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Rouse

For Alice Rouse, running for the Murray City Council is her first venture into politics.

Before retirement in 2015, Rouse was busy as the publisher of the Murray Ledger & Times. She began her employment at the newspaper in 1975 as a bookkeeper, became the general manager in 1992, and was named publisher in 2001.

"I understand marketing, advertising and public relations," Rouse said. "These were things I was very involved with in my position as publisher, and I also have vast experience in budgeting and planning for the future."

Rouse was born and grew up in Alabama. She went to college at Brescia University in Owensboro and met her husband, Bill, while working and attending classes there. After they married, Bill was eventually transferred to Charleston, West Virginia. Five years later, they moved to Murray.

"My husband, Bill, had told me all about Murray for months," Rouse said. "He is from Paducah

and graduated from Murray State University. He had been offered a transfer with his company to Murray. I jokingly said it sounded like the streets were paved in gold. When I arrived in Murray, I discovered the streets were not gold, but after living here for a few years, Murray became gold in my heart."

The Rouses have twin sons, Justin and Jason, and both are also graduates of Murray State. She and Bill are active members of the First Baptist Church.

"I wasn't born here, but Murray is my home," Rouse said.

Rouse said she had been involved in the Murray community for more than 40 years and had served both in civic responsibilities and in her professional career.

She has been a member of several boards, including being secretary and now vice chairman of the Murray-Calloway County Economic Development Corporation, the Industrial Development Authority, the Murray-Calloway County Community Foundation, the Rotary Club of Murray, the United Way of Murray-Calloway County, and served as president of the Kentucky Press Association. She was named the Murray-Calloway County Citizen of the Year

in 2004, and was also a graduate of the Leadership Murray Class that year.

"I have been involved in the recruitment of companies to Murray, such as iwis, and the expansion of Pella and Briggs & Stratton," Rouse said. "I was also involved with the new spec building in the Murray-West Industrial Park. We need companies to keep the young people here in Murray. I have tried to do my part to make Murray a better place to live."

Rouse is a nine-year breast cancer survivor and said she knows what it means to fight for what you want.

"Facing cancer is scary, but being determined to fight it and win is something I am very thankful for," she said. "I prayed a lot, but I was also determined to not let it beat me. When I became cancer free, I knew I wanted to spend as much time as I could giving back to my community."

Rouse said she would use that same determination to make sure the best decisions are made for the City of Murray.

"I don't make promises I can't keep," Rouse said. "If I am elected as a member of the Murray City Council, I will listen and consider all ideas from all sides. I believe it takes a 'village' to make good

decisions, and we have to listen to those who wish to speak. I want to make this city safe, provide services for its citizens and capitalize on Murray's unique position as an economic hub."

Rouse said she believes that the city government should focus on three main priorities – public safety, infrastructure and the delivery of necessary services that will promote an environment that attracts and retains business.

"It is about believing that the 'tired old political scenario' is not the way to solve problems facing our city," she said. "We have to work together and make decisions based on what is best for the majority of our citizens, but most importantly, we have to listen to what the citizens of our city have to say."

Rouse said she feels her years of service and working with many different people with different opinions to set goals and see them accomplished is something of which she is proud, and will continue to strive for the same if she is a member of the Murray City Council.

"I have tried to do my part to make Murray a better place to live because I love this town," said Rouse. ■