

2017 Manifesto

PAUL RIVERS | West Bay West
MERVIN SMITH | West Bay North



*“Future
generations
depend on it”*

MERVIN SMITH

WEST BAY NORTH





PAUL RIVERS

WEST BAY WEST

**PAUL
RIVERS**
WEST BAY WEST

2017

**MERVIN
SMITH**
WEST BAY NORTH

Dear Fellow Caymanian,

The Cayman Islands is at a turning point in history. We are experiencing more crime, more unemployment and more debt than ever before. We are less safe, less able to control our destiny and more divided as a nation. Our current leaders are failing to address the very real issues affecting our islands.

We need representatives who will inspire our country to be the best that we can be. We need representatives to provoke us to action and who will listen to our needs. We need representatives that present a complete contrast to the failed politics of the past. We need representation that is honest, caring and committed to the people of West Bay and, by extension, to the people of the Cayman Islands.

We need Paul Rivers and Mervin Smith.

The fight will not be an easy one. West Bay politics is gripped by political manipulation and conventional thinking that has not always benefited our three islands. We need to challenge the stronghold and pull our country back out of the pit that it has sunken into. As government leaders, Paul and Mervin will represent all three islands, not just their constituencies of nomination.

Ours is a country torn apart by a Party system that acts more like a mafia than a government. The Cayman Islands is simply too small and our government too immature to accommodate the demands of a system that seeks to obtain political power through manipulation. This is all too clear from the Legislative Meetings to the media reports where we witness playground behaviour and petty arguments between the Party representatives. The time has come to stop the insanity.

It is up to the people of the Cayman Islands to change the course of our future. That fight is waged district by district. We are starting in West Bay. When you cast your vote on 24 May 2017 consider the future of your home and the future of your children and

their children for generations to come. Consider representatives who have also proven their civic-mindedness, their commitment to country, their morals, ethics and principles!

If you want a CHANGE you must stand behind Paul and Mervin. They are individuals you can trust to take your concerns to the heart of the Legislative Assembly. Let them be your voices. Rely on them to walk the path with you and bear your burdens too.

Voters must make a clear choice this election: to vote for the 'same old' and get the 'same old', or to make a clean break from the flawed politics of the past and go with candidates who come with a clear purpose. That purpose is to unite the 19 seats in government to focus on our failing economy, our tarnished islands, our hurting people. Our country cannot thrive with prosperity if we have internal turmoil and in-fighting!

Paul and Mervin are willing to work with the other 17 elected officials to form a cohesive and unified government. A nation at civil war with itself cannot expect to survive!

We must elect persons who can play fair and are not seeking office to promote or empower themselves.

Your support of this movement for CHANGE will ensure that once these candidates are elected we can begin reforming our government and turning this country around!



Youth

“The hope of our future”

The leaders of tomorrow. The caretakers of our country in years to come. Young people are a number one priority. They are our present and our future. We will strive to create a positive agenda for the empowerment, entitlement and equality of all young people.

THE ISSUES

Our youth are without hope; disenfranchised with our country and their future. They are suffering from peer pressure, lack of attention and boredom. We are losing our youth to increasing usage of mind altering substances, imprisonment and road fatalities. Our young people are graduating without a work-ready frame of mind, with no job opportunities and no reliable form of income. This can all be summed up as broken morale.

OUR SOLUTIONS

- **More investment and dynamic leadership from Government** to create and co-ordinate excellent facilities for young people in our community. They need consistent and structured access to a variety of sports, arts, music and social opportunities as well as health and specialist support. This means reshaping existing facilities as well as developing additional avenues to cater to their interests and needs. Most young people still think that there are not places for them to go and things for them to do in their area. Private and public sector investment should be sought to ensure that all young people have access to activities and opportunities in our community.
- **Initiate negotiations with the Public Transport Board to offer Student Passes** on public transport for under 18s.
- **Encourage people to set their sights high for every young person**, with support and role models in place to help each of them regardless of the challenges they face — to enjoy, aspire and contribute to the world they live in. Education, training and access to inspiring activities and experiences can be huge drivers of social mobility, but for too many young people, aspirations and expectations are low. Young people from low-income backgrounds continue to be most likely to be excluded from, or play truant from, school – leading to a greater probability of unemployment, poor life chances and involvement in crime later in life. Creating a range of inspiring and motivational education and learning in the classroom and beyond is crucial.
- **Enhance and secure help, information and advice for all young people**, with personalised support packages for those who need them. Many young people say they don't know how to find help when it is needed and have no one they feel able to approach. Providing early help on sensitive issues such as sex, emotional health, drugs and alcohol is crucial if longer-term problems are to be avoided. All young people should have access to information, help and support as part of their everyday lives – in their schools and youth centres – where they want it and when they want it.



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- **Advocacy for every area** to build young people into decision-making regarding local services which affect them, through formal structures such as youth councils. Local areas should ensure that vulnerable young people are involved. Many young people feel that their needs are not reflected in their local community – from the way that housing and roads are planned to the way that services are developed and delivered. Building all young people into local decision-making processes will be crucial to engaging young people locally and building a strong sense of ownership. It will also help to ensure that services reflect those needs and are more successful as a result.



Elderly

“The stalwarts of our past”

Golden Years – This is meant to be the winter of our Caymanian people’s lives where they can enjoy their twilight years relaxing and enjoying the fruits of their labour. Our elderly were the foundation, the backbone, the pioneers of our Cayman Islands. Their hard work, true grit and determination molded our country into what it is today. We must never forget this.

THE ISSUES

How many of our elderly are truly retired? How can they afford to retire? Or be expected to live on a few hundred dollars a month? Our golden aged Caymanians are being forgotten, neglected and left to die. Government and society have turned a blind eye to their needs and their suffering. This is no way to show the respect that they so rightfully deserve! That starts in the home but the government of the day has a civic responsibility to have policies in place to ensure our elderly are protected.

OUR SOLUTIONS

- **Address the healthcare needs of the elderly** to ensure that there is proper care and attention in hospitals and rest homes.
- **Evaluate current practices** and ensure that there is a program of frequent home visits to those bedridden and shut in.
- **Evaluate our current elderly pension plan** and assure that no threat remains to take away pensions should our elderly, there will be no threat to any government funding that aids our golden generations.
- **Address Social Activities that should involve our elderly:**
 - Teaching in schools;
 - Service Clubs to utilize their knowledge;
 - Community endeavors to keep them active and involved.
- **Support the The Older Persons Bill, 2017** and its implementation to the fullest.
- **Advocate for Community Acceptance of the elderly:**
 - Senior citizen discounts – public and private sector;
 - Senior citizen priority on buses;
 - Senior citizen parking privileges;
 - Senior citizen lines at government offices.

Education

“The foundation of all that is Cayman”

To elevate in life is to be educated. Education is the key to success and knowledge is power. To ensure that our Caymanians are given every opportunity to excel in life we must make it a priority to give them the tools that they need.

THE ISSUES

Our education system continues to be used as a political football throughout each election cycle, whereby each change of government has a profoundly negative impact on stability of every element of the system. We have seen the politicizing of education affect the curricula; the infrastructure; and the ability of teachers and instructors to provide a safe and effective educational environment. Our educational system should provide the best road to advancement for the next generation and our schools should be the best tool for raising people out of poverty, meeting social challenges and being a strong driver of economic development. However, as long as education is used as a political football this goal may never be realized.

OUR SOLUTIONS

- **Advocate to ensure that there is continued accountability within the education system** as it is critical that the ability to monitor progress is enshrined within the Education Law.
- **A review of the entire education system should be conducted every 4-6 years**, starting in 2019, to ensure that it spans two election cycles.
- **Eliminate the use of education as a political football** and allow education to be implemented and assessed by qualified educators - and not political leaders.



RESUME

Mark P. Smith
17 West State St., Apt. 100
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Objective

A challenging and rewarding position

Summary of Accomplishments

- Fundamental accounting knowledge
- Efficient, detail-oriented
- Strong analytical and
- Proficient of computer

Experience

2007 - Present

Responsibilities

Unemployment

“In a land of plenty?”

If reports are accurate, Caymanians make up about half of the islands' population. There are approximately 24,000 work permits on the books at present. We have a hidden poverty line which is ever-growing due to unemployment. We cannot create unemployment and then blame the victim of unemployment for her/his own inability to find work.

THE ISSUES

Caymanians are unemployed – this should not be the case with the amount of foreign labour employed. Youth are graduating with low employment prospects. Caymanians are being overlooked for jobs in favour of cheaper labour. Immigration measures are still not fully addressing the requirements of the Roll-Over Policy. Some Caymanians are not qualified or educated to the degree required to obtain employment in our country.

OUR SOLUTIONS

- **The focus will be to ensure that the unskilled worker, the semi-skilled, the skilled and the professional all have an avenue**, job opportunities that pay some semblance or a livable wage.
- **Introduce initiatives to rebuild the middle class.**
- **Lobby to ensure that there is a stringent follow through process of the Roll-Over Policy.** Caymanians should be trained within the prescribed timeframes to ease into the roles currently dominated by foreign labour.
- **Advocate for adult education and vocational & technical training** to ensure that every Caymanian is afforded the opportunity to find a niche in the work force. The focus will be to empower my Caymanian people with the tools needed to sustain a comfortable standard of living.
- **Enforce Regulation 6 of the Immigration Law**, whereby the department can require training and placement of any qualified Caymanian in any position available in any company within the Cayman Islands.
- **Press the programs for early job placement of students while in school** in the form of work experience. The earlier we impact children with solid training and exposure to the work element, the sooner they have the opportunity to grow their individual mindsets and approach to their careers.
- **Specifically address Caymanian employment in industries that were created by the Caymanian people** (e.g. tourism) or where Caymanians traditionally made a living that afforded them a middle-class life (e.g. construction). Caymanians are the pioneers of the hotel, hospitality & water sports industries. We must make room for our Caymanian people in jobs that we have the most experience in while simultaneously educating them in industries that equally affect our countries prosperity.
- **Advocate for 100% Caymanian employment within the watersports industry**, given the high rate of participation of our people. It should be protected.

Immigration

“Control is key”

It is widely regarded that Caymanian labour is too limited to effectively sustain our rapidly growing economy. It is therefore incumbent on us to gauge our growth in such a way that we do not create a system that is so focused on attracting foreign labour to fill the employment needs, to the detriment of the future of our own Caymanians. Immigration is meant to protect the local nationals and ensure that there remains a balance between foreign human capital and our own Caymanian people.

THE ISSUES

Our country is all most of us have. Caymanians are becoming an endangered species as ours becomes the destination of choice for foreign nationals who come and carve out a living for themselves. While Caymanians are by nature a peaceable people, we must not lose sight of the fact that we must retain something for ourselves and for our future. We are faced with fast-tracked economic growth that requires human capital to survive the global market place. Our Rollover Policy is not effective in ensuring that Caymanians are given priority to vacated roles. One foreign national is simply being replaced by another. Our vetting process is not as advanced as it needs to be to ensure that anyone coming to our shores for employment have passed the necessary standards of advanced due diligence.

OUR SOLUTIONS

- **Seek to ensure that the Rollover Policy is enforced** to the degree that Caymanians are hired and trained sufficiently to acquire jobs that are being vacated by foreign nationals who have reached the end of their term limits.
- **Ensure that the Caymanian / non-Caymanian ratio is strictly enforced** to protect the best interests of the Caymanian workforce.
- **Seek to enforce policies that govern the time limits of foreign nationals** to determine who has chosen to over-stay and deal with them effectively and immediately.
- **Promote stricter secure border control measures** to ensure that everyone entering our country is added to a data registry with valuable personal information including, but not limited to fingerprinting & iris scanning.

EUROPEAN UNION
UNITED KINGDOM OF
GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND



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PASSPORT





Environment

“The heart of our existence”

Our environment is the core of Cayman's existence. The sea was once the harvesting grounds that provided sustenance to our ancestors. Our mangroves are our most formidable protectors against hurricanes and Nor'westers as well as nature's nursery for young marine life. The Silver Thatch Palm played an integral role in the sustainability and development of early Cayman settlers by creating products for use and trade like hats, rope and baskets to name a few. The obvious disregard for our environment will have dire consequences on our future generations.

THE ISSUES

The destruction of the mangroves in favour of hotel development and concrete construction demonstrated a lack of foresight and understanding of the vital role our environment plays in our very existence. Cayman's unchecked physical development has caused great stress on our natural resources and environmental capabilities. Pollution in the form of garbage and emissions is a reality that should be controlled without delay.

OUR SOLUTIONS

- **Support the new National Conservation Law** which requires EIA studies before large development or national infrastructure projects commence.
- **Advocate for the continued protection of our mangroves and coral reefs** and reevaluate current protective legislation to ensure that we are doing everything possible to prevent future opportunities to destroy them for the sake of development.

Tourism

“The mainstay of our development”

Cayman’s most valuable asset is its people. This has been the draw to our islands and one of the most positively assessed aspects of tourist feedback in years gone by. To maintain our stronghold as a premier tourist destination we must continue to focus on the human element that can either make or break a vacation experience. We are internationally known as having the most beautiful beaches, best diving and complete tax free banking status in the world, however, that is all in vain if the human interaction during the first and last impressions are negative. We must get back to putting our people on the front lines. Cayman & Caymanians should be the living example for other countries when it comes to grooming our people for hospitality. We have been doing this for decades. This is what we know.

THE ISSUES

Our people are being sidelined in favour of foreign labourers who want a piece of our Cayman dream. How can we advance our people in the one area of expertise if we allow other nationalities to take over? Where is our national pride? This is the future of our tourism product – our own people. We can build buildings and create all-inclusive experiences but at the end of the day it can only be sold to someone if they feel the Caymanian spirit and the love of country that most of us have. We have lost the smiling Caymanian faces that visitors had come to love and trust. Our hospitality has been eroded by infiltration into the tourism sector of people who are culturally different and do not know or respect the traditions that won over the hearts of our visitors and made them feel like family.

OUR SOLUTIONS

- **Promote a tourism initiative within the tourism sector**, particularly in hotel and restaurants – where any Caymanian not in a managerial role receives a stipend of \$500 per month – provided that they are in the industry or returning to the industry. We believe this is necessary now to attract Caymanians back into the tourism industry as it is now clearly understood that until the implementation of the Minimum Wage of 2016, salaries within the industry did not increase by more than \$0.02 an hour annually. Given the rate of inflation over this period and the high cost of living, Caymanians no longer find the salaries within the industry attractive to allow them to support themselves and their families.
- **Advocate the implementation of a commission** whereby regulation of industry ownership of tourism-based business is fair and Caymanian focused.
- **Seek to enhance the Cayman Marketing Plan** to ensure that we are sufficiently and globally exposed to every possible market by way of marketing, advertising and public relations.
- **Seek to negotiate partnerships with international firms** that will promote, market and advertise our tourist product to the fullest.





Cayman Islands Monetary Authority

This note is legal tender for One Dollar

C/7740644

One Dollar

Alvin J. Williams
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Jonathan
MANAGING DIRECTOR

2006 Series. Issued under The Monetary Authority Law (2004 Revision)

C/7

Economy

“The life’s blood of our country”

Considering recent developments in the United States with regards to discussions of Cayman’s status in the Financial Industry, it is clearly evident that we are always at risk of losing the two pillars of our economy, namely: Finance and Tourism. The latter is heavily dependent on the global economy which is currently under great stress. We must remain mindful that the pinnacle of success that we have balanced on for decades is never guaranteed and we should therefore seek to examine alternative measures to ensure and enhance government revenue.

THE ISSUES

Cayman is continually targeted for our tax-neutral status and envied for our financial capabilities and global positioning. We have a bulls-eye on our backs that make us vulnerable to foreign legislation that seeks to punish us. Locally, we face trying circumstances from the influx of new Caymanians and non-Caymanians as a result of status grants and work permit approvals. In the interest of national harmony we must all work together, however, the stress on our resources and economy is cause for concern. We must be diligent in enforcing legislation that protects Caymanian businesses first.

OUR SOLUTIONS

- **We strongly support the efforts of Cayman Finance.** We will advocate for a multi-pronged and symbiotic public/private relationship between the financial services industry, the government and Cayman Finance to ensure that Cayman Finance is sufficiently funded and capable of continuing to develop, promote and protect our jurisdiction.
- **Ensure that everyone who partakes in the local economy is abiding by the rules and regulations** to create a fair and balanced opportunity for everyone to be successful.
- **Seek alternative ways to create government revenue** while simultaneously advocating for government to receive value for money.
- **Promote \$10 per hour minimum wage** within all fields and jobs related to the construction industry.

