

LLOYD HOLCOMB JR.



1. What is the greatest need for the city at the moment that you would like to address? The greatest need for the city at this time is for all its citizens to come together, honor the work that is taking place and add plans to make the city better. As a sitting council member and candidate, I am focused on solutions.

2. What is the greatest need for your ward that you would like to address? The greatest need for Ward 1 is a thorough formulated and funded plan that addresses public safety, streets and economic development. Also, the housing stock within Ward 1 needs to be upgraded. We must have quality affordable housing options. Southern Crossing was the last subdivision coming to the former Southeast School site. We must re-establish a grocery store on the east side of town and continue downtown development. All these needs demand a thorough, formulated and funded plan. I am committed to developing that with all stakeholders.

3. With the defeat of the current 5/8-cent sales tax, how do you plan to work with the city government to facilitate ongoing and future capital improvements? The citizens need to know that you cannot easily replace a funding source such as the 5/8-cent sales tax. I currently serve on the city council's Ways and Means Committee and have served faithfully. That source has been significant funding for our city, particularly when you account for the amount of private funds that have followed that tax. Moving forward, the Ways and Means Committee will work with the mayor to monitor revenue and budget capital improvement projects.

4. Which improvements are of most importance to you? I am a public servant and therefore projects that benefit the citizens of Pine Bluff are most important to me. I've sat in multiple listening sessions and heard firsthand citizens say that we need better streets and lighting, restaurants, entertainment, better parks, blight control, code enforcement, housing and more. That is a thorough formulated and funded plan that is needed, and that's important to me and it is my commitment.

5. Eleven of the 28 homicide victims in Pine Bluff last year were 18 or younger. What is your plan for helping to improve safety among young people? Judge Earnest Brown introduced the Group Violence Intervention to the city council, and I co-sponsored the legislation and supported the initiative. It has a proven track record, and we are in the early stages of that program. I have confidence that it will have a positive impact and reduce the amount of violence among our teenagers. We must stay committed to that Group Violence Intervention process.

6. How do you plan to help Pine Bluff regain its standing as a retail hub for southeast Arkansas? (example: bringing in more department, supply stores).

The mall was a major retailer lost in Ward 1, and it will be difficult to replace the shopping magnet that it was. However, I must recognize the existing and new businesses that have come to Jefferson Square. Also, new restaurants have opened on Olive Street that give citizens an option. As a council member, I am committed to making it easier for people to do business in Pine Bluff. I want to remove barriers for businesses and therefore citizens can enjoy more options.

7. What is your plan for attracting families of potential employees at GTL Americas, which will be built 15 miles north of the city but in Jefferson County, to live in Pine Bluff? We must prepare our existing citizens with the skills to be employed by the GTL plan. Further, if we want to attract people in Pine Bluff and work 15 miles north, we must develop a thorough formulated and funded plan that is executed to make our city attractive. That plan must address all issues and be done expeditiously. This is an urgent matter.

MARLETTE BOALES

- 1. What is the greatest need for the city at the moment that you would like to address? Unity. We need to pull the departments together and work in one accord. We can make that happen through transparency and accountability. Get back to the basics, and the basics are the citizens.**
- 2. What is the greatest need for your ward that you would like to address? A safe haven for youth; crime prevention with the youth being the majority on the violent-crime end; and creating an environment where the community feels safe by building relationships with local law enforcement and its citizens.**
- 3. With the defeat of the current 5/8-cent sales tax, how do you plan to work with the city government to facilitate ongoing and future capital improvements? After trust is back instilled in the people of Pine Bluff, then the council as a collective can present new growth that will include transparency and accountability with detailed safeguards that the people can get behind. The new place will include surveys or research that should include everyone, not just certain classes of people or areas of town. We need to audit our current finances and work with what we have before submitting any new issues.**



- 4. Which improvements are of most importance to you? At the end of the day, the people rule. I need to establish good communication between the people and the council. In today's world, there are tons of ways to communicate so everyone's voice is heard. The majority of the people I speak with have similar complaints. Let's start by addressing those complaints. Create opportunities and the youth, disabled and elderly in the community (community centers, walking trails, educational/life skill forums).**
- 5. Eleven of the 28 homicide victims in Pine Bluff last year were 18 or younger. What is your plan for helping to improve safety among young people? I think the crime and youth run hand-in-hand. Intervention, you should start at a very young age and not wait until they are in high school to talk about crime. They should have resources to help walk them through issues, conflict resolution and the ability to make better decisions. Through my work at a nonprofit, I am knowledgeable about the term "Pipeline to Prison." These are real things that happen. Again, starting with the youth's comfort with law enforcement is a great start to building better relationships.**

6. How do you plan to help Pine Bluff regain its standing as a retail hub for southeast Arkansas? (example: bringing in more department, supply stores). Being flexible on zoning and tax. Help develop land options. Use current infrastructure that the city owns to rehab and offer incentives to lease or purchase directly through the city.

7. What is your plan for attracting families of potential employees at GTL Americas, which will be built 15 miles north of the city but in Jefferson County, to live in Pine Bluff? Make the current residents safe and secure and the people would be the ones to attract new residents. We have instilled trust in our current residents when they feel good about Pine Bluff which will radiate into others. The newcomers will feel a sense of community that I am accustomed to when I come home.