

Candidates for Council Districts					
Last Name	First Name	Council District	Do you support the principles of the Community Covenant for Nashville?	Will you pledge to talk about these principles in the remaining weeks of your campaign?	If elected, will you sponsor or support the adoption of the Community Covenant in the form of a non-binding resolution to the Metro Council?
Mamula	Rudolph	District 1	Yes	Yes	Yes
Toombs	Kyonzte	District 2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gamble	Jennifer	District 3	Yes	No	Yes
Hudson	Elise	District 3	Yes	Yes	Yes
Murray	Pam	District 5	Yes	Yes	Yes
Parker	Sean	District 5	Yes	Yes	Yes
Camp	Clint	District 7	Yes	Yes	Undecided
Downs	Stephen	District 7	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fitzpatrick	Dan	District 7	Yes	Yes	Yes
Flowers	Charles	District 5	Yes	Yes	Undecided

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Green	Jacob	District 7	Yes	Yes	Yes
Benedict	Emily	District 7	Yes	Yes	Yes
VanReece	Nancy	District 8	Yes	Yes	Yes
McMurry	David	District 9	Yes	Yes	Yes
Evans	Erin	District 12	Yes	Yes	Yes
Syracuse	Jeff	District 15	Yes	Yes	Yes
King	Paul	District 16	Yes	No	Yes
Welsch	Ginny	District 16	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sledge	Colby	District 17	Yes	Yes	Yes
Green	John	District 18	Yes	Yes	Yes
O'Connell	Freddie	District 19	Yes	Yes	Undecided
Goddard	Tori	District 20	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bentley	Denise	District 21	Yes	Yes	Yes

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Covington	Melissa	District 21	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kindall	Edward	District 21	Yes	Yes	Yes
Taylor	Brandon	District 21	Yes	Yes	Undecided
Allen	Art	District 22	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hausser	Gloria	District 22	Yes	Yes	Yes
Druffel	Thom	District 23	Yes	Yes	Undecided
Johnson	Mina	District 23	Yes	Yes	Yes
Johnston	Courtney	District 26	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nash	Robert	District 27	Yes	Yes	Yes

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Smith-Burwell	Constance	District 29	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hubbell	Lydia	District 30	Yes	Yes	Yes

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Jones	Sherry	District 30	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mayes	Cheryl	District 32	Yes	Yes	Yes
Styles	Joy	District 32	Yes	Yes	Yes

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Bichell	Terry Jo	District 34	Yes	Yes	Yes

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Mamula	
Toombs	I do not have any concerns at this time. I look forward to having the necessary discussions to turn these principles into tangible action steps.
Gamble	
Hudson	Nashville definitely needs more equitable growth. If these concepts are to be put into practice, then much more than a resolution is needed. To truly use an "Equity Lens," our government agencies need more education on what equity is, a cultural shift of priority to address the lack of equity, and policies/procedures that specifically address the tenets of the Covenant.
Murray	NA
Parker	<p>With regards to Transit there are some guiding principles and policies laid out at nashvilletransportation.org. I've also signed onto the NCTP.</p> <p>With regards to Affordable Housing, I'm skeptical of just throwing money at the Barnes Fund. It is one of the best tools we currently have but that model relies heavily on private companies, generally does not allow for families to build equity, and the rent subsidy model does not impact the housing market at-large (in effect, the units are still renting at market rates). We need serious proposals about how Metro can build thousands of units of social housing in the near-term. I'm also open to more effective public-private partnership programs like landbanking, community land trusts, etc.</p>
Camp	
Downs	I think that this is a great start to facilitate a dialogue with members of council, community leaders, and stakeholders, and that will bear fruit over time along the covenant ideas that have been brought forward.
Fitzpatrick	<p>As a city this budget-- based on the doors I'm hitting and folks I'm talking to in District 7- is not a reflection of our character and values. I wrote about that here in this op-ed for the Tennessean.</p> <p>https://www.tennessean.com/story/opinion/2019/06/18/metro-nashville-property-tax-debate/1482031001/</p> <p>I believe the case for raising property taxes is made when our character and values come into question. Too much re-litigating the past, and not enough focusing on the present and future.</p>
Flowers	

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Green	
Benedict	
VanReece	
McMurry	At this time, I do not have any questions.
Evans	I don't have any concerns. Is there a way to aggregate a list of all of the partnerships that already exist in the city for some of the specific aspects of the covenants? For instance, in this one: We recommend employers partner with local nonprofits, colleges and universities, and technical colleges to identify, recruit, and hire candidates from diverse ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic backgrounds." Do we have any employers that are doing a good job of building this type of partnership? Who should we be modeling ourselves after?
Syracuse	
King	It looks like what I'd support, however I have some problems with supporting adoption of open ended non-binding resolutions... just seems to be something that will fall by the wayside like most politician promises once elected.
Welsch	
Sledge	Likely can't enforce living wages
Green	
O'Connell	I need to understand more about what an Equity Lens is. I also generally tend to be underwhelmed by the power of non-binding resolutions when we're a legislative body that can make policy. I have yet to learn how we could secure the authority to create a dedicated funding mechanism for Barnes, so including that in a resolution seems problematic. I would sooner support a resolution calling for enabling legislation to be enacted by the General Assembly.
Goddard	
Bentley	I prefer the term, 'livable wage,' as discussed by Clifton Harris, rather than 'living wage.' It broadens the conversation to enable our neighbors to more than survive. This is the term used at the conference and at the meeting where this Community Covenant was discussed.

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Covington	My campaign focuses on Nashville becoming more equitable. The community covenant covers most of the areas of importance for a more equitable city. In my campaign, I have also been working to make Nashville more equitable for formally incarcerated individuals and individuals with special needs & individuals with behavioral health disorders.
Kindall	Well- presented
Taylor	
Allen	While not a concern with the covenant, I am troubled by the lack of progress the Barnes Fund for housing has experienced. Every area of Nashville needs affordable housing and we need to explore why that is not being done in addition to providing funding for the Barnes fund.
Hausser	
Druffel	
Johnson	Historically Nashville has done very well creating policy guidelines. Livable Nashville, Healthy Nashville, Connected Nashville to list a few. However, we have no way of knowing where we are on the achievements. Nashville Next, the general plan to guide Nashville's growth plan for next 25 years, was created on the 7 guiding principles. 1) Be Nashville, 2) Foster Strong Nashville, 3) Expand Accessibility, 4) Create Opportunity, 5) Advance Education, 6) Champion the Environment, and 7) Ensure Equity for All. Those guiding principles mirror the Community Covenant. I believe Nashville will need to adopt a mechanism to measure the success of governmental projects against guiding principles, so we all can work together towards common goals.
Johnston	
Nash	I support the covenants, I don't necessarily agree with every recommendation for implementation. For instance, I am concerned that every advocacy group is looking for dedicated funding for their particular interest. I am not sure that is the wisest way to budget or manage our city's resources. As a responsible government, we should be able to set priorities and fund them through the regular budget process.

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Smith-Burwell	No, I have no concerns to the work-in-progress Community Covenant. It appears to be very, very equitable and inclusive to all Nashville Davidson County residence (constituents).
Hubbell	"Living Wage" is not defined. I like the use of "should" vs. "must" and I think all these things are good to aim for. I think rather than raising the minimum wage to \$15, as is often suggested, that we lower costs of living. As this is non-binding, I have no reservations. I think these are all worthy pursuits.

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Jones	I have been an advocate and fighter for those who have been overlooked, ignored, left out and forgotten for all the years I have served in government and I always discuss these issues. I fought and passed legislation to keep children safe, help women who have been assaulted, to keep unemployment insurance from being reduced, to keep workers compensation at a fair rate, to help people with disabilities, to freeze property taxes for seniors, to raise the minimum wage, to expand healthcare insurance coverage for those who have none, as well as many others issues for those in need and trying to make a living. I will continue my fight as a Metro Council Member for all these issues and well as the many others in which I believe.
Mayes	None
Styles	I have no concerns. The covenant is quite comprehensive.

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Bichell	<p>The Community Covenant could be improved even more, by including a recommendation that we must focus on improving the quality of our public schools, especially the student-teacher ratio, as well as technical and vocational training opportunities, which will provide routes to success.</p> <p>And, very importantly, the Covenant should include a call for a dedicated funding stream for MTA (37/40 of the cities with the largest populations in the US have a dedicated funding stream for transit), especially in light of the recent MTA budget cuts, and the need for workers to travel across town to work</p>

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Last Name	In addition to this Community Covenant, what other suggestions do you have for making Nashville a more equitable city?
Mamula	Raises for city employees and affordable housing.
Toombs	In addition to the Community Covenant, other suggestions for a more equitable city include, but are not limited to, fully funded public schools, improved infrastructure, easier access to quality public transportation, pay raises for our teachers and city workers, community input in development projects, and responsible development that doesn't result in displacement.
Gamble	In order for Nashville to become a more equitable city, our elected officials have to make a firm commitment through legislation, oversight and community involvement to be fair and transparent in decisions that impact the economics, education, and environment of all areas of the city.
Hudson	Wages for Nashvillians have not kept pace with the cost of housing, and we need innovative strategies for ensuring people make a living wage. We need Planning regulations that help curb gentrification and put priority on community input. Community Benefits Agreements are also a creative tool to assist in equitable growth in Nashville.
Murray	NA
Parker	See above
Camp	
Downs	I think we should insure that our youth are provided opportunities to learn a skill set that provide them with the necessary tools to gain meaningful employment.
Fitzpatrick	We are FAR TOO reactionary. This is because we do not have all stakeholders from the entire community at the table when policy, etc is being created. Instead, we are always chasing our tails and realizing the effect of policy after the fact, instead of making sure that all voices are heard and able to shape policy on the front end.
Flowers	Making Nashville more equitable will involve investing in in our education system, communities and people.

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Green	
Benedict	
VanReece	
McMurry	Realizing our city's economic potential means that all Nashville residents—even the most vulnerable—have the opportunity to benefit from the city's economic success. This entails strong career development, a commitment to support local businesses and creative industries, connecting residents to quality local jobs, and educating Nashville residents so that they can participate in the global economy.
Evans	If we could all think about stakeholders from a "who isn't represented at this meeting that should be" that would be a good starting point. I think we spend a lot of time not thinking about the impact of decisions/goals on other people.
Syracuse	
King	Incentives for hiring Nashvillians. We've got people driving from Murfreesboro to do low paid construction gigs. Can't remember the last time a corporation moved in and made offers to local tech talent rather than bringing in people from elsewhere. Etc.
Welsch	We could have better oversight and enforcement of codes on non-compliant landlords, so that tenants, particularly low-income tenants, are empowered to challenge horrible living conditions. Up codes enforcement on non-compliant landlords to empower tenants who are forced to endure sub-par and dangerous living situations.
Sledge	Revenue increases
Green	
O'Connell	Complete Streets is an equity issue. Making our rights of way safer for those without reliable access to a car is important regardless of the intensity of our public transportation. Meanwhile, I think it's important for us to call out the extraordinary implicit expense of the car tax we charge (the cost of owning, maintaining, insuring, and fueling a car) most Nashvillians.
Goddard	
Bentley	I believe we need to engage in community-wide dialogue to address the sources and systems of the inequity that we experience in Nashville. If we do not address our problems, we will repeat what happened to Dr. Joseph.

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Covington	Bringing more opportunities to city.
Kindall	We must also ensure equitable opportunities and resources are available for all students in all demographics.
Taylor	All residents of Nashville will be my priority - especially individuals within the District I'm serving. I will work with and for our communities to have equitable living, wages, and housing in the "It" City... Equity for All!
Allen	Greater transparency with MDHA, who I feel has focused too much on commercial development. Envision Cayce will be a major test for the city, my hope is the most vulnerable are not left out. With mass transit, We Go can serve as the groundwork for a comprehensive regional system. Metro should not act alone and should discuss routes and waypoints with adjacent counties. This would lay the groundwork for a regional system. Access to transit with improved routes and service will truly link all of Nashville, we are stronger when we move as one.
Hausser	Establish a process that makes access to resources easily identified
Druffel	I believe that education plays a crucial role in improving equitable outcomes. To make Nashville a more equitable city, we should follow the guidelines listed in this Community Covenant, but also make sure to focus on improving MNPS school quality. If elected, I look forward to using my experience in education advocacy to improve public schools and promote a more equitable Nashville.
Johnson	I would like to hold budget talks throughout the year for the community in order for the regular citizens to understand the Metro Budget, then create a budget that reflects citizens' priorities, instead of top down approach.
Johnston	
Nash	You have certainly hit the main themes that I have heard discussed while on the campaign trail. These are all complex issues and several will require significant financial resources to bring to fruition. I hope your coalition will begin to discuss how to prioritize the projects that require significant funding and help us be strategic in our planning for their implementation.

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Smith-Burwell	My only suggestion for making Nashville Davidson County more equitable would to be more transparent to all its citizens. Mayor Briley's Under One Roof affordable housing initiative, is very ambitious and going in the right direction in relation to building a more equitable and inclusive Nashville Davidson County for low and middle income homes.
Hubbell	<p>Our justice system is not serving us well. My number one priority as a Nashville resident is judicial accountability. We deserve more justice than we can afford to pay for and we need to be able to have people charged criminally who commit perjury. We need to get rid of the adversarial system when it comes to child custody decision. When there can only be one "winner", everybody loses. We need a community oversight board of the court system, especially juvenile court. We do not have equal justice under law. My family has had 5 years of very painful experiences with the court system in Nashville. I think we need to have parent advocates in court, instead of only having CASA and Guardian ad Litem supposedly working for "best interest of the children." I would like to make it easier for people to get out of jail without having to post a cash bond.</p> <p>Once we get our budget under control, I would like for free bus passes to be made available to very low income individuals. I would like for city-owned properties being used to create affordable rental housing for teachers, police officers, and firemen and other public servants.. I would like to see the city encourage urban gardening and have weekly mobile "farmer's markets" going to "food deserts". I would like to see fewer parents incarcerated for non-violent offenses or drug crimes and have more support for families of young children in high-risk areas. I would like to see free and unlimited mental healthcare (and domestic violence counseling) being provided by lay counselors and lay "caseworkers" , maybe in cooperation with churches.</p> <p>I believe in low taxes and small government and supporting people within the city having as few barriers as possible in making positive changes. We have a lot of brilliant, creative people and lots of organizations doing good and who can do more good with support.</p>

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Jones	<p>I believe you have to be strong, have a backbone and stand up for what is right for people. I have never been a person who feared other elected people or people or organizations that are NOT doing what is right. I am outspoken and can stand my ground with anyone. I don't like to see the "little people" get pushed aside. This council will have many issues to address including: funding, where money is spent, who runs the city...the Council and Mayor or the Chamber and other big money organizations! It's time to get back to our neighborhoods and the wants and needs of our citizens. We need to address transportation by first starting with our bus system and Access Ride. I'm amazed at the poor service Access Ride performs, leaving seniors and people with disabilities to wait one to four hours for their return ride home. I believe that our buses should go to the county line and pick people up past 11 p.m. A new transit system should not begin in Belle Meade. We need better lobbyists for Metro Government. Our current lobbyist does not endorse the values of your organization. This Mayor needs a stronger, more experienced staff. We should protect people where they live and we should correct our crime situation beginning with the number of guns on the street. Our infrastructure is poor. With 100 people coming to Nashville each day to live, it won't be long before sewer lines, water lines, gas lines, etc. will go from poor to broken. It's time to address the city's needs! I could go on but I'll save you the time. Please know I am dedicated to this city and it's people just like my family. I try to always make people's lives better...that's my goal!</p>
Mayes	<p>Creating a committee within the Council that includes members of A VOICE for the Reduction of Poverty in Nashville to meet at least quarterly to continue the discussions related to the covenant and determine how we as a city can support in this effort ongoing.</p>
Styles	<p>I suggest that we all commit to working with developers on a project by project basis to get affordable housing built. I know of one developer that is building 75 units without any county funds and contractor have made donations to the project. We can do more of these.</p>

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Bichell	<p>As a pro-business, progressive candidate for Metro Council, I understand the importance of supporting business and simultaneously promoting equity to best serve every sector of our city's population. Every Nashvillian, no matter their socioeconomic status, should be able to participate in and benefit from Nashville's economic growth. I believe that Metro can work to make this ideal a reality. We can bring about greater equity by generating new jobs and facilitating business growth, building affordable housing, improving public education, and developing infrastructure such as transit alternatives.</p> <p>As a community, we must ensure that government spends revenues wisely. If we do it right, our government can - and will - play a vital role in shaping our city to be the best that it can be. I support the Community Covenant's call for an Equity Lens to ensure that resources are distributed equitably. I would like to build upon that and advocate for the creation of a Policy Lab, such as in Providence, RI and Washington, DC, to measure whether policies are working or not. This program connects researchers with city government to measure the effectiveness of municipal policies in real time with scientific methods.</p> <p>We can make our city more equitable by providing opportunities to reduce economic disparities and racial prejudice. 1)Transit: Offering freely available transportation options will allow residents from all over the city to pursue jobs and studies which are currently out of reach. Lack of mass transit is one of the biggest barriers to equity in Nashville. In light of the recent funding cuts for MTA, I pledge to advocate for a dedicated funding stream for transit. 2)Public education: Improving the quality of our public schools, especially the student-teacher ratio, as well as technical and vocational training opportunities, will provide routes to success. 3)Affordable housing: We must continue to find ways to incentivize mixed-income developments to reduce pockets of poverty and increase worker housing within the city limits. 4)Distribution of opportunities: Encouraging corporate incentives in impoverished areas outside of the downtown district. 6)Implicit bias training: We need to train city staff and school staff in recognizing and combating implicit bias, while further expanding current efforts amongst the police force.</p>