

From the Desk
of the Executive Director



The End of Summer

Well, Fall is upon us. To many, that means back to school, “Friday night lights,” college and NFL football, the start of hunting seasons, and the list continues on and on.

At TML, it means in-district meetings, policy development, and laying the groundwork for the next legislative session.

In the coming weeks, you will have the opportunity to join other municipal officials at one of our in-district meetings.

Attendees will hear from state officials, industry experts, and TML staff will hear from state officials, industry experts and TML staff on issues of interest and importance to

local officials.

Our meetings are no charge to attendees and will include lunch before concluding. This is not only a great time to learn about emerging issues that will affect your city, but an excellent opportunity to network and meet other officials sharing some of the same challenges and learn of their creative approaches.

Plan now to join us at one of our in-district meetings. Have a great start to your fall!

Anthony Haynes
TML Executive Director

Growing pains influencing Tennessee economic outlook



Following the pandemic, Tennesseans were content to see growth and development as a positive economic sign. However, attitudes have shifted with many state residents now concerned that continued in-migration is leading to the loss of rural areas. The state's economic policies are also contributing to issues concerning many residents, including housing affordability, school consolidation, data center location, and energy prices. (Photo by TNSDC)

By KATE COIL

While “all growth is good growth” has long been Tennessee’s mantra when it comes to the economy, perspectives are changing toward a more managed approach with deep implications for municipalities.

Dr. Marianne Wanamaker, dean of the University of Tennessee’s Howard Baker School of Public Policy and Public Affairs and professor of economics, discussed the trajectory of Tennessee’s economy at the recent Tennessee Municipal League Conference and Expo.

Towns and cities are constantly facing emerging issues like data centers and population changes while trying to balance a desire for low tax rates with the stress on infrastructure that increased people and needs create.

Wanamaker said Tennessee’s approach to population growth and the economy has changed rapidly in the last five years alone.

“We were coming out of COVID, and we were all delighted to be the destination for other Americans,” Wanamaker said. “People were picking up and leaving states like Illinois, New York, and California, and moving to Tennessee. We were really proud. Five years later, the mood in the room is different.”

Wanamaker said higher housing prices, additional traffic, and expansion into previously rural areas have changed Tennessee’s perspective on growth being generally positive to something state and local leaders need to manage.

HOW WE GOT HERE

Many of the reasons new companies and people have moved to Tennessee are the same factors that are now putting strain on public infrastructure and fostering concerns that development is happening in ways that are not beneficial to local communities.

“Our external posture is friendly to people – which looks like no income tax – and we are friendly to business – which looks like low land prices and low energy prices,” she said. “Our tax system matches these preferences, and our tax system – especially at the local level – is about growth in the number of people and growth in property. That drives our tax revenues. But if that’s the case, then planning is king.”

Since 2025, Tennessee’s gross domestic product (GDP) has outperformed the average U.S. rate. That trend largely emerged following the pandemic.

“Tennesseans are an ungovernable people, so public health officials asked us to do things we didn’t want to do and didn’t do,” Wanamaker said. “The tradeoff is a lot of people died in Tennessee, but on the other hand, our economy came out of COVID growing a lot faster than a lot other places in the country. Tennessee, in the last five years, has grown at 3.2% per year, which is really fast.”

WHERE GROWTH COMES FROM

There are only two ways in which a state’s economy can grow: either the workforce increases or the amount of workers in the state remains the same but that existing workforce increases its output. Tennessee’s growth is fueled by the increase of its workforce population. In the past 20 years, Wanamaker said the U.S. population grew about .75% per year with Tennessee reporting a 1% population increase per year.

Twenty years ago, natural population – the state having more births than deaths – was driving the state’s population increase, but that’s not common anymore. Since the pandemic in particular, most of the state’s surge has been driven by in-bound migration.

“Even that is changing,” See **OUTLOOK** on Page 6

Tennessee voters decide federal state races in August primary

By KATE COIL
TT&C Assistant Editor

Tennessee may have its first female governor after Tennesseans went to the polls on Aug. 6, 2026, to determine candidates for a slate of federal and state races to be decided in November.

In addition to setting November general election ballots, nine State Senate and 31 State House races were also decided in primary elections.

Two candidates have secured their party nominations for both state and federal races with State Sen. Brent Taylor and State Rep. Justin Pearson both retaining their state seats but also earning nominations to face off in the District 9 Congressional race.

Regardless of the outcome in November, Tennesseans will also see new faces in several seats. On the federal level, challengers secured placement on the ballots for the U.S. House District 5, U.S. House District 6, and U.S. House District 9.

In state races, new officials will be elected to District 5 of the State Senate and in 14 State House Districts, including Districts 1, 2,



Voters in Chattanooga stand in line at the polls during the Aug. 6, 2026 primary election. In addition to setting the ballots for upcoming state and general elections in November, voters also determined one Tennessee State Senate and 14 Tennessee State House races during the primary. (Photo by WCTV)

8, 11, 31, 32, 36, 45, 59, 78, 80, 81, 93, and 96.

GOVERNOR

Republican U.S. Sen. Marsha Blackburn will face Democrat Memphis Councilwoman Jerri Green as well as 13 independent candidates for governor in November as Gov. Bill Lee is term limited.

Blackburn defeated fellow Republican U.S. Rep. Tim Scott. See **TENNESSEE** on Page 7



U.S. Sen.
Marsha
Blackburn



Memphis
Councilwoman
Jerri Green

August elections held in 70 cities

By KATE COIL

Elections were held in 70 municipalities on Aug. 6, 2026, to coincide with state and federal primary elections.

A further 205 municipal elections or special elections are scheduled to coincide with state and federal general elections on Nov. 3, 2026.

ALEXANDRIA

Incumbent Jeff Ford defeated challenger Jeremy Prince to retain the mayoral seat in Alexandria. Ford received 127 votes to Prince’s 15.

Incumbent Debbie Fischer will be joined by newcomers Margaret Stevens and write-in candidate Susan Wooten Holmes after defeating incumbent David Cripps and newcomers Eddie Tubbs, Tony Griffith, and Cason Oakley for the three open seats on the Alexandria Board of



Mayor and Aldermen. Fischer earned 151 votes, Stevens 150, Holmes 115, Oakley 87, Griffith 82, Cripps 81, and Tubbs 37.

In the unexpired alderman race, Curtis Rutter defeated Danny Parkerson with Rutter earning 118 votes to Parkerson’s 113.

ALGOOD

Newcomer Tiffany Anton defeated Alderman Billy Bilbrey and

challenger Danny Richardson to secure the Algood mayoral seat. Mayor Lisa Champan-Fowler did not seek re-election.

Anton earned 378 votes followed by Richardson with 291 and Bilbrey with 199.

Newcomers Dan Taylor and Bryan Payne fended off challenges from Taylor Hill and Tim McPherson to take the two open seats on the See **CITIES** on Page 9

Communication is key for leaders managing public pressure, free speech regulations

BY KATE COIL

Whether addressing issues in person, via email, at public meetings, during press conferences, or on social media, municipal leaders have tools to avoid legal troubles and public backlash.

Communications consultant Tom Griscom and Sam Jackson, managing partner at the Nashville offices of Spencer Fane Law, discussed how to deal with sensitive topics, public pressure, and obeying laws related to free speech and public meetings at a recent workshop during the Tennessee Municipal League’s 86th annual Conference and Expo.

Both emphasized that knee-jerk reactions often worsen tense situations. While it can be tough to face challenges from reporters, the public, or on social media, Griscom said there are three key words public officials need to remember: “Don’t feel attacked.”

“It is hard, but your first reaction when somebody says something at you angrily may be emotional,” Griscom said. “Instead, you want to pause, stop, and think through what the person said, what you want to say back, and how you want to phrase it. If you go with that emotional reaction, you may only feel great for about an hour.”

Jackson explained that sensitive issues often lead to public confrontations, which can escalate tensions.

“You are the adult in the room,



Citizens in Franklin await their turn during a public comment period in a city meeting. When hot button issues are at the center of community debate, municipal leaders have a responsibility to help guide discussions in a way that allow the public to be heard but also keep discourse civil and on track. (Photo by Franklin)

and you have to act like the adult in the room,” Jackson said. “You have to act like the person you were elected to be. Your feelings can be hard to swallow, but if you go too far, there is nothing that can fix that.”

MANAGING EMOTIONS

Citizens often come to public meetings already emotionally charged.

“You are the person who was elected to deal with that,” Griscom said. “We have a tendency to think that once there’s a decision, an issue is done. That fervor will die down, but I promise you those people who were fired up are still out there, and

they will keep at this until it is resolved in the way they want it done.”

The job of elected officials is to guide and manage the conversation in a way that diffuses emotions. One way to do this is for city leaders and staff to monitor community conversations and prepare ahead.

“You know what you want to do, how you want to get it done, how you want to package it, and how you want to do talk it about, but you have to prepare for some anger coming from a perspective that – hopefully you’ve thought about – that disagrees with you,” Griscom said. “If someone disagrees with you, do See **SPEECH** on Page 6

NEWS
ACROSS
TENNESSEE

CLARKSVILLE
A life jacket locker providing life jackets for rent is now available at Clarksville’s Billy Dunlop Park. The locker allows residents to rent important safety equipment on-site for \$1, allowing a more affordable way to safely enjoy Clarksville’s waterfront. Rental instructions are available directly on the locker, allowing residents to pay via app.

CLINTON
A year-long, \$9.9 million renovation and revitalization project has concluded in Clinton’s downtown historic district. The project replaced more than 100-year-old infrastructure in the area as well as adding wider sidewalks, new landscaping, wall seating, repaving roadways, and updating utilities. The goal was to create a more pedestrian-friendly downtown to encourage more visitors, business, and growth. Historic Downtown Clinton has also secured additional grants for continued improvements such as speakers on downtown lampposts.

DYERSBURG
Officials with the city of Dyersburg and Dyersburg Police Department (DPD) cut the ribbon on the new DPD Criminal Investigation Division North Precinct. The Criminal Investigation Division is responsible for investigating major crimes, processing evidence, and working with local, state, and federal partners to help keep the community safe. The new facility will ensure detectives have the resources they need to serve citizens by investigating crimes, solving cases, and bringing perpetrators to justice. The facility will also allow for processing evidence and for DPD to work with local, state, and federal partners to meet community safety needs.

JACKSBORO
Traxion Materials officials announced the company will expand its operations in Jacksboro, creating 49 new jobs and investing \$5 million. The ongoing project will expand the company’s recycling and upcycling processes and create 49 new jobs across the region. With existing infrastructure that includes structured tire collection, wholesale tire distribution, tire shredding and processing and tire derived fuel supply, the company is well-positioned for continued growth and increased production across its network. Anchored by its primary facility in LaFollette, Traxion Materials operates the Traxion Tire LifeCycle Network across Tennessee, Kentucky, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

LEBANON
Bridgetown Natural Foods officials will expand its Lebanon operations, creating 237 new jobs and installing a new \$24.1 million food production line. The additional line will begin immediately and increase production through the end of the year. Upon completion, the company’s Tennessee presence will grow to more than 450 team members. The company established its first operations in Lebanon in 2024 – the company’s first outside Oregon. Founded in 2010, Bridgetown Natural Foods designs and manufactures leading natural food products and serves as an innovation and supply chain partner to high-growth, natural foods brands.

NASHVILLE
Nashville will be home to the first completely indoor 18-hole golf course in the country. [CityGolf](#)

[USA](#) will work with GOLFZON simulators to create the course, which will feature real putting surfaces, short-game areas, and an indoor driving range. Ultimately, golfers will be able to play a full round indoors year-round. The facility will also include a restaurant and bar, pro shop, private event spaces, and lessons and leagues led by PGA-certified professionals. The Nashville venue is expected to be the prototype several similar facilities nationwide.

NASHVILLE
The city of Nashville has announced the addition of 300 acres of forest to the city’s [A.G. Beaman Park](#). The new acres were acquired through the work of the city, The Conservation Fund, and numerous donors. The new land will expand the park to permanently protect one of Nashville’s significant natural landscapes. The city has already committed \$1 million toward the project with an additional \$1.08 million awarded through the Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund and the Beaman Family Foundation donating \$1 million to help finance the park expansion.

OAK RIDGE
TRISO-X officials announced the company is expanding its operations, creating 1,140 new jobs in Oak Ridge as the company constructs a new fuel facility and research and development center at the [Horizon Center Industrial Park](#), a [Select Tennessee Certified Site](#). While the final scope of the project is still being determined, the company anticipates investing hundreds of millions of dollars in the development. The company became the first to receive a license from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to construct and operate a commercial-scale facility for producing High-Assay Low-Enriched Uranium fuel in the U.S. This announcement follows that licensing and will allow TRISO-X to develop advanced small modular reactors, accelerate commercialization of advanced nuclear technologies and strengthen the U.S. supply chain for critical nuclear fuel. Founded and based in Oak Ridge, TRISO-X is a wholly owned subsidiary of Maryland-based X-energy and in 2022, [broke ground](#) on what was, at the time, North America’s first commercial advanced nuclear fuel facility.

OAK RIDGE
Kyoto Fusioneering (KF) officials will move its headquarters to Oak Ridge, creating 51 new jobs and investing \$46.9 million. The project includes the buildout of critical fusion testing infrastructure designed to drive down fusion technology risk. This investment centers on developing UNITY-3, a first-of-its-kind fusion nuclear test facility to be built at Oak Ridge National Laboratory through a public-private partnership announced earlier this year. KF is the premier global developer of fusion infrastructure, technology and integrated systems. Originating in Japan in 2019, today, the company anchors the fusion supply chain for top-tier private and public fusion development programs around the world, and operates across Asia, Europe, and North America.

SAVANNAH
The Boyd Industrial Site in Savannah has become the newest and 77th site certified through the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development

Lebanon breaks ground on freestanding ER



Officials with the city of Lebanon, Wilson County, TriStar, and community leaders broke ground on the new TriStar Emergency Room for the city. The \$18 million freestanding emergency department will be located at the intersection of Willard Hagan Drive and South Hartman Drive. With proximity to Interstate 40, the facility will also help meet the needs of the area’s growing population. The facility will include a pharmacy and imaging site and create 20 new jobs, including physicians and nurses. (Photo by Lebanon)

Dickson welcomes new fast-charging station



Officials in Dickson cut the ribbon on a new EV fast-charging station downtown. Located near the city’s skatepark and downtown business district, the new charging station provides reliable options for residents and visitors. The station was funded in partnership with the Tennessee Valley Authority, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, and Dickson Electric Service and is part of the state’s Fast Charge TN Network. (Photo by Dickson)

Johnson City highlights local history through new Black Heritage Trail



A new black history trail has been unveiled by Johnson City Parks and Recreation, guiding residents and visitors on a 1-mile walking trail through the stories and histories of figures who helped shape the community. The [Johnson City Black Heritage Trail](#) was opened with a ribbon cutting at the Langston Centre, the first of ten local landmarks on the trail including churches, schools, and businesses. Historical markers stand at each stop on the self-guided tour featuring key places, people, and moments in Johnson City history, preserving these stories for future generations. Funding for the project included \$80,000 from the Tennessee Department of Health, \$20,000 from Tennessee America 250, and \$5,000 from Tennessee Blue Cross and Blue Shield. (Photo by Johnson City)

opment (TNECD) [Select Tennessee Certified Sites program](#). The Select Tennessee process ensures that each certified site meets high-quality standards and is primed for development. Qualifications for certification

include having at least 20 acres of developable land for industrial operations, documented environmental conditions and geotechnical analysis, existing onsite utilities or a formal plan to extend utilities to the site, and

truck-quality road access. TNECD partners with Austin Consulting to administer the program. Learn more about the Select Tennessee Certified Sites program by [visiting the program’s website](#).



Drone policies must balance privacy, innovation as use grows

By KATE COIL
TT&C Assistant Editor

As drone use increases by the public, governments, and private businesses, state and local policies around drone usage are being shaped by a debate.

The protection of personal privacy and data is up against concerns for public safety and economic development tied into emerging technology.

Dr. Xuhong Su is a professor of public administration in the University of Tennessee’s Baker School of Public Policy and Public Affairs and has worked with other researchers to track drone use, policies, and regulation. Su shared her findings insight at a workshop at the Tennessee Municipal League’s 86th annual Conference and Expo in Kingsport.

“This is a new field, and so much is ongoing,” Su said. “There is a lot of noise, and we are still amid the journey searching for certainty. Drones have a huge business market. The FAA predicts the drone industry will be worth \$40 billion five years from now. There are roughly 23 million drones flying above our heads, whether we notice them or not. You see them flying at events like the World Cup or by emergency departments looking for the source of a fire or a missing person.”

With more companies like Amazon and Walmart exploring drone delivery, Su said concerns have emerged over personal privacy and property, who is managing drones, how high or low drones are allowed to fly, and what is being done with data drones collect.

SETTING THE FRAMEWORK

The cornerstone of drone policy and regulatory framework begins with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Su said FAA policy is relied upon to establish uniform drone performance and safety standards for the marketplace, set a federal registration and tracking system to build drone information system infrastructure, and impose restrictions on drones that protect federal assets and interests.

In 2016, the FAA put into effect a national regulatory framework governing commercial drone operations that covers flight rules, pilot and licensing requirements, and safety compliance.

Meanwhile, Su said it has largely been left up to individual states to determine how to set up privacy and safety rules, clarify airspace rights, and establish state registration and licensing programs. Between 2013 and 2025, Su said she and her research team tracked policies implemented by 47 states and analyzed 110 regulatory documents. Tennessee has six state-level statutes concerning drones.

One major exception is the state of New York, which has opted to let local governments pass their own regulations rather than make state rules. Two other states – New Mexico and Massachusetts – have not implemented any state-level drone policies yet.

“The state’s typical responsibility is often to set up privacy and safety rules,” Su said. “They answer questions like should a drone be able to fly 10 feet above your house or 50 feet above or how much noise drones are able to make. Amazon is lobbying heavily right now to allow their drones to fly beyond the visual line of sight, basically meaning drones can automatically fly anywhere. If they are allowed to do that – and they can do it 24 hours, seven days a week – and you can hear all of those delivery drones flying, people are concerned what that might mean for their quality of life.”

Counterbalancing citizen concerns over noise and privacy is the economic impact drones generate. Su said a lot of states have directed their policy toward encouraging drone usage and development, such as Virginia giving subsidies for drone manufacturers and Alabama prompting drone pilot education. Arkansas has the friendliest policies toward commercial drone operation, likely buoyed by Walmart’s economic impact and lobbying.

SHAPING POLICY

The first wave of legislation Su and her team tracked was implemented between 2015 and 2018. A second wave came be-



As drone usage becomes more ubiquitous and major companies push for drone delivery options, municipal leaders can expect to be caught between citizen concerns over privacy and new economic innovations. While states have largely led the charge when it comes to shaping drone policies, no two states has the same policies and many of these regulations are lagging far behind the technology itself. (Photo by TVA)



From maintaining public infrastructure to managing natural disasters, searching for missing people, or photographing large scale municipal events, drones can be put to a wide variety of uses in cities. Even so, most cities have not adopted the technology nor accompanying policy that governs crucial questions like privacy, liability, and data storage. Rules set up by different states can also regulate how municipalities can use drone technology. (Photo by TVA).

tween 2023 and 2025, which Su said was largely in response to concerns raised and loopholes that need to be closed in the first slate of drone legislation as well as the increased usage of drones that came during the pandemic.

As drones have become mainstream, Su said more concerns have been raised.

“Most states are wrestling with how law enforcement uses drones because this is a powerful technology, and it needs to be reined into to protect the public, privacy, individual well-being, and society,” Su said. “A lot of states are concerned that rogue entities will use drones to spy on critical infrastructure such as schools, mines, the electric grid, and oil refineries. The definition of critical infrastructure also varies across different states.”

While the Supreme Court had [previously ruled](#) that airspace is not private property and therefore anything seen from airspace is not a privacy violation, the 400 feet and below altitude drones are allowed to fly at has created a murky legal area.

“The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was conducting flyovers to monitor water quality,” Su said. “On one of these flyovers, they detected some marijuana plants being grown. The company was then fined for illegally growing marijuana. The company said the EPA’s use of the drone violated their privacy. There is now a question about what happens if a drone is flying for another purpose, and it exposes something illegal happening.”

Out of all of these types of legislation, Su and her team identified six major categories of legislation and regulations of drone usage, including:

- Law enforcement and surveillance restrictions
- Privacy and property protections
- Weaponization and harm prevention
- Enabling mechanisms



Law enforcement agencies have been early adopters of drone technology, which is why many emerging policies on drones focus on their use by police. One emerging question is whether evidence of a crime captured by a drone is admissible. (Photo by FAA).



As drone use by private citizens, companies, and government entities increases, questions are emerging about civil liberties, rights to privacy, and quality of life concerns. (Photo by UT)

- State and local pre-emption
- Critical infrastructure and correctional facility applications

Su said Tennessee’s regulations tend to focus on privacy and infrastructure concerns but also explore economic benefits

of drones, like most states in the southeast. States in the north and midwest tend to have policies focusing on civil liberties, weaponization, and safety while western states are largely focused on pre-emption.

Drone policy at large tends

to lag behind what is happening in the field, and Su said city and county-level policies are not as common as state-level drone regulations. Of the 100 most populated cities in the U.S., 60% have some type of local drone ordinance. These ordinances often fill gaps in state law.

However, Su said states and cities can come into conflict over drone policy.

“The drone industry – particularly those big delivery companies – don’t want to deal with every city having its own ordinance,” she said. “There is a battle between states who want to centralize drone regulation and local governments who want to decentralize it. States want to create statewide markets to attract more development, but cities want to have more say on how drones are regulated.”

EMERGING CHALLENGES

As states experiment and learn from their own drone policies and those implemented by neighboring states, Su said regulations are likely to get more specific and rely less on political viewpoints.

Instead, she said drone policy is undergoing what is known as professionalization, meaning more emphasis is being put on the advice of experts in the field, economic impact, and regulations being pushed by lobbyists.

One emerging challenge is that municipalities and first responders need funding in order to utilize drones. Many governments that are behind in drone policy and usage cannot afford to purchase and maintain drones, hire a trained operator, or the insurance and liability costs.

Su said cities also need to navigate issues such as what happens if a city-owned drone damages private property, ensuring their drones obey state and federal regulations, and what data they are required to maintain and for how long. This can be difficult when few individuals are trained on drone operational rules.

The use of drones by government entities and businesses faces an uphill battle with public opinion. Su said municipalities using drones must engage with the community to increase citizen support.

Policy decisions showing that municipalities are addressing concerns can help citizens embrace usage. Su said preliminary findings indicate citizens are more likely to support drone use by municipalities if it is framed in a public safety context; if there are active, accessible, and updated policies employees utilizing drones must follow; and if there is a way for citizens to file grievances if they feel their privacy has been violated or a drone has been used improperly.

Communities should also be thinking about how the growth of drone delivery may impact them.

“Businesses have been running aggressive campaigns to change regulations,” Su said. “While drone delivery isn’t as efficient or operating at an optimal level, these companies have so much vested interest that they will do everything to push it forward. In the future, we may even see house design changed based on drone delivery.”

PEOPLE

Dave Bunt, parks and recreation director for Brentwood, will retire on Jan. 5, 2027, after a more than 30-year career. After graduating from Austin Peay University, Bunt began his parks and recreation career working with the Clarksville Parks and Recreation Department in 1992. Bunt joined the Brentwood Parks and Recreation Department in 1996 and is only the third parks and a recreation director in the city’s history. During his career with Brentwood, Bunt has overseen the opening of seven new parks as well as the city’s first inclusive playgrounds, disc golf course, dog park, and mountain biking course.



Dave Bunt

Fred Burton, longtime Lebanon councilman and area radio personality, died June 28, 2026, at the age of 85. Burton served a total of 30 years on the Lebanon City Council between his first election in 1986 and his decision to not seek re-election in 2024. During that time, he also served twice as the city’s mayor pro tem. Upon his retirement from the city council, the Fred Burton Community Park was named in his honor. A Korean War veteran, Burton spent 22 years working for Toshiba America and 16 years for TRW. He also owned a local barbershop and record shop at different times. However, he was best known as a disc jockey on WCOR-AM and WANT-FM radio in Lebanon.



Fred Burton

Sarah Childress has been named the first executive director of the newly created Office of Entertainment for the city of Nashville. The newly established office will work to support Nashville’s creative community and serve as a liaison to the mayor’s office. Childress has experience in film, TV, advertising, music, public media, academic, and community education. She comes to the position from WNPT where she has served as director of strategy and operations for the past three years. Prior to that, she was the first education and engagement manager for the Nashville Film Festival. She holds a bachelor’s degree in international studies from Emory University and a master’s in English with a concentration in cinema studies as well as a doctorate in English with a concentration in cinema and media arts, both from Vanderbilt University.



Sarah Childress

Rafferty Cleary has been named the first-ever town administrator for the town of Monterey. The Monterey Board of Mayor and Aldermen approved a transition in the town charter establishing the administrator position. Cleary previously served as the cultural administrator for the town with duties including overseeing the Monterey Depot Museum and working to host various events and festivals in the community. Before joining the town, Cleary held several media roles, including working with WGNS and Stonecom Radio.



Rafferty Cleary

Gavin Dishon has been named as the airport manager for the Tullahoma Municipal Airport/William Northern Field. Dishon brings more than five years of hands-on experience at the air-



Gavin Dishon

port and began his career there as an airport service specialist before being selected as interim assistant airport manager. A private pilot who learned to fly at the airport, he has a deep knowledge of operations and has been serving as interim manager since March. He holds an associate’s degree from Motlow State Community College and numerous aviation certifications.

Kristi Francaville has been selected as the new finance director for the city of Bartlett following the retirement of longtime director Dick Phebus. Francaville has served as the city’s assistant director of finance since 2022. She joined the city in 2015, first as a tax and revenue supervisor and then as an accounting manager. Prior to that, she worked in the Shelby County Trustee’s office and in the private sector. A certified municipal finance officer and certified treasury professional, she has lived in Bartlett since 1999 and holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.



Kristi Francaville

Andy Gilley, director of Hendersonville Parks and Recreation, has earned the certified park and recreation executive designation (CPRE) through the National Recreation and Park Association. The CPRE credential is the highest professional certification available to executives in the parks and recreation profession. Fewer than 500 professionals nationwide hold the designation, making it one of the most respected credentials in the field. Under Gilley’s leadership, Hendersonville Parks and Recreation manages more than 700 acres of park land and continues to enhance park facilities, expand recreational programming, strengthen community partnerships, and improve quality of life for residents throughout the city. The department has been honored numerous times for facility improvements, programming, and special events.



Andy Gilley

Kelly Graham has been appointed to fill a vacancy on the Bristol City Council previously held by Matt Slagle, who has since resigned to take the role of city manager. Graham has previously served the city as mayor, vice mayor, and councilman as well as on the city’s library board, housing authority, power board, planning commission, and board of zoning appeals. He will serve out the remainder of Slagle’s term, ending in January.



Kelly Graham

Kym Hughes has been selected as the new tourism director for Manchester. Hughes has 20 years of experience in the travel and tourism industry, including extensive leadership in destination marketing, tourism development, and community engagement. She most recently worked as the Main Street manager for Valdosta, Ga., and has held roles such as executive director of Peachtree City, Ga., executive director of Experience Fayetteville, Ark., and executive director of Sandy Springs, Ga. She has served on the boards of the Georgia Association of CVBs and the Southeast Tourism Society, reflecting her longstanding involvement and leadership in the tourism industry. She is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga and is a certified destination management executive.



Kym Hughes

Longtime Tennessee State Sen. Jim Tracy dies

Jim Tracy, longtime Tennessee State Senator, died July 3, 2026, at the age of 69. Lt. Gov. Randy McNally honored Tracy for his service to Tennessee. "Jim was a devoted public servant and a man of great integrity, faith and unwavering dedication to the people of Tennessee," McNally said. "When I became Speaker of the Senate, I knew immediately Jim would be my Speaker Pro Tempore. I trusted his judgment, respected his leadership and knew he cared deeply about both the institution and the people we served. He was a steady hand, a thoughtful counselor and a loyal friend. Jim Tracy never met a stranger. He had a remarkable gift for making everyone he encountered feel seen, heard, and valued. His warmth, kindness, and genuine concern for others earned him the respect and affection of



Jim Tracy

people from every walk of life. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him." Born in Jackson, Tracy attended Freed-Hardeman College and then the University of Tennessee at Martin, where he earned his bachelor’s degree in agriculture education. He served for six years as a coach and teacher in Georgia, Al-

abama, and at Columbia Academy in Columbia. He then opened his own Nationwide Insurance agency in Shelbyville, which he operated for more than 20 years, continuing to serve as a high school coach and junior college basketball official. He was first elected to the Tennessee State Senate in 2004, serving District 16 from 2005 to 2013 and then District 14 from 2013 to 2017. During his time in the State Senate, he served as Assistant Floor Leader, Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, and Speaker Pro Tempore. Tracy also sponsored the bill that led to the statewide smoking ban for most indoor public places and workplaces. He was appointed by President Donald Trump to serve as Tennessee State Director of USDA Rural Development, a position he held until January 2021.

Krushenski selected as TMBF VP and COO

The Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) has announced the appointment of Kevin Krushenski as the new executive vice president and chief operating officer. The announcement was made by TMBF President and CEO Wade Morrell. "Kevin has shown strong leadership and a deep commitment to serving cities and counties across the state," Morrell said. "In addition to continuing to cover Middle Tennessee, in his new role, Kevin will also assist in the day-to-day operations of TMBF and coordinate the administration of the new health insurance and employee benefits program." Krushenski said he looks forward to carrying on TMBF’s legacy of service to local governments. "I am honored by Wade's trust and grateful for the opportunity to serve as executive vice president and chief operating officer for TMBF," he said. "I look forward to continuing to work in our communities and alongside our talented team to build on TMBF's 40 years of integrity and service, deliver



Kevin Krushenski, TMBF Vice President and COO

lasting value to our members, and position the organization for continued success." In this new position, Krushenski will continue his work marketing programs in Middle Tennessee and providing proposal assistance, as well as monitoring program performance and reporting to ensure success, administering the new employee benefits program, and serving as a liaison with TML, the legislative branch, and state government. Krushenski has worked with the bond fund since 2013 and

Nick Kimbro has been selected as the director of the recently reunited Tullahoma Planning, Codes, and Life Safety Department. His appointment marks the consolidation of the previously separate department of planning and development and department of safety and codes compliance. Kimbro has 20 years of service to the city of Tullahoma, most recently as director of safety and codes compliance. A Tullahoma native, he is the son of a 30-year city of Tullahoma employee. He began his own career with the city as a reserve firefighter in 2006.



Nick Kimbro

Ryan Lynch has been selected as the new director of the Nashville Department of Transportation and Multimodal Infrastructure (NDOT). Lynch presently serves as senior advisor to the commissioner of the New York City Department of Transportation and previously served as chief of staff. He’s also held positions as the Chief of Staff to the Brooklyn Borough President and Associate Director of the Tri-State Transportation Campaign, a non-profit transportation and land use organization that works to create a more balanced transportation system in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. Lynch will be the second director of NDOT since the department’s creation in 2021. He holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Martha Washington and a master’s in urban and regional planning from University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Ryan Lynch

to his work on the city council, Mayberry was actively serving on the Crossville Regional Planning Commission in his second term. He was the owner of Mayberry Complete Home Furnishings, which has locations in Crossville and Cookeville. **Shanna McCoy** has been selected the director of building and neighborhood services for the city of Franklin. She will take over the role from Tom Marsh, who will retire in September. Marsh joined the city as a permit technician in 2007 and has served in various positions before being selected as the city’s zoning and floodplain administrator, her current role. She is also the city's first certified floodplain manager, leading initiatives that strengthen compliance, development processes, and community growth.



James Mayberry



Shanna McCoy

Jason Salyer has been selected as municipal operations director for the town of Mount Carmel. Salyer has more than 20 years of service to the town, serving most recently as public works director since 2015. He has overseen numerous improvements to the town’s public infrastructure and daily operations. In his new role, he will



Jason Salyer

provide executive oversight of the town's municipal operations, help coordinate key services, and continue to support the town's commitment to efficient and responsive local government. **Jon Ward** has been appointed the first assistant city manager for Cookeville. Ward has served as the city’s community development director for the past 10 years and will continue in that role while serving as assistant city manager. Prior to serving as community development director, Ward also served as assistant director of the city’s planning department. Before joining the city of Cookeville, he served as a business development consultant and principal planner for the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Tennessee Technological University. **Mark Wilbanks** has retired as assistant chief of the Knoxville Fire Department after a 27-year career in the fire service. After serving as an active-duty member of the U.S. Marine Corps from 1991 to 1999, he worked his way up through the ranks of the department, including time as a health and safety officer, quality control officer, and master firefighter. Wilbanks also began serving as the department’s public information officer in 2022. He is also a certified critical care and hazmat specialist.



Jon Ward



Mark Wilbanks



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Tennessee Municipal League announces upcoming retirements

By KATE COIL
TT&C Assistant Editor

With a combined 113 years in service to the League, four Tennessee Municipal League employees have announced their plans to retire at the end of 2026. TML Executive Director Anthony Haynes thanked Sylvia Harris, John Holloway, Debbie Kluth, and Jackie Gupton for their many dedicated years of service and the legacy they leave behind at the League.

“These four individuals have a combined 113 years of service to TML and Tennessee cities,” he said. “As they begin a new chapter in life, we wish them each all the best in the years ahead and thank them for their service.”

Jackie Gupton manages information services for TML in addition to serving as executive assistant to the executive director of TML and to the president and CEO of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund.

Gupton joined TML in December 2015, following two decades in Tennessee state government.

In addition to overseeing data entry and supporting executive leadership, she provides daily administrative support to TML staff and works closely with the Board of Directors throughout the year and during conference meetings.

Prior to her role at TML, Gupton served as Executive Assistant to the Comptroller of the Treasury and held key administrative positions within the Comptroller’s legal staff and the Human Resources Department Fiscal Section. She has more than 42 years of experience in administrative roles.

Her extensive background in public service and executive support makes her a vital part of TML’s operations and a trusted resource for municipal leaders across the state.

A native of Springfield where she still resides, Gupton loves spending time with her church family and traveling. The highlights of her life are her granddaughters, grandson, son, and daughter-in-law.

John Holloway has served as director of government relations for TML since joining the League in September 2001.

He has more than 20 years of dedicated service and is a recognized expert in municipal finance, transportation policy, and public safety.

Prior to joining TML, Holloway worked with the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS) within the Tennessee Department of Treasury from 1992 to 2001.

During his time there, he managed local government membership in TCRS and gained valuable experience in public sector financial operations.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University of Mississippi. A native of Jonesboro, Ark., he was raised in Covington and resides in Franklin with his wife Dana. The pair have three children: Brenna, Annsley, and Colin.

In his retirement, Holloway plans to return to the golf course after a 15-year hiatus.

Debbie Kluth has served TML for more than 35 years, contributing her expertise across operations, member services, and event management.

She began her service in August 1990 as a production manager. In 1997, she took on responsibilities overseeing conference exhibitors and corporate sponsorships for the League.

As Director of Corporate Sponsorship and Conference Expo, she manages the annual Conference and Expo exhibit hall and leads efforts to enhance revenue through strategic initiatives such as partner memberships, sponsorships, advertising in the *Tennessee Town & City* digital newspaper, and marketing for exhibit booths at TML’s Annual Conference.

Her responsibilities include collecting member dues and contributing to TML’s internal databases, ensuring smooth and efficient organizational operations. She also developed the League’s first Product and Service Guide.

Before joining TML, Kluth worked in bookkeeping, in-



Above: From left to right, TML Director of Corporate Sponsorship and Conference Expo Debbie Kluth, Executive Assistant and Manager of Information Services Jackie Gupton, and Senior Director of Conference and Meeting Planning Sylvia Harris were honored at the TML 86th Annual Conference in Expo and Kingsport following the announcement of their impending retirements. With a combined nearly 90 years of service to local governments, all three will be stepping down from their respective roles at the end of 2026.



From left to right, photos of Harris, Kluth, Holloway, and Gupton when they all started their careers at the Tennessee Municipal League. Harris began her tenure at TML as an executive secretary and production manager in 1985 and will retire as senior director of conference and meeting planning for TML, a role she has held since 1997. Kluth began her time at TML as a production manager in 1990, and has served in her current role as director of corporate sponsorships and conference expos since 1997. Holloway has served as director of government relations for TML since joining the League in 2001. Gupton already had 22 years working for Tennessee state government when she joined TML in 2015 as the manager of information systems and executive assistant for both TML and TMBF.

ventory control, and computer services, building a strong foundation in administrative support. A native of Union City, Kluth moved to Chicago when she was four but returned to Tennessee in 1989 to live in Smyrna.

Sylvia Harris has served as the Senior Director of Conference and Meeting Planning for TML since 1997.

Throughout her tenure, Harris has played a pivotal role in organizing and managing TML’s conferences and events, consistently delivering memorable experiences for attendees.

She is known for her extensive institutional knowledge, attention to detail, and unwavering commitment to serving local governments statewide.

She joined TML as an executive secretary and production manager in 1985 and served as a lobbyist for TML in the late 1990s.

One of her first major projects at TML was transcribing long-time TML Executive Director Herb Bingham’s 1986 landmark text, *Municipal Politics and Power*.

In 1990, she began her work as the League’s convention service coordinator before taking over conference planning in 1997.

Prior to joining TML, she collaborated with TML staff as part of her work as an administrative secretary and government assistant with the University of Tennessee’s Municipal Technical Advisory Service from 1982 to 1985.

After graduating from West Tennessee Business College in Jackson, she also worked as a transcriptionist for the USF&G Insurance Company.

In 2019, she received the John C. Stutz 25 Year League Service Award from the National League of Cities for her contributions to the advancement of municipal governments.

Anative of Henderson, Harris grew up on a 200-acre farm where she honed her green thumb.



From left, Holloway with Covington Mayor David Gordon, center, and late Dyersburg Alderman Bob Kirk. Holloway's work in government relations has bridged the gap between city hall and the General Assembly since 2001.



Over the years, Gupton, Kluth, and Harris have also worked alongside employees and staff from the local, state, and federal level at a wide variety of events.. From left to right, Gupton, Kluth, Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee, and Harris at a Tennessee Municipal League Legislative Conference.

Growing pains influencing Tennessee economic outlook

OUTLOOK, *from Page 1*
Wanamaker said. “Ten years ago, that migration was mainly fueled by domestic migration – people coming from other states. International immigration also boomed during that period. We were a major destination for international immigration before the current presidential administration. There has been a falloff in our ability to replace ourselves, but there has been a big migration of people from other states.”

Population expansion in Tennessee is also more widespread than it was 10 years ago, changing from mainly urban centers to some of the more rural parts of the state. Middle and East Tennessee still lead population growth in the state. Additionally, 75% of the state’s new residents are under the age of 55.

On the national level, the U.S. population is in a long-term decline with the amount of births below the level needed to cover the number of deaths. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) expects the country’s natural population growth to be in the negative by 2030. While some states may continue to see positive natural population increases, Tennessee is expected to follow the national trend of decline.

Without migration from outside the U.S., the CBO foresees the U.S. population could begin to shrink by 0.3% per year. The office has also projected that about 1 million immigrants to the U.S. are needed each year through 2050 to offset the natural population loss.

The U.S. is also facing what is known as the demographic cliff – meaning that fewer babies being born is already beginning reflected in the numbers of students graduating from high school, which has consequences for higher education and school districts.

“This means there are going to be smaller schools that are on the verge of becoming insolvent,” she said. “In Tennessee, we have been saved by in-bound migration. Tennessee expects to have an increase in the number of high school graduates relative to what we had in 2030, compared to most states where that number is declining. Tennessee is one of only ten states that is in the positive.”

Just because Tennessee is expected to have a higher number of high school graduates doesn’t mean that those graduates will stay in the state, however. Wanamaker said universities in states surrounding Tennessee have increased their attempts to recruit Tennessee high school graduates because they don’t have enough to fill their flagship universities.



In the past, new businesses and population increases have been seen as positive economic signs for Tennessee. However, many residents are now looking toward a more managed approach from their leaders, concerned that development has accelerated at a pace that is undermining core values. (Photo by TNECD)



The same low tax rates, energy prices, and land costs that have driven other businesses to Tennessee have also cultivated the environment that attracts data centers, like the Meta Data Center in Gallatin pictured here, to the state. (Photo by Meta)

“The question is are we going to invest in trying to keep our 18-year-olds in the state or hope they come back,” Wanamaker said.

TAXATION AND REVENUE

Tennessee’s current tax system is set to benefit most from property improvements and a rise in population rather than from growth in workforce productivity.

“We have the second-highest reliance on sales tax in the country, no income tax, and low and declining corporate taxes,” Wanamaker said. “At the county level, 15% of revenues come from property taxes, and the automatic rate we set means you actually have to make an effort to raise the rate on property taxes. The local revenues on state-shared sales taxes is divided up and distributed back to

the counties by population.”

While Wanamaker said she is not advocating Tennessee implement an income tax, she does think we should consider the impact this lack of income tax has on the state’s tax system as a whole.

In a scenario where everyone in a state’s population increases productivity by 5% and sees a salary increase of 5% as a result, a state with income tax will capture that 5% increase. In states like Tennessee with no income tax, however, a 5% increase in productivity and income is only captured in the amount of sales tax dollars those residents then chose to spend in the state. Wanamaker said statistically, the more money people make, the more than tend to save rather than spend.

“We have a tax system that incentivizes the more people

type of growth over the more productivity type of growth,” Wanamaker said. “The same thing is true on property taxes. You don’t get more on property taxes if the people in the building get smarter or more productive. You only get more property tax if there is new businesses or a new house. This helps us frame the difficulties we are facing now around growth. Our tax structure has an interest in population growth.”

INCREASING NEEDS

As part of the state’s narrative shift on advancement and planning, Wanamaker said that municipalities are concerned about issues including:

- Data centers
- Utility rates and how utilities are managed
- Housing affordability

- Solar energy siting
- TVA gas and power plant siting
- State property taxes
- Toll and choice lanes
- School funding
- Local capacity and maintenance

[A recent study](#) by the Baker Center that was commissioned by the Tennessee Business Leadership Council found the state’s energy landscape is changing as electricity demand accelerates.

“Part of what we are struggling with is that in this new energy world we haven’t had to worry about load growth in 10 years because it’s been flat,” she said. “It’s been flat because we’ve adopted electricity-saving technologies and efficiencies all over the place. That has allowed us to continue to grow without adding electricity assets. Those days are over.”

While some Tennesseans feel that data center development will fuel the economy, others are skeptical about the consequences they might bring. Tennessee has some of the cheapest industrial electrical prices, which has helped fuel business expansion - particularly businesses that consume large amounts of energy like data centers.

“It should not be a surprise to us that data centers want to land in Tennessee, because big industrial complexes that use a lot of energy have long been located in Tennessee,” Wanamaker said. “The South is the No. 1 destination nationally for active and planned data centers, and Tennessee is ranked the most data center-friendly state. We are sort of sitting ducks on this; we set ourselves up. Much like our lack of income tax has attracted people to move, our low electricity costs are attracting data centers.”

With these concerns, many Tennesseans are expressing a desire for thoughtful, future-thinking planning from their local governments.

“We designed our system for growth,” Wanamaker said. “Even if we live in a rural area, our tax system promotes growth and depends on more people and more property. There is no city – big or small, urban or rural – that is different because our fiscal system is the same. There are tradeoffs. If you don’t want school consolidation, you have to be happy with growth and build the growth we want – at that under-18 level, not just retirees. You can get a lot of people to the table on housing affordability if you say your kid can’t afford a house in the neighborhood they grew up in. We need to find the equivalent for growth.”

Communication is key for leaders managing public pressure, free speech regulations

SPEECH, *from Page 1*
not attack them. You want to be conversational but not like you’re on vacation. You don’t want to be up there on your phone or rolling your eyes. You are their leader. Those little things matter.”

When addressing complicated issues, think before you speak.

“If you stop and give yourself 10 seconds before you speak, you will be able to gather your thoughts and your response can be great,” Griscom said. “If it gets to a point, take extra time. However, you can’t respond to all comments or questions with ‘great question, thank you.’ They are not all great questions, and you don’t want to add credibility to what every person says.”

If leaders anticipate an issue coming to the fore, Griscom said it can be helpful to have a placeholder statement prepared ahead of time. Officials should also be concise and use active verbs when addressing concerns, both in writing and speaking.

“Sometimes, you just have so much you want to say, but if you give people five bullet points they’ll only remember three,” Griscom said. “If you get asked something, you should be able to answer in 25 words or less. That makes you think more concisely, get your points together, and keep it simple. If you speak in a long, run-on sentence, people will tune out. When you finish a statement, stop. After that first statement, they may come back and challenge you again. You have answered them. Move on.”

Griscom said public discussions should remain respectful.

“This is not the WWE; I’m not trying to wrestle you to the ground,” he said. “You may dis-

agree with me, but that doesn’t mean you can take me apart, pick me up, and body slam me. If you do that, an hour later you’re going to regret you did that and hoping nobody took a picture. If you are up there in a meeting, just firing away at someone, they can record you, and its fair game.”

Officials also need to admit when they don’t have an answer.

“If you don’t know, don’t bluff,” Griscom said. “There is nothing wrong with saying ‘I’ll get back to you.’ It isn’t a sign of weakness to acknowledge you have no clue, but you have other people in your city who work in your city who do. What you can say is, ‘that’s interesting, let me spend some time on this and get back to you.’ And actually get back to them.”

OPEN MEETINGS AND TRANSPARENCY

Before moving forward with a gut-reaction, Jackson recommends bringing in a city attorney to discuss the issue.

“I promise you, the 30 minutes to an hour of time you pay for them will be the best money you’ve ever spent versus the multiple hours and dollars you may pay later if you get it wrong,” Jackson said. “What



How municipal officials react and engage during public meetings, online, or with the media can have repercussions both legally and in the court of public opinion. (Photo by NLC)

they can do is give you the best way to make a decision, and if you end up making the wrong decision, a way to defend that decision.”

Another legal issue he sees frequently is the appearance a decision was not made transparently. More concerning than spoken conversations about a decision are emails, text messages, direct messages, and other digitally stored conversations between public officials.

“You have not only violated the Sunshine Law, there is now direct black-and-white evidence that you did,” he said. “Things can be done to cure that violation. The real problem is the damage in the media because that discussion is now public record and must be produced either via public records request or in discovery in a lawsuit. It’s not fun sitting in a chair being

deposed and having comments you thought no one else would ever see brought back in front of you.”

Even if an official does not respond to comments made on a digital device, Jackson said being in a group chat alone is enough for a public official’s devices to be subpoenaed.

Jackson said, in the wake of the Charlie Kirk assassination, numerous people were fired for comments they made that produced a negative reaction. As a result, many school boards, universities, and public institutions are now having to make major payouts to individuals they fired due to public pressure.

By consulting with legal counsel before making such a move, Jackson said city officials can both ensure the decisions they are making are within the law and

better defend their position if a suit results.

In recent years, Jackson said emerging groups – like sovereign citizens and First Amendment auditors – have created conversations surrounding when and where citizens can speak or film. While their actions may make officials or members of the public feel uncomfortable, it doesn’t make them illegal.

Another issue arises when officials allow one group to use a public facility but not others. For example, a city that allows a local Christian church to use a public park or community center must them also allow a mosque or the Church of Satan to use the space when asked.

When dealing with open records requests, Jackson recommends allowing municipal attorneys or legal representation to handle them before sending them out the door. Not redacting items that are attorney-client privilege or reveal private information in these requests can lead to further complications.

With the advent of artificial intelligence (AI), Jackson said putting documents that are attorney-client privilege into an open AI system can then negate the protections those documents once had.

“When you upload that letter from your lawyer into ChatGPT to summarize it, that letter is now in that database somewhere,” he said. “Because it is available for AI to search it, courts have consistently ruled that waives attorney-client privilege. The only thing courts haven’t consistently ruled on is whether that waives the privilege for just that letter or every communication between you and your legal representative.”

Tennessee votes decide federal state races in August primary

TENNESSEE, *from Page 1*
publican challengers Monty Fritts and John Rose for the party’s nomination. Blackburn earned 311,328 votes followed by Rose with 235,511, and Fritts with 167,971.

Meanwhile, Green defeated Democratic challenges Carnita Atwater, Tim Cyr, Adam Kurtz, and Kevin Lee McCants for the party nomination. Green earned 244,194 votes followed by Atwater with 63,254, McCants with 18,961, Cyr with 14,795, and Kurtz with 12,456.

Independent candidates who will also be on the ballot in November include Misan Abidi, Dean Brewer, Ray Brown, David Hatley, Wendell Jackson, Charles Van Morgan, Eddie Lee Murphy, Lauren Pinkston, Victor L. Scoggin, Dave Seeman, Karl Knox Smithson, L. Webb Taylor, and Robert C. Vick.

US SENATE

Incumbent Republican Bill Hagerty will face off against Democrat Marquita Bradshaw and eight independent candidates for the U.S. Senate seat in November.

Hagerty ran unopposed for his party’s nomination and earned 629,068 complimentary votes.

Bradshaw defeated challengers Maria Brewer, Kevin Lee McCants, Civil Miller-Watkins, and Diana Onyejiaka. Bradshaw earned 186,154 votes followed by Brewer with 61,042, McCants with 34,215, Civil Miller-Watkins with 29,584, and Onyejiaka with 28,796.

Hagerty and Bradshaw will face independent candidates Tharon Chandler, Andrew Gerena, Jeremy Dean Hearn, Robert Jones, James William Macon III, Yoshi D. Matthews, David Sutman, Jr., and Catherine Barcel “Barcy” Whitson in November.

US HOUSE

District 1

Incumbent Diana Harshbarger ran unopposed and received 75,024 complimentary votes. She will run against Kristi Burke, who won the Democratic nomination after fending off fellow challengers Hernan H. Garcia and David S. Kerr Jr. Burke earned 12,393 votes followed by Kerr with 1,925 and Garcia with 1,856,

Harshbarger and Burke will also face Independents Joshua Ray Ashburn, Richard G. Baker, Chris Campbell, Billy Cody, and Tyler Brice Mitchell McClain in November.

District 2

Incumbent Republican Tim Burchett and Democratic nominee Michaela Barnett will face Independents Bruce Fine and Adam Heimerman in November.

Burchett and Barnett both ran unopposed for their party’s nomination. Burchett received 86,177 votes while Barnett received 38,877.

District 3

Incumbent Republican Chuck Fleischmann ran unopposed and received 76,446 votes. He will face off against Democratic nominee Anna Golladay, who defeated fellow challenger Bryan Martin with 27,725 votes to 7,166.

Fleischman and Golladay will also face Independents Dean Arnold, Jean Howard-Hill, Rodney Joe King, Donnie Lynn Ownby, and Edward John Roland.

District 4

Incumbent Republican Scott DesJarlais defeated challengers Thomas E. Davis, Joshua James, and Harold “Rocky” Jones for the party’s nomination. DesJarlais earned 39,491 votes followed by Davis with 9,777, Jones with 6,064, and James with 4,596.

Victoria Broderick earned the Democratic nomination, defeating fellow challengers Mike Cortese, Cliff Huffman, Tim Lanier, and Joyce E. Neal. Broderick earned 12,422 votes followed by Cortese with 9,216, Neal with 7,224, Lanier with 2,455, and Huffman with 1,478.

DesJarlais and Broderick will also face Independent Clay Faircloth in November.

District 5

Former Agriculture Commissioner Charlie Hatcher defeated incumbent Andy Ogles for the Republican nomination. Hatcher earned 36,544 votes to Ogles’ 32,091.

Columbia Mayor Chaz Molder defeated fellow challengers Yolanda Cooper-Sutton, DeVante R. Hill, Rachel Hurley, and Carrie Ann Iacomini for the Democratic

nomination. Molder earned 17,729 votes followed by Cooper-Sutton with 14,361, Hurley with 4,857, Hill with 4,324, and Iacomini with 2,491.

Hatcher and Molder will also face Independents James A. Johnson and Micheál O’Leary in November.

District 6

In the seat currently held by U.S. Rep. John Rose, State Rep. Johnny Garrett defeated challengers Natisha Brooks, John Henry, and former U.S. Rep. Van Hilleary for the Republican nomination. Garrett earned 37,371 votes followed by Hilleary with 25,485, Henry with 16,783, and Brooks with 6,013.

Mike Croley secured the Democratic nomination with 11,594 votes, fending off challengers Lore Bergman, Christopher Martin Finley, Miriam Leibowitz, and Chaney Mosley. Mosley came in second with 9,625 votes followed by Bergman with 9,216, Leibowitz with 6,832, and Finley with 2,855.

Garrett and Croley will face Independents Christopher B. Monday and Angus Purdy in the fall.

District 7

Incumbent Matt Van Epps ran unopposed and secured the Republican nomination for his seat with 60,030 complimentary votes.

Darden Copeland secured the Democratic nomination, defeating State Rep. Vincent Dixie, Saletta Holloway, and Joshua Warren Sale. Copeland earned 16,641 votes followed by Dixie with 11,385, Holloway with 9,980, and Sales with 3,741.

Van Epps and Copeland will also face Independents Andrew J. Koontz and Lowell Reynolds in November.

District 8

Incumbent Republican David Kustoff ran unopposed for his party’s nomination, securing 65,421 complimentary votes.

Heidi Kuhn secured the Democratic nomination, defeating challengers Dewey Gordon Bryan, Jordan D. Hinders, and Leonard Perkins. Kuhn earned 23,783 votes followed by Byran with 9,609, Perkins with 7,716, and Hinders with 4,670

Independent candidates Adam D. Austill, Wendell “Wells” Blankenship, Antonio Futch, Pamela Jeanine “P.” Moses, Horace Taylor, and Henry J. Ward, III will also run against Kustoff and Kuhn in November.

District 9

For the seat currently held by Democratic U.S. Rep. Steve Cohen, Republican State Sen. Brent Taylor will face off against Democrat State Rep. Justin Pearson in November.

Taylor secured the Republican nomination after defeating challengers Charlotte Bergmann, Jeremy Thompson, and Todd Warner. Taylor earned 31,057 votes followed by Warner with 17,775, Thompson with 13,481, and Bergmann with 5,153.

Pearson won the Democratic nomination by fending off challengers M. LaTroy A-Williams, State Sen. London Lamar, and Jim Torino. Pearson earned 32,092 votes followed by Lamar with 11,870, A-Williams with 3,318, and Torino with 1,531.

Both Taylor and Pearson will face Independents Dennis Clark and Michelle Davis Head in the fall.

TENNESSEE STATE SENATE

Of the 17 races for seats in the Tennessee State Senate, nine were decided in the primary. This included the races in Districts 1, 3, 9, 15, 19, 21, 25, 29, and 33.

District 1

Incumbent Republican J. Adam Lowe won the District 1 seat after defeating challengers Dennis H. Beavers and Teresa Congiolo. Lowe earned 15,314 votes, Congiolo 4,489, and Beavers 3,694. With no Democratic or Independent challengers, Lowe will be the only candidate on the ballot in November.

District 3

Incumbent Republican Rusty Crowe defeated challenger Dan Pohlgeers with 15,820 votes to 10,621. With no opponents in November, Crowe was re-elected to the State Senate.

District 5

Republican and former State Rep. Jimmy Matlock and Dem-

ocrat David Miller will face off for the seat previously held by Lt. Gov. Randy McNally. Matlock and Miller both ran unopposed for their party’s nomination with Matlock receiving 21,911 complimentary votes and Miller receiving 9,320 complimentary votes.

District 7

Incumbent Richard M. Briggs defeated challenger Kent Morell 13,686-6,948 to secure the Republican nomination. In November, Briggs will run against Democratic challenger Bryan Langan, who ran unopposed and earned 11,876 votes for his party’s nomination.

District 9

Incumbent Republican Steve Southerland ran unopposed and earned 21,966 complimentary votes. With no challengers in November, Southerland has secured the State Senate seat.

District 11

Incumbent Republican Bo Watson will face Democrat Tim Roberts in November after both ran unopposed to secure their party’s nomination. Watson earned 22,414 complimentary votes while Roberts earned 12,842 complimentary votes.

District 13

Incumbent Republican Dawn White and Democrat Angela Evans Wynn both ran unopposed and secured their party’s nomination for the seat in the fall. White earned 14,801 complimentary votes while Wynn secured 9,005.

District 15

Incumbent Republican Paul Bailey ran unopposed and earned 31,201 complimentary votes. Bailey faces no opposition in November and has secured the State Senate seat.

District 17

Incumbent Republican Mark Pody defeated challenger Theodore “Butch” Baker to secure the party’s nomination. Pody earned 15,311 votes to Baker’s 7,345.

For the Democratic nomination, Lindsay Patrick-Wright defeated fellow challenger Joni Cochran with 7,236 votes to 5,543. Pody and Patrick-Wright will move forward to the November election.

District 19

Democratic incumbent Charlane Oliver ran unopposed and received 16,809 votes for her party’s nomination. With no opponent in the fall, she has secured the District 19 seat.

District 21

Incumbent Democrat Jeff Yarbro ran unopposed and secured 13,577 votes for his party’s nomination. Yarbro faces no opposition in the fall.

District 23

Republican incumbent Kerry Roberts ran unopposed and received 21,993 votes for the party’s nomination. Roberts will face Independent David Lee Marcum in November.

District 25

Incumbent Republican Ed Jackson ran unopposed and secured 20,605 complimentary votes. With no opponents in November, Jackson will advance to the State Senate.

District 27

Incumbent Republican Jack Johnson will face Democrat challenger David A. Hardy in November after both ran unopposed for their party’s nominations. Johnson received 24,697 votes will Hardy received 10,612.

District 29

Incumbent Democrat Raumesh Akbari ran unopposed and received 21,510 complimentary votes for her party’s nomination. With no opposition in November, Akbari has secured the District 29 seat.

District 31

Incumbent Republican Brent Taylor will face Democratic challenger David Weatherspoon in November after both ran unopposed in the primary. Taylor earned 20,657 complimentary votes while Weatherspoon earned 13,040.

District 33

Incumbent Democrat London Lamar defeated challenger Tamika L. Abram to secure her party’s nomination and the District 33 seat

in the fall. Lamar earned 15,162 votes to Abram’s 4,733 and faces no challengers in November.

TENNESSEE STATE HOUSE

Of the 99 races for seats in the Tennessee House of Representatives, 31 were decided with the primary election. This includes races for Districts 1, 2, 4, 9, 10, 12, 21, 22, 36, 39, 50, 51, 53, 54, 56, 58, 72, 73, 74, 76, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, 88, 90, 91, 95, 96, and 98.

District 1

Incumbent Republican John Crawford was unseated by challenger Jessica Means for the District 1 House seat. Means earned 4,021 votes to Crawford’s 2,574 and secures the seat in November as she faces no opponents. Crawford presently serves as the chair of the State House’s State and Local Government Committee.

District 2

Newcomer Gary Stidham ran unopposed and secured the Republican nomination with 6,217 votes. Stidham takes over the seat from Bud Husley, who did not seek re-election. Stidham faces no opponents in November.

District 3

Republican incumbent Timothy Hill ran unopposed and earned 8,210 complimentary votes. He will face off against Democrat Lori Love, who also ran unopposed for her party’s nomination and secured 1,061 complimentary votes.

District 4

Incumbent Republican Renea Jones ran unopposed and earned 7,793 complimentary votes. With no opponents in November, Jones has secured the District 4 seat.

District 5

Republican incumbent David B. Hawk ran unopposed and earned 7,319 complimentary votes. He will run against Democrat Catherine Bacon, who also ran unopposed and earned 1,019 complimentary votes.

District 6

Republican Tim Hicks ran unopposed and secured 7,296 complimentary votes in the primary. Democrat Brad Batt also ran unopposed and secured his party’s nomination with 2,437 complimentary votes. Hicks and Batt will also face Independent Roger Broadwater in November.

District 7

Republican incumbent Rebecca Keefauver Alexander ran unopposed and received 6,819 complimentary votes. She will run against Sarah Jayne Della Vecchia, who ran unopposed for the Democratic nomination and earned 2,398 complimentary votes.

District 8

In the seat formerly held by Republican Jerome Moon, newcomer Jordan Henderson defeated challenger Tony Jay Crisp for the Republican nomination. Henderson earned 5,873 votes to Crisp’s 3,540. In the Democratic race, Hilary Trudell defeated Mac Pickle with 1,417 votes to 788. Henderson and Trudell will advance to the general election in November.

District 9

Republican incumbent Gary W. Hicks Jr. Ran unopposed for the nomination and will face no opposition in November. Hicks received 8,735 complimentary votes.

District 10

Incumbent Republican Rick Eldridge ran unopposed, earning 5,872 votes, and will face no opposition in November, securing the District 10 seat.

District 11

In the seat previously held by Republican Jeremy Faison, Kenny Cody defeated fellow challenger Jeff Fancher for the Republican nomination. Cody earned 7,432 votes to Fancher’s 3,063. Cody will run against Democrat Shelia Grooms McMahan, who ran unopposed and secured 1,076 complimentary votes.

District 12

Republican incumbent Fred A. Atchley ran unopposed and received 5,597 complimentary votes. Atchley faces no opposition in November, securing the District 12 seat.

District 13

Incumbent Republican Robert Stevens will face Democrat Brett

Windrow in November. Both ran unopposed for their party’s nomination with Stevens earning 4,082 complimentary votes and Windrow earning 2,725.

District 14

Republican incumbent Jason Zachary ran unopposed for his party’s nomination, receiving 10,152 complimentary votes. He will face off against Democrat Lindsay Young Honaker, who defeated fellow challenger Shivam R. Zaveri 3,720-880 to secure the party’s nomination.

District 15

Democratic incumbent Sam McKenzie ran unopposed and received 4,762 complimentary votes. McKenzie faces no opponents in November.

District 16

Incumbent Republican Michele Carringer and Democratic challenger Eliza Boles both ran unopposed in their respective primaries. Carringer received 7,491 votes while Boles earned 3,483.

District 17

Incumbent Republican Andrew Ellis Farmer ran unopposed for his primary and faces no opposition in November. Farmer earned 5,918 complimentary votes.

District 18

Incumbent Republican Elaine Davis fended off challengers Brent N. Jones and Elliot Schutchardt to secure her party’s nomination. Davis earned 5,254 votes to Jones’ 2,760 and Schutchardt’s 372.

Democrat Bryan Goldberg will face Davis in the fall after running unopposed in his primary and securing 5,665 votes.

District 19

Republican incumbent Dave Wright and Democrat Jenny Fowler both ran unopposed for their party’s nominations. Wright earned 7,906 complimentary votes while Folwer earned 2,657.

District 20

Republican incumbent Tom Stinnett will face off against Democrat Karen Gertz and Independent Jeff Cogan after Stinnett and Gertz both ran unopposed for their party’s nomination. Stinnett earned 6,617 complimentary votes while Gertz garnered 2,315.

District 21

Incumbent Republican Lowell Russell ran unopposed and secured his party’s nomination with 9,669 votes. Russell faces no opposition in November.

District 22

Republican incumbent Dan Howell ran unopposed, earning 8,440 complimentary votes, and faces no opposition in the general election.

District 23

Incumbent Republican Mark Cochran defeated challenger Will Bolton to secure his party’s nomination. Cochran earned 5,214 votes to Bolton’s 3,023.

Cochran will face challenges from Independents Jeremy Bromwell and Jason Hilt in November.

District 24

Republican incumbent Kevin Raper and Democratic challenger Daniel F. Jones advanced to the November election after running unopposed in their respective primaries. Raper earned 5,693 complimentary votes while Jones earned 1,319.

District 25

Incumbent Republican and Speaker of the House Cameron Sexton will face Democrat Monica Mowdy in November after both ran unopposed in their respective primaries. Sexton earned 11,591 votes while Mowdy earned 1,657.

District 26

Republican incumbent Greg Martin ran unopposed and secured the nomination with 8,821 complimentary votes. Democrat Nathan B. Denton defeated challenger Lucian LaFae with 2,517 votes to 2,349 to secure a spot on the November ballot.

District 27

Incumbent Michele Reneau fended off challenger Tony Hullender in the primary, earning 6,030 votes to Hullender’s 4,313. Reneau will face Democrat Paige Quirin, who ran unopposed and earned 4,726 votes.

CONTINUED, on Page 8

Tennessee votes decide federal state races in August primary

CONTINUED, from Page 7
District 28

Incumbent Democrat Yusuf A. Hakeem ran unopposed and earned 6,936 votes for his party’s nomination. Hakeem will face independent candidates Johnny Horne and former Chattanooga Councilwoman Demetrus Coonrod in November.

District 29
Republican incumbent Greg Vital and Democrat Ryan V. Scofield advanced to the general election after running unopposed in respective primaries. Vital earned 7,459 complimentary votes while Scofield earned 2,918.

District 30
Incumbent Republican Ester Helton Haynes and Democrat Art Rymer will advance to the November ballot after running unopposed in respective primaries. Haynes received 5,630 complimentary votes while Rymer earned 3,913.

District 31
In the seat formerly held by Republican Ron Travis, Republican Andy J. Swafford defeated challenger Harold “Bo” McCawley 6,901-5,182 to secure the Republican nomination.
Swafford will run against Democrat Michael Woodlee, who ran unopposed and received 1,382 complimentary votes, as well as Independents Keith Nolan and Randy A. Sharp in the fall.

District 32
In the seat formerly held by Republican Monty Fritts, Jack L. Stockton fended off Melissa Caldwell Browder and Paul Suarez for the Republican nomination. Stockton earned 6,483 votes followed by Browder with 3,808 and Suarez with 543.
Democrat Ali Simpson ran unopposed, earning 2,043 votes, and will face Stockton in November.

District 33
Incumbent Republican Rick Scarbrough ran unopposed and received 6,347 complimentary votes. Anne Backus will face Scarbrough in the fall after defeating challenger Kelly McCampbell 2,162 to 1,325 for their party’s nomination.

District 34
Republican incumbent Tim Rudd and Democrat Owen Farnsworth both ran unopposed in their respective primaries. Rudd earned 4,476 complimentary votes while Farnsworth received 2,997.

District 35
Incumbent Republican William Slater ran unopposed for his party’s nomination, receiving 6,306 complimentary votes. He will face Democrat Phil Barnes, who defeated challenger Lance C. Loftis 1,481-705 for the nomination.

District 36
Challenger Noah Smith unseated incumbent Dennis Powers in the Republican primary. Smith earned 8,034 votes to Powers’ 3,963. Smith faces no opposition in the fall.

District 37
After running unopposed, incumbent Republican Charlie Baum earned 4,498 complimentary votes and will face Democrat Mary Ann Young in the fall. Young defeated fellow challenger Marlayna Trego 1,521-1,029 to secure the nomination.

District 38
With both running unopposed, incumbent Republican Kelly T. Keisling and Democrat Seth McMillan advance to the general election. Keisling earned 12,364 complimentary votes while McMillan earned 1,081.

District 39
Republican incumbent Iris Rudder ran unopposed and, with 9,232 complimentary votes, faces no opposition in November.

District 40
Incumbent Republican Michael Hale and Daniel T. Hawthorne ran unopposed and secured their respective party’s nominations. Hale earned 10,634 complimentary votes while Hawthorne received 1,528.

District 41
Republican incumbent Ed Butler will face Democrat R. Jason Goodman after both ran unopposed

in their primary’s Butler earned 9,638 complimentary votes while Goodman earned 1,443.

District 42
Incumbent Republican Ryan D. Williams will face Democrat Trenton Tyler Strode after both ran unopposed in their primaries. Williams earned 9,542 votes while Strode earned 3,098.

District 43
Incumbent Paul Sherrell defeated challenger DeWayne Howard to secure the Republican nomination. Sherrell earned 7,415 votes to Howard’s 4,135.
Democrat Samantha Petit will face Sherrell in November after running unopposed and earning 1,828 votes.

District 44h
Incumbent William Lamberth defeated newcomer Jennifer Janay Barton to secure the Republican nomination. Lamberth earned 5,250 votes to Barton’s 1,433. Lamberth will face Democrat Latoya Holcomb in November. Holcomb ran unopposed, earning 1,927 complimentary votes.

District 45
In the seat previously held by Johnny Garrett, Republican Brian Stewart defeated John Gentry and Chris Hughes to secure the nomination. Stewart earned 3,295 votes followed by Hughes with 1,789 and Gentry with 1,688.
Democrat MandyCook will face Stewart in November, running unopposed and earning 2,455 votes.

District 46
Incumbent Republican Clark Boyd and Democrat Dominic Howard will advance to the general election after running unopposed in their respective primaries. Boyd earned 9,673 votes while Howard earned 3,025.

District 47
Republican incumbent Rush Bricken will face Democrat Mike Stein after both ran unopposed in the primary. Bricken earned 7,723 complimentary votes while Stein secured 1,664.

District 48
Incumbent Republican Bryan Terry and Democrat Matt Ferry will again face off in November after running unopposed in their primaries. Terry earned 5,873 votes while Ferry earned 2,781.

District 49
Republican incumbent Mike Sparks ran unopposed receiving 3,152 votes and will face Democrat Connie Casha, who also ran unopposed and earned 2,817 votes.

District 50
Incumbent Democrat Bo Mitchell ran unopposed, earning 5,003 votes, and faces no opposition in November.

District 51
Democratic incumbent Aftyn Behn ran unopposed and earned 7,674 votes. Behn faces no opponents in the fall.

District 52
Incumbent Democrat Justin Jones will face Republican Michele Vetter and Independent Martez Coleman in the fall. Jones and Vetter both ran unopposed in their primaries with Jones securing 4,420 complimentary votes and Vetter 1,029.

District 53
Democratic incumbent Jason L. Powell ran unopposed and secured 4,059 votes for his seat. He faces no opposition in the fall.

District 54
Incumbent Democrat Vincent Dixie earned 8,313 complimentary votes after running unopposed in the primary and faces no opposition in November.

District 55
Democratic incumbent John Ray Clemmons will run against Republican Jayla Thomas in November after both ran unopposed in their primaries. Clemmons earned 3,515 complimentary votes while Thomas earned 563.

District 56
Incumbent Democrat Bob Freeman ran unopposed and faces no opposition in November. He received 6,182 complimentary primary votes.

District 57
Republican incumbent Susan M. Lynn ran unopposed and received 8,611 complimentary votes. She will face Matt Burchfield, who defeated fellow Democrat Heath Scott 3,262-1,098, to secure the party’s nomination.

District 58
Incumbent Democrat Harold M. Love Jr. Ran unopposed and received 5,027 complimentary votes. Love faces no opposition in the fall.

District 59
In the seat formerly held by Democrat Caleb Hemmer, Republican Bill Hancock ran unopposed and received his party’s nomination with 5,513 complimentary votes.
Hancock will face Mark Proctor, who defeated challengers Rick Ewing, Angie Lawless, and Beth West for the party’s nomination.
Proctor earned 2,475 votes followed by Lawless with 2,397, West with 1,755, and Ewing with 1,135.

District 60
Incumbent Democrat Shaundelle Brooks will face Republican Eva Angelina Romero in November after both ran unopposed in their primaries. Brooks earned 5,469 complimentary votes while Romero received 3,328.

District 61
Incumbent Republican Gino Bulso will face Democrat Becca Ripley after both ran unopposed in respective primaries. Bulso earned 7,557 complimentary votes while Ripley earned 3,605.

District 62
Republican incumbent Pat Marsh will face Democrat Brienna L. Akers after both ran unopposed in their primaries. Marsh received 11,116 complimentary votes while Akers earned 1,926.

District 63
Incumbent Republican Jake McCalmon and Democrat Laura Anderson will advance to the general election after running unopposed in respective primaries. McCalmon received 7,231 complimentary votes while Anderson earned 3,565.

District 64
Republican incumbent Scott Cepicky and Democrat Craig D’Apolito both ran unopposed in their primaries and will face off in the fall election. Cepicky earned 7,539 votes while D’Apolito earned 2,740.

District 65
Incumbent Lee Reeves fended off challenger Michelle Foreman to secure the Republican nomination. Reeves earned 5,523 votes to Foreman’s 4,615. Reeves will face off against Democrat Julian Herbert Pierre-Griffith, who ran unopposed and secured 3,500 complimentary votes.

District 66
With both running unopposed, Republican incumbent Sabi Kumar and Democrat Tamara Bavendam will advance to the November election. Kumar earned 6,186 complimentary votes while Bavendam earned 1,724.

District 67
Incumbent Democrat Ronnie L. Glynn will face Republican challenger Chris Lanier in November after both ran unopposed in respective primaries. Glynn earned 3,351 complimentary votes while Lanier earned 2,511.

District 68
Republican incumbent Aron Maberry will face Democrat Garfield Scott in the fall after both ran unopposed in their primaries. Maberry earned 7,184 complimentary votes while Scott earned 3,248.

District 69
Incumbent Republican Jody Barrett ran unopposed and received 7,845 complimentary votes. He will face Democrat Rachael Murray, who defeated fellow challenger Van Harris for the party’s nomination. Murray earned 1,202 votes to Harris’ 572.

District 70
Republican incumbent Clay Doggett ran unopposed and earned 10,657 complimentary votes. He will face Democrat Rayanne Moos, who also ran unopposed and earned

1,798 votes.

District 71
Incumbent Republican Kip Capley ran unopposed for his party’s nomination, receiving 8,227 votes. He will face Democrat Matty Day, who ran unopposed and earned 1,565 complimentary votes.

District 72
Republican incumbent Kirk Haston ran unopposed and received 8,565 complimentary votes. Haston faces no opposition in November.

District 73
Incumbent Republican Chris Todd ran unopposed, receiving 6,951 complimentary votes, and will face no opposition in the fall.

District 74
Republican incumbent Jay D. Reedy received 10,455 complimentary votes after running unopposed, and he faces no challengers in November.

District 75
Incumbent Republican Michael Lankford will face Democratic challenger Allie Phillips after both ran unopposed in their primaries. Lankford received 2,729 complimentary votes and Phillips earned 2,438.

District 76
Republican incumbent Tandy Dary earned 7,569 complimentary votes, running unopposed in the primary, and faces no challengers in November.

District 77
Incumbent Republican Rusy Grills ran unopposed in the primary, receiving 6,901 complimentary votes. He will face Intendent challenger Erin Jerrod Reid in November.

District 78
In the seat formerly held by Republican Mary Littleton, Republican Perry Keenan defeated John Louallen for the party’s nomination. Keenan earned 4,492 votes to Louallen’s 3,543.
Democrat Hillary Capes-Gwinn defeated challenger Aniya Farmer to secure the party’s nomination. Capes-Gwinn earned 1,208 votes to Farmer’s 1,194.

District 79
After running unopposed and receiving 7,532 complimentary votes, Republican incumbent Brock Martin will face Independent candidate Kirk D. Carter in the fall.

District 80
In the seat formerly held by Democrat Johnny Shaw, Bolivar Mayor Julian A. McTizic ran unopposed for the Republican nomination, receiving 3,088 complimentary votes.
In November, McTizic will face Democrat Andrea Bond Johnson, who defeated challengers Bethany N. Miller and Shelia L. Godwin for the party’s nomination. Johnson earned 3,054 votes, Miller received 2,178, and Godwin 907.

District 81
For the seat formerly held by Republican Debra Moody, Brett A. Giannini defeated challenger Jason Flemming to secure the party’s nomination. Giannini earned 4,387 votes to Fleming’s 3,278. As he faces no opposition in November, Giannini will advance to the District 81 seat.

District 82
Incumbent Republican Chris Hurt received 6,998 complimentary votes after running unopposed in the primary. Hurt also faces no opposition in November.

District 83
Republican incumbent Mark White and Democratic challenger Margaret Price both ran unopposed for their respective nominations. White earned 6,597 complimentary votes and Price received 4,795.

District 84
Democrat incumbent Joe Towns Jr. defeated challenger Kyler L. Gilkey 4,086-1,520 votes. Towns faces no opposition in November.

District 85
Democratic incumbent Jesse Chism ran unopposed and received 10,602 complimentary votes. Chism also has no opposition in November.

District 86
Incumbent Democrat Justin J. Pearson defeated challenger David Page with 6,475 votes to 545. Pearson faces no opposition in the fall.

District 87
Democrat Incumbent Karen Camper will face Republican Reggie William Hall in November after both ran unopposed in their respective primaries. Camper earned 5,541 complimentary votes while Hall earned 502.

District 88
Incumbent Democrat Larry J. Miller ran unopposed and received 5,868 complimentary votes. He will face no challengers in November.

District 89
Republican incumbent Justin Lafferty will face Democrat Randy Debord after both won uncontested primaries. Lafferty earned 7,530 votes while Debord earned 3,842 complimentary votes.

District 90
Democratic incumbent Gloria Johnson ran unopposed and received 5,770 complimentary votes. Johnson faces no opposition in November.

District 91
Incumbent Torrey C. Harris defeated challenger Arriell Gipson-Martin to secure the Democratic nomination. Harris received 5,504 votes to Gipson-Martin’s 2,189. Harris faces no opposition in the fall.

District 92
Incumbent Todd Warner defeated challenger Vincent A. Cuevas to secure the Republican nomination. Warner earned 4,430 votes to Cuevas’ 4,062. In November, Warner will face Democrat Teri Mai who ran unopposed and received 2,751 votes.

District 93
No candidates qualified in the Tennessee House District 93 race. The late State Rep. G.A. Hardaway Sr. previously held the seat, and his son, T.J. Hardaway, was appointed to fill the remainder of the term. Democrats Lashanta Rudd and Britney Thornton both ran write-in campaigns for the seat.
However, only 996 write-in votes were cast in the race, and a candidate must secure at least 5% of registered voters in the district – meaning a single candidate must secure 1,500 write-in votes – to receive the party’s nomination and appear on the November ballot.

T.J. Hardaway may still have a route to securing the seat, however. Hardaway also launched a write-in campaign for the District 93 as an independent candidate, and will not appear on the ballot until November.

District 94
Republican incumbent Ron M. Gant and Democrat Francine Johnson both ran unopposed in their respective primaries. Gant earned 8,760 complimentary votes while Johnson earned 2,726.

District 95
Running unopposed, Republican incumbent Kevin Vaughn received 7,795 complimentary votes. He faces no opposition in November.

District 96
Challenger Telisa Franklin unseated incumbent Gabby Salinas for the Democratic nomination. Franklin earned 4,593 votes to Salinas’ 3,725 votes. Frankin will face no challengers in the fall.

District 97
Incumbent Republican John Gillespie and Democrat Jesse Huseth both ran unopposed for their party’s nominations. Gillespie earned 5,924 complimentary votes while Huseth earned 5,896.

District 98
Democrat Incumbent Antonio Parkinson ran unopposed and received 6,250 complimentary votes. He faces no opposition in November.

District 99
Incumbent Tom Leatherwood defeated challenger Amber Mills to secure the Republican nomination. Leatherwood earned 5,609 votes to Mills’ 2,932. Leatherwood will face Independent William P. Mouzon in November.

August elections held in 70 municipalities

CITIES, from Page 1

Algood City Council. Taylor earned 426 votes followed by Payne with 418, Hill with 276, and Mcpherson with 208.

No incumbents qualified for the race.

ARLINGTON

Three incumbents retained seats in Arlington’s Board of Alderman Races.

Incumbent Jeremy Biggs defeated challenger Donald A. Hinkle 1,726 to 632 to retain the Alderman Position 6 seat. Incumbents Oscar Brooks and Harry McKee both ran unopposed for their seats. Brooks earned 2,085 complimentary votes in the Position 4 race while McKee earned 2,134 complimentary votes in the Position 5 race.

ASHLAND CITY

Incumbents Tim Adkins and Kevin Thompson ran unopposed and were re-elected to their respective council seats on the Ashland City Council. Adkins received 198 complimentary votes in the Ward 2 race and Thompson earned 241 in the Ward 3 race. No candidate qualified for the Ward 1 race.

BAILEYTON

No candidates qualified for the two open seats on the Baileyton Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

BARTLETT

Incumbent Tim Francaville ran unopposed and was re-elected municipal judge in Bartlett with 8,591 complimentary votes.

BAXTER

Incumbent Greg Phillips will be joined by newcomer Brian H. Burgess after defeating Caleb Bryant and Richard Waller for the two open seats on the Baxter City Council. Burgess led the vote count with 158 followed by Greg Phillips with 133, Waller with 108, and Bryant with 95.

BELL BUCKLE

Incumbent Ronnie W. Lokey ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor with 90 complimentary votes.

Two newcomers will join the Bell Buckle Board of Mayor and Aldermen after Brianna L. Akers and Annie Rooney defeated incumbent David B. Vannatta and challenger Jason Hatchett for the two open seats.

Akers led the vote tally with 66 followed by Rooney with 58, Vannatta with 52, and Hatchett with 34.

BYRDSTOWN

Incumbent Sam Gibson ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Byrdstown with 203 votes.

Incumbents John Keisling, Barbara Mitchell, and Jeff D. Rich fended off challenger Billy Robbins for the three open alderman seats. Keisling secured 185 votes followed by Rich with 173, Mitchell with 162, and Robbins with 67.

Incumbent Johnny Sells ran unopposed and secured 200 complimentary votes for the town recorder seat.

CELINA

Newcomers Kevin Lee Boles and Dorothy Burchett-Forney took the two open seats on the Celina Board of Aldermen, defeating fellow challengers Patricia Ann Burton, Cassondra Abbott Cornell, Charles Robert Cox, and Tonya Spears.

Boles led the vote tally with 221 followed by Burchett-Forney with 147, Cornell with 146, Cox with 138, Spears with 118, and Burton with 80.

CHAPEL HILL

Incumbent Benjamin A. Piper Sr. ran unopposed and was re-elected Chapel Hill mayor with 326 complimentary votes.

Incumbent Phillip Manners will be joined on the Board of Aldermen by newcomers Ben Hudson and Nathan L. Pierce with three open seats on the ballot. Hudson led the vote count with 230, followed by Manners with 220, and Pierson with 198.

CHARLESTON

Incumbent Faye Callaway ran unopposed and received 67 votes for the open seat on the Charleston City Commission. Incumbent Matthew C. Wiley also ran unopposed for the unexpired term on the council, receiving 75 complimentary votes.

CHARLOTTE

Incumbent Garland Breeden ran unopposed for the Charlotte



Voters came out from Memphis to Mountain City to cast their ballots in federal, state, and local elections as part of the Aug. 6, 2026, primary elections. Citizens in 70 cities across Tennessee elected mayors, councilmembers, aldermen, commissioners, judges, and city and court clerks. More than 200 municipal elections are also slated for November. (Photo by Shelby County Election Commission)

mayoral seat, earning 232 complimentary votes.

Incumbents Chris Deloach and Melinda F. Miller will be joined on the Charlotte City Council by newcomers Donnie Allen, Ben Killebrew, Jim Robertson, and Mika Sesler after defeating incumbent Justin Caleb Story for the six open council seats. Allen led the vote count with 199 followed by Killebrew with 176, Robertson with 170, Miller with 169, Sesler with 162, Deloach with 158, and Story with 139.

CLARKSBURG

Incumbent Howell Wayne Todd fended off challenger Jeff Reed in the Clarksburg mayoral race. Todd earned 74 votes to Reed’s 48.

Incumbents Barbara A. McClure and Judy Grant Smith ran unopposed and were re-elected to the two open alderman seats. Smith received 89 votes while McClure earned 88.

CLEVELAND

Incumbent Kevin Brooks ran unopposed and received 4,522 complimentary votes in the mayoral race.

In the District 2 Council race, newcomer Hiawatha Brown defeated incumbent Marsha McKenzie and challenger Brandon Gibson for the seat. Brown led the vote tally with 294 followed by McKenzie with 218 and Gibson with 149.

Incumbents Ken Webb and Bill Estes were also unopposed for their respective Council seats. Webb received 4,373 complimentary votes for the at-large seat while Estes received 380 complimentary votes for the District 2 seat.

COLLEGEDALE

Incumbent Curtis L. Bowe III ran unopposed and was re-elected Collegedale’s municipal judge with 911 complimentary votes.

COOKEVILLE

Incumbents Chad Gilbert, Luke Eldridge and Ali Bagci will be joined by newcomers Cigi England and Kelly McCorkle Parkison after incumbents Laurin Wheaton and Eric Walker did not seek re-election. Unsuccessful candidates for the five open seats included Mason Harville, Sam Matson, Damon Prince, Sam Raper, Nick Stone, and Trenton Tyler Strode.

Gilbert earned the most votes with 3,268 followed by Eldridge with 3,170, England with 2,769, Bagci with 2,563, Parkison with 2,507, Raper with 2,020, Harville with 1,825, Strode with 1,789, Matson with 1,701, Prince with 1,393, and Stone with 795.

DOWELLTOWN

Incumbents Tisha Hendrixson and Eric Dwain Snow both ran unopposed and were elected to two of the three open seats on the Dowelltown Board of Mayor and Alderman. Hendrixson received 45 votes while Snow received 43.

EASTVIEW

Incumbent Elvis Butler defeated Alderman Chase Koehler to retain the Eastview mayoral seat. Butler earned 76 votes to Koehler’s 69.

Only three candidates qualified for the five open alderman seats. Incumbents Luke Robbins and Jeff Walker will be joined by Robbie Richards on the council. Richards led the vote tally with 102 followed

by Walker with 100 and Robbins with 97.

ELIZABETHTON

Incumbent Teresa Murray Smith ran unopposed and was re-elected to the unexpired municipal judge seat in Elizabethton. Smith was appointed to the seat in March 2025, and previously served in the role in 2020.

ELKTON

Incumbent Alderman William Bonjour ran unopposed and was re-elected to the Elkton Board of Mayor and Aldermen with 92 complimentary votes.

ENGLEWOOD

Incumbent Richard Robinson will be joined by newcomer Virginia Key after ousting incumbent Jerry Shirk for the two open city commission seats in Englewood. Key and Robinson each received 103 votes while Shirk received 80.

ENVILLE

Incumbent Melinda Johnson ran unopposed and was re-elected Enville mayor with 1 vote.

Two candidates ran for the five open seats on the Enville Board of Alderman with incumbents Wanda Kaye Ritter and Nickalaus Weatherington receiving 29 and 28 votes, respectively.

ERIN

Newcomer Curtis Lamberth defeated incumbent Paul Bailey and challenger Ashley Parchman Arnold for the mayoral seat in Erin. Lamberth led the vote count with 150, followed by Bailey with 109, and Arnold with 74.

Three incumbents ran unopposed and were elected to open alderman seats. Lisa A. Moore received 57 complimentary votes in Ward 1, Cary Rye 68 in Ward 3, and Pam Lowery received 95 in Ward 4. No candidate qualified for the open Ward 2 seat.

ETOWAH

Incumbent Laura Floyd will be joined by Chris James and Jim Swayne on the Etowah City Commission after ousting incumbent Edward Burke Garwood for the three available seats. Swayne led the vote tally with 315 followed by James with 257, Floyd with 249, and Garwood with 156.

FAIRVIEW

Incumbent Gina Mangrum Cox fended off challenger Debra Bufalini to retain the municipal judge seat in Fairview. Cox earned 1,289 votes to Bufalini’s 558.

FARRAGUT

Alderman Alex Cain defeated former alderwoman and vice mayor Louise Povlin for the mayoral seat after incumbent Ron Williams did not seek re-election. Cain received 3,099 votes to Povlin’s 3,034.

In the Ward 1 seat, incumbent Joey Rufallo defeated Dian Hall with 1,339 votes to 1,257. The seat was previously held by Scott Meyer. Necomer Greg Wiberley unseated incumbent Joe LaCroix for the Ward 2 position. Wiberley earned 1,516 votes to LaCroix’s 1,441.

FRIENDSVILLE

Incumbents Jonathan D. Newberry and Shane Rogers will be joined by newcomer Dale Wilkins

after the three ran unopposed for the open seats on the Friendsville City Commission. Rogers led the vote tally with 98, followed by Newberry with 90, and Wilkins with 85.

GAINESBORO

Newcomer Ricky Head ran unopposed and was elected to the mayoral seat in Gainesboro with 122 votes. The seat was previously held by Lloyd F. Williams, who did not seek re-election.

Incumbents Tom Goetz, Deborah Whitaker, and Beth Young ran unopposed for the three open alderman seats and were re-elected. Whitaker received 119 votes and Goetz and Young each received 107.

GREENBRIER

Two incumbents ran unopposed and were re-elected to alderman seats in Greenbrier. Billy Ray Dorris received 164 complimentary votes for the Ward 1 seat while Alisha H. Allgood received 230 complimentary votes for the Ward 2 seat. No candidate qualified for the Ward 3 seat.

GREENEVILLE

Newcomers Angelo Botta and Flint Carter ran unopposed for the two open Ward 2 Alderman seats in Greeneville previously held by Tim Teague and Matt Hensley. Carter received 924 votes while Botta received 827.

Incumbent Johnny Honeycutt ran unopposed and was re-elected water commissioner with 1,707 votes.

HARRIMAN

Incumbents Johnny Brackett and Alicia Harris will be joined by Bear Tidwell on the Harriman City Council. Harris led the vote tally with 583, followed by Tidwell with 572, and Brackett with 527.

Incumbent Lonnie H. Wright also ran unopposed and received 655 votes for the unexpired term on the council.

HENDERSON

Incumbents Mark A. Barber, Donna Butler, and Keith Smith ran unopposed for the three open alderman seats in Henderson. Butler led the vote count with 468 followed by Butler with 467, and Smith with 461.

JOHNSON CITY

Newcomer Stephanie A. Sherwood fended off challengers Dustin David Jones and Lisa Witherspoon for the juvenile court judge position in Johnson City. Sharon M. Green previously served in the role but did not seek re-election.

Sherwood earned 3,681 votes, followed by Witherspoon with 2,959, and Jones with 1,822.

KINGSPORT

Incumbent Paul Montgomery fended off challenger Tim Sanders in the mayoral race. Montgomery earned 5,199 votes while Sanders received 1,792.

Newcomers Julie Byers, Richard Isaacs, and Calvin Clifton defeated challengers Joshua B. McMillan and Tom Seglehorst for the three open alderman seats. Incumbents Betsy Cooper, Colette George, and Gary Mayes did not seek re-election.

Byers led the vote count with 4,329 followed by Isaacs with 3,657, Clifton with 3,440, Segelhorst with 3,235, and McMillan

with 2,484.

LEWISBURG

Newcomer Jack H. Cathey defeated challenger Joseph Bradford for the Lewisburg mayoral seat previously held by Jim Bingham. Cathey earned 1,182 votes to Bradford’s 653.

Incumbent Ronald Robinson fended off challengers Jessica Limbird and Mark A. Wilson to retain the Ward 3 Council seat. Robinson earned 119 votes, followed by Limbird with 87, and Wilson with 41.

Newcomer Barbara Woods unseated incumbent Tommy G. Burns for the Ward 4 council seat. Woods earned 267 votes to Burns’ 170.

In the uncontested Ward 2 race, incumbent Vickie Michael received 525 complimentary votes.

LIBERTY

Incumbent Audrey B. Martin defeated challenger Derek Johnson for the mayoral seat in Liberty. Martin earned 78 votes to Johnson’s 65.

Newcomers Natasha Figgins, Connie Martin, George McGraw, and Justine Sandoval will join incumbent Kendra Stanford to take the five seats open on the Liberty Board of Mayor and Aldermen after defeating Michael Bain. McGraw, Stanford, and Bain all ran as write-in candidates.

Figgins received 59 votes, Martin 56 votes, McGraw and Stanford 52, Sandoval 47, and Bain 29 votes.

Incumbents J.D. Bratten, Ryan Dodd, Kevin Mullinax, and Howard Reynolds Jr. did not seek re-election.

LINDEN

Four incumbents ran unopposed in races in Linden. In the mayoral race, Wess Ward received 154 complimentary votes.

In the Ward 1 race, Bart Rosson received 146 complimentary votes. Patrick Denton received 143 complimentary votes in the Ward 2 race, and in the Ward 3 race, Dean Heady received 145 complimentary votes.

LOBELVILLE

Incumbent Robby J. Moore ran unopposed and was re-elected Lobelville mayor with 161 votes. Incumbent Alderman Josh Warren will be joined by newcomer Cody Warren after they ran unopposed for the two vacant alderman seats. C. Warren received 153 complimentary votes while J. Warren received 132.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

Incumbents Jim Bentley and Karen Leavengood will be joined by newcomers Lindsey Parks, Jake Tallent, and John Charles Tugman Jr. on the Lookout Mountain Commission, defeating incumbent William Valadez for the five open seats.

Leavengood led the vote count with 476 followed by Bentley and Tugman with 453 each, Parks with 451, Tallent with 370, and Valadez with 309.

LYNNVILLE

Incumbent William Morse will be joined by newcomer Angela Kimble and Brett Haynes on the Lynnville Board of Mayor and Alderman. Kimble led the vote count with 60 votes followed by Morse with 55 and Haynes with 50.

MANCHESTER

Incumbents Thomas Crosslin and Donny D. Parsley will be joined by newcomer Paul Thornton after fending off challengers Dana Douglas, Harold Jones, Ben Laine, Holly McLaren, Jeff Perry, and Kevin Smith for the three open seats on the council. Incumbent Mark Messick did not seek re-election.

Parsley led the vote count with 651 votes followed by Thornton with 632, Crosslin with 602, Douglas with 517, Perry with 415, McLaren 407, Jones with 359, Smith with 210, and Laine with 200.

MICHIE

Incumbent Jay Poindexter ran unopposed and received 88 complimentary votes in the Michie mayoral race.

Incumbents David Lynn Baker and Michael H. Campbell ran unopposed and were re-elected to the two open alderman seats. Baker received 86 complimentary votes while Campbell earned 78.

Incumbent Dennis Wicker also defeated challenger David James Buhle for the unexpired alderman seat. Wicker earned 62 votes to Buhle’s 32.

MINOR HILL

Incumbent Tracy Wilburn ran

CONTINUED, on Page 10

August elections held in 70 municipalities

CONTINUED, from Page 7
unopposed and received 76 complimentary votes in the mayoral race for Minor Hill.

Incumbents Brandon Beard and Paul Stafford also ran unopposed for the two open aldermen seats, receiving 70 and 75 votes respectively. No candidate qualified for the unexpired alderman term.

MONTEREY
Newcomer Chris Landers ran unopposed and was elected with 232 complimentary votes for the Monterey mayoral seat previously held by Alex Garcia.

Three candidates also ran unopposed for three alderman seats. Incumbent Spencer Delk received 215 complimentary votes in the Ward 1 race. Newcomer Brian Q. Williams secured 237 complimentary votes in the Ward 2 race. Incumbent James Wolfgram received 211 complimentary votes in the Ward 3 race.

No candidate qualified in the Ward 4 race.

MOSHEIM
Incumbents Marc A. Campbell and Matthew D. Solomon ran unopposed for the two open alderman seats in Mosheim. Both received 155 complimentary votes.

MURFREESBORO
Incumbent Shane McFarland defeated challenger Nathan Bennett to retain the mayoral seat. McFarland earned 10,421 votes to Bennett's 6,027.

Incumbents Jami Averwater, Madelyn Scales Harris, and Austin Maxwell fended off challengers Jacon Morphis and Jeffrey Wooden for the three open city council seats. Harris led the vote count with 8,721 followed by Averwater with 8,126, Maxwell with 7,381, Wooden with 4,577, and Morphis with 3,217.

NEW JOHNSONVILLE
Incumbent Charles Larry Bradford will be joined by Jason Finch and Jonathan Story after defeating incumbent Cody Keslinger and Johnny W. Turner for the three open council seats in New Johnsonville.

Bradford led the vote count with 252, Finch with 175, Story with 168, Turner 164, and Keslinger 150.

OAKDALE
Incumbent Oakdale mayor Buddy F. Miller ran unopposed and was re-elected. No candidates qualified for the at-large alderman seat races.

OLIVER SPRINGS
No candidate qualified for the court clerk/finance officer position in Oliver Springs.



Early voters wait their turn in Chattanooga. (Photo by Hamilton County Electoin Commission)

PEGRAM
Newcomers Sherri Martin and Landon Lyon fended off fellow challengers Christopher J. Crump, Randy Fielder, and Cody Howard for the two open seats on the Pegram Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

Martin led the vote count with 305, followed by Lyon with 168, Fielder with 110, Crump with 86, and Howard with 82.

PETERSBURG
No candidates qualified for the two open alderman seats in Petersburg.

PLAINVIEW
Incumbents Austin Collins and Richard D. Phillips ran unopposed and were re-elected to the two open alderman seats in Plainview.

RED BANK
Interim Red Bank City Judge Bryan Hoss defeated challengers Meredith Mochel and Emily O'Donnell to take the open municipal judge seat. Hoss earned 1,131 votes followed by O'Donell with 951, and Mochel with 373.

Hoss had been appointed to fill the term of Judge Johnny Houston, who resigned for medical reasons.

RIPLEY
Incumbent Tracey Brewer-Walker ran unopposed and was elected to the unexpired municipal judge term in Ripley with 1,303 votes.

RIVES
No candidates qualified for either the mayoral race or the three open alderman seats in Rives.

However, Lynn Elam received 13 write-in votes in the mayoral race. In the alderman race, Sherri Elam received 13 write-in votes while incumbent Sherry Jenkins

Davis received 4 write-in votes.

SARDIS
Incumbent Jason Craig ran unopposed and received 81 complimentary votes in the Sardis mayoral race.

Incumbents Debra Brown, Richard Holland, Jerald Hopper, and Brad Smith will be joined by newcomer Lisa Creasy Wilson on the Sardis Board of Mayor and Aldermen, defeating incumbent Larry Smith and newcomer Barry Bartholomew.

Holland led the vote count with 77 followed by B. Smith with 70, Brown with 69, Hopper with 57, Wilson with 50, L. Smith with 38, and Bartholomew with 33.

SCOTTS HILL
Incumbent Wood Capley defeated challengers Steven L. Dickson and Richie Stanfill to win the mayoral race in Scotts Hill. Capley earned 134 votes followed by Stanfill with 75, and Dickson with 22.

Incumbents Jeremy Creason, Tiffany McCormick, and Monty L. Ray will be joined by newcomers Lauren Mooney Bailey, Harold Britt, Adam Dunavant, and Buddy Robertson after defeating challengers Jeremy Bartholomew, Peyton L. Parrish, and Myles Sifford for the seven open alderman seats in Scotts Hill.

Creason led the vote count with 153 followed by Britt with 151, Dunavant with 150, McCormick 144, Ray 139, Bailey 134, Robertson 117, Bartholomew 100, Parrish 76, and Sifford 64.

Incumbents Bonnie Butler, Mary Connell, Steve Dickson, and Jerry Tucker did not seek re-election.

SMITHVILLE
Alderwoman Beth Chandler

defeated challenger Jeff Cawthorn to take the Smithville mayoral seat previously held by Josh Miller. Chandler eared 613 votes to Cawthorn's 345.

Newcomers Todd Cantrell and Meshai Johnson unseated incumbent Don Crook for the two open alderman seats. Johnson earned 561 votes, Cantrell 455, and Crook 400.

SMYRNA
Incumbent Lisa J. Brewer ran unopposed and received 4,291 complimentary votes for Smyrna municipal court clerk.

SOUTH CARTHAGE
Incumbent Joey Nixon ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of South Carthage with 162 votes.

Two incumbent aldermen also ran unopposed and retained their seats. Bobby Law received 61 complimentary votes in the Ward 1 race while Sam Murley received 88 complimentary votes in the Ward 2 race.

SPARTA
Incumbent Jerry Lowery ran unopposed and retained the mayoral seat in Sparta with 836 complimentary votes.

Incumbents Jim Floyd, Travis McBride, and Robert Officer also ran unopposed for the three open at-large alderman seats. Floyd received 639 votes, McBride 608, and Officer 598.

SPRING CITY
Newcomers Robert Harvey and Jeanna Sherill fended off challenge from Howard Gilliam and Karen Murray to take the two open seats on the Spring City Commission. Harvey led the vote tally with 213 followed by Sherrill with 182, Gilliam with 120, and Murray with 96.

TENNESSEE RIDGE
Only two candidates qualified for the seven open seats on the Tennessee Ridge City Commission. Incumbents Kenneth Dunavant and David Wood received 321 and 225 votes respectively.

TOWNSEND
Incumbent Rindi Martin will be joined by newcomers Harry McIntosh and Donald Prater, defeating challengers Christina Delaney and John Hurtle for the three open commission seats in Townsend.

Prater led the vote count with 145 followed by McIntosh with 140, Martin with 131, Delaney with 100, and Hurtle with 89.

TRENTON
Incumbent Wilma Champion ran unopposed and was re-elected Trenton court clerk with 502 votes.

TULLAHOMA
Newcomers swept in Tullahoma with Daniel Berry, Donna Bradford, and Mike Dent defeating incumbent Bobbie S. Wilson and challengers Brandon Champion and Jackie Harding for the three open seats.

Dent led the vote tally with 1,531 followed by Bradford at 1,322, Berry at 1,072, Wilson at 1,035, Champion with 699, and Harding 651.

Incumbent James F. Conley ran unopposed and was re-elected municipal judge.

WARTBURG
Incumbent Phil Vespie ran unopposed and was re-elected Wartburg mayor while James W. Laughter ran unopposed and was re-elected to the at-large alderman seat.

WAYNESBORO
Incumbents Chris Bevis, Tony L. Creasy, and Jeff Howell ran unopposed and were re-elected to the Waynesboro City Commission. Howell led the count with 217 votes, Bevis received 209 votes, and Creasy 201.

WHITE BLUFF
Incumbent Andrew Renfro ran unopposed and was re-elected to the unexpired municipal judge seat in White Bluff with 419 complimentary votes.

WHITEVILLE
Incumbent Jessie Giles will be joined by newcomers Aubrey Phillips and Robert Stitts after ousting incumbent Phil Forbes for the three open alderman seats in Whiteville.

Giles led the tally with 165 votes followed by Phillips with 131, Stitts with 91, and Forbes with 89.

No loan is too large or too small



The city of Jasper has used TMBF programs nine times since 1997. The latest is for a note issue, which closed in May, to finance a new pavilion in the town's park. From left to right: Jasper Mayor Jason Turner, TMBF Representative Steve Queener, and Jasper City Recorder Paula Turney.



The city of Humboldt has used TMBF programs eight times since 1990. The latest was for a school system refunding bond issue which closed in May. Pictured are Humboldt Mayor Arthur Boykin (seated), Humboldt CFO/Treasurer Alicia Piguet, left, and TMBF Marketing Representative Justin Hanson.



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Thank you vendors!
See you next year in Nashville.

**Not pictured: Fortiline, Krebs Kubota, Radarsign, Thompson Truck Group, and Verdin Company*

STATE BRIEFS

Tennessee’s unemployment rate dipped to 3.5% in June, matching its lowest point of the year. Data from the the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD) put the June rate at one-tenth of a percentage point down from the previous month and unchanged from its year-over-year month from June 2025. Tennessee’s unemployment rate still remains below the national rate of 4.2%. Tennessee employers added 2,500 jobs between May and June 2026 with the biggest increases in private education and health services, durable goods manufacturing, and professional, scientific, and technical services, and adding 25,300 nonfarm jobs between June 2025 and June 2026. TDLWD has compiled an analysis of the [June 2026 unemployment data](#).

Trust for Public Land has announced a new program aimed at helping communities and local partners leverage outdoor recreation to promote economic growth and foster a healthier environment. Appalachia United Outdoors Community of Practice is a free, 3-month virtual workshop series designed to provide open space professionals and their government, nonprofit, and private partners with the strategies, skills, and resources needed to advance local outdoor recreation goals.[Registration is required by Sept. 8, 2026](#). Learn more about the [program and the webinar series online](#).

Tennessee’s tourism economy increased by 2.7% year-over-year and generated \$32.5 billion in direct visitor spending in 2025, according to [a recent reported](#) by the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development. Other highlights from the report found Tennessee saw 150 million visitors in 2025 with \$89 million spent in the state by visitors per day. Visitor spending in Tennessee has increased by 40% since

2018, nearly double the national rate in the same period. Additionally, the industry generated \$2 billion in state revenue and \$1.3 billion in local tax revenue, saving the average resident \$1,180 in taxes each year.

Tennessee fell in annual rankings for education, economic well-being and over-all wellbeing for children in 2025. The [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#) released its study ranking states on a variety of child wellbeing measures. Tennessee ranked 37 in overall wellbeing and 42 in economic wellbeing. While Tennessee had the second greatest improvement on education year-over-year, the state still ranked 18 out of 50. The state retained its rank of 39 in child health and improved its family and community ranking to 42. Reasons contributing to the state’s ranking included a low number of preschool age children enrolled in school, fourth grade reading proficiency, the amount of high school students graduating on time, the number of children whose families are housing cost burdened, children without health insurance, and the child and teen death rate.

The Sycamore Institute’s annual [State Budget Primer](#) is highlighting what the organization considers “structural deficits” in the Tennessee budget related to transportation funding and lottery-funded scholarships. The report from the nonpartisan research organization listed the concerns under a new “top topics” section for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Other areas of concern the report noted included the impact of prolonged high inflation on managing and balancing the budget, changes in federal grant matching requirements, and the increasing reliance on special funding sources that may undermine long-term sustainability of funding. Tennessee’s \$57.9 billion budget funds state operations from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027.

Tennessee State Fair kicks off in Lebanon



Officials cut the ribbon on the Tennessee State Fair outside the Made in Tennessee Building at the James E. Ward Agricultural Center in Lebanon. The state fair runs in conjunction with the Wilson County Fair from Aug. 13-22, 2026. This year's state fair theme is Tennessee Voices & Volunteers Celebrating America 250. (Photo by Tennessee State Fair)

TDA now seeking applicants for Community Tree Planting Program

A funding opportunity from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry (TDF) provides financial assistance to communities to expand tree canopy coverage and support sustainable urban ecosystems statewide. “Our Urban and Community Forestry Program partners with Tennessee’s communities, helping them enhance the well-being of residents by cultivating and sustaining healthy urban and community forests,” State Forester Heather Slayton said. “One way we do that is through financial assistance that expands access to the

benefits trees provide, including stormwater mitigation, cleaner air and reduced heat.” The Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program (TAEP) Community Tree Planting Program grant is funded by the state of Tennessee. This grant’s goal is to increase tree canopy cover in urban and suburban areas. Eligible expenses include trees and shipping costs, contracted planting, mulch, irrigation devices, tree labels and signage. Eligible applicants include local governments, nonprofits and public educational institu-

tions. Awards range from \$500 to \$20,000. Applications must be submitted online by 5 p.m. Central time on Sept. 4, 2026, at [Tennessee Urban and Community Forestry Program](#). For proposal assistance, contact Urban and Community Forestry Program Coordinator Ashley Kite-Rowland at [Ashley.Kite-Rowland@tn.gov](#). TDF’s Urban and Community Forestry Program promotes the growth and sustainability of healthy forests through outreach, education and financial support. For more information, visit [Urban and Community Forestry](#).

Tennessee June 2026 revenues above estimates, despite declines in fuel taxes

Tennessee revenues exceeded budgeted estimates for the month of June. Department of Finance and Administration Commissioner Jim Bryson reported that total June tax revenues were \$2.5 billion, \$281.8 million more than the budgeted estimate and \$182.2 million more than June 2025. The total tax growth rate for the month was 7.72%. General fund revenues were \$282.2 million more than the June estimate, while the four other funds that share in state tax revenues were \$0.4 million less than the estimates. On an accrual basis, June is the eleventh month in the 2025-2026 fiscal year. “Total revenues had a strong performance in June, surpassing last year’s collections,” Bryson said. “Sales tax receipts, which reflect consumer activity in May, were solid. Corporate tax revenues, including franchise and excise taxes, performed even better and accounted for much of the month’s surplus. However, fuel tax collections declined from the same period last year, while all other taxes combined exceeded expectations. With one month of revenue reporting remaining in the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the state is on track to exceed the revenue estimates established for the year. Nevertheless, we will continue to monitor economic conditions closely.”

On a year-to-date basis, August through June, total tax revenues are 3.67% greater than the budget estimate, or \$764.3 million above expectations. When compared to this same period last year, total tax revenues have grown 6.68% or \$1.4 billion. General fund revenues are 4.11% greater than the year-to-date budgeted estimate, or \$725.4 million higher. Likewise, general fund collections compared to this same period last year have increased 6.58% or \$1.1 billion.

Individual tax performance compared to June 2026 Budgeted Estimates:

- Sales Taxes: Above estimate by 2.07% or \$26.6 million
- Corporate Taxes (Franchise & Excise): Above estimate by 39.62% or \$251.4 million
- Fuel Taxes: Below estimates by 4.25% or \$4.8 million
- All other taxes: Above estimate by 3.79% or \$8.7 million

Year-to-date performance compared to Budgeted Estimates:

- Sales Taxes: Above estimate by 1.83% or \$251.1 million
- Corporate Taxes (Franchise & Excise): Above estimate by 11.06% or \$421.1 million
- Fuel Taxes: Below estimates by 0.51% or \$6.0 million
- All other taxes: Above estimate by 4.57% or \$98.1

million

Individual tax performance compared to June 2025:

- Sales Taxes: Up 3.94% or \$49.7 million
- Corporate Taxes (Franchise & Excise): Up 16.14% or \$123.1 million
- Fuel Taxes: Down 4.57% or \$5.2 million
- All other taxes: Up 6.53% or \$14.6 million

Individual tax performance compared to August 2024 through June 2025:

- Sales Taxes: Up 4.19% or \$561.6 million
- Corporate Taxes (Franchise & Excise): Up 17.90% or \$641.8 million
- Fuel Taxes: Down 0.56% or \$6.6 million
- All other taxes: Up 7.41% or \$154.7 million

The budgeted revenue estimates for 2025–2026 are based on the State Funding Board’s consensus recommendation from November 25, 2024, which was adopted by the first session of the 114th General Assembly in May 2025. These estimates also incorporate any revenue changes enacted during the 2025 General Assembly session. Monthly estimates for fiscal year 2025–2026 are available on the state’s [website](#).

NATIONAL BRIEFS

The U.S. economy shed an unexpected 23,000 jobs in July, down from a projected 95,000 jobs from economists. Additionally, May and June jobs totals were revised down by 103,000. At the same time, unemployment decreased to 4.1% in July from 4.2% in June, according to the U.S. Commerce Department. The decline in unemployment is likely because many Americans have given up their job searches with economists saying wages are still being eaten up by inflation. Wage growth for July was at 3.1%, below the 3.5% inflation rate and the lowest rate recorded in five years.

Two-thirds of Americans support more government rules regarding the operations of social media companies as both Meta and Google face legal cases regarding how they conduct business, particularly regarding children. A recent [Reuters/Ipsos poll](#) found bipartisan support for social media regulation with 66% backing laws requiring age verification for users 16 and under, 61% saying social media companies need more government oversight, and 85% saying they believe social

media can be addicting for children. Even so, 70% of respondents described their own time on social media as “fun” though 52% believe they “spend too much time” on social media each day.

Nearly three-fourths of Americans oppose data centers being constructed for artificial intelligence (AI) use in their communities, according to a [new Gallup poll](#). The survey found 71% of Americans oppose data centers in their area with 48% expressing that they “strongly oppose” them. Only 7% of Americans reported being “strongly in favor” of having a data center in their community. Of the reasons Americans oppose data centers, the most common were that they would be a drain on resources (50%), concerns about environmental impacts (46%), economic impacts (14%), and negative attitudes toward AI (14%). A further one-in-five respondents said they felt data centers would negatively impact quality life. The same survey found that only 53% of Americans would oppose building a nuclear energy plant in their community.

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Sept. 19-28: Sevierville
Smoky Mountain Harvest Fest
Smoky Mountain Harvest Fest is a time for colorful leaves, crisp autumn air, and beautiful fall displays at a variety of locations throughout Sevierville.

Ed Stewart, ChFC, CLU, CFS
Financial Advisor

Byrd reflects on IPS career, future of government leadership

By KATE COIL
TT&C Assistant Editor

Dr. Herb Byrd III retires on Sept. 30 after a decade in his current role as vice president of the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service (UT-IPS), and a total of 40 years of service to UT.

His UT career began in 1984 as an Extension 4-H agent in Monroe County. He spent seven years in adult agriculture and resource development in McMinn County while serving as county director. In a two-year stint away from extension, Byrd was a vice president with Lads to Leaders, where he conducted workshops teaching adults how to teach leadership skills to youth.

After returning to UT Extension’s state office in 1998, he was responsible for recruitment, personnel and civil rights and served as extension’s affirmative action and EEO officer. In addition, he directed the Extension Evaluation and Staff Development department. He was also the human resources officer for the Institute for Agriculture and served on the staff of the University of Tennessee’s Leadership Institute from 1999-2019.

Byrd is an active member of the Clinton Church of Christ, is board president of Teenage Christian Camp and has worked with medical mission teams in several South and Central American countries with Latin American missions. He serves on the boards of Hillbrook Christian Association, Pathway Lending LLC, Tennessee Center for Performance Management (TNCPE) and is on the advisory panel for the UT System Executive Leadership Institute.

Byrd has been married to his wife, Resa, since 1981. They have three children: Kristin, Heather, and Resa-Marie. He and Resa are working hard to thoroughly spoil their grandchildren. That is reported to be his favorite job yet. He enjoys woodworking, fly fishing, tying flies, building fly rods, and any other outdoor activity.

Tennessee Town & City: How did you transition from your work with agriculture and UT’s Extension office into working with the University of Tennessee’s Leadership Institute and IPS? Are there any lessons from the former that apply to the latter?

Herb Byrd: I came to IPS the last day of August 2014, and there were some particular needs at that time. In thinking about whether to join IPS, my first inclination was “no.” I liked where I was; things were good. But as I thought about it, the things IPS needed were things I knew how to do: building relationships, working on finances, strengthening the budget, and outreach. IPS is an outreach arm of the university, and where I was in ag was in the outreach arm of the university. I even taught classes in outreach, so that part of IPS was very comfortable to me. I knew it upside down and sideways.

The audiences were not completely different. In the Institute of Ag, we worked with local governments a lot, especially county government. Going all the way back to when I was an extension agent, we did a ton of stuff with cities. The local government side of IPS was very comfortable to me, and with the outreach mission, I was right at home.

TT&C: What have been the biggest changes to IPS during your tenure?

HB: One thing I recognized really quickly was we needed a good strategic plan. We had what we called a strategic plan, but it wasn’t very strategic. It didn’t direct any of our work, as far as I could tell. I can say there was some pushback against doing an institute-wide strategic plan, but if someone asks me what one of my favorite days of work was, it was the day we had our strategic planning steering committee working up in Greeneville. You could see the lightbulbs coming on that day of what it was going to do.

That strategic plan has driven a lot of things. We are in one of the strongest financial positions we’ve ever been in because of that strategic plan, the things we put in place, and have worked on over the last 10 years from that plan. We have a ton of new programs, new ways of offering our services, and ways of measuring what we do as a result. We have tons of new internal processes and training, keeping people up to speed, and ensuring people are good teachers because of that strategic plan.

At times, we have been called the best-kept secret of the university, but one of the things in that strategic plan was how we get the word out about IPS, our agencies, and what we do. We literally had a policy of radio silence when I came, and people talked about that. In today’s work, being out of sight and out of mind is not a positive thing. We worked really hard to change that. Marketing and having what you do out there for people to see and understand is so much of a challenge now because there is so much information out there. You have to find a unique way to tell your story in ways people seek out and connect to.

We also have a really great leadership team, so getting the right people in the right spots is so critical to an organization. It is harder to accomplish than you might think, but that has been a great part of our success. We’ve had the highest employee engagement scores in the UT system for several years now. We have a very motivated and engaged workforce. They love what they do and who they do it for. We have a compelling mission that



Dr. Herb Byrd III, center, at the UT-IPS Block Party on the UT Campus. Byrd will be retiring from his role as vice president of the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service after more than a decade with IPS and 40 years with the university. (Photo by UT)



it’s easy to get excited about. There are not a lot of jobs like the jobs we have. You know you can make a positive difference for somebody every day. If you hire the right kind of people who love relationships, helping people, solving problems, and teaching, it’s a self-motivator.

TT&C: What do you think has been the biggest change for how IPS helps local governments provide public services in that same time period?

HB: The demand for what we do has grown substantially. We’ve had a great deal of turnover in local and state government. That creates more urgency and more demand. We live in a world where things are more complicated, and it seems they come at you faster than they used to. The opportunities to provide technical assistance and help has been one of the bigger changes: just the amount of need that is out there. It brings about the challenge, too, of making sure everyone knows we are here to help and serve them. That is a constant challenge because of all of that turnover. You have to keep relationships and build new relationships. It is a challenge getting people interested in public service today, for a number of factors.

TT&C: What would you say has been the biggest challenge of your career and how did you meet that challenge?

HB: We have had a period of tremendous growth. When I came to IPS, we had four agencies, and the Naifeh Center was a part of IPS administration. Today, we have seven agencies plus the SMART Initiative at IPS. We’ve grown in our number of employees. Our budget has grown from \$22 million in 2015 to just under \$50 million this year.

Growth is great, but part of the challenge is managing the growth in a way that is positive for the organization, so growing pains don’t overwhelm folks. Part of that growth is that we’ve added a lot of new programs, and we’re serving in a lot of ways we haven’t in the past. We don’t always have new people to do that work, so it’s an added workload to folks who are fully employed. You have to figure out how to offer what people need and grow our programs and keep adding. As needs change, the old needs never seem to go away.

I really believe we are strongest when we work together on common issues and problems and collaborate on programming for our clientele. That is a challenge – pulling a lot of talented people together who are used to seeing something wrong and going to do something about it – to get them to stop and think “who do I need to bring with me?”

TT&C: What has been the biggest lesson from your career in public service?

HB: The very first thing is that I have been in-

credibly blessed to be able to work in a public service role my entire career at the University of Tennessee. I can’t even begin to say how fortunate it is for those of us who are able to do that. We know we can make a difference for people every day.

I believe that, in these roles, you have to be a constant learner. Nothing is the same as it was even just a few years ago. One of the challenges is keeping up, but one of the blessings is that, for those who like learning and new things, it makes it easy to get up and go to work. I like building; I build things as a hobby. I would not be the right person to scale down a place or to tear down. That wouldn’t interest me at all.

TT&C: What do you think is the most rewarding thing about your work?

HB: Growing people and meeting people’s needs. I tell people ‘we are in the relationship business.’ Those relationships are key to who we are, what we are, and what we do. Those relationships are what makes it so worthwhile. At IPS, we serve all of Tennessee, but a lot of the time, the people we serve are through other people. It’s great to get to work with local government, law enforcement, business, and industry to touch every part of our state directly or indirectly.

TT&C: What, in your opinion, are the essential qualities of a good leader and a good public servant? Are they the same thing?

HB: I have been a student of leadership for a long time. There are certain traits, qualities, and characteristics that are important regardless of what kind of leadership role it is. At the same, we are in a people business. The traits and qualities that contribute to strong relationships – communication, listening – are some of the key ones for us in public service. We have to be able to listen and really hear what needs and concerns are, what folks are struggling with, then help them find answers that work for them.

There is a challenge when you are in a role where you are considered to be an expert that someone calls to ask a question, you give them an answer, and move on to the next. Rarely does that achieve the long-term result you want to see. There has to be connection, lots of communication, and curiosity to achieve the results we need.

TT&C: What can current government leaders do to better identify and cultivate the next generation of public servants and leaders?

HB: Good leaders create more leaders. One of the sad things in public service today is that our political climate is such that young people – and others – don’t see how they can have a place there or they don’t want to be in



Above: Over his career, Byrd has cultivated expertise in leadership dating back to his early career with the UT Extension program, and has frequently offered his insight to TML.

Left: The Tennessee Municipal League recently thanked Byrd for his service to the League as well as local governments through his UT roles. Byrd, left, was presently the award by TML Executive Director Anthony Haynes, right.

that place because it doesn’t look appealing from the outside.

One of the challenges in any public service job is to help people see the need for it as well as what they can contribute if they run for office. Another challenge is educating them about all the jobs where you don’t have to run for office but still work, serve, and make a difference for people. They see all the surface things, the news clips, and get the impression it’s a terrible place to work. That’s not true. It’s a wonderful place to serve, and if you have that kind of mindset or inclination, public service can be an exceptionally rewarding career. We have to do a better job of letting people see those things.

TT&C: What do you think will be the biggest challenges the next generation of local government leaders will face?

HB: In our state in particular, we have grown so fast it is putting pressure on all of our systems from public works to landfills to housing shortages, land use issues, energy and water capacity. In Tennessee, we are so blessed with so many water resources. There was a time in my life where I would see out West how people were struggling with water issues, and I thought we were blessed that would never be a problem we would have.

Now, we are seeing even in Tennessee with the demand and growth we have had, it has taxed our infrastructure. That is going to be a huge challenge for cities and counties across the state moving forward.

In addition, there are some of the bigger social challenges nationwide. In Tennessee, there are certain things like addiction and homelessness that local government needs to have a key role in managing. We continue to struggle with those problems because there isn’t one good answer. Things that tend to work don’t work for long or tend to outgrow the capacity we have. We are also in a climate where people want to reduce taxes, but it takes money to provide services. We are feeling tension where we need to provide more services, and it’s more expensive.

TT&C: What advice do you have to the next generation of local government leaders and public servants?

HB: Public service is a place where you can make a positive difference for somebody every day. When you put your head on your pillow at night and close your eyes, you can see the faces of the folks you made that difference for. Sometimes we do things for people they never know. When you know you’ve improved the quality of life for somebody or you’ve solved a problem they couldn’t, that makes it all worth while.