievement. Parents that get involved with a child’s education are very important. Good leadership and a good working program at one school are very important. As a general rule a child’s school is determined by where the family lives and thus some have made the decision to move so that the child gets a better school.**

Do you support the “Charter School” concept of education? **Yes. With the proper leadership a charter school has better odds of producing a better education for the children.**

Should teachers be required to pass standards examinations pertaining to the discipline they teach? **Yes. Mississippi teachers on average, have the lowest scores in the Nation on the PRAXIS, the National Teachers exam.**

What are your views of the current school curriculum, textbooks and educational results in our area and what changes, if any, would you advocate? **Mississippi is 50th in education. 22% scored proficient or above in reading and math. School leadership is among the most important factors in student achievements, NOT money. We must have great Superintendents and thus they hire great principles that hire and retain great teachers. The 22% is very discouraging considering that the number one concern of Mississippi leaders is education.**

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. This would reduce the administrative cost of the State and place that amount of funds to the local level providing more classroom funds.**

Are you in favor of seeking funds from the Federal Government for projects in Lauderdale County? **1st I would like to say that Federal Funds are our tax money. To many parts of our society think that Grant money is FREE, well it is NOT. We as a community should be looking at every opportunity for projects for East Central Mississippi. When we get a product or service at no cost to us it simply means that someone else paid for it.**

Does Government at any level create jobs? **NO. Government does not create jobs. Individual initiative is an infinitely more powerful economic force than Government action. Government doesn't have anything to give that it didn't take from someone else.**

Do you favor indefinite extension of unemployment benefits for out-of-work people in Mississippi and how should those benefits be funded? **NO I'm not in favor of indefinite extensions. We have a problem with people wanting to work. As a small business owner I see first hand people's attitude towards work. (Just give me a check). I have also heard from other local business owners that people have a lack of work ethics. STOP the checks.**

Should Mississippi's public sector employees be unionized or be able to collectively bargain? **NO. The public sectors employee's should be working for the people and at the will of the people. We should not be giving a person that draws a taxpayer funded check the ability of telling the people that pay them what they should do.**

Additional comments or information. **My wife and I have been married 25 years if we make it to August 8th. We have three daughters, Kristan (19) twins Klaire and Kaylin whom are 11. We own The Family Fish Camp in Causeyville for over two years. We reside in Clarke County and are proud to call Mississippi our home. I want to promote Mississippi and make it a better place so that our children can stay here and have a better quality of life. If as a collective unit we work together and not have all the special interest getting involved we can unite and get something going for the people of East Central Mississippi. I promise to the people that I will be a Representative that will be available, listen and respond to the People's concerns, (Your concerns are our concerns) if you would like to share your concerns feel free to call me at 601-513-9428. I also will tell you that Special interest money will NOT buy influence with me. I'm OPPOSED to any and all tax increases. Please tell your family, friends and co-workers that a vote for William E. Shirley Jr. is a vote for your voice. On August 2nd I ask for your vote in the Republican Primary. Thank you and God Bless.**