

## From the Desk of the Executive Director



### Our Veterans Continue to Serve

With the elections behind us, one of the most important dates of the year appears next on our calendars: Veterans Day.

Almost every town and city, our state, and federal government commemorate the day. America's veterans have given selflessly to help ensure our national security and our general quality of life. So many of our veterans continue to serve each day as public officials, administrators, firefighters and police officers, and the list goes on. One out of every four workers in the federal government workforce

is a veteran. You would be hard pressed to find a town or city in Tennessee that does not have a workforce of veterans. More than 400,000 veterans call the Volunteer State home.

As we begin the month of Thanksgiving, there is no better way to start than by giving thanks for our veterans. We at TML thank our veterans for their service our country and all they do each day in our communities.

Anthony Haynes  
TML Executive Director

## Trump defeats Harris to become president; incumbents sweep federal, state seats in Tennessee

By KATE COIL  
TT&C Assistant Editor

Incumbents won big on election night in Tennessee with returning candidates winning the vote in both federal and state races.

Tennesseans voted to elect federal and state representatives along with presidential and municipal elections on Nov. 5, 2024. The Tennessee Secretary of State's office said more than 2.2 million early votes were cast in Tennessee, about half of all registered voters in the state.

In what pundits called a Red Wave, Donald Trump swept to victory of the presidency with the necessary 270 electoral college votes to win, including all 11 electoral votes from Tennessee. At press time, Trump had earned 295 electoral college votes with vote counts still outstanding but leaning in his favor in Arizona and Nevada. Trump will become the first president to serve two non-consecutive terms since Grover Cleveland, a Democrat who was both the 22nd and 24th President of the United States.

All of Tennessee's federal races were won by incumbent candidates, including a highly-watched U.S. Senate race where incumbent Republican Marsha Blackburn defeated a challenge from Tennessee State House Rep. Gloria Johnson, who herself ran unopposed and retained her state house seat. Blackburn also defeated three independent candidates.

While a few new faces will be seen in the Tennessee General Assembly, all races for the Tennessee Senate and House retained a candidate from the same party as the previous election.

### FEDERAL SENATE

Incumbent Republican Marsha Blackburn defeated Tennessee State House Member Gloria Johnson as well as independent candidates Tharon Chandler, Pamela Jeanine Moses, and Hastina Robinson to retain her U.S. Senate seat.

Blackburn led the vote count with 1,913,493 followed by Johnson with 1,019,600, Chandler with 28,340, Moses with 24,571, and Robinson with 8,243.

### HOUSE

#### District 1

Incumbent Republican Diana Harshbarger defeated Democrat challenger Kevin Jenkins and Independents Richard Baker and Levi Brake for the House District 1 seat. Harshbarger earned 254,963 votes to Jenkins 63,143, Baker's 5,587, and Brake's 2,581.

#### District 2

Incumbent Republican Tim Burchett defeated Democratic challenger Jane George to retain his Dis-



Donald Trump swept to victory of the presidency. At press time, Trump had earned 295 electoral college votes with vote counts still outstanding but leaning in his favor in Arizona and Nevada.

trict 2 seat. Burchett earned 250,002 votes to George's 111,094.

#### District 3

Incumbent Republican Chuck Fleischman defeated challengers Democrat Jack Allen and Independents Jean Howard-Hill and Stephen King to retain the District 3 seat. Fleischman earned 236,258 votes to Allen's 102,747, King's 5,840, and Howard-Hill's 5,109.

#### District 4

Incumbent Republican Scotts DesJarlais defeated Democrat Victoria Isabel Broderick and Independents Earnest Ensley and Keith Nolan for the District 4 seat. DesJarlais earned 218,980 votes to Broderick's 83,758, Nolan's 5,596, and Ensley's 4,685.

#### District 5

Incumbent Republican Andy Ogles defeated Democrat Maryam Abolfazli and Independents Yomi Faparusi, Jim Larkin, and Bob Titley to retain the District 5 seat. Ogles earned 204,807 votes to Abolfazli's 142,136, Larkin's 7,588, Titley's 3,063, and Faparusi's 2,570.

#### District 6

Republican John Rose defeated Democratic challenger Lore Bergman to retain the District 6 seat. Rose earned 225,430 votes to Bergman's 106,050.

#### District 7

Republican incumbent Mark E. Green defeated Democrat and former Nashville Mayor Megan Barry and Independent Shaun Greene to retain the District 7 seat. Green earned 191,832



Incumbent Republican Marsha Blackburn defeated Tennessee State House Member Gloria Johnson to retain her U.S. Senate seat.

votes followed by Barry with 122,593 and Greene with 7,879.

#### District 8

Republican David Kustoff defeated Democrat Sarah Freeman and Independent James Hart to retain the District 8 seat. Kustoff received 238,542 votes to Freeman's 83,206 and Hart's 6,819.

#### District 9

Democratic incumbent Steve Cohen defeated Republican Charlotte Bergman and Independents Wendell Blankenship and Dennis Clark to retain the District 9 seat. Cohen led the vote count with 154,802 followed by Bergman with 56,239, Blankenship with 3,666, and Clark with 3,020.

See TENNESSEE on Page 6

## Nashville rebounds, TN midsize cities shine in 2023 population estimates



Nashville added the most population in 2022 making it two straight-years it has led the state.

By TIM KUHN

Tennessee State Data Center

Throw a dart at middle Tennessee and chances are you'll hit one of the state's higher growth cities. The Census Bureau's 2023 population estimate data show Nashville, Clarksville, Lebanon, and Murfreesboro were the state's four fastest-growing cities last year.

Nashville's 5,658-person gain was the state's largest single-year population increase over the year from July 1, 2022, to July 1, 2023. Revised figures show the Music City added another 6,552 people in 2022 making it two-years running that it has topped the state's list of fastest gaining cities (Figure 1a).

The new data still leaves the Tennessee capital below its 2020 population mark after moves out of the area accelerated sharply during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to IRS migration data. That outflow spike has since subsided, but the longer-term trend of net domestic migration loss – more people moving out than moving in – has persisted in Davidson County since 2016 in the related IRS data and Census estimates.

Clarksville's growth of nearly 4,000 people placed it second on the list in 2023. For the decade, the 181,000-person community located northwest of Nashville has added 13,200 new residents – more than any other municipality in the state. The City of Lebanon ranked third and displaced Murfreesboro (#4) from the top three for the first time this decade. The Wilson County community logged a notable 8.9 percent 1-year increase and added more than 3,950 people last year.

### Characterizing this Decade's Municipal Population Trends

Tennessee's 345 municipalities have added 100,000 new residents so far this decade. That resulted in a 2.4 percent population increase that slightly lags the state's overall 2.9 percent gain of 200,000 people since 2020

But Tennessee's cities and towns range from Nashville, the country's 21st largest city, to the 66 residents of Cottage Grove, located 12 miles northwest of Paris. That array of community sizes and their distribution across the state's diverse landscape makes it challenging to understand the patterns of population change across Tennessee's cities and towns.

To help better understand that cross-section, we classified land in the state into four types: City, Suburban, Town, and Rural. Each of those areas were then further refined into three subtypes, which are determined by factors such as population size or proximity to densely developed areas. The classification scheme comes from the National Center for Education Statistics and is typically used to

See POPULATION on Page 3

City or Town	2022	2023	Change	Percent
Nashville - Davidson	682,130	687,788	5,658	0.8%
Clarksville	176,747	180,716	3,969	2.2%
Lebanon	44,166	48,112	3,946	8.9%
Murfreesboro	162,402	165,430	3,028	1.9%
Chattanooga	184,038	187,030	2,992	1.6%
Gallatin	48,180	50,355	2,175	4.5%
Columbia	45,742	47,445	1,703	3.7%
Alcoa	11,684	13,349	1,665	14.3%
Spring Hill	56,006	57,637	1,631	2.9%
Knoxville	196,748	198,162	1,414	0.7%

This year's top 10 also includes three East Tennessee communities—Chattanooga (#5), Alcoa (#8), and Knoxville (#10)—along with three other Nashville metro municipalities: Gallatin (#6), Columbia (#7), and Spring Hill (#9).

## Liquor, transit, sales tax and charter amendments on the ballot in 27 cities

By KATE COIL  
TT&C Assistant Editor

In addition to 204 elections for city officials, referendums were held in 27 municipalities.

Knoxville residents approved a charter amendment changing when the city's fifth council district elections are held, meaning the next person elected to the position will hold a two-year term that will realign the seat with the election of other councilmembers. Voters approved the measure 45,524 to 17,890.

A second, more controversial amendment narrowly failed with 32,665 votes against and 31,334 for. This amendment would have changed the city council to include six "regional at-large" members and three "citywide at-large" members instead of six councilmembers representing six districts and three "at-large" council members.

Nashville's transit referendum also passed with 65.5% to 34.5%, according to unofficial results released by the Davidson County Election Commission. The transit plan will raise Davidson County sales tax from 9.25% to 9.75%, on par with sales taxes in surrounding counties, resulting in an additional \$3.1 billion

See Results from Municipal Elections on Pages 7-12

in revenue.

Dubbed Choose How You Move, the plan by Nashville Mayor Freddie O'Connell aims to complete the entire priority sidewalk network from WalkNBike Nashville, upgrade nearly 600 traffic signals, provide 24/7/365 transit service, and make safety improvements.

"For the first time in our city's history, we will have dedicated revenue for transportation improvements, and that's going to allow us to finally chip away at our traffic and cost of living issues," O'Connell said. "We all deserve more time with our friends and family and less time just trying to get to them. Throughout this process, Nashvillians have been clear. They want to be able to get around the city we all love more easily and more conveniently."

See REFERENDUMS on Page 7

# NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



## ATHENS

DENSO officials announced the company is expanding its presence in Southeast Tennessee, establishing additional manufacturing operations in Athens. The expansion includes 54,560 square feet of new production space and renovations to existing areas. DENSO will add 200 jobs at its Athens location and invest \$100 million through the project, further cementing its status as the largest employer in McMinn County. DENSO first established Tennessee operations in 1988 in Maryville before expanding its presence in the state. In 1997, the company began operations in Athens to produce leading components for vehicle ignition, exhaust and gasoline delivery systems. The expansion in Athens increases the site's footprint to 879,000 square feet and enables the location's 1,444 employees to manufacture a wider range of DENSO's product portfolio, beginning with the company's latest heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) product.

## CLEVELAND

Cleveland's Shade Tree Board has been awarded the 2024 Community Partnership Award by the Tennessee Environmental Health Association (TEHA). This honor recognizes the Board's outstanding efforts in promoting urban forestry and enhancing the environmental health of our community. The Shade Tree Board, comprised of dedicated citizen volunteers, works diligently to implement best practices in urban forestry, ensuring that Cleveland remains a Tree City USA for over 32 years. Their initiatives not only beautify our city but also contribute significantly to public health and environmental sustainability. In addition to this recent accolade, Cleveland's Shade Tree Board has been instrumental in various projects that promote biodiversity and improve air quality. Their work aligns with the city's broader goals of sustainability and community engagement.

## DAYTON

A disc golf course is coming to Dayton's Delaware Park. The new course will feature 18 holes set among the park's natural surroundings and will cater to players of all skill levels. The new course is a part of city efforts to promote healthy and active lifestyles among residents as well as to draw visitors to the area through recreational officers. The city's parks and recreation department, streets, and maintenance departments are all working to build the course.

## HUNTLAND

Thompson Appalachian Hardwoods officials announced the company will invest \$3.9 million to expand its operations in Huntland. Through the project, Thompson Appalachian Hardwoods will create 25 new jobs to better support operations of the company's new industrial-grade sawmill, increasing its Tennessee workforce by more than 20%. Thompson Appalachian Hardwoods was founded in 1993 as a small green sawmill. More than three decades later, the company has expanded to become a full-service forest products company, offering sustainably sourced, top-quality, kiln-dried Appalachian hardwoods. The company worked closely with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture to better understand wood availability and ownership types, allowing for the company's expansion. This is the company's first expansion in Franklin County since 2017.

## JEFFERSON CITY

The Anderson-DuBose Company officials announced the company will invest nearly \$40 million by locating its first operations in Tennessee to Jefferson City. The new distribution facility will house 80 new jobs upon completion of the project. The company is a major distributor for McDonald's, and this new facility is expected to support up to 450 restaurant locations throughout the region. The Anderson-DuBose Company started in 1991 with the acquisition of a McDonald's distribution center. Since then, the company has experienced significant growth globally.

## KINGSPORT

O'Neal Manufacturing Services (OMS) officials, announced the company is locating its first Tennessee facility in Kingsport. Through the project, OMS will invest \$8.5 million and create 29 new jobs to support medium- to heavy-gauge steel fabrication including steel plate burning, machining, shot blasting and flattening. OMS provides quality carbon steel and aluminum parts for customers that manufacture equipment for construction, agriculture, material handling, transportation and other industries. The company is a subsidiary of O'Neal Industries in Birmingham, Ala., which is the nation's largest family-owned network of metal service centers and component and tube manufacturing businesses.

## MEMPHIS

Reconext officials announced the company will invest more than \$9 million to expand its operations and establish new operations in Memphis, the company's first location in Tennessee. By expanding into Memphis, Reconext will create approximately 200 new jobs to better support the company's client base across the Southeast, including engineering, administrative and production positions. Based in Texas, Reconext is a global aftermarket electronics company that was founded in 1983 as a TV repair shop in Frankfurt, Germany. Today, the company's capabilities range from testing and grading, full repair and cosmetic renewal to value recovery with more than 20 locations worldwide.

## NASHVILLE

Harrow, Inc. (Nasdaq: HROW), announced the company is expanding its corporate headquarters in Nashville. Harrow, one of the leading U.S. eyecare pharmaceutical companies, will invest nearly \$3 million and create 147 new jobs as part of the project, increasing its current headcount in Tennessee by nearly 70%. Harrow was originally founded in 2012 in San Diego, California. In 2019, Harrow relocated its corporate headquarters to Nashville, Tennessee. Since 2019, Harrow has continued to invest in Nashville by building a state-of-the-art analytical chemistry lab, expanding its sales and marketing organization, and hiring for other critical business operations. Harrow also recently expanded its total leased square footage in Nashville to approximately 30,000 square feet.

## NOLENSVILLE

The Nolensville Fire and Rescue Department has received a \$17,000 Assistance to Firefighters Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to purchase new live-saving tools. Nolensville will use the funds to purchase eight self-contained breathing apparatuses with masks and 16 air cylinders. The breathing machines help keep firefighters safe and able to do their job, including an alarm that will notify fellow crew members if a firefighter has not moved in a few minutes while on a scene. Since Nolensville Fire and Rescue began operating three years ago, it has been borrowing this type of equipment from other nearby fire departments.

## STANTON

A former Stanton school building is getting a \$2.1 million renovation to become the first U.S. community center opened by the Ford Motor Company outside of Detroit. The Stanton Ford Community Center will be the base for Ford's philanthropic operations in West Tennessee, funding a revitalization of the 3,576-square-foot former school building. The public-private partnership will be headed by the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development with Ford providing funding and programming. There are six such community centers around the world including two in Detroit, one in Thailand, one in Romania, one in South Africa, and one in the U.K. Previous Ford community centers have held community events, helped with tax preparation, served as foodbanks, and supported local students and entrepreneurs.

## Columbia cuts ribbon EV charging stations



The city of Columbia, in partnership with Columbia Power and Water Systems (CPWS), the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), and the Tennessee Department of Environmental Conservation (TDEC), recently hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the installation of new Electric Vehicle (EV) Fast Charging Stations. Funded through a \$300,000 grant from TVA and TDEC, these new stations are part of a statewide initiative to expand EV infrastructure along Tennessee's interstates and major highways. Columbia is proud to be part of this statewide effort, which supports the future of clean transportation and contributes to a greener, more sustainable environment. The newly installed charging stations feature Level 3 DC Fast Chargers, which can provide an 80% charge to a standard EV in just 15-20 minutes. This rapid charging capability allows EV drivers to power up quickly during short stops, making sustainable travel more convenient than ever.

## Savannah receives funds for marina development at Wayne Jerrolds Park



Officials with the city of Savannah received \$5 million from the Tennessee Department of Economic Development as part of the Blueways Trail Development program. State Sen. Page Walley presented the check to officials at Wayne Jerrolds River Park in Savannah. The city recently purchased 15 acres of land adjacent to the riverfront park to build a marina that will enhance the park's offering, adding to its existing 10 acres. Officials hope the marina will add to tourism, recreation, and provide new opportunities for local businesses.

## Cookeville celebrates TTU ground breaking, nuclear program expansion



Gov. Bill Lee, officials with Tennessee Technological University, and Cookeville officials were on hand to cut the ribbon on the new college of engineering building while the governor presented a \$1 million Nuclear Fund grant to the university to support existing nuclear programs as well as develop and implement new nuclear education curriculum. In response to growing workforce needs of nuclear companies in Tennessee, Tech established a nuclear engineering program, designed to bolster student recruitment and complement existing nuclear engineering programs across the state. The curriculum will include principles of nuclear energy production, reactor systems design, spent fuel reprocessing, nuclear safety and nuclear cybersecurity. The enhanced program at the Cookeville campus will play a vital role in attracting nuclear companies to the region.

## Jackson celebrates new runway, routes at airport



Officials cut the ribbon on a new runway and renovated air traffic control tower at the McKeller-Sipes Regional Airport in Jackson. Local, state, and national officials joined airport staff and members of the Jackson Chamber of Commerce to celebrate both the ribbon cutting and the new service to Denver that will start from the runway in December. The new service also offers direct flights to Atlanta and Chicago as well as connections to other Delta, United, and American Airlines hubs.

# Kingsport Home Builders, Elizabethton TCAT dedicate renovated house

By **MATTHEW LANE**  
*City of Kingsport*

The Home Builders Association of Greater Kingsport and the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Elizabethton held a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony to highlight the results of a six-month long special partnership.

For the past six months, students in TCAT’s construction program have been remodeling a home at 2208 Ashwood Avenue in the Highland neighborhood of Kingsport, under the tutelage of TCAT instructors and local homebuilders.

These students received hands-on experience and completely remodeled the 1,000 square foot house from the inside out, including demolition, framing walls, installing insulation, plumbing, electrical work and flooring.

Students had the opportunity to shadow HBA plumbers, electricians and HVAC workers, ask questions of them and see how professionals perform their trade while on the job site.

“When we started this project, we had some expectations, but those were greatly exceeded,” said HBA President James Phillips. “Our partnership has been incredible; we’ve completely remodeled this house with the students taking the lead and we are already looking for our next house or piece of



Members of the Kingsport Homebuilders Association and students with the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Elizabethton dedicate a Kingsport residence renovated over a six-month period. Students received hands-on experience from HBA professionals with proceeds from the sale of the house going to purchasing another home to renovate and sell.

property to train the new students.” Members of the HBA provided all the materials for the renovation and now that the work is done, the organizations plan to sell the house

with the proceeds going towards the purchase of another house and donate back to TCAT.

“All across the country people are in need of more skilled workers

and this partnership is allowing students to get on the job, hands-on training so they are more quickly ready to enter the workforce,” said Jann Dower, CEO of the HBA of

Tennessee. “I hope other HBA’s across the state look into doing similar programs with their local TCAT’s.”

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) in Kingsport began in August 2022, providing hands-on vocational training for adults in the building trades for individuals who have graduated from high school or earned a high school equivalent.

TCAT’s Building Construction Technology Program started in Kingsport in the spring of 2022. An integral part of it starting was due to the critical need of skilled people in the area of building construction.

“We love opportunities like this for our students. The ability to take what they are learning in the classroom and apply it to the real world helps us graduate work-ready individuals, who can immediately enter the workforce,” said Heath McMillian, TCAT Elizabethton President.

The Home Builders Association of Greater Kingsport is a trade association that was organized and chartered in 1970. The HBA is dedicated to providing quality-housing choices in a range of affordability for the consumer.

To learn more about this project, please contact the Home Builders Association of Greater Kingsport at [info@kingsport-homebuilders.com](mailto:info@kingsport-homebuilders.com) or by calling 423-378-5501.

# Characterizing this decade’s municipal population trends

## POPULATION, from Page 1

characterize schools. Using the latest available information on corporate boundaries and urban areas published in 2023, a new map for Tennessee was generated

A final step was to assign each of the state’s 345 municipalities to the locale type that it fell within. When looking across the locale types, it’s clear that the largest communities in closest proximity to urban centers are adding the most population, but the analysis also revealed some interesting exceptions.

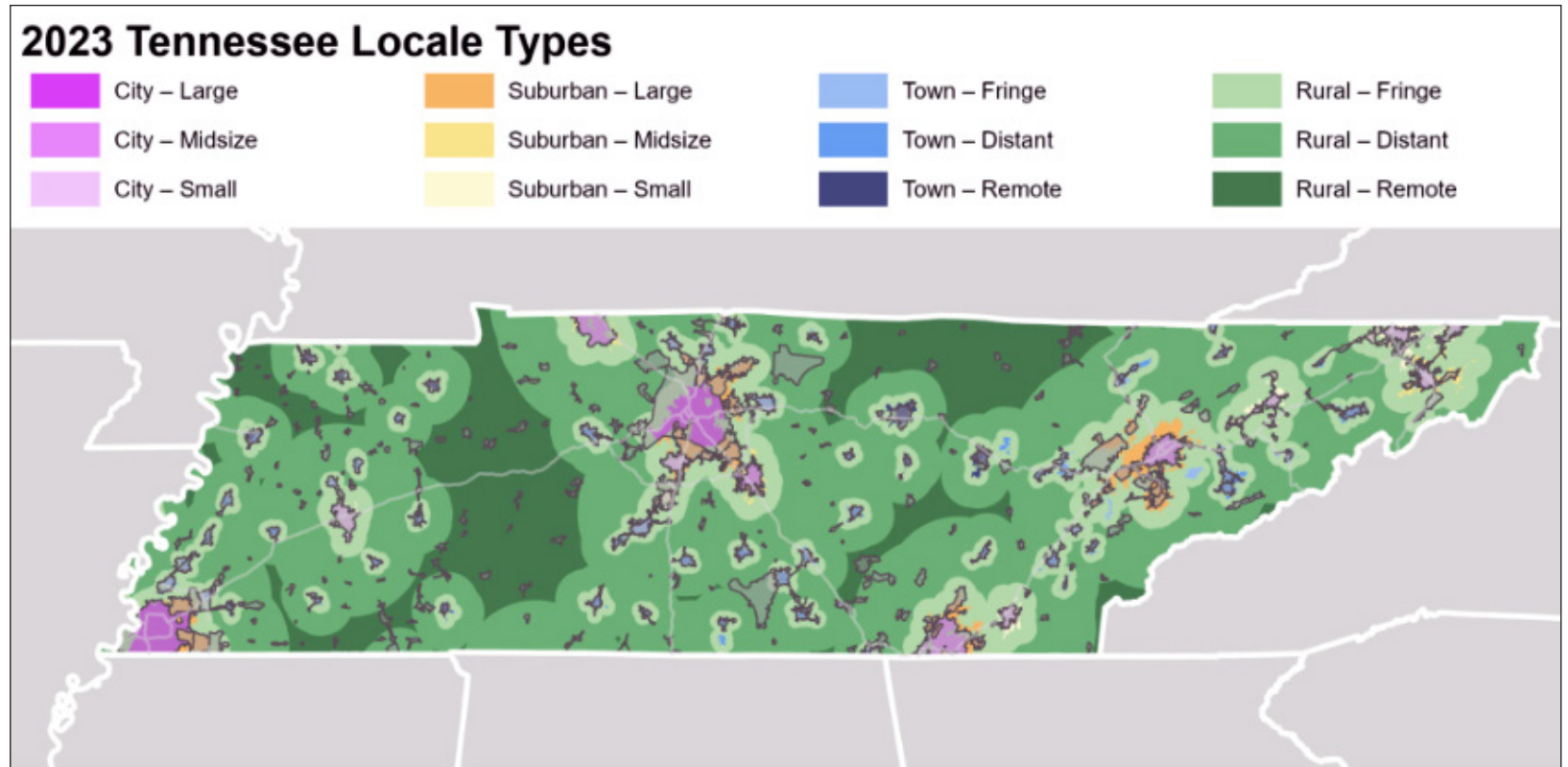
The state’s four mid-sized cities have maintained a strong foothold among the fastest-growing areas in Tennessee – consistently appearing in the annual list of cities adding the most population this decade. Knoxville, Chattanooga, Clarksville, and Murfreesboro have collectively added over 37,000 new residents since 2020. Their combined 5.3 percent increase has outpaced the state’s overall rate of population growth. This contrasts with their larger kin (Nashville and Memphis) which together have experienced recent population declines, down 1.4 percent from their 2020 levels.

Large suburban cities and towns – primarily those bordering Nashville, Knoxville and Chattanooga – were the second fastest gaining group. They added 19,420 people for a 3 percent increase. While that overall rate of growth was just slightly higher than the state’s 2.9 percent, there were some standouts that grew substantially faster. These include Gallatin (12.3 percent), Smyrna (7.3 percent) and Mount Juliet (8.1 percent) in the Nashville area. Knoxville suburbs including Alcoa (21.7 percent), Farragut (8.5 percent) and Lenoir City (16 percent) were tops in the eastern third of the state.

The third fastest gaining locale type is one of the more unique patterns to emerge from the research. “Town – Fringe”, is made up of cities at the edge of large urban areas. It’s a smaller group of communities but they have grown four times faster than the state and added over 17,000 residents since 2020. Their combined 12.6 percent increase is driven mainly by the white-hot growth of outlying municipalities near Nashville. This category includes Lebanon (23.7%), Columbia (12.7%), and White House (17.3%). All three are close enough to benefit from the amenities of larger cities nearby but maintain a distinct identity, degree of affordability and ample land to support the construction of new housing.

### Growth in Some Remote Municipalities Slows

Generally, the decade’s population change in Tennessee is best described as widespread increases. March numbers showed that 90



When looking across the locale types, it’s clear that the largest communities in closest proximity to urban centers are adding the most population, but the analysis also revealed some interesting exceptions.

**Residents in TN Cities and Towns**  
**4.3 million**  
+100,000 since 2020

**Share of Total TN Population**  
**60.3%**  
↓ from 60.6 in 2020

**Municipal Population Change**  
**+2.4%**  
Since 2020

of 95 counties logged population gains in 2023, the most since 1997. This marks a significant change compared to last decade when 30 counties lost population between the 2010 and 2020 Censuses. 29 of those counties were considered rural by the state’s Department of Economic and Community Development.

If this analysis identifies any general weakness in this decade’s municipal numbers, it might be found in the most remote and rural parts of the state where population fell slightly for the group (-102 people). About two-thirds of municipalities situated in “Rural-Remote”

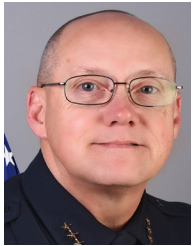
locales have grown more slowly than the state’s overall increase of 2.4 percent for all municipalities. But only a handful of them have lost population so far this decade. However, if those statewide increases slow – as recently released Boyd Center projections indicate

could happen later this decade – it will likely bring additional focus on the state’s more isolated communities, especially in the western third of the state. By 2030, projections show the trend of population decreases in rural areas of the state could return with 35 counties expected to see a decline that year.



# PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

**Jeff Abeln**, assistant police chief of the Collierville Police Department, died unexpectedly Oct. 14, after 37 years of service. Abeln joined the Collierville Police Department in 1987 after three years of service as a military police officer in U.S. Army. He was appointed assistant chief of administration in 2008 and was a graduate of both the FBI National Academy and FBI Academy's Law Enforcement Executive Development School. He was an active member of the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police and the Memphis Metropolitan Association of Chiefs of Police.



Jeff Abeln

**Eric Amos** has been selected as executive director of the Tennessee Language Center. Amos previously served as the interim director for the center. He joined the center in 2018 as a senior project coordinator and was promoted to director of interpretation in 2022. He holds a bachelor's degree in intercultural studies from Liberty University and a master's in intercultural studies from Southeastern College. He lived in Beijing, China for two years where he served as an athletics program coordinator.



Eric Amos

**Conner Caldwell**, the former chief of the Kingsport Fire Department, died Oct. 13, at the age of 89. Caldwell served with the Kingsport Fire Department 36 years, 17 of which he served as chief from 1978 to his retirement in 1994. Additionally, he served actively in the Tennessee Fire Service and served as president of the Tennessee Farmers Association, the Tennessee Fire Safety Inspections Association, and the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association. He also served on the Board of Directors for the Kingsport Emergency Communication District and the Kingsport Life Saving Crew.



Conner Caldwell

**Jay Evans**, assistant manager of Brentwood, is the new president of the Tennessee City Management Association (TCMA) after an induction at the organizations Fall Conference in Chattanooga. In this role, he will also serve on the Board of Directors for the Tennessee Municipal League. Evans previously served as the vice president of TCMA and takes over the role of president from Farragut Town Administrator David Smoak. Evans joined the city of Brentwood in 2013 as assistant city manager. Prior to joining Brentwood, Evans served as both city manager and deputy city manager of Leesburg, Fla.; town manager and assistant town manager of Oakland, Fla.; and concurrency manager of Osceola County, Fla.. He has 27 years of experience in local government, with 10 being in the role of city manager and 15 as deputy or assistant city manager.



Jay Evans

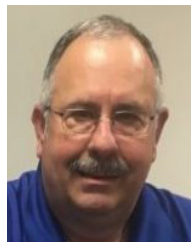
**Martin Granum**, city manager of Red Bank, recently received the International City/County Management Association (ICMA)'s Credentialed Manager Candidate designation. He is one of more than 1,500 local government management professionals to participate in the voluntary program. Granum has served as the Red Bank City Manager since October 2021 and is also a certified municipal finance officer. He holds a bachelor's degree in civil engi-



Martin Granum

neering from the U.S. Air Force Academy, and a master's degree in public administration from Troy State University. Granum is a retired USAF lieutenant colonel.

**Hoyte Hale**, deputy fire chief for the Smithville Fire Department and director of the DeKalb County Emergency Management Service, died Sept. 29, at the age of 62. A Smithville native, Hale began his career as a volunteer with the Smithville Fire Department, serving with the department for 40 years and rising to the rank of deputy chief. Also an EMT-paramedic, Hale served for seven years as the assistant EMS director for DeKalb County before being appointed interim director in 2013. After two and a half years as interim director, he was named director in 2015, a position he served until his death.



Hoyte Hale

**James Thomas "Tommy" Head**, who served nine terms representing Clarksville in the Tennessee House, passed away on Oct. 19, at the age of 79. Head was first elected to represent House District 68 in 1986, and he served as chair of the House Finance, Ways and Means committee among many roles in the State House. A basketball standout at Clarksville High School, he received an associate's degree from Cumberland College before graduating from Austin Peay State University with a degree in mathematics in 1967. He would later be inducted into the APSU Hall of Fame and had an atrium of the science complex dedicated in his honor. He worked as a high school math teacher and basketball coach before opening his own contracting business and farm.



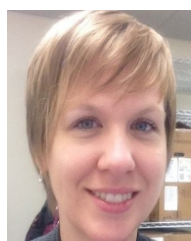
Tommy Head

**Laura Kidwell** has joined UT-MTAS as a legal consultant in the Nashville Office. Kidwell has spent the past 18 years with the Tennessee Attorney General's office, including serving nearly 14 years as a senior counsel and nearly five as an assistant solicitor general. She also served as an adjunct professor of law at the Wake Forest University School of Law, where Kidwell earned her law degree. Kidwell holds a bachelor's degree from Furman University in Greenville, S.C.



Laura Kidwell

**Michelle Roberts** has been selected as the new city manager of Bluff City. Roberts comes to the city with more than 10 years of experience with the Department of Veterans Affairs, where she worked as a logistics management specialist, acquisition utilization specialist, and engineering technician. Roberts has also held roles with Siemens Healthcare and the Government Services Administration (GSA). She is a veteran of the U.S. Navy and served in numerous roles, including aboard the USS Leyte Gulf.



Michelle Roberts

**Roger Sims** has been selected as the new public works director of Gatlinburg following the retirement of longtime director Larry Henderson. Sims most recently served as the assistant public works director and is a 35-year veteran of local government work. His career began with the city of Gatlinburg's Utilities Department as a crew leader in 1989. In 2009, he was hired as the Water Department Superintendent for Sevier County



Roger Sims

and spent 14 years overseeing the department's \$2.8 million budget, maintenance, operations, and employees. He returned to Gatlinburg as assistant public works director in 2013. Sims is a 1986 graduate of Gatlinburg-Pittman High School and holds a degree in Occupational Safety and Health from Columbia Southern University. He also is a veteran of the United States Army and Tennessee National Guard and served in Iraq in 2004 through 2005.

**Alicia Summers** has been named the new assistant city manager for the city of Johnson City. In her new role, she will oversee the planning and development services and economic development departments. Summers has served as the city's economic development director since 2022 and has nearly two decades of experience in economic development in East Tennessee. Summers earned a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies with a concentration in urban planning and organizational management from East Tennessee State University and is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma Economic Development Institute.



Alicia Summers

**Russell Treadway**, longtime city administrator of Sevierville, has announced he will retire Jan. 3, 2025. Treadway served twice as city administrator for Sevierville, first from 1978 to 1993 and then again since 2012. Between his two terms as Sevierville's top administrative officer, he served as the administrator and manager of Mauldin, S.C., Elizabethton, and Snellville, Ga. He has more than 45 years in local government with more than 28 of those served in Sevierville. Additionally, he served as assistant city manager of Johnson City, director of human resources and director of administration for Knox County government, and also taught political science and public administration at East Tennessee State University and Milligan University. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in city management from East Tennessee State University as well as a doctoral degree in political science from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.



Russell Treadway

**Ken Webb** has been selected as the new vice mayor of Cleveland following the retirement of longtime Vice Mayor Avery Johnson in August. Webb has been an at-large member of the Cleveland City Council since 2018. Webb



Ken Webb

## State Sen. Yager skydives to celebrate recovery, promote prostate cancer awareness



State Sen. Ken Yager, R-Kingston, celebrates being one year free from prostate cancer by jumping from a plane 14,000 feet in the air. Yager credits early cancer screenings with saving his life.

State Sen. Ken Yager, R-Kingston, found a unique way to celebrate his own cancer-free status while bringing awareness to prostate cancer and men's health.

Yager jumped out of an airplane at 14,000 feet above ground to celebrate over one year of being cancer-free and raise awareness for prostate cancer. He was diagnosed with prostate cancer in September 2022.

Since then, he has been a strong advocate for men to proactively get regular prostate-specific antigen (PSA) tests, which Yager says saved his life. As the 2023 Men's Health Man-of-the-Year, Yager partnered with Tennessee Men's Health Network (TMHN) and completed the jump with TMHN Executive Director Mike Leventhal.

"This was a thrilling experience that I never thought would be possible when I was diagnosed with prostate cancer two years ago," said Yager. "Because of one simple PSA test and the grace of God, I am on the other side of cancer. Today, I am grateful to be able to live life to the fullest and take on a new exciting adventure thanks to early detection, an incredible team of doctors and most importantly

prayers from friends and family."

Yager was named Man-of-the-Year in 2023 by TMHN for sharing his journey with prostate cancer to raise awareness for other men of the importance of getting their PSA tests.

"Beating prostate cancer is well worth celebrating, and I'm grateful to be able to celebrate with Sen. Yager in such a big way", explains Leventhal. "Sen. Yager's one-year-anniversary of defeating a disease that daily takes the lives of fathers, husbands, and friends also allows for an opportunity to raise awareness for early detection and regular physician visits. Tennessee Men's Health Network is proud to be a part of this celebration and hopes that all men will take proactive action regarding their health and well-being."

Tennessee Men's Health Network (TMHN) is a nonprofit educational organization of physicians, researchers, public health workers, individuals and other health professionals.

According to [Men's Health Network](#), 230,000 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer every year and approximately 30,000 die. However, if the disease is caught early, it is often treatable.

graduated from Tennessee Wesleyan University and worked as a staff accountant for a local firm before becoming chief accountant at American Uniform Company in 1981. He then joined Cleveland Utilities as a senior accountant in 1986 and was promoted to manager of accounts two years later. Six years later, Webb joined Cleveland Utilities as senior accountant, later becoming manager of accounts in 1988, senior vice president and chief financial officer in 2012, and then president and CEO in 2013, which he served until his retirement in 2016.

**Jeff White** has been selected as the new chief of the Jonesborough Fire Department. White brings more than three decades of experience in emergency services to the position, starting as a volunteer firefighter and then as a police officer with the Jonesborough



Jeff White

Police Department. White then served with the Johnson City Fire Department before returning to Jonesborough to work as a public safety officer, combining both his police and fire experience.

**Steve Wilson** has been named the new deputy chief operating officer for the city of Chattanooga by Mayor Tim Kelly. Wilson has been with the city since 2002 when he was hired as director of innovation. Prior to his role with the city, he was the director of operational effectiveness at the Lean Center of Excellence at UNUM. He has more than 25 years of experience in operations management and process improvement. Wilson holds both a bachelor's in industrial engineering technology and a master's in engineering technology from East Tennessee State University and a master's in business administration from King University.



Steve Wilson

# TML Board of Directors holds autumn meeting in Nashville



From left to right, TML 2nd Vice President and Cleveland Mayor Kevin Brooks, TML 1st Vice President and Bolivar Mayor Julian McTizic, TML President and Gallatin Mayor Paige Brown, and TML Executive Director Anthony Haynes during TML's fall board meeting in Nashville.



TMBF President and Morristown City Councilmember Kay Senter, and District 8 Director and Millington Alderwoman Bethany Huffman



At-Large Director and Goodlettsville City Manager Tim Ellis, left, and District 5 Director and Springfield Mayor Ann Scheinder-Williams, right.



From left to right, District 6 Director and Nolensville Vice Mayor Jessica Salamida, District 1 Director and Kingsport Vice Mayor Darrell Duncan, TMBF President and Morristown City Councilmember Kay Senter, District 7 Director and Savannah City Manager Blake Walley, and TMBF President and CEO Wade Morrell.



From left to right, District 7 Director and Savannah City Manager Blake Walley, TMBF President and CEO Wade Morrell, and 2nd Vice President and Cleveland Mayor Kevin Brooks.



TCMA President and Brentwood Assistant City Manager Jay Evans, left, and District 2 Director and Morristown Mayor Gary Chesney, right.



TML President and Gallatin Mayor Paige Brown, left, and District 6 Director and Nolensville Vice Mayor Jessica Salamida, right.



Above: At-Large Director and Goodlettsville City Manager Tim Ellis, TCMA President and Brentwood Assistant City Manager Jay Evans, District 2 Director and Morristown Mayor Gary Chesney, At-Large Director and Clarksville Mayor Joe Pitts, and District 5 Director and Springfield Mayor Ann Scheinder-Williams.



TML 1st Vice President and Bolivar Mayor Julian McTizic, left, addresses the board as, from left to right, TML President and Gallatin Mayor Paige Brown, center, and TML Executive Director Anthony Haynes, right, listen.



Left: 2nd Vice President and Cleveland Mayor Kevin Brooks, left, and District 1 Director and Kingsport Vice Mayor Darrell Duncan, right.



## 204 cities hold elections



Outgoing Athens City Councilwoman Frances Witt McMahan, right, hugs winner John Duggan.

By KATE COIL

Voters went to the polls in 204 municipal elections held to coincide with state and federal general elections.

Two races – one in Hornbeak and one in Viola – ended in tie votes for the last remaining open seat on the municipality's board of aldermen.

### ADAMS

Incumbent Megan Baird will be joined by newcomer Tyler D. Estep on the Adams City Commission. As the only two candidates who qualified for two open seats, Baird earned 168 votes and Estep 182.

### ADAMSVILLE

Jackie P. Hamm, who had been serving as vice mayor, was elected mayor of Adamsville after incumbent David Leckner did not seek re-election. Running unopposed, Hamm received 852 votes.

Incumbents Jennifer Frazier and Emily Hopper will return to the city commission, running for the only two open seats. Frazier earned 729 votes and Hopper 653.

### ALCOA

Incumbents Tracey Cooper and Eddie Hall ran unopposed and were re-elected to the two open city commission seats with 3,490 and 2,836 complimentary votes respectively.

### ALLARDT

Incumbents Richmond J. Smith, Michael G. Wiley, and Josh Young ran unopposed and were elected to the three open alderman terms.

### ARDMORE

Incumbent Wayne Harvell will be joined by newcomers James A. Bonner and Harry Fortenberry on the Ardmore Board of Aldermen, fending off challenges from Sheri Hunt and Christopher Wilson. Bonner led the vote tally with 244 followed by Harvell with 241, Fortenberry with 235, Hunt with 222, and Wilson with 182.

### ATOKA

Incumbent Brett A. Giannini will be joined by newcomers Jessie Poole, Jeremy Lightsey, and Stephen Shopper after defeating incumbents Cody Pace and Christy Renfrow and newcomer Karen R. Rudolph for the four open seats on the Atoka Board of Aldermen. Giannini led the vote count with 2,002 followed by Poole with 1,712, Lightsey with 1,485, Sopher with 1,425, Pace with 1,328, Renfrow with 1,034 and Rudolph with 844.

Newcomer Andrew Bogdahn also defeated incumbent Christian Detje for the unexpired alderman term with 2,265 votes to 1,418.

### ATHENS

Incumbent Jordan Curtis will be joined by newcomer John M. Duggan, fending off challenger Perry McCowan. Incumbent Frances Witt McMahan did not run for re-election. Curtis led the vote count with 2,948, Duggan with 2,773, and McCowan 2,006.

### ATWOOD

Incumbent Ricky Long will be joined by newcomer Gerald Maudlin on the Atwood Board of Alderman as the only two candidates for two open seats. Long earned 254 votes and Maudlin 184.

### AUBURN TOWN

Newcomer Martye Jean Harris ran unopposed and was elected to the mayoral seat previously held by Roger Turney with 110 complimentary votes.

Incumbents Rita Davis and Tina Fletcher will be joined by newcomers Rita Davis, Tabitha Fletcher, Dean Nichols and Colton Lee Tuck as six candidates ran for six open positions on the Board of Alderman.

Tuck led the vote count 88 followed by both Adkins and Tina Fletcher with 82 each, Davis with 81, Nichols with 79, and Tabitha Fletcher with 75.

### BANE BERRY

Newcomers Mark Plonski and Tina Raddish ran unopposed and were elected to the two open seats on the Baneberry City Commission. Plonski earned 5,753 votes and Raddish earned 4,068.

### BARLETT

Incumbent Kevin Quinn bested challengers Kenneth Hayes and Josh McNeil in the only contested race in Bartlett. Quinn earned 14,048 votes for the Position 6 Alderman seat over McNeil's 8,379 and Hayes' 3,217.

Incumbents Monique L. Williams for Ward 4 and Jack T. Young for Ward 5 were both unopposed and re-elected with 21,244 and 21,701 courtesy votes respectively.

### BEAN STATION

Incumbent Jeffrey Atkins will be joined by newcomer Garry Adkins after fending off challengers Charlotte Singleton and Ed York for the two open seats on the Bean Station Board of Aldermen. Atkins led the vote count with 632 followed by Adkins with 454, Singleton with 342, and York with 228.

### BELLE MEADE

Incumbent Haley Dale will be joined by newcomer Tom Starkey on the Belle Meade City Commission after being the only two candidates to run for the two open seats. Dale earned 1,575 and Starkey 1,393 votes.

### BETHEL SPRINGS

Newcomers Kevin Cribley and Thomas Montgomery unseated incumbent Sherry Smith and defeated challenger John Fountain for the two open seats on the Bethel Springs Board of Alderman. Cribley led the vote count with 157, Montgomery with 141, Smith with 119, and Fountain with 102.

### BIG SANDY

Incumbent Charlotte Price will be joined by newcomer Zach Phifer after defeating incumbent Becky Belyew Wright and challenger Robert J. Sutherby for the two open seats on the Big Sandy Board of Aldermen. Phifer led the vote tally with 116 followed by Price with 110, Wright

## Liquor, transit, sales tax and charter amendments on the ballot in 27 cities



Voters stand in line to vote at Knoxville's Halls High School on Election Day on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. (Photo by Angelina Alcantar/News Sentinel)

### REFERENDUMS, from Page 1

Memphis voters approved all six referenda on the ballot. The first will require a run-off election in mayoral races if a single candidate does not gain the majority of votes.

The Memphis City Council will now set salaries for council members, the mayor, city chief administrative officers, directors appointed by the mayor, and all deputy directors.

Voters also approved residency requirements for mayoral candidates and city council candidates, ensuring that they have to reside in their district for at least two years prior to the election and be at least 18 years old.

Memphians also came out in support of local restrictions on gun ownership, though these referenda only act as trigger laws that would not go into effect without exemptions being made in state law by the Tennessee General Assembly.

The first measure would require permits for carrying and storing handguns within city limits while the second bans the carrying and sale of assault rifles in the city, except for on private property or at shooting ranges by current owners who legally purchased an assault weapon or by law enforcement and

the military.

A third gun-related measure would implement a "red flag law" that would remove or block the sale of guns to people deemed a danger to themselves or others.

Oak Ridge votes approved a measure to bring the city charter's language about school board elections into compliance with state law. A total of 10,773 votes cast ballots in favor of the measure while 3,004 voted against.

Gallatin residents approved a sales and use referendum of half a penny per dollar with 10,696 for and 8,993 against.

Sales and use tax referendums that would increase sales tax from 2.25 to 2.75% were voted down in Chapel Hill, 722 against and 333 for, and in Madisonville, 1,598 against and 415 for.

Consumption on the premises referendums passed in:

- Adamsville, 555 for and 327 against
- Alamo, 525 for and 296 against
- Decaturville, 184 for and 77 against
- Dover, 483 for and 230 against
- Greenfield, 487 for and 343 against
- Obion, 75 for and 55 against
- Oneida, 886 for and 627 against

- Moscow, 122 for and 57 against
  - Red Boiling Springs, 149 for and 119 against
  - Wartburg, 155 for to 110 against
  - White Bluff, 13,219 for and 4,454 against
- Retail package store referendums passed in:

- Adamsville, 572 for and 329 against
- Charleston, 295 for and 172 against
- Dandridge, 6,775 for and 3,225 against
- Eagleville, 357 for and 141 against
- LaFollette, 1,257 for and 822 against
- Moscow, 131 for and 53 against
- Mount Carmel, 1,555 for and 855 against
- Nolensville, 7,424 for and 917 against
- Union City, 2,075 for and 1,388 against
- Vonore, 534 for and 260 against
- Wartburg, 162 for and 103 against
- White Pine, 6,166 for and 3,884 against



Voters line up outside Berry Hill City Hall to cast their ballots on Election Day.

with 92, and Sutherby with 20.

### BLAINE

Newcomers James Barnes, Elizabeth "Liz" White, and Will Cate defeated incumbents Patsy McElhaney and Gabe Black as well as challenger Darrell Stalans for the three open seats on the Blaine Board of Aldermen. Barnes led the vote count with 565, followed by White with 453, Cate with 427, McElhaney with 415, Black 396, and Stalans 290.

### BLUFF CITY

Incumbent Carol Ann Keith will be joined by newcomers Jerry Wayne Malone and Carolyn Harris Payne after running unopposed for the three Bluff City Aldermen seats. Malone led the count with 506 votes followed by Keith with 444 and Payne with 405.

### BRADEN

William Vanstory ran unopposed for the one open commission seat and received 88 complimentary votes.

### BRADFORD

Newcomers Kyle Gehring and Zak Kiser ran unopposed and were elected to the two open seats on the Bradford Board of Aldermen. Kiser earned 342 votes and Gehring earned 164.

### BRIGHTON

Newcomer Josh Hazlerig defeated Alderman Eunice "Sonny" Foster and challenger Reagan Beasley for the mayoral seat in Brighton after incumbent Stephanie Chapman-Washam did not seek re-election. Hazlerig led the vote tally with 536 followed by Beasley with 419 and Foster with 166.

Incumbent Dave Huffman will be joined by newcomers Kyle N. Smith, David Tate, and Rachel Cashion Young after fending off a challenge from Charles Hunter Macey in the Brighton Alderman race. Incumbents Foster, Melissa Sartain, and Kristin Gardner did not seek re-election.

Huffman led the vote count with 749 followed by Young with 467, Tate with 436, Smith with 412, and Macey with 304.

### BRISTOL

Incumbent Vince Turner will be joined by newcomer Rae Akard after unseating incumbent Mahlon Luttrell in the race for two seats on the Bristol City Council. Turner earned 7,020 votes, Akard 5,182, and Luttrell 4,789.

Randy M. Kennedy also ran unopposed and was elected juvenile court judge with 10,160 courtesy votes while Kathy Y. Keen ran unopposed and was elected juvenile court

clerk with 9,964 votes.

### BRUCETON

Incumbent Cliff Sturdivant and Chris Cole will be joined by newcomer Renee Ford-Ward on the Bruceton Board of Aldermen, fending off challengers from Doug Fischer and Robert T. Higdon. Sturdivant led the count with 308, followed by Ford-Ward with 269, Cole with 236, Higdon with 221, and Fischer with 181.

### BULLS GAP

Newcomers Mike House and Leslie Tieke unseated incumbents Gaylon Williams and Susan Williams as well as defeated Josh Carmack for the two open alderman seats in Bulls Gap. House led the vote tally with 120, followed by Tieke with 94, S. Williams with 84, Carmack with 62, and G. Williams with 38.

### BURLISON

Incumbent James M. Kenny will be joined by newcomer Carla Cates Kellum on the Burlison City Council after they ran unopposed for the two open seats. Kellum received 147 courtesy votes while Kenny received 103.

*Municipal election coverage continues on next page*

# Municipal elections held in 204 TN cities and towns

## BURNS

Newcomer Daryl Rusty Grove ran unopposed and was re-elected to the seat previously held by Landon Mathis with 689 votes.

Incumbent James Davis will be joined on the Burns City Commission by newcomer Jackson Tidwell after fending off challengers Ansley J. Eleazer and Eddie L. Holt Jr. Davis led the vote count with 357 followed by Tidwell with 335, Holt with 323, and Eleazer with 296.

## CALHOUN

Incumbent Evan Thomas will be joined by newcomers Justin Evans and Mark Ledford after defeating incumbent John Walker and challengers Christopher T. Perian Jr. and Chad Trotter for the three open city commission seats in Calhoun. Evans led the vote tally with 129, Thomas with 123, Ledford 96, Trotter 93, Walker 81, and Perian 41.

## CAMDEN

Incumbents Brent Hedge and Rosanne Ward will be joined by newcomer Makiha Holland on the Camden Board of Alderman after fending off incumbent Debbie Baldwin and challenger Brett Lashlee. Hedge led the vote count with 802 followed by Ward with 681, Holland with 515, and Baldwin and Lashlee both earning 502.

## CARTHAGE

Three newcomers will be joining the Carthage Board of Alderman with Sissy Green, Anthony Hackett, and John W. Leftwich Jr. fending off fellow challengers Barbara Kannapel, Frances McDonald, and Stephanie Elise Winfree. Green led the vote count with 385 followed by Hackett with 375, Leftwich with 280, Kannapel with 277, McDonald with 222, and Winfree with 212.

## CARYVILLE

Newcomer David Chambers ran unopposed and was elected to the Caryville mayoral seat previously held by Robert L. Stooksbury. Chambers received 699 complimentary votes.

Newcomer Pat Russell Donahue defeated fellow challenger Laura Ellison Ridenour for the open Ward 1 seat with Donahue earning 450 votes to Ridenour's 232.

Incumbents Robert Eric Jones and Lloyd G. Lawson ran unopposed and were re-elected to their seats. Jones earned 614 complimentary votes for the Ward 2 seat while Lawson earned 624 for the Ward 3 seat.

## CEDAR HILL

Incumbent John Edwards will be joined by newcomer Frank Kirby on the Cedar Hill City Commission as the only two candidates for two seats. Edwards earned 120 votes and Kirby 55.

## CENTERTOWN

Newcomer John David Hankins defeated Alderwoman Ramona Mathis for the mayoral seat in Centertown after incumbent Joel Akers did not seek re-election. Newcomer Michael Mathis was the only candidate to seek two open seats on the Centertown Board of Alderman and was elected with 117 complimentary votes.

## CHURCH HILL

Incumbent Dennis Deal narrowly defeated alderman Keith Gibson to retain the mayoral position in Church Hill. Deal earned 1,615 votes to Gibson's 1,604.

Incumbents Kathy Christian, James Grigsby, and Gregory Tipton ran unopposed and were re-elected to their alderman seats. Christian led the vote count with 2,170 followed by Tipton with 1,778 and Grigsby with 1,686.

## CLARKSVILLE

Newcomer Carlos Peters defeated challenger Josh Wikholm for the Ward 3 seat previously held by Dajuan Little, who did not seek re-election. Peters received 1,441 votes to Wikholm's 938.

Incumbent Ambar Marquis fended off challenger Randall C. McDonald to retain the Ward 5 seat with Marquis earning 2,147 votes to McDonald's 1,474

Jerry Haywood defeated fellow challengers Kyong S. Dawson, Dwight C. Jemison, Faye Rennell Morales for the Ward 8 seat after incumbent Wanda Allen did not seek re-election. Haywood led the vote with 1,440 followed by Jemison with 1,051, Dawson with 965, and Morales with 919.

Incumbent Jimmy Brown fended off challengers Bridget Y. Childs, Rodney Davis, Keymonta Epps for the Ward 9 seat previously held by



Voters line up outside the Montgomery County Veterans Center in Clarksville.

Karen Reynolds, who did not seek re-election. Brown earned 1,534 followed by Davis with 1,023, Childs with 793, and Epps with 618.

Incumbent Keri Lovato will remain in the Ward 12 seat she was appointed to after fending off challengers Dave Bilan and Zoyie Jackson. Lovato received 1,825 votes, followed by Jackson with 1,405, and Bilan with 1,263.

Newcomer Tim Chandler ran unopposed and was re-elected to the Ward 4 seat with 2,829 courtesy votes.

Incumbent Charles Smith ran unopposed and was re-elected city judge with 41,936 courtesy votes.

## CLIFTON

Incumbent Mark Ray Staggs will be joined by newcomer Dwight Thompson II after defeating incumbent Evan Ruth Warren for the two open seats on the Clifton City Commission. Thompson led the vote tally with 204 followed by Staggs with 157 and Warren with 122.

## CLINTON

In the Ward 1 race, incumbent Robert Herrell defeated challenger Lucas Heaton with 2,589 to 1,196 votes. Ward 2 incumbent Larry Gann ran unopposed and retained his seat with 3,447 complimentary votes while newcomer Matthew Foster ran unopposed and was elected to the Ward 3 seat with 3,342 votes.

## COLLEGEDALE

Newcomers Laura Howse and Bill Burnett will join incumbents Tim Johnson on the Collegedale City Commission, defeating incumbent Debbie Baker. Commissioner Katie Lamb did not seek re-election. Howse led the vote tally with 2,536 followed by Johnson with 2,350, Burnett with 2,280, and Baker with 2,279.

## COLLIERVILLE

Vice Mayor Maureen J. Fraser bested Alderman Billy Patton for the mayoral seat in Collierville after Stan Joyner opted not to seek re-election. Fraser led the vote count with 14,725 followed by Patton with 10,847.

Newcomer Chad Lindsay defeated challengers Elizabeth Parr and Nick Robbins for the Position 3 Alderman seat previously held by John Worley. Lindsay earned 10,523 votes followed by Robbins with 6,852 and Parr with 5,596.

Incumbent John Edward Stamps fended off challenger Jason Alan Lederfine to retain the Position 5 Alderman seat. Stamps earned 15,898 votes to Lederfine's 6,906.

## COLLINWOOD

Incumbents James Glenn Brown and Debie Pigg ran unopposed and were elected to two of the three open City Commission seats in Collinwood. Brown earned 259 votes with Pigg earning 190 votes.

## COLUMBIA

Incumbent Davena Hardison fended off challenges from Michael Kuzawinski and Robert Plageman to retain the Ward 1 seat on Columbia's City Council. Hardison earned 1,454 votes followed by Kuzawinski with 1,341, and Plageman with 529.

Challenger Charles Huffman defeated incumbent Deborah Wiles for the Ward 2 seat. Huffman earned 1,221 votes to Wiles 1,098.

Newcomer Cheryl E. Secrest defeated challenger Christian Linares for the Ward 3 seat previously held by Tony Greene, who did not seek re-election. Secrest earned 1,697 votes to Linares' 790.

In Ward 5, newcomer Andy Hart defeated fellow challenger Brian McKelvy 2,261 to 2,129. Incumbent Danny Coleman did not seek

re-election. Additionally, incumbent Kenny Marshall ran unopposed and was re-elected to the Ward 4 seat with 2,337 courtesy votes.

## COOPERTOWN

Newcomer Jeff Smith defeated fellow challengers Dickie Thompson and Robert Watts Jr. for the mayoral seat previously held by Becca Warner. Smith earned 1,622 votes to Thompson's 314 and Watts' 402.

Newcomers Tim Mason and Candance Rundel ran unopposed for the two open alderman seats and were elected with 985 and 989 complimentary votes respectively. Mason will take over the Ward 1 seat previously held by Randee Masters while Rundel will take the Ward 2 seat previously held by Ruby Cash.

## CORNERSVILLE

Incumbent Johnathan Luna defeated challenger Theodore Cristan II for the Cornersville mayoral seat with Luna earning 403 votes to Cristan's 159.

Newcomers Janice T. Kerber and Taylor L. Pickett ran unopposed and were elected to the two open alderman seats with 260 and 454 votes respectively.

## COTTAGE GROVE

No candidate qualified for the mayoral race in Cottage Grove, though the position was previously held by Gary McCaig.

Only incumbents David Jackson and John Weiher III filed to run for the four open alderman seats in Cottage Grove, with incumbents David Ingham and Machelle Operia not qualifying to run. Jackson received 31 complimentary votes and Wieher 30.

## COVINGTON

Newcomer Margaret Fleming will be joining incumbents John Edwards and C.H. Sullivan IV on the Covington Board of Aldermen after all three ran unopposed in three separate alderman races. Edwards received 569 courtesy votes in the District 1 race, Fleming 858 in the District 2 race, and Sullivan 609 in the District 3 race.

## CRAB ORCHARD

Incumbent Emmett H. Sherrill fended off challengers Michael Findley and Rachael Hansen to retain the mayoral seat. Sherrill earned 226 votes followed by Findley's 96 and Hansen's 37.

Newcomer Winona Christopher defeated challenger Todd Kemmer for the unexpired term on the Crab Orchard Board of Alderman. Christopher earned 214 votes to Kemmer's 116.

## CROSS PLAINS

A field of newcomers was elected to the three open seats on the Cross

Plains City Commission. Sherry Stark Johnson, Ronald Eden and Jimmie Vaughn took the three open seats over fellow challengers Katherine DeRose, John Scott Galloway, Sam Hasting Jr. And Maureen Peters.

Johnson led the vote count with 454 followed by Ronald Eden with 360, Jimmie Vaughn with 362, DeRose with 353, Hasting with 299, Peters with 139, and Galloway with 122.

## CROSSVILLE

Former Crossville mayor James Maybery and newcomer Mark A. Fox defeated challengers including incumbent Rob Harrison, former alderman J.H. Graham, and newcomers Danny R. Wyatt and Kristopher George Kade Cole for the two open seats on the Crossville City Council. Fox led the tally with 1,823 votes followed by Mayberry with 1,542, Wyatt with 1,481, Graham with 1,470, Harrison with 1,024, and Cole with 550.

## CRUMP

Incumbent Ricky N. Tuberville ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Crump with 290 votes.

While no candidates qualified for the two open aldermen seat, incumbents Jeremy Perryman received 2 votes and Tyler Warren received 2 votes as write-in candidates.

## CUMBERLAND CITY

Phillip G. Taylor ran unopposed and was elected to the mayoral seat in Cumberland City previously held by Gary Vaughn with 145 courtesy votes.

Melissa Dunlap-Cross and Chad Mathes tied for the Ward 1 Alderman seat, defeating Lydia J. Spencer-Spencer. Dunlap-Cross and Mathes both earned 43 votes while Spencer-Spencer earned 12.

Newcomer Alex Short ran unopposed and was elected to the Ward 1 unexpired term with 88 courtesy votes while incumbent Eric Milliken also ran unopposed for the Ward 2 seat and received 54 courtesy votes.

## CUMBERLAND GAP

Incumbent mayor Neal Pucciarelli ran unopposed and was re-elected with 74 votes.

Incumbent Kathy B. Maxwell, Teresa Fuson, and Camille Hall retained their alderman seats over challenger Carson Eugene Benn. Maxwell earned 63 votes, Fuson 60, Hall 48, and Benn 35.

## DANDRIDGE

Alderman Mike Chambers defeated fellow sitting Alderman Michael Nelson for the Dandridge mayoral seat previously held by George Gantte, who instead opted to run for alderman. Chambers earned 6,224 votes over Nelson's 3,671.

Gantte was elected to an alderman seat along with newcomers Jessica Chambers Elder and Ellen A. Longmire, defeating incumbent Marianne Reneau Resse and challenger Isaac Norton. Elder led the count with 2,824 followed by Gantte with 2,185, Longmire with 1,955, Norton with 1,686, and Reese with 1,323.

## DECATUR

Incumbents Byron Peaden and Monica Ward will be joined by newcomer Lynn Ottinger after running unopposed for the three seats on the Decatur Board of Aldermen. Ottinger earned 435 courtesy votes, followed by Ward with 430, and Peaden 403.

## DECATURVILLE

Incumbent Tim Grace ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Decaturville with 267 votes.

Six candidates ran for the six open seats on the Decaturville Board of Aldermen. Incumbents Sarah Camper, John McElrath, and Arthur Phelps will be joined by newcomers Carole Blankeship, Joe A. Taylor, and Sharon Williams after incumbents Betty Manness, Jay England, and Cassi Keeton did not seek re-election.

The vote count was led by Blankenship with 232, Camper with 229, McElrath with 227, Taylor with 224, Phelps with 217, and Williams with 210.

## DOVER

Incumbents Emily Jane Burkhardt and Archie Story ran unopposed for the Ward 1 and Ward 2 Alderman seats in Dover, receiving 251 and 328 courtesy votes respectively.

## DRESDEN

Incumbents Ralph Cobb Jr. and Kenneth W. Moore will be joined by newcomer Lyndal Dilday on the Dresden Board of Aldermen, defeating incumbent Willie Jay Parker for the three open seats. Cobb led the vote count with 807, followed by Dilday with 762, Moore with 631, and Parker with 609.

Newcomer Jennifer Reddick Schlicht ran unopposed and was elected to the unexpired term on the board with 889 votes.

## DYER

Incumbent Chris Younger defeated challenger Jim Hesse for the Dyer mayoral seat with 523 votes to 367. Incumbents Jennifer E. Hughey and Michael Barron will be joined by newcomers Bryan Cathey and Kayla Hall on the board of aldermen after fending off incumbents Craig Blackburn and Thomas Mikkelsen as well as newcomers Eddie E. Campbell and Michael D. Roberson for the four open seats.

Cathey led the vote count with 483 followed by Barron with 438, Hall with 358, Hughey with 323, Blackburn with 317, Mikkelsen with 271, Campbell with 235, and Roberson with 195.

Jessica Dickinson ran unopposed and was elected to the unexpired alderman term with 605 votes

## EAGLEVILLE

Incumbents Jason Blair, Ryan Edwards, and Chris Hendrix ran unopposed and were re-elected to the Eagleville City Council with 348, 291, and 312 votes respectively.

## EAST RIDGE

Incumbent Andrea "Aundie" Witt will be joined by newcomer Jeff Ezell on the East Ridge City Council, fending off challenger Stanley L. Allen for the two open seats. Ezell led the tally with 5,131 votes followed by Witt with 4,945 and Allen with 3,409.

*Municipal election coverage continues on next page*



Voters in Columbia cast their ballots.



# Municipal elections held in 204 TN cities and towns

## ELIZABETHTON

Incumbent Kim Birchfield will be joined by newcomer Deb Gouge after defeating incumbent Jeff Treadway and newcomer Richard Tester for the two open council seats in Elizabethton. Gouge led the vote tally with 3,187, followed by Birchfield with 2,719, Treadway with 2,334, and Tester with 2,128.

Incumbent Jason L. Holly defeated challenger Teresa Murray to retain the municipal judge seat. Holly earned 3,030 votes to Smith's 1,876.

## ERIN

Newcomer Welsey Mitchum defeated incumbent Jackqlyn Largent Smith in a run-off to determine the final seat on the Erin Board of Aldermen. Mitchum earned 78 votes to Smith's 31.

## ERWIN

Incumbent Glenn White defeated Alderman Michael Baker and challenger John L. Day to remain mayor of Erwin. White led the vote tall with 1,477 followed by Baker with 967 and Day with 208.

Incumbent James "Mickey" Hatcher will be joined by newcomer Gary Chandler on the Erwin Board of Aldermen, fending off challenges from Daniel Crouch, David Seagroves, Gail Snodgrass, Alan Stegall, and Dustin Walden. Hatcher led the vote count with 1,112 followed by Chandler with 799, Snodgrass with 699, Walden with 602, Seagroves with 495, Stegall with 258, and Crouch with 177.

## ETHRIDGE

Incumbent Dallas Luna defeated challenger Robin Cobb 127-75 to retain the seat on the Etheridge City Commission.

## FAIRVIEW

Newcomers Don Bufalini and Carolyn Roberts defeated incumbent Stuart Lane Johnson and challenger Jeffrey Pape for the two open city commission seats in Fairview. Bufalini led the vote count with 2,798 followed by Roberts with 2,403, Pape with 1,739, and Johnson with 1,646.

## FAYETTEVILLE

Newcomers Jeff Bradford, Joseph Faulkner, and Mike Keenan ousted incumbents Tonya M. Allen and Roger Martinez in the Fayetteville Board of Aldermen race.

Bradford earned 1,646 votes followed by Faulkner with 1,532, Kennan with 1,134, Allen with 923, and Martinez 616.

## FINGER

Incumbents Robert Heathcock and Donald Johnson ran unopposed and were elected to the two open alderman seats in Finger. Heathcock earned 67 and Johnson 50 complimentary votes.

Newcomer Patricia Rose Moss also ran unopposed and was elected to the unexpired term on the board with 68 votes.

## FOREST HILLS

Incumbent Lanson J. Hyde III ran unopposed and was re-elected to the Forest Hills City Commission with 2,535 votes.

## GALLATIN

Newcomer Todd Alexander unseated incumbent Aaron Allison in the only contested race in Gallatin. Alexander earned 2,100 votes to Allison's 1,629.

Incumbent P. Shawn Fennell ran unopposed and was re-elected to an at-large seat with 15,746 votes while newcomer Paul T. Jones ran unopposed and received 2,355 votes for the District 1 seat previously held by Lynda Love.

## GALLAWAY

Incumbent Jamie Mayo will be joined by newcomer Mario Derrell Terry on the Gallaway City Commission as the only two candidates for two open seats. Mayo received 83 votes and Terry received 57.

## GATES

Incumbent Dwayne Dixon ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Gates with 161 complimentary votes.

Incumbents J. Louis Nance and Dottie McCadney will be joined on the Gates Board of Aldermen by newcomers Tequilla Nance and Ron Smith, fending off incumbent Terry Janda and challenger Sherry Love for the four open seats. Incumbent Hattie Loraine Campbell did not seek re-election.

T. Nance led the vote count with 126 followed by J. Nance with 111,



Voters line up to cast their ballot on Election Day in Farragut.



A voter enters a local polling place in Elizabethton.

McCadney with 97, Smith with 82, Janda with 67, and Love with 66.

## GERMANTOWN

Three candidates ran unopposed and were elected to three open alderman seats in Germantown. Incumbent Sherrie Hicks was unopposed in Position 3 and Brian Ueleke was unopposed in Position 4, earning 18,651 and 18,726 courtesy votes respectively. Newcomer Tony Salavaggio also ran unopposed for the Position 5 seat previously held by John McCreery and was elected with 19,110 courtesy votes.

## GIBSON

Incumbent Chris Houck ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Gibson with 176 complimentary votes.

Incumbents Angie Arrington, William Loflin, and Jeffrey F. Morris ran unopposed and were re-elected to their alderman seats with 127, 106, and 115 votes respectively. Incumbents Sara F. Meals and Jason Shaver also ran unopposed and were elected to the two unexpired alderman terms with 122 and 129 votes respectively.

## GILT EDGE

W. Stephen Fletcher ran unopposed for mayor and was re-elected with 194 courtesy votes.

## GLEASON

Incumbent Charles Anderson ran unopposed and was re-elected to the mayoral seat with 516 votes.

Incumbent Mike Bennett will be joined by newcomers L. Shawn Francisco, James Hines, and Mike Stafford after incumbents Tommy Hodges, Wade Cook, and Keith Radford did not seek re-election.

Bennett led the vote count with 480, followed by Stafford with 475, Francisco with 445, and Hines with 403.

## GOODLETTSVILLE

Incumbent Jennifer Duncan will be joined by newcomers Cisco Gilmore and Jesse Walker on the Goodlettsville City Commission, defeating incumbent Stuart Huffman and challenger Billy Barnfield for the three open seats. Duncan led the vote count with 3,825 followed by Walker with 3,681, Gilmore with 3,423, Barnfield with 2,563, and Huffman with 1,484.

## GORDONSVILLE

Incumbent John Potts defeated challenger Ronnie Lankford 415-209 to remain mayor of Gordonsville.

Incumbents Joseph R. Robinson and Danny Williams also defeated challenger Shelia Silcox Todd to retain the two seats on the board of alderman. Williams led the vote count with 357, followed by Robinson with 349 and Todd with 211.

Incumbent Luke Pierce ran unopposed and was re-elected to fill the unexpired alderman term with

491 courtesy votes.

## GRAND JUNCTION

Incumbents Carl Franklin Bell and Courtney Rhea Breeden will be joined by newcomers Dianne Patterson and Cheryl D. Smith on the Grand Junction Board of Aldermen after fending off challenger Shirley Mason Lewis. Patterson led the vote count with 97, followed by Smith with 95, Bell and Breeden with 91, and Lewis with 90.

## GRAYSVILLE

Alderman William Crawley defeated incumbent Charles E. Kaylor for the mayoral seat in Graysville with Crawley earning 234 votes to Kaylor's 166.

Incumbents Jimmy Miles and Anthony Knox will be joined by newcomers Dawn "Rena" Massengill and Sarah Messimer, defeating incumbents Robert Baldwin and challenger Michael May for the four open seats on the Graysville City Commission.

Miles led the vote count with 253 followed by Massengill 232, Messimer 212, Knox 207, Baldwin 157, and May 144.

## GREENBACK

Incumbent Dewayne Birchfield ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Greenback with 483 courtesy votes.

Incumbents Tina Sue Baker, Linda S. Black, Delmar L. Davis, and Derrick Doehler ran unopposed and were re-elected to the four open seats on the Greenback Board of Aldermen. Blak led the vote count with 425, followed by Baker with 423, Davis with 422, and Doehler with 402.

## GREENFIELD

Incumbent Cindy McAdams ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Greenfield with 703 votes.

Incumbent Donald Ray High will be joined by newcomers Randy Potts, Brad Borneman, and Ray Ann Ewing after fending off challenges from Cody Ricketts, Paul D. Richmond, and Becky Galey Strawn for the four open Greenfield Alderman seats.

High led the vote count with 527 followed by Potts with 479, Borneman with 442, Ewing with 416, Ricketts with 375, Richmond with 287, and Strawn with 247.

## GUYS

Incumbent Keith Rinehart ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Guys with 185 complimentary votes. Incumbent aldermen Wayne Henry II and Chris Howard ran unopposed and were re-elected to their seats with 171 and 116 votes respectively.

## HARROGATE

Three candidates ran unopposed and were elected to their seats in Harrogate. Kenneth West won the East

seek re-election to their seats.

Grantham led the vote tally with 108 followed by Brewer with 101, J. Moore with 100, Crouse with 94, and H. Moore with 92.

## HUNTINGDON

Newcomer Chad Edwards defeated incumbent Nina Smothers to earn the Huntingdon mayoral seat. Edwards earned 1,333 votes to Smothers' 503. Incumbents Will Atkins and Daniel Eubanks will be joined by newcomers Lori J. Dillahunty and Chad Barnhart after fending off challenges from Rachel Carter, Adam Crews, and Barbara Wilkes Knuutila for the four open council seats in Huntingdon.

Atkins led the vote count with 1,101 followed by Dillahunty with 1,097, Eubanks with 1,076, Barnhart with 1,020, Knuutila with 572, Carter with 569, and Crews with 517.

## HUNTSVILLE

Incumbent Dennis Jeffers ran unopposed for mayor and was re-elected with 548 courtesy votes. Four incumbents ran unopposed and were also re-elected to the Huntsville Board of Aldermen. Jaimi Lloyd earned 382 courtesy votes, Paul Lay 342, Jackson Sharp 340, and Jim Morrow 311.

## JAMESTOWN

Incumbent Harvey Stowers ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Jamestown.

Incumbents Becky Duncan and Kaye Bridges will be joined by newcomers Sherri L. Bowden, James Cooper, and Steve McCoy in the five open alderman seats in Jamestown. Incumbents Charles Cooper and Daniel Brewer did not seek re-election.

## JASPER

Incumbent Jason Turner ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Jasper

Incumbents Jim Fowler and Les Price fended off challengers from John Christof and Paul West to retain their seats on the Jasper Board of Aldermen. Fowler secured 34.99% of the vote, Price 30.97%, West 23.67%, and Christof 10.38%.

## JEFFERSON CITY

Incumbents Catherine Ailene Combs and Rocky Melton fended off challenges from Mark Ritter and Mindy Williams to retain their seat on the Jefferson City Council. Combs led the count with 2,676 followed by Melton with 2,550, Williams with 2,365, and Ritter with 2,333.

## JOHNSON CITY

Incumbents Todd Fowler and Joe Wise will be joined by newcomer Greg Cox after defeating incumbent Aaron T. Murphy and challengers John C. Baker, Joseph Coates, Jay Emberton, Jacon Luallen, and .D. "Bo" Westmoreland.

Fowler led the vote count with 11,470 followed by Cox with 10,285, Wise with 7,742, Murphy with 7,696, Westmoreland with 6,910, Bake with 5,805, Coates with 4,438, Luallen with 3,192, and Emberton with 3,065.

## JONESBOROUGH

Incumbent Chuck Vest was unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Jonesborough with 2,676 courtesy votes while incumbent Aldermen Terry Countermine and Adam Dickson also ran unopposed and were re-elected with 2,211 and 2,045 courtesy votes respectively.

## KIMBALL

Incumbent Rex Pesnell fended off challenger Billy King to remain mayor of Kimball. Pesnell earned 60.7% of the vote to King's 39.3%. Incumbents Jerry Don Case and John D. Matthews ran unopposed and were re-elected to their seats on the Kimball Board of Aldermen.

## KINGSTON

Incumbents Tony D. Brown and Tommy Guinn will be joined by newcomer David Reeder after running unopposed for the three open seats on the Kingston City Council. Guinn earned 2,412 votes, Brown 2,379, and Reeder 2,261.

## KINGSTON SPRINGS

Three newcomers ran unopposed and were elected to the Kingston Springs City Commission. Keith Algood received 1,272 courtesy votes, Michael Coldwell 1,097, and Lauren Ellen Hill 1,127.

## LAFOLETTE

Scott Kitts defeated challengers in-

*Municipal election coverage continues on next page*

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cluding sitting councilmember Philip Farmer and newcomers Johnny Byrge and Buford T. Proffitt for the LaFollette mayoral seat previously held by Cliff Jennings, who did not seek re-election. Kitts earned 1,013 votes followed by Byrge with 916, Farmer with 271, and Proffitt with 47.

Incumbent councilman Wayne Kitts will be joined by newcomer Mark Hoskins on the Lafolette city council, fending off challengers Tyler Dumont, Mike Evans, Jimmy Marlow, and Johnny McDonald. Kitts led the vote count with 861, followed by Hoskins with 582, McDonald 533, Evans 489, Marlow 427, and Dumont 293.

## LAGRANGE

Incumbent Earl M. Smith ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor with 75 votes.

Incumbents Marla Mounce and Andrew Swords will be joined by newcomers Roger Sherwood Hill, Kathie S. Lee, Benny McGlamery, and James C. Palmer on the LaGrange Board of Aldermen after incumbents Greg Kinney, Bob Lee, Lee McGlamery, and Bill Williams did not seek re-election.

Mounce and Lee led the vote count with 59 each, followed by McGlamery with 54, Palmer with 41, Swords with 48, and Hill with 46.

## LAKELAND

Incumbent Jim Atkinson will be joined by newcomer Derek Johnston on the Lakeland City Commission after the pair ran unopposed for two open seats. Atkinson received 5,453 votes and Johnston 4,722.

## LAKESITE

Three incumbents ran unopposed and were re-elected to the Lakesite City Commissioner. Bobby Bishop led the vote tally with 890 followed by David Howell with 834 and Valerie J. Boddy with 803.

## LAWRENCEBURG

Newcomer Darryl Watson unseated incumbent Aaron L. Story for Seat 4 of the Lawrence City Council with Watson earning 2,087 votes to Story's 1164.

Incumbent Jamie Sevier ran unopposed for Seat 3 and was re-elected.

## LA VERGNE

Incumbent Steve Noe fended off challenger Graeme Coates 6,851 to 5,097 to remain on the La Vergne Board of Aldermen.

## LEBANON

Incumbent Rick Bell ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Lebanon with 18,071 courtesy votes.

Newcomer Geri Ashley defeated challenger Pamela Wiggins in the only contested race in Lebanon for the Alderman Ward 2 seat previously held by Fred Burton. Ashley earned 709 votes to Wiggins' 641.

Ward 1 incumbent Joey Wayne Carmack and Ward 5 incumbent Robert Byrant both ran unopposed and were re-elected with 3,408 and 2,595 courtesy votes respectively.

## LENOIR CITY

Incumbent Tony R. Aikens defeated challenger Wayne Collins to retain the mayoral seat in Lenoir City. Aikens earned 2,366 votes to Collins' 1,1510.

Incumbents Eddie Simpson and Jennifer Wampler will be joined on the Lenoir City Council by newcomer Robin McNabb after defeating incumbent Mike Henline and challengers Trever Branson and James R. Laney for three open seats. Wampler led the vote count with 2,244 followed by McNabb with 1,983, Simpson with 1,820, Henline



Above: Voters line up outside the Marion County Election Commission office in Jasper to cast their ballots.



Right: A pollworker assists a Gallatin voter with the machine.

led the count with 1,480 followed by Mathenia with 998 and Dunning with 834.

## MIDDLETON

Incumbent Robert "Evan" Mott ran unopposed and was re-elected with 212 complimentary votes.

Incumbents Randal Bishop, Sharon Bishop, and Ann Baxter will be joined by newcomers J.R. Johns and Brandan Allan Johnson after defeating incumbent David Bo Callahan and Kevin Speck for the five open seats on the Middleton Board of Alderman.

Baxter and R. Bishop led the vote count with 172 each by S. Bishop with 164, Johns with 152, Johnson with 126, Callahan 122, and Speck with 98.

## MILLERSVILLE

Newcomers Lincoln Atwood, Dustin Darnall, and Jessee Powell unseated incumbent Alisa Huling and defeated challengers Jeremy Crumpton and M. Lyn Smith for the three seats on the Millersville City Commission. Atwood led the vote count with 1,033 followed by Darnall with 871, Powell with 834, Huling with 825, Crumpton with 592, and Smith with 539.

## MILLINGTON

Alderman Larry Dagen defeated challenger Cary E. Vaughn for the Millington mayoral seat previously held by Terry Jones. Dagen earned 2,347 votes to Vaughn's 1,412.

Incumbent Thomas L. McGhee defeated challenger David Terrell 2,267 to 1,263 to retain the Position 5 alderman seat while incumbent Don Lowy fended off a challenge from Taylor Brooke Ellis 1,867-1,664 for the Position 6 seat. In the Position 7 race, incumbent Mike Caruthers defeated challengers John Perales and Charles P. Reed. Caruthers earned 1,700 votes to Reed's 881 and Perales' 815.

## MONTEAGLE

Newcomers Dean Lay and Grant Fletcher defeated challenger Kenneth W. Gipson for the two open seats on the Montegale Board of Aldermen. Lay led with 237 followed by Fletcher with 149 and Gipson with 148.

## MORRISON

Incumbent Sue Jones will be joined by newcomers Adam Bouldin and Samantha Bouldin on the Morrison Board of Aldermen after running unopposed for the three open seats. A. Bouldin led the vote tally with 159 followed by S. Bouldin and Jones with 129 each.

## MOSCOW

Newcomer Kris Tims defeated incumbent Brenda L. Mitchell and challengers Richard W. Allen and Crystal Banks for the mayoral seat in Moscow. Tims led the vote tally with 82 followed by Banks with 58, Mitchell with 53, and Allen with 11.

Newcomer Rosalyn D. Nowley was the only candidate who qualified for the three open alderman seats and won with 141 complimentary votes while Richard W. Allen was the only candidate to run for the unexpired alderman term and won with 130 votes.

## MOUNTAIN CITY

Incumbent Jerry S. Jordan fended off challenger Nela Pleasant to remain mayor of Mountain City. Jordan earned 576 votes to Pleasant's 469. Incumbent Jerry Horne will be joined by newcomer Celeste Simcox Dunn on the Mountain City Board of Aldermen, fending off a challenge from Charles "Ray" Dowell. Dunn led the tally with 617, followed by Horne with 496 and Dowell with 447.

with 1,734, Branson with 1,369, and Laney with 1,123.

Incumbent James W. Willburn III ran unopposed and was re-elected treasurer and city recorder with 3,393 courtesy votes.

## LOUDON

Incumbent Eric Newman will be joined by newcomer Kenny Ridings on the Loudon City Council, defeating challengers Brendan DeBoer and Mitch Miller for the two open seats. Newman led the vote tall with 1,229 followed by Ridings with 1,118, Miller with 1,038, and DeBoer with 976.

## LOUISVILLE

Newcomer Lysia Vaught will join incumbent Steven J. Kelley Jr. on Louisville Board of Aldermen, fending off fellow challengers Ed Hawk and Charles Perry. Vaught led the vote count with 1,126 followed by Kelley with 987, Perry with 873, and Hawk with 655.

## MADISONVILLE

Incumbents Edward Dawson and Nancy Franklin will be joined by newcomer Rhonda Cooley on the Madisonville Board of Aldermen, fending off challengers from Deanna McClendon and Richard Kirkland. Cooley led the vote count with 1,332 followed by Franklin with 873, Dawson with 851, McClendon with 608, and Kirkland with 165.

City Recorder Sherri Anderson ran unopposed and was re-elected with 1,720 complimentary votes.

## MARTIN

Newcomer Celeste Taylor defeated fellow challenger John "Tony" Prince for the Ward 1 Alderman seat previously held by Scott Robbins in Martin. Taylor earned 774 votes to Prince's 662.

Newcomer Jacob Crowe also defeated incumbent Randy Edwards for the open Ward 3 seat with Crowe earning 522 votes to Edwards' 321. Ward 2 Alderman Marvin Flatt ran unopposed and was re-elected with 733 complimentary votes.

## MARYVILLE

Incumbents Sarah Herron and Drew

Miles fended off challenger Dallas Monroe for the two open seats on the Maryville City Council. Miles led the tally with 8,826 followed by Herron with 7,407 and Monroe with 6,891.

## MASON

Incumbent Virginia Rivers will be joined on the Mason Board of Aldermen by newcomers Trowanna Broadnax and Reynaldo Givhan after fending off challengers Paul David Broughton, Sylvester Harvey, and Ethan Whitley. Broadnax led the vote count with 103, followed by Givhan with 101, Rivers with 100, Harvey with 92, Broughton with 88, and Whitley with 76.

## MCKENZIE

Incumbents Drew Beeler and Jessie Townes will be joined by newcomer Tim McBride on the three open seats on the McKenzie City Council, defeating Karen T. Fowler and Jill Holland. Beeler led the vote tally with 991 followed by McBride with 864, Townes with 770, Fowler with 689, and Holland with 686.

## MCMINNVILLE

Incumbent Ryle B. Chastain ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of McMinnville with 3,306 courtesy votes.

Incumbents Sally Brock and Rachel Hoover Kirby will be joined on the McMinnville Board of Aldermen by newcomer Karal L. Youngblood after defeating incumbent Stacey Harvey and newcomer Jeremy Hamilton for the three open seats. Brock led the vote tally with 1,971 followed by Youngblood with 1,594, Kirby with 1,504, Harvey with 1,427, and Hamilton with 1,145.

## MEDINA

Alderman Scottie Betts defeated fellow alderman Sammy Gilley for the Medina mayoral seat after incumbent Vance Coleman did not seek re-election. Betts earned 1,264 votes to Gilley's 1,162.

Newcomers Marc P. Murdagh and Angela Baggett Mathenia fended off a challenger from April Dunning to earn the two open seats on the board of aldermen. Murdagh



Flooding from Hurricane Helene did not stop voters from casting their ballots in downtown Newport.

## MOUNT CARMEL

Alderman John Keith Gibson defeated incumbent Pat Stilwell and challengers Jim Griffith and Lee McMillan to win the mayoral race in Mount Carmel. Gibson earned 1,115 votes followed by Stilwell with 959, Griffith with 248, and McMillan with 139.

Incumbent Darby Patrick will be joined by newcomers Phillip T. Binstock and James E. Cross after defeating incumbent Mindy Shugart and challengers Gary R. Mason and Regina Perkins for the three open alderman seats. Gibson did not seek re-election as he ran for mayor.

Binstock led the vote count at 1,186 followed by Patrick with 696, Cross with 597, Manson with 539, Shugart with 538, and Perkins with 502.

## MT. JULIET

Incumbent James Maness ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Mt. Juliet with 17,855 courtesy votes.

Newcomer Art Giles unseated incumbent Ray Justice and defeated newcomer Vince King for the District 1 Commission seat. Giles earned 2,076 votes to Justice's 1,773 and King's 723.

Incumbent Scott Hefner retained his District 3 seat over challenger Tommy Hibbett with 3,016 votes to 1,455.

## MT. PLEASANT

Newcomer Loree Baker Knowles will join incumbents Willie Webster Alderson and Bill White on the Mt. Pleasant City Commission, defeating incumbent Jacqueline A. Grandberry and challenger Lonnie R. Thomason. Alderson led the vote count with 989 followed by Knowles with 928, White with 810, Thomas with 751, and Grandberry with 739.

## MUNFORD

Incumbent Dewayne Cole ran unopposed in the mayoral race in Munford, receiving 2,574 complimentary votes.

Incumbents Ray Deneka and Lonnie Glass will be joined by newcomer Kenny Arthur after unseating incumbent Debora K. Reed for the three open alderman seats in Munford. Glass led the vote count with 1,537 followed by Arthur with 1,287, Deneka with 1,239, and Reed with 952.

## NEWBORN

Incumbent Pam Mabry ran unopposed and was elected mayor with 1,076 votes.

Incumbents Nicky Thomas and Randy Wolf will be joined by newcomer Chad Cunningham after fending off a challenge from W. Harold Wright in the alderman race. Wolf led the vote count with 693, Thomas with 665, Cunningham with 634, and Wright with 522.

## NEW HOPE

Alderman Billy Frame fended off challengers Rhonda Lawson and Jeff Story to take the mayoral seat in New Hope. Incumbent Mark Myers did not seek re-election. Frame earned 46.52% of the vote, followed by Jeff Story with 42.56% and Lawson with 10.92%.

Newcomers Caleb Jeremiah Choate and Josh Lawson defeated fellow challenger James Esterly for the two open alderman seats. Choate earned 45.20% of the vote, Lawson 34.40%, and Esterly 20.4%.

## NEW MARKET

Incumbent Danny Whillock ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of New Market with 9,946 votes.

Incumbents Maurice Solomon and David Stapleton also fended off challengers from John Cummins and Wayne Gunn to retain their seats on the Board of Alderman. Solomon led the tally with 4,045, followed by Stapleton with 2,577, Gunn with 2,300, and Cummins with 1,047.

## NEW TAZEVELL

Sitting Vice Mayor Stanley Leonard was elected mayor of New Tazewell, fending off challenges from Carl Nichols and Joe Johnson. Leonard led the race with 461 votes, Nichols with 334, and Johnson with 201. Leonard takes over the role from mayor from Jerry H. Beeler, who defeated incumbent Alex Sorke Jr. for Ward 3 alderman seat with Beeler earning 652 votes to Sorke's 310.

Incumbents Jerry M. Lewis and Franklin Essary ran unopposed and retained their Ward 1 and Ward 2 seats respectively. Lewis earned 844 votes while Essary earned 854.



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incumbent Ann Schneider Williams for the mayoral seat. Poole earned 2,938 votes to Williams' 2,632.

Incumbent Emily Green defeated challenger Henry Clay Sneed for the only contested alderman race. Green will retain the Ward 6 seat with 555 votes to Sneed's 491.

Incumbent Tim Harris ran unopposed and retained the Ward 4 seat with 1,087 votes while newcomer Stephanie Bradley ran unopposed and won the Ward 5 seat previously held by Lisa Arnold with 747 votes.

## STANTON

Vice Mayor Norman Bauer ran unopposed and was elected to the mayoral seat previously held by Allan Sterbinsky.

Incumbents Robert Dancy, Linda L. Jones, and Laura P. Smith will be joined on the Stanton Board of Aldermen by newcomer Tucker D. Johnson as only four candidates ran for four open seats.

## STANTONVILLE

Incumbent Larry Russell ran unopposed and was elected to the mayoral with 100 votes.

Incumbent Layne Moffett was the only candidate who ran for the two open alderman seats and was elected with 113 complimentary votes.

## ST. JOSEPH

Incumbent Beverly J. White ran unopposed and was re-elected to the St. Joseph City Commission.

## SUNBRIGHT

Incumbent Karen Melton ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Sunbright with 162 courtesy votes while newcomer Pam Bentley ran unopposed and was elected to the open alderman seat with 169 courtesy votes.

## SURGOINSVILLE

Incumbents Warren C. Bishop, Randall L. Collier, and Bobby Jarnagin ran unopposed and were re-elected to the three open aldermen seats in Surgoinsville. Collier received 647 votes, Jarnagin 537, and Bishop 520.

## TAZEWELL

Incumbent Bill Fannon ran unopposed and was elected Tazewell mayor with 624 votes with Ward 1 Alderman Don Smith and Ward 3 Alderwoman Jo Ann Bunch running unopposed and being elected with 577 and 556 votes respectively. No candidate qualified for the Ward 2 position.

## TELLICO PLAINS

Incumbent Marilyn F. Parker ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Tellico Plains with 280 complimentary votes.

Newcomers Shannon Harris, Courtney Milsaps Bookout, and Cynthia McDaniel will be joined on the Tellico Plains Board of Alderman by newcomer Joyce McDaniel

after Robert Hamilton did not seek re-election. Bookout led the vote count with 236, followed by Harris with 230, C. McDaniel with 210, and J. McDaniel with 204.

Incumbent city recorder Jo Cagle ran unopposed and was elected with 294 complimentary votes.

## TOONE

Incumbent Jacqueline Elaine Kelley fended off challenger David W. Williamson for the mayoral seat in Toone. Kelley earned 39 votes to Williamson's 38.

Incumbent Aldermen Christopher W. Baskins, Arthur Chism, Johnnie Chism, Mary Ellison, and Karen Lambert will be joined by newcomer Randy D. Warren in the six seats the Toone Board of Aldermen.

Lambert and J. Chism both received 68 votes, Lambert 68, Ellison 66, A. Chism 65, Baskins 63, and Warren 62.

## THOMPSON'S STATION

Incumbent Kreis White will be joined by newcomer Harry King as the only two candidates who ran for two open seats on the Thompson's Station Board of Aldermen.

## THREE WAY

David A. Turner ran unopposed and was elected with 988 courtesy votes to fill the unexpired term of the late Mayor Larry Saunders in Three Way. Vice Mayor Mary Ann Tremblay had served as mayor following the death of Saunders in 2023.

Incumbent Danny C. Wade defeated challenger Danny Laughlin 562-414 to retain his Alderman Position 2 seat while incumbent Franca Young ran unopposed and was selected to serve the remainder of the unexpired Position 1 term with 904 courtesy votes.

## TREZEVANT

Incumbent Bobby James Blaylock ran unopposed and was re-elected Trezevant mayor with 236 votes. Newcomer Robert Argo will join incumbent Leon Lyell on the Trezevant Board of Alderman, seeking the only two open positions. Argo earned 199 votes and Lyell 195.

## TRIMBLE

Incumbent Ben Sturdivant ran unopposed and was re-elected with 180 complimentary votes.

Incumbents Don Byrd and Heather McFarland will be joined by newcomer Charles Benjamin on the Trimble Board of Alderman after only three candidates filed for the five open seats. Incumbents Scotty Funderbunk and Danny Marshall did not seek re-election.

Benjamin led the vote count with 139, followed by McFarland with 136 and Byrd with 130.

## TROY

Incumbent Mark Watson ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of

Troy with 464 courtesy votes.

Incumbents Lana Wiseman, Chris Jones, Matt Russell, and Kristi Scarborough will be joined by newcomer Doug Bobo after ousting incumbent Phil Green in the race for five seats on the Troy Board of Aldermen. Carson led the vote count with 379, Jones with 361, Russell 360, Scarborough 355, Bobo with 287, and Green 255.

## TUSCULUM

Incumbents Barbara J. Britton and Alan Corley ran unopposed and were re-elected to the Tusculum City Commission with 773 and 864 complimentary votes respectively.

## UNICOI

Alderman Kevin D. McInturff unseated incumbent Kathy Bullen to become mayor of Unicoi with 1,221 votes to 539.

Incumbent Debbie Bennett Lemon will be joined by newcomer Mark Phillips on the Unicoi Board of Aldermen, defeating challengers Billy R. Harkins and Amanda Wall-Galleher for the two open seats. Lemmon led the vote count with 950 followed by Phillips with 596, Wall-Galleher with 588, and Harkins with 382.

## UNION CITY

Newcomer Patrick Smith unseated incumbent Dianne Eskew for the Ward 3 Council seat in Union City with Smith earning 340 votes to Eskew's 284.

The remainder of council races were unopposed with incumbents being returned to their seats. Randy Barnes was re-elected to the at-large seat with 2,995 votes, Katie Keathley to the Ward 2 seat with 454 votes, and Jim E. Douglas to the Ward 5 seat with 955 votes. Incumbent Allen Nohsey also ran unopposed and was re-elected city judge with 2,827.

## VANLEER

Derrick E. Lynch ran unopposed and was elected to the mayoral seat with 159 votes. The seat was previously held by Heath Ellis, who did not seek re-election.

Incumbents Chris Farmer and Dwight McIlwain will be joined by newcomers Jacob McEwen, Eric T. Weaver, and Jason Weaver on the Vanleer Board of Alderman, defeating incumbent Kevin A. Miner. Incumbents Libby Farmer and Jerry Jenkins did not seek re-election.

Eric Weaver led the vote count with 138 followed by McIlwain with 129, Farmer with 120, Jason Weaver with 118, McEwen with 114, and Miner with 110.

## VIOLA

Incumbent Samuel "Trent" Prater ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Viola with 49 courtesy votes.

Incumbent Carolyn Garretson will return to the Viola Board of Alderman after receiving 41 votes.

Incumbent Arzie "Tim" Templeton and newcomer Susan Wilson both received 24 votes, tying for the second open position on the board.

## VONORE

Incumbents Timothy Wade Swafford and Kristi C. Windsor defeated challenger Robert Keenan for the two open seats on the Vonore Board of Alderman. Swafford led the vote with 386, followed by Windsor with 380, and Keenan with 363.

## WATERTOWN

Incumbent Michael R. Jennings ran unopposed for Watertown mayor and was re-elected with 493 courtesy votes while incumbent Aldermen Steve Casey, Laura Lee Cromer, and April Pearson ran unopposed for the three open board seats and were re-elected with 410, 421, and 411 courtesy votes respectively.

## WALDEN

Incumbent Lee Davis ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Walden with 1,053 complimentary votes.

Incumbent Lizzy Schmidt fended off a challenge from Lou Ziebold to retain her seat on the Walden Board of Alderman. Schmidt received 654 votes to Ziebold's 592.

## WARTRACE

Incumbent Benjamin Cataldo will be joined by newcomers Thomas E. Batchelor and Matthew Evans on the Wartrace Board of Aldermen. The three candidates ran for the three open seats with Cataldo earning 189 votes, Batchelor earning 159, and Evans earning 153.

## WATAUGA

Incumbents Dennis Hicks, Richard Dale McCracken, and Bert Thomasson ran unopposed and were elected to the three open Watauga Commission seats. McCracken led the count with 104, Hicks with 95, and Thomasson with 74.

## WESTMORELAND

Incumbents Cameron Calvert, Alex Jones, and Obern E. Staples ran unopposed and were re-elected to the Westmoreland City Council with 590, 541, and 412 votes respectively.

## WHITE BLUFF

Newcomer Stephanie L. Murrell defeated incumbent Linda Hayes and challenger Trey Thomas for the mayoral seat in White Bluff. Murrell led the vote count with 668, Thomas with 561, and Hayes with 500.

Incumbent Bryan Hill will be joined by newcomer Jacob Puckett for the two open seats on the city council. Hill received 1,334 votes and Puckett received 1,237.

## WHITE HOUSE

Newcomer Jeremy Sisk defeated challenger Carter C. Beck 1,081-

589 for the Ward 3 Alderman seat in White House after incumbent Linda Silver decided to not seek re-election. Ward 4 Incumbent Michael Wall was unopposed and received 1,334 courtesy votes.

## WHITE PINE

Newcomer Glen E. Warren Jr. defeated incumbent Fred Taylor for the White Pine mayoral seat. Warren earned 6,179 votes to Taylor's 3,811. Newcomers Lisa D. Arwood and Pamela Walker also defeated incumbents Jarrad Stump and Ann Strom for the two open seats on the White Pine Board of Alderman. Arwood led the vote count with 3,928, followed by Walker with 2,992, Stump with 1,791, and Strom with 1,253.

## WHITWELL

Incumbents Sandra Powell Crabtree and Jimmy W. Nunley will be joined by David Hudson on the Whitwell City Commission after running unopposed for the three open seats.

## WILLISTON

Newcomer Deborah Kay Tompson ran unopposed and was elected to the Williston City Commission with 155 votes.

## WINFIELD

Incumbents Doug Wilson will be joined by newcomer Chad Jones after running unopposed for the two aldermen seats in Winfield. Wilson and Jones earned 265 and 276 courtesy votes respectively.

## WOODBURY

Newcomer Stan Hollandsworth defeated incumbent Andy Duggin for the mayoral seat in Woodbury with Hollandsworth earning 698 votes to Duggin's 298.

Jeff D. Todd will join incumbents Hayden Bryson, LuAnn Curlee, Faye Northcutt Knox, Adam Melton, and Harold Patrick after fending off fellow challenger Sydney Smith for the six open seats on the Woodbury Board of Alderman.

Todd led the vote count with 654, followed by Bryson with 556, Knox with 500, Curlee with 452, Melton with 447, and Smyth with 431.

## WOODLAND MILLS

Incumbent Joseph Lewis ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Woodland Mills with 139 courtesy votes. No candidate qualified for the single open alderman seat.

## YORKVILLE

Incumbents Jennifer Hurst and Mack Zarecor will be joined by newcomer Lisa A. Couch on the Yorkville city commission after incumbent Hollis Hanks did not seek re-election. Zarecor led the count with 85 votes followed by Couch with 84 and Hurst with 76.

## No loan is too large or too small



The City of Madisonville recently closed a \$700,500 note issued to finance the purchase of a new fire truck. The city has used the TMBF loan programs seven times since 1999. Seated L to R are: City Recorder Sherri McCrary and Mayor Scott Hunt. Standing is Steve Queener, TMBF Marketing Representative.



The Town of Tiptonville has used the TMBF loan programs three times since 1998. The most recent was for a \$1,000,000 fixed rate loan through the Clarksville Public Building Authority to renovate the Reelfoot Lake Armory Building to use as a community center for the town. A portion of the funds will also be used to renovate the town's baseball complex. Seated L to R are: City Recorder Fran Hearn and Mayor Cliff Berry. Standing is Justin Hanson, TMBF Marketing Representative.



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## STATE BRIEFS

Two Tennessee municipalities have been awarded a share in \$443 million in [Water and Waste Disposal Loans and Grants](#) awarded to expand access to clean and reliable drinking water, sanitary waste disposal and storm water drainage for people in 24 states. The town of Baxter will use a \$1 million loan to provide additional financing for the Wastewater Treatment Plant system improvements project. This project will improve the sewer system for all sewer residents in the town of Baxter. The city of Paris will use a \$855,000 grant to complete the sewer system rehab for the city of Paris. The project will improve the sewer collection system for the city and its 9,990 customers.

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (TNECD) announced Franklin, Lake and White counties were selected to participate in the latest round of the Select Tennessee Property Evaluation Program (PEP). PEP evaluates potential industrial properties, advising counties on industrial site improvements and where investments may be most beneficial. Since its inception in 2015, PEP has helped improve the inventory of industrial sites and buildings across the state, with 454 sites being reviewed. PEP originates from TNECD's Select Tennessee Certified Site Program.

A new initiative is seeking to aid in the restoration of native white oaks across Tennessee. The Tennessee White Oak Initiative is a cooperative effort between the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry (TDF), TDF's East Tennessee Nursery, the University of Tennessee Extension, and the Tennessee Forestry Association. An essential element of the state's forests, the dropping rates of white oak regrowth in forests is concerning state officials, especially as seed suppliers have been unable to meet needs. Individuals, civic organizations, forestry groups, landowners, and youth organizations that would like to participate [can learn more here](#).

## TN Retail Accountability Program produces sales tax compliance

The Tennessee Comptroller's Office has completed an evaluation of Tennessee's Retail Accountability Program (RAP) which is designed to ensure businesses remit the proper amount of sales tax revenues to the state.

RAP was created by the General Assembly in 2012 to improve sales tax compliance among retailers of beer and tobacco products. The program has since been expanded to include nonalcoholic beverages, soft drinks, candy, and certain nonperishable foods.

These expansion products are scheduled to sunset from being inside the program in 2025. RAP identifies retailers that underreport, either willfully or accidentally, the amount of sales taxes collected and remitted to the state.

The Tennessee Department of Revenue compares reported sales of wholesalers to retailers and audits retailers that do not address non-compliance.

From fiscal years 2013-2023,

This year's collection program will open on Oct. 15, 2024, and end on Nov. 15, 2024. Learn more by reaching out to [your local TDF area forester](#).

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has moved its main Tennessee headquarters to a new office in Nashville, but said it will continue to operate "resident agencies" in Memphis and Knoxville. Instead of having two separate sets of leadership operating in Knoxville and Memphis, FBI Director Chris Wray said the move would allow the FBI to consolidate its leadership at its Nashville office. Wray said the move will actually allow the FBI to increase the number of agents working at its Memphis office, particularly those working on violent crime cases.

Tennessee's unemployment rate increased in September but remained 1% lower than the national rate. The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development said the state's September unemployment rate was at 3.2%, up from 3.1% the previous month and a three-month record-low of 3% between May and July. The September 2024 rate was 0.2% lower than the rate was at the same time the previous year. Tennessee employers added 3,300 nonfarm jobs between August and September 2024. The health care and social assistance sector accounted for the largest increase, followed by the retail trade sector and the professional, scientific, and technical services sector.

Sports betting has generated more than \$261 million in taxes for Tennessee since its legalization in 2019. More than \$14.7 billion in sports bets have been placed in Tennessee during that period with Tennessee being the first state to go fully online for its sports betting. The industry has continued to grow in the state each year with bettors placing \$520 million in wagers and generating tax revenues of \$9.6 million in September 2024 alone. Football remains the most popular sport for betting in the state.

the state has directly collected \$36,597,304 in unpaid taxes, penalties, and interest revenue as a result of the program while costing the Department of Revenue \$3,896,089 to administer over that time period.

Additionally, it is probable that more retailers began collecting and remitting the correct amount of sales tax to the state to avoid being identified by RAP. TDOR estimates \$300 million was voluntarily remitted over the past 11 years as a result of RAP.

The Comptroller's Office of Research and Education Accountability (OREA) and Division of State Audit have reviewed the program and produced a legislative brief providing an evaluation of this program since its creation. This legislative brief includes six conclusions and a policy option for the Tennessee Department of Revenue.

To read the report and see the one page snapshot, please visit the Comptroller's website at: [tncot.cc/orea](#)

## Tennessee Comptroller issues new guidance for volunteer fire departments

The Tennessee Comptroller's division of Local Government Audit has launched a new resource designed to improve and emphasize the importance of good financial management within Tennessee's hundreds of volunteer fire departments.

"While volunteer fire departments provide essential services across the state, they are also prone to financial troubles including fraud, waste, and abuse," said Comptroller Jason Mumpower. "Many of these departments have been the subject of fraud investigations by my Office."

The first edition of the *Volunteer Fire Departments Financial Reporting and Procedures Manual* offers clear guidance to developing policies and procedures that help mitigate risks around activities such as fundraising, purchasing, the sale of surplus property, grant expenditures, and many more.

The new manual also reminds each volunteer fire department that receives government money of the requirement to file an annual financial report with the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury and each local government body from which the department receives appropriations.



In addition to the new manual, the Comptroller's Office has also created a training video to help volunteer fire departments implement financial best practices and recommended internal controls.

"Although volunteer fire departments are often overseen and staffed by unpaid volunteers, they still have a fiduciary responsibility to ensure money is used properly," said Comptroller

Mumpower. "This manual establishes a basic level of financial management that will improve accountability and integrity within these incredibly important organizations. It's essential reading for any volunteer fire department in Tennessee."

To view the new volunteer fire department resources, go to [tncot.cc/vfd](#)

## September revenues \$101.2M above estimates

Tennessee revenues exceeded budgeted estimates for the month of September.

Finance and Administration Commissioner Jim Bryson reported total September tax revenues were \$2.2 billion, \$101.2 million more than the budgeted estimate and \$18.9 million more than September 2023. The total tax growth rate for the month was 0.87%.

General fund revenues were \$95.3 million more than the September estimate and the four other funds that share in state tax revenues were \$5.9 million more than the estimates.

On an accrual basis, September is the second month in the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

"September's sales tax receipts indicate strong consumer activity, with corporate tax revenues exceeding expectations," Bryson said. "Adjusting for last year's forgone revenue, sales tax receipts rose by 3.4% and surpassed the monthly estimate. Corporate tax revenues—franchise and excise taxes—though besting budgeted expectations, fell short of last year's collections. This decline was expected, as corporate tax receipts are anticipated to be lower throughout the year because of tax cuts included within the 2023

Tennessee Works Tax Act and the removal of the property measure from levied franchise taxes. All other taxes exceeded the budgeted estimates for the month."

On a year-to-date basis, August through September, total tax revenues are 2.81 percent greater than the budget estimate, or \$102.6 million above expectations. When compared to this same period last year, total tax revenues have grown 1.50% or \$55.2 million.

General fund revenues are 2.97% greater than the year-to-date budgeted estimate, or \$88.7 million higher. Likewise, general fund collections compared to this same period last year have increased 1.60% or \$48.3 million.

**Individual tax performance compared to September 2024 Budgeted Estimates:**

- Sales Taxes: Above estimate by 3.70% or \$43.8 million
- Corporate Taxes (Franchise & Excise): Above estimate by 7.35% or \$47 million
- Fuel Taxes: Below estimate by 0.17% or \$0.2 million
- All other taxes: Above estimate by 6.62% or \$10.6 million

**Year-to-date performance compared to Budgeted Estimates:**

**Individual tax performance compared to August through September 2023:**

- Sales Taxes: Up 8.22% or \$93.3 million
- Corporate Taxes (Franchise & Excise): Down 9.23% or \$69.8 million
- Fuel Taxes: Down 4.26% or \$5 million
- All other taxes: Up 0.19% or \$0.3 million

All monthly estimates are available on the [state's website](#).

## Three Tennessee cities get share in \$3.3M from DRA

Three Tennessee cities will share in more than \$3.3 million in federal funds provided to the Delta Regional Authority through the States' Economic Development Assistance Program.

A coordinated effort among DRA, its Board of Governors and Local Development Districts, SEDAP aims to improve basic public infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, business development and job training in communities across DRA's eight-state service region. This year in Tennessee, four projects were selected for SEDAP funding at an investment of more than \$3.3 million, including projects in Hen-

derson, Lexington, and Selmer. Henderson was awarded more than \$80,000 to complete a water system improvement project that will provide for an extension of the current water distribution system, ensuring commercial businesses have a reliable source of water and fire protection.

Lexington was awarded nearly \$260,000 to support a road connection project that will lead to the future site of the Tennessee College of Applied Technology and provide additional access to the Timberlake Industrial Park, ultimately bolstering industrial access, workforce education, expansion and job growth for Henderson County.

Selmer/McNairy County Industrial Development Board was awarded more than \$2.5 million for an infrastructure expansion project within the North Industrial Park to enhance industry development and job growth within the county.

Additionally, \$509,000 was awarded to AgLaunch for an innovation and entrepreneurial initiative that aims to foster agricultural innovation, entrepreneurship and sustainable economic development across the DRA region.

For more information about SEDAP, visit [www.dra.gov](#).

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## Three strategies for local leaders to improve civility

For a long while, our nation has had difficulty carrying out respectful conversations on any topic of importance that involves different viewpoints. While this poses challenges among neighbors in our communities, this dynamic also can be paralyzing at the level of local government. Our societal difficulty to engage in productive discourse has resulted in a growing number of incidents involving insults and threats of violence within local government proceedings.

In a new survey conducted by the National League of Cities, 73 percent of surveyed mayors, city council members and city managers report personally experiencing harassment as part of their work, with 89 percent experiencing harassment on social media and 84 percent experiencing harassment during public city meetings.

Despite this, as elected officials and local leaders, we know from experience that people are prepared to do the work of community deliberation and decision-making. Residents will come to the table and make a genuine effort to find common ground. By leaning into relationships, we know that we can build more trust in local government.

### The Challenges Upon Us

**A lack of trust in government.** Distrust of public institutions is high. And for many communities that have experienced disinvestment and policies of segregation, trusting local government has never been an option.

**A legacy of insufficient community engagement.** With the day-to-day demands of local government, and little time to get a job done, we may ask for community input when we in fact do not have the ability to meaningfully incorporate the feedback. When we ask for input but cannot deliver on the valuable input received, it leads to distrust. Alongside that, people are interacting with their local government on a daily basis whether they know it or not: turning on the water tap, enjoying a park, shopping downtown, etc. A relationship with our communities is being built as we conduct our daily business.

**No shared understanding of “truth.”** We all bring our own experiences to our interactions, but in the age of misinformation and disinformation, it is hard to know what is “true.” Multiple people looking at the same information may arrive at different truths. There is also little opportunity for people to come together in good faith and possibly find common ground.

### The Solutions We Embrace

**Acknowledge the complexity of truth.** Public officials must make sure that what we say is factually based and can be backed up, not just something we read on a social media thread, or our opinion. Evidence is important. And even though someone may disagree, presenting evidence is a way to start a conversation.

However, we must recognize that each of us comes to the table with our own experiences that inform the ‘truth’ as we understand it. Experience is the best teacher. As local leaders, it is our job to make space for our residents to authentically share their diversity of experiences and to do so ourselves.

**Building relationships to build trust.** The role of a local government leader is to be in relationship with our communities and our colleagues. In practice, what does this really mean? How do we build these relationships and when do we do that? The answer is now, proactively, and continuously.

This process is not linear and there is not just one entry point, but to be effective, relationships need to be built before a crisis happens — not in the middle of one. Communities are a web, relationships take work and we need to jump in and come to the table and do our part. Communication is key for local leaders to do this.

“My experience has shown me that [local government leaders] don’t communicate enough. We make a decision, and we might be making the best of decisions because we have the information. But our constituents do not have the information that we have. And we cannot assume that they know everything that we know. So, the onus is on us to be able to provide that information,” said Zulfat Suara, Metro Nashville councilmember.

We also need to embrace

**“Our constituents do not have the information that we have. And we cannot assume that they know everything that we know. So, the onus is on us to be able to provide that information,” said Zulfat Suara, Metro Nashville councilmember.**

that mistakes will happen in the course of our work. We’re all human beings, and sometimes the decision that’s made is the wrong decision. When something goes wrong, we must recognize when we are responsible for something that led to a breakdown. We can acknowledge those moments and use the opportunity to strengthen our relationships.

**Listening to understand.** As part of building relationships, we need to practice better listening. Listening to understand is about bringing people together, allowing the time for a respectful exchange of opinions, and, if possible, working through differences. Putting this into practice is hard to do. As local leaders, how do we make sure that we’re ultimately bringing our collective experiences into the conversation to arrive at decisions that work for the people we all represent? While difficult, the local level is the best place to practice this skill, because of the quality of the relationships we build.

The Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum’s Better Conversations program brings people “together to discuss sensitive or controversial topics in a civil manner.” The program establishes agreed-upon “grounding virtues” for conversations that guide interactions while seeking to build understanding. One core virtue, adventurous civility, is defined as “creating new possibilities for living forward while being different and even continuing to hold profound disagreement.”

**Editor’s Note:** Co-authored by Zulfat Suara, councilmember, Metro Nashville; Maureen Tobin, executive director, Davenport Institute for Public Engagement and Civic Leadership; and Kari Watkins, president & CEO, Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum



**Nov. 11-15: Memphis**  
[Memphis City Hackathon](#)  
Join us at the Univ. of Memphis FedEx Institute of Technology to showcase your civic innovation, collaboration, technology and analytical skills to help solve real challenges the City of Memphis is trying to improve on.

**Nov. 22-Dec. 31: Franklin**  
[Franktown's Festival of Lights](#)  
Celebrate the holidays at Franklin's nightly mile-and-a-half light spectacular, featuring more than 200 synchronized lights.

**Nov. 23-Dec. 19: Shelbyville**  
[28th Annual Festival of Trees](#)  
View dazzling holiday trees decorated by local area businesses, groups, nonprofit organizations and individuals. Vote for your favorites to help raise money for The Fly Arts Center.

**Nov. 23-Jan. 2: Clarksville**  
[Christmas on the Cumberland](#)  
Come experience the captivating displays of over one million lights at McGregor Park and Cumberland Riverwalk. Admission is free and open to the public.

**Nov. 25: Chattanooga**  
[25th Annual Grateful Gobbler 5K Walk/Run](#)  
Walkers will gather at Coolidge Park for festivities before the start of the race, which will benefit the MacLellan Shelter for Families, an emergency homeless shelter.

**Nov. 27-Dec. 1: Gatlinburg**  
[51st Annual Festival of Trees](#)  
The festival will feature a children’s craft and play area, photos with Santa Claus and beautifully decorated Christmas trees and wreaths.

**Nov. 27-Dec. 1: Knoxville**  
[40th Annual Fantasy of Trees](#)  
Travel through a forest of more than 350 beautifully designed trees, holiday accessories, store front windows, door designs, table centerpieces and an Adopt-a-Tree forest decorated by local school children.

**Nov. 30: Sweetwater**  
[Small Town Christmas](#)  
Held in Historic Downtown Sweetwater, the annual Small Town Christmas will feature vendors, live performances, marshmallow roasting, carriage rides, kids’ activities, a live nativity, giant snow globe and much more.

**Dec. 6-7: Bell Buckle**  
[A Quilted Christmas](#)  
Quilts, both vintage and new, will be featured in a Quilt Walk in downtown Bell Buckle. The walk will include ten stops with quilts on display in local historic homes and churches and will feature quilts locally made in Bell Buckle and the surrounding areas.

**Dec. 7: Jackson**  
[Christmas Around the World](#)  
Kick off your holidays with multicultural music traditions as well as hometown favorites at the Jackson Symphony.

## NATIONAL BRIEFS



**Americans sent retail sales up 0.4% between August and September**, well above the previous month-over-month gain of 0.1% and the third-straight increase in sales. Higher sales were reported by online retailers, restaurants, and grocery stores though gas station sales fell due to lower prices at the pump. The rise of sales is another indicator inflation has cooled, defying allegations of a weak economy. Low unemployment, steady pay gains, rising stock prices, and rising home values also contributed to Americans being willing to spend despite higher prices.

**The Consumer Price Index rose slightly more than expected in September** due to higher food

costs, though the increase was the smallest in the past 3.5 years. The U.S. Department of Labor said the rate increase 0.2% for the month to an annual inflation rate of 2.4%, but still the lowest rate since February 2021. Taking out the more volatile food and energy prices, core prices increase 0.3% month-over-month, putting the annual rate at 3.3%. Much of the increase came from a 0.4% increase in food prices and 0.2% in shelter costs. However, there was a 1.9% fall in energy prices. The release comes as the Federal Reserve has begun to lower benchmark interest rates, and the bank is expected to continue cutting despite the September numbers.

**U.S. gross domestic product**

**(GDP) rose at a strong 2.8% pace between July and September**, according to the latest data from the Commerce Department. GDP growth slowed slightly from a 3% rate in the second quarter but was above the predicted rate of 2.6%. Despite inflation and high interest rates, the economy has been holding strong throughout the year and may be approaching the “soft landing” economists have hoped for. The rate sends a message that inflation is moderating, and the economy continues to do well. The strong growth reduces the risk of sudden and significant layoffs and has seen inflation fall within the 2% annual target by the Federal Reserve. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate has remained not above 4%.

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# Camps, councils help cities connect with youth

By KATE COIL  
TT&C Assistant Editor

Municipalities across Tennessee are finding unique ways to include youth in local government while educating them about municipal career paths.

According to the International City/County Manager's Association (ICMA), public trust in local government is at an [all-time low](#). This is especially true among youngsters, who are often overlooked in the public engagement process.

In addition to creating politically engaged, long-term residents of a community, involving youth in local government can help grow the next generation of employees, bridge gaps between youth and officials, and improve the quality of life for residents.

Mayors in communities with youth outreach programs have noticed results. TML 1st Vice President and Bolivar Mayor Julian McTizic created Camp Bolivar four years ago, a day-camp that gives middle school students a chance to see what happens behind the scenes in government.

"Camp Bolivar is not just another program," McTizic said. "It is an investment in our youth and our future, an investment that fosters growth and strengthens our community for generations to come."

Columbia also created the Mayor's Youth Council (CMYC) four years ago. Mayor Chaz Molder said the council has engaged city officials with future leaders.

"Over the past four years, I've seen firsthand how these students bring fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to the table and have a passion for making a difference," Molder said. "It's inspiring to witness their growth as they gain hands-on experience with the inner workings of city government and develop leadership skills that will serve them well into the future. Encouraging youth involvement in civic affairs is one of the best investments we can make in Columbia's future, and I'm proud to support the next generation of leaders who will continue to shape our community."

Johnson City recently created its own youth council, and Mayor Todd Fowler said city leaders are excited to involve the council in planning for future growth.

"Our growth management plan is a 20-year plan," Fowler said. "That's not for us. That's for our youth. We need them to have a voice as we shape the future of Johnson City. And if we're lucky, maybe they'll be the ones putting that plan into action."

## GETTING INVOLVED

In Columbia, the council empowers local high school students by fostering leadership skills, educating them about local government, and encouraging involvement.

"The city continues to support the CMYC because it serves as a vital bridge between youth and local government by providing future leaders with a platform to voice their ideas, concerns, and perspectives," said Hanna Miller, Columbia public information officer. "The council's emphasis on creating informed and engaged citizens aligns with Columbia's goal of nurturing a vibrant, forward-thinking community."

Students in CMYC get a behind-the-scenes look at city hall as part of the project they complete.

"Through these activities, they gain a comprehensive understanding of how local government functions, and they actively contribute to discussions on city projects and initiatives," Miller said. "This hands-on experience resonates deeply with students as it transforms theoretical knowledge into real-world applications, showing them the tangible impact of their involvement in civic matters."

In Bolivar, the city created Camp Bolivar to educate students about how local government works and to introduce them to other



Middle school students participating in Camp Bolivar spend four days learning about both the functions of a city and how city leaders work with members of the community.



Johnson City recently created its own Junior Council to encourage local students to participate in city planning and government in a more direct way. The council serves as a youth advisory board to city leaders and also learns about how they can one day be a part of city government themselves.

opportunities within the community. While initially intended just for Bolivar students, the camp has expanded to take students from surrounding county schools.

Bolivar's four-day camp allows students to learn the functions of the various city departments including public safety, streets, sanitation, utility, banking and finance, the local library, and parks and recreation. Hands-on experiences include learning how the water plant works and flying in a medical air helicopter. Students also see how city emergency officials work with the local hospital, learn about the medical field, as well as meet with local business officials and local media outlets to learn how they work with the city.

"The camp introduces students to the various collaborations between government, organizations, and local businesses that drive our local economy," said Sarah Rice, Bolivar social media manager. "We also hope it will entice them to return to their community after they graduate from a college or trade school."

"We stress that it truly does 'take a village' to ensure that our city is safe, thriving, and accessible to all of its residents," Rice continues. "It is also important to teach that public service is a calling and giving back to our community is something that we do because we love our community and want it to be the best possible version of Bolivar that we can make it. Encouraging a connection between workers and students is vital for bridging the gap between education and real-world experience."

Johnson City's youth advisory council was first initiated through a local government day for high school students.

"We have a local government day for high school students named Gov. All. Out., a spin on our motto of Go. All. Out., that we hold one day a year for about 20 students," said Keisha Shoun, director of

not have otherwise known about," Shoun said. "These are remarkably bright kids who we would be fortunate to have as part of our organization. We already have one council member who has always planned to study chemistry in college. Because of her experience on junior council, she is now applying to different universities to study humanities."

## TEACHING THE TEACHERS

Students aren't the only ones learning from the experience. Shoun said the brilliance of students on the junior council is inspiring city leaders to look at things in new ways.

"We sit in municipal buildings all day making decisions for the future of our community and don't often engage the very people we hope will be the future of our community," she said. "They have so much insight to offer,

knowledge and skills to engage in local government, they are investing in the next generation of leaders who will shape the future of Columbia. It's also a way to foster a sense of civic duty and pride in the community, ensuring that Columbia continues to thrive as a place where all voices are heard and valued.

"It's crucial to involve students in understanding decision-making processes, public policy development, and community service initiatives," Miller continued. "By engaging in these areas, students learn the importance of civic responsibility, strategic planning, and the complexities of balancing diverse community needs. Experiencing these aspects firsthand encourages them to think critically about issues that affect their community and to consider innovative solutions."

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

For cities that want to bolster their own youth involvement, they need to find programs that are engaging and hands-on.

"It's essential to create a structured program that offers meaningful engagement and direct interaction with city leaders," Miller said. "Programs like the CMYC succeed because they provide students with hands-on experiences and real-world responsibilities that make them feel valued and empowered. Municipalities should focus on making these experiences relevant to the students' interests and provide them with opportunities to voice their ideas and see those ideas implemented in meaningful ways."

Rice agreed that programs need to make youth participants feel like the community wants to invest in them.

"To foster greater youth involvement and education in government, municipalities should create engaging, hands-on programs that connect young people with local decision-makers, promote civic education in schools, and offer opportunities for youth to actively participate in community projects and governance processes," she said. "Ultimately, fostering these connections secures a more resilient and forward-thinking future for our cities."

Johnson City partnered with East Tennessee State University and the Roan Scholar program to help create a council that works for their needs and goals. Shoun advised getting non-government partners, like Young Professionals or a chamber youth leadership program, involved to find a model that helps with the workload and bridges generation gaps.

"We also are instilling in the council that — just like a city commission — significant projects take time," Shoun said. "We want them to know that their vision will net tangible and impactful results in the future. That can be difficult in an immediate gratification world, but we think the service project will help with that."



Members of Columbia's Mayor's Youth Council contribute a project to the city each year. These students created a toy drive using the resources provided to them through the council and learned how leaders make community connections to achieve goals.

public affairs. "We needed a mechanism to reach more students in a more meaningful way. As part of Gov. All. Out., we found that our city commissioners would ask more questions of the participants than the youth would of our elected officials. It became apparent that a youth advisory board would be valuable to our city leaders."

"We meet monthly, and the youth council has decided to focus on one major city initiative and one service project each term," Shoun said. "They will report to the commission on their work at least twice. These students are incredibly invested and interested in local government, so it has all resonated well, even topics like a budget."

## LEARNING ON THE JOB

The youth councils have also helped steer interested students to new career paths.

"An unintended but welcome consequence would certainly be if some of these students discover a career with the city that they may

and their thinking is next-level. We hope they will be engaged and contributing members of our community as they enter adulthood."

"Engaging in open conversations with our youth allows elected leaders to understand the unique challenges and perspectives that younger generations face, fostering a sense of inclusion and belonging," Rice said. "By actively listening to their ideas and concerns, leaders can ensure that policies are reflective of diverse needs and aspirations. This dialogue not only empowers young people to take ownership of their communities but also cultivates innovative solutions to pressing issues."

Miller said the CMYC students have provided fresh perspectives, brought youth issues to the attention of city leaders, and contributed innovative ideas for projects.

"Providing this opportunity to young people is crucial because it encourages active citizenship and leadership from a young age," she said. "Government leaders believe that by equipping students with the