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## COUNTY COMMISSION

The Commercial Appeal - Sunday, July 31, 1994

The Shelby **County Commission** takes on a new look after Thursday's election, as a majority of commissioners will be newcomers to that legislative body and the number of commissioners grows from **11** to 13.

The current commissioners agreed to new district lines in December, a decision that also added two positions. Four of the districts will each elect three commissioners, and District 5 will elect one commissioner.

Six of the commissioners are seeking re-election, so come September, at least seven new lawmakers will be sworn in to serve four-year terms with annual pay of \$20,100.

Currently, there are seven white and four black commissioners. The new districts were drawn so that white voters would be the majority population for seven of the seats, and black voters would be the majority population for six of the seats.

Here is a look at the candidates on the ballot Thursday:

District 1, Position 1

Pete Sisson, 66, has served on the **commission** since 1976. He is unopposed after winning the Republican Primary. Sisson is a lawyer and is chief executive officer of TESCO Development Inc., a real estate management company. He is a graduate of Memphis State University.

District 1, Position 2

Mike Tooley, 47, has served on the **commission** since 1980. He is unopposed Thursday and was unopposed in the Republican Primary. He is president of Tooley Enterprises Inc., a residential construction and development company, and is a graduate of Western Kentucky University.

District 1, Position 3

Bill Gibbons, 44, was unopposed in the Republican Primary. He is a partner in the law firm of Evans & Petree and is an assistant Shelby **County** attorney. He was a city councilman from 1983 to 1987 and is a graduate of Vanderbilt University.

Tommy Dillard, 44, is on the ballot as an independent. He is manager of loss prevention at Federal Express Corp. and attended Memphis State University and State Technical Institute at Memphis.

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Cathy Westbrook Harness, 30, is on the ballot as an independent. She is supervisor of merchant research in the retail credit division of First Tennessee Bank. She is a graduate of State Technical Institute at Memphis.

Larry Patterson, 39, is on the ballot as an independent. He is employed by Rentenback Constructors, a general contractor in industrial and commercial developments. He was a candidate in the Ninth Congressional District in 1992 and is a graduate of the University of Mississippi.

District 2, Position 1

Walter Bailey, 53, has served on the **commission** since 1971. He is on the ballot as an independent and is unopposed. He is a lawyer and a graduate of Southern University.

District 2, Position 2

Julian Bolton, 44, has served on the **commission** since 1982. He is on the ballot as an independent and is unopposed. He is a lawyer and is a graduate of Southwestern (now Rhodes College) and Memphis State University.

District 2, Position 3

Joe Brown, 52, is on the ballot as an independent. He is president and chief executive officer of Empire Chemical Supply Co. and was a **commission** candidate in 1990. He attended Tennessee State University and Memphis State University.

John Gatlin, 60, is on the ballot as an independent. He is a retired Memphis firefighter.

Ray Gavin could not be reached.

Henry Hooper, 55, is on the ballot as an independent. He owns an insurance agency, was a Shelby **County** deputy sheriff and is a retired Secret Service agent. He is a graduate of Memphis State University.

Jesse E. `Elder' Neely, 63, is on the ballot as an independent. He is a self-employed management consultant and has run for state House and city school board. He is a graduate of Kentucky State University and Shelby State Community College.

Mary Taylor-Shelby, 43, is on the ballot as an independent. She is president of Students, Mothers and Concerned Citizens. A candidate for several offices in the past, Taylor-Shelby has attended Shelby State Community College.

Shep Wilbun, 41, is on the ballot as an independent. He has been a city councilman since 1989. He is president of Wilbun Enterprises Inc., a real estate development firm, and is a graduate of Dartmouth College and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Mondell B. Williams, 38, is on the ballot as an independent. He is a 16-year employee of the Defense Distribution Depot and was a **commission** candidate in 1990. He attended State Technical Institute at Memphis and Christian Brothers University.

District 3, Position 1

Michael Hooks, 43, is on the ballot as an independent. A real estate appraiser, Hooks was **county** assessor from 1988 to 1992 and was a city councilman from 1979 to 1988. He attended Lane College and Memphis State University.

Anthony Tate, 37, is on the ballot as an independent. He is president of Advance Personnel Service. He was campaign manager for state Rep. Henri Brooks in 1992 and city school board **member** TaJuan Stout-Mitchell in 1991. He is a graduate of LeMoyne-Owen College and Chadwick University.

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Joe Towns Jr. dropped out of this race to seek the seat in state House District 84.

#### District 3, Position 2

Cleo C. Kirk, 55, has served on the **commission** since 1989. He is on the ballot as an independent. He is a dentist and is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Howard University.

Clifford `Cliff' Lewis, 37, is on the ballot as an independent. He works for the federal government, owns a lawn care service and is an executive committee **member** of the Shelby **County** Democratic Party. He attended Shelby State Community College and the University of Maryland.

#### District 3, Position 3

Rick R. Draper, 33, is on the ballot as an independent. He is a mental health consultant for St. Joseph Hospital and is a graduate of Memphis State University.

James W. Ford, 45, is on the ballot as an independent. He has served on the City Council since 1979. He is an ophthalmologist and is a graduate of Tennessee State University and Columbia University.

G. D. McLemore, 55, was unopposed in the Republican Primary. He is a real estate investor and formerly owned several convenience stores. He is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Johnnie R. Turner, 54, is on the ballot as an independent. She is a director of the Professional Assessment Development and Enhancement Center and has served as campaign manager for her husband, state Rep. Larry Turner. She is a graduate of LeMoyne-Owen College and Memphis State University.

#### District 4, Position 1

Clair Vander Schaaf, 51, won the Republican Primary and has served on the **commission** since 1976. He is president of Vander Schaaf Developments Inc., a residential developer, and is a graduate of Rider College.

Russell Gwatney, 41, is on the ballot as an independent. He is president of Gwatney Chevrolet and Gwatney Companies and is a graduate of the University of Arkansas. He has been endorsed by the two Republicans who lost to Vander Schaaf in the GOP primary, Josh Hall and Dick Heard.

#### District 4, Position 2

Jannie Caldwell Foster, 49, is on the ballot as an independent. She is a former city and **county** schools teacher and formed the first Neighborhood Watch in Oakcrest subdivision in Raleigh. She majored in business administration at Grambling State University.

N. K. `Lucky' Lakshmanan, 57, is on the ballot as an independent. He is owner of Lakshmanan Enterprises, a real estate, mortgage and environmental consulting firm. He is a graduate of Madras University and Bombay University in India and North Dakota State University.

Mark Norris, 39, won the Republican Primary. He is a partner in the law firm of Armstrong, Allen, Prewitt, Gentry, Johnston & Holmes. He is a graduate of Colorado College and the University of Denver.

Tommy Whitlock, 56, is on the ballot as an independent. He retired as a planning specialist for DuPont Co. after 32 years. He attended Shelby State Community College and the University of Tennessee.

## District 4, Position 3

Jim Bomprezzi, 55, is on the ballot as an independent. He is owner of A-1 Realty Co. and retired as a lieutenant with the Memphis Police Department. He is a graduate of National Technical School of Los Angeles and attended Memphis State University.

Thomas W. 'Tommy' Hart, 52, won the Republican Primary. He is chief executive officer of Hart Manufacturing Co. and is a graduate of Memphis State University.

Jesse McCabe, 49, is on the ballot as an independent. He is self employed as a remodeling and renovation contractor. He is a graduate of Southern Illinois University.

Beth Phillips, 38, is on the ballot as an independent. She is a Realtor with Premier Realty Inc. and is a graduate of Austin Peay State University.

## District 5

Buck Wellford, 37, won the Republican Primary and is unopposed. He is a partner in the law firm of Thomason, Hendrix, Harvey, Johnson & Mitchell. He is a graduate of Vanderbilt University and Washington and Lee University.

**Caption:** photo (34) map

Photos are of **County Commission** candidates Staff Shelby **County Commission** Districts The Shelby **County Commission** has new district lines and has been expanded from **11** to **13 members** for this year's election. District 5 has one commissioner; each of the other four districts has three commissioners. In each district with three commissioners, voters will pick a commissioner from Position 1, a commissioner from Position 2 and a commissioner from Position 3.

**Memo:** BALLOT '94

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**Edition:** Final

**Section:** Special

**Page:** J16

**Index Terms:** shelby co ; county commission ; campaign ; list ; age

**Record Number:** CMA07310128

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