

NEW MEMPHIAN TO RUN FOR COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT 13 IN DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Charlie Belenky, who arrived in Memphis on September 1, 2016, is running to be one of the 13 Shelby County Commissioners. He will appear on the Democratic Primary Ballot in May and, if successful, will run against incumbent Steve Baser in the August General Election.

Mr. Belenky is a retired civil servant, having spent 22 years working for California's Department of Transportation. He is divorced and has two grown daughters. He is a member of Congregation Beth Shalom, the ACLU, active in the local Sierra Club and founder of Jewish Memphians for Social Justice.

Mr. Belenky's campaign will focus on themes of "People Not Profits" and "Innovation and Sustainability". He is a slow growth advocate who opposes suburban sprawl and will try and increase infill and development on existing sites.

"Remote jobs and new suburbs that require long commutes create congestion in our District," said Belenky. "Part of the solution is to increase local opportunities and to focus on transit-oriented projects."

"This is what prosperity looks like in the 21st Century and our goal should be to manage what we have," he continued. "95% of what our current County government is doing is fine, but there is certainly room for improvement. We want county employees, teachers and other civil servants to be able to afford to live comfortably and safely in our District, whether this means increasing housing opportunities, or adjusting compensation. I will focus on sustainable, humane solutions rather than the cheapest solution. For example, food service at the jails could be better, more locally sourced and more nutritious. This may lead to benefits in reduced inmate health costs, while increasing markets for local farmers. One thing I'm particularly concerned about is maintaining county health services in the face of the cutbacks in Federal and State support. We need a plan and reserves to cope with what is coming"

Between now and early February Mr. Belenky will be holding listening sessions for potential Democratic voters in each precinct to further identify the areas where our county government can improve.

Mr. Belenky's campaign can be reached at (901) 493-6479 or CharlieforCommission@aol.com. Facebook and web page are pending.