

## From the Desk of the Executive Director



### Our grassroots must be stronger and more people must be engaged

Sometimes, it's easy for us to think we're in uncharted territory; that challenges facing us are like no other that our predecessors faced during their time.

In my remarks at the general business meeting held during TML's recent annual conference, I referenced a few historical undertakings of TML that carried great risks. In 1979, the creation of a municipal risk management pool, known today as Public Entity Partners, and in 1985, the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund. Both organizations were founded by TML leaders who overcame uncertainty, a fear of failure, and created entities that provided cities with a stronger position than just relying on the private marketplace.

Add to that, TML lobbying efforts to create UT MTAS in 1949, and to keep the organization at UT and funded when some powerful governors of the 1950's and 1960's had other ideas.

I mention these historical milestones solely for the purpose of making all aware that TML, going back to its founding in 1940, took bold steps, risks, and embraced change to ensure Tennessee's towns and cities were positioned to be in the best political, financial and stable position they could possibly enjoy. TML,

MTAS, the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund and Public Entity Partners all stand on the shoulders of those leaders and the thousands of local officials that have made our story in Tennessee successful.

Their success was fueled by embracing and leading change. Sometimes in life, we can all spend too much time, so to speak, looking in the rear-view mirror, and not the windshield. The world is in constant change. We must embrace it and strategically position TML to be even stronger in the years to come.

Author and behavioral academic Steve Maraboli, who has said to be the most quoted person on the planet, says it so well.

"Look around you. Everything changes. Everything on this earth is in a continuous state of evolving, refining, improving, adapting, enhancing ... changing. You were not put on this earth to remain stagnate."

I am proud of the changes we have made at TML in the last three and a half years. We have increased our efficiencies and reduced recurring spending. We've seen significant growth in our sponsorship program. Ninety-seven percent of all cities are members of TML—an all-time high. A new member bene-

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### White House's Herman lauded as 2024 TCMA City Manager of the Year



Tennessee City Management Association (TCMA) President and Farragut Town Administrator David Smoak, left, presents White House City Administrator Gerald Herman with the City Manager of the Year Award.

With more than 40 years of experience in local government, White House City Administrator Gerald Herman has worked diligently to ensure that his municipalities finances and infrastructure keep up with the residential, commercial, and industrial growth of the community.

It is for this reason that the Tennessee City Management Association (TCMA) has recognized Gerald Herman as its City Manager of the Year for 2024. Herman was presented the award Tuesday, July 23, 2024, at the 84th Annual Conference of the Tennessee Municipal League (TML) held at the Knoxville Convention Center in Knoxville.

After serving for four years in the U.S. Marine Corps, Herman's career in government began as a police patrolman for the city of Northwood, Ohio. He eventually became the chief of police for Northwood, and also working during this time to earn an associate's degree in law enforcement, bachelor's degree in science, and master's in public administration.

In 2008, he moved from Ohio to Tennessee to take on the role of

police chief for the city of White House. When the previous city manager resigned, Herman was selected to take the position in 2012 following a national search.

Since then, Herman has overseen exponential growth for the city of White House, including commercial and economic development that has brought new businesses including grocery stores, healthcare facilities and offices, hotels, car washes, retail stores, multiple restaurants and fast-food businesses, and six shopping centers to White House. Five major industrial projects - Advanex USA, Smyrna Ready Mix, ReTool, Foster Supply, and Exotic Marble Granite as well as the expansion of Tate - have also occurred under his leadership and management. The city has also approved more than 3,000 single-family homes for development, five new townhome developments with 375 units, and ten multi-family developments with 1,300 units in his tenure.

Herman has also headed up the charge to deliver the services and infrastructure needed to facilitate the commercial, industrial, and

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### TML names 2024-25 board; Gallatin Mayor Brown elected president

The Tennessee Municipal League (TML) elected its 2024-2025 board of directors during its general business meeting recently held in conjunction with the TML Annual Conference in Knoxville. Gallatin Mayor Paige Brown was elected president.

As president of the League, Brown will lead the organization as it advocates for the interests of 345 cities and towns across the state of Tennessee, and the citizens they serve.

"I am truly honored to be a part of the Tennessee Municipal League and serve as president as we enter into our 85th year," said Mayor Brown. "Together through TML we can help each other, ulti-

mately doing what we're each called to do, to make our cities and towns the best they can be."

Other board elections include two vice presidents: 1st Vice President Bolivar Mayor Julian McTizic, and TML 2nd Vice President Cleveland Mayor Kevin Brooks. TML vice presidents are traditionally in line to serve as president. Farragut Mayor Ron Williams will remain on the board as immediate past president.

The TML board also includes mayors of Tennessee's four largest cities, four at-large directors, and eight district directors.

The four urban mayors are: Chattanooga Mayor Tim Kelly, Knox-

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Paige Brown  
Gallatin Mayor  
TML President

### Dyersburg's John Holden honored as 2024 TML Mayor of the Year



Flanked by his children, Dyersburg Mayor John Holden receives the TML 2024 Mayor of the Year Award from TML Immediate Past President and Farragut Mayor Ron Williams. From left to right, Walker Holden, Mayor John Holden, Mayor Ron Williams, and Whitby Holden.

Dyersburg Mayor John Holden was named the 2024 Mayor of the Year by the Tennessee Municipal League at their 84th Annual Conference in Knoxville.

Each year since 1954, the Tennessee Municipal League has honored a city mayor that typifies the attributes of intelligence, effectiveness, hard work, dedication and sacrifice. For the past 17 years, John Holden has exemplified a servant leader in his community, dedicating his time and energy to not just improve the city of Dyersburg but to also lift up West Tennessee and cities across the state.

Mayor Holden has seen his hometown of Dyersburg through both highs - such as major investments in parks and recreation, rehabilitation of the community's

water and wastewater system, and the recruitment of landmark industries - and lows, including the worst flooding in the city's history in 2010 and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since he was first elected in 2006, Holden has worked to recruit companies including NSK, DOT Foods, Frazier Industrial, and DeVeley Mustard to the area as well as facilitate expansions of existing industries like ERMCO. Holden also worked with local financial leaders to develop TIF financing for the creation of Dyersburg Commons, a significant retail development located in the heart of the city.

A tireless advocate for local education, Holden has also sought investment for local schools, knowing that having an educated workforce will attract businesses and families

to the community. He has also overseen important projects to improve quality-of-life for Dyersburg residents including \$50 million in grant projects including the Forked Deer River Park, Jennie Bell School Trail, Forked Deer River Greenway, the Dyersburg Soccer Complex, a new police precinct and FBI field office, two new drinking water wells, the rehabilitation of the entire sanitary sewer system, the creation of a water distribution system model, long-range transportation planning, and more. Presently, Holden is working with private developers and non-profit organizations to increase, stabilize, and improve the area's housing stock.

All this has been done with See MAYOR on Page 4

### Franklin's Barnhill receives Bob Kirk Local Government Leadership Award

For more than 35 years, Alderman Clyde Barnhill has tackled the challenge of planning and managing the rapid growth of one of the fastest growing communities in the state, bringing institutional knowledge and humility that will benefit the city of Franklin and its residents for decades to come.

In recognition of his dedication to public service, Barnhill was awarded the Bob Kirk Local Government Leadership Award on Tuesday, July 23, during the 84th Annual Conference of the Tennessee Municipal League (TML) held at the Knoxville Convention Center.

The Bob Kirk Local Government Leadership Award is presented to the council member, alderman, or commissioner who is at least in their second term of service to their municipality and has shown themselves to be an outstanding public servant to both their municipality and their community. The award is named for Dyersburg City Alderman and TML Past President Bob Kirk who served his city for nearly 51 years as an elected official.

First elected in 1988, Barnhill's focus in serving his community has been on ensuring Franklin's



Left, retired Dyersburg Alderman Bob Kirk, shakes the hand of Franklin Alderman Clyde Barnhill, right, after Barnhill received the Local Government Leadership Award named in Kirk's honor.

rapid growth is done in a way that is "smart," both in terms of land use and city finances. His background in business has helped support and keep the city's AAA bond rating and ensure Franklin remains in strong financial standing.

He has also helped craft development standards that set a high bar for investment in Franklin and been in-

cluded in annexation of additional property within the city. A major north-south roadway corridor in the city would not have become a reality without his involvement.

Barnhill's knowledge makes him an important source of information and mentor to other members on the board. His humility See KIRK on Page 4



# NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



## CHATTANOOGA

The city of Chattanooga and the Chattanooga Housing Authority have been selected for a \$50 million HUD Choice Neighborhood grant for the One Westside development. The \$1 billion-One Westside project will bring in new affordable housing to replace obsolete housing units one-for-one while still building a mix of new housing types. The project is aimed to be a vibrant community with commercial activity and economic opportunity across the 115-acre footprint of the Chattanooga Housing Authority. Plans were developed with input from 82% of the more than 2,000 residents in the development and will bring in more than 1,000 new units of housing in downtown Chattanooga.

## CHATTANOOGA

The city of Chattanooga and the Trust for Public Land has received \$34,403,346 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to build a 2.6-mile trail system. The Alton Park Connector will follow an old rail line from the current Riverwalk to a crossing of Broad Street near Alton Park. The project will also expand greenspace and tree canopy as well as improve stormwater and floodplain management using nature-based solutions. More than 3,000 residents will benefit from the new outdoor recreation options in the area.

## COLLIERVILLE

PANTHERx Rare Pharmacy, a specialty pharmacy focused on rare and orphan diseases, is opening its first facility in the state of Tennessee in Collierville. The company will create 120 new jobs for skilled workforce and will provide wages well over the local median. The company plans to invest more than \$4 million in the next two years. Founded in 2011 and based in Pittsburgh, PANTHERx Rare has experienced unprecedented growth in the last decade, growing to become the seventh largest specialty pharmacy in the U.S. A seven-time winner of the MMIT Patient Choice Award, PANTHERx Rare specializes in caring for people living with rare and devastating conditions. There are an estimated 7,000 rare diseases, but only 500 have an FDA-approved treatment. PANTHERx Rare projects that the company will dispense 600,000 prescriptions over the next five years at the Collierville location. The company will be moving into the former Pyramex building at 280 Moore Lane. The location provides over 30,000 square feet in warehousing and dispensing space, along with an 8,000 sq ft of built-in refrigerator/freezer space to house temperature-sensitive medications.

## JEFFERSON CITY

Steel Warehouse officials announced the company's plans to expand in Jefferson City, locating in and retrofitting the former Footwear Industries of Tennessee building. The project plans to create more than 70 new jobs. An investment of nearly \$20 million in innovative equipment will support their strategic partners in the construction equipment, agriculture, lawn and garden, and truck and trailer industries. Steel Warehouse, a leading steel service center, has been operating since 1947, when founder Nathan Lerman opened production in South Bend, Ind. Since its founding, the company has expanded to 15 locations across the U.S., Mexico and Brazil. This is the company's third location in Tennessee with two other operations in Chattanooga and Memphis.

## MEMPHIS

The U.S. Department of Transportation has announced a landmark federal investment of \$400 million to fund half the cost of replacing the 75-year-old Interstate 55 Bridge, also known as the Memphis-Arkansas Bridge in a project known as [America's River Crossing](#). The project will bring together the U.S. Department of Transportation and states of Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi to replace the bridge over the Mississippi that provides vital economic and transportation connections. The states of Tennessee and Arkansas will each be contributing \$250 million toward the project as well. These investments demonstrate a collaborative effort to fund this bridge replacement and

meet infrastructure needs of the region. By 2050, the state-of-the-art bridge will be able to accommodate approximately 64,000 vehicles daily, above the 48,000 it presently accommodates.

## MORRISTOWN

Howmet Aerospace Inc. officials announced the company is expanding its Morristown location, creating 50 new jobs and investing an additional \$27.9 million. The announcement comes in conjunction with the Farnborough International Airshow in the United Kingdom. Headquartered in Pittsburgh, Howmet Aerospace has locations in 13 different countries around the globe and 15 states across the U.S. Howmet Aerospace Inc. is a leading global provider of advanced engineered solutions for the aerospace and transportation industries, creating engine and turbine components, fastening systems, forged wheels and more. The company is also a long-time Tennessee brand, employing more than 900 people in Morristown.

## MORRISTOWN

The city of Morristown has been awarded an \$810,000 HOME Program grant from the Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA) to renovate or rebuild up to 12 single-family homes located within the city limits. The project will benefit very-low and low-income individuals that do not have the financial resources to make needed improvements to their residences. Each home selected under the program will receive repairs that will bring it up to code. If the hard cost of repairs exceed more than 75% of the home's appraised value, the funds will be used for reconstruction. The goal of the program is to address livability and quality of existing homes in a time of need for affordable housing.

## NASHVILLE

The Nashville International Airport (BNA) was ranked as one of the top airports in the world. AirHelp ranked Nashville as the sixth-best U.S. airport and the 18th best airport worldwide. Nashville's airport secured high marks for customer opinions, food options, and shops. The Salt Lake City Airport in Utah took the top spot in North America while the Doha Hamad Airport in Qatar took the top spot overall. Nashville was one of only seven U.S. airports to make the top 20 on the list, including Salt Lake City, Washington Dulles, the Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport, Atlanta-Hartsfield-Jackson Airport, and Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport.

## OAK RIDGE

Construction has begun on a next-generation nuclear reactor in Oak Ridge at the former site of the K-25 Gaseous Diffusion Process Building. The site will house the Hermes Low-Power Demonstration reactor, the first and only Gen IV reactor that has been approved for construction by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. It is the first nuclear build by Kairos Power, who is investing \$100 million and creating 55 jobs as a result of the construction and operation of the project. The facility is expected to come online in 2027 and will eventually succeed second and third-generation reactors presently in operation. Hermes will be the first non-light-water reactor (non-LWR) in the U.S. in more than 50 years and will use differing technologies from previous reactors such as passive safety features, different fuels and coolants, and scaling. Instead of electricity, the reactor will produce nuclear heat for industrial applications. The U.S. Department of Energy has put \$303 million toward the project and the Tennessee Valley Authority will provide engineering, operations, and licensing support.

## Paris hosts block party for Olympics



Those unable to make it to Paris, France, for the 2024 Summer Olympic Games were invited to a block party in the city of Paris, Tennessee, to celebrate instead. Held at the city's Eiffel Tower Park, the event featured local organizations, businesses and residents. In addition to celebrating the Olympic spirit, the celebration brought together residents and visitors with live music, food trucks, entertainment, and fun at the splash pad at the park. A live streaming of the Olympics was also held as part of the festivities.

## Collierville cuts ribbon on fitness center



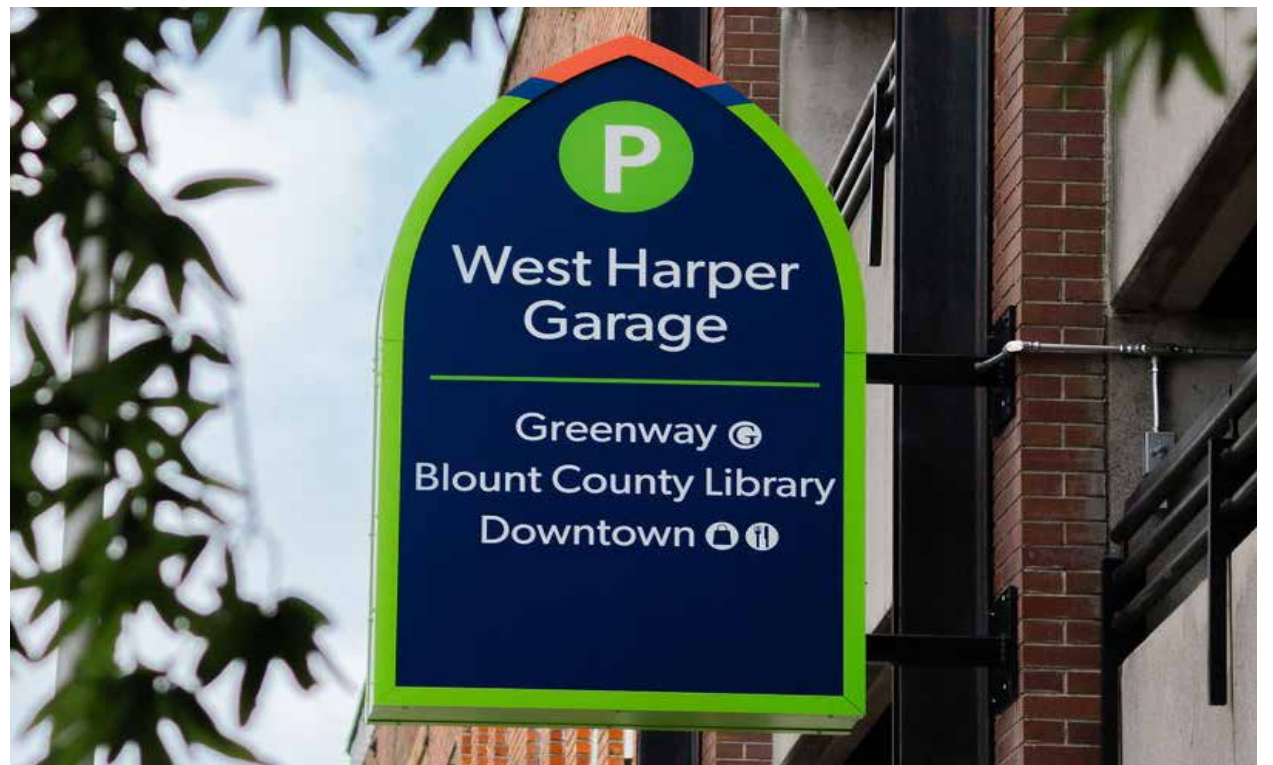
Officials with the Town of Collierville cut the ribbon on the new Collierville Fitness Center. The event, attended by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, town staff, and residents, showcased the newly renovated facility and its expanded offerings. The newly renovated center offers more than 35 weight/body toning stations, 17 cardio stations, 16 spin cycles, and a group fitness studio across the 10,000 square feet of space. The center offers a wide variety of fitness programs including group exercise, personal training, specialized programs, and a gym offering indoor pickleball and a walking track.

## Columbia officials breaks ground on new wastewater treatment facility



The city of Columbia has broken ground on a \$97.5 million new wastewater treatment facility, replacing an aging facility in operation since 1978. The new facility will invest not only in city infrastructure but also environmental sustainability and will serve the community for the next 50 years. State-of-the-art technology and an advanced treatment process will improve system performance with the ability to handle 35 million gallons – 10 million more than the previous facility. There is also room to increase capacity by 50% if and when the need arises. The facility is expected to be completed by April 2027. A portion of the project will be funded through a federal ARP grant.

## Maryville premieres new downtown signage



The city of Maryville has unveiled a series of new branded wayfinding signage aimed to help locals and visitors alike navigate downtown. The \$200,000 signage project was developed to both help direct downtown visitors to parking as well as promote businesses, restaurants, and local landmarks. Of that price tag, \$100,000 came from the city and the rest came from the Tennessee Department of Tourism. The signage includes the city's new branding and logos with specific signs dedicated to highlighting public parking lots and spaces. A total of 25 signs are planned for downtown.

# WAUFORD

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## Goodlettsville's High honored as TCMA Assistant Manager of the Year



Tennessee City Management Association (TCMA) President and Farragut Town Administrator David Smoak, left, presents Goodlettsville Assistant City Manager Julie High with the Assistant City Manager of the Year Award.

Through streamlining data services and putting a focus on customer service, Goodlettsville Assistant City Manager Julie High has implemented numerous changes that have both improved financial standing and created a positive culture for employees and customers in her city.

It is for this reason that the Tennessee City Management Association (TCMA) has recognized Julie High as its Assistant City Manager of the Year for 2024. High was presented the award Tuesday, July 23, 2024, at the 84th Annual Conference of the Tennessee Municipal League (TML) held at the Knoxville Convention Center.

High began her 24 years in public service as director of finance for the city of White House in 2000 before moving to serve as director of finance and administration for Goodlettsville in 2004. She was promoted to assistant city manager in 2012.

As assistant manager, High's duties include the management and oversight of all financial and administrative services of the city, as well as many operational responsibilities including, development of certain ordinances and resolutions, budget development, capital improvement plan administration, and enhancing the customers' experience interacting with the city.

In her role, High continues to improve Goodlettsville's bond rating, improve the city's reserve balance from 15% to 105% of general fund operating expenses in a 10-year period, and continues to earn Goodlettsville the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).

High has also worked to streamline processes, policies, and procedures in ways that improve efficiency, transparency, and save costs. These efforts have improved the city's purchasing process and brought in new and improved budgeting software. She also has successfully researched, implemented, and managed a myriad of important assignments and projects.

One such project is developing the next generation of municipal leaders in the workplace through education, mentoring, and effective succession planning. In addition to improving workplace culture, High has also seen the expansion in the level of customer experience for Goodlettsville residents by expanding hours of operations to creating new ways for customers to conveniently communicate with staff.

"Julie continues to perform a significant role in keeping the city of Goodlettsville in sound financial condition and is constantly researching ways in which to enhance the

performance of all city departments," said Goodlettsville City Manager Tim Ellis. "She has been an advocate for local governments and has affected outcomes that protects the best interest of Goodlettsville as well as every other municipality in Tennessee. Her tireless efforts to the community are far-reaching. Outside her service to local government, Julie has served in various other volunteer and leadership capacities all of which have had positive impacts, such as disaster recovery."

High serves in various leadership roles in Goodlettsville and across the state. She is a municipal advocate, serving on the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service's Advisory Committee and as chairperson of the University of Tennessee Institute of Public Services Advisory Committee.

Locally, High serves as the president of Leadership Goodlettsville and in various volunteer and leadership capacities, including in disaster recovery efforts in the community. An avid sports enthusiast, Julie and her husband Kerry are longtime Tennessee Titans fans and season ticket holders since the Titans came to Nashville. She is a proud mother of two daughters, Lindsay and Lauren, who followed in their mother's footsteps, both graduating from Western Kentucky University.

## Maryville's Doug Strickland receives TCAPWA Murphy Snoderly Award

By LISA HOOD SKINNER  
Tennessee Public Works Magazine

Doug Strickland, heavy equipment operator with the City of Maryville's Engineering and Public Works Department, began answering to the nickname of "Rubber Duck" shortly after he was hired 41 years ago.

This year, he's also called The Murphy Snoderly Award Winner, a prestigious annual TCAPWA statewide award given to a highly deserving Public Works employee. Strickland was presented the award at the TML Annual Conference in Knoxville.

### Origins of the Rubber Duck Nickname

The story goes that one day after work, in his early days with the city, he stepped into the Rocky Top Market.

It was a gray, rainy day so naturally he was wearing his bright yellow raincoat. As he shook off the cold and the rain just inside the gas station, the clerk behind the counter looked him over and told him he looked like a big ol' rubber duck.

Little did she know that she had given Strickland the nickname that he would be known by forevermore at work: "Rubber Duck."

Over the years, he's also become known as an MVP for snow removal efforts, due to his expertise and willingness in clearing the streets of snow and slush.

Strickland's son still reminds him of his eighth birthday party that his dad had to leave early, because Tim Phillips, Assistant Public Works Director, needed him for a long night of snow removal.

Strickland's also the only guy who felt confident enough to maneuver a huge dump truck filled with asphalt down the greenway trails as they were being built. Some of the winding trails were difficult to reach and often required large equipment to be backed in, rather than driven in, for hundreds of feet.

The thought of ending up in



Maryville Heavy Equipment Operator Doug "Rubber Duck" Strickland left, receives the Murphy Snoderly Award from TCAPWA President and Alcoa Public Works Director Shane Snoderly, right.

the nearby creek was enough to discourage most employees from attempting it, but not Strickland. Phillips said back then, and still today, when Strickland is given a task, his response is always, "yes sir, I'll take care of it!"

Phillips said he "appreciates Doug's willingness to go the extra mile. He is a man of his word. If he says he'll take care of it, he will. There's no reason to check later to make sure that it's been done, because it has, 100% of the time."

### Murphy Snoderly Award

Each year the Tennessee Chapter presents the Murphy Snoderly Award to a deserving Public Works employee within the state.

The recipient of this award must be an operation level or "working person" employee. Murphy Snoderly, for whom the award is named, was a long-time engineering and Public Works consultant for the state Municipal Technical Advisory Service.

Snoderly felt the working per-

son, the man or woman who day in and day out picks up garbage or patches streets or performs dozens of other chores at a relatively low pay scale, should be recognized for dedication and service to the community.

This type of dedication is the reason Strickland won the prestigious Murphy Snoderly award earlier this year. Guidelines say the award recipient must be "an operation level or 'working person' employee."

### Oh, the Stories He Can Tell

Currently, Strickland's main responsibility is sweeping Maryville's streets. And after 20 years as the street sweeper, Strickland certainly has his share of stories to tell.

For example, one night a driver ran right into the back of his street sweeper on Broadway just after she left a downtown bar. Now, Strickland was accustomed to sweeping up the glass and debris left behind from accident scenes, but he'd never before been the "cause" of an accident.

Another favorite story is the time he was called to sweep up thousands of soybeans that had been spilled on US 411 near the old Co-op. He says it was "like a sea of marbles on the road. Rolling everywhere, more of the soybeans rolled away from the truck than were swept up. It took forever to get the mess cleaned up."

And a few weeks later, there was a healthy crop of soybeans growing at the Op-Center where he empties out his hopper.

On another occasion, a lady called and said the cul-de-sac in front of her home was full of white worms, and they were raising a stink.

Sure enough, the street was littered with thousands of worms who had crawled out of her yard and moved into the circle where they had died and were decaying! Just another day at the office for Strickland.

Quite a few folks in his department had a hand in writing his award nomination, ending it with "thankfully, we can all count on

Doug to keep our streets neat and tidy because he's a man of his word. And as always, his response is, "yes sir, I'll take care of it."

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Ed Stewart, ChFC, CLU, CF  
Financial Advisor



## Dyersburg's John Holden is 2024 TML Mayor of the Year



Dyersburg Mayor John Holden delivers remarks after being announced as the 2024 Mayor of the Year.

### MAYOR, from Page 1

consistent sales tax revenue increases for the city each year since fiscal year 2018-19 with a 11.12% sales tax revenue increase in fiscal year 2022-23 and the lowest unemployment rate in city history. Additionally, he has seen the city's debt reduced from \$15 million to under \$5 million and helped Dyersburg secure an A2 bond rating from Moody's.

Dyersburg City Recorder Scott Ball said Holden has a way of making all of his accomplishments look easy. "The work of a mayor is often not appreciated and is frequently criticized," Ball said. "However, Mayor Holden makes the position look seamless. His leadership is an inspiration to others across many areas of public service."

Holden's work does not stop in Dyersburg. After the city experienced three of the four worst flooding incidents in its history, he became an advocate for disaster preparedness and has worked to raise awareness of the particular flooding issues facing rural West Tennessee, partnering with TDEC and TN Flood Ready.

Holden has also been a long-standing and enthusiastic member of the Tennessee Municipal League, serving on the TML Board of Directors as a director at large from 2011 to 2013, as Second Vice President in 2014 to 2015, First Vice President from 2015 to 2016, as League President in 2016-2017, and most recently as a past president from 2017 to 2022. He serves on the TML Past Presidents' Council and has also served on the board of Public Entity Partners since 2016.

Outside of his role as mayor, Holden served as an usher at the First Baptist Church of Dyersburg, and is a member of several local boards and organizations including the Dyersburg-Dyer Chamber of Commerce, West Tennessee Healthcare Dyersburg Hospital, Dyersburg Noon Rotary Club, YMCA Of Dyer County, Dyersburg State Community College Alumni Association, United Way of West Tennessee, WestStar Leadership Program, Northwest Tennessee Development District, and West Tennessee Mayor's Association.

He also volunteers with numerous local organizations from the Great American Cleanup to Feed the Need to Chimes for Charity, to the Dyersburg City Schools Early Literacy For Families (ELF) summer program, and countless others. He also holds the annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, which brings together citizens, community leaders, and clergy from all religions, races, and ethnicities.

Of course, Mayor Holden's Friday nights are reserved for Dyersburg High School football games where he cheers on his alma mater at home, away, at playoff games, and district tournament games, even pitching in on the sidelines when needed. A 1978 graduate of Dyersburg High, Holden attended Dyersburg State Community College and then earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Tennessee.

At the end of the day, Holden's greatest accomplishment can be summed up in three words – Whitey and Walker – his children, who are both students at Ole Miss.

## Franklin's Barnhill receives Bob Kirk Local Government Leadership Award



Franklin city officials celebrate Barnhill's achievement. From left to right, Assistant City Administrator Kristine Brock, City Administrator Eric Stuckey, Alderman Clyde Barnhill, Mayor Dr. Ken Moore, and Executive Assistant Kayln Helton.

### KIRK, from Page 1

and dedication to public service is an example not only to his fellow board members but also citizens of Franklin.

According to Franklin Mayor Dr. Ken Moore, Barnhill's years of service to the city will continue to impact Franklin for years to come.

"Franklin is a better place to live, work, and raise a family because of Clyde's contributions as a conservative financial planner, a considerate land planner, a community contributor, and an all-round community leader," Moore said. "His impact on Franklin is immeasurable. His record of service is as a problem solver and a budget expert

will leave a lasting effect for years to come."

During his tenure on the Franklin BOMA, Barnhill has served in several leadership roles including chairman of finance committee, chairman of the pension committee, vice-mayor, and a member of the planning commission. He is also a long-time member of the Tennessee Municipal League.

A native of Williamson County and a graduate of Franklin High School, Barnhill graduated from the University of Tennessee with a bachelor's degree in business administration and served in the U.S. Army. He spent 39 years working for CPS/Plus Mark Corp

in Franklin before retiring and then becoming executive director of the J.L. Clay Senior Citizens Center for eight years.

He has two children: Shannon, an attorney with the state of Tennessee and Susan, a teacher with the Williamson County School System, as well as two grandchildren.

Previous recipients of the Bob Kirk Local Leadership Award include former Columbia Vice Mayor Dr. Christa Martin (2018), Jackson Councilman Johnny Dodd (2019), former Franklin Alderwoman Margaret Martin (2021), Germantown Alderwoman Mary Anne Gibson (2022), and Collegedale Commissioner Katie Lamb (2023).

## White House's Gerald Herman lauded as 2024 TCMA City Manager of the Year

### TCMA, from Page 1

residential growth of the community. To keep White House an attractive place to live, work, and play, Herman has worked to ensure the city's annual budget funds important capital improvement projects that will have the largest positive impact on as many citizens as possible.

The city has been able to purchase an aerial ladder truck, engine, and rescue pumper for the city's fire department. To expand needed water and wastewater infrastructure, he has overseen an expansion of the wastewater treatment plant, irrigation and headworks improvements, four force main upgrades and extensions, three conversions from vacuum to gravity systems, and three major lift station replacements and rehabs.

Road and sidewalk infrastructure improvements to increase White House's walkability are another of Herman's major goals. He has added multiple sidewalks

that have connected the town center, business areas, medical complexes, and greenways. Roadway improvement under his leadership include the widening of Highway 76 to Interstate 65, new turn lanes, and improvements to allow expanded access for industrial developments. Herman is presently managing 22 road improvement projects in various stages across White House.

He has led the charge to create the city's new Byrum Park as well as renovations to the municipal park including a nature trail, splash pad, amphitheater, playground, dog park, tennis courts, and new maintenance and restroom facilities. The city's soccer complex has also received LED lighting upgrades, additional lighting, and a new field. Herman has also overseen the remodel of the visitor center and museum located at the historic White House from which the city gets its name as well as the building of a new library and

community center.

Currently underway is the construction of a new, 700,000-square-foot recreation building featuring multiple gyms, a walking track, fitness center, game room, and multi-purpose room. By phasing projects over multiple fiscal years and ensuring excellence project management, Herman has been able to make important capital improvements in a way that keeps the city budget balanced.

The Tennessee City Management Association is a professional association of appointed city managers and administrators and assistants that focuses on providing continuing education to its 130 members.

Managers are appointed by their elected boards to oversee the day-to-day operations of their cities or towns. Professional administrators work in partnership with their elected boards to create excellence in local governance.

## No loan is too large or too small



The Town of Obion recently used TMBF's alternative loan program for a \$150,000 capital outlay note issue to finance the construction of a new public works building. Pictured are City Recorder Jana Fluty, Mayor Rodney Underwood and TMBF Marketing Representative Justin Hanson.



The City of Decherd used TMBF's alternative loan program to borrow \$701,466 to finance a new pumper truck for the Decherd Fire Department. The financing was provided by Citizens Tri-County Bank, a local bank in Decherd. Pictured with TMBF Marketing Representative Kevin Krushenski (right) are Fire Chief Chuck Williams and three of the city's firemen.



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# PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

**Dale Armour** has been selected to serve as the new chief of police for the town of Nolensville after the retirement of current Chief Roddy Parker later this year. Armour has more than 40 years' experience in law enforcement, serving on the local, state, and federal level. He began his career with Murfreesboro Police Department as a patrol officer then transitioned to the Tennessee Department of Safety as an investigator. He joined TBI in 1996 as a special agent and later assistant special agent in charge, serving as program director TBI's Most Wanted Program. Later, he was selected as a US Marshal Task Force member and served as a Special Federal Officer with the FBI Violent Crimes Task Force. In 2018, Armour was appointed as chief of police for Algood. He also holds both associate's and bachelor's degrees in criminal justice.



Dale Armour

Chattanooga's Howard High School, Freeman studied history at the University of Chattanooga and teaching at Tennessee State University. He became a programs analyst for Chattanooga and also worked at the Northeast Florida Community Action Agency, Urban Development Corporation, and most recently as a revitalization specialist with the Lyndhurst Foundation. Freeman was remembered by Mayor Tim Kelly and former Mayor Andy Berke as an inspirational leader who was always ready to tackle difficult issues head-on.



Moses Freeman

**Joe Pereira** has been selected as a new fire education specialist for the Collierville Fire Department. Pereira comes to Collierville from the Memphis Fire Department and recently achieved his paramedic certification from Dyersburg State Community College. He will work with Collierville on a part-time basis while continuing to work for the Memphis Fire Department. Prior to relocating to Tennessee, he lived in the Seattle area where he worked as a substitute teacher and fire instructor at the Washington State Fire Academy.



Joe Pereira

**Jim Colvin** has been selected as the chief of police for the city of Brentwood and will take over from current Chief Richard Hickey following his retirement in February 2025. Colvin presently serves as the assistant police chief for the city of Brentwood and will serve as the fifth chief of police for the city. Colvin has been with BPD since December 2004 and has served as a patrol sergeant, detective, patrol lieutenant, and captain in the past 20 years. He has served as assistant chief since 2022. He holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Tennessee at Martin and a master's degree in emergency management from Jacksonville State University. He is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy.



Jim Colvin

**Phillip Fuqua** has been selected as the new chief of police for Martin, taking over from retiring Chief Don Teal. Fuqua previously served as the department's assistant chief of police and began his career in law enforcement at the Martin Police Department in 2001. He holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Bethel University and a master's in criminal justice from Bethel University. He is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy.



Phillip Fuqua

**Lyle Russell** has become the community engagement officer for the city of Tullahoma. Russell served as deputy parks and recreation director and city forester for the past eight years. He will take over the community engagement officer position from Emma Cook, who is now director of marketing and strategic initiatives for the Tullahoma Utility Authority. He holds an associate's degree from Motlow State Community College and an undergraduate certification in wildlife, fish, and wildlands science management from the American Military University.



Lyle Russell

**Frankie Dakin** has been selected as the new city manager of Millington. Dakin is presently serving as deputy chief of staff for the Shelby County government for the past two years. He has worked with the Shelby County government for nearly six years, including roles as press secretary, and special assistant to the mayor for community affairs. Dakin also served Millington as an alderman for six years, and was the youngest elected alderman in the city's history. He holds a bachelor's degree in political economy and public policy from Rhodes College.



Frankie Dakin

**James Lewellen** has been selected as a new municipal management consultant with the University of Tennessee's Municipal Technical Advisory Service's (UT-MTAS) West Tennessee office. Lewellen comes to MTAS from Collierville, where he spent more than 25 years as town administrator. Serving in the role since 1995, Lewellen served under three mayors and oversaw the growth of the town in population, budget, and development. Before coming to Collierville, Lewellen was the director of the planning and development department for Southaven, Miss., and chief planner in the city of Germantown's Department of Development. Lewellen holds a bachelor's degree in education and a master's in public policy and public administration from Mississippi State University.



James Lewellen

**James Webb**, retired police chief and recently elected councilman for the city of Loudon, died unexpectedly on June 30 at the age of 62. Webb had retired after 40 years of law enforcement service in the area. Described as a "dedicated public servant," his career with the Loudon Police Department began in 1987 and ended with a retirement in 2022, serving as chief of the department between 2003 and 2022. Webb had been elected to serve on the city council in 2022 and was up for re-election this year.



James Webb

**Moses Freeman**, former Chattanooga city councilman, city employee and local civil rights icon, died Aug. 4, 2024, at the age of 85. Freeman held the District 8 seat on the Chattanooga City Council from 2013 to 2017, serving as chair of the council for a year between 2016 and 2017. A graduate of

**Sue Matthews** has been selected as the new finance director for the city of Lakeland. Matthews joins the city after having served as director of finance for the Memphis Botanic Gardens where she oversaw a \$6 million capital improvement campaign and a three-year strategic plan to update grounds on the 96-acre urban oasis. In 2021, she was named a Memphis Business Journal Nonprofit CFO of the Year honoree.



Sue Matthews

**Paul Young**, mayor of Memphis, will join mayors and senior municipal leaders from across the globe for the eighth class of the [Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative](#). The initiative is a yearlong professional management training program established by Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Harvard Kennedy School and Harvard Business School. Young is one of 39 mayors from the U.S. and around the globe selected for the program whose alumni include U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg and Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass. In addition to participating in the program, mayors can also bring in a Bloomberg Harvard City Hall fellow for up to two years.



Paul Young

## TML swears in 2024-25 Board



Members of the 2024-25 TML Board of Directors were sworn in during the annual business meeting held in Knoxville at the 84th TML Annual Conference.

### BOARD from Page 1

ville Mayor Indya Kincannon, Memphis Mayor Paul Young, and Metro Nashville Mayor Freddie O'Connell.

The four at-large directors were nominated by a six-member nominating committee composed of municipal officials statewide. They were then elected for a one-year term by a majority vote from members in attendance at the business meeting. Those directors are: Roland "Trey" Dykes, Newport Mayor; Johnny Dodd, Jackson City Council; Tim Ellis, Goodlettsville City Manager, and Joe Pitts, Clarksville Mayor.

The eight district directors, representing their section of the state, were nominated and elected during district caucuses. They

are: District 1: Darrell Duncan, Kingsport Alderman; District 2: Gary Chesney, Morristown Mayor; District 3: Stefanie Dalton, Red Bank Vice Mayor; District 4: Keith Morrison, Algood City Administrator; District 5: Ann Schneider Williams, Springfield Mayor; District 6: Jessica Salamida, Nolensville Vice Mayor; District 7: Blake Walley, Savannah City Manager; and District 8: Bethany Huffman, Millington Alderwoman.

Kay Senter, Morristown Councilmember and Chairman of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund also sits on the board. A representative from an affiliate organization is also a voting board member, David Smoak, Farragut city administrator and president of the Tennessee City Management Association.

## Our grassroots must be stronger and more people must be engaged

### TML from Page 1

fits program has been created, and efforts are on-going for stronger collaborations with the Tennessee City Management Association and UT MTAS.

These are to name just a few, but one of the most significant efforts is the appointment of TML's "Visioning Committee." This diverse group of officials is putting everything on the table—our name, our brand, our funding, our mission, our governance, and on and on, all to chart a pathway of how we position TML to be the most respected, strongest voice of cities from now to the year 2040.

We've made considerable changes in almost four years to the business side of our organization. And while we will keep all these things in motion and moving forward, there is one glaring area where we must turn our attention—our grassroots political strength.

If we are to have the organization we want, need and must have in the coming decades, our grassroots must be stronger and more people must be engaged.

A simple Google search will yield sources from Forbes to the LA Times, regarding the rate of decline in association membership since the pandemic. They range from 40-67%. But the often political adversaries of our cities—super PACs, industry groups, and new



TML Executive Director Anthony Haynes delivers remarks at the annual business meeting.

political movements high jacking traditional political parties are all growing. It sounds discouraging. But our challenge is no more unsettling than the risks that faced our predecessors during their times, only the issues are different.

In closing, TML's staff will thoroughly and continually analyze where our strengths and weaknesses lie. But in the end, it takes local officials committing the time for making the best organization possible, especially when it comes to petitioning our government and, speaking in biblical terms, 'spreading the gospel.'

We all know the job that has to get done. Let's get to it!

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# Elections held in 55 municipalities to coincide with state, federal primaries

Elections were held in 55 municipalities on Aug. 1, 2024, to coincide with state and federal primary elections.

In addition to elected mayors and members of councils, commissions, and boards, three municipalities – Bartlett, Germantown, and Oak Ridge – held elections solely for the election of judges while Johnson City held an election to elect a juvenile court clerk and determine the result of four municipal referendums – all of which were rejected.

## ALEXANDRIA

Newcomer Beth Tripp ran unopposed and was elected with 88 complimentary votes to the seat previously held by Curtis Rutter. Two write-in candidates failed to outbid her for the seat with Rodney Lawson and Rusty Bradshaw obtaining 64 and 18 write-in votes respectively.

For the three open alderman seats, Jonathon Tripp will be joined by two write-in candidates Luke Prichard and Bobby Simpson. Prichard led the vote count with 97 followed by Tripp with 92 and Simpson with 62.

In the unexpired race, Jeff Ford was the lone qualifying candidate but will be joined by write-in candidates incumbent Alderman Bobbie Ford and former mayor Curits Rutter. Ford led the total with 79 followed by Ford with 39 and Rutter with 16.

## ALGOOD

Newcomer Roger Williams will be joined by incumbent Luke Hill, narrowly beating out incumbent Ronald S. Graves and newcomer Tim McPherson for the two open council seats in Algood.

Williams earned 220 votes, followed by Hill with 149, Graves with 148, and McPherson with 93.

## ARLINGTON

Incumbent Mike Wissman ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Arlington with 1,519 complimentary votes.

Newcomer Dwight Barker defeated challenger Jordan D. Hinders 978-553 for the Ward 2 seat previously held by Russell Wiseman.

Both incumbent candidates for the Position 1 and Position 3 alderman seats ran unopposed and were re-elected. Larry M. Harmon kept the Position 1 seat with 1,489 votes and Jeff McKee kept the Position 3 seat with 1,456.

## ASHLAND CITY

Newcomer Gerald Greer defeated incumbent mayor J.T. Smith and challenger Kody Night for the mayoral seat in Ashland City. Greer earned 340 votes to Smith's 304 and Knight's 26.

In the Ward 1 race, incumbent Michael W. Smith fended off challenger Floyd Beal with 369 votes to 244 votes.

Running unopposed, newcomer Nicole L. Binkley won the Ward 2 seat previously held by Greer while incumbent Chris Kerrigan retained the Ward 3 seat.

## BAILEYTON

Newcomer Jamie Tilson ran unopposed and was elected mayor of Baileyton. The seat was previously held by William K. Kerr.

Incumbent aldermen Steve Hall and Sherrie L. Ottinger ran unopposed and were re-elected to their seats while no candidate qualified for the unexpired alderman seat.

## BARTLETT

Incumbent Dan Brown ran unopposed and was re-elected as the municipal judge for Bartlett's Division 2 with 4,771 complimentary votes.

## BAXTER

Incumbent John Martin was the sole qualifying candidate but was defeated by write-in candidate former Police Chief Danny Holmes by 176-123. Incumbents Jeff Herald and Dustin J. Stanton also ran unopposed and were re-elected to the two open council seats with Stanton earning 174 votes and Herald earning 173.

## BELL BUCKLE

Incumbent Betsy Wheeler will be joined by newcomer Tina Johns after they both ran unopposed and were elected to the two open alderman seats.

## CHAPEL HILL

Incumbents Craig McPherson and Joe Sedlak will be joined by newcomer Hawken King on the Chapel Hill Board of Aldermen, fending off challenges from David Breniser and Ben Hudson. King led the vote count with 121 followed by McPherson with 99, Sedlak with 92,



Hudson with 68, and Breniser with 43. Vice Mayor Marion Joyce did not seek re-election.

## CHARLESTON

Incumbent Donna McDermott will be joined by newcomer David Lattimore on the Charleston City Commission after defeating a field of challengers including Melissa L. Kersey, Christopher A. Scoggins, Stanton Andy Scoggins, and Matthew C. Riley.

Lattimore earned the most votes with 76 followed by McDermott with 51, Wiley with 49, C. Scoggins with 26, Kersey with 13, and S. Scoggins with 8. Incumbent Christopher Dunn did not seek re-election for his seat.

Faye Callaway ran unopposed and was elected to the single, unexpired term on the Charleston City Commission with 98 complimentary votes.

## CLEVELAND

Newcomer Dan Moore defeated challenger Warbrit Russell Lowery for the At-Large seat on the Cleveland City Council. Moore earned 2,389 votes to Lowery's 705. The seat was previously held by longtime Vice Mayor Avery Johnson.

In the District 5 seat, Duane Goff defeated fellow challengers Daniel F. Jones and Mark Gravelle for the seat previously held by Dale R. Hughes. Goff earned 506 votes to Gravelle's 423 and Jones' 97.

Two candidates ran unopposed: Tom Cassada in District 3 and David May Jr. In District 4. Both were incumbents with Cassada receiving 732 complimentary votes and May receiving 629.

## DOWELLTOWN

No candidate qualified for either the mayoral seat or the two alderman seats.

## ELKTON

Incumbent Ryan Gilland ran unopposed and was elected to the unexpired mayoral term.

Incumbents Payton Blade, Steve Scott, and Bobby L. Sherrell will be joined by newcomer Bryse Blade on the board of alderman. Scott led the vote count with 34 followed by P. Blade with 27 and B. Blade and Sherrell both earning 26 votes.

## ENGLEWOOD

Incumbent Ton R. Hawn ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Englewood while incumbents Dwayne "Wally" Arrowood and Chris Cochran ran unopposed and were re-elected to the two open city commission seats.

## ENVILLE

Incumbent Melinda Johnston ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor with 19 complimentary votes.

Five candidates ran unopposed and were elected to the five open seats on the Enville Board of Aldermen. Incumbents Shane Johnston, Wanda Kaye Ritter, and Nickalaus Weatherington will be joined by newcomers James Parker Herndon and Molly M. Marchbanks on the council, filling two vacant seats.

Marchbanks led the vote count with 22 followed by Herndon with 21, Ritter with 18, Weatherington with 17, and Johnston with 8.

## ERIN

For the Ward 1 Alderman seat, incumbent Jackqlyn Largent Smith fended off challenger Wesley Mitchum by one vote with a count of 20-19.

Three races were unopposed. Newcomer Betsy Ligon received 16 complimentary votes for the Ward 2 seat, incumbent Jacqueline Parchman received 28 complimentary votes in Ward 3, Cary Rye received 29 complimentary votes for the unexpired Ward 3 term, and no candidate qualified for the Ward 4 seat.

## ETOWAH

Incumbent Diana Elrod will be joined by newcomer Steve Fain after fending off a challenge from Brian Ragsdale in the Etowah City Commission race. Elrod led with 138

votes to Fain's 126 and Ragsdale's 74 votes.

## FARRAGUT

Newcomer Alexander J. Cain defeated fellow challenger Jeffrey Devlin 1,074-702 for the Ward 1 seat in Farragut.

Incumbent Drew Burnette held off challenger Randal Roberts 1,134-848 in the Ward 2 seat.

## FRIENDSVILLE

In the Friendsville City Commission race, both incumbents Steven Cardwell and Margaret Maze ran unopposed and were re-elected. Cardwell received 108 complimentary votes while Maze received 61.

## GAINESBORO

Incumbent mayor Lloyd Williams ran unopposed and was re-elected with 83 complimentary votes.

Newcomers Tom Goetz, Deborah Whitaker, and Beth Young defeated incumbent Nancy Pruett for the three open alderman seats. Whitaker led the vote count with 81 followed by Goetz with 76, Young with 72, and Pruett with 66. Eric Bartholomew and Ricky Head did not seek re-election.

## GERMANTOWN

Rhea Clift defeated fellow challenger Justin Gee 4,085-2,391 to take the municipal judge division 1 unexpired term seat. Clift will fill the remaining six years in the seat that was previously held by her father, Judge Raymond Clift Jr.

## GREENBRIER

Incumbent Lanny Adcock ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Greenbrier.

Incumbent alderman Jeff DeLong fended off challenger Toni Carver for the Ward 2 seat 69-33.

Two incumbent aldermen also ran unopposed and were re-elected to their seats: Donald S. Toohey for Ward 1 and Bill Deaver for Ward 3.

## GREENEVILLE

Incumbent Calvin "Cal" Doty defeated former mayor W.T. Daniels for the mayoral seat in Greeneville. Doty earned 1,154 votes to Daniels; 783.

Meanwhile, incumbent Tim Teague will be joined by newcomer Matt Hensley after defeated incumbent Scott Bullington and challengers Jonathan Sevier Cave and Petter E. Higgins for the two open Council Ward 2 seats. Teague led with 396 votes followed by Hensley with 388, Bullington with 318, Cave with 219, and Higgins with 170.

Doug DeBusk ran unopposed and was elected water commissioner.

## HARRIMAN

Incumbent Wayne Best ran unopposed and was re-elected as mayor of Harriman.

The three open city council seats were secured by incumbents Timothy A. Johnson and Brian Frost along with newcomer Cheryl Wester-Laxton, defeating challenges from Hunter Brooke Pathirana and Thomas Utter.

Wester-Laxton led the vote count with 554 followed by Johnson with 442, Frost with 433, Pathirana with 200, and Utter with 145.

## HENDERSON

Newcomer Terry F. Bell defeated Alderman Mark A. Barber for the mayoral seat previously held by Bobby King. Bell earned 463 votes to Barber's 300.

In the Henderson Alderman race, incumbents Jason Rhodes, Michael Phelps, and Buel Maness fended off newcomers Sheila Eckard and Norma Cox Meissner to obtain the three open seats. Rhodes led the vote count with 550 followed by Phelps with 479, Maness with 460, Eckard with 249, and Meissner with 216.

## JOHNSON CITY

Ginger Whiston ran unopposed and was elected juvenile court clerk

in Johnson City.

Voters also rejected all four proposed charter changes. The first would have allowed the city to save \$5,000 by allowing meetings to be advertised only once rather than twice and failed by 84 votes (2,412-2,328). The second would have lowered the number of government readings on actions from three to two and failed 2,769 to 1,933. The third would have given the city manager the authority to appoint temporary employees for up to 90 days and failed 2,790-1,191. The fourth would have moved elections from November to August and failed 2,731 to 1,903.

## KINGSPORT

Alderman Paul Montgomery defeated fellow alderman Collette George and challengers Sara E. Buchanan and Tim Sanders for the mayoral seat held by Patrick Shull. Montgomery led the vote count with 3,326 followed by George with 2,625, Buchanan with 1,240, and Sanders with 589.

Incumbents Darrell Duncan and James Phillips will be joined by Morris Baker on the board of aldermen, fending off challenger Julie Byers. Tommy Olterman did not seek re-election. Duncan led the vote count with 5,244 followed by Baker with 4,587, Phillips with 4,405, and Byers with 4,100.

## LEWISBURG

In the Ward 5 City Council Race, newcomer Shannon Crutcher defeated incumbent Joseph Bradford 99-73.

Newcomer Linda Thomas also ran unopposed and was elected to the Ward 1 seat in Lewisburg previously held by Patty Parsons, who did not seek re-election.

## LINDEN

Three incumbents ran unopposed and were re-elected in Linden. Billy Ray Yarbro kept the Ward 1 seat, Bart Young in Ward 2, and Joey Mackin in Ward 3.

## LOBELVILLE

Incumbents Steve Hester and J.B. Trull ran unopposed and were re-elected to their aldermen seats in Lobelville.

## LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

Five incumbents ran unopposed and were re-elected to the Lookout Mountain Town Commission. Walker Jones led the vote count with 514, followed by Karen Leavengood with 487, Joseph Hailey with 483, Jim Bentley with 469, and William Valadez with 456.

## LYNNVILLE

Former alderman Tim Turner defeated challenger Gordon Gregory for the Lynnville mayoral seat previously held by Robert E. White. Turner earned 59 votes to Gregory's 37.

Incumbent Kerry Duke will be joined by newcomer Keela Hood after defeating incumbent Carnell McCandless and challenger William Morse for the two open alderman seats. Hood led the vote count with 77 followed by Duke with 46, Morse with 27, and McCandless with 20.

## MANCHESTER

Newcomer Joey Hobbs fended off former alderman Bob Bellamy and challenger Bill Nickels for the mayoral seat previously held by Marilyn Howard. Hobbs earned 661 votes to Nickels' 464 and Bellamy's 309.

In Manchester's alderman race, incumbents Julie Anderson and Ryan French will be joined by James Threet, defeating challengers Joe Pat Cope, John Revice Fletcher, Shannon Fletcher, Harold Jones, and Wilma Thomas for the three open seats. Threet took the seat previously held by Bellamy.

Anderson led the vote count with 686 followed by French with 507, Threet with 490, Thomas with 487. Cope, J. Fletcher, S. Fletcher, and Jones

## MICHIE

Alderman Jed Baker ran unopposed and was elected to the Michie mayoral seat previously held by Anthony Smith with 44 complimentary votes.

Incumbent Wesley Rainey will also be joined by newcomer Robert Dunn for the two open alderman seats. Dunn received 42 votes while Rainey received 36.

## MINOR HILL

Newcomer Roger Thompson was elected to one of the two open alderman seats in Minor Hill with 23 votes. No other candidate qualified.

## MONTEREY

Alderman Alex Garcia defeated newcomer Jeremiah Bowman 167 to 104 for the Monterey mayoral seat. Mark Farley had been appointed to serve the term as interim after the death of sitting Mayor Nathan Walker from cancer in 2022.

In the alderman Ward 1 seat previously held by Garcia, Kevin Peters defeated Spencer Delk with 164 votes to 92.

For the Ward 2 seat, newcomer Larry D. Bennett defeated appointed incumbent Mark Farley 144 to 130. In the Ward 4 seat, challenger Jamie Phillips also unseated incumbent Charles Looper with 160 votes to 109 votes.

A decision will be made after reviewing the town charter for the Ward 3 race as both incumbent James Foster and newcomer Cecilia A. Paulsen both secured 135 votes.

## MOSHEIM

Incumbent Rick Cunningham ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Mosheim.

Three incumbents also ran uncontested for alderman seats. Stacy R. Carter and James A. Foshie will retain their alderman seats while Matthew D. Solomon will continue the unexpired alderman term.

## MURFREESBORO

Incumbents Bill Shacklett, Kirt Wade, and Shawn Wright will return to the Murfreesboro City Council, fending off challenges from Kelly Northcutt and Matt Herriman. Wright led the vote count with 5,234 followed by Shacklett with 4,701, Wade with 4,517, Northcutt with 4,309, and Herriman with 4,249.

## NEW JOHNSONVILLE

Alderman Nathan Wayne Woods unseated incumbent David Cagle and defeated challenger Shane Daniel for the mayoral seat in New Johnsonville. Woods received 162 votes followed by Cagle with 105 and Daniel with 102.

For the city council race, newcomers James Corbitt, Ron Gingerich, and Chris Browning defeated both incumbent Charles Bradford and Cody Keslinger for the three open seats. Corbitt led the vote count with 220 followed by Browning and Gingerich with 193 then Bradford with 172 and Keslinger with 98.

Incumbents Justin Nichols and Stella Matney did not seek re-election to their seats.

## OAK HILL

Incumbents David DeMarco and Winston Evans ran unopposed and were re-elected to the Oak Hill City Commission. DeMarco earned 308 complimentary votes while Evans earned 304.

## OAK RIDGE

James T. "Jim" Normand ran unopposed and will serve as city judge in Oak Ridge. Normand had been appointed interim judge following the retirement of Judge Robert McNees III.

## PEGRAM

Newcomer and former Pegram alderman Charles Morehead ran unopposed and was e-elected to the mayoral seat previously held by John Louallen, who did not seek re-election.

Incumbent Bob Sanders will be joined by newcomer Miranda Montgomery on the two open alderman seats in Pegram, fending off challengers Christopher Crump, Randy Fiedler, Leah Louallen, and Hope Tinsley.

Montgomery led the vote count with 275 followed by Sanders with 217, Louallen with 215, Crump with 120, Tinsley with 42, and Fiedler with 27. Incumbent Robert "Bo" Sanders III did not seek re-election to his seat.

## PETERSBURG

Three candidates ran unopposed and were elected as aldermen in Petersburg. Incumbent Kevin J. Coffield will be joined by newcomers Charles Gatlin and Shantel Gatlin on the board. Coffield received 45 votes, C. Gatlin received 44 votes while S. Gatlin received 43.

## RIPLEY

Incumbent Craig Fitzhugh fended off challengers Kaye Jordon and Dorisha L. Wright for the mayoral seat in Ripley. Fitzhugh earned 612 followed by Jordon with 423 and Wright with 98.

Newcomer Kenneth Long unseated incumbent Paul Hankins 256-243 for the Alderman Ward 1, Position A seat. Newcomer Chakita Keeley also unseated incumbent

See **ELECTIONS** on Page 7



# Tennessee voters decide results in General Assembly primaries, elections

While most General Assembly races will go on to the general election in November, several were determined by primary votes.

Two Tennessee State Senate races and 30 Tennessee State House races were determined by ballots cast in the primary.

## SENATE

In races for the Tennessee State Senate, two incumbent Republicans were unchallenged in their primary and will be unchallenged in the general election, meaning their seats were assured: Page Walley in District 26 and Paul W. Rose in District 32.

Meanwhile, in District 24, incumbent John D. Stevens defeated fellow Republican challenger Charles "Charlie" Cooper in the primary. Stevens received 12,486 votes to Cooper's 4,155. Stevens will face no challengers in November and so is assured a seat.

Neither the Republican nor Democratic candidate in District 14, 16, 20, 22, or 28 faced a primary opponent and both will proceed to the November general election. Other results include:

**District 2:** Republican Tom Hatcher defeated challengers John G. Pullias and Bryan Richey in the primary with Hatcher receiving 12,265 votes, Richey 3,239, and Pullias 1,345. Hatcher will go on to face Democrat Patti Young. The seat was previously held by Republican Art Swann.

**District 4:** Bobby Harshbarger narrowly defeated incumbent Jon C. Lundberg for the Republican nomination with Harshbarger receiving 11,540 votes to Lundberg's 10,668.



Residents went to the polls across Tennessee on Aug. 1, 2024 to decide federal, state, and local races.

Harshbarger will face independent Dalia M. Price in November.

**District 6:** Republican incumbent Becky Duncan Massey defeated challenger Monica Irvine 10,085-6,792 and will face Democrat Domoonica Bryan in the general election.

**District 8:** Republican challenger Jessie Seal defeated incumbent Frank S. Niceley with Seal earning 10,200 votes to Niceley's 8,132. Seal will face Democrat R.E. Ellison in November.

**District 10:** Incumbent Republican Todd Gardenhire fended off challenger Edwar LeCompte with 8,765 votes to LeCompte's 2,075. Gardenhire will face Democrat Missy Crutchfield in the general election.

**District 12:** Incumbent Ken Yager defeated challenger Teena Hedrick in the Republican primary with Yager earning 15,654 votes to Hedrick's 4,587. Yager will face Democrat Curtis Kelly and Independent Charles Hutson II in the fall.

**District 18:** Republican incumbent Ferrell Haile defeated challenger Chris Spencer with Haile earning 9,684 votes to Spencer's 6,683. Haile will go on to face Democrat Walter S. Chandler and independents Laura A. Black and John Gentry in November.

**District 30:** Democrat Incumbent Sara P. Kyle defeated challenger Erika Stotts Pearson with Kyle earning 6,764 votes to Pearson's 3,156. Kyle will face independent Mitchell Morrison in November.

## HOUSE

Of the 99 seats in the Tennessee State House, 30 races were determined either because candidates ran unopposed completely or defeated primary challengers and will face no challenge from the opposing party in November. Candidates who won their races in seven House districts will face no challenger in the fall.

Incumbents in 23 districts did not face incumbents in their primaries and will not face challengers in November. These include John Crawford, R-1; Bud Husley, R-2; Gary W. Hicks, R-9; Rick Eldridge, R-10; Andrew Farmer, R-17; Dave Wright; R-19; Monty Fritts, R-32; Dennis Powers, R-36; Vincent Dixie, D-54; John Ray Clemmons, D-55; Harold Love Jr., D-58; Caleb Hemmer, D-59; Pat Marsh, R-62; Kirk Haston, R-72; Jay Reedy, R-74; Brock Martin, R-79; Rick Moody, R-81; Chris Hurt, R-82; Jesse Chism, D-85; Karen Camper, D-87; Gloria Johnson, D-90; Torrey Harris, D-9; Kevin Vaughn, R-95

Neither the Republican nor Democratic candidate in Districts 3, 6, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 23, 25, 26, 29, 30, 35, 37, 39, 40, 41, 42, 44, 45, 46, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53, 57, 63, 66, 67, 70, 71, 75, 83, 88, 89, 92, 94, 98, and 99 faced a primary opponent and both will proceed to the November general election. Incumbents in Districts 5, 38, 47, 51, 76, will go on to face independent challengers in November. Other results include:

**District 4:** Republican Renea Jones defeated fellow newcomer Curt Alexander in the seat previously held by Republican John B. Jones. Jones earned 4,485 votes to Alexander's 2,094. She will face no challenger in November and so is elected to the House.

**District 8:** Democrat Sue DuBois defeated fellow challenger Mac Pickle in the primary with DuBois earning 1,022 votes to Pickle's 276. DuBois will go on to face Republican incumbent Jerome Moon in November.

**District 12:** Republican Fred A. Atchley fended off fellow challengers Christian Gerald Brown and Larry Linton in the primary for the seat previously held by Republican Dale Carr. The vote was led by Atchley with 3,401 followed by Linton with 1,167 and Brown with 225. Atchley will face Democrat Leslie P. Brad-

dock in the general election.

**District 13:** Republican incumbent Robert Stevens defeated Jami K. Averwater by a margin of 2,246 to 1,027. Stevens will face Democrat Johnathan Yancey in November.

**District 15:** Incumbent Democrat Sam McKenzie defeated challenger Dash Ludny by a margin of 2,585 to 1,399. McKenzie will go on to face Republican Justin Hirst.

**District 20:** In the Republican primary, Tom Stinnett narrowly defeated challengers Nick Bright and Jason Emert for the nomination. Stinnett earned 2,352 votes to Bright's 2,213 while Emert trailed with 2,130. Stinnett will go on to face Democrat Karen Gertz for the seat previously held by Republican Bryan Richey

**District 22:** Democrat Anna Grabowski fended off Stan Hurder to obtain her party's nomination. Grabowski obtained 366 votes to Hurder's 241. Grabowski will go on to face incumbent Republican Dan Howell in the fall.

**District 24:** Republican incumbent Kevin Raper defeated challenger Troy Weathers in the primary with 2,440 votes to 1,796. Raper will face Democrat Andrea Chase in the general election.

**District 27:** Challenger Michele Reneau defeated Republican incumbent Patsy Hazlewood in a neck-and-neck race for most of the night. Reneau's final vote total was 4,079 to Hazlewood's 3,942. Reneau will go on to face Democrat Kathy Lennon in November.

**District 28:** Incumbent Yusuf A. Hakeem fended off a challenge from Chattanooga councilwoman Demetrus Coonrod's to obtain the Democratic nomination. Hakeem obtained 3,165 votes to Coonrod's 1,832. Hakeem will face independent Thomas J. Brooks III in general election.

**District 31:** Republican incumbent Ron Travis defeated Richard W. Smith by a margin of 3,392 to 1,860. Travis will face both Democrat Brittany Lynn Warfel and independent William "Jay" Jenkins in fall.

**District 33:** Challenger Rick Scarbrough narrowly defeated incumbent John Ragan for the Republican nomination for the seat with a margin of 2,963 to 2,705. Scarbrough will face Democrat Anne Backus in the general election.

**District 34:** Incumbent Republican Tim Rudd fended off a challenger from Tucker Marcum to obtain the nomination. Rudd received a total of 2,196 votes to Marcum's 1,233. Rudd will face Democrat Amelia Pant in the fall.

**District 43:** Incumbent Paul Sherrell defeated challenges from Robert McCormick and Tim Lewis to secure the Republican primary. Sherrell led the vote count with 3,061 followed by McCormick with 2,655 and Lewis at 456. Sherrell will face no challengers in the fall and has secured his seat.

**District 56:** Incumbent Bob Freeman defeated challenger and fellow Democrat Nick Forster-Benson in the primary with a vote count of 4,083 to 902. Freeman will face no challenger in November and has a

guaranteed seat.

**District 60:** Republican Chad Bobo defeated challenger Christopher Huff for his party's nomination, Bob securing 1,951 votes to Huff's 822.

Meanwhile, Democrat Shaundelle Brooks defeated challengers Tyler Brasher and John W. Parrish for her party's nomination. Brooks led the vote count with 2,579 to Brasher's 2,214 and Parrish's 116.

Bobo and Brooks will face off in November for the seat previously held by Democrat Darren Jernigan.

**District 61:** Democrat Claire Jones defeated Kurt Kosak for her party's nomination with 2,415 votes to 939. Jones will face incumbent Republican Gino Bulson and independent Alana LeBlanc in November.

**District 64:** Incumbent Scott Cepicky defeated Ray Jeter for the Republican nomination with a margin of 3,950 to 3,294. In the Democratic race, Eileen H. Longstreet defeated challenger Alex Pierce with 832 votes to 578. Cepicky and Longstreet will face off in November.

**District 65:** In the Republican primary, Lee Reeves narrowly defeated challengers Brian Beathard and Michelle Freeman. Reeves earned 3,141 votes followed by Beathard with 3,046 and Foreman with 2,178. Reeves will go on to face Democrat LaRhonda Williams for the seat previously held by Republican Sam Whitson.

**District 68:** In the Republican primary, Aron Maberry defeated challengers Carol Duffin, Greg Gilman, and Joe Smith in the seat previously held by Republican Curtis Johnson. Maberry earned 2,568 votes, Smith 2,210, Duffin 726, and Gilman 422. Maberry will go on to face Democrat Garfield Scott.

**District 69:** Incumbent Republican Joseph M. "Jody" Barrett defeated challenger Ronny George in the primary by 3,672 to 745. Barrett will face no opponent in November.

**District 73:** Republican incumbent Chris Todd defeated a challenge from Jimmy Harris with 5,130 votes to 2,461. As no other candidates are running in November, Todd will keep his seat.

**District 77:** Incumbent Republican Rusty Grills defeated challenger James "Bubba" Cobb for his seat by a vote margin of 4,169 to 1,660. Grills will face no challenger in November and is assured of his seat.

**District 78:** Republican incumbent Mary Littleton fended off a challenge from Justin Spurlock by 3,152 votes to 1,028. Littleton will face Democrat Deborah Castle Doyle in November.

**District 80:** Incumbent Democrat Johnny W. Shaw fended off challengers Shelia L. Godwin and Jonathan Joy for his party's nomination. Shawn earned 2,494 votes to Godwin's 437 and Joy's 388. He will face Republican Brad Grantham in the fall.

**District 84:** Democratic incumbent Joe Towns Jr defeated challenger Vernell Williams by a margin of 2,321 to 461. With no opponent in the fall, Towns will retain his seat.

**District 86:** Incumbent Democrat Justin J. Pearson defeated challenger David Page with 3,783 votes to Page's 267. Pearson will face independent Jeff Johnston in November.

**District 93:** Democrat incumbent G.A. Hardaway defeated challenger Lashanta Rudd in the primary with Hardaway earning 2,209 votes to Rudd's 703. Hardaway will face Republican Renarda Renee Clariett in the fall.

**District 96:** Gabby Salinas defeated fellow Democratic candidates Eric Dunn, Telisa Franklin, Orrden Williams and David Winston. Salinas earned 2,168 votes to Franklin's 2,036, Dunn's 397, Winston's 281, and Williams 52. The seat was held by Democrat Dwyane Thompson, and with no challenger in November, Salinas is elected to the seat.

**District 97:** Republican incumbent John Gillespie fended off a challenge from Christina Oppenhuizen 4,910 to 236. Gillespie will face Democrat Jesse Huseth in November.

## Elections held in 55 municipalities coincide with state, federal primaries

### ELECTIONS, from Page 6

Janice Treadaway 212-186 for the Ward 2, Position B seat.

All other candidates ran unopposed including incumbents Billy Chimpan for the Ward 1, Position B seat; Nyrita Alston for the Ward 3, Position A seat; and Austin Thompson Jr. for the Ward 3, Position B seat as well as newcomer Tyler Frazier, who ran unopposed for the Ward 2, Position A seat previously held by Bill Davis.

### SARDIS

Alderman Jason Craig ran unopposed and took the mayoral seat previously held by J.W. Creasy. Craig received 56.

In the alderman, incumbent Richard Holland will be joined by newcomers Debbie Brown, Jerald Hopper, and Brad Smith after unseating incumbents Larry Smith and Gail Wade. Incumbents Kenneth Scott and Jason Craig did not seek re-election to their seats.

Brown led the vote count with 46 followed by Holland with 45, Hopper with 44, B. Smith with 35, Wade with 29, and L. Smith with 28.

### SMITHVILLE

Incumbents Jessica L. Higgins, Shawn Jacobs, and Danny Washer ran unopposed and will retain their seats on the Smithville Board of Aldermen. Jacobs led the vote count with 203 followed by Higgins with 191 and Washer with 186

### SOUTH CARTHAGE

Two newcomers ran unopposed and were elected to alderman seats in South Carthage. James Wilson Smith will serve in Ward 1 after receiving 31 complimentary votes while Janice K. Wilmore will serve Ward 3 after earning 36.

### SPARTA

In the Sparta Board of Alderman race, incumbents Judy Parker Payne and Brent L. Young will be joined by former alderman Hoyt Jones on board after defeating incumbent Brian M. Jones in the race.

Payne led the vote count with 373 followed by H. Jones with 357, Young with 299, and B. Jones with 293.

### SPRING CITY

Vice Mayor Leon Locke unseated incumbent Wood Evans and defeated challenger Reed Smith for the Spring City mayoral seat. Locke earned 139 votes followed by Smith with 131 and Evans with 56.

For the two open commission seats, incumbent Kevin W. Jenkins will be joined by newcomer Thomas Beaver, receiving 231 and 191 votes respectively.

### TENNESSEE RIDGE

Incumbent Stony Odom ran unopposed and received 165 complimentary votes in the mayoral race.

Incumbent Bryan Bumpus will be joined by newcomer Darrell Allison after fending off Ann Dew for the two open city commission seats. Allison led the vote count with 131, followed by Bumpus with 116, and Dew with 90.

David Wood ran unopposed and received 165 complimentary votes for the unexpired term on the commission.

### TOWNSEND

In the Townsend City Commission race, incumbent Becky Headrick will be joined by newcomer Pat Jenkins after defeating incumbent Ted Godfrey and challengers David Hoque and Houston Oldman for the two open seats. Headrick led the vote tally with 106 followed by Jenkins with 72, Godfrey with 51, Hoque with 49, and Oldham with 44.

### TULLAHOMA

County Commissioner Charles "Lynn" Seabourn defeated alderman Kurt Glick and challengers Petros Pisinis, and C. Scott Shasteen for the mayoral seat previously held by Ray Knowis. Seabourn earned 986 votes to Glick's 443, Pisinis' 141, and Shasteen, who received 140 votes after withdrawing from the race earlier.

Busch Thoma, Sernobia McGee, and Matthew Bird defeated fellow newcomers Franklin Cammack and John Santana for the three open seats on the board of aldermen. Thoma led the vote count with 1,956 followed by McGee with 1,558, Bird with 1,493, Cammack with 1,217, and Santana with 1,210.

### WARTBURG

While no candidate qualified for the open at-large alderman seat, Bacel Gunter received five write-in votes.

### WAYNESBORO

Two incumbent commissioners ran unopposed in Waynesboro and were re-elected: Jeff Davis and Lynn Warren, receiving 121 and 106 votes respectively.

### WHITEVILLE

Incumbent Gene A. Bowden defeated challenger Aubrey Phillips 71-60 to keep the mayoral seat in Whiteville.

In the alderman race, incumbent Tommy Turner and Ernest L. Pirtle will be joined by newcomer Mattie Polk-Nelson who defeated incumbent Deborah Burkeen. Turner led the vote count with 161, Pirtle with 160, Polk-Nelson with 126, and Burkeen with 119.



## STATE BRIEFS

Tennessee's new record-low unemployment rate continued in June, according to new information from the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD). June's unemployment rate remained at 3%, an all-time low rate first recorded in May of this year. In a year-to-year comparison, the June 2024 rate was 0.1% lower than this same time in 2023. Employers added new jobs to Tennessee's workforce between May and June and increased non-farm employment by 400 jobs. The mining, logging, and construction sector and the education and health services sector had the biggest gains in employment. The manufacturing sector also added a sizable number of new positions during the month. Over the year, nonfarm employment did decrease across the state by 5,900 jobs. The administrative, support, and waste services sector saw the largest dip in employment. The real estate, rental, and leasing sector experienced the next largest decrease, followed by the non-durable goods manufacturing sector.

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture is partnering with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) on a \$5.5 million competitive grant program for projects designed to build resiliency in the food supply chain as part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP). Applications for the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program (RFSI) will be accepted through Aug. 31. Using RFSI funding, TDA will fund projects that increase access to commercial kitchens and co-packing facilities. Additional funded projects will expand processing capacity, including adding product types, increasing production volumes, and supporting new wholesale or retail product lines. The state's priorities are informed by stakeholder engagement and outreach to underserved producers

## Brownfield grants awarded to five TN municipalities

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) announced five cities will share in 36 Brownfield Redevelopment Area Grants (BRAG) totaling \$718,757 for brownfield identification projects across the state.

BRAG grants are derived from the Rural Brownfield Redevelopment Investment Act, which protects the environment and creates economic opportunities, especially in rural settings. The legislation empowers local governments and development boards with resources needed for investigation, cleanup, and redevelopment of blighted properties.

A brownfield is a property vacant or underutilized due to contamination. Remediation minimizes threats to public health, safety,

and the environment. Brownfield sites vary in size, location, age, and past use. Grants of \$20,000 were awarded to the municipalities of Covington, Elizabethton, Linden and Paris while Saltville received a grant of \$18,847.

A new report from the USDA has indicated a spike in agricultural land values in Tennessee. Since 2020, farm real estate value in Tennessee has increased 10.7% going from \$4,120 per acre in 2020 to \$5,710 per acre in 2024. Tennessee had the second-highest percentage increase in the Southeast and the nation – second only to Florida whose prices went up 13.4%. The value per acre of cropland has also increased 10.9% from \$4,010 per acre in 2020 to \$5,610 per acre in 2024 while pastureland has increased 8.1% in value, going from \$3,900 per acre in 2020 to \$5,360 per acre in 2024. Tennessee had the highest percentage increase for cropland at 10.9% in the nation while it reported the eighth biggest percentage gain in pastureland increases.

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the state of Tennessee the prestigious Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. This achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. This achievement exemplifies the state of Tennessee's steadfast commitment to upholding best practices in financial reporting while showcasing its leadership in this field. By receiving this award, the state has demonstrated its dedication to fiscal responsibility and transparency in communicating its economic performance.

Multiple grants were also awarded to some entities including 11 to the Greater Nashville Regional Council (GRNC) and the South Central TN Development District (SCTDD). Other awardees included Anderson, Fayette, Franklin, Gibson, Perry, Putnam, Roane, and Trousdale, Williamson counties.

BRAG grants for investigation and remediation will be announced at a later date.

To learn about the full list of awardees, [visit this link](#).

## Tennessee tourism generates record \$30B in 2023

Tennessee tourism generated a record \$30.6 billion in direct visitor spending and saw 144 million visitors to the state in 2023, according to newly released data from Tourism Economics and the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development.

Tennessee's direct visitor spending increased 6.2% in 2023. This follows two consecutive years of double-digit growth, driving Tennessee to a 125% recovery over 2019 pre-pandemic levels.

### Key Highlights

- Tennessee Tourism generated \$30.6 billion in direct visitor spending in 2023, a 25% increase over two years
  - Tennessee visitors spent \$84 million each day in 2023
  - Visitor spending sustained 191,522 direct jobs, one of every 24 jobs in the state
  - Employment supported by visitor activity increased 3% in 2023, rebounding to 98% of pre-pandemic levels
  - Domestic visitor spending is 127% recovered to pre-pandemic (2019) levels
  - International visitor spending is 81.6% recovered to pre-pandemic (2019) levels
  - Tennessee visitors topped 144 million in 2023, up three million over 2022, led by relatively stronger growth in day visits
- Tax Benefits to Tennesseans**
- Visitor spending generated \$3.2 billion in direct state and local tax revenues in 2023. Without tourism, each Tennessee household would have to pay an additional \$1,160 in taxes each year
  - The State of Tennessee collected \$1.9 billion in tax revenues
  - City and county governments collected \$1.25 billion in tax revenues
  - Average taxes on direct visitor spending reduces the burden on community residents to fund infrastructure, education health and safety services



Waterfalls at South Cumberland State Park

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- Employment supported by visitor activity increased 3% in 2023, rebounding to 98% of pre-pandemic levels
- Domestic visitor spending is 127% recovered to pre-pandemic (2019) levels
- International visitor spending is 81.6% recovered to pre-pandemic (2019) levels
- Tennessee visitors topped 144 million in 2023, up three million over 2022, led by relatively stronger growth in day visits

The Tennessee Department of

Tourist Development (TDTD) will release the full 2023 Economic Impact on Travel Report and direct visitor spending data for all 95 counties in August 2024. TDTD fostered a strong relationship with the Tennessee Department of Revenue to ground the economic impact numbers in the reality of tax collection data.

The Tennessee Department of Tourist Development works with the Tennessee Tourism Committee, local convention and visitors' bureaus, chambers of commerce, city and county leaders, tourism attractions and the hospitality industry in all 95 counties to inspire travel to the state.

## State June revenues show modest growth

Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration Commissioner Jim Bryson announced that revenues for June were \$2.294 billion, which is \$34.8 million more than June of last year, but \$31.5 million less than the budgeted estimate.

The total growth rate for the month was 1.54%.

"Total revenues in June showed positive gains compared to last year," Bryson said. "Sales tax receipts, reflecting May consumer activity, grew moderately. Similarly, corporate tax revenues (franchise and excise taxes) held steady compared to June 2023. All other taxes increased by 2.55% compared to this time last year.

"With one month remaining in this fiscal year, the state seems to be on track to meet the revised 2023-2024 growth rates adopted by the State Funding Board and enacted by the General Assembly. We are optimistic that we will achieve the revised estimate for the year."

On an accrual basis, June is the eleventh month in the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

General fund revenues were less than the budgeted estimates in the amount of \$32.1 million, and the four other funds that share in state tax revenues were \$0.6 million more than the estimates.

Sales tax revenues were \$14.8 million less than the original estimate for June but were 2.23% more than June 2023. For eleven months, revenues are \$138.9 million lower than estimated. The August through June growth rate is 1.70%.

Franchise and excise tax revenues combined were \$14.1 million

less than the budgeted estimate in June, and the growth rate compared to June of last year was negative 0.01%. For eleven months, revenues are \$327.7 million less than the estimate and the year-to-date growth rate is negative 5.91%.

Gasoline and motor fuel revenues for June increased by 1.24% compared to June 2023, and they were \$0.5 million more than the budgeted estimate of \$111.1 million. For eleven months, revenues are more than estimates by \$6.8 million.

Motor vehicle registration revenues were \$1.3 million more than the June estimate, and on a year-to-date basis, revenues are \$6.1 million more than the estimate.

Tobacco tax revenues were \$2.3 million less than the June budgeted estimate of \$18.7 million. For eleven months, they are \$22.9 million less than the budgeted estimate.

Privilege tax revenues were \$4.1 million less than the June estimate, and on a year-to-date basis, August through June, revenues are \$117 million less than the estimate.

Business tax revenues were \$0.2 million less than the June estimate of \$13.9 million. For eleven months, revenues are \$26.5 million more than the budgeted estimate.

Mixed drink, or Liquor-by-the-drink, taxes were \$0.8 million more than the June estimate. For eleven months, revenues are \$2.5 million more than the budgeted estimate.

All other tax revenues were more than estimates by a net of \$1.4 million.

Year-to-date revenues, for eleven months, are \$555.2 million less than the budgeted estimate.

The general fund recorded \$565.6 million less than the budgeted estimate, and the four other funds were \$10.4 million more than estimated.

The budgeted revenue estimates for 2023-2024 are based upon the State Funding Board's consensus recommendation from November 28, 2022, and adopted by the first session of the 113th General Assembly in April 2023. Also incorporated in the estimates are any changes in revenue enacted during the 2023 session of the General Assembly. These estimates are available on the state's website at <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/finance/fa/fa-budget-information/fa-budget-rev.html>.

On Nov. 6, 2023, the State Funding Board met again to hear updated revenue projections from various state economists. Following this meeting, on November 29, 2023, the board decided to adopt revised revenue growth ranges for the current fiscal year. The recurring growth ranges adopted include a low of negative 0.69% to a high of negative 0.19% for total taxes and a recurring range low of negative 0.50% to a high of 0.00% for general fund taxes.

On April 18, 2024, in the second session of the 113th General Assembly, the Legislature passed House Bill 2973/Senate Bill 2942, which included the Funding Board's revised revenue ranges for the current year. Upon passage, revenue estimates were revised lowered by \$798.4 million for total funds and \$718.8 million for general fund revenue. The appropriations bill, Public Chapter 966, was signed by Governor Lee on May 15, 2024.

## Nashville, Germantown share in TDEC grants

Nashville and Germantown will share in \$332,953 in grants awarded to six entities statewide from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation for Education and Outreach and Organics Management for projects to help reduce landfill waste and increase recycling education in Tennessee.

The grant program encourages and supports local communities to meet solid waste and recycling goals. Local governments can divert more waste from landfills through infrastructure upgrades and provide convenient opportunities for residents to get engaged in the process.

The city of Nashville received two grants through the program: a \$13,000 grant for outreach and education and a \$100,000 grant for a food scrap management program. The city of Germantown received \$2,900 for outreach and education for a recycling and solid waste guide and education.

Other entities who received grants include Sevier Solid Waste, Inc.; the University of Tennessee

– Knoxville; Rosebank Elementary School in Nashville; and the Tennessee Environmental Council.

"We are pleased to see the interest and enthusiasm for these solid waste grants," said Greg Young, deputy commissioner for TDEC's Bureau of Environment. "These communities are committed to reducing waste in Tennessee, and we thank them for going through the application process."

The Education and Outreach grant will help local governments produce material needed to consistently promote waste reduction and recycling best practices for established solid waste programs. The primary purpose is to inform residents what they can recycle, where they can recycle, and when they can recycle.

Organics Management grants are for counties, cities, solid waste authorities, and other tax-exempt nonprofit recycling entities designated as 501c(3) organizations.

The grants prioritize public/private partnerships, new or expanded organics management services, and reductions in food waste.





# TML Annual 84th Conference July 20-23 in Knoxville



From left to right, Brentwood City Manager Kirk Bednar, Goodlettsville City Manager Tim Ellis, Farragut Town Administrator David Smoak, and Somerville Mayor Ronnie Neil



Bolivar Councilmembers Chris Williams, left, and Caroline Miller, right.



Millington Alderwoman Bethany Huffman, left, and Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon, right.



From left to right, Nolensville Vice Mayor Jessica Salamida, Town Manager Victor Lay, GIS Specialist Joel Cook, and Assistant Town Administrator Chuck Downham.



From left to right, Interim Athens City Manager Mitchell Moore, Maryville Assistant City Manager Roger Campbell, and Maryville Assistant City Manager Kevin Stoltenberg



From left to right, McKenzie Councilmember Tom Alexander, Vice Mayor Jessie Townes, and Councilmember Drew Beeler.



From left to right, Elizabethton Assistant City Manager Logan Engle, City Manager Daniel Estes, Mayor Pro Tem Bill Carter, Councilmember Mike Simerly, and Public Service Intern Samuel Cooper.



From left to right, Clinton City Manager Roger Houck, Councilmember Wendy Maness, Mayor Scott Burton, Parks and Recreation Director Jason Brown, and Building Official Matt Widner



Franklin Mayor Dr. Ken Moore, left, and Springfield Mayor Ann Scheider-Williams, right.



# TML Annual 84th Conference July 20-23 in Knoxville



Sports journalist Sally Jenkins discusses what star athletes can teach us about success in work and life.



Google's Sean Maxwell discusses government and artificial intelligence.



TVA President/CEO Jeff Lyash discusses Tennessee's energy future.



Voice of the Vols Bob Keisling, left, with Columbia City Manager Tony Massey, right.



Alcoa Vice Mayor Tracey Cooper, left and Mayor Tanya Martin, right.



Atoka Administrative Assistant Candi Ganser, left, and Alderwoman Christy Renfrow, right.



From left to right, Henderson Mayor and TML Past President Bobby King, City Recorder Jim Garland, Alderman Mark Barber, and Alderman Keith Smith.



From left to right, Shelbyville Building and Codes Director Bryan Stevens, City Recorder Lisa Smith, and City Attorney Ginger Shofner.



Collegedale Commissioner Katie Lamb, left, and Morristown Councilwoman and TMBF President Kay Senter, right.



Dover Mayor Lesa Fitzhugh, left, and Vice Mayor Jane Burkhart, right.



From left to right, Fayetteville Parks and Recreation Director Nathan Browning, Property Maintenance Inspector Jill Smith, Mayor Donna Hartman, City Administrator Kevin Owens, and Planning and Codes Director Kristi Gentry.



# TML Annual 84th Conference July 20-23 in Knoxville



Gallatin Councilmember Steve Carter, left, and Jackson Councilman Richard Donnell, right.



From left to right, Franklin Alderman Clyde Barnhill, Alderman Greg Caesar, Mayor Dr. Ken Moore, and Alderman Jason Potts.



From left to right, Medina Parks and Recreation Director Mike Hutcherson, CMFO Kim Gilley, Kay Coleman, and Mayor Vance Coleman



Red Bank Vice Mayor Stefanie Dalton, left, and Mayor Hollie Berry, right.



From left to right, TML Immediate Past President and Farragut Mayor Ron Williams, TML President and Gallatin Mayor Paige Brown, and TML 1st Vice President and Bolivar Mayor Julian McTizic.



TML members listen during workshop sessions.



Woodland Mills Mayor Joe Lewis, left, with Bartlett Alderman Kevin Quinn, right.



Henning Alderwoman Deborah Taylor, left, and Mayor Quenton Reed, right.



Wartrace Mayor Brian Ross, left, and Normandy Mayor Charles Whitaker, right.



Above: TML affiliate organizations host round tables in the exhibit hall.

Left: Greenbrier Executive Assistant Tracy Coleman, left, and City Recorder Stephanie Toland, right.



# TML honors 2024 Achievement Award recipients



Townsend officials receive the award for Excellence in Community Planning. From left to right, Townsend Mayor Don Prater, TML Immediate Past President and Farragut Mayor Ron Williams, and Townsend Commissioner Kesley Satterfield.



East Ridge officials receive the award for Excellence in Economic Development. From left to right, East Ridge Finance Director/CMFO Diane Qualls, Councilmember Aundie Witt, Councilmember David Tyler, Mayor Brian Williams, Williams, East Ridge City Manager J. Scott Miller, and Administrator of Economic and Community Development Cameron McAllister.



Shelbyville officials receive the award for Excellence in Downtown Revitalization. From left to right, Shelbyville Councilmember Bobby Turnbow, Williams, Shelbyville Mayor Randy Carroll, and Shelbyville Councilmember Henry Feldhaus.



Alcoa officials receive the award for Excellence in Fire Services. From left to right, Alcoa Fire Chief Roger Robinson, Williams, Alcoa Deputy Fire Chief Colin Hurst, and City Manager Bruce Applegate.



Columbia officials receive the award for Excellence in Green Leadership. From left to right, Columbia Councilwoman Debbie Wiles, Marketing and Tourism Director Kellye Murphy, Councilman Danny Coleman, Vice Mayor Randy McBroom, Williams, Mayor Chaz Molder, Councilman Kenny Marshall, City Manager Tony Massey, and Assistant City Manager Thad Jablonski.



Etowah Finance Director/CMFO Alison Bull, left, receives the award for Excellence in Finance from TML Immediate Past President and Farragut Mayor Ron Williams, right.



Maynardville officials receive the award for Small Town Progress. From left to right, Maynardville City Recorder Gina Singletary, Commissioner Jennipher Ford, Williams, Mayor Ty Blakely, Vice Mayor Len Padgett, and City Manager Thomas McCormick.



TML Immediate Past President Ron Williams, left, presents the award for Excellence in Police Services to Pigeon Forge Police Chief Richie Catlett, right.



Eagleville officials receive the award for Innovation in Emergency Services. From left to right, Eagleville Mayor Chad Leeman, Williams, and Eagleville Fire Chief Jonathan Armstrong.



Ripley officials receive the award for Innovation in Energy and Disaster Resiliency. From left to right, Ripley Mayor Craig Fitzhugh, Williams, and Ben Colgrove, representative with the National Institute for Homeland Security.



Spring City officials receive the award for Excellence in Tourism Development. From left to right, Spring City Commissioner Jody Bauer, City Manager Stephanie Motes, Williams, and Mayor Woody Evans.



Red Bank officials receive the award for Excellence in Strategic Planning. From left to right, Red Bank Vice Mayor Stefanie Dalton, Williams, Red Bank Community Development Director Leslie Johnson, and Commissioner Jamie Fairbanks-Harvey.



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2023-2024 Officers and Directors

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TN Assn. of Air Carrier Airports

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TN Assn. Municipal Clerks & Recorders

TN Government Finance Officers Assn.

TN Fire Chiefs Assn.

TN Fire Safety Inspectors

TN Assn. of Floodplain Management

TN Assn. Housing & Redevel. Auth.

TN Municipal Attorneys Assn.

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# 2023-2024 Supreme Court Term Roundup: Decisions Important to Local Government

BY STEPHANIE MARTINEZ-RUCKMAN and MCKAIA DYKEMA, *NLC Staff*

In their 2023-2024 term, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) issued decisions that directly impact local governments on issues including the constitutionality of collecting impact fees, local authority to make regulations on the matter of homelessness, Title VII employment issues and public officials' usage of social media. Consistent with our legal advocacy and through our partnership with the Local Government Legal Center (LGLC), the National League of Cities (NLC) participated in amicus briefs presenting sound and persuasive legal arguments to the court on principles and issues important to good municipal government.

This article breaks down the most significant SCOTUS rulings and their implications for local governments from this past term. Understanding these decisions is essential for local officials to navigate the changing legal landscape and effectively serve their communities.

*Grants Pass v. Johnson*

The issue in this case was whether the City of Grants Pass' enforcement of an ordinance banning public camping against involuntarily homeless individuals violated the Eighth Amendment's protection against cruel and unusual punishment.

The Supreme Court's decision concluded the Eighth Amendment's Cruel and Unusual Punishment Clause does not prohibit the enforcement of generally applicable laws regulating camping on public property. The majority stressed that the cruel and unusual punishment clause has largely applied to legal issues relating to methods of punishment and not whether certain conduct can be criminalized. Additionally, the majority reasoned that the Eighth Amendment "does not authorize federal judges... to dictate this Nation's homelessness policy."

This decision was a major win for local governments as it provided clarity around whether local governments have the authority to regulate the health and safety of their residents in accordance with local needs and conditions. The case itself highlighted the complexities of the homeless crisis across the nation but ultimately turned the hard task of solving the homeless crisis to state and local policymakers, where it belongs, with resource support from the federal government.

*Lindke v. Freed*

The issue in this case was whether a public official's social media activity is considered "state action" subject to the First Amendment.

The Supreme Court held in a unanimous decision that a public official's social media posts are state action "only if the official (1) possessed the actual authority to speak on the State's behalf, and (2) purported to exercise that authority when [they] spoke on social media. The court also noted that the line between private and state action can be "difficult to draw" but the court emphasized that public officials have their own First Amendment rights, including rights to speak about their employment, that they do not relinquish simply by becoming public officials.

The court's decision also provided guidance and hypotheticals, which may prove to be useful to local governments as they update their policies and train staff on the implications of this ruling. NLC filed an amicus brief in this case along with the LGLC.

*United States v. Rahimi*

The issue in this case was whether a federal statute that prohibits the possession of firearms by persons subject to domestic violence restraining orders violated

the Second Amendment.

In an 8-1 decision, the Supreme Court found that this prohibition does not violate the Second Amendment. The court applied the *New York State Rifle & Pistol Assn., Inc. v. Bruen's* 'history and tradition' test, and concluded that since the founding of the nation, the regulation of firearms has included "provisions preventing individuals who threaten physical harm to others from misusing firearms." The majority found that viewing together two earlier firearm laws in English and U.S. history, they "confirm... When an individual poses a clear threat of violence to another, the threatening individual may be disarmed". The earlier laws in history were found to be sufficiently similar to the federal statute and therefore, is a constitutional regulation.

NLC filed a brief in this case along with the United States Conference of Mayors and the International Municipal Lawyers Association consistent with provisions in our National Municipal Policy and in support of the direct impact on city first responders. Importantly for local governments, domestic violence incidents are among the most dangerous for law enforcement and other first responders.

*Muldrow v. City of St. Louis*

The issue in this employment law case was whether Title VII prohibits discrimination in transfer decisions absent a separate court determination that the transfer decision caused a "materially significant disadvantage".

The court ruled in another unanimous decision that an employee who challenges a job transfer under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 need not show the transfer brought about "material harm" to bring forth a successful claim against their employer. However, the court concluded that the claimant must show "some harm from a forced transfer" although that harm need not be serious or significant.

In their decision, the court acknowledged the sweeping nature of their ruling and noted that their holding "lowers the bar Title VII plaintiffs must meet". Local governments should consult with their city attorney and human resource departments to examine their policies surrounding employee transfers and ensure proper training is conducted to limit liability. NLC filed an amicus brief in this case with partners of the LGLC.

*Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*

Broadly speaking, the issue in this case was whether the court should overrule a previous decision in *Chevron v. Natural Resources Defense Council* or at least clarify whether statutory silence creates an ambiguity that requires deference to the agency's interpretation.

Under the previously applicable *Chevron* doctrine, if Congress had not directly addressed the question at the center of a dispute on the administration of federal laws, courts were required to defer and uphold the pertinent federal agency's interpretation of the statute so long as it was reasonable. In this decision, the majority struck down this doctrine and held that the *Chevron* doctrine violated the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). The court determined that the APA requires courts to exercise independent judgment in determining whether an agency has acted within their statutory authority for ambiguous laws, and courts should not defer to an agency's interpretation alone but may still "seek aid" from the agency in their determination.

This decision is likely to have far-reaching effects on various issues, from environmental regulations to healthcare costs. However, what this means exactly for local governments is not certain. There are likely to be areas where courts will be more willing to strike down agency regulations that benefit local governments as regulated entities, but other times where this action may hurt local governments and their community priorities.

*Scheetz v. El Dorado County*

The issue in this case was whether legislative monetary exactions (impact fees) imposed by local governments as a condition for a building permit are subject to the "essential nexus" and "rough proportionality" requirements



from previously established cases (*Nollan v. California Coastal Commission* and *Dolan v. City of Tigard, Oregon*).

In a unanimous decision, the court narrowly determined that legislatively enacted impact fees are not exempt from the requirements listed above. As such, local governments that impose impact fees are now subject to a standard requiring them to demonstrate the relationship and relative impact of the development on the community.

Importantly, for local governments that issue impact fees, this decision does not prevent local governments from enacting reasonable permitting conditions, including impact fees, via passed legislation. However, given this recent decision, local governments will want to ensure that legislatively imposed impact fees comply with the requirements from the *Nollan* and *Dolan* cases. NLC filed an amicus brief in this case with the LGLC and the City/County of San Francisco.

*Gonzalez v. Trevino*

The issue in this case was whether objective evidence was enough to meet the probable cause exception in *Nieves v. Barlett* to move forward with a retaliatory arrest claim.

Under the 2019 decision in *Nieves v. Barlett*, the court ruled a plaintiff can generally only bring forth a retaliatory arrest claim if they can show there was no probable cause for the arrest. In this decision, the court concluded that a plaintiff may show other types of objective evidence, and the 5th Circuit's prior ruling had construed the *Nieves* exemption too broadly. The court reasoned that "[a]lthough the *Nieves* exception is slim, the demand for virtually identical and identifiable comparators goes too far." The only express limit on the type of evidence a plaintiff can present is that it must be objective and the survey that Gonzalez made of the types of crimes charged under the statute satisfied the requirement.

The decision means that more plaintiffs may be able to bring a retaliatory arrest claim under the *Nieves* exception by utilizing any form of objective evidence. However, the court still emphasized that the exception is narrow. Local governments should continue to defend these claims on that ground. NLC filed a brief in this case with our partners at the LGLC arguing for a narrow and objective exception under *Nieves*.

*Chiaverini v. City of Napoleon*

The issue, in this case, was whether Fourth Amendment malicious-prosecution claims could proceed under the charge-specific rule so long as other charges brought alongside the baseless charge are supported by probable cause.

In their decision, the court narrowly found that probable cause for one charge in a criminal proceeding does not defeat a claim for malicious prosecution under the Fourth Amendment as that claim relates to another baseless charge. In other words, valid charges cannot insulate a local government from a Fourth Amendment malicious prosecution claim related to invalid charges. NLC filed a brief in this case with our partners at the LGLC.

The Court also issued two additional decisions of interest to local governments in *Ohio v. EPA* and *Harrington v. Purdue Pharma*.  
• In *Ohio v. EPA*, the Supreme Court granted a group of states' application for a stay of the EPA's Good Neighbor Rule, which pertains to emissions control measures for those states. The case came to the court on its emergency docket and is not a decision on the merits. The holding signifies that the court's majority believed the states were likely to prevail on the merits of their claims that the EPA's Federal Implementation Plan for nitrous oxide emissions control measures,



## TENNESSEE

**Aug. 17: Townsend**

[Great Smoky Mountains Hot Air Balloon Festival](#)

Join us this August for a summertime spectacle, when professional balloonist light up the evening sky with a beautiful balloon glow and spectacular tethered rides.

**Aug. 23-25: Gatlinburg**

[The Mountain Music Fest](#)

Formally Monsters on the Mountain, The Mountain Music Festival is a 3 day music event at the Gatlinburg Convention Center.

**Aug. 26-27: Beersheba Springs**

[Beersheba Springs Arts & Craft Fair](#)

Approximately 200 vendors and artisans of both handmade and professional quality will be present at this annual craft fair.

**Aug. 30-31: Crossville**

[Cumberland Mountain Songwriters Festival](#)

A gathering of both novice and professional songwriters to celebrate the craft of songwriting. Original music and concerts all weekend long.

**Sept. 1-3: Johnson City**

[Upper East Tennessee Celtic Festival](#)

Get ready to experience the rich cultural heritage of the Celts, right here in Upper East Tennessee.

**Sept. 2: Harriman**

[Hooray for Harriman](#)

This annual street festival celebrates Harriman's beautiful historic city and its community.

**Sept. 3-7: Martin**

[Tennessee Soybean Festival](#)

The Soybean Festival provides an opportunity for food, fun, and fellowship, all in celebration of Weakley County's cash crop- the soybean festival.

**Sept. 7: Germantown**

[Germantown Festival](#)

One of the longest, continuously run festivals in the area, The 51st Annual Germantown Festival will once again provide a free family fun weekend for all.

**Sept. 7-8: Hendersonville**

[Middle Tennessee Highland Games and Celtic Festival](#)

Where families come together every year to learn, appreciate, preserve and celebrate Scottish and Celtic traditions for charitable, educational, social, and athletic purposes.

**Sept. 7-8: Knoxville**

[11th Knox Asian Festival](#)

Prepare to experience authentic foods, exciting performances, and traditional activities that represent Asian cultures.

**Sept. 13-15: Bristol**

[Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion](#)

The annual Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion music festival honors Bristol's legacy as the birthplace of country music.

**Sept. 14: Somerville**

[25th Annual Cotton Festival](#)

A one-day, annual event drawing more than 100 vendors and 3,000 people

which included "downwind ozone air quality improvements," was arbitrary and capricious under the Administrative Procedure Act and therefore unlawful.

• In *Harrington v. Purdue Pharma*, the court ruled that the Bankruptcy Code "does not authorize a release and injunction that, as part of a plan of reorganization under Chapter 11, effectively seek to discharge claims against a non-debtor without the consent of affected claimants." The "non-debtor" in this instance was a group of Sackler family members—formerly owners, officers, and directors of Purdue—who transferred to themselves more than \$11 billion from the company as they saw the specter of massive litigation arising. In order to avoid personal liability arising from their role in Purdue's irresponsible and fraudulent practices in the marketing and sale of OxyContin, they offered to contribute \$6 billion of those assets back into the Purdue bankruptcy. In exchange for that contribution, they would be released from all personal liability relating to Purdue, its products, and their ostensibly fraudulent transfer of money from the company. Some observers predict that this decision will effectively destroy the Chapter 11 proceeding and unleash multiple claims against the Sacklers.



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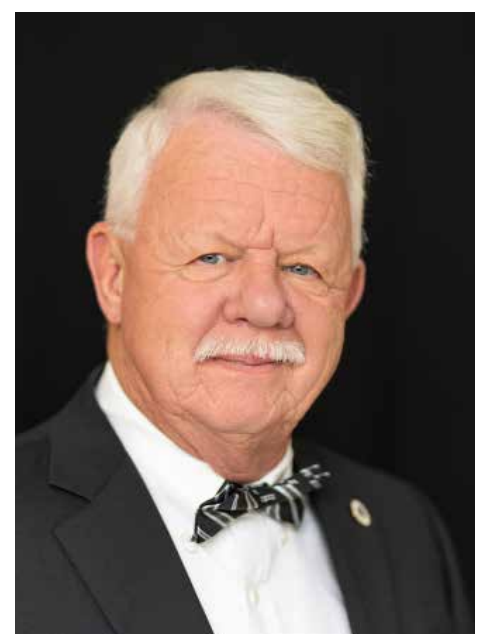


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