

KANISHER WOOTEN CALDWELL

1. What is the greatest need for your constituents that you would like to address? One of the most important needs I would like to address for my constituents is health disparities with an emphasis on mental health and parity and working towards the development of a mental health crisis center for the Delta. As a healthcare provider with over 23 years in the medical arena, I have seen time and time again the effects of the lack of mental health in our society. Mental health is a cornerstone of our well-being, yet it remains an issue that's often overlooked. Parity and mental health care is not just a goal, it's a necessity for the well-being of our communities. We cannot afford to ignore it any longer for the welfare and safety of ourselves and our children. As a candidate I am committed to ensuring mental health parity, advocating for policies that provide equal access to mental health care, breaking down stigmas surrounding mental illness, and promoting comprehensive mental health education. Together, we can build a future where mental health is given the attention and resources it deserves, fostering a society where everyone has the opportunity to thrive, both physically and mentally.

2. How do you plan to work with local governments to facilitate ongoing and future capital improvements? I plan to work with local governments to facilitate ongoing and future capital improvements by engaging in open communication with local officials. These exchanges would include identifying key issues, collaborating on solutions, and establishing regular meetings to discuss ongoing and future improvements.



I am committed to fostering a vibrant future for our community through robust infrastructure and sustainable economic growth. I understand the profound impact that well-maintained roads, bridges, and reliable utilities have on our daily lives. Beyond bricks and mortar, investing in our infrastructure means investing in the livelihoods of hard-working families, ensuring safer communities, and creating opportunities for local businesses to thrive. I believe in a vision that merges compassion with progress, where economic development isn't just about numbers but about lifting each member of our community toward a brighter, more equitable future. Together, we can build a tomorrow where every voice is heard, every neighborhood flourishes, and every individual has a chance to succeed.

3. How do you address funding to further support UAPB, an HBCU institution? As your future State Representative for District 65, I understand the importance of adequately funding HBCUs like the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. The 1890 Second Morrill Act was passed and was specifically aimed to support historically Black land-grant colleges. However, many of these institutions, including the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff the Flagship of the Delta, have historically faced challenges related to underfunding and unequal resource allocation compared to predominantly white institutions.

Underfunding of land grant institutions can be attributed to various factors including historical discrimination, systemic inequalities, and budgetary priorities. Advocacy and policy changes have been made to address these disparities over the years, but the issue of underfunding remains a concern for all. My commitment is to advocate for increased state allocations, explore and establish working partnerships with private entities, and pursue federal grants/funding that will help ensure equitable resources for academic excellence and student success at UAPB.

4. What is your plan for helping to improve safety among young people? To improve safety among young people, we must develop a comprehensive safety education program in collaboration with the local government, parents, youth, and community members. Strengthening ties between the citizens and law enforcement is one step that will aid in fostering trust and collaboration. Initiatives that address bullying, violence prevention and emergency preparedness are needed. Establishing a mental health crisis center will help my constituents gain access to mental health services and awareness programs to support emotional well-being among the youth. Also, leveraging technology for educational campaigns, reporting mechanisms, and community alerts to enhance safety awareness.

5. How do you plan to help your district regain its standing as a retail hub (for example: bringing in more department, supply stores)? As your state representative, I will advocate for policies that will support entrepreneurs, promote the growth of local businesses, and improve the infrastructure of not only Pine Bluff but also Altheimer, Jefferson, Humphrey, and Wabbaseka. One of the policies I will propose, with the interest of my district growing and establishing economic gain, would be to provide tax incentives for businesses to locate or relocate to District 65.

Engaging with the local businesses in each city and listening to them to understand their needs will help guide my efforts in creating legislation that will promote economic development and attract retailers. Additionally, working with relevant stakeholders and participating in community initiatives will help contribute to the overall vibrancy of the retail sector in District 65.