

Good Morning and Happy Thursday Memphis!



Early voting is in full swing!

However, did you know the **final day** to vote early is **Thursday, October 29**? That means you have seven days to exercise your constitutional right ahead of the November 3 State and Federal General Election.

According to govote901.com, as of today, 173,000 citizens within Memphis and Shelby County have cast their ballots during the early voting period, which began October 14. By the numbers, the majority of these individuals – 63 percent – are fifty years old and above. When looking at gender, the majority of these voters – 61 percent – are female. By way of race, the majority – 37 percent – are African American.

Though our current numbers outpace those of 2016, we still have a way to go toward ensuring that citizens like yourself, your spouse, your family members, and neighbors participate in the upcoming election cycle. The State of Tennessee had the third-lowest turnout of eligible voters among all states during the last presidential election. *Now is our time* to improve upon that figure as we make certain that we truly are a “government of the people, by the people, and for the people.”

So, if you are registered and have not cast your ballot, do so now! The early

voting period offers flexibility that day-of-election voting does not. The deadline to vote early is **October 29**. You can do so Monday through Saturday, at 26 locations across Shelby County ([see sites and times here](#)).

Be counted, Memphis. It is time to get involved!

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This week your Memphis City Council met to discuss measures focused on moving Memphis forward. If you were not able to virtually participate in the meeting via live-stream on the Council website, via YouTube, or via 88.5 FM (WQOX), a full review is provided, [here](#).

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Spread the Word – Job Opening:

The Memphis City Council currently seeks qualified candidates for a Legislative Research Analyst position. All applications must be submitted by **Saturday, October 31, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. (CDT)**.

For more information, see the listing, [here](#).

Proclaiming October 2020 Breast Cancer Awareness Month:

Each year, the Council recognizes Susan G. Komen Memphis-Midsouth Mississippi by expressing gratitude for their service to our community. Founded in 1992, the organization has dedicated itself to promoting health for the purpose of fighting to end breast cancer in women and men of every race, color, and religion. In the process, they have contributed \$3.5M to cancer research and provided \$11.6M in direct grants that further their mission by extending funding for breast health services, breast cancer education, and related outreach to the City of Memphis, 14 counties within Tennessee, and the entire State of Mississippi.

On Tuesday, to honor Susan G. Komen Memphis-Midsouth Mississippi for their dedication, and standing in solidarity with those battling breast cancer, as well as those at risk of breast cancer, the Council passed a resolution proclaiming October 2020 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month within the City of Memphis.

Funding via the Council Emergency Relief Program – Update:

On April 21, the Council passed a resolution creating the Council Emergency Relief Program (CERP). The CERP resolution allocated a total of \$5M for the establishment of a grant program for small businesses, i.e., a paycheck protection program and business stabilization fund, to be administered by the Office of Business Diversity and Compliance (OBDC). Initially, eligible businesses were required to be located in Memphis, and the primary owner was required to “reside in Memphis.”

However, the Council realizes there are situations where businesses are located in Memphis, *and* primarily owned by persons who reside outside the city limits but within Shelby County. Furthermore, the Council understands that these same businesses may provide benefits to the City of Memphis, despite not meeting the CERP resolution’s eligibility requirements.

As an update: On Tuesday, the Council passed a resolution addressing resources and support to such businesses. As a result, **after November 15, 2020**, applicants who reside in Shelby County and own an otherwise eligible business located within the City of Memphis may qualify for the grant program administered by OBDC pursuant to the CERP resolution. Note: Such applicants must meet all other CERP eligibility requirements. Preference for grant awards shall be given to applicants who qualify as a minority or woman-owned business. Grant awards shall be made on a first-come basis.

Funding for the Division of Library Services:

The Council values the role of the Division of Library Services as a resource within the Memphis community. On Tuesday, we approved a resolution to accept, allocate, and appropriate grant funds in the amount of \$33,964 for professional fees, grants, and awards from the United Way of Greater Nashville. The monetary amount will be used for the Memphis Public Library and Information Center’s SNAP outreach. Matching funds will come from the Memphis Public Library and Information Center’s operating budget.

Funding for the Division of Fire Services:

On Tuesday, the Council approved three resolutions aimed at providing technical support and skills training to the Division of Fire Services.

First, the Council approved a resolution appropriating \$103,128.88 to be used for the purchase and installation of information technology equipment for Fire Station 43.

Second, a resolution was approved accepting and appropriating 2019 Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Program funds from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in the amount of \$38,011.43. The monetary amount will be used to train fire personnel to the Tennessee State Certified Fire Investigator 1 level.

Third, a resolution was approved transferring an allocation of \$185,000 to be used in the purchase of security cameras for all fire station locations.

Encouraging All Registered Voters to Participate in the 2020 State and Federal General Election:

The Council believes voting is a civic duty. As such, we want to see all registered voters follow through on their responsibility to participate in the November 3 State and Federal General Election. Therefore, on Tuesday, we passed a resolution encouraging all registered voters within Memphis and Shelby County to cast a ballot in the upcoming election. As you do so, we also ask that you abide by safeguards established to protect the health and safety of your fellow citizens. So, maintain social distance and wear your mask as you make your voice heard in the days ahead.

Save the Date – Promoting the Vote Today (October 22) and Saturday, October 24:

Today, October 22, 2020 from 5:30 – 7:00 pm WREG’s Jonee’ Lewis will host a Virtual Town Hall: Get Out the Vote. Councilman Smiley will moderate a conversation of panelists including perspectives from historical, present, and future contexts. Citizens can view the Town Hall on the City Council YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/MemphisCityCouncil>.

On Saturday, October 24, 2020 at 1:00 pm, Councilman Smiley will host a Voter Engagement Rally at Limit Breaker Church, 6720 East Raines Road, Memphis, TN 38115, featuring Mayor Lee Harris, Mayor Jim Strickland, State Representative London Lamar, Former US Congressman Harold Ford, Sr. and Councilman Frank Colvett. Kirstin Garris of Fox13 News will moderate this event. Following the Voter Engagement Rally, citizens will March on ATOP. Citizens are encouraged to march from Limit Breaker Church to early voting

polling location, Anointed Temple of Praise, 3939 Riverdale Road, to participate in early voting.

Social distancing will be practiced at the Rally and March. If you are feeling ill or have been exposed to COVID-19, please do not attend this event.

Looking Forward:

As we move ahead, I am and will always be honored to serve you each day as part of a thirteen-councilmember team working to transform our great city into a place of opportunity for all. Stay tuned for future Council updates as we keep you informed regarding the activities taking place here at City Hall.

With earnest appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrice J. Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P" and "R".

Patrice Jordan Robinson
Chairwoman, Memphis City Council
District 3