

Brenda Jones

Age: 49

Current Occupation: Detroit City Council Member

Education: Wayne State University, Bachelors Degree in Psychology

Felony Convictions: No

Campaign Website: N/A

Campaign Contact Number: 313 894-1150

Why are you running for Detroit City Council?

Detroit is suffering---economically and in some respects from a crisis in leadership. As a former President of the Communications Workers of America, Local 4004, I continue to fight for issues that are important to both the people of Detroit and our Business community. I am running to retain my seat on the Detroit City Council out of a sense of urgency, to continue to advocate for Jobs & Economic Development, as I have through the Skills Trade Task Force.

What are your top 3 priorities for Detroit? *

The easy answer of course is JOBS, JOBS, and JOBS. We must do more on this front because of the global economic crisis, foreclosure crisis, public education crisis (especially our deployable graduation rates which are at an all-time low of about 40%, that means 60% of our children are not prepared to compete). First, the City of Detroit must get it's financial house in order, so the looming Budget Deficit is a major priority moving forward---we must spend within our means. Secondly, as I travel around the City, Public Safety is a top concern of both the Business Community and the people of our great city. And, third, Jobs & Economic Development---we must make the nexus for our young people that education is the only preparation for good paying jobs and that we can not attract new businesses to the City of Detroit without an educated workforce.

What have been your 2 greatest contributions to the public good? *

That's a tough question to answer because our challenges and opportunities that I just outlined above tells me that servant-leadership requires one to be agile and focused on a number of fronts. I am most proud that I bring a sense of Professionalism and Integrity to the legislative branch of city government something that is needed in all walks of life but especially from our elected officials. There is not a hint of scandal in my background or very being---period. However, through the leadership I have provided as Chairperson of the Skill Trades Task Force, we have provided job opportunities for many of our residents---so, we're transforming lives every week and in many cases bringing business owners and the unemployed and under-employed together. I also led the charge to change the City Charter and we'll elect a Charter Commission for the first time in a long time. I also changed the City Ordinance as it relates to the fines associated with the Department of Administrative Hearings.

What is the unique characteristic that makes you stand out among the 167 candidates running for City Council?

Servant-leadership is really a calling, much like one being called to ministry in their religion; it is a serious covenant between myself and the people I was elected to serve. I think what makes me unique is that I came from the Labor Movement, worked very hard and met all of those challenges of being a woman in the work place also. As a former Union President, I had to staff our operation, establish goals, balance budgets and meet the high expectations of my membership. I think that I am more prepared than most candidates to meet the demands of the Detroit City Council on a daily basis.