



# Shelby County Board of Commissioners

DR. EDMUND FORD, JR.  
Commissioner  
District 9

February 2, 2026

After a great deal of prayer, reflection, and familial conversations, I have decided to submit my resignation as the District 9 member of the Shelby County Board of Commissioners. Throughout my service on the Board, I have become the true outlier in this antagonistic environment which no longer focuses on serving constituents. Consequently, this environment serves to elevate and safeguard unqualified individuals to leadership roles that they cannot manage, hurting the constituents instead.

Nevertheless, I have had the distinct pleasure of serving thousands of Memphians and Shelby Countians throughout my 18 years of service on the Memphis City Council and the Shelby County Board of Commissioners. During my time on the County Commission, I have been successful in adopting over 120 pieces of legislation, establishing policy that has reaped over \$121M in infrastructure for the Southwest Memphis area. This includes the Whitehaven STEM Lab, a new police station and library, and local business creation. Compared to other districts, the work doesn't come close to being matched or surpassed.

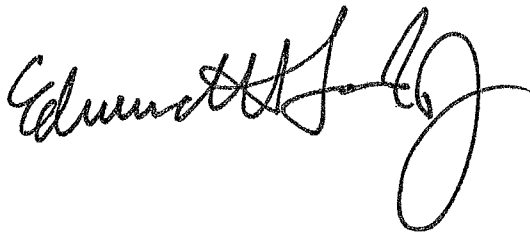
Those who serve in the Shelby County Sheriff's Office consider me a true champion for local law enforcement, including preserving their benefits and competitive salaries in order to recruit and retain personnel. Recently, I was a co-sponsor for protecting and maintaining a Sergeant's medical benefits when he became incapacitated in the line of duty. If I did not intervene, others would have been able to cut off his healthcare after 30 days. Again, the focus on serving constituents has been lost.

In the same vein concerning law enforcement, I co-sponsored legislation and resources that provided more assistance to our local Veterans, including the hiring of more Veterans' Service Officers as well as the soon-to-be completion of the Veterans Home in Arlington. Instead of families having to drive over 3 hours from Shelby County to the closest facility and back home, there will be one opening here this year.

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Moreover, I led multiple budget processes that resulted in employee raises, no property tax increases, and more capital in our rainy-day fund. In fact, during my single year as the Budget Chair for the Commission, the County was in full compliance with our fund balance policy and in good standing with the bond rating agencies and the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury. Since I was relieved from that duty, this County cannot even acquire approval of their budget by the State Comptroller after several years of warnings. Out of 95 counties, Shelby County was the only noncompliant one.

As I step away from my elected role, I have full confidence in the work that has been delivered and the lucidity required to sustain it. I leave with pride in the results achieved under my leadership and concern over what has since unfolded. Lastly, I have the same confidence that those directly affected by my leadership know its genuine value and shall not be swayed by any contrary messaging circulated after my departure.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edmund H. S. Co." with a large, stylized flourish at the end.