

Phil Kirk

I was born and raised in a small coal mining town in West Virginia. I moved to Birmingham, AL, in 1986 and then to Pelham, AL, in 1999 where I have resided since. My mother was from Alabama, so I have roots in Alabama dating back to the late 1700s. My great grandparents, Robert and Jessie Allen, lived in Shelby County in the Montevallo area and are buried at Spring Creek Cumberland Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Montevallo.

I graduated from Beckley College in Beckley, WV with an A.S. degree in Computer Science. I then attended UAB where I obtained a B.S. in Business Administration with majors in Finance-Real Estate Track and Economics.

I had worked in retail, sales, and finance before moving into software development as QA Tester during Y2K concerns of 1999. I have remained in software development for the past twenty-five years, currently as a Business System Analyst.

I have been involved in politics for as long as I can remember. My mother was always a poll worker, and my father was always involved in campaigning for local friends running for state and local offices. As a young child, my brothers and I would help at the polls by handing out campaign materials for different candidates. We would then assist with taking the ballot boxes to the courthouse where we would watch the votes be counted. Also, my grandfather was a union member with the railroad and would always include us in discussions about politics.

My reason for running for Shelby County Commissioner is to give the people in my district a choice on the ballot. I feel many in our area would like to have an alternative or another choice since many races only have one candidate.

There are several tasks I want to accomplish as a County Commissioner, first is to make sure we keep our infrastructure up to date and safe. Second, I want to make sure the county commits to completing road updates on county Highway 52 in Pelham, and that the bridge overpassing the railroad tracks get finished as soon as safely possible.

I want to protect our libraries and schools from the extremists we have seen trying to control these places in other states. We are a free country, and one of the first steps in losing our freedoms comes from banning books, controlling what can and cannot be taught in our schools, and censorship in any form.

I want to make sure spending is going towards programs that benefit our residents, and monies are spent wisely and responsibly. I also want to make sure our sales taxes are kept low and do not become a hindrance on low-income families.

And finally, when medical marijuana is up and running, hopefully in the next year, I want to make sure the citizens of Shelby county have access to dispensaries in our county. We are one of the most populous counties in the state with citizens that would benefit from medical cannabis, and they should not have to travel to another county to be able to purchase something that will medically help them.