

With no grand plans on the horizon, Richmond mayoral candidates enjoy return to private life

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With the election a little less than a month behind them, most of Richmond's former mayoral candidates are planning a quiet return to private life.

Jack Berry, who placed second in the race behind Mayor-elect Levar Stoney, said he would not seek a job in Stoney's administration — a possibility some of his supporters have encouraged both him and Stoney to pursue.

Likewise, Berry said he will not return to Venture Richmond, where he served as executive director for 18 years before he resigned in April to run for office. The nonprofit has not yet announced his permanent replacement.

For now, he said he's enjoying the downtime.

"I don't have any immediate plans other than spending more time with my grandchildren, spending more time in the mountains and spending more time renovating my house in the Fan," he said.

Former Del. Joe Morrissey, who came in third place in the race, declined to discuss his plans. However, during the election he said his mayoral bid — successful or not — would be his last run for public office.

"(My wife) absolutely wants this to be the last political office I run for," he told the Richmond Times-Dispatch in late October. "She would rather we have our family, and I can understand that. ... And remember, I've got to earn money. I've got to run a practice."

Morrissey served in the House of Delegates from 2008 to 2015 and as Richmond commonwealth's attorney from 1989 to 1993.

In the run-up to this year's mayoral election, Morrissey consistently placed first in polls but was consistently dogged by scandal: He entered the race having served his final term in the General Assembly while also serving a jail sentence and fended off allegations of unwanted sexual advances made by a former law client in the final weeks of the race.

Morrissey continues to practice law at his Highland Springs law firm. Reached at his office this week, he said he felt The Times-Dispatch treated him "with great disdain" and that "just the handling of the whole matter was one of the vilest things I've ever seen."



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(From left) Joe Morrissey, Levar Stoney, Jon Baliles, Bruce Tyler, Jack Berry, Lawrence Williams and Michelle Mosby participated in a mayoral candidate forum July 26 at Fourth Baptist Church in Richmond.

“I just don’t feel comfortable discussing any of my future plans with you or anybody with the Richmond Times-Dispatch,” he said.

Outgoing City Council President Michelle Mosby, who came in fourth place, said via a text message that she plans to resume selling real estate, a profession she had pursued before taking office four years ago.

She said she also will return her attention to the salon she owns on Forest Hill Avenue, International Hair Salon, and a nonprofit she operates that aims to help ex-offenders re-enter society after serving jail and prison sentences.

She said she has no plans at the moment to run again for office. Asked whether she would consider pursuing a job in government, she said that “whatever I can do to be a part of moving Richmond forward, I am open to it.”

Outgoing Councilman Jon Baliles, who dropped out of the race in the final week and endorsed Stoney, is the only former candidate contemplating future work in city government.

Baliles is serving on Stoney’s transition team and said he’s open to taking a position.

“That’s up to Stoney,” he said. “We’re kind of beating around the bushes on it, but he’s focused right now on meeting with (Chief Administrative Officer Selena Cuffee-Glenn) and some of the other department heads.

“So he’s working on that. I don’t know what his timeline is for filling those spots, but he’ll tell us when he’s ready.”