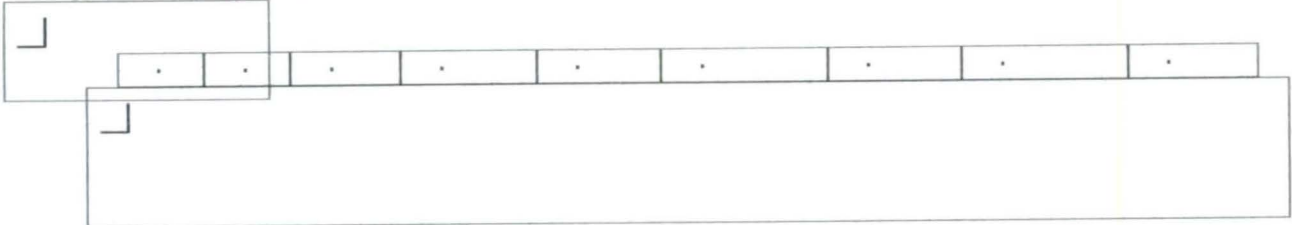


Subj: **Fw: Cindy Ayers Elliott from rural Northeast Mississippi vie for State Treasurer**
 Date: 7/22/2003 11:50:26 PM Eastern Daylight Time
 From:
 To:
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 File: **CindyAyersElliottViaforMississippiStateTreasurer.doc** (187392 bytes) DL Time (48000 bps): < 1 minute
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From:
To:
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2003 1:27 PM
Subject: Cindy Ayers Elliott from rural Northeast Mississippi vie for State Treasurer



Two from rural Northeast Mississippi vie for treasurer

Journal Enterprises 7/16/2003 10:36:55 PM
 Daily Journal

BY SANDI P. BEASON

Daily Journal

Both Cindy Ayers Elliott and Gary Anderson trace their roots to rural Northeast Mississippi, where they spent their childhoods in neighboring counties.

Today they are preparing to face each other in the Aug. 5 Democratic primary for state treasurer. In separate meetings with the Daily Journal editorial board Wednesday, they discussed their campaigns and goals as treasurer.

Elliott grew up outside Ashland in Benton County



and Anderson grew up outside Byhalia in Marshall County. They will also face state Sen. Rob Smith of Richland in the primary.

Republican primary contenders are Wayne Burkes, Andrew Ketchings and Tate Reeves.

Should TVA be more aggressive in retiring its debt?

Anderson, 47, said while the state treasurer has distinct duties, the office also carries with it opportunities.

Yes

No

Vote

"The primary responsibility of the treasurer is to deposit (state) money in a safe manner and achieving reasonable rates of return on that money," Anderson said. "But his power is in the boards and commissions he sits on."

Should Comcast put Memphis station WREG back in its cable lineup so viewers will have more football watching choices?

As treasurer, he said, he would work with the Legislature on projecting more conservative budget estimates, as he did as director of the Department of Finance and Administration.

"We should be working with real numbers first," Anderson said.

Yes

No

Vote

He would not be a low-key treasurer, he said, and would advocate more efficient operations and spending instead of using one-time money as a Band-Aid to fill holes in the state's budget. By using his post as a "bully pulpit," he said, he would also set the tone for savings in the state, offering assistance to local governments on responsible fiscal management.



Efficiencies related to work processes and technology reduced the Department of Finance and Administration's budget significantly during his tenure, Anderson said.

Anderson, who was senior vice president for Sunburst and Union Planters Corp. before becoming DFA head, said he has received support from many bankers in his campaign.

Treasury experience

Elliott, 46, who worked six years as assistant treasurer to former State Treasurer Marshall Bennett, said during her time at the treasurer's office, the system was brought into the computer age and the state's rainy day fund was established.

"I had a great six-year tenure with Marshall Bennett," she said. "I know everything that's in the state treasurer's office. ... It truly is a management office. I know the job. I know everything about the treasury."

After leaving the treasurer's office, she was instrumental in the formation of the state's first African-American owned bank, First American Bank, serving as its chairman.

"I felt compelled that it could be done," she said. "There were a lot of naysayers, but that made me more determined than ever that it could be done."

Most recently she has served as senior vice president of Mississippi Investments, a publicly traded firm.

As treasurer, she said, she would seek ways to grow and move the state in different directions. When it comes to the state budget, she said, the Legislature needs to be more cognizant of the effects of its spending.

"Debt is good if we can service it," she said. "Our money is coming in - it's higher this quarter - and we have to look at how it's going out. We need to sit down with the Legislature to let them see the other side of it. Some areas need to be broken out."

Neighbors, peers

Anderson, the son of a teacher and a World War II veteran, grew up on his family's farm in Byhalia.

Growing up, he said he learned "the work ethic you gain from that, along with the understanding you gain from managing money in a very tight way. That's the same influence I've had since childhood."

He began a career in state government in 1981 in the administration of Gov. William Winter, and continued in public service until 1993, including a stint as director of community development in the Department of Economic and Community Development. He worked in the private sector until returning to state government in 2000 as Gov. Ronnie Musgrove's appointee to head the Department of Finance and Administration.

Elliott grew up in nearby Ashland, where she graduated high school, and went on to attend Rust College.

"My first job was at the First National Bank (in Ashland)," she said.

She worked there as a teller, then went on to the University of Massachusetts through the National Urban Rural Fellow program. Not wanting to leave Mississippi to do her internship, she got a job with then Gov. Bill Allain as an assistant in his office.

After completing her MBA, she joined up with Bennett on his 1987 campaign, and when he was elected, she went to work in his office as assistant treasurer.

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7/17/2003 8:00:00 AM, section A , page 1*