

# CHAMBER BOARD NOMINATIONS 2021

## SPENCE ABRAHAM

ABRAHAM'S



Cleveland has always been my home, and I love opportunities in which would benefit our town. For the last 7 years I've coached little league baseball and basketball for the purpose of lifting up our youth. If we want to continue to have a wonderful community I believe it is very important to have a positive impact on the future generations of Cleveland.

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## TRACEY BELL

TOM SMITH LAND AND HOMES



I was born and raised in Cleveland. I started flipping houses here in 2003 and got my real estate license here in 2015. I am an ambassador for Cleveland and would be honored to serve on the board and look forward to many years of serving our community.

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## MATTY BENGLOFF

OWNER- DELTA DAIRY



Since moving to Cleveland in 2010 I feel like I have worked hard to put myself out there and get involved in all the great things going on in Cleveland. I helped Suzette Matthews and Jordan Thomas start Cleveland-Bolivar County Young Professionals after seeing a similar organization in Greenwood/Leflore County. I've served on both the Team Cleveland Exec Board and the Cleveland-Bolivar County Tourism board for half a decade and I've volunteered and helped plan lot of different events over the years with the chamber and CBYP, Keep Cleveland Boring, and Teach For America. I love Cleveland and the wonderful people who live here who are always up to support our vibrant community.

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## PAM CHATMAN

BOSS LADY WORKFORCE TRANSPORTATION



I am a retired News Director. I have been recognized by the state of Mississippi as the First Black Woman News Director in the state. I have been recognized by the state for partnering with a Fortune 500 company and creating Workforce Transportation Jobs for the Delta. I have been recognized Nationally for creating Vaccination Transportation Initiative for the Delta. I have been honored by Delta Business Journal for Women in Business, recognized by My Mississippi Magazine as one of the Top influential African American in the state of Mississippi. I have been placed in the Congressional Records of History for serving my community and state. Recognized by former President Barack Obama for Leadership in the state. A National Ambassador for Coca-Cola 5by20 Global Initiative for Entrepreneurs for Women. I will receive my honorary doctorate degree in Atlanta in December.

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**LISA COOLEY**

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY



I worked as the Team Cleveland Coordinator for 4 years. During that time, I was able to become very involved in the community. For the last four years, I have taught marketing full-time at DSU, and currently coordinate the MBA/iMBA programs. Since leaving the Chamber, I have continued to serve as a volunteer (Octoberfest, Easter Egg Hunt, Christmas Parade, etc.). I currently serve on the Cleveland Development Foundation, president; Chamber Education Committee; Cleveland Democratic Executive Committee; Junior Auxiliary. I also serve on and chair various committees at DSU.



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## 2021

**KEVIN W. COX**

RADIO CLEVELAND, INC.



I was raised in Cleveland and am a graduate of Bayou Academy and Delta State University. I've been involved in Cleveland's business community since I moved back in 1991 and became a partner in Radio Cleveland. I know that the success of Cleveland/Bolivar County is due to the vision and hard work of those who came before and believe that each generation of leaders has an obligation to work to make the community better and improve the quality of life. These efforts can be traced from the recruitment of Delta State University (1920s) to the recruitment of Baxter Healthcare (1950s) to the building of the Port of Rosedale (1970s) to the efforts to improve the transportation system (early 2000s) to efforts to build a creative economy anchored by Grammy Museum Mississippi (2010s). The Chamber of Commerce is the central linchpin of community improvement and has been since its inception in the late 1950s.

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## SYDNEY DEFILLIPS

GAINSPOLETTIC & ASSOCIATES



I've been involved in community and service organizations in Cleveland since I finished college at Delta State in 2014. I'm currently a member of Junior Auxiliary, Delta Arts Alliance, Young Professionals, EPHFIC Woman's Club, and the Delta Children's Advocacy Center. With each organization I've been a part of, I have served the community in a different way. I've loved bringing new ideas to the Cleveland Bolivar County Young Professionals group and would like to do the same for the chamber board and serve the community as needed.

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**JAMES FORTE**

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

A Returned Peace Corps Volunteer and Greater Delta Teach For America Alumni with a service heart. Currently working as the Director of Alumni Affairs and Annual Giving at Delta State University. Serves as advisor over the Delta Proud Fellows, a black male initiative on campus and in the community.



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## FELICIA PENILTON-HADLEY

DYNAMIC WELLNESS MEDICAL CLINIC



I am Felicia Penilton-Hadley, a social worker, educator, certified trainer, a Christian, the Executive Director of Dynamic Wellness Medical Clinic, and the wife of Dr. DeGail J. Hadley. I'm serving my fourth term as President of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated-Upsilon Tau Zeta Chapter. I give my best to my family, the community, and work hard to achieve victory in all that I embrace. In 2020, I successfully completed "Leaderful Communities" a training program to enhance innovation, cultural diversity, open dialogue, and community development in Bolivar County. Family, community engagement, leadership, communication, respect, and yielding positive outcomes are components of my daily achievements.

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## MARY PARKER JANOUSH

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION



I have been an involved member of the Cleveland community since I was in high school. The City of Cleveland is extremely near and dear to my heart. Being able to serve the city on the Board of Directors for the Chamber of Commerce would be an absolute honor. I only hope to continue to promote Cleveland and share with the world what our town has to offer. I am currently an active Rotary Club Member and Chamber of Commerce Member. I am also on the outreach committee for First Presbyterian Church, as well as a volunteer fundraiser for the Boy Scouts of America.

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**JAY JOEL**

RENASANT BANK

I am originally from Cleveland MS and have been in the banking industry for 20 years. In that time, I have been a volunteer with the Perdido Key Chamber, the Northwest Florida Office of the American Red Cross (based out of Pensacola), a 2011 graduate of Leadership Desoto, and a member of the Desoto County Economic Development Team. Since returning to Cleveland, I am a member of Cleveland Rotary where I have been past treasurer and am currently serving as the club Vice President. My current role with Renasant Bank is the Market President.

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**ERIC KELLY**

THE WAREHOUSE



I work here. I live here. I love doing volunteer work. I also don't know how to tell anyone no.

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## PARKER LIPSCOMB

LIPSCOMB OIL COMPANY, INC.



I graduated from Delta State University with both Undergraduate and Graduate Degrees. I have in the past served on boards such as Main Street Greenville and Washington County Economic Alliance in Greenville. I currently serve on the Finance Council and Technology Committee with St. Joseph Catholic School in Greenville, MS. I serve on Delta State National Alumni Association Board. I serve as the Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for Lipscomb Oil Company, Inc. I serve on various boards and committees serving the Convenience Store and Fuel Industry.

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## STEPHANIE LUSK

THE IMAGE SPECIALIST OF MS



I moved to Cleveland in 1997 to attend Delta State University where I met my husband of 20 years, Jeff Lusk, and we have three daughters. Together with my husband we own The Image Specialist of MS. I have served in the past on the Chamber Board and Team Cleveland board and helped volunteer at many city and county fundraisers and events. I am currently on the Bayou Academy Foundation board and have served on the Bayou Patrons' League board.



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## JOSH MCPHERSON

ELEY | MCPHERSON ENGINEERING



Our firm is fortunate to serve as the County Engineer for Bolivar County, City Engineer for the City of Cleveland, Engineer for the Port of Rosedale, and various other municipalities and private entities. This role allows me to have an in depth perspective on local development and infrastructure needs. I work daily with our elected/appointed officials to solve infrastructure issues by developing long range plans, grant acquisitions, project design and development, and construction management.

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## HADONICA MURPHY

HADONICA'S PHOTOGRAPHY



I have lived in the Mississippi Delta for 10 years now and I just want to see the community continue to grow. I love volunteering, and providing activities for people in the Delta.

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**WES SIGLER**

DELTA HEALTH CENTER



My current role is the Chief of Staff for Delta Health Center, a system of 18 medical clinics serving five counties in the MS Delta. I have 31 years of diverse healthcare experience with both an operational and financial background. Involvement in community activities has always been a priority of mine. Areas in which I have participated include Rotary Club, coaching youth sports, and various church positions. I have also served on boards and committees of the Bolivar County Chamber, DSU Health Campus/Community Advisory Board, Rotary Club, Boys and Girls Club, and Relay For Life, among others.

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## KYLE SMITH

NEEDLE SPECIALTY PRODUCTS CORPORATION



I started my professional career at Baxter Healthcare as Bench Chemist and I worked my way through the ranks to the Quality Supervisor Level. In 2009, I was hired as the Quality Director at Needle Specialty Products. That was followed by a buyout, where I became part of the Ownership Group for the Plant and currently hold the role of Corporate Secretary and Treasurer (in addition to my role as Director of Quality Assurance and Engineering). I am very active in my children's sports activities with PDS, CYSA, Several Travels Teams, and the Cleveland Park Commission. I have served on Boards at both Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church and the CYSA (Cleveland Youth Soccer Association).

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## MARIE ROCCONI WARE

DEBBIE DAVIS REAL ESTATE, LLC



I have lived in Cleveland my entire life and love so much about our town and community! I am married to Brian Ware and we have 3 children; Ethan, Ava, and Hayden. I am both a real estate sales agent and a registered dental hygienist. I have always wanted to be involved with the chamber in one way or another so I am super excited to have been nominated! It has been several years, but I have had community involvement through fundraisers, helping hands can food drives, campus cleanups, etc. I am a very driven person with a lot of ideas swirling all the time! I love to be creative and I am super organized!

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## MORGAN WHEELER

MOD + PROPER, KUT WORKS BOUTIQUE, ADVANCE PHYSICAL THERAPY

I grew up in Cleveland, and returned home after college 10 years ago. I'm a member of First United Methodist Church and Junior Auxiliary of Cleveland. I own Mod + Proper and Kut Works Boutique in downtown Cleveland. I'm also an occupational therapist for Advance Physical Therapy at NSMC. My husband, Blake, and I have been married for 1 year and he farms in Sunflower County.