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The Way Forward

The recent elections are a reminder of who's in charge – the American people. Their trust is generous, if not forgiving. But when they speak, they mean business. One may not agree with every outcome, but on election day, Americans and Tennesseans spoke.

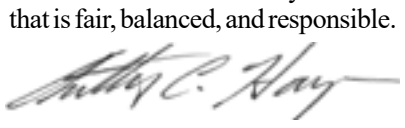
There is no shortage of special interest and self-proclaimed watchdog groups doing their best to tell us what those results meant, and what successful candidates said about a host of issues, especially on property taxes. As is often the case, the truth is somewhere in the middle. These groups would have you believe Tennessee is an outlier with runaway tax rates. In fact, from 1996 to 2025, average tax rates for most Tennessee cities remained steady or declined, while property values and inflation have spiked in recent years.

Tennesseans just voted to constitutionally prohibit ever imposing and collecting a state-property tax. The measure passed by a two-to-one margin. On a national level, as Florida voted to increase its "Homestead Exemption" on the first $150,000 and $250,000 respectively over the next two years, voters in Wyoming rejected Proposition 1 that would have exempted 50% of the assessed value of a taxpayer's primary residence. The reason? Previous experience.

In 2025, in an effort to provide homeowner tax relief Wyoming passed a 25% exemption on the first $1 million in home value. The result was a critical reduction in revenue for education, hospitals, public safety, and other key services. This experience led to an unusual coalition of taxpayer watchdog groups, two former governors - one Democrat and one Republican, hospital and education associations all working together to defeat Prop 1 and avoid further damage.

Providing citizens tax relief is a good thing. There is an opportunity to make sure that any effort to address property taxes in Tennessee does not substantially reduce support for local schools or first responders, or compromise safe and livable communities. But municipal leaders and employees must act NOW and communicate with state officials about how meaningful and reasonable property tax reform should occur.

A start would be returning more of the state tax collections to our cities. After all, they generated much of it – almost 85% of state sales tax alone. More than 60% of Tennesseans live in cities, and all others depend on their economic capacity to generate jobs, maintain world-class medical facilities, and grow commerce. There is a way forward that is fair, balanced, and responsible.



Anthony Haynes
TML Executive Director

Tennessee elects Blackburn first female governor

By KATE COIL
TT&C Assistant Editor



U.S. Sen. Marsha Blackburn speaks to supporters after winning the Tennessee governor's seat. Blackburn becomes the first female governor in state history, less than a decade after becoming the first female U.S. Senator elected from the state. (Photo by Andrew Nelles / Tennessean)

Tennessee has its first female governor after Republican U.S. Sen. Marsha Blackburn defeated Democratic Memphis Councilwoman Jerri Green and 13 independent challengers for the gubernatorial seat previously held by term-limited Gov. Bill Lee.

"Thank you, Tennessee!" Blackburn said in a statement. "I am honored and humbled to be elected the next Governor of the great state of Tennessee. This victory belongs to the people who make Tennessee great—the families who work hard, the parents who sacrifice, the farmers who feed us, and the volunteers who never give up. We built a movement of people who believe Tennessee's best days are ahead. Tennessee can and should be THE state of opportunity. My promise is simple: Tennessee will be a state where hard work pays off, families can put down roots, and everyone has the opportunity to build a better future."

In addition to being the first female governor, Blackburn also became the first female U.S. Senator from Tennessee when she was elected in 2018.

Blackburn led the vote total with 957,136 followed by Green with 902,953, David Hatley with 195,564, and Lauren Pinkston with 26,200. The remaining Independent candidates all earned less than 5,000 votes.

Eight seats in the Tennessee State Senate were contested. While no newcomers were elected in the Senate, former State Sen. Jimmy Matlock will return to the body after winning the seat vacated by the retirement of Lt. Gov. Randy McNally.

Several State Senate races were decided in the August primary as candidates faced no opposition in November. These races included Republican J. Adam Lowe in District 1, Republican Rusty Crowe in District 3, Republican Steve Southerland in District 9, Republican Paul

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Four new members join TN Congressional delegation

By KATE COIL

Tennessee's Congressional delegation has four new faces following one U.S. Senate and nine U.S. House races decided on Election Day.

Democrat Victoria Broderick unseated current U.S. Rep. Scott DesJarlais, a Republican who has held the District 4 seat since 2011.

Former Tennessee Commissioner of Agriculture and Republican Charlie Hatcher will replace U.S. Rep. Andy Ogles, who was defeated by Hatcher in the August Republican primary. A former Maury County mayor, Ogles was elected to the seat in 2023. Hatcher defeated Democratic challenger and Columbia Mayor Chaz Molder for the seat.

Republican State Rep. Johnny Garrett took the seat vacated by U.S. Sen. John Rose for his gubernatorial bid, which he lost to U.S. Sen. Mar-

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Victoria Broderick



Johnny Garrett



Charlie Hatcher



Brent Taylor

Elections held in 209 munis



By KATE COIL

Elections were held in 209 municipalities to coincide with state and federal general elections on Nov. 3, 2026.

In addition to electing officials, 19 referendums were also held in 15 municipalities.

Seven municipalities had liquor-related referendums on the ballot with Wartrace considering liquor-by-the-drink, Brighton and Harrogate voting on consumption on the premises, and Brighton, Gainesboro, Lenoir City, and St. Joseph considering wine in retail stores.

Sales and use tax referendums were considered in Brighton, Goodlettsville, Madisonville, and Pleasant View.

Other referendums included a property transfer in Crossville; charter amendments in East Ridge, Knoxville, and Memphis; home rule amendments in Mt. Juliet and Red Bank; and a bond referendum in Walden.

ADAMS

Incumbent Robert Wayne Adams ran unopposed and was re-elected to the Adams City Commission with 146 complimentary

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Bartlett reinvisions 60-year-old park with inclusive playground, data-driven approach

By KATE COIL

Renovations to a 60–year-old park in Bartlett include a new, fully-inclusive playground with a data-driven approach to recreation.

The new playground at Shadowlawn Park is the cornerstone of a $1.5 million dollar renovation that also includes resurfaced pickleball courts, a new restroom, new concession facilities, accessible walkways, and 50 new parking spaces.

Bartlett Parks and Recreation Director Paul Wright said the city had been looking for a place to build a new inclusive playground for all users, regardless of their sensory, mobility, and cognitive challenges.

"We did not have an inclusive play space available," Wright said. "All of our playgrounds are accessible, but none were inclusive. A lot of people intermix those terms, but they really don't mean the same thing. An accessible playground – which we are all required to do by legislation – just means you have to be able to get to the play structures, not necessarily use every single piece of equipment there. Someone with a mobility aid may have some parts of the equipment they can use, but the entirety of the playspace is not available to them. A fully inclusive playspace is designed with the intent that everybody, regardless of ability, is allowed to play alongside and together with each other."

Shadowlawn Park was picked as an ideal location for this new playground. Originally opened in the mid-1960s by the Shelby County Conservation Board, the 17.2-acre park had a restroom facility added in 1971 and then a baseball diamond and basketball court. In 2005, the park was deeded over to the city of Bartlett.

"One of the challenges all municipalities obviously face is the limited resources of time, money, and manpower. We had developed our strategic master plan for our parks and recreation system in 2024 to help guide what we needed to do to direct those resources most effectively.

Working with citizens, officials, staff, and focus groups, Bartlett created a strategic master plan that then allowed the city to apply for various grants and resources. Shadlowlawn

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A new, fully-inclusive playground is the cornerstone of renovations to Bartlett's Shadowlawn Park. Originally created in the mid-1960s, officials worked with Chattanooga-based PlayCore to create the playground, which is a National Demonstration Site for physical activity and inclusivity. (Photo by Bartlett)

Interlocal agreement stregthens bonds for officials in neighboring cities of Columbia, Spring Hill



Columbia and Spring Hill officials celebrate the passage of a historic interlocal wastewater agreement. The cities have long shared a border and will now work together on a project described as a "win-win" for both communities. (Photo by Columbia)

BY KATE COIL

A new interlocal wastewater agreement is strengthening bonds between two Middle Tennessee cities, bringing significant infrastructure investment to both.

Officials in both Columbia and Spring Hill recently approved the regional wastewater infrastructure agreement, which will connect a 12-inch sewer line from the future site of the Spring Hill Water Reclamation Plant to the northern portion of Columbia's city limits and the presently under-construction Columbia Wastewater Treatment Plant.

In addition to bringing online new facilities and technologies aimed at treating wastewater, the agreement works to protect the

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NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE

CHATTANOOGA
Officials have broken ground on a new federal courthouse in Chattanooga. Located on Vine Street, the 191,000-square-foot courthouse will serve as the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, and the Circuit Library. It will feature seven courtrooms, nine judges' chambers, 40 interior parking spaces, and dedicated spaces for the U.S. Marshals Service and the U.S. Attorney's Office. The new federal courthouse will be modeled after the 1933 Federal Building and Post Office in Chattanooga, designed in the Art Moderne style by Chattanoogan Rueben Harrison Hunt.

JACKSON
MAT Industries will expand its Jackson manufacturing operations as part of the second phase of an ongoing expansion project. MAT Industries originally announced an expansion of its Jackson facility in June 2025 that would invest $9 million and bring 30 new jobs to the plant. The most recent announcement includes the addition of 85 more jobs as well as a new production line to increase capacity and output for the company's business. Headquartered in Long Grove, Ill., MAT was founded in 1984 and is a leading manufacturer of air compressors and air brake tanks, serving consumer and contractor markets with more than 40 factories and 14,000 employees on three continents across the globe.

JASPER
Valmont Industries will expand its operations in Jasper, creating 84 new jobs, and investing $45 million to increase production of its engineered steel transmission, distribution, and substation structures for the utility industry. Demand for these structures is growing as utility companies build infrastructure to support increased power needs. In 2019, the company became the first manufacturing facility in Tennessee to establish a welding pre-apprenticeship program at local high schools. Since then, more than 80 students have completed the program with an average of 65-70% of graduates being hired for full-time employment at the Jasper facility. Founded in 1946 in Valley, Neb., Valmont manufactures engineered structures for critical infrastructure, as well as center pivot irrigation systems and related technology.

JONESBOROUGH
BWXT officials announced the signing of an agreement that supports expansion of BWXT's facility in Jonesborough, creating 181 new jobs to more than double the company's local workforce. The company will also invest $714.5 million to produce High Purity Depleted Uranium (HPDU) metal for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). In September 2025, NNSA awarded BWXT a 10-year contract valued at $1.6 billion to build an HPDU manufacturing plant at its Jonesborough site. Once completed, BWXT's Jonesborough facility will be the only active site capable of performing this critical process for the government. The project is supported by an economic development grant from TNECD and is the third project the company has announced in Tennessee with other locations in Oak Ridge and Erwin. This also marks the 12th project to utilize funding from the state's Nuclear Energy Fund.

KNOXVILLE
The Knoxville Finance Department has been recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) with the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. This marks the 39th consecutive year the city has been recognized with this honor by GFOA. The award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting, and the city received extra notice for its long-range operating financial plans. An impartial panel of three peer professionals all gave the highest possible score for the work to effectively and openly present the budget and the budget's use as a financial blueprint, policy document, operations guide, and means of communication.

MEMPHIS
ITT Goulds Pumps will establish its first Tennessee location in Memphis, investing $31 million and creating 57 new jobs. The new manufacturing and distribution center will be located on Mineral Wells Road and replaces an existing facility the company has outgrown in Southaven, Miss. The new facility will provide both capacity for growth of the business, increase space for inventory, and meet rising customer demand. The company is a part of Flow Technologies, a segment within ITT Inc., which employs over 11,000 people globally. Founded in 1848 in Seneca Falls, N.Y., it became the world's first manufacturer of iron pumps. Today, ITT Goulds Pumps has grown to become an industry leading manufacturer of pumps serving customers in the energy, mining, power, chemical, pulp and paper, water and wastewater and general industrial markets. It remains headquartered in Seneca Falls, New York.

MILLINGTON
Officials have cut the ribbon on a new Veterans' Affairs (VA) Clinic in Millington, which will serve more than 196,000 veterans across 53 counties in Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas. The 34,00-square-foot clinic expands VA healthcare access such as primary care, mental health care, women's health, audiology, laboratory services, clinic pharmacy, telehealth, and other outpatient services. Millington is also home to Naval Support Activity Mid-South, which serves as the Navy's Human Resources Center of Excellence and employs more than 7,500 enlisted and officer personnel, civilians, and full-time contract personnel.

MORRISTOWN
The city of Morristown has been awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its Fiscal Year 2027 Budget by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The award represents a significant achievement by the city, reflecting the commitment of the governing body and staff to meet the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the city had to satisfy GFOA guidelines for effective budget presentations. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device. Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, and in the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award. This is the 16th consecutive time Morristown has received this award.

SELMER
ABB officials announced the company will relocate and expand operations of its Industrial Connections & Solutions facility in Selmer, creating 227 new jobs and investing $50 million. As part of the expansion, the company will relocate operations from its current facility on Fourth Street to a new 120,000-square-foot facility located alongside the company's recently completed facility, which received TNECD Site Development Grants in 2022 and 2024. In the new facility, Industrial Connections & Solutions will manufacture and distribute busway and bus plug systems, among other electrical products. Last year, the company announced plans to invest $100 million and create more than 50 new jobs through the construction of its 325,000-square-foot manufacturing facility at the Selmer/McNairy Industrial Park. ABB will begin relocating approximately 90% of its equipment and employees to that facility in the first half of 2027, followed by the relocation of its remaining equipment and employees to the second facility in the second half of 2027. In total, ABB will employ more than 1,500 Tennesseans across its five locations. Headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland, with roots that trace back to the late 1800s, ABB is a Swedish-Swiss global technology leader in electrification and automation and has locations on six continents across the globe.

Loretto buries time capsule



Officials and community members in Loretto buried a time capsule that will be removed in 50 years' time. A project of Loretto Lift-Up and the Loretto History Museum, the project commemorates the 250th anniversary of America and replaces a previous time capsule buried in 1986 that was planned to be opened during the state's bicentennial in 1996. However, the 1986 time capsule has yet to be located. The new capsule has been buried at Loretto's Weathers Park near the Veterans' Memorial and will be opened in 2076. (Photo by Barry Marshburn/Lawrence County Advocate)

Fairview breaks ground on free-standing ER



Officials with the city of Fairview and Ascension Saint Thomas broke ground on a new, freestanding emergency room. The new 11,000-square-foot facility will include 11 patient rooms, a trauma room, and a laboratory. Four years in the making, the new ER is scheduled to open in fall 2027 and is estimated to cost $21 million. This marks the second free-standing ER to locate in Fairview after TriStar celebrated a groundbreaking in June. The two projects eliminate the need for Fairview residents to drive at least 40 minutes to Franklin or Nashville for critical care. (Photo by Kelly Mayo/Williamson Herald)

Knoxville officials cut ribbon on new public-private housing development



Local, state, and federal officials were present to break ground on Riella at Oakwood, a project renovating the 1929 St. Mary's Hospital building in Knoxville into apartments for seniors and multi-family use, as well as new townhomes for single family occupation. The building ceased to be used as a hospital in 2018. The project will allow room for more than 170 new residents in the Oakwood Lincoln Park neighborhood. The project will also create a new public park with a playground and dog park. The city of Knoxville invested $2 million from its Affordable Rental Development Fund in the program. Parts of the site now house the Knoxville Police Department/City Public Safety Complex, the McNabb Center's EmPATH facility, and Lincoln Memorial University's College of Dental Medicine and nursing programs. (Photo by Knoxville)

Interlocal agreement stregthens bonds for officials in Columbia, Spring Hill

INTERLOCAL, *from Page 1*
vulnerable Duck River Watershed while fostering collaboration between the cities.

In August 2025, the city of Spring Hill was put under a sewer moratorium by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). The city had begun work on a new plan for its water and wastewater infrastructure, Pure Water Spring Hill, two months before the moratorium was issued. Spring Hill Mayor Matt Fitterer said the idea for the partnership began with a Spring Hill citizen.

"The idea originally came from a community member who reached out when Spring Hill paused new permits, with the suggestion that a partnership with Columbia might provide temporary relief while Spring Hill worked through the Pure Water Spring Hill project," Fitterer said. "From there, Mayor Molder and I had a conversation about the idea."

For Columbia Mayor Chaz Molder, the project began with a phone call.

"This really originated from the relationship between two mayors," Molder said. "Spring Hill Mayor Matt Fitterer and I have had a relationship and open line of communication since he was first elected as mayor. I have worked with three Spring Hill mayors during my eight years, and I find Mayor Fitterer to be someone who is really forward thinking. I credit his idea to call me to see if there was any opportunity for conversation. I believe anytime you sit down and have a conversation you never know what might come out of it."

While both mayors wanted the idea to work, they had to make sure it could work. A meeting was organized to include the mayors, city managers and administrators and wastewater officials from both cities to see what could be worked out.



Presently under construction, Columbia's new wastewater plant will come online in 2027. The capacity of this new plant means Columbia can also handle any wastewater any wastewater from Spring Hill for the foreseeable future. (Photo by Columbia)

A WORKING AGREEMENT

Columbia City Manager Tony Massey said Columbia city staff went into the meeting with their Spring Hill counterparts with an open mind.

"We did not say yes, we didn't say no, but we said we'll look into it," Massey said. "Spring Hill actually paid for the engineering firm we use to do a study to determine if we had the capacity to handle their sewer, where the connection would be, and would our pipes be able to handle it. The answers all came back yes, so that led to us meeting with them again."

The city of Columbia is in the process of replacing a wastewater treatment plant originally constructed in the 1970s.

"One of the things that made this feasible is that we have a new wastewater treatment plant coming online in 2027. We will be able to more than double our capacity of what we can handle. That will allow us to not only take care of our current needs but also let the city of Columbia literally double in size and we would still have the capacity to take Spring Hill's sewer. Really, this was great timing for them to approach us."

Columbia Wastewater Director Donnie Boshers said his first question was about how much volume Spring Hill would need Columbia to handle. In return, Columbia will accept at minimum 500,000 and at maximum 1.5 million gallons of wastewater per day from Spring Hill for treatment, which will then be discharged into the Duck River with the rest of Columbia's wastewater

"Right now, our existing facility is a 14 million gallon a day plant and we typically handle 6 to 7 million a day, so even with the new plant, what they needed might not have been a concern," Boshers said. "At our new plant, we are going to be at 38 million gallons a day maximum. For us to not be able to handle it, our customer base would have to double in size, which doesn't happen overnight."

The timeline also worked out for Columbia's new wastewater plant to begin operating in 2027 while Spring Hill will likely not be ready to make the sewer connection until mid-2028 because of the time needed todesign, bid, and build the lines, Boshers said.

Knowing that the project was feasible, both sides sat down to draft an agreement. Massey said it became apparent Columbia could even generate revenue from the project.

"It just kind of came together, and we wanted to be as fair as we could be," Massey said. "We looked at the Spring Hill sewer rate and what they charge to their own customers is what we are charging them. We figured we couldn't get more fair than that."

Approved by both the Columbia City Council and Spring Hill Board of Mayor and Aldermen, the interlocal agreement has Spring Hill providing $12 million to Columbia, $9 million of which will connect Spring Hill's infrastructure to Columbia's wastewater system and $3 million that will upgrade Columbia's Carter's Creek Pike Pump Station. Spring Hill will be responsible for maintaining and funding infrastructure from its city limits to the connection point.

Massey said Spring Hill's Board of Mayor and Aldermen appropriated the $12 million early on to show their commitment to the project.

"One of the things determined during that engineering study was that the pump station needed upgrades, and Spring Hill was ready to do it," he said. "We knew at some point in the future we would have to do that upgrade on our own due to the age of the pump station. Having Spring Hill do that will be $3 million savings on our sanitary sewer system, which is not a bad deal."

Columbia will also receive $21 million in revenue over the first ten years of the agreement, which will be kept separate from the sewer system's operating costs and instead be used for capital projects – such as the debt service on the new treatment plant and extending sewer lines toward Interstate 65.

"At the 500,000 gallon level, using their rate, we are looking at approximately $21 million in new revenue and that's on the low end," Massey said. "If it's on the high end of 1.5 million, that's $62 million in revenue. We have never entered into agreement for the city of Columbia that will generate this type of revenue."

While the agreement lasts for 30 years, municipal officials will revisit it each decade. Massey said that language was included so future officials could make the decision to continue the partnership if the project is still needed.

PROTECTING THE DUCK RIVER

Environmental concerns are another issue both communities face. Both communities are served by the Duck River Watershed, which is the one of the most biodiverse rivers in North America and is home to more than 50 species of mussels, more than 20 species of snails, and more than 150 species of fish.

Columbia's water and wastewater systems empty directly into the Duck while Spring Hill's utilize Rutherford Creek, a tributary of the Duck. The line where the two wastewater systems will connect is known as the Rutherford Creek line because it runs alongside the creek near some of Spring Hill's wastewater and water facilities.

"Our permit limits are pretty tight because we discharge into the Duck River," Boshers said. "That was, of course, a consideration for this project. We have pretreatment programs, and the city of Columbia already serves the GM plant and the new battery plant in Spring Hill. At this time, Spring Hill does not have any industrial users, which we took into consideration for this agreement. The timeline works while we wait on a new plant because we can continue to meet those limits. We want to ensure the Duck River and all the creeks and streams around us are taken care of, because we all live here. We send monthly reports to TDEC and the EPA, and work hard every day to maintain our permit limits. We are not allowed to take anything from anybody – regardless of who it is – that could hinder our plant."

Boshers said the new plant speeds up a natural, chemical-free process that makes wastewater safe to return to the river. Once disinfected with ultraviolet radiation, the treated water is then safe to release.

"Our new plant is an extended aeration plant. We will have oxidation ditches that will biologically remove nitrogen and phosphorous. We manipulate the organisms in these ditches. There are areas where there is no sunlight, no air being discharged into it, and fans or motors that can be sped up or slowed down depending on what we want them to do. At the old plant, it goes through seven or eight individual processes to create our final product where this new facility will only take three."

Other projects are also in the works to ensure the watershed remains protected. Spring Hill is working to reduce its water footprint and its utilization of the Duck through an advanced purification process involving its wastewater and water treatment plant. The process will recycle water and reduce withdrawals from the Duck using reservoirs with the projected expected to be completed by Memorial Day 2030.

At the same time, Columbia Power and Water Systems (CPWS) and the city of Columbia have gotten approval from the newly formed Duck River Watershed Planning Partnership to increase its intake from the Duck from 20 million to 32 million gallons of water per day. The $500 million project includes building a new water main and a new water treatment plant to meet growing drinking water needs in the CPWS service region.

While the interlocal agreement was not approved by TDEC, Massey said they have been kept apprised of it and will ultimately approve Spring Hill's sewer lines connecting to Columbia's.

"TDEC has shared with us that they consider this project a model for municipal utilities to use in the future," Massey said. "We are sort of blazing a trail here with this agreement."

GROWING CHALLENGES

Mayor Fitterer said it is no secret both cities are experiencing growth-related pressures.

"Our responsibility as local leaders is to provide the infrastructure and public services our residents and businesses need while doing so in a fiscally responsible manner," he said. "Sewer infrastructure is one of the fundamental challenges that growing communities must address. Water and wastewater infrastructure don't always fit neatly within city limits, and the challenges associated with providing these services certainly don't stop at municipal boundaries. As Middle Tennessee continues to grow, our communities will need to think more regionally about infrastructure, capacity, and the responsible use of public resources."

Mayor Molder said the project allows both cities to achieve common goals.

"Out of challenge, often times, we can come up and find opportunities," Molder said. "We've turned this challenge into an opportunity for Spring Hill to have additional capacity and Columbia to generate revenue and have some improved infrastructure at the same time. I think this moment in time of rapid growth for our region means we have to find new ways to work together for the betterment of our region. I think it's a compliment to our region that people want to move here. I think we have to balance that compliment with the fact that people who have lived here for the majority of their lifetime are not faced with the burden of paying for this growth and need for infrastructure. When we come up with creative solutions to the problems, that benefits our community residents of today and our residents of tomorrow."

Ultimately, Mayor Fitterer said the goal is to provide citizens with the best service possible on both sides of the city limits sign.

"It gives us the opportunity to make better use of existing infrastructure, share resources where appropriate, and develop solutions that support long-term economic growth," Fitterer said. "Ultimately, our residents and businesses care that these essential services are reliable, affordable, and capable of supporting the future. They don't necessarily care which side of a municipal boundary a solution originates on. Our responsibility as leaders is to find the best practical solutions for the people we serve."

WORKING TOGETHER

Mayor Fitterer said this project means more to both cities than the mere linking of some pipes.

"Our two cities will literally be connected through this infrastructure, but I think the more important connection is the relationship we are building between our communities and our leadership teams," he said. "This agreement required communication, trust, and a willingness to look beyond municipal boundaries. Mayor Molder and I recognized that we had an opportunity to work together, and our staffs have worked to translate that shared vision into a practical agreement. Spring Hill is willing to partner with anyone when it comes to solving challenges and taking advantages of opportunities."

Massey said the project has strengthened and will continue to strengthen the cities' relationship.

"Columbia and Spring Hill staff have had an ongoing dialogue on this ever since we began talking about it," he said. "Our vice mayor and two of our city councilmembers attended the Spring Hill Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting when they approved the agreement to show our city's support. Spring Hill representatives and their mayor attended our city council meeting when we approved it. I can't really think of a better example of true regional partnership where two city utilities mutually benefit from an agreement. It's a win-win for Columbia and a win-win for Spring Hill."

He said Columbia officials went into the project wanting to help a neighbor in need but knowing they had to consider what was best for their own citizens.

"We had some people when we were going into this say we would have to raise sewer rates or that we would run out of capacity, and they were all wrong," Massey said. "It was the exact opposite. Not only do we have the capacity, this will probably keep us from having to raise sewer rates for the next couple of years. We wanted to be fair to Spring Hill, but we also had to be fair to the city of Columbia, and I think we've done that."

Mayor Fitterer said that the project is a testament to how important relationships are between officials in neighboring jurisdictions.

"You don't want to begin building trust for the first time when you're already facing a crisis," Fitterer said. "Mayor Molder and I had an existing relationship and were able to have an honest conversation, recognize a potential mutual benefit, and give our staffs the opportunity to explore a solution. That kind of cooperation is much easier when there is already a foundation of communication and respect. I would also encourage municipalities to approach these discussions with an open mind. Sometimes the best solution isn't entirely within your own jurisdiction. If we are willing to focus on the problem, consider creative approaches, and work together in the best interests of our residents, we can accomplish more than we might working independently. And listen to your residents, sometimes they have the answers you're looking for."

Mayor Molder agreed that the project is an example of how municipal collaboration can tackle regional issues.

"The way I look at it, Spring Hill had a need, they called, we answered the call, and we will mutually benefit as a result," he said. "City leadership realized an opportunity to bring two needs together in a way that will benefit both communities, and I think importantly here, it demonstrates how local governments can work together to create practical solutions that serve both communities. Especially now, at a time when our region is growing and infrastructure needs are going to continue to be at the forefront. Creating regional solutions to regional problems will be a top priority for communities going forward, and I'm proud Columbia and Spring Hill were at the forefront."

PEOPLE


Kailee Bradley

Kailee Bradley has been selected as the new social media coordinator for the Pigeon Forge Department of Tourism. A native of Sevier County and graduate of Pigeon Forge High School, Bradley earned a bachelor's degree from East Tennessee State University. She will assist with the department's social media and digital communications efforts, helping showcase the attractions, experiences, events, and people that make Pigeon Forge a premier destination for visitors and a special place to call home.


Walter "Eddy" Ford

Walter "Eddy" Ford, who helped charter the town of Farragut and served as both an alderman and mayor of the town, died Oct. 6, 2026, at the age of 87. Ford helped charter the town in 1980 and then served as one of the city's first aldermen, representing the South Ward from 1980 to 1993. He also served as Farragut's vice mayor from 1984 to 1993. In 1993, he was elected Farragut's second-ever mayor, a position he would hold for 16 years. He was named the Mayor of the Year by the Tennessee Municipal League in 2007. Ford was also involved in the National League of Cities. With 29 years of service, Ford was the longest-serving elected official in Farragut's history.


Jack Johnson

State Sen. Jack Johnson, has been selected as the new lieutenant governor, succeeding former Lt. Gov. Randy McNally. Johnson represents Tennessee State Senate District 27, which comprises Williamson County. A Texas native, Johnson earned a bachelor's degree in education from Texas State University and has a background in the financial and public relations industries. He began his service in the Tennessee State Senate in 2007, serving first in District 23 from 2007 to 2023 and District 27 from 2023 to present. In addition to serving as chair of the Joint State and Local Subcommittee of Government Operations, Johnson has served as the Assistant Floor Leader the Republican Caucus.


Tom Pardue

Tom Pardue, a former alderman for the town of Jonesborough, died Oct. 21, 2026, at the age of 80. Born in Knoxville, Pardue attended East Tennessee State University and served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War from 1967 to 1971. He then opened Pardue Photographics in Jonesborough, serving as the town's official photographer. He was elected to the first of two consecutive terms on the Jonesborough Board of Mayor and Aldermen in 1984, serving an instrumental role in the revitalization of the community. Pardue also spent a decade on the Jonesborough Senior Center Advisory Board.


Cade Sexton

Cade Sexton, a longtime public servant in Caryville and LaFollette, died Oct. 17, 2026, at the age of 90. A native of Caryville, Sexton earned a bachelor's degree in education from Lincoln Memorial University and a master's degree in social work from the University of Tennessee. He served as mayor for the town of Caryville from 1982 to 1985 before resigning to become the city administrator of LaFollette in 1985. He served as an administrator of the city until 1998 and then served LaFollette again as its interim city administrator from 2011 to 2013. Sexton also worked as a teacher, coach, corporate consultant, and in human services.


Mark Shipley

Mark Shipley, community development director for Farragut, was named the 2026 Planner of the Year by the Tennessee Chapter of the American Planning Association (TAPA). The award is the most distinguished individual award presented by TAPA and recognizes 30 years of service to Farragut. Shipley began his career with the town as assistant community development director and has overseen the expansion of the master greenway system and the advancement of pedestrian facilities within every new development.

Vest donation protects Mount Carmel K9 Kilo



The Mount Carmel Police Department's four-legged officer, K9 Kilo, has received an added layer of protection while serving the community, thanks to a generous donation from the nonprofit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. The custom-fitted, bullet- and stab-protective vest is designed to help keep Kilo safe in the line of duty, providing an important resource to the department and the community. The vest bears the inscription "In memory of Dolly Parton," honoring the beloved East Tennessee icon and her enduring legacy of generosity and compassion. (Photo by Mount Carmel)

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The city of Red Bank has used TMBF programs 23 times since 1997. The latest is for a $540,000 note issue to finance new equipment for the city. Sitting, from left to right: Red Bank Mayor Stefanie Dalton and City Recorder Tracey Perry. Standing, from left to right, Chief Financial Officer Kris Pickel and TMBF Marketing Representative Steve Queener.



The town of Atoka has used TMBF programs 10 times since 2006. The latest was for $370,000 note issue to finance the acquisition of equipment for the town. Pictured from left to right: TMBF Marketing Representative Justin Hanson, Atoka Mayor Barry L. Akin, and Town Recorder Rachel Covarrubias.

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Bartlett reinvisions 60-year-old park with inclusive playground, data-driven approach

BARTLETT, *from Page 1*

Park was one of the key areas of focus in the plan, and the city earned a state Local Parks and Recreation Fund grant with the initial aim of making pathways and restrooms at Shadowlawn ADA accessible. However, bids for that project came back $500,000 above the city's budget for the project.

"We knew this was something we wanted to do and needed to do, but we didn't have the funding. Our – then new at the time – Mayor David Parsons started talking with us about the project and if there were ways we could look at things differently, such as redesigning the restroom, and spread cost across different areas. The playground there previously was built in 1999, and you don't really want to have a playground older than 20 years from a safety standpoint and to meet community needs."

With the expansion of Little League at the park and the pickleball courts added to Shadowlawn in 2021, new parking was also needed. Going back to the drawing board, Wright said the city redesigned the project, broke it up into phases, and obtained more grant money, allowing for $1.5 million to be spent on the overall project. As part of this phased approach, the city decided not to do a sealed bid process for the playground but instead issued a request for proposals (RFP) with a specific scope, list of features, and options for creativity.

Goals for the playground included having areas for different age groups, multi-sensory experiences, equipment that could serve children of all abilities, social playzones for interaction, and retreat spaces. From nine respondents, Wright said four staff members narrowed it down to Cunningham Recreation, one of the participants in the National Demonstration Site program by Chattanooga-based PlayCore.

Wright said he and members of the department had attended a Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association (TRPA) workshop PlayCore held on the National Demonstration Site program, which recognizes parks, playgrounds, fitness areas, and trails for evidence-based design practices through PlayCore's Center for Outreach, Research, and Education (CORE) program.

"We saw that workshop when we were going through the master plan and this project was already at the forefront of our thoughts," Wright said. "When we saw that workshop at the TRPA conference, it piqued our attention. We thought it would be so cool to have one of those playgrounds in our system, and Shadowlawn would be a great place to put one at. We didn't specify that we wanted a National Demonstration Site in the RFP, but we knew Cunningham could bring that to the table."



Bartlett officials cut the ribbon on the new inclusive playground at Shadowlawn Park. (Photo by Bartlett)

The Bartlett playground is part of the inclusive play and physical activity site models established by PlayCore, which uses data to guide design. Wright said working with PlayCore gave the city access to experts in the field who could help determine the best features for their community.

"One of the aspects of a National Demonstration Site is that it does tie into established research and best practices in terms of how equipment is laid out and what types of equipment is chosen," Wright said. "It incorporates research-drivenbest practices. Knowing that there is already research backing the way this playground has been designed, it does literally put us on a map that we have a playground that meets these. We are one of only 16 playgrounds in Tennessee with multiple designations and one of only four in West Tennessee."

As part of the program, visitors can scan QR codes at the Shadowlawn playground to give feedback that guides Bartlett and PlayCore in future playground design, implementation, and inclusion.

"That provides an opportunity for visitors to give specific feedback about this site, what they liked, and what they didn't like," Wright said. "That gets aggregated into a data portal that we and PlayCore have access to. The CORE research team uses that data, and we can use that data to see how this playground is impacting our community and what health outcomes we are seeing for families. From a parks perspective, it allows us to advocate for additional funding for similar sites in our park system."



In addition to including research-based features aimed at encouraging physical play and inclusivity, the National Demonstration Site recognition allows visitors to give feedback on their experience at the playground at Shadowlawn Park. Wright said the information is shared with the city, and that data will be used when making decisions about future playgrounds in the city. (Photo by Bartlett)

Wright said the feedback on Shadowlawn Park and its new playground has shown there is room for similar facilities in the city and will continue to inform decision-making going forward.

"This playground is in our eastern section of our city limits, so we are definitely targeting something toward the west side for our next inclusive playspace," he said. "We have 21 total playgrounds within our park system and 13 to 14 of them are in the 20-year bracket needing replacement. We are making decisions on updating and revising those."

For families of children with special needs, the map feature also allows them to see where and what type of recreation facilities can accommodate them. These facilities not only provide children with the opportunity to be active regardless of their ability ,but also a vital chance to socialize with other children and families.

"You cannot discount the benefits that are achieved by being engaged together with other members of the community, people who are similar to you versus the way many people with disabilities have been traditionally isolated," Wright said. "Seeing all of those family members, caregivers, parents, and kids together, and the laughter and smiles we saw are priceless."

One example of this was a recent Halloween event held for the special needs community at Shadowlawn. Wright said approximately 250 people participated, many coming well before it began and others staying until well after it was over so they could engage with each other.

"We had our first Special Needs Trunk or Treat at Shadowlawn Park," Wright said. "We had about 20 to 25 trunks set up for special needs families and had a chance to hear directly from these families about how important this event and the playspace are to get their children outside. To see all of those families engaging together on that playspace was proof that we are doing the right thing. You could see the actual impact in person, experience it, and get that feedback and that made it all worthwhile."



Elections held in 209 municipalities

ELECTIONS, *from Page 1*



Several polling places handed out voting stickers honoring America's 250th birthday. (Photo by Davidson County Election Commission)

ALCOA

Incumbents Josh Blair and Tanya Martin will be joined by newcomer Dyran Bledsoe on the Alcoa City Commission, defeating challengers Stephen T. Biggar and Roger Robinson for the three open seats.

Bledsoe led the vote tally with 1,483, Tanya Martin with 1,441, Blair with 1,325, Biggar with 1,125, and Robinson with 934.

ALLARDT

Two incumbents ran unopposed and were re-elected in Allardt: Mayor Yvonne M. Gernt and Alderman William Billbrey.

ALTAMONT

Incumbent Jana Barrett ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Altamont with 232 complimentary votes.

Incumbent Caleb Smartt will be joined by newcomer Darrell Tate after fending off challenger Bridget Jones for the two open alderman seats. Tate earned 153 votes followed by Smartt with 151 and Jones with 112.

ARDMORE

Alderman Jason Sherman unseated incumbent Mike Magnusson to take the mayoral seat in Ardmore. Sherman earned 197 votes to Magnusson's 182.

Incumbent Spencer N. Smith will be joined by newcomers Aaron Boldin and Jerry Mitchell on the Ardmore Board of Alderman after running for three open seats. , Mitchell earned 188, Boldin earned 187 votes and Smith 179. Incumbent Sheri Hunt ran unopposed and was re-elected to the unexpired alderman term with 223 votes.

ATHENS

Incumbent Perry L. McCowan will be joined by newcomers Abby Burke Carroll and H. Chris Trew after defeating incumbent Larry D. Eaton and challengers S. Thomas "Tom" Hamilton, Lou Pascarella, and Robert Patrick for the three open seats on the Athens City Council. Incumbent Steve Sherlin did not seek re-election.

Carroll led the vote count with 1,684 votes followed by Trew with 1,222, Pascarella with 1,087, McCowan with 1,072, Hamilton with 997, Eaton with 860, and Patrick with 313.

ATOKA

Incumbent Barry L. Akin defeated challenger John Harber 1,664 to 1,342 to retain the mayoral seat in Atoka.

WIth incumbents Chris Detje, John Harber, Christopher Schaeffer Jr. not seeking re-election, three new faces were elected to the Atoka Board of Alderman. Newcomers Darren Walker, Cody Pace, and Sherrye Lynn Dodson defeated challengers Chris Ballard, Stephen Shopher, and Heather White to take the three open alderman seats.

Walker led the vote count with 1,566 followed by Pace with 1,131, Dodson with 1,113, Ballard with 1,092, Shopher with 916, and White with 698.

ATWOOD

Newcomer T.J. Herndon ran unopposed and was elected with 220 complimentary votes to the Atwood mayoral seat after incumbent Fridie Agee Jr. did not seek re-election.

Newcomers Dustin Church and JoAnn Long defeated fellow challenger Tommy Polinski to take the two open alderman seats in Atwood. Long led the count with 141 votes followed by Church with 111 and Polinski with 99.

BANEBERRY

Incumbent Tina Raddish was the lone candidate who qualified for two open city commission seats in Baneberry, retaining her position.

BARTLETT

Incumbent David Parsons ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Bartlett with 16,662 complimentary votes.

Incumbent Harold Brad King defeated challenger Jerry L. Jenkins 11,466-6,503 to retain the Alderman Position 1 seat.

Newcomer Cynthia "Cindy" Cromwell unseated incumbent Robert Griffin and defeated challenger Tim Schlum for the Alderman Position 2 seat. Cromwell received 8,322 votes followed by Griffin with 7,457, and Schlum with 1,152.

Incumbent David Reaves retained his Alderman Position 3 seat over challenger Tamisha P. DuBose, earning 10,598 votes to DuBose's 7,321.

BEAN STATION

Incumbent Ben N. Waller staved off challenger Pam Wilmoth 568-207 to retain the mayoral seat in Bean Station.

Newcomers Mike Atkins and Jennifer Seals Kinser defeated fellow challengers Ashley McKinney and Ed York for the two open alderman seats. Atkins led with 351 votes followed by Kinser with 299, McKinney with 292, and York with 212.

BEERSHEBA SPRINGS

Incumbent Clayton Forsyth ran unopposed and was re-elected to the Beersheba Springs City Commission with 109 complimentary votes.

BELLE MEADE

Incumbents Louise C. Bryant, Neal Clayton, and Rusty Moore staved off challenger Gray Oliver Thornburg to retain the three seats open on the Belle Meade City Commission. Moore led the vote count with 1,133 followed by Clayton with 1,007, Bryant with 854, and Thornburg with 771.

BETHEL SPRINGS

Newcomer Gary L. Bizzell Jr. defeated fellow challenger Thomas Montgomery 119-82 to take the mayoral seat in Bethel Springs after incumbent John M. Wood did not seek re-election.

Newcomer John Fountain was the only candidate who qualified for the two open alderman seats and received 154 complimentary votes.

BIG SANDY

Alderwoman Becky Belyew Wright unseated incumbent John N. Clement III for the mayoral seat in Big Sandy. Wright earned 88 votes to Clement's 63.

Incumbents Jayson Dobson and Ken Wright will be joined on the Big Sandy Board of Alderman by newcomer Terry L. Culpepper after running for three open seats. Dobson led the vote tally with 107 followed by Culpepper with 106 and Wright with 90.

BLAINE

Incumbent Marvin D. Braden ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Blaine with 501 complimentary votes.

Incumbent Darrell Williams will be joined by newcomers Steve Hodge and John A. "Tony" Jarnagin on the Blaine Board of Alderman after running unopposed for the three open seats. Hodge led the tally with 430 votes followed by Williams with 407 and Jarnagin 366.

BLUFF CITY

Newcomer Michelle Roberts unseated incumbent Lori Stanton in a 227-196 vote to become mayor of Bluff City.

Incumbent Eric C. Johnson will be joined by newcomer James Roberts on the Bluff City Board of Alderman after the two ran unopposed for two open seats. Johnson received 311 complimentary votes and Roberts 250.

BRADEN

Incumbents Chester Cocke and Mack Green ran unopposed and were re-elected to the two open city commission seats in Braden with 78 and 68 votes respectively.

BRADFORD

Alderman Paul Richards ran unopposed and was elected mayor of Bradford with 230 complimentary votes. Mayor Dwayne Reynolds did not seek re-election.

Incumbent Angie Graves Harrington was the sole candidate to seek re-election to the three open alderman seats, receiving 229 complimentary votes.

BRIGHTON

Citizens passed two of three referendums on the ballot in Brighton. Voters approved a measure to allow retail package stores to sell liquor 439-190 and one to allow legal premises consumption 431-190. However, residents voted down a sales and use tax increase 398 against to 277 for.

BRISTOL

Three newcomers will join the Bristol City Council.

After incumbent Kelly Graham did not seek re-election, Andrew Meyer defeated challenger Wayne Hayton 3,562-2,579 to take the East District City Council seat.

In the West District race, James "Jay" Kyle unseated incumbent Lea Powers 3,523-3,107. With incumbent Margaret Feierabend not seeking re-election, newcomer David E. Warren ran unopposed for the South District seat and received 5,540 complimentary votes.

BRUCETON

Challenger Brad Burley defeated incumbent Robert T. Keeton III for the mayoral seat in Bruceton, earning 211 votes to Keeton's 114.

Newcomers Michael E. Wilson and Robert Cole unseated incumbent Jack R. Blocker and defeated challenger Jason D. McCord for the two open seats on the Bruceton Board of Aldermen. Wilson led the vote tally with 187 followed by Cole with 176, McCord with 114, and Blocker with 105.

BULLS GAP

Incumbent Jim Riley fended off challenger David S. Gulley Jr. 112-73 to retain the mayoral seat in Bulls Gap.

Incumbents Betsy Shipley and Susan Williams defeated challengers Charles "Chuck" Johnson, Allen Long, and Avery Walker for the two open alderman seats. Shipley received 104 votes, Williams 86, Johnson 54, Long 42, and Walker 41.

BURLISON

Incumbent Danny H. Howard ran unopposed and was re-elected to the open city council seat in Burlison with 104 complimentary votes.

BURNS

Incumbent Scott Street will be joined by newcomer Kevin Bland on the Burns City Commission after running unopposed for two open seats. Street earned 379 votes and Bland received 373.

CALHOUN

Incumbent Victor Gregory Keith will be joined by newcomer Timothy A. Womac after running unopposed for the two seats on the Calhoun City Commission. Keith received 104 complimentary votes and Womac received 214.

CAMDEN

Incumbent Roger G. Pafford staved off challenger Mike Nunnery 520-357 to retain the mayoral seat in Camden.

Newcomers Brad Mills and Blake Parker defeated challenger Debbie Arnold Baldwin for the two open seats on the Camden Board of Aldermen. Mills received 472 votes, Parker 420, and Baldwin 398.

CARTHAGE

Incumbent Sam Gray defeated Alderman Justin Maudlin and newcomer Michael "Woody" Woodard to retain the mayoral seat in Carthage. Gray earned 192 votes followed by Maudlin with 182 and Woodard with 128.

Incumbent Gail B. Grigg will be joined by newcomers Frances McDonald and Kennie R. Bryant after fending off challenger Kimberly Sueann Kees for the three open alderman seats.

McDonald led the vote tally with 259 followed by Bryant with 209, Grigg with 204, Petty with 176, and Kees with 136.

CARYVILLE

Incumbent Beth Lawson ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Caryville with 350 complimentary votes.

Newcomer Ramsey A. Bloy defeated fellow challenger Jerry Chadwell 226-153 to take the open Ward 1 alderman seat in Caryville.

Incumbent Josh Monday ran unopposed and was re-elected to the Ward 2 seat with 312 complimentary votes. No candidate qualified for the Ward 3 seat.

CEDAR HILL

Incumbent Marquita Pettus ran unopposed and was re-elected to the open city commission seat in Cedar Hill with 68 complimentary votes.

CHURCH HILL

Incumbent Michael Walker will be joined by newcomers Keith Bruner and James Paul Marsh, defeating incumbent Kenneth Luster and challengers Tim Lingerfelt, Marc Bass, and Ralph Little for three open seats on the Church Hill Board of Alderman. Marsh received 821 votes, Walker 734, Bruner 675, Luster 623, Lingerfelt 572, Bass 504, and Little 335.

Incumbent Keith Gibson retained the unexpired alderman seat, defeating challengers Michael Bell and Kathryn Boggs Metcalf. Gibson earned 890 votes, Metcalf 538, and Bell 344. The two seats were previously held by James Grisby and Kathy Christian.

CLARKSVILLE

Newcomer Mark Riggins defeated Aldermen Wanda Smith and Brian Zacharias for the mayoral seat after Joe Pitts did not seek re-election in Clarksville. Riggins earned 16,092 votes to Smith's 15,082 and Zacharias' 4,819.

In the Ward 1 City Council seat previously held by Zacharias, newcomer Sabrena Gillespie defeated challengers Larry Allen and Adolph Dagan. Gillespie earned 789 votes, Allen 540, and Dagan 252.

In the Ward 2 race, newcomer Bill Cody narrowly inched out incumbent Eric W. Claunch 1,074-1,067.

In the Ward 6 seat previously held by Wanda Smith, Charles "Chas" Uffelman defeated challengers Justin Swallows and Zachary Arthur Walker. Uffelman earned 832 votes, Swallows 793, and Walker 218.

In the Ward 7 seat previously held by Travis Holleman, Christina Lee Hardesty defeated John Dewey Robinson 2,083-1,513.

For the Ward 10 seat, incumbent Stacey Streetman fended off challenger Chris Reneau 2,664-2,528.

In the Ward 11 seat previously held by Joe Shakeenab, Billy Lange ran unopposed and was elected with 2,434 complimentary votes.

CLIFTON

Newcomers Tom Mathis, Layton Packwood, and Tommy Boyd defeated incumbent Jeff Letson and challengers Johnniecia Cooke, Christopher Huntingford, Chris Kelley, and James Newcomb to take the three open seats on the Clifton City Commission.

Mathis led the vote tally with 136 votes followed by Packwood with 129, Boyd with 112, Letson with 111, Cooke with 82, Kelley with 35, Huntingford with 29, and Newcomb with 26.

CLINTON

Incumbent Scott Burton defeated challengers Delanie Davis and Stephen McNally to retain the mayoral seat in Clinton. Burton earned 1,525 votes followed by McNally with 1,123 and Davis with 372.

Newcomer Rick Meredith defeated fellow challenger Andrea Townsend for the Ward 1 Alderman seat previously held by David Queener. Meredith earned 1,661 votes to Townsend's 1,106.

In Ward 3, incumbent Wendy Maness fended off challenger Chatie Auxier 1,843-653.

Incumbent David D. Hatmaker ran unopposed in Ward 2 and received 2,222 complimentary votes.

COALMONT

City Commissioner Dennis Alan Jones ran unopposed and was elected to the Coalmont mayoral seat with 138 complimentary votes. Incumbent Thomas H. Meeks did not seek re-election.

Newcomers Andrew Parson and Carla Tate ran unopposed and were elected to the two open alderman seats with 102 and 109 votes respectively.

COLLEGEDALE

Newcomer Jessica Fields will join incumbent Tonya Sadler on the Collegedale City Commission, fending off challengers Bryan Barrett, Volker Henning, and Christopher Twombley. Incumbent Morty Lloyd did not seek re-election to his seat.

Fields led the count with 1,161 votes followed by Sadler with 1,084, Henning with 1,025, Barrett with 928, and Twombley with 472.

COLLIERVILLE

In the Alderman Position 4 race, incumbent Missy Marshall defeated challenger Liz Deely 10,754-6,348.

Two races in Collierville will go to a run off after no candidate secured the required 50% of the vote.

Incumbent Chris Hall and newcomer Tim Goddard will advance to a run-off for the Alderman Position 4 seat. Challenger Jason Lederfine was eliminated from the race. Goddard received 7,249 votes followed by Hall with 6,970 and Lederfine with 2,824.

In the Alderman Position 2 Race, incumbent Jewel Jordan will face off against newcomer Steve Christensen in a run off. Challenger Chad Kelsey will not advance. Christensen received 6,548 votes followed by Jordan with 5,363 and Kelsey with 5,150.

COLLINWOOD

Incumbents Stanley Shaundale Hanback and Kimberly Odle McFall ran unopposed for the two open city commission seats in Collinwood, receiving 169 and 176 complimentary votes respectively.

COLUMBIA

Newcomer Stewart Parker defeated challengers Timothy Johnson, Jai Lipscomb, Eric Previti, and Ashely Townsend for the mayoral seat in Columbia after incumbent Chaz Molder did not seek re-election, instead launching a failed bid for U.S. Congress.

Parker earned 4,027 votes followed by Lipscomb with 2,918, Previti with 2,401, Townsend with 2,119, and Johnson with 1,518.

ELECTIONS, *Continued on 7*

Elections held in 209 municipalities

ELECTIONS, *from Page 6*

Councilman Charlie Huffman unseated incumbent Randy McBroom for the vice mayor's seat 5,852-5,726.

COOPERTOWN

Incumbent Robert D. Anderson ran unopposed and was re-elected to the Ward 1 Alderman seat in Coopertown with 752 complimentary votes.

In the Ward 2 race, Justin Bahorik defeated Casey Bohn for the seat previously held by Randall Hayes. Bahorik earned 417 votes to Bohn's 288.

CORNERSVILLE

Three newcomers unseated two incumbents on the Cornersville Board of Alderman with Jon Courtemanche, John Salsman, and Trina Rios taking the seats previously held by Doris Arthur and Sheryl McClintock. Incumbent Mary Johnson did not seek re-election.

Courtemanche led the vote count with 321 followed by Salsman with 245, Rios with 196, McClintock with 139, and Arthur with 121.

Newcomer Chris Kiser ran unopposed and secured the open unexpired alderman seat with 306 complimentary votes.



Open polls at the Shelby County Election Commission office in Memphis. (Photo by Shelby County Election Commission)

COVINGTON

Newcomer Chad Smith defeated Alderman John Edwards 1,031-832 to take the mayoral seat in Covington after incumbent Jan Hensley did not seek re-election.

Incumbent Jean Johnson fended off challenger Johnetta Yarbrough 264-232 to retain the Alderman District 1 seat. Newcomers Harold D. Hardon and Joseph "Jay" Black ran unopposed with Hardon receiving 559 complimentary votes in the District 2 race and Black receiving 438 complimentary votes in the District 3 race.

CRAB ORCHARD

Incumbents Winona Christopher and Michael Findley fended off challenger Trent Mullinax to retain the two alderman seats in Crab Orchard. Christopher earned 121 votes followed by Findley with 133 and Mullinax 98.

CROSS PLAINS

Newcomers Brad Keith and Brandy Hasting defeated incumbent Marlene C. Graves and fellow challenger David G. Ridings for the two open seats on the Cross Plains City Commission. Keith led the vote tally with 247 followed by Hasting with 246, Graves with 239, and Ridings with 176.

CROSSVILLE

Incumbent R.J. Crawford ran unopposed and will retain the mayoral seat in Crossville with 2,310 complimentary votes.

Incumbent Mike Turner will be joined by newcomer Danny R. Wyatt on the Crossville City Council, fending off challenges from Robbie Poore and Greg Wood. Turner led the vote count with 1,312 followed by Wyatt with 1,305, Poore with 1,060, and Wood with 812.

Newcomer Melinda Kelsey defeated challengers Kristopher Cole and Louis Morrison for the unexpired council term. Kesley earned 1,277 votes to Cole's 814 and Morrison's 386.

Crossville citizens voted down a referendum that would have transferred 3.85 acres of municipal property at the city's water treatment plant to Cumberland Plateau Water. The measure received 1,771 votes against and 1,231 for.

CRUMP

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

Incumbent Heath Robertson will be joined by newcomer Riley Warren after both ran unopposed for two open alderman seats. Likewise, Michael E. Tuberville ran unopposed and was elected to the unexpired alderman term.

CUMBERLAND CITY

Incumbent Linda Gunson defeated Alderwoman Melissa M. Dunlap-Cross 67-45 to retain the mayoral seat in Cumberland City. Newcomer Lydia Spencer-Spencer ran unopposed and received 42 complimentary votes for the Alderman Ward 1 seat while incumbent Karen Williams ran unopposed and received 50 complimentary votes for the Alderman Ward 2 seat.

CUMBERLAND GAP

Incumbents John D. Douglas and John Ravnum will be joined by newcomer Aaron Thomas on the Cumberland Gap Board of Aldermen after running unopposed for three open seats. Thomas received 44 votes, Ravnum 41, and Douglas 38.

DANDRIDGE

Newcomer Stephanie Churchwell will join incumbents Jeff Depew and Todd Kesterton on the Dandridge Board of Alderman after the three ran unopposed for three open seats.

DECATUR

Incumbent John Wayne Irwin fended off Alderman Bryan Peaden to retain the mayoral seat in Decatur 247-172.

Incumbent Gary Ray Meadows will be joined on the Decatur Board of Aldermen by newcomers Tommy Dake and Connie O'Daniel after the three ran unopposed for three open seats. Dake and Meadows each garnered 305 votes while O'Daniel earned 279.

DOVER

Incumbent Lesa Fitzhugh defeated challengers Michelle Criswell and Philip Dale Ward to retain the mayoral seat in Dover. Fitzhugh received 295 votes followed by Ward with 158 and Criswell with 126.

Two incumbents ran unopposed and retain alderman seats in Dover. Alexander A. Berta received 168 complimentary votes in the Ward 1 Alderman race while Jonathan "Bo" Timmons received 258 votes in the Ward 2 Alderman race.

DOYLE

Alderman Timothy Brock defeated challengers Joseph Michael Judd and Jimmy Dale Savage to take the mayoral seat in Doyle after incumbent Ray Spivey did not seek re-election. Brock received 55 votes while Judd and Savage each received 41.

Robert Meeks will be joined by Rita Rice and Bruce Shannon on the Doyle Board of Aldermen after defeating challenger Sue Savage for the three open seats. Meeks led the vote tally with 90 followed by Rice and Shannon each with 81 and Savage with 72.

DRESDEN

Incumbent Mark L. Maddox ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Dresden with 609 complimentary votes.

Incumbents Gwin Anderson, Curtis Doran, and Jennifer Reddick Schlicht fended off challenger Jeffrey Washburn to retain the three open seats on the Dresden Board of Aldermen.

Doran led the vote count with 570 followed by Schlicht with 547, Anderson with 473, and Washburn with 337.

DUCKTOWN

Newcomer James Talley ran unopposed and was elected to the open commissioner seat in Ducktown.

DYER

Incumbents Bett Jewell, Marty Graves, and Nathan Reed will be joined on the Dyer Board of Mayor and Aldermen by newcomer Christopher Skelton, defeating incumbent Jessica Dickinson and challengers Jim Hesse and Derek Stafford for the four open seats.

Jewell led the vote tally with 276 followed by Graves with 247, Skelton with 246, Reed with 222, Dickinson with 221, Stafford with 211, and Hesse with 197.

DYERSBURG

Incumbent John Holden fended off challengers Bobby L. Baker, Malik D. Garrett, and Lynn Luckett to retain the mayoral seat in Dyersburg. Holden led the count with 1,792 followed by Luckett with 924, Garrett with 401, and Baker with 277.

Only the Ward 2 alderman race was contested with newcomer John Baker defeating incumbent James Baltimore 326 to 217.

Debbie Garner is the sole newcomer to the Dyersburg Board of Alderman, running unopposed and receiving 389 complimentary votes for the Ward 4 seat previously held by Dennis Moody.

Incumbents running unopposed included Edward Burks who received 2,595 complimentary votes in the At-Large Position 1 seat, Rick Crawford who received 2,510 votes for At-Large Alderman Position 2, Vanedda Prince Webb who received 2,586 for At-Large Position 3, Willie Cole who received 366 votes for Ward 1, Ricky Hammond who received 498 in Ward 2, and Joey L. Harrison who received 984 votes in Ward 5.

EAGLEVILLE

Incumbent Chad Leeman ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Eagleville with 235 complimentary votes.

Incumbents Craig Campbell, Brandon S. Emamalie, and Shawn Futrell ran unopposed and were re-elected to the Eagleville City Council. Campbell received 200 votes, Emamalie 172, and Futrell 162.

EAST RIDGE

Incumbent Brian Williams ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of East Ridge with 4,852 complimentary votes.

Incumbent David Tyler will be joined by newcomer Robert "Bob" Gilreath on the East Ridge City Council, fending off challenges from James L.C. Meyers, Caroline Rossman, and Marty Von Schaaf. Tyler led the tally with 2,207 followed by Gilreath with 1,949, Von Schaaf with 1,910, Rossman with 1,838, and Meyers with 1,591.

Newcomer Misty D. Chauncey unseated incumbent Patricia E. Cassidy in the city court clerk race. Chaunce earned 2,617 votes to Cassidy's 2,544.

Voters in East Ridge also approved a charter amendment 4,183 to 1,386. The referendum provides the mayor with a salary of $12,000 per year and other commissioners $7,200 per year to be paid in monthly establishments.

Future pay adjustments will also have to be voted on via referendum. Councilmembers and their families can also now participate in city benefits programs so long as it is at no cost to the city.

ELIZABETHTON

Incumbent William E. Bill Carter will be joined by newcomers Curt Alexander, Frankie Bailey, and Terry Norris after unseating incumbent Michael G. Simerly and fending off challengers Richard M. Barker, Larry Clark, Mike Melton, and Scott J. Sams in the Elizabethton City Council race.

Alexander led the tally with 1,684, Bailey 1,296, Carter with 1,217, Norris 1,161, Barker 1,137, Simerly 1,001, Clark 930, Melton 407, and Sams 332.

ERWIN

Incumbents Angela Wilcox Vaughn and Michael Baker will be joined by newcomer Ryan Blankenship after defeating incumbent Cathy J. Huskins and challengers Jeff Canon, Eleana Pate, and Dustin Walden for the three open seats on the Erwin Board of Aldermen.

Vaughn led the vote count with 739 followed by Baker with 704, Blankenship with 600, Huskins with 561, Pate with 557, Walden with 387, and Canon with 327.

ETHRIDGE

Incumbent George E. Doyle will be joined by newcomer Nathan Sheridan after seeking two open seats on the Ethridge City Commission. Doyle received 77 complimentary votes and Sheridan 46.

FAIRVIEW

Newcomer Rick Shepherd unseated incumbent Lisa Anderson and defeated Commissioner Chris McDonald to take the mayoral seat in Fairview. Shepherd earned 1,420 votes followed by McDonald with 1,385 and Anderson with 1,192.

Newcomers David Bynum and Scott Lucas defeated incumbent Wayne Hall and challenger Karen Cobb for the two open seats on the Fairview City Commission with Chris McDonald not seeking re-election to his seat. Bynum received 2,223 votes followed by Lucas with 1,588, Hall with 1,533, and Cobb with 1,441.

FAYETTEVILLE

Newcomer Mark A. Clark defeated incumbent Donna Hartman to take the mayoral seat in Fayetteville 1,108 to 609.

Dorothy Small was the sole incumbent to retain a seat on the Fayetteville Board of Aldermen with newcomers Michael T. Whisenant and W. Mike Harry defeating incumbent Tonya Allen and challengers Stephanie Eddie Britt, Rich Jacobus, and Joseph "Jody" King for the three open seats on the board.

Whisenant led the vote count with 885 followed by Small with 884, Harry with 702, Allen with 636, Jacobus with 502, Britt with 476, and King with 313.

FINGER

Alderman Robert Lee Heathcock IV ran unopposed and was elected mayor of Finger with 52 complimentary votes after incumbent Cody Moss did not seek re-election.

Newcomers Timothy Shane Carroll and David Scott Heathcock ran unopposed for the two open seats on the Finger Board of Alderman and received 50 complimentary votes each.

FOREST HILLS

Incumbents Jim Gardner and Henry Trost ran unopposed and were re-elected to the two open seats on the Forest Hills City Commission with 1,994 and 1,978 votes respectively.

GAINESBORO

Voters in Gainesboro voted 152-43 to approve the sale of wine in retail stores.

GALLATIN

Newcomer Johnnie Anderson unseated incumbent Pagie Brown and defeated challenger Mary Genung to take the mayoral seat in Gallatin. Anderson received 5,173 votes, Genung 5,104, and Brown 4,992.

After incumbent Steve Fann did not seek re-election, newcomer Jerry Joslin defeated challenger Sean Clark 7,027-6,149 to take the at-large alderman seat.

Newcomer Bart Bagsby Sr. unseated incumbent Pascal Jouvenel 2,031-1,643 in the Alderman District 3 seat.

After incumbent Craig Hayes did not seek re-election, newcomer John Belman defeated Ruth Fennell 2,205-1,325 for the District 4 seat.

In District 5, newcomer Brenda Dotson unseated incumbent Steven J. Carter in a 797-788 vote.

GALLAWAY

Newcomers Ivory O. Miller and Larry D. Walton ran unopposed and were elected to the two open city commission seats in Gallaway with 52 and 13 votes respectively.

GARLAND

Incumbent Kelley W. Gray ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Garland with 128 complimentary votes.

Incumbents Cynthia R. Hensley and Beverly Kay Rose were the only two candidates who qualified for the six open alderman seats and received 116 and 96 votes respectively.

In the city recorder race, incumbent Lisa McClain ran unopposed and was re-elected with 113 complimentary votes.

GERMANTOWN

Newcomer Tony Salvaggio defeated challenger Edgar Babian 12,880-3,308 for the Germantown mayoral seat previously held by Mike Palazzolo, who did not seek re-election.

Incumbent Mary Anne Gibson staved off challenger Todd Adams 8,102-7,447 to retain the Alderman Position 2 seat.

Incumbent Scott A. Sanders ran unopposed and was re-elected to the Alderman Position 1 seat with 13,868 complimentary votes.

GIBSON

Incumbent Chris Houck ran unopposed for mayor and received 117 complimentary votes in Gibson.

Incumbent Sara F. Meals and newcomer Dillon Ivy ran unopposed for the two open alderman seats in Gibson, receiving 91 and 74 complimentary votes respectively.

GILT EDGE

Incumbent James D. Farris will be joined by newcomer Nicholas Hursh after the pair sought two of three open seats on the Gilt Edge City Council. Farris received 84 complimentary votes and Hursh received 45.

No candidate qualified for the unexpired term on the city council.

GOODLETTSVILLE

Incumbents Rusty Tinnin and Jimmy D. Anderson fended off challenges from Erich Meachum, Michael Milliner, and Eric Near to retain the two open seats on the Goodlettsville City Commission. Tinnin received 3,081 votes, Anderson received 2,334, Milliner received 1,762 Meacham received 1,695, and Near received 325.

Goodlettsville voters also rejected a sales and use tax increase with 3,205 voting against and 2,507 voting for. The increase would have increased sales and use tax a half-penny per dollar.

GORDONSVILLE

Newcomers Luke Smith and Dustin Proffit ran for two of the three open alderman seats in Gordonsville and were elected with 275 and 267 votes respectively.

GRAND JUNCTION

Newcomer Isiah Hunt defeated Vice Mayor Cheryl D. Smith to take the mayoral seat in Grand Junction after Curtis Lane opted to not seek re-election. Hunt earned 52 votes to Smith's 27.

Incumbent Steve Luellen will be joined by newcomers Nichole Luellen and Donna Lane, who launched a successful write-in campaign for the third open seat. Write-in candi-

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date Nakita Prewitt did not secure enough votes for the third seat.

S. Luellen led the vote count with 76 followed by N. Luellen with 60, Lane with 30, and Prewitt with 7.

GREENBACK

Incumbent Dewayne Birchfield staved off a challenge from Alderwoman Linda Black to retain the mayoral seat in Greenback 253-128.

Incumbents Tina S. Baker and Derrick Doehler will be joined by newcomers Austin Lyttle and Jacob Neely after Black and incumbent Delmar Davis did not seek re-election.

Baker received 293 votes, Doehler and Neely each received 288, and Lyttle received 280.

GREENFIELD

Incumbent Cindy McAdamas narrowly defeated challenger Brad Hardin 292 to 291 to retain the mayoral seat in Greenfield.

Incumbent Leanna Stephenson will be joined by newcomers Tyler Jay Dunning, Cody Ricketts, and Logan Rowlett after unseating incumbent Mark Galey for the four open seats on the Greenfield Board of Aldermen.

Dunning led the vote tally with 450 followed by Ricketts with 444, Rowlett with 422, Stephenson with 398, and Galey with 309.

GRUETLI-LAAGER

Alderman Allen Joslyn ran unopposed and was elected mayor of Gruetli-Laager after incumbent Donna Rollins decided to seek an unexpired alderman term. Joslyn received 379 votes.

Newcomer Colby Cox will join incumbent Hubert Dewayne Hargis after defeating incumbent Michael Jones and challenger Ronnie Wayn e Scissom for the two open seats on the Gruetli-Laager Board of Aldermen.

Cox led the vote count with 263 followed by Hargis with 177, Jones with 145, and Scissom with 94.

Newcomer Jama Jacks King defeated Mayor Donna Rollins for the unexpired alderman term 270-133.

GUYS

Incumbent Bradley P. Gray will be joined by newcomer Rocky Harben after running unopposed for the two open alderman seats in Guys. Gray received 110 complimentary votes and Harben received 99.

HALLS

Alderman David Jennings ran unopposed and was elected mayor of Halls with 555 complimentary votes after incumbent Eugene Pugh did not seek re-election.

Incumbents Wayne Belton, Mike Cunningham, Rhonda Harris, and James Tyus will be joined by newcomers Barry Britt and Duan Humphrey, defeating Richard Mauppins, Michael Shaw, and Michael Tolbert for the six open alderman seats. Jennings and incumbent Dale McCaslin did not seek re-election.

Harris led the vote count with 395, followed by Belton with 368, Cunningham with 330, Britt with 317, Tyus 279, Humphrey 277, Tolbert 208, Mauppins 168, and Shaw 127.

HARROGATE

Incumbent Troy Poore ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Harrogate.

Incumbent Letha Peters retained the West Ward seat running unopposed while newcomer Gary Willis took the East Ward seat having run unopposed.

No candidate qualified for the unexpired West Ward seat.

Harrogate voters also approved a consumption on the premises referendum with 572 votes for and 478 against.

HENDERSONVILLE

In Hendersonville's Ward 1 Alderman race, incumbent Mark Burdorf fended off challenger Afton Adams-Skidmore 1,675 to 1,485.

Newcomer David Ramos narrowly defeated challenger Keith Dennen 1,371 to 1,347 to take the Ward 2 seat.

Newcomer Vanessa Silkwood defeated challenger Chris Gonzalez 1,997 to 1,935 to take the Ward 4 seat while newcomer Todd Kerr defeated challenger Rob Rebyrn 1,779-1,502 to take the Ward 6 seat.

In the Ward 3 race, incumbent Bob Garzza ran unopposed and received 2,111 complimentary votes.\

Newcomer Garett Kidd also ran unopposed in the Ward 5 race, receiving 3,373 complimentary votes.



Poll workers test voting machines at the Chester County Election Commission offices in Henderson. (Photo by Chester County Election Commission)

HENNING

Incumbent Quenton Reed ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Henning with 182 votes.

Six candidates ran unopposed and were elected to open seats on the board of aldermen with incumbents Martha Louise Morgan and Deborah Bates Taylor being joined by newcomers Nikesha Fryerson, Mary Ann Jarrett, Rita O. Lake, and Teneka Smith Parr.

Incumbents Dwan Anderson, Cubert Bell, Carstella Douglass, and Jackie Alston did not seek re-election.

Jarrett led the vote count with 167 followed by Taylor with 158, Parr with 154, Lake with 151, Morgan with 148, and Fryerson with 147.

HENRY

Newcomer Randy M. Alesia ran unopposed and was elected to the mayoral seat previously held by Charlotte Barnes, who did not seek re-election.

Incumbent Julie Smith ran unopposed and was re-elected to the unexpired alderman term in Henry. No candidate qualified for the open alderman seat.

HICKORY VALLEY

Incumbent Richard H. "Rick" Ayers ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Hickory Valley with 20 complimentary votes.

Incumbents Bobby Hensley, Jane Mitchell Powell, and Noel Toney will be joined by newcomers Brian Lake and Colton J. Lax on the Hickory Valley Board of Aldermen after incumbents Richard Lake and Duane Lax did not seek re-election.

Lax led the vote count with 20 followed by Toney with 18, Hensley and Lake each with 17, and Powell with 14.

HOLLOW ROCK

Incumbent Ronnie Webb defeated challenger Misty White to retain the Hollow Rock mayoral seat 110-93.

Incumbent Angela Stockdale will be joined by newcomer Bobby Brotherton after defeating challengers Sherry Ozier and James Robison for the two open aldermen seats. Brotherton led the count with 129 followed by Stockdale with 92, Robison 87, and Ozier 46.

Former Alderwoman Cathie Pardue also ran unopposed and was elected to the unexpired alderman seat with 175 complimentary votes.

HUNTINGDON

Incumbents Kelly B. Eubanks, Andrew Maddox, and John Lindsey Sanders ran unopposed and were re-elected to the three open city council seats in Huntingdon. Eubanks received 800 votes, Maddox 774, and Sanders 751.

JASPER

Incumbents Jennifer Newsom Cardin and Vikki Morgan ran unopposed and were re-elected to their alderman seats in Jasper with 659 and 544 votes respectively.

JEFFERSON CITY

Incumbents ran unopposed and were re-elected to three seats in Jefferson City. Mitch Cain retained the mayoral seat while Kevin V. Bunch and Sheala Fay Purkey remained on the city council.

JELLICO

Vice Mayor Sara Barton defeated challengers Bobby D. Fuson and Brian Pitts to take the Jellico mayoral seat previously held by Sandy Terry. Barton earned 259 votes followed by Fuson with 195 and Pitts with 53.

Incumbents Joel M. Creekmore and Teresa Adkins will be joined by newcomers Chris Blair, Bethany Hendrickson, Ryan Faulkner, and Tonia Brookman in the six open seats on the Jellico Board of Aldermen.

Challengers Marie Dunaway-Meadors, Mitchell Long, Donna Perkins, and Karen "Susie" Shannon did not garner enough votes to take seats.

Blair, Hendrickson, Faulkner, and Brookman will take the seats vacated by Barton, Marty Bowlin, Suzette Davenport, and Rodney Minton who did not seek re-election.

Blair led the vote tally with 326 followed by Creekmore with 332, Adkins with 292, Hendrickson with 263, Faulkner with 257, Brookman with 190, Dunaway-Meadors and Perkins with 139 each, Shannon with 114, and Long with 76.

JOHNSON CITY

Newcomers Pete Paduch and Dave Adams unseated incumbents Jenny Brock and Whitney Calhoun Goetz and fended off challenges from William "Bud" Hill Jr, Gary Kalogeros, Tricia Korade, Aaron T. Murphy, and J.B. Westmoreland for the two open seats on the Johnson City Commission. Paduch earned 5,776 votes followed by Adams with 4,401, Brock 4,345, Murphy 4,320, Bruni 4,294, Westmoreland 3,612, Goetz 3,612, Korade 1,491, Kalogeros 1,068, and Hill 579.

JONESBOROUGH

Newcomer Michael Hartman defeated challenger Brian Ponder 1,296 to 1,179 to take the mayoral seat in Jonesborough after incumbent Kelly Wolf did not seek re-election.

Incumbents Virginia C. Causey and Zac Jenkins fended off challengers Jason A. Greenlee and Dana C. Helvey to take the two open alderman seats. Causey led the vote count with 1,188 followed by Jenkins with 1,075, Helvey with 892, and Greenlee with 700.

KENTON

Alderman Harold W. Banks ran unopposed and received 288 complimentary votes to take the mayoral seat in Kenton after Danny Jowers did not seek re-election.

Incumbents Wade Simpson, Glenn P. Zarecor, Jesse Griggs, and Tim Johns will be joined by newcomers Mike Watson, and Jana Ray on the Kenton Board of Alderman, defeating challengers Steve Hilton, Clay McEwen, and Demetria Spencer. Incumbent Shelia Barnes did not seek re-election.

Simpson received 198, Zarecor received 182, Griggs and Watson each received 175, Ray received 162, Johns received 147, McEwen received 131, Hilton received 122, and Spencer received 111.

Incumbent Charles Crouson run unopposed for the city judge seat and earned 237 complimentary votes.

KIMBALL

Incumbent Teresa Lofty will be joined by newcomer Todd Allen Smith on the Kimball Board of Alderman after unseating incumbent Johnny Sisk and fending off challenger Jimmy Cantrell for the two open seats.

Lofty led the tally with 275 votes followed by Smith with 229, Sisk with 221 and Cantrell with 91.

KINGSTON

Incumbent Tim Neal ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Kinston with 1,718 complimentary votes.

Incumbents Phillip Bredwell and Phillip Martin will be joined by newcomer Zack Nitzschke on the Kingston City Council, fending off newcomers Barry Burton, Trey Coley, Jeff Gardner, Levi Parish, and Robert Sparkes for the three open seats.

Bredwell led the vote count with 1,168 followed by Nitzschke with 705, Martin with 545, Parish with 541, Sparkes with 518, Coley with 477, Burton with 464, and Gardner with 453.

KINGSTON SPRINGS

Incumbents Michael Joseph Hargis and Todd Verhoven ran unopposed and were re-elected to the two open city commission seats in Kingston Springs with 816 complimentary votes each.

Newcomer Bob Stohler ran unopposed and received 983 complimentary votes for the unexpired commission seat.

KNOXVILLE

A charter amendment eliminating run-offs for candidates who receive the majority vote in a primary city election passed 583-407 in Knoxville.

LAFOLLETTE

Newcomer David Wilson will join incumbent Stephanie Grimm Solomon on the LaFollette City council, fending off challenger Cliff Jennings for the two open seats. Wilson earned 601 votes followed by Solomon with 576 and Jennings with 455.

LAGRANGE

Alderwoman Marla Sue Mounce ran unopposed and was elected mayor of LaGrange with 60 complimentary votes after incumbent Earl M. Smith did not seek re-election.

Incumbents Roger S. Hill, Andrea Swords, and Benny Lee McGlamery will be joined by newcomers Walter R. Crenshaw III, Kathie S. Lee, and Allison Ramberg as six candidates vied for six open spots on the LaGrange Board of Aldermen.

Incumbents Mounce, Katie Lee and James Palmer did not seek re-election.

Crenshaw led the tally with 56 votes followed by Ramberg with 54, McGlamery with 52, Lee with 51, Swords with 49, and Hill with 47.

LAKELAND

Incumbent Josh Roman staved off Alderwoman Connie McCarter to retain the mayoral seat in Lakeland. Roman earned 2,927 votes to McCarter's 1,967.

Newcomers Jeremy Burnett and Heather Ann Long defeated fellow challenger Lindsey Reap to take the two open city commission seats in Lakeland. Burnett received 3,040 votes followed by Long with 2,380 and Reap with 2,375.

LAKESITE

Incumbents Wayne Behlau and Michelle Wilson fended off challenger Jessica Dobosh to retain the two seats on the Lakesite City Commission. Behlau led the vote count with 497 followed by Wilson with 439 and Dobosh with 382.

LA VERGNE

Incumbent Jason Cole fended off challenger James S. Miles 5,233-2,672 to retain the mayoral seat in La Vergne.

Incumbents Carol Haas and Kara Hobbs ran unopposed for the two seats on the La Vergne Board of Alderman, receiving 4,459 and 4,819 votes respectively.

LAWRENCEBURG

Alderman Darryl Watson defeated challenger Roy Story to take the mayoral seat in Lawrenceburg after Mayor Blake Lay did not seek re-election. Watson earned 1,651 votes to Story's 1,111.

Newcomer Landon Saunders unseated incumbent Robin N. Williams and defeated challenger Raquel Gobble Fisher for the City Council Seat 2 race. Saunders earned 867 votes followed by Williams with 851 and Fisher with 785.

Newcomer Shane Hughes secured the Seat 4 race, defeating challengers Greg Kelso and Wes Orton for the seat. Hughes earned 1,014 votes followed by Kelso with 947 and Orton with 599.

Incumbent Chad Moore ran unopposed for the City Council Seat 1, receiving 2,184 complimentary votes.

LEBANON

Incumbent Camille Burdine defeated challenger Shawn Hicks 701 to 543 to retain the Ward 3 Alderman seat in Lebanon. Incumbent Chris Crowell defeated challenger R.J. Johnson 2,095 to 890 to retain the Ward 4 seat while incumbent Phil Morehead fended off challenger Logan M. Thompson 1,843 to 1,265 in the Ward 6 race.

LENOIR CITY

Incumbent Todd Kennedy will be joined by newcomers Brad McCall and Hayden Park after unseating incumbents James Brandon and James "Jim" Shields as well as fending off a challenge from Trever Branson for the three open alderman seats in Lenoir City.

McCall led the vote tally with 1,091 followed by Park with 1,088, Kennedy with 1,048, Shields with 978, Brandon with 940, Collins 712, Branson 483, and Withers 273.

Lenoir City voters also approved a measure to allow retail package stores to sell alcoholic beverages 1,832-1,004.

LINDEN

Newcomer Patricia Bell ran unopposed and was elected to the Ward 2 Alderman unexpired term in Linden.

LOUDON

Incumbent Jeff Harris fended off Councilman John Cardwell 943-902 to retain the mayoral seat in Loudon.

Two new faces will also be seen on the city council after newcomers Mark Harrell and Michael "Mike" Cartwright defeated fellow challengers David Littleton and Mitch Miller for the two open seats.

Harrell led the vote count with 936 followed by Cartwright with 903, Miller with 668, and Littleton with 499.

LOUISVILLE

Alderwoman Lysia Vaught defeated incumbent Jill Robinson Pugh and challenger Mary E. Wingo to take the mayoral seat in Louisville. Vaught earned 1,082 votes followed by Pugh with 545 and Wingo with 275.

Incumbent John Loope will be joined by newcomer Charles Perry on the Louisville Board of Aldermen, defeating challengers Anna Gibson, Angela Harrington, Dan McKee, and Keith Simmons for the two open seats.

Loope led the vote tally with 1,076 followed by Perry with 674, Gibson with 608, Harrington with 355, Simmons with 288, and McKee with 142.

MADISONVILLE

Incumbent Augusta "Gus" Davis defeated challenger Scott Hunt 582-551 to retain the mayoral seat in Madisonville.

Newcomers Chris Bowers and Danny E. Long also fended off challenger Conway Mason to take the two open alderman seats. Long received 724 votes, Bowers 685, and Mason 353.

Madisonville residents also voted down a sales and use tax referendum 665-537.

MARTIN

Newcomer David R. Bell defeated Alderman Kent Kelso 1,239

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to 1,163 to take the mayoral seat in Martin after incumbent David Belote did not seek re-election.

In the Ward 1 Alderman race, newcomer Lori Miles defeated fellow challengers David Hart and Tony Prince. Miles earned 461 votes, Prince 406, and Hart 230.

In the Ward 2 unexpired term race, newcomer Blake McCollum defeated incumbent Lynette Calhoun Wagster 397-204. For the Ward 3 race, newcomer Chad Brewer defeated incumbent Terry J. Hankins 400 to 183.

Kenny King ran unopposed for the Ward 2 seat previously held by Kent Kelso and received 479 complimentary votes.

MARYVILLE

Incumbents Tommy Hunt, Fred Metz, and Andy White fended off challenger Taylor Ford for the three open seats on the Maryville City Council. Hunt led the vote tally with 5,507, White with 5,370, Metz with 4,478, and Ford with 4,046.

MASON

Incumbent Eddie Noeman fended off challengers Reynaldo Givhan, Michael Harris, and Virginia A. Rivers to maintain the mayoral seat in Mason.

Noeman led the vote count with 98 followed by Harris with 66, Rivers with 43, and Givhan with 42.

Incumbents Carolyn Catron and Mary "Yancey" Mason will be joined by newcomer Sylvester Harvey after defeating incumbent Alethea D. Harris and challenger Antoinette Lacy for the three open seats on the Mason Board of Aldermen. Catron led the vote count with 105 followed by Mason with 95, Harvey with 94, Harris with 86, and Lacy with 83.

MCKENZIE

Incumbent Ryan D. Griffin ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of McKenzie with 737 complimentary votes.

Incumbents Bobby L. Young and Tom Alexander will be joined by newcomer Raymond Glisson after defeating incumbent Carol Jean Armpriest and challenger Armand J. Herbert III for the three open city council seats. Young earned 599 votes, Glisson 493, Alexander 469, Armpriest 367, and Herbert 123.

MCLEMORESVILLE

Incumbent Phillip R. Williams fended off challenges from Austin Prater and Nathan Worrell to maintain the mayoral seat in McLemoresville. Williams earned 73 votes followed by Worrell with 28 and Prater with 20.

The five open alderman seats went to incumbents Sharon Holland, Mike Presson, Lana Y. Suite and newcomers Robby Alford and Adam Martin, defeating challenger Kim Wheeler. Alford and Martin will take the seats held by Don Reed and Angie Martin, who did not seek re-election.

Presson led the vote tally with 101 followed by Holland with 98, Martin with 96, Suite with 85, Alford with 82, and Wheeler with 57.

MCMINNVILLE

Incumbents Deitra Dunlap and Keri Curtis Morton will be joined by Kimberly Cantrell on the McMinnville Board of Alderman after the three fended off challengers Sean Logsdon and Emily Stefanick for the three open seats. Incumbent Vice Mayor Steve Harvey did not seek re-election.

Dunlap led the vote count with 1,286 followed by Cantrell with 1,177, Morton with 1,148, Stefanick with 944, and Logsdon with 481.

MEDINA

Incumbent aldermen Kevin M. Painter and Andrew Michael Rhodes ran unopposed and were elected to the two open seats with 912 and 815 votes respectively.

MEDON

Incumbent Brad Replogle ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Medon with 56 votes. Incumbents Tammy R. Anthony, Brennan Replogle, and Cathy Venable will be joined by newcomer Debbie Wilson on the Medon Board of Aldermen after incumbent Jerry Anthony did not seek re-election.

Venable received 48 complimentary votes, Wilson and Anthony each 46, and Replogle 41.

MEMPHIS

Three referendums to change the Memphis City Charter were on the ballot, all of which passed.

Citizens voted 89,350 to 47,331 on a first referendum to allow library workers to unionize. 230 library workers at 18 branches have campaigned for the past year for this initiative.

The second referendum was approved 103,776 to 31,097 and will establish uniform procedures for civil service appeals when employees dispute their firings or any other action taken by the city regarding employment.

The third amendment was approved 86,247 to 48,089 and will create a registration and disclosure process for lobbyists and paid public policy influences to ensure transparency.



A sign points to a polling station in Blount County. (Photo by Blount County Election Commission)

MILAN

Newcomer W. Thorne Barbour defeated incumbent Clay McCoy for the Ward 1 Alderman seat in Milan. Barbour earned 522 votes to McCoy's 303.

The other three seats up for election were won by incumbents. In Ward 4, Tammy Floyd-Wade defeated challenger Wayne Pettigrew 187-146. Ward 2 Alderman Lee Alexander and Ward 3 Alderman James Fountain ran unopposed and were re-elected with 450 and 277 complimentary votes respectively.

MILLERSVILLE

Newcomers Rick D. Clifford and Kathy Huckaby ran unopposed and were elected to the Millersville City Commission, receiving 749 and 1,004 votes respectively.

MILLINGTON

In Millington, newcomer Tammy Sneed defeated challengers Cody Childress and Willis S. Declue for the Alderman Position 2 seat previously held by Al Bell, who did not seek re-election. Sneed received 1,311 votes followed by Childress with 1,024 and Declue with 240.

In the Position 4 Alderman race, Chris Everitt unseated incumbent John Perales and defeated challenger Gordon Higgins. Everitt earned 1,044 votes followed by Perales with 971 and Higgins with 423.

In the unexpired term for the Position 7 Alderman seat, newcomer Ann Turner defeated incumbent Gavin Smith and challengers Charles P. Reed and Chris Denson. Turner earned 917 votes followed by Denson with 703, Smith with 494, and Reed with 414.

Two incumbents also ran unopposed for their seats. Bethany K. Huffman received 2,294 complimentary votes for the Position 1 Alderman seat while Chris Ford received – complimentary votes for the Position 3 Alderman seat.

MITCHELLVILLE

Incumbent Jimmie Green ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Mitchellville with 38 complimentary votes.

After incumbents Susan Barber, Lynn Hilstrom, and Darlene Worman did not seek re-election, newcomers Melissa Green and Dana Simpson will join the Mitchellville Board of Aldermen, each receiving 20 votes. Candidates Josh Butt and Randy Whitson tied with 19 votes for the third seat. Officials will look to the city charter to determine next steps. Candiate Scott Simpson also ran and received 10 votes.

MONTEAGLE

Alderman Dean Lay ran unopposed and was elected mayor of Monteagle after incumbent Greg Maloof did not seek re-election.

Incumbent Nate Wilson and newcomer Jessica D. Blalock took the two open aldermen seats, defeating incumbent Dan Sargent and challengers Felicia Ladd and David M. Pilcher. Wilson led the count with 111 votes followed by Blalock with 102, Sargent with 84, Pilcher with 80, and Ladd with 79.

MORRISON

Vice Mayor Donald L. Miller ran unopposed and was elected to the mayoral seat in Morrison after incumbent Sue Anderson did not seek re-election. Incumbent Jeannine Miller was the only candidate to seek election for two open seats on the Morrison Board of Aldermen.

MORRISTOWN

Newcomer Kelly Lynam unseated incumbent Tommy Pedigo in the at-large council race. Lynam earned 3,299 votes to Pedigo's 1,942.

Newcomer Frank McGuffin and incumbent Kay Senter ran unopposed in the Ward 1 and Ward 3 races. McGuffin received 1,554 complimentary votes and Senter received 961.

MOSCOW

Incumbents Mary Ann Carter-Hodge and Tony Kennon ran unopposed and were re-elected to two of the three open alderman seats in Moscow. Carter-Hodge received 82 votes and Kennon 65. No candidates qualified for the three unexpired terms on the ballot.

MOUNT CARMEL

Incumbents Jim Bare and James Gilliam will be joined by newcomer Justin Mann, defeating Brian Erazmus for the three open alderman seats. Incumbent Mindy Shugart did not seek re-election. Mann earned 830 votes, Gilliam 755, Bare 684, and Erazmus 617.

MOUNTAIN CITY

Incumbent Charles "Ray" Dowell will be joined by Amelia Lopez Saltarelli after defeating challenger Jason Panganiban to take the two open alderman seats in Mountain City. Dowell earned 408 votes, Saltarelli 295, and Panganiban 261.

MT. PLEASANT

Newcomers Brandon Evans and Lonnie R. Thomason defeated fellow challenger John Hunter for the two open seats on the Mt. Pleasant City Commission. Evans earned 774 votes, Thomason 602, and Hunter 499.

MT. JULIET

Incumbent Bill Trivett defeated challenger Bradford Loomis 1,763 to 1,307 to retain the Commissioner District 2 seat in Mt. Juliet while incumbent Jennifer Milele bested challenger Jane Elkins 2,483 to 1,098 to retain the District 4 seat

Voters in Mt. Juliet also cast their ballots in favor of repealing home rule in the city with 6,861 voting for and 6,125 voting against. City officials sought the repeal as it inhibited them for asking for Private Acts that could require developers to pay impact fees for infrastructure. The increase of the city's population from 19,000 when the home rule referendum initially passed to 45,000 was a factor in the campaign to repeal.

MUNFORD

Incumbents Steve Childress and Richard Cramer will be joined by newcomer Jake Chumley after running unopposed for three open seats in the Munford Board of Aldermen. Childress received 1,248 complimentary votes, Chumley 1,018, and Cramer 876.

NEW HOPE

Incumbents Mike Powers and Jimmy Beavers retained their alderman seats in New Hope over challenger Charles Tamargo. Powers received 212 votes, Beavers 148, and Tamargo 31.

NEW MARKET

Incumbents Frank Solomon and Lori Stiner Tucker fended off challenger Wayne Guinn to retain the two alderman seats in New Market. Solomon received 262 votes, Tucker 202, and Guinn 166.

NEW TAZEWELL

Newcomer Todd Neely unseated incumbent William C. Nichols 481 to 211 for the Ward 1 Alderman seat in New Tazewell. Newcomer Wayne Jessie also unseated incumbent Wesley D. Frazier for the unexpired Ward 3 seat 476-261.

Incumbents Nita Louthan and Charles DeBusk ran unopposed and were re-elected to the Ward 2 and Ward 3 seats respectively.

NEWBERN

Newcomer Brenda Coleman will join incumbents Keith Hardin and Tim Ware after unseating Kim Sammons May for the three open alderman seats in Newbern. Ware led the vote count with 435 followed by Hardin with 424, Coleman with 325, and May with 289.

NEWPORT

Incumbent Roland A. "Trey" Dykes III ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Newport with 1,139 votes.

Newcomer Andy L. Tritt will join incumbents Connie Ball, Mike Hansel, Louanna Ottinger, and Stephen Andrew Smith on the Newport Board of Alderman. Randy Ragan did not seek re-election. Ball led the vote tally with 980 followed by Ottinger with 841, Hansel with 810, Tritt with 747, and Smith with 734.

NIOTA

Incumbent Lois Preece ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Niota with 209 complimentary votes.

Incumbent Tony Manney will be joined by newcomer Gary Buchanan after the two ran unopposed for two open seats on the Niota City Commission. Buchanan received 169 complimentary votes and Manney received 136.

NOLENSVILLE

Incumbent Josh Streufert will be joined by newcomer David Windrow on the Nolensville City Commission after incumbent Jessica Salamida did not seek re-election. Streufert received 4,409 complimentary votes and Windrow received 4,569.

NORMANDY

Incumbent Cody Sharrock ran unopposed and received 28 complimentary votes in the Normandy mayoral race.

Newcomer Jerry Fox fended off fellow challenger Patricia L. Knier to take the open alderman seat in Normandy. Fox earned 27 votes to Knier's 14. Roger John Piggott ran unopposed for the unexpired alderman seat and received 29 complimentary votes.

NORRIS

Incumbents Bill Grieve, Travis Honeycutt, and Charles P. Nicholson will be joined by newcomers Zach Cross and Alex Munro after running unopposed for the five open seats on the Norris City Council. Cross and Munro will take the seats previously occupied by current Mayor Chris Mitchell and Councilmember Loretto Painter who did not seek re-election.

Nicholson led the tally with 467, followed by Cross with 439, Honeycutt 429, Grieve 425, and Munro with 418.

OAK RIDGE

Incumbents L.C. "Charlie" Hensley, Ellen D. Smith, and Warren Gooch will be joined by newcomers Joe Gaddis after fending off challenges from Steve Duncan and Greta Stout Ownby for the four open seats on the Oak Ridge City Council.

Gaddis led the vote count with 6,049 followed by Hensley with 5,722, Smith with 5,661, Gooch with 5,330, Ownby with 4,650, and Duncan with 4,298.

OAKLAND

Newcomer Mike Webb defeated challenger Richard Olsen for the Alderman Position 1 seat in Oakland previously held by Frank Cates. Webb received 2,115 votes to Olsen's 1,252.

In the Position 2 alderman race, newcomer Myron Massey earned 1,784 votes to take the seat, defeating Gary Schmidt Jr., who earned 776, and Steven Baade who earned 692. The seat was previously held by Mike Labudde.

Former alderman Jeff Fisher defeated challenger Peter Colclasure to take the Position 3 seat previously held by Harry Campbell. Fisher earned 1,942 votes to Colclasure's 1,259.

OBION

Incumbent Rodney Underwood and challenger Angela Breemer tied with 140 votes for the mayoral seat in Obion. Officials will look to the town's charter to determine next steps.

Incumbents Bradley Canada and Patsy Barker will be joined by newcomers Courtney Ainsworth, Robert Hodge, Erik D. Leto, and Brittany Nye on the Obion Board of Aldermen, defeating challenger Mariah Neele for the six open seats. Incumbents Mandy Correa, Shane DePriest, Susie Evans, and Ted Ledbetter did not seek re-election.

OLIVER SPRINGS

Incumbent Jason Stiltner ran unopposed for the mayoral seat in Oliver Springs and was re-elected with 526 complimentary votes.

Newcomer Robert Langford IV defeated challenger Maurie Walker 341 to 301 to take the Ward 2 Alderman seat previously held by Jeff Bass, who did not seek re-election

In the Ward 4 race, incumbent Teresa Van Hook defeated challenger Rusty Phillips 336 to 316 to retain her seat.

After Robert Miller did not seek re-election in the Ward 1 race, Tash Brantley ran unopposed and received 615 complimentary votes.

ORLINDA

Incumbent Sherry L. Carver will be joined on the Orlinda City Commission by newcomers Leah Beth Canon and Wesley E. Jordan, fending off challenger Troy Haag for the three open seats. Jordan led the vote count with 186 followed by Canon with 177, Carver with 148, and Haag with 143.

For the unexpired city commission term, newcomer James Spencer Jackson ran unopposed and was elected with 272 complimentary votes.

ORME

Incumbent Gary Reames will be

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joined by newcomer Lebron Grider after the two were the only candidates to seek three seats on the Orme City Commission. Grider received 20 votes and Reames 16. Incumbent Gwyn Smith did not qualify for the election.

PALMER

Newcomer Daniel T. Crabtree ran unopposed and was elected mayor of Palmer with 108 complimentary votes. Incumbent Anthony Nunley did not seek re-election.

Newcomer Justin Clay Cannon received 107 votes and write-in candidate Vanessa Cleek received 6 to take the two open alderman seats in Palmer. No candidate qualified for the two unexpired terms on the board.

PARIS

Current Mayor Kathy Ray is the only incumbent who will return to the Paris City Commission, joined by newcomers Jennifer Culpepper and Rickey Searcy who unseated incumbents Sam Tharpe and Vickey Roberts. Challengers Kady Watson and Evan Dodd also ran for the three open seats.

Culpepper led the vote tally with 1,092 votes followed by Search with 978, Ray at 858, Tharpe at 785, Watson at 611, Dodd at 623, and Roberts at 392.

PARROTTSVILLE

Two incumbent candidates tied for the third open City Commission seat in Parrottsville. Newcomers Holly Norton and Sharon Peters secured two of the three seats with 45 and 43 votes respectively.

Incumbents Gayla Ann Hommel and Ronnie Hommel tied for the third seat with 38 votes each. With no provisional ballots cast, it will be up to the city charter to determine who takes the seat.

Challenger Delma Kearns earned 35 votes in the election while incumbent Dennis Worley did not seek office.

PIPERTON

Incumbents Russ Fletcher and Ronald Gross ran unopposed for the two open commission seats in Piperton, receiving 1,122 and 873 votes respectively.

PITTMAN CENTER

Incumbent Jerry R. Huskey ran unopposed for the mayoral seat in Pittman Center and was re-elected with 163 complimentary votes.

Also running unopposed for two open alderman seats were incumbents Kevin R. Howard and Steve McCarter, who received 161 and 151 complimentary votes respectively.

PLEASANT HILL

Incumbent Don Dowdey ran unopposed and was re-elected Pleasant Hill's mayor with 159 complimentary votes. Incumbent Marvin D. Steelman will be joined by newcomer Carole A. Selby on the city council, running unopposed and receiving 118 and 142 votes respectively. Incumbent Beth Gaynor also ran unopposed and was re-elected to the unexpired council term with 157 complimentary votes.

PLEASANT VIEW

Alderwoman Meghan Henderson defeated challengers Gary W. Garrett and Jeremy Rash to take the mayoral seat in Pleasant View after incumbent Bill Anderson did not seek re-election. Henderson earned 1,076 votes followed by Garrett with 719 and Rash with 216.

Newcomers Heather Brown Hardwick and H.T. Wilson fended off challengers Walt Culver and Sherri D. Mays for the two open aldermen seats. Brown led the vote tally with 1,230 followed by Wilson with 788, Culver with 708, and Mays with 542.

For the unexpired alderman term, incumbent Bruce Drake defeated challenger Tammy Chandler Mathews 972 to 947 to retain the seat.

Pleasant View voters also voted down a sales and use tax increase with 1,220 casting ballots against and 925 for.

PORTLAND

Incumbent Mike Callis ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Portland with 2,229 votes.

Incumbents Drew Jennings and Megann Thompson will be joined by newcomer Michael Carter on the Portland Board of Alderman after incumbent Mike Hall did not seek re-election, fending off challenges from Lucas Clements and Hector Graves.



A resident at the polls in Germantown (Shelby County Election Commission)

Jennings received 1,320 votes, Carter received 1,243, Thompson received 1,229, Clements received 960, Graves received 656.

POWELLS CROSSROADS

Incumbents Dwight Richard and Larry H. Higdon ran unopposed and were re-elected to their seats in Powells Crossroads. Richard received 330 complimentary votes for mayor while Higdon received 328 for alderman.

PULASKI

Incumbent J.J. Brindley ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Pulaski with 1,334 votes.

Incumbents Tony A. Grenty and Jerry Bryant will be joined on the Pulaski Board of Aldermen by newcomer Jeff Bain after defeating incumbent Pat Miles and challengers Darlene Birdsong and Shonda Reynolds Christian for three open seats.

Bain led the vote count with 724 followed by Gentry with 687, Bryant with 685, Birdsong with 656, Christian with 581, and Miles with 536.

Incumbent Jason D. Lambert defeated challenger Dennis Pozzi 985-307 to take the unexpired alderman term.

PURYEAR

Newcomers Marc Moore and Lori Van Scyoc defeated fellow challenger Jesse Welter for the two open alderman seats in Puryear. Moore earned 140 votes followed by Van Scyoc with 88, and Welter with 68.

RAMER

Incumbent Chris Sweeney will be joined by Robert Peyton Lee after the two ran unopposed for three open seats on the Ramer City Commission. Sweeney received 62 complimentary votes and Lee received 71. No candidate qualified for the unexpired commission term.

RED BANK

Incumbents Hollie Berry and Jamie Fairbanks-Harvey will be joined by Chad Bullard on the Red Bank City Commission, fending off challenger David R. Smith. Berry led the vote count with 2,648 followed by Fairbanks-Harvey with 2,647, Bullard with 2,024, and Smith with 1,824.

Residents also approved a home rule referendum in Red Bank 3,141 to 929. The referendum allows the city and court of Red Bank to continue to have concurrent jurisdiction in general sessions court as well as the election of city court officials. The referendum also removes residency requirements for city employees.

RIDGESIDE

Newcomers Liz Doescher, Shawn Ryan, and Robert E. Steel III defeated challenger Nichole Budd for the three open seats on the Ridgeside City Commission. Incumbents Katy Ingvalson, Maria W. Thompson, and Darian Collins did not seek re-election.

Steel received 199 votes followed by Doescher with 189, Ryan with 173, and Budd with 133.

RIDGETOP

Incumbent Monty Gregory will be joined by newcomer John Neely after fending off a challenge from Evarlean Rumph to take the two open alderman seats in Ridgetop. Incumbent Kim Martin did not seek re-election. Gregory earned 417 votes followed by Neely with 331 and Rumph with 195.

Incumbent John Senft ran unopposed and was re-elected to the unexpired alderman term with 554 votes.

ROCKWOOD

Incumbent Jason Jolly ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Rockwood with 849 complimentary votes.

Incumbents Mike Reed and Larry Davis will be joined by newcomer Thomas R. "Butch" Evans Jr. for the three open seats on the Rockwood City Council, unseating incumbent Mike Fuller and defeating challengers Erica Williams and Edward B. Greif.

Evans led the vote tally with 702 followed by Davis with 603, Reed with 502, Fuller with 482, Williams with 251, and Greif with 164.

ROCKY TOP

Incumbent Kerry Templin ran unopposed and was re-elected with 182 complimentary votes in Rocky Top.

Also running unopposed for two city council seats were incumbents Jeff Gilliam and Joe Tackett who received 155 and 122 complimentary votes respectively.

ROSSVILLE

Incumbents Matt Fulcher, Bobby Williams, and Jeffery Wooden ran unopposed and were re-elected to the three open alderman seats in Rossville, garnering 432, 448, and 395 votes respectively.

RUTLEDGE

Newcomer Vaughn Chandler defeated Alderman Benny Atkins and Alderwoman Saundra Jarvis for the Rutledge mayoral seat previously held by Allen Sykes. Vaughn earned 70 votes followed by Jarivs with 44 and Atkins with 20.

Newcomer Cathy Hodge Kerby defeated incumbent Jack Munsey and newcomer Keith Merritt for the Ward 1 Alderman seat. Kerby received 49 votes followed by Merritt with 33 and Munsey with 31.

Incumbent Randy Holt retained his Ward 2 seat, defeating challenger Donna Merritt Shelton 34-28.

SAMBURG

Newcomers Zach Blakely, Larry Davis, and Shelly Arnett were elected to the three open alderman seats in Samburg. Blakley was the only candidate who qualified prior to the election, receiving 53 complimentary votes.

Arnett and Davis ran as write-in candidates, receiving 43 and 49 votes respectively.

Two other write-in challengers, Gay Leanna Monroe, and Joseph Russo, received 12 and 13 votes respectively.

SAVANNAH

Incumbents Stephen B. Johnson and Blake White ran unopposed and were re-elected to the Savannah City Commission.

SHARON

No candidate qualified for the mayoral seat in Sharon.

Newcomers Dillon Edwards and James Gary Roberts ran unopposed and were elected to the two open aldermen seats with 204 and 194 complimentary votes respectively.

SHELBYVILLE

Incumbent Randy Carroll defeated Councilmember Henry Feldhaus and newcomer Dave Rogers to retain the mayoral seat in Shelbyville. Carroll led the tally with 1,922 followed by Feldhaus with 1,566 and Rogers with 543.

Incumbent Marily Ewing defeated challenger Shawn Rueff 270-178 to retain the Ward 2 City Council seat. Incumbent William Christie also fended off challenger Brad Whitaker 434-319 to retain the Ward 4 seat. In Ward 6, incumbent Bobby Turnbow ran unopposed and received 681 complimentary votes.

SIGNAL MOUNTAIN

Incumbent Clay Crumbliss will be joined by newcomers P. Andrew Coyle, Austin Scofield, and Jami Wolbers after defeating incumbents J. Miles Jorgensen and newcomers John Foreman, Chris Gailmard, Scott Gossett, Laura Malone, and Rufus Marye for the four open council seats.

Crumbliss led the vote tally with 2,603 followed by Coyle with 2,205, Scofield with 1,619, Wolbers with 1,569, Marye with 1,512, Jorgensen with 1,349, Gossett 1,291, Malone 1,197, Foreman 726, and Gailmard 693.

SLAYDEN

Incumbent Michael L. Davenport was re-elected mayor of Slayden after earning 13 votes in a write-in campaign after no candidate qualified for the seat.

While no candidate qualified for the three open town council seats, incumbent Marana Green will be joined by newcomers Christine Hankes and Sheena Martin after receiving write-in votes for the three seats.

Green earned six votes, Hankes five, and Martin four. Incumbents Tammy Ellis and Wayne White did not seek re-election.

SMYRNA

Incumbent Mary Esther Reed fended off challenger Joanne Delk 9,089-3,720 to retain the mayoral seat in Smyrna.

Newcomers Vanessa Haley and Matt Ford will join incumbent Marc Adkins in the three open seats on the Smyrna City Council after unseating incumbent H.G. Cole. Incumbent Gerry Short did not seek re-election.

Haley led the vote tally with 6,654 followed by Ford with 6,338, Adkins with 5,892, and Cole 5,323.

SODDY DAISY

Incumbent Mark Penney will be joined by newcomer Jay Branum who unseated incumbent Marcus Keith on the Soddy Daisy City Commission. Branum led the vote count with 2,474 followed by Penney with 2,345 and Keith with 1,822 votes.

SOMERVILLE

Newcomer Michael Harrison defeated challenger Robert "Bob" Winfrey for the Alderman Position 4 seat in Somerville. Harrison earned 386 votes to Winfrey's 319.

Incumbents Amanda Moore in Alderman Position 5 and James Lofties in Position 6 ran unopposed and were re-elected with 621 and 681 votes respectively.

SOUTH FULTON

Newcomer Charles Serratt ran unopposed and was elected to the South Fulton City Commission Ward 1 unexpired term seat previously held by Jake Clapper with 61 complimentary votes.

Incumbent Billy Williams Jr. ran unopposed and was re-elected to the Ward 2 seat with 128 votes while newcomer Gerald McLeary ran unopposed and was elected with 97 complimentary votes to the Ward 3 seat after incumbent Tommy Pruett did not seek re-election.

SOUTH PITTSBURG

Newcomer Timothy R. Ball fended off challenger Brandon Gilliam for the District 4 City Commission seat in South PIttsburg previously held by Matt Stone. Ball received 87 votes to Gilliam's 49.

Incumbent Ronny Myers ran unopposed for the District 3 seat and received 77 complimentary votes.

SPENCER

Newcomer Mickey Robinson unseated incumbent Alisa Farmer with 236 votes to 200 in the Spencer mayoral race.

In the three open alderman seats, incumbents David Chandler and Jody Hensley will be joined by newcomer Glenece Cole after fending off challenger Lisa D. Wilkinson. Chandler led the vote count with 320 followed by Hensley with 252, Cole with 250, and Wilkinson with 127.

SPRINGFIELD

Three incumbents ran unopposed and were re-elected to their alderman seats in Springfield. In Ward 1, James M. Hubbard received 383 complimentary votes with Bobby W. Trotter earning 337 complimentary votes in the Ward 2 race and Jeff Gragg earning 614 in the Ward 3 race.

ST. JOSEPH

Incumbents Roger "Bubba" Carter and Marty Passarella ran unopposed and were re-elected to the two open city commission seats in St. Joseph with 176 and 119 votes respectively. Voters in St. Joseph also voted 116 in favor to 102 against permitting retail package stores to sell liquor.

STANTON

Incumbents all ran unopposed and were re-elected to their respective seats in Stanton. Norman Bauer Jr. was re-elected mayor while Robert Dancy, Linday Jones Ford, Tucker D. Johnson, and Laura P. Smith retained their aldermen seats.

STANTONVILLE

Newcomer Dustin K. Hurley ran unopposed and was elected to the unexpired two-year alderman term in Stantonville with 78 complimentary votes.

SUNBRIGHT

Incumbent Buddy Tharp ran unopposed and was re-elected to his alderman seat in Sunbright with 106 complimentary votes.

Newcomer Yolonda L. Freels defeated challenger Jason W. Hawn 82-39 for the unexpired alderman term.

SURGOINSVILLE

Alderman Randall L. Collier ran unopposed and was elected mayor of Surgoinsville after Mayor Merrell Graham did not seek re-election.

Newcomer Mark Cook will join incumbents Tim Hoss and John P. Sandidge, defeating incumbent Kaley Mierek and challengers Cynthia Ann Bustin and Hannah Sawyer for the three open alderman seats. Hoss received 261 votes, Sandidge 234, Cook 199, Bustin 183, Sawyer 157, and Mierek 91.

Newcomer Teresa Greer also ran unopposed and was elected to the unexpired alderman term created by the death of Vice Mayor Bobby Jarnigan in February.

TAZEWELL

Four incumbents ran unopposed and were re-elected to four seats on the Tazewell Board of Alderman.

Russel "Rusty" DeBusk re-

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ceived 412 complimentary votes for the Ward 1 Alderman seat, Patrick Hurley received 349 complimentary votes in the Ward 2 race, Ryan Fannon received 372 complimentary votes in the Ward 2 unexpired term race, and Betsy Shoffner received 378 complimentary votes in the Ward 3 race.

TELLICO PLAINS

Incumbent Marily Parker obtained 38 write-in ballots to retain the mayoral seat in Tellico Plains.

Incumbents Courtney Millsaps Bookout, Joyce A. McDaniel, and Cynthia McDaniel will be joined by newcomer Robert "Rob" Hamilton, who defeated challenger Kimberly Jean Bolix for the four open alderman seats. Incumbent Shannon Holt-Harris did not seek re-election.

Bookout led the vote tally with 132 followed by J. McDaniel with 126, Hamilton with 122, C. McDaniel with 116, and Bolix with 96.

Incumbent Jo Cagle ran unopposed and was re-elected city recorder with 190 complimentary votes.

THOMPSON'S STATION

Incumbent Brian Stover ran unopposed for the mayoral seat in Thompson's Station and received 2,811 complimentary votes.

Incumbent Bob Whitmer will be joined by newcomer Sarah Alexander on the Board of Alderman after the pair ran unopposed for two open seats. Whitmer received 2,584 complimentary votes and Alexander received 2,723.

THREE WAY

Incumbents David A. Turner and Franca Young ran unopposed and retained their seats in three way. Turner received 675 complimentary votes for mayor while Young received 633 for the Position 1 Alderman seat.

TIPTONVILLE

Incumbent Cliff Berry Jr. ran unopposed and received 378 complimentary votes in the mayoral race.

Incumbents Dewayne Haggard, Will C. Jackson Jr., Mario Montgomery, Joe Lee Williams, and Macky Wilson will be joined by newcomer Craig Clay, who defeated fellow challenger Gina Hubble for the six open alderman seats. Incumbent Daisy Parks did not seek re-election.

Montgomery led the vote count with 321 followed by Haggard with 311, Wilson with 228, Clay 280, Jackson 361, Williams 259, and Hubble 247.

TRACY CITY

Incumbent Stacie Hutcheson ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Tracy City with 290 votes.

Incumbents Sara G. Brown and Theron E. Gross defeated challenger Julie Crudgington to retain the two open alderman seats. Brown earned 250 votes, Gross 197 votes, and Crudgington 100.

Cindy Kilgore ran unopposed for the unexpired alderman term, receiving 228 complimentary votes.

TRENTON

Alderwoman Cece Jones ran unopposed and took the mayoral seat in Trenton held by Tony Burris, who did not seek re-election. Jones received 544 complimentary votes.

Incumbents Billie B. Wade, Myra D. Elam, Rickey Graves, Kim Holt, and Peyton Harper will be joined by newcomer Tommy Litton on the Trenton Board of Aldermen, fending off challenger Jeffrey Murriel for the six open seats. Litton will take the seat vacated by Jones for her mayoral run.

Wade led the vote tally with 593 followed by Elam with 560, Graves with 542, Holt with 536, Harper with 534, Litton with 508, and Murriel with 455.

TREZEVANT

Incumbents Donald M. Barger and Pamela D. Joyner will be joined on the Trezevant Board of Aldermen by newcomer Shane Rimmer, defeating incumbent Dan Dieringer and challenger Liz Yohman for the three open seats.

Joyner led the count with 131 followed by Barger with 89, Rimmer 83, Dieringer 63, and Yohman 54.

TROY

Newcomer Jesse Calhoun unseated incumbent Mark Watson 220-117 to take the mayoral seat in Troy.

Incumbents Doug Bobo, Lana Wiseman, Chris Jones, Matt Russell, and Kristi Scarborough fended off challenger David Napper to retain their alderman seats.

Carson led the vote count with 251 followed by Russell with 245, Scarborough with 241, Jones with 235, Bobo with 192, and Napper with 155.

TUSCULUM

Newcomer B.J. Brooks ran unopposed and was elected to the sole city commission seat in Tusculum.

UNICOI

Incumbents Charles Day and Wanda Radford ran unopposed for the two open seats on the Unicoi Board of Aldermen and were re-elected with 710 and 821 complimentary votes respectively.

UNION CITY

Incumbent Terry L. Hailey staved off challenger Buster Capps 1,593-584 to retain the at-large council seat in Union City.

Newcomer Spencer Merrill-Twila ran unopposed and was elected to the Ward 1 seat previously held by Jim Rippy with 284 complimentary votes while incumbent Hal Mosier received 303 complimentary votes, running unopposed in the Ward 4 race.

VANLEER

Incumbent Derrick Eugene Lynch ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of Vanleer with 100 complimentary votes.

Incumbents running unopposed also took all five alderman seats in Vanleer. Chris Farmer received 85 votes, Jacob Mcewen 78, Dwight D. McIllwain 77, Eric Weaver 86, and Jason P. Weaver 87.

VONORE

Incumbent John Hammontree fended off challenger Paulette Miller Summey 414-139 to retain the mayoral seat in Vonore.

Incumbent Alisa M. Hobbs will be joined in the Vonore Board of Aldermen by Richard Tyler, who defeated challenger Robert Keenan for the two open seats. Hobbs received 351 votes, Tyler 241, and Keenan 202.

WALDEN

Incumbent Angela Cassidy ran unopposed and was re-elected to the Walden Board of Alderman with 735 complimentary votes.

Voters also rejected a $1.4 million general obligation bond referendum to allow the city to finance purchase of the Totten Tract of land. The measure received 533 votes against and 499 for.

WARTRACE

Alderwoman Shelia LaDere ran unopposed for the Wartrace mayoral seat after incumbent Brian Ross did not seek re-election. LaDere earned 177 complimentary votes.

Two newcomers also joined the Wartrace Board of Aldermen as the only candidates running for two open seats. Randi Cooper and Stephen Moore received 150 and 133 complimentary votes respectively.

Wartrace voters also rejected a referendum to allow alcoholic consumption on the premises with 106 votes against and 103 for.

WATAUAGA

Incumbent Delia H. Lafleur will be joined by newcomer Richard "Woody" Woodward on the two open seats on Watauga City Commission after the two received 50 and 45 complimentary votes respectively.

WATERTOWN

Incumbents Caleb Barrett and Kyle Stacey will be joined by newcomer Tim Barrett on the Watertown Board of Aldermen, fending off challenges from Wes German and Bill Parrott. Incumbent Howell Roberts did not seek re-election.

C. Barrett led the vote count with 232 followed by T. Barrett with 207, Stacey with 175, Parrott with 153, and German with 100.

WESTMORELAND

Alderman Alex Jones unseated incumbent David A. Leath for the mayoral seat in Westmoreland. Jones earned 376 votes to Leath's 196.

Incumbent Royce Adam Borders will be joined by newcomer Brian Spriggs on the Westmoreland Board of Alderman, defeating challenger Lino Larke for the two open seats. Borders earned 367 votes, Spriggs 296, and Larke 178.

WHITE BLUFF

Incumbents Scott G. Glover, Carl Kincaid, and Connie Reed fended off challenger Margaret "Peg" Dutcher to retain the three city council seats in White Bluff. Reed led the tally with 639 votes followed by Glover with 619, Kincaid 616, and Dutcher 544.

WHITE HOUSE

Incumbent John Corbitt ran unopposed and was re-elected mayor of White House with 4,525 complimentary votes.

Newcomer Kristy Thompson defeated fellow challenger Carianne Koschak for the Ward 2 alderman seat previously held by Jana Spicer. Thompson earned 882 votes to Koschak's 428.

In the Ward 3 unexpired seat race, newcomer Mollie Platt defeated challengers Rick Luft and Gianni Scramuzza for the seat. Platt earned 635 votes, Luft 263, and Scramuzza 261.

Incumbent Sam Matthews ran unopposed and was re-elected to the Ward 1 seat with 1,005 votes.

WHITE PINE

Incumbents Tyler Marshall, Carolyn C. Volles, and Whitney Woods ran unopposed and were re-elected to the three open alderman seats in White Pine.

WHITWELL

Newcomers Cindy Graham and Brian Ashburn unseated incumbent Mike Dillon and fended off challenger Joe Sisti to take the two open seats on the Whitwell City Commission.

Graham led the vote count with 120 followed by Kilgore with 119, Ashburn with 90, Dillon with 74, and Sisti with 41.

WILLISTON

Incumbent Maylon Price will be joined by newcomer April Lynn on the Williston City Commission after running unopposed for two open seats. Lynn received 79 votes and Price 84.

WINFIELD

Alderman Doug Wilson Jr. defeated challenger Bob Strunk 172-69 to take the mayoral seat in Winfield after incumbent Jerry Dodson did not seek re-election.

Incumbent Melvin R. Stephens will be joined on the Winfield Board of Alderman by Robyn Mcbroom, defeating challenger Cody R. Cox for the two open seats. Stephens led the vote count with 158 followed by Mcbroom with 139 and Cox with 86.

WOODLAND MILLS

Newcomer Michael A. Thompson ran unopposed and received 91 complimentary votes for the open alderman seat in Woodland Mills.

Four new members join TN Congressional delegation

CONGRESS, *from Page 1*

it was vacated by U.S. Rep. Diane Black in a failed gubernatorial run.

After the resignation of U.S. Rep. Steve Cohen, State Sen. Brent Taylor will take the U.S. House District 9 seat Cohen held since 2007. Taylor also won his race for State Senate in District 31.

U.S. SENATE

Incumbent Republican Bill Hagerty retained his U.S. Senate seat, defeating Democrat Marquita Bradshaw and Independents Tharon Chandler, Andrew Gerena, Jeremy Dean Hearn, Robert Jones, James William Macon III, Yoshi D. Matthews, David Sutman, Jr., and Catherine Barcel "Barcy" Whitson. Hagerty led the vote tally with 1,138,436 followed by Bradshaw with 886,974, Jones with 9,398, Chandler with 7,689, Gerena with 5,633, Whitson with 5,113, Hearn with 4,937, Sutman with 3,177, Matthews with 3,026, and Macon with 2,576.

U.S. HOUSE

District 1

Republican incumbent Diana Harshbarger defeated Democrat Kristi Burke and Independents Joshua Ray Ashburn, Richard G. Baker, Chris Campbell, Billy Cody, and Tyler Brice Mitchell McClain to retain the U.S. House District 1 seat. Harshbarger earned 8,498 votes followed by Burke with 61,682, Ashburn with 2,102, Cody with1,398, Campbell with 1,296, Baker with 1,219, and McClain with 541.

District 2

Incumbent Republican Tim Burchett fended off Democrat Michaela Barnett and Independents Bruce Fine and Adam Heimerman to retain the District 2 seat. Burchett earned 144,892 votes followed by Barnett with 103,311, Fine with 1,827, and Heimerman with 950.

District 3

Republican incumbent Chuck Fleischmann defeated Democrat Anna Golladay and Independents Dean Arnold, Jean Howard-Hill, Rodney Joe King, Donnie Lynn Ownby, and Edward John Roland to retain his District 3 seat. Fleischmann earned 136,110 votes followed by Golladay with 95,051, Arnold with 2,136, King with 1,207, Howard-Hill with 923, Owenby with 527, and Roland with 404.

District 4

Democrat Victoria Broderick unseated incumbent Republican Scott DesJarlais and fended off challengers Jacob Kristopher Anders and Clay Faircloth to take the District 4 seat. Broderick received 95,585 votes followed by DesJarlais with 95,305, Anders with 2,833, and Faircloth with 1,853.

District 5

Former Tennessee Agriculture Commissioner and Republican Charlie Hatcher defeated Columbia Mayor and Democrat Chaz Molder and Independents James A. Johnson, Micheál (Me-Haul) O'Leary to take the District 5 seat held by U.S. Rep. Andy Ogles. Hatcher defeated Ogles in the Republican primary in August.

Hatcher earned 110,408 votes followed by Molder with 99,841, Johnson with 2,641, and O'Leary with 815.

District 6

Republican Johnny Garrett defeated Democrat Mike Croley and independents Christopher B. Monday and Angus Purdy to take the seat previously held by U.S. Rep. John Rose. Garrett earned 120,950 votes followed by Croley with 113,177, Monday with 2,707, and Purdy with 1,390.

District 7

Incumbent Republican Matt Van Epps defeated Democrat Darden Copeland and Independents Andrew J. Koontz and Lowell Reynolds to retain the District 7 seat. Van Epps led the vote tally with 121,100, followed by Copeland with 115,867, Koontz with 2,603, and Reynolds with 1,316.

District 8

Republican incumbent David Kustoff fended of Democrat Heidi Kuhn and Independents Adam D. Austill, Wendell "Wells" Blankenship, Antonio Futch, Pamela Jeanine "P." Moses, Horace Taylor, and Henry J. Ward III to retain the District 8 seat. Kustoff earned 114,045 votes followed by Kuhn with 102,406, Moses with 1,035, Taylor with 861, Austill 854, Blankenship 714, Futch 506, and Ward 485.

District 9

Republican State Sen. Brent Taylor defeated Democrat State Rep. Justin J. Pearson and independents Dennis Clark and Michelle Davis Head to take the District 9 seat previously held by Democrat U.S. Rep. Steve Cohen.

Taylor earned 111,968 votes followed by Pearson with 109,429, Clark with 2,413, and Head with 1,804.



Tennessee elects Blackburn first female governor

STATE, *from Page 1*
Bailey in District 15, Democrat Charlane Oliver in District 19, Democrat Jeff Yarbro in District 21, Republican Ed Jackson in District 25, Democrat Raumesh Akbari in District 29, and Democrat London Lamar in District 33.

There were 68 contested seats for election to the Tennessee State House, 20 of which will be filled by freshman lawmakers. New candidates were elected in Districts 1, 2, 8, 11, 13, 18, 31, 32, 34, 36, 45, 49, 59, 75, 78, 80, 81, 93, 96, and 97. Of these new candidates, six were Democratic challengers who unseated Republican incumbents, including the Districts 13, 18, 34, 49, 75, and 97 races.

In District 93, five write-in candidates qualified to be on the ballot. Late incumbent G.A. Hardaway died in April, having failed to get the required number of signatures needed by the cutoff to qualify for his seat. His son, T.J. Hardaway, was appointed to fill the position in the interim, first announcing his run for the seat as a Democrat then as an Independent write-in candidate, and finally withdrawing from the race. Hardaway ultimately endorsed Kyler Gilkey for the seat, who was then deemed ineligible.

After neither of two Democratic candidates in the primary election were able to get the 1,500 votes needed to be placed on the ballot in April, no candidate appeared on the November ballot. However, five write-in candidates did qualify for the seat as Independents.

A total of 31 of the 99 races for Tennessee House of Representatives were decided in the primary election. These included Republican Jessica Means in District 1, Republican Gary Stidham in District 2, Republican Renea Jones in District 4, Republican Gary W. Hicks Jr. in District 9, Republican Rick Eldridge in District 10, Republican Fred A. Atchley in District 12, Republican Lowell Russell in District 21, Republican Dan Howell in District 22, Republican Noah Smith in District 36, Republican Iris Rudder in District 39, Democrat Bo Mitchell in District 50, Democrat Aftyn Behn in District 51, Democrat Jason L. Powell in District 53, Democrat Vincent Dixie in District 54, Democrat Bob Freeman in District 56, Democrat Harold M. Love Jr. in District 58, Republican Kirk Haston in District 72, Republican Chris Todd in District 73, Republican Jay D. Reedy in District 74, Republican Tandy Darby in District 76, Republican Brett A. Giannini in District 81, Republican Chris Hurt in District 82, Democrat Joe Towns Jr. in District 84, Democrat Jesse Chism in District 85, Democrat Justin J. Pearson in District 86, Democrat Larry J. Miller in District 88, Democrat Gloria Johnson in District 90, Democrat Torrey C. Harris in District 91, Republican Kevin Vaughn in District 95, Democrat Telisa Franklin in District 96, and Democrat Antonio Parkinson in District 98.

Also on the ballot were three constitutional amendments, all of which passed. The first amendment would allow judges to deny bail for crimes including capital murder, terrorism, second degree murder, aggravated rape of a child, aggravated rape, and grave torture. The amendment received 1,330,845 votes for and 651,321 against.

The second amendment would prohibit the Tennessee General Assembly from levying property taxes. Notably, the General Assembly repealed a property tax in 1949 and has not levied one since. The amendment received 1,334,067 votes for and 664,715 against.

The third amendment would create new constitutional rights for victims such as receiving reasonable notice of all public criminal proceedings and to be present at all public criminal proceedings. The amendment received 1,526,306 votes for and 480,508 against.

TENNESSEE STATE SENATE

District 5

Former Republican State Sen. Jimmy Matlock defeated Democrat David Miller to take the District 5 seat previously held by Lt. Gov. Randy McNally. Matlock earned 41,483 votes to Miller's 26,347.

District 7

Republican incumbent Richard M. Briggs defeated Democrat Bryan Langan to retain the District 7 seat. Briggs garnered 33,498 votes to Langan's 30,044.

District 11

Republican incumbent Bo Watson earned 41,395 votes to the 36,789 votes earned by Democrat Tim Roberts, retaining the District 11 seat.

District 13

Incumbent Republican Dawn White fended off Democrat Angela Evans Wynn to retain the District 13 seat. White earned 33,424 votes to Wynn's 30,981.

District 17

Republican incumbent Mark Pody defeated Democrat Lindsey Patrick-Wright with 38,466 votes to 34,517 in the District 17 race.

District 23

Republican incumbent Kerry Roberts fended off Independent David Lee Marcum to retain the District 23 seat. Roberts earned 43,196 votes to Marcum's 18,947.

District 27

Incumbent Republican Jack Johnson defeated Democrat David A. Hardy to retain the District 27 seat. Johnson earned 55,816 votes to Hardy's 35,465.

District 31

Republican incumbent Brent Taylor defeated Democrat David Weatherspoon 38,004-35,234 to retain his District 31 seat. Taylor also won his race for the U.S. House District 9 race.

TENNESSEE STATE HOUSE

District 3

Incumbent Republican Timothy Hill fended off Democrat Lori Love to retain the District 3 seat. Hill earned 15,151 votes to Love's 4,563.

District 5

Republican incumbent David B. Hawk defeated Democrat Catherine Bacon 14,813to 4,467 to retain his District 5 seat.

District 6

Republican Tim Hicks defeated Democrat Brad Batt and Independent Roger Broadwater to retain the District 6 seat. Hicks earned 13,879 votes followed by Batt with 7,947 and Broadwater with 675.

District 7

Incumbent Republican Rebecca Keefauver Alexander defeated Democrat Sarah Jayne Della Vecchia with 11,585 votes to 7,154 in the District 7 race.

District 8

Republican Jordan Henderson defeated Democrat Hilary Trudell for the seat previously held by Republican Jerome Moon. Henderson earned 15,800 votes to Trudell's 7,150.

District 11

Republican Kenny Cody defeated Democrat Shelia Grooms McMahan and Independent Larry Jeremiah Brown to take the District 11 seat previously held by Republican Jeremy Faison. Cody led the vote count with 13,948 followed by McMahan with 4,712 and Brown with 392.

District 13

Democrat Brett Windrow defeated incumbent Republican Robert Stevens to take the District 13 seat. Windrow earned 9,901 votes to Stevens' 9,345.

District 14

Incumbent Republican Jason Zachary fended off Democrat Lindsay Young Honaker to retain the District 14 seat. Zachary received 17,097 votes to Honaker's 13,543.

District 16

Republican incumbent Michele Carringer retained the District 16 seat, earning 12,947 votes over Democrat Eliza Boles' 8,800.

District 18

Democrat Bryan Goldberg unseated incumbent Republican Elaine Davis in the District 18 race. Goldberg earned 14,020 votes to Davis' 11,452.

District 19

Incumbent Republican Dave Wright defeated Democrat Jenny Fowler 14,086 to 7,414 in the District 19 race.

District 20

Republican incumbent Tim Stinnett defeated Democrat Karen Gertz and Independent Jeff Coggin to retain the District 20 seat. Stinnett earned 13,802 votes to Gertz's 7,121 and Coggin's 759

District 23

Incumbent Republican Mark Cochran defeated Independent challengers Jeremy Bromwell and Jason Hitt to retain the District 23 seat. Cochran earned 13,248 votes followed by Bromwell with 2,846 and Hitt with 1,006.

District 24

Republican incumbent Kevin Raper defeated Democrat Daniel F. Jones 11,485 to 5,368 in the District 24 race.

District 25

House Speaker and incumbent Republican Cameron Sexton defeated Democrat Monica Mowdy with 20,492 votes to Mowdy's 6,139 in the District 25 race.

District 27

Republican incumbent Michele Reneau defeated Democrat Paige Quirin in the District 27 seat with Reneau earning 15,088 votes to Quirin's 12,999.

District 28

Incumbent Democrat Yusuf A. Hakeem defeated Independent challengers Demetrus Coonrod and Johnny Horne to retain the District 28 seat. Hakeem led the vote tally with 13,008 followed by Coonrod with 3,441 and Horne with 1,526.

District 29

Republican incumbent Greg Vital defeated Democrat Ryan V. Scofield to retain the District 29 seat. Vital earned 15,585 votes to Scofield's

District 30

Incumbent Republican Esther Helton Haynes fended off Democrat Art Rymer in the District 30 race. Hayne earned 11,611 votes to Rymer's 11,071.

District 31

Republican Andrew J. Swafford defeated Democrat Michael Woodlee and Independents Keith Nolan and Randy A. Sharp to take the District 31 seat previously held by Republican Ron Travis. Swafford led the vote tally with 13,722 followed by Woodlee with 4,696, Sharp with 321, and Nolan with 292.

District 32

Republican Jack L. Stockton defeated Democrat Ali Simpson for the District 32 seat previously held by Republican Monty Fritts. Stockton earned 16,385 votes to Simpson's 6,514.

District 33

Incumbent Republican Rick Scarborough retained the District 33 seat, defeating Democrat Anne Backus 11,571 to 8,631.

District 34

Democrat Owen Farnsworth unseated incumbent Republican Tim Rudd in the District 34 race. Farnsworth earned 10,751 votes to Rudd's 9,938.

District 35

Republican incumbent William Slater defeated Democrat Phil Barnes 12,503 to 7,489 to retain the District 35 seat.

District 37

Incumbent Republican Charlie Baum earned 9,596 votes to defeat Mary Ann Young, who earned 8,536, to retain the District 37 seat.

District 38

Incumbent Republican Kelly T. Keisling defeated Democrat Seth McMillan 12,888 to 2,943 to retain his District 38 seat.

District 40

Republican incumbent Michael Hale defeated Democrat Daniel T. Hawthorne to retain the District 40 seat. Hale earned 14,592 votes to Hawthorne's 4,323.

District 41

Incumbent Republican Ed Butler defeated Democrat R. Jason Goodman 13,744 to 4,268 in the District 41 race.

District 42

Republican incumbent Ryan D. Williams defeated Democrat Trenton Tyler Strode in the District 42 race. Williams earned 13,093 votes to Strode's 7,319.

District 43

Incumbent Republican Paul Sherrell fended off Democrat Samantha Petit to retain the District 43 seat. Sherrell earned 11,695 votes to Petit's 5,508.

District 44

Republican incumbent William Lamberth defeated Democrat Latoya Holcomb 14,924 to 7,568 to retain the District 44 seat.

District 45

Republican Brian Stewart defeated Democrat Mandy Cook to take the District 45 seat previously held by Republican Johnny Garrett. Stewart earned 12,570 votes to Cook's 9,177.

District 46

Republican incumbent Clark Boyd fended off Democrat Dominic Howard in the District 46 race. Boyd earned 17,187 votes to Howard's 8,951.

District 47

Incumbent Republican Rush Bricken earned 12,775 votes to defeat Democrat Mike Stein, who earned 5,503 votes, in the District 47 race.

District 48

Republican incumbent Bryan Terry defeated Democrat Matt Ferry to retain the District 48 seat. Terry earned 11,849 votes to Ferry's 9,694.

District 49

Democrat Connie Casha unseated incumbent Republican Mike Sparks in the District 49 race. Casha earned 10,417 votes to Sparks' 8,498.

District 52

Incumbent Democrat Justin Jones fended off Republican Michele Vetter and Independent Martez Coleman to retain the District 52 seat. Jones earned 11,922 votes followed by Vetter with 2,763, and Coleman with 247.

District 55

Incumbent Democrat John Ray Clemmons defeated Republican Jayla Thomas 10,856 to 1,918 to retain the District 55 seat.

District 57

Republican incumbent Susan Lynn defeated Democrat Matt Burchfield 16,323 to 12,189 in the District 47 race.

District 59

Democrat Mark Proctor defeated Republican Bill Hancock to take the District 59 seat previously held by Democrat Caleb Hemmer. Proctor earned 18,372 votes to Hancock's 13,571.

District 60

Incumbent Democrat Shaundelle Brooks defeated Republican Eva Angelina Romero to retain the District 60 seat. Brooks earned 15,080 votes to Romero's 8,517.

District 61

Republican incumbent Gino Bulso fended off Democrat Becca Ripley to retain the District 61 seat. Bulso earned 16,707 votes while Ripley earned 12,508.

District 62

Incumbent Republican Pat Marsh earned 13,527 votes over Democrat Brieanna L. Akers' 5,243 to retain the District 62 seat.

District 63

Republican incumbent Jake McCalmon fended off Democrat Laura Andreson to retain the District 63 seat. McCalmon earned 18,760 votes to Andreson's 11,991.

District 64

Incumbent Republican Scott Cepicky defeated Democrat Craig D'Apolito to retain the District 64 seat. Cepicky earned 15,364 votes to D'Apolito's 9,305.

District 65

Republican incumbent Lee Reeves fended off Democrat Julian Herbert Pierre-Griffin to keep the District 65 seat. Reeves earned 18,552 votes to Pierre-Griffin's 11,067.

District 66

Incumbent Republican Sabi Kumar defeated Democrat Tamara Bavendam 14,892 to 7,626 to retain the District 66 seat.

District 67

Incumbent Democrat Ronnie L. Glynn defeated Republican Chris Lanier to retain the District 67 seat. Glynn earned 9,754 votes to Lanier's 5,739.

District 68

Republican incumbent Aron Maberry earned 14,152 votes to defeat Democrat Garfield Scott, who earned 10,318, in the District 68 race.

District 69

Republican incumbent Jody Barrett earned 13,094 votes to defeat Democrat Rachael Murray, who earned 5,053, in the District 69 race.

District 70

Incumbent Republican Clay Doggett defeated Democrat Rayanne Moos 14,749 to 4,244 to retain the District 70 seat.

District 71

Republican incumbent Kip Capley fended off Democrat Matt Day to retain the District 71 seat. Capley earned 15,392 votes to Day's 5,429.

District 75

Democratic challenger Allie Phillips defeated incumbent Republican Michael Lankford to take the District 75 seat. Phillips earned 7,822 votes to Lankford's 6,396.

District 77

Republican incumbent Rusty Grills defeated Independent challenger Erin Jerrod Reid 11,442 to 3,356 to retain the District 77 seat.

District 78

Republican Perry Keenan defeated Democrat Hillary Capes-Gwinn for the seat previously held by Republican Mary Littleton. Keenan earned 13,460 votes to Capes-Gwinn's 7,530.

District 79

Incumbent Republican Brock Martin fended off Independent Kirk D. Carter to retain the District 79 seat. Martin earned 11,537 votes to Carter's 3,801.

District 80

Democrat Andrea Bond Johnson defeated Republican Julian A. McTizic to take the District 80 seat previously held by Democrat Johnny Shaw. Johnson earned 9,180 votes to McTizic's 5,404.

District 83

Republican incumbent Mark White fended of Democrat Margaret Price 13,238 to 12,903 to retain the District 83 seat.

District 87

Democrat Karen Camper defeated Republican Reggie William Hall to retain the District 87 seat. Camper earned 11,516 votes to Williams'

District 89

Republican incumbent Justin Lafferty fended off Democrat Randy Debord 13,663 to 11,088 to retain the District 89 seat.

District 92

Incumbent Republican Todd Warner defeated Democrat Teri Mai to retain the District 92 seat. Warner earned 13,512 votes to Mai's 8,085.

District 93

Write-in candidate John Bradley took the District 93 seat previously held by the late G.A. Hardaway after no candidate qualified to appear on the District 93 ballot. Four other write-in candidates qualified for the race: Tommy Brewington, Calvin Lacy, Mitchell Morrison, and Brandon Washington.

Bradley earned 2,052 votes followed by Morrison with 352, Washington with 124, Lacy with 42, and Brewington with 1. An additional 775 uncertified votes were also cast.

District 94

Incumbent Republican Ron M. Gant defeated Democrat Francince Johnson 16,924 to 6,745 to retain the District 94 seat.

District 97

Democrat Jesse Huseth unseated Republican incumbent John Gillespie in District 97. Huseth earned 13,895 votes to Gillespie's 10,502.

District 99

Republican incumbent Tom Leatherwood defeated Independent William P. Mouzon 15,003 to 8,655 to retain the District 99 seat.

STATE BRIEFS

Tennessee's unemployment rate held firm at 3.4% in September, the third month in a row the state has maintained this rate. Data from the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD) found the rate was unchanged since July and down one-tenth of a point from September 2025. The state's rate also remains below the national rate of 4.2% in September. Tennessee added 2,500 jobs between August and September 2026 with the biggest gains reported in the leisure and hospitality; professional, scientific, and technical services; and government sectors. In the past calendar year, Tennessee employers added 28,400 nonfarm jobs. The largest gains year-over-year were in the leisure and hospitality sector, followed by the healthcare and social assistance sector, and state government. TDLWD has compiled an analysis of the September 2026 unemployment data.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has announced a $14 million investment in Tennessee's power grid to tackle electricity costs, increased demand, and infrastructure need. The money will be used to strengthen the transmission system and build bulk power system transmission facilities that operate with greater efficiency and more transfer capacity. The state also received $23 million through the DOE Grid Resilience Program, which will fund 13 projects across the state that provide the highest potential to reduce outages.

New mountain biking hubs and routes have been launched through the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development's Bike Tennessee program. Developed in collaboration with the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association (SORBA), the expansion features 11 mountain biking hubs with 76 trails across Tennessee and brings the total number of established road and gravel routes in the program to 165. The curated collection of mountain bike trail systems offers a range of trail types and difficulty levels, from beginner to advanced, with experiences spanning interconnected urban trail networks to sprawling backcountry adventures. Four hubs, including SORBA Chattanooga, SORBA Tri-Cities, Appalachian Mountain Bike Club in Knoxville, and Grind City Trails in Memphis, also offer adaptive-friendly trails, expanding access to mountain biking for cyclists of all abilities. For more information about Bike Tennessee and to explore road, gravel, and mountain biking routes, visit the Bike Tennessee website.

Officials have dedicated Buffalo River State Park near Linden as the 69th Tennessee State Park. The 448-acre property near the Perry-Wayne county line includes the largest horseshoe bend on the Buffalo River and will feature more than two miles of river frontage. While park access is currently limited, $34 million has been set aside in the state budget for the development of a visitor center, campground, maintenance facility, roadways, visitor access, and other amenities. As the longest unimpounded river in Middle Tennessee, the Buffalo River supports diverse wildlife, with 48 documented rare species of plants and animals found in the area. Recreational opportunities at the park will include paddling, fishing, hiking, camping, and wildlife viewing.

Downtown Improvement Grants awarded to 14 cities

Downtown Improvement grants have been awarded to 14 municipalities that participate in the Tennessee Main Street and Tennessee Downtowns programs.

More than $3.9 million in Rural Economic Opportunity funding is awarded as part of the program, which allows communities to improve building facades, wayfinding signage, gateways, and streetscapes. As part of the program, each new grant recipient will be required to match 25% of the funding received.

Collinwood received $125,000 from the program, **Henderson** received a $218,466 grant, **Lenoir City** earned a $225,000 grant, **Newport** received $245,511, and **Paris** received $250,000.

Centerville, Cleveland, Livingston, and **Union City** all received grants of $300,000 with **Gallatin** receiving $300,341 and **McKenzie** receiving $311,250. A $325,000 grant was awarded to **Mt. Pleasant** while **Etowah** and Munford both received $350,000.

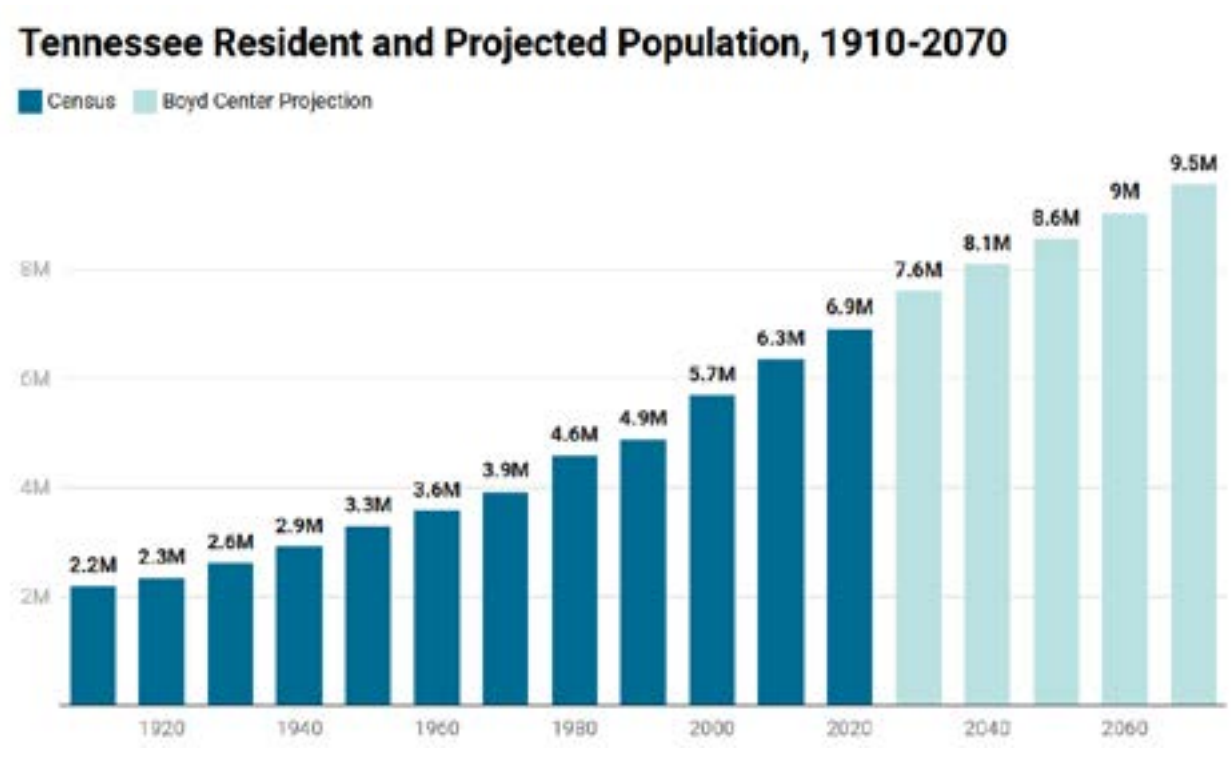


Downtown Paris (Photo by TNECD)

To be eligible for a Downtown Improvement grant, communities had to submit an application and be a designated Tennessee Downtowns or Tennessee Main Street community. The grants are awarded through the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development.

More information about the Downtown Improvement Grant Program and other related grants are available online.

Boyd Center projects Tennessee population to reach 8.1M by 2040



The Tennessee State Data Center projects that the state's population could reach more than 8 million by 2040, sooner than previously projected. (Image by TNSDC)

Tennessee State Data Center

The next big round number for Tennessee is 8 million residents, and it's coming into view a little sooner than earlier predictions suggested.

The state's population is expected to grow to 8.1 million people by 2040, according to new projections from the Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

That's a few years earlier than prior forecasts and reflects the strength of growth observed from 2020 to 2024 that will go down as the second most expansive start to a decade in the state's history. Only the 1990s added more population in four years.

The state is projected to add nearly 1.2 million people from 2020 through 2040 – easily maintaining Tennessee's decades-long trend of adding more than a million people every 20 years that began in 1960.

From 2020 to 2030, Tennessee's overall growth rate is expected to reach 9.9%, adding more than 686,000 people. Among all decades in Tennessee, that would represent the second-largest population increase in the state's history. Beyond 2030, population increases are expected to be lower through the end of the projection horizon.

This includes a 6.5% increase between 2030 and 2040, or an addition of approximately 491,000 people. For the balance of the projection, running from 2040 to 2070, the growth rate is expected to hover between 5.6 and 5.7% each decade.

"We saw such a large influx of new residents in the years immediately following the pandemic," said Matt Harris, Boyd Distinguished Professor of Health Economics and co-author of the new projections. "We are already starting to see that boom taper back to 'normal' levels, but it's still led to faster growth in Tennessee's population than we would have predicted prior to the pandemic."

County-level Increases Narrow Through 2040

The projections launch from an unusually high baseline – 2024 was the single-largest year of population increases in the state's history with over 98,000 new residents. At the county level, that translated into widespread growth at the start of the decade. In 2024, 84 of the state's 95 counties gained residents from 2023.

Unsurprisingly, the number of counties with a population increase is expected to soften through the end of the decade. By 2030, 71 counties in the state are projected to see year-over-year growth, with the total falling to 63 by 2040. That pullback would be roughly in line with the 2010 to 2020 period, when 65 counties added population and 30 lost population.

- 2024
- 2040

Growth is also expected to become more geographically concentrated over the projection period. In 2024, 54 counties grew by 1% or more, with gains distributed across Middle and East Tennessee.

By 2040, only eight counties are projected to exceed 1%, and the strongest growth is concentrated in the counties surrounding Davidson. Much of West Tennessee outside Shelby County is projected to lose population, while a growing number of East Tennessee counties approach zero growth.

Seniors Growing as a Share of Total Population

Every major age group in Tennessee is projected to add population through 2040, though seniors will see the largest gains.

The share of residents aged 65 and older is expected to reach nearly 21% of the state's total population by 2040 – a jump from 18.3% in 2024 that represents more than 355,000 additional people.

Among the 65+ age group, growth will be fastest at the upper end of the age cohort. The youngest seniors, aged 65 to 74, grow by just 9% through 2040, while the 75-to-84 group expands by 38.8% and Tennesseans aged 85 and over nearly double, climbing from 128,357 residents to 249,652.

"The share of Tennesseans over age 85 will almost double by 2040, and with that we'll need to start thinking now about how to accommodate that demographic," Harris said. "Will there be demands for different types of housing and health care? How will these seniors get to the doctor's office or the grocery store? Will there be enough working-age people in the right industries to provide care and maintain the tax base to provide those services?"

Tennessee's younger and working-age populations will grow as well, but at a slower pace than the state's senior population.

Early-career adults, ages 25 to 44, are the state's largest age group at 26.4% of the population. That group will show a slight gain in share while adding 228,374 people by 2040. The 45 to 64 group follows with an increase of 166,514 people.

Every other age group is projected to shrink as a share of the population while still posting net growth through 2040. The share of the state's population under age 20 will slip from 24.2% to 22.8% even as it adds nearly 86,000 people, and the 20 to 24 group is essentially flat, adding fewer than 3,000 people.

Tennessee September 2026 revenues $20.6M above initial estimates

Tennessee revenues exceeded budgeted estimates for the month of September with Department of Finance and Administration Commissioner Jim Bryson reporting total September tax revenues were $2.2 billion, $20.6 million more than the budgeted estimate and $1.3 million more than September 2024.

The total tax growth rate for the month was 0.06%. General fund revenues were $14.3 million more than the September estimate, while the four other funds that share in state tax revenues were $6.3 million more than the estimates.

On an accrual basis, September is the second month in the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

"September's total tax collections surpassed our budgeted expectations for the month," Bryson said. "Sales tax revenues, which reflect August's taxable sales activity, were slightly above estimates and showed solid growth compared to the same period last year. However, corporate tax collections, or franchise and excise taxes, fell short of expectations. All other combined revenues exceeded estimates. We are encouraged that overall revenues are aligning with our projections, but we will continue to monitor collections and spending carefully to ensure the budget remains balanced."

On a year-to-date basis, August through September, total tax revenues are 0.96 percent greater than the budget estimate, or $36.2 million above expectations. When compared to this same period last year, total tax revenues have grown 1.57 percent or $59.0 million.

General fund revenues are 0.73% greater than the year-to-date budgeted estimate, or $22.3 million higher. Likewise, general fund collections compared to this same period last year have increased 0.70% or $21.4 million.

Individual tax performance compared to September 2025 Budgeted Estimates:

- Sales Taxes: Above estimate by 1.90% or $23.6 million
- Corporate Taxes (Franchise & Excise): Below estimate by 1.56% or $10.3 million
- Fuel Taxes: Above estimate by 1.41% or $1.6 million
- All other taxes: Above estimate by 3.38% or $5.7 million

Year-to-date performance compared to Budgeted Estimates:

- Sales Taxes: Above estimate by 1.96% or $49.1 million
- Corporate Taxes (Franchise & Excise): Below estimate by 3.78% or $26.6 million
- Fuel Taxes: Above estimate by 2.12% or $4.7 million
- All other taxes: Above estimate by 2.61% or $8.9 million

Individual tax performance compared to September 2024:

- Sales Taxes: Up 2.84% or $34.9 million
- Corporate Taxes (Franchise & Excise): Down 5.83% or $40.0 million
- Fuel Taxes: Up 2.46% or $2.7 million
- All other taxes: Up 2.16% or $3.7 million

Individual tax performance compared to August through September 2024:

- Sales Taxes: Up 4.01% or $98.3 million
- Corporate Taxes (Franchise & Excise): Down 6.84% or $49.7 million
- Fuel Taxes: Up 1.75% or $3.9 million
- All other taxes: Up 1.87% or $6.5 million

The budgeted revenue estimates for 2025–2026 are based on the State Funding Board's consensus recommendation from Nov. 25, 2024, which was adopted by the first session of the 114th General Assembly in April 2025.

These estimates also incorporate any revenue changes enacted during the 2025 General Assembly session. Monthly estimates for fiscal year 2025–2026 are available on the state's website.

Tennessee Municipal League Board of Directors holds November meeting



Above: From left to right, Second Vice President and Millington Alderwoman Bethany Huffman, First Vice President and Lawrenceburg Mayor Blake Lay, Deputy Director Chad Jenkins, President and Cleveland Mayor Kevin Brooks, and Executive Director Anthony Haynes.

Right: From left to right, Cleveland Mayor Kevin Brooks, Director of Government Relations John Holloway, and Executive Director Anthony Haynes, honor Holloway on his retirement.





Above: Nashville Mayor Freddie O'Connell, left, and Portland Mayor Mike Callis, right. Callis was selected as Second Vice President after Lawrenceburg Blake Lay did not seek re-election.

Right: Senior Director of Government Relations and Membership Engagement Rhett Pratt, far right, hands out information to board members.





TML District 3 Director and Red Bank Mayor Stefanie Dalton, left, and District 6 Director and Nolensville Vice Mayor Jessica Salamida, right.



At-Large Director and Franklin City Administrator Eric Stuckey, left, and TCMA Representative and Belle Meade City Manager Jennifer Moody, right.



At-Large Director and Humboldt Mayor Arthur Boykin, left, and District 4 Director and Sparta Mayor Jerry Lowery, right.



From left to right: Deputy Director Chad Jenkins, Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Kevin Krushenski, and Nashville Mayor Freddie O'Connell.



District 5 Director and Gallatin Finance Director Rachel Nichols, left, and Director of Corporate Engagement and Member Benefits Kelly McKinley, right.



At-Large Director and Jackson Councilman Johnny Dodd, left, and Immediate Past President and Bolivar Mayor Julian McTizic, right.



Second Vice President and Lawrenceburg Mayor Blake Lay, left, and Executive Director Anthony Haynes, right.



Director of Government Relations John Holloway, left, and District 8 Director and Bartlett Alderman Kevin Quinn, right.



Left: TML Immediate Past President and Bolivar Mayor Julian McTizic, District 7 Director and Paris City Manager Kim Foster, At-Large Director and Kingsport Mayor Paul Montgomery, At-Large Director and Franklin City Manager Eric Stuckey, and At-Large Director and Humbolt Mayor Arthur Boykin.

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Secure AI for Municipalities: From Shadow Tools to Smart Use

By KEVIN BENSON
VC3

If you lead a city or town, artificial intelligence (AI) probably arrived in your organization before anyone was prepared for it. Employees discovered tools that could help them draft an email, summarize a long document, or get through a tedious task faster. They started experimenting before the policies, security practices, and training meant to govern it were in place.

That puts municipal leaders in an uncomfortable position. You can't afford to have city information end up somewhere it shouldn't, but trying to put AI "back in the box" isn't realistic either.

There is a middle ground: give employees a secure, city-approved way to use AI, establish clear boundaries around it, and focus first on use cases where the value is easy to see and the risk is easier to control.

Shadow AI is likely already in your city hall

Whether anyone has said it out loud or not, people in your organization are almost certainly using AI today. In Microsoft and LinkedIn's 2024 Work Trend Index, a survey of 31,000 knowledge workers across 31 countries, 75% said they use AI at work, and 78% of those users said they bring their own tools. Using AI tools that have not been approved or managed by IT is referred to as "shadow AI."

It often looks like perfectly reasonable usage: a department head pastes a draft council agenda into a personal AI account to improve the wording before a deadline, a clerk uses a free tool to summarize a long public records packet, or someone in HR asks a chatbot to help rewrite a policy.

None of these people mean any harm. They're trying to do their job with limited time and staff. The problem is that once city information is entered into an unapproved system, the city has very little control over what happens to it next. For a municipality, that information could include personnel records, criminal justice information, internal financial data, or other records that shouldn't be shared outside approved systems.

Give employees a better option

Trying to block every AI tool can feel like the safest approach. However, that doesn't eliminate demand. Employees still have the same workloads, deadlines, and reasons for wanting the technology.

A more sustainable approach is to give them an approved framework to use it.

That environment should allow employees to sign in with their city accounts, keep city information within appropriate boundaries, prevent city information from training AI models, and provide the city with oversight into how AI is being used.

Over time, that environment can become more useful by connecting AI to information employees already rely on, such as policies, files, or service request systems. As a rule, it should be configured so it never gives an employee access to anything they weren't already authorized to see.

If the approved option is useful and easy to understand, the message to employees becomes much simpler: **Use this for city work and keep city information out of personal AI accounts.**

Start where AI can make everyday work easier

Once those safeguards are in place, the best first use cases are the everyday tasks employees already spend a surprising amount of time doing. Three practical examples are:

- **Meeting summaries:** AI can take a lengthy meeting transcript and help staff create a shorter summary of the discussion and decisions.
- **Policy lookup**: Instead of searching through a handbook to answer a routine question, an employee could ask an AI assistant that draws exclusively from the city's approved policies and points them back to the source.
- **Website chatbot**: A carefully designed website chatbot can help residents find information the city has already published, answering common questions about hours, services, permits, or other routine needs.

These examples have something important in common. The AI works from your own meeting records, policies, and published information, so it's helping employees and residents find, summarize, and use information the city already trusts.

That's a much more comfortable place to start.

Put the rules in plain English

A secure tool still needs a good policy behind it, but that policy only works if employees understand it well enough to follow it.

It should answer three basic questions: What can I use AI for? What information is off-limits? And when do I need a person to make the decision?

The answers should be specific. Employees might be allowed to use an approved tool to draft emails, summarize appropriate documents, prepare meeting agendas, or brainstorm ideas. Sensitive information may require stricter handling or be prohibited altogether. And consequential decisions involving areas like hiring, discipline, eligibility, or public safety should retain appropriate human oversight.

Just as important, explain *why* the rules exist.

"Don't put that into AI" is easy to forget. "This information is protected, and entering it into a personal AI account could put it outside the city's control" gives an employee something they can actually use while they're working.

Short training built around real city scenarios can reinforce those boundaries. Instead of an hour of AI theory, give people situations they recognize and ask a simple question: *Would this be okay?*

You don't need to solve everything at once

For many municipalities, a thoughtful AI program can be on its way in a few months.

- **Month 1: Find out what's happening now.** Spend the first month understanding what employees are already doing. Talk to department leaders and staff about the tools they've tried, where they see value, and where sensitive information could be involved.
- **Month 2: Run a pilot.** Choose a small group to test an approved AI environment. Give them straightforward examples of what is and isn't appropriate and pay attention to what makes their work easier. A policy assistant or a chatbot grounded only in public information can be a useful place to learn.
- **Month 3: Make it official.** Formalize the policy, name who owns it, get council adoption (if needed), expand access where it makes sense, and give employees the training they need to use AI responsibly.

The policy doesn't have to anticipate every technology that will come next. It needs to give people a safe starting point and a clear way to make good decisions today.

The goal is smart AI use

The goal isn't to automate city hall or chase every new AI tool. The goal is to give employees a safe, practical way to use the technology where it genuinely helps, while protecting the information and public trust your community depends on.

You don't need to have every answer before you begin. You need a secure place to start, clear expectations, and the willingness to learn as you go.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

The Federal Reserve held interest rates steady at their October meeting, keeping the 3.7% to 4% rate from September when rates were raised. The two members who voted against holding the rates steady had been in favor of a quarter-point increase in interest rates. The overall goal is to keep interest rates at 2%. The consumer price index rose from 3.4% in August to 3.7% in September with shocks from the U.S.-Iran and Russia-Ukraine conflicts driving up prices. Fuel prices also saw their highest jump since March.

The U.S. economy added 165,000 jobs in October – well above a predicted 65,000 gain – and saw unemployment fall to 4.1%. The August and September jobs report numbers were also revised to include 84,000 more jobs than previously accounted for. The Labor Department reported the biggest gains were in the professional and business services sector followed by health care, and the transportation and warehousing sector.

TENNESSEE FESTIVALS

Nov. 20-Jan. 2: Bristol
Speedway in Lights
The region's most dazzling holiday light show returns to Bristol Motor Speedway and Dragway.

Nov. 21-Jan. 3: Memphis
Starry Nights at Shelby Farms Park
Experience millions of lights and 500+ animated displays synchronized to music at this drive-thru experience.

Nov. 21-Jan. 2: Clarksville
Christmas on the Cumberland
Step into a winter wonderland at Christmas on the Cumberland, where twinkling lights, holiday cheer, and timeless traditions come to life.

Nov. 24-29: Gatlinburg
Gatlinburg Festival of Trees
This beloved Christmas tradition has been a part of the community for the past 52 years, featuring a children's craft and play area, photos with Santa Claus and, of course, the beautifully decorated Christmas trees and wreaths.

Nov. 24-29: Knoxville
Fantasy of Trees
Since 1985, Dolly Parton Children's Hospital has hosted this beloved community event supporting the hospital's greatest and most urgent needs.

Nov. 28: Sweetwater
Small Town Christmas in Sweetwater
Experience the magic of a small town christmas in Sweetwater, where twinkling lights, festive storefronts, and holiday cheer transform downtown into a Hallmark-worthy holiday destination.

Dec. 5: Bell Buckle
Old Fashioned Christmas
Enjoy sleigh rides with Santa, carolers, a s'mores pit, and the look and feel of an old fashioned Christmas.

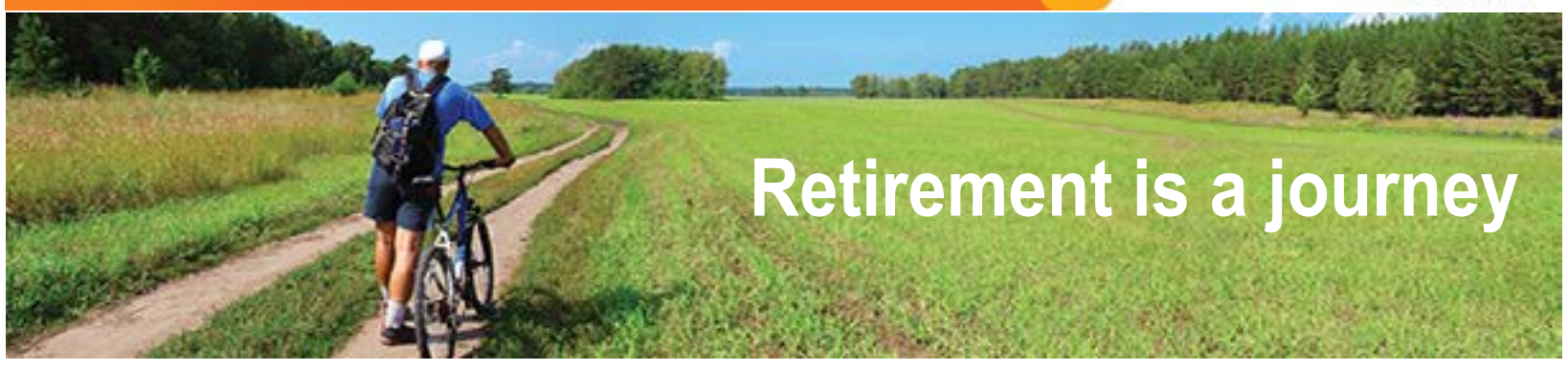
Dec 5: Goodlettsville
Yulefest
Yulefest is a cherished part of the holiday tradition for Goodlettsville and has been an annual start to the holiday season for more than 35 years.

Dec. 5: Linden
Little Linden Christmas
Enjoy a festive day filled with local arts and crafts vendors, holiday shopping, delicious food, Christmas activities for the whole family, and the annual Christmas Tea at the historic Commodore Hotel.

Dec. 12: Franklin
Dickens of a Christmas
The 41st Annual Dickens of a Christmas recreates the time of Charles Dickens using historic downtown Franklin's charming architecture as the backdrop.

Dec. 12: Loudon
Loudon Christmas in the Park
This event features food trucks, a bonfire, pictures with Santa, carriage rides, and hayrides along with twinkling holiday light displays.

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How TNSDC's Tim Kuhn finds the story behind the numbers

By KATE COIL
TT&C Assistant Editor

A frequent speaker at Tennessee Municipal League conferences, district meetings, and workshops, Tim Kuhn serves as director of the Tennessee State Data Center (TNSDC), which is housed in the Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

Kuhn oversees operations of the data center, including the outreach and dissemination of U.S. Census-related material, and he serves as the state's representative to the Federal-State Cooperative for Population Estimates, which was formed to promote cooperation between the states and Census Bureau in the preparation of the nation's population estimates.

A graduate of the University of Iowa with a bachelor's degree in political science, Kuhn's work has focused on geographic information systems, web technology, census programs, and enrollment projections. Before joining TNSDC in 2018, he spent 18 years as manager of GIS and web design for the Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission.

Tim resides with his family in Knoxville. After hours you can find him carefully monitoring the weather service radar, working in the yard, or occasionally on a small tributary of the Tellico River in Monroe County.



Tim Kuhn, director of the Tennessee State Data Center (TNSDC), addresses officials with the city of Knoxville. While a lot of Kuhn's work is in academia, he often presents to groups that include government officials, data analysts, the business community, and members of the general public.(Photo by Knoxville)

TT&C: A lot of your background is in geographic information systems (GIS), web technology, and data projection. What first interested you in these fields, and how have you turned it into a career?

Tim Kuhn: When I first began working in local government, GIS was just emerging and it wasn't really a career. At that point it was so new that it felt more like a tool looking for people willing to try things with it. I remember using some early Census TIGER data to estimate the population near a proposed greenway. It was an incredibly simple analysis by today's standards, but the data, the tools, and the hardware were all just arriving and it started to open eyes about what was possible.

I'd always been fascinated with maps, and after that I was hooked. GIS became a way to organize data, display it, and answer questions we hadn't been able to before. I'm a generalist at heart. Those technical skills opened the door to working with other kinds of data and tools used for planning and communication. I've been fortunate to be able to use all three in ways that hopefully help people better understand the trends and events shaping their communities.



Tim Kuhn
Executive Director of
TNSDC



Right: Kuhn is presented with the Association for University Business and Economic Research's 2024 Award of Excellence in Websites for TNSDC's Population Estimate. (Photo by UT)

TT&C: For those who are unfamiliar, what are the goals and objectives of the Tennessee State Data Center?

TK: The State Data Center (SDC) program operates in all states. Tennessee's is a long-running partnership between the U.S. Census Bureau, the state of Tennessee, and the University of Tennessee's Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research. When the SDC program first began, its focus was on providing data before it was more broadly available on the internet.

We still help to disseminate data but also make custom products and provide expertise in Census Bureau data and tools for state and local agencies, businesses, nonprofits, and the public. I have quite a bit of interaction with the Bureau through the SDC program and a second initiative called the Federal-State Cooperative for Population Estimates. That gives us a deep understanding of the products and, in some cases, a chance to provide input or review releases.

TT&C: What do you find most interesting about your work?

TK: Working with people across Tennessee in government, academia, and business has been really rewarding; when you pick up the phone, you never know who's going to be on the other end of the line. It has been fascinating to get to know the little details of a state that's so incredibly diverse in terms of its economy, its population, and geographically.

TT&C: TNSDC is the state clearinghouse for the U.S. Census. Walk us through what the organization does before, during, and following the U.S. Census every decade. How does the federal census inform your work in non-census years?

TK: The decennial census is vitally important, and its significance really can't be overstated. Apportionment and redistricting are just the tip of the iceberg for how the data is used. Ahead of the 2030 Census, we want state and local governments to know they can review the data used to conduct the Bureau's count through programs such as the Local Update of Census Addresses.

Leading up to the count, we help promote participation across Tennessee. And when the data comes out, we'll help review the results and help communities challenge errors if needed. In the years between counts, the decennial is the foundation almost everything else is built on. Population estimates, the American Community Survey, and most federal funding formulas all trace back to it. Its accuracy shapes Tennessee communities for the entire decade.

TT&C: Many people know TNSDC for its work with the U.S. Census, population estimates, and projections. What is unique about the way Tennessee's population is changing compared to other states and how does that impact the work you do?

TK: Every state has something compelling or unique about its population change and what's driving it. That's especially true in Tennessee this decade, where we saw a series of population events unlike anything in the state's history. We recorded our largest single-year population increase in 2024, saw a record influx of new residents from migration, and experienced an early-decade pandemic that set off a whole series of unexpected events. It's been fascinating to watch that unfold in real time and to try to draw attention to it. Midway through the decade, Tennessee's fundamentals look to be back on a normal trend of steady population increase.

TT&C: What do you think are some of the biggest misconceptions people have about Tennessee's population and its projected growth?

TK: I think there's a broad perception that Tennessee is a retirement state. While we get more than our fair share of retirees because of our climate, living options, and cost of living, it's a comparatively small share of the people moving into the state each year. Somewhere between 80 and 90 percent of our net migrants are younger than retirement age.

I also always get a kick out of the claim that two-thirds of the country's population is within a day's drive of Tennessee. We do have a good central location in the U.S., but those numbers have tended to drift upward over time, to my amusement.

TT&C: A lot of your work involves taking complex data and turning it into a format that is easy to understand for the public. What are the biggest challenges you encounter when doing this?

TK: I say this in all seriousness, but you have to make it simple enough that even I can understand it. The process involves narrowing the focus to a few key points and then getting comfortable with the fact that the reader won't miss what you leave out. One thing that helps is that we are very clear about who our audience is.

We generally try to make things consumable for government officials, analysts, and the public. I don't come from academia – I worked in local government for over two decades, so my natural inclination is to communicate with a non-academic audience through easy-to-read text, visuals, and maps. You can usually tell when you haven't succeeded, because articles end up too long.



Kuhn representing the Tennessee State Data Center at TML's Annual Conference in Kingsport.

TT&C: The center has published articles on a wide variety of topics ranging from birth rates to population aging to how many Tennesseans work primarily outdoors. How do you find the bigger story behind data sets?

TK: Finding the bigger story behind data sets is actually the easy part. When we look at a new dataset or an updated release, we find what makes it relevant to Tennessee and what the new data tells us about what's happening in the state. That can be something that sets Tennessee apart from other states, or how patterns vary across the state. It can be a new high, a new low, or even a break from the trend. Whatever it is, we try to relate it back to Tennessee so that it's useful to our audience here.

TT&C: Is there a favorite project you've worked on or one that really sticks with you?

TK: I work with numbers a lot, but I can't always quantify the impact of this work very easily. So that makes the challenges [to federal data] we helped coordinate following the 2020 census a highlight. In an partnership with MTAS, we were able to help municipalities improve their census counts, which has translated into real dollars for them every year since. The challenge was only 27 people in one case, but over a decade that might be enough additional revenue to cover a software license or a mower or something like that. Those kinds of measurable impacts are especially rewarding.

TT&C: What are some of the ways TNSDC aids municipalities and local governments officials may not know about?

TK: One thing officials may not realize is that they can affect their own population numbers. Each year we look at building activity and group quarters populations across the state as part of the estimates program. If a city knows about new construction or a new facility that isn't showing up in the data, that's worth a phone call.

There is a lot of expertise at the Boyd Center, and we want to be a resource that agencies across the state can call on when they need assistance with federal data. We're always interested in what's happening on the ground, so it's good to be in communication when questions or concerns come up.

TT&C: We hear a lot these days about "data-driven government." What does that phrase mean to you, and why is it important that government decisions are data-based?

TK: There are so many really good and smart ways that data is used in government now — dashboards, tracking, key performance indicators, and data science to improve the efficiency of government services. For me personally, one of the best examples of data-driven government is when those tools are part of the "decision support system." That's a bit of a dated term, but I think it describes a particular use case where data and analytical tools are part of the public evaluation framework used to form policy.

Data obviously shouldn't be the sole consideration, but when new policies need to be tested, or decision makers have to choose between two options, these tools should have a place at the table.