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Important Dates

Early Voting

Aug 23 - Sep 7

Election Day

Sep 12



NASHVILLE: WHO IS “IT” FOR? RUN-OFF EDITION

2019 Mayoral Run-Off Candidates Public Meeting

Sunday, August 18, 2019 • 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

15th Avenue Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. David G. Latimore, Senior Pastor

Meet the Candidates



David Briley

Website: www.davidbriley.com • **Facebook:** /DavidBrileyForMayor • **Twitter:** @BrileyForMayor
Instagram: @teambriley



John Cooper

Website: johncooperfornashville.com • **Facebook:** JohnCooper4Nashville
Twitter: @JohnCooper4Nash • **Instagram:** @johncooper4nashville

EVENT GROUND RULES FOR THE CANDIDATES

1. Be civil.
2. Please keep your responses within the established time limits or we will need to cut you off. We are allowing 1 minute for the candidates to answer the task force and public questions and 30 seconds for the lightning round question.
3. Please, no cross talk among candidates.

EVENT GROUND RULES FOR THE AUDIENCE

1. Be respectful.
2. If submitting a question, please PRINT LEGIBLY.
3. Please do not interrupt candidates’ responses by clapping or voicing approval/disapproval of their comments.

NOTES:



NASHVILLE: WHO IS "IT" FOR? RUN-OFF EDITION



PROGRAM AGENDA

Time Keeper: Tanya M. Debro, *Friends of Friend*

- 3:00 **Welcome**..... Rev. Dr. David G. Latimore, *15th Ave Baptist Church, Senior Pastor*
Amanda Kail, *MNEA President*
- 3:03 **Prayer** Rabbi Joshua Kullock, *West End Synagogue*
Sabina Mohyuddin, *American Muslim Advisory Council*
- 3:06 **Meeting Purpose & Guidelines** Rev. Edward L. Thompson, *NOAH Chair*
- 3:11 **Candidates' Opening Statements** (1 min each)
- 3:13 **Criminal Justice Question**..... Amanda Lucas, *TN Alliance for Progress (TAP)*
If it becomes necessary to hire a new police chief on your watch, how will you ensure that organizations representing the broadest spectrum of the community actively participate in that hiring process?
- 3:21 **Affordable Housing Questions**.....Paulette Coleman, *Lee Chapel AME Church*
NOAH has asked the Mayor to set up a Department of Housing staffed by civil servants who are experts in all aspects of housing, particularly affordable housing. This department would be separate from the mayor's office and thus not dependent on who is mayor. Are you willing to create such a department and ensure that it is adequately funded?
As you negotiate with multi-billion dollar companies that want to relocate to Nashville, what measures do you support to balance the incentives offered to the corporations with the needs of Nashville residents such as increasing the inventory of affordable housing?
- 3:36 **Economic Equity & Jobs Questions** Suzanne Johnson, *Edgehill UMC*
In 2017, the Metro Council lowered the property tax rate to the lowest point in the history of the county. This created windfall profits for developers and commercial properties who pay a higher rate than residential homeowners. It also gave a tax break to wealthy neighborhoods. All of this at a time when Nashville is desperately in need of massive investment. Property tax is a more progressive and reliable revenue source than sales tax. Both of you have opposed the effort to correct the rate, why?
A Metro teacher has to tutor to make ends meet, so sometimes she can't help her own children with their homework. A single mom works three part-time jobs and it's still a stretch to afford rent, utilities, and child care. These are the stories of hundreds of our neighbors. We have a serious problem of UNDERemployment. What is your plan for making sure all Nashvillians can earn a living wage without working multiple jobs?
- 3:51 **Education Questions** Molly Wilson, *MNEA/MNPS Teacher*
You both agreed on the importance of sustainable resources to support equity in education. Specifically access to Social and Emotional Learning and Gifted and Talented programs, as well as STEAM and Early College high school opportunities break the direct path to the school-to-prison pipeline.
Given an MNPS budget that includes these resources, how will you hold MNPS leadership and the school board accountable for using these line items as intended?
How will you ensure that there is a sustainable Metro funding source to guarantee living wages for MNPS educators, support staff, bus drivers, and other employees as well as the resources ALL of our students need to thrive?
- 4:06 **Public Questions** Racquel Davis, *Mt. Zion Baptist Church*
1 min response each
- 4:23 **Commitments from Candidates** Rev. Edward L. Thompson
Yes or No response **only**
- 4:24 **Candidates' Closing Statements** (1 min each)
- 4:26 **NOAH Call to Action & Prayer**..... Rev. Byron Harvey, *New Living Word Community of Faith*

REPRINT: Candidates' Answers to General Question #1 @ 07/17/19 Event

Respondents in NOAH's recent listening campaign named systemic racism as a primary driver of virtually every civic ill that affects our city. Our respondents expressed anger, cynicism and despair. Racism has allowed neighborhoods to become unaffordable, schools to deteriorate and communities of color to experience preventable hunger, malnutrition, illness, incarceration and premature death. This cynicism and despair deter people from engagement in civic life and the political process. How would you, as mayor begin to eliminate systemic racism in a way that addresses these social ills?

Briley	<p>I agree that some of Nashville's problems stem from systemic and enduring racism, and I'm working to combat that. First, it's clear that minority-owned businesses in Nashville haven't equitable access to city contracts. That's why I put created and launched the city's first Equal Opportunity Business Program to ensure that minority-owned businesses have a fair shot at getting Metro Government contracts. Many of our schools are also re-segregated. Some of our public school clusters are predominantly African-American, and often they include priority schools. This is one reason I pulled together my Education Kitchen Cabinet to focus solely on how the city can better address the needs of our priority schools.</p> <p>Housing is a huge part of our racial divide, as well. This is why I launched Under One Roof 2029, Nashville's largest commitment to affordable housing, so that more Nashvillians can stay in Nashville and fewer people are priced out of the neighborhood they grew up in. Finally, for too long, minorities and women have not had a voice in local government. This is why my senior team is one-third African-American and half female. If we want to build a stronger Nashville, the mayor's chief advisors need to represent ALL ... (200 word limit reached)</p>
Cooper	<p>Dismantling systemic racism starts with listening to people of color and implementing policies that address disparities. Due to generations of underinvestment in certain neighborhoods, low-income students and students of color are frequently left behind in our current system; in some neighborhoods, students move from a low-performing elementary school to a low-performing middle-school and into a low-performing high school. The Driving While Black report proved some things that we already felt to be true, such as that African Americans are much more likely than whites to be pulled over. To date, Metro has not implemented the recommendations from that report. Nashville has to address years of discrimination by examination and analysis, and we have to follow that up with tangible action to produce true equity. My office will prioritize empowering diverse people in decision-making positions through hiring and appointments; our government must look like the communities we serve. Fixing a system requires making sure that our public servants operate with transparency, trust and access for everyone.</p>

REPRINT: Candidates' Answers to General Question #2 @ 07/17/19 Event

What is your specific multi-year plan for fully funding the essential services that make the city work for all Nashvillians?

Briley	<p>After recovering from the difficult budget passed in 2017, we are now in a position to use Nashville's prosperity to make sure that all Nashvillians have a chance to succeed. That's what I am doing, as mayor. For example, the operating budget that passed on June 18 included \$100M in new revenue. We put those funds towards pay raises for all Metro employees -- bringing every employee on the pay plan to \$15/hr; raises for teachers and school support staff; and programs like Nashville GRAD, which helps MNPS graduates attend community college at no cost. Our \$351M capital spending plan also includes significant funding for roads, sidewalks, libraries, and other major projects that contribute to quality of life in our neighborhoods.</p> <p>We can also use Nashville's prosperity to cut back on spending in some areas. For instance, our Nashville Predators and Bridgestone Arena have seen unprecedented success in recent years. This spring, we negotiated a new 30-year lease with the Predators to ensure that our tax dollars no longer go towards Bridgestone Arena.</p> <p>Every year, I will do a thorough assessment of our needs and our revenues and be sure that our city's most essential services receive the funding they need.</p>
Cooper	<p>Metro has picked up some bad financial habits in recent years. The current course of deficit spending and selling assets for short-term operating funds is unsustainable. Metro's revenue grew by over 19% between 2013 and 2018, yet education, transportation and affordable housing are still underfunded. Payments on our rising debt have limited the investments that can be made in education and affordable housing. But that has not stopped Metro from awarding incentives to developers instead of investing services that benefit residents. Metro needs a reset of priorities and leadership. Shared prosperity begins with fiscal sanity and people-centric growth. I am committed to directing over half of our new revenue to our school system. We need a budget that invests in human capital, rather than investing in buildings and hoping the benefits trickle down.</p>

REPRINT: Candidates' Answers to General Question #3 @ 07/17/19 Event

It appears that the elected school board's inability to focus and function as a team has had negative effects at a variety of levels. What will you do as mayor to assist the board in achieving its mission in a more coordinated and civil manner?

Briley	<p>Right now, only a third of third-graders in public schools read at grade level. The number of priority schools in our district has gone up -- not to mention the number on the brink of that designation. I would like to see the school board recommit to collectively addressing these real challenges in our district.</p> <p>The good news is the culture is slowly changing. I have nothing but confidence in schools director Dr. Adrienne Battle. Since her selection as superintendent, she has been working closely with the Board and community partners. Together, I know we can work to address the needs of our schools and to tackle challenges in operations, HR and finance that directly affect the district's ability to act with urgency. In the coming weeks, the school board will vote on the MOU we've drafted with district and board input, and this will be an unprecedented and vital next step for us all to move forward together.</p>
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Cooper	As mayor, I intend to set a tone of civility and high expectations. Instead of swinging around making threats, we need a mayor who listens and can bring out the best in everyone. I will support current school leadership and work with the school board and the community to make sure that we find the best person to lead our school system. I will prioritize having a strong working relationship with the council in order to bring the focus back to students. District leadership and the school board should be aligned and focused on improving student outcomes. We will set measurable and achievable goals for improvement, and I will hold leaders accountable to the goals that we set. Students from every neighborhood need to have access to high-quality educational experiences. I will be especially focused on reducing equity gaps in student outcomes. It isn't enough to be the fastest improving urban district if there are students who are left behind. As mayor, I will expect that our schools get great results for all kids and will celebrate the achievements of those that do.
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REPRINT: Candidates' Answers to Affordable Housing Question @ 07/17/19 Event

Metro research shows our greatest housing need is for the working poor whose household income is below \$35,000. Furthermore, 3 out of 5 new jobs created here since 2008 are in the low-paying service sector where the median annual wage is \$34,000 per year. Nashville's growth is leaving these people out.

Please describe your plan, including sources of funding, to create 31,000 units of housing by 2025 for service sector workers who can't pay over \$850 per month and need to live near their work.

Briley	I launched Under One Roof 2029 to combat exactly this issue. Under One Roof is an unprecedented \$750 million long-term plan for affordable housing. It's Nashville's largest-ever investment in housing, and it will make a significant impact in our city. We are already putting this plan into action. In fact, in the 81-year history of MDHA, the city had invested a grand total of \$17 million in affordable housing through MDHA. On June 28, we announced \$25 million will be invested in MDHA by the city to build two affordable housing developments. Through collaboration with MDHA, the Barnes Fund, and Homeless Services, Nashville will invest \$500 million into building affordable housing units over the next decade, and the plan calls on the private sector to contribute an additional \$250 million. This investment will pay off for ALL Nashvillians. Creating affordable housing close to where the jobs are, we will help reduce traffic congestion in Nashville. The units built through UOR will be a mix of affordable, workforce, and market-rate housing. That way, we can deconcentrate poverty and build an environment that helps residents take the next step towards a better life.
Cooper	The current mayor's plan to address the affordable housing crisis is all sound bite and no substance. The supposed three-quarter billion dollar housing investment is made up of unsecured promises for private contributions and a reframing of pre-existing funding and development plans. It is important to note that neither of Mayor Briley's budgets included any new funds for the Barnes Fund. Here are a few things that we need to do in order to address the issues: We need to increase transparency and improve the functioning of MDHA. We need to improve residents' access to services. We need to bring real expertise to housing policy and get it out from under the political purview of the Mayor's Office. As your mayor, I will create a real 10-year plan to preserve and create a meaningful number of affordable housing units at an appropriate price. I will also establish a revolving loan fund for affordable housing. For more details on how I would address the issues, I would encourage you to read my full affordable housing policy statement at https://johncooperforNashville.com/affordable-housing/ .

REPRINT: Candidates' Answers to Criminal Justice Question @ 07/17/19 Event

Since 2016, Nashville's Mayors have assured citizens that BODY & DASH CAMS would be implemented by 2017, then 2018, then 2019. The Fraternal Order of Police is on record supporting this technology. The District Attorney's office wants video footage from the cameras. City Council already approved \$15 Million for this project in March 2017. Police Chief Steve Anderson promised deployment by 2018. Public Safety & Police Accountability are at risk without the Cameras.

Will you, if elected Mayor, commit to full implementation of Body & Dash Cams by January 2020? **(Yes or No)**

Briley	Yes.
Cooper	Yes.

REPRINT: Candidates' Answers to Economic Equity & Jobs Question @ 07/17/19 Event

Tourism and sales taxes are regressive and unpredictable ways to fund our city. What is your plan to generate sustainable revenue streams that will adequately fund Nashville's infrastructure & public services?

Briley	I agree with the premise of this question. Thankfully, about 47% of Metro Nashville's revenue comes from property taxes, which are a stable revenue stream that can be adjusted as needed. And, we will assess that need every year. Conversely, local option sales taxes make up only 19.7%. This year's budget yielded \$100 million in new revenue -- yet we saw serious cuts from the state in education and transit. So, we got to work. My goals were to address the carryover challenges caused by the deeply flawed 2017 budget and to avoid raising property taxes. In the end, we gave every eligible Metro worker a raise and brought them to at least \$15 an hour; raised starting police pay 6.4%; and
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Briley <i>(cont'd)</i>	provided teachers and support staff with the biggest raise in a decade. All without raising taxes which would have hurt our most vulnerable residents, including teachers, first responders and the elderly. We have more work to do, and I think I have shown in just one year that I am committed to doing it.
Cooper	I do not believe that Metro has a revenue problem; rather, we have a management problem. A properly managed city should be able to thrive with a 19% increase in revenue over five years. Metro needs a return to fiscal stewardship and the right priorities. I do not support asking residents to pay more in property taxes when we aren't properly managing the money we already have. The city needs to benefit more from tourism and development. Tourism is an important part of our city's economy and identity, but it is time for the tourism space to cover its own costs and not impose them on the resident taxpayer. As mayor, I will look for savings, stop unnecessary incentive deals, and obtain additional revenue from tourism and development.

REPRINT: Candidates' Answers to Education Question @ 07/17/19 Event

Systemic and multigenerational inequities of funding and resources in MNPS continue to be of major concern with African-American students making up 44% of students, but 75% of those bearing the brunt of suspensions and expulsions, as well as the lack of access to gifted and talented, STEAM and Early College High School opportunities; all of which lead to a direct path to prison. Recognizing that the Mayor and Metro Council have no direct control over the school system, what measurable actions will you take with MNPS & NOAH to break the school-to-prison pipeline?

Briley	The district recently implemented a policy to not suspend or expel students in younger grades. I believe this was the right policy, given our racial/ethnic disparities. However, I have also heard from teachers that they need support to help manage root causes of classroom behavior. I would work to bring any additional resources needed by MNPS teachers to address adverse childhood experiences and trauma experienced by many of our students. I also believe it's important for educators to participate in professional development that helps them examine their own unconscious bias in how they interact with students and families. I am also committed to continue increasing teacher pay in Nashville so we can recruit and retain more racially and ethnically diverse teachers. This year, all teachers and support staff will see a 4.5% pay raise – the biggest in a decade. In a system where 75% of students are students of color, less than a quarter of our teachers are teachers of color. Recruiting more diverse teachers through competitive pay will help our students not only see more role models of color but also help reduce disparities in student discipline and identification for gifted programs, as research has shown across the country. .
Cooper	The school to prison pipeline is real, and it must be broken. The historic lack of investment in schools with high minority populations has led to deep inequities in outcomes. For instance, the 37208 zip code has the highest rate of incarcerated males in the nation and only 9% of students who graduated from that zoned high school in 2012 went on to complete a college degree. Many layers of cooperation and investment are needed to combat this cycle and provide opportunities for positive youth development. I have been encouraged by MNPS' focus on social emotional learning and on implementing restorative justice practices, especially in reducing suspensions across the system. However, these initiatives only received one million dollars in this last budget; we need to multiply our investment in these efforts. As mayor, I will make it easier for those working with youth to scale and deepen their impact. I will facilitate avenues for increased funding for nonprofits and community based organizations that implement restorative justice and after school programming. I want those making an impact on the lives of youth to have access to Metro support to sustain their impact, rather than be worried about funding.

REPRINT: Candidates' Answers to Closing Question @ 07/17/19 Event

Why should Nashville choose you to be our next mayor?

Briley	This is my hometown. It has changed in many ways, but the Nashville way has not. Despite our differences, we are stronger together. We must work together to earn the title that matters most: Most Equitable City. Every resident deserves to send their kids to great schools, to earn a living wage and afford housing, and to feel safe. If our city invests in its people, we can build a stronger Nashville together. I am deeply honored to be your mayor. I want to continue this work on behalf of all who live here.
Cooper	Nashville is at a crossroads and we must get these next four years right. This Mayor's office has lost track of the public's priorities and is not providing real solutions to the costs of growth. Given Metro's current fiscal situation and my financial background and experience on Metro Council, I am the right person to manage Metro government right now. I believe I am uniquely qualified to provide sound financial management and rebuild trust in Metro government. Nashville needs better leadership and a mayor who will prioritize neighborhoods while responsibly stewarding taxpayer dollars and public assets.

WHAT IS NOAH?

- NOAH is a powerful, county-wide, social justice organization that addresses issues *determined by its members* to be impacting our communities. NOAH is *interfaith & multi-racial*, involving congregations, labor unions, and other organizations.
- NOAH *engages ordinary people* in political & economic decisions affecting their lives, uniting the faith & justice community to act on its values in the public arena.

NOAH's focus areas are determined through Listening Campaigns, hundreds of one-on-one conversations within NOAH member congregations, unions and groups. The Task Forces research these issues and organize to influence decision-makers for specific solutions. *At the recent Issues Convention in June, Education became a priority issue; the Criminal Justice Task Force will complete initiatives in progress and continue their work under NOAH's banner.*



Monthly Board Meetings • 2nd Tuesdays • 6:30 PM - 8:15 PM
Clark Memorial United Methodist Church
 1014 14th Avenue North, 37208

NOAH's Dues Paying Member Organizations

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|---|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alameda Christian Church (DOC) 2. American Baptist College-Strategic Initiatives 3. Anawim Community of Catholics 4. Belmont UMC 5. Central Labor Council 6. Christ Church Cathedral (Episcopal) 7. Clark Memorial UMC 8. Coalition FOR Nashville Neighborhoods 9. Communications Workers of America Local 3808 10. Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation (CICIF) 11. Congregation Micah 12. Downtown Presbyterian Church 13. Eastwood Christian Church (DOC) 14. Edgehill UMC 15. Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church 16. First UU Church 17. Friends of Friend Ministry 18. Glendale Baptist Church 19. Gordon Memorial UMC 20. Greater Bethel AME Church 21. Greater Nashville UU Church 22. Hobson UMC | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 23. Howard Congregational Church (UCC) 24. Interdenominational Ministers Fellowship 25. International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers 735 26. IUPAT (International Union of Painters & Allied Trades) DC 91 27. Ironworkers Local 846 28. The Islamic Center of Nashville 29. The John & Natasha Deane Foundation 30. Kairos AME Church 31. Laborers International Union of North America – Local 386 32. Lee Chapel AME Church 33. Meharry Medical College 34. Metro Nashville Education Association (MNEA) 35. Metropolitan Interdenominational Church 36. Middle TN Jobs with Justice 37. Mt. Zion Baptist Church 38. Muslim American Cultural Association 39. Naaman's Retreat Ministries 40. Napier-Looby Bar Association 41. Nashville Community of Passionist Partners 42. Nashville District AME Church | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 43. Nashville Food Project 44. New Covenant Christian Church (DOC) 45. New Living Word Community of Faith 46. Notre Dame Club of Nashville 47. Open Table Nashville 48. Organized Neighbors of Edgehill 49. Payne Chapel AME Church 50. St. Ann's Episcopal Church 51. St. Augustine's Episcopal Chapel 52. St. James AME Church 53. St. John AME Church 54. St. Luke AME Church 55. St. Paul AME Church 56. St. Vincent de Paul Church 57. Second Presbyterian Church 58. SEIU Local 205 59. Spruce Street Baptist Church 60. The Temple (Congregation Ohabai Shalom) 61. Tennessee AFL-CIO Labor Council 62. Tennessee Alliance for Progress (TAP) 63. United Auto Workers (UAW) – Local 737 64. The Village Church 65. West End Synagogue 66. West End UMC |
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UMC: United Methodist Church • AME: African Methodist Episcopal • DOC: Disciples of Christ • UCC: United Church of Christ • UU: Unitarian Universalist

NOAH's Executive Committee

Officers

Chairperson ----- Rev. Edward L. Thompson ----- *Friends of Friend Ministries*
Vice-Chairperson ----- Maura-Lee Albert ----- *Service Employees International Union*
Secretary ----- Tanya M. Debroy ----- *Friends of Friend Ministries*
Treasurer ----- Bill Howell ----- *Edgehill United Methodist Church*

Committee Chairs

Personnel ----- Rev. Gail Seavey ----- *First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville*
Recruitment/Membership ----- Rev. Dr. Judy Cummings ----- *New Covenant Christian Church, DOC*
Finance ----- Rev. W. Antoni Sinkfield ----- *Payne Chapel AME Church*
Training ----- Dawana Wade ----- *Kairos AME Church*
Social Media ----- Shemarica Jordan ----- *Service Employees International Union*