



Republican Party of Rutherford County

— **May 2026** —

Republican Primary Voter Guide



A very common misconception is that the Republican Party is a publicly funded entity. However, the Republican Party is a private organization. The only funds that the Republican Party of Rutherford County receive are from local donors like you. We do not receive any government funding, no money from the TN Republican Party (TNGOP), or from the Republican National Committee (RNC). 100% of our donations come from our Memberships and fundraisers and the money stays here in Rutherford County.

Please consider donating today to help fund initiatives like our Voter Guides, debates, leasing and maintaining our Headquarters, etc. We appreciate your support!

In Liberty,
Daniel Gammon, Chairman



***Republican Party of
Rutherford County***



***Republican Women of
Rutherford County***



***Rutherford County
Young Republicans***



Republican Candidates on the May 5th Ballot

**In order by last name*

** (I) notates an Incumbent*

<u>Circuit Court Clerk:</u> Melissa Harrell (I), Jeff McKinney	<u>Commissioner Dist. 14:</u> Wayne Irvin (I)
<u>County Clerk:</u> Lisa Duke Crowell (I)	<u>Commissioner Dist. 15:</u> Shawn McGowan
<u>Commissioner Dist. 01:</u> David Gammon, Jamie Knight	<u>Commissioner Dist. 16:</u> Phil Dodd (I)
<u>Commissioner Dist. 02:</u> Steve Percy (I)	<u>Commissioner Dist. 17:</u> Terry Hodge
<u>Commissioner Dist. 03:</u> Rick Hall (I)	<u>Commissioner Dist. 18:</u> Allen McAdoo (I)
<u>Commissioner Dist. 04:</u> Brian Burns, Robert Peay, Jr. (I), Michael Rodgers	<u>Commissioner Dist. 19:</u> No Republican Candidate
<u>Commissioner Dist. 05:</u> No Republican Candidate	<u>Commissioner Dist. 20:</u> Trey Gooch (I)
<u>Commissioner Dist. 06:</u> Eddie Arnold, Jonathan Beverly (I)	<u>Commissioner Dist. 21:</u> Jeff Lloyd, Clarence Santini
<u>Commissioner Dist. 07:</u> Michael Kusch (I)	<u>County Mayor:</u> Randy Allen, Joe Carr (I), Craig Harris
<u>Commissioner Dist. 08:</u> John Gaessler, Bill Tollett	<u>Murfreesboro City School Board:</u> Barbara Long (I)
<u>Commissioner Dist. 09:</u> Joshua James (I)	<u>RC School Board Zone 1:</u> Chuck Isbell, Tammy Sharp (I)
<u>Commissioner Dist. 10:</u> Phil Wilson (I)	<u>RC School Board Zone 4:</u> Katie Darby (I), Clarissa Smith
<u>Commissioner Dist. 11:</u> Anthony Johnson (I)	<u>RC School Board Zone 7:</u> Frances Rosales (I), Julie Wishing
<u>Commissioner Dist. 12:</u> Carl Boyd (I)	<u>Sheriff:</u> Kenneth Barrett, Trey Mansfield, Steve Spence
<u>Commissioner Dist. 13:</u> Brian Stoll	



Sheriff

District: All of Rutherford County

Length of Term: 4yrs

Estimated Annual Budget: \$76 Million

Candidate(s): Kenneth Barrett, Trey Mansfield, Steve Spence

The Sheriff of Rutherford County, Tennessee, is the county's chief law enforcement officer, elected to maintain peace, operate the adult detention center, and provide court security. The office patrols 626 square miles, investigates crimes, serves warrants, and manages a large staff including School Resource Officers (SROs).

Key responsibilities include:

- Law Enforcement & Patrol: Protecting lives and property, enforcing traffic laws, and investigating crimes (person, property, drug-related) across the county.
- Detention Center Operations: Managing the county jail, inmate security, and maintaining the workhouse.
- Court Services: Providing security for courts, judges, and juries.
- School Resource Officers (SROs): Assigning deputies to county schools to ensure safety and provide education.
- Administration: Managing a multi-million dollar budget, human resources, and records.

The office emphasizes community-oriented policing, and the Sheriff oversees specialized units such as Criminal Investigations, Narcotics, and K-9. The current Sheriff, Mike Fitzhugh, is retiring.



Candidate Name: Kenneth Barrett

Phone: 615-659-8560

Email: kennethbarrett2026@gmail.com

Website: <https://kennethbarrettforsheriff.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/kennethbarrettforsheriff>

Twitter / X: <https://x.com/KBarrett2026>

TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@kennethbarrettfor>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/kennethbarrettforsheriff/>



Background: My name is Kenneth Barrett. I have been a part of the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office for 28 years, starting when I was 20 years old. My wife, Sandy, and our two daughters, Kiley and Elley, are the greatest reasons I care so deeply about the safety and future of this county. I have been connected to Holly Grove Baptist Church for as long as I can remember, and my daughters have since become involved at New Vision Baptist Church.

Law enforcement runs in my family. My father, Jim Barrett, also worked at the Sheriff's Office beginning in 1978. After graduating from Oakland High School in 1996, it didn't take long for me to know I wanted to follow a similar path. I have been blessed to move up through the ranks and have held leadership roles for over 20 years, serving now as a Lieutenant on day shift patrol.

Over the years, I have had the privilege of working and leading a variety of divisions, including narcotics, interstate crime enforcement, active crime enforcement, the K-9 unit, and patrol. I am grateful for the different experiences and perspectives my career has given me.

While I have spent many years serving within the Sheriff's Office, the greatest privilege is leading my deputies each day. I am committed to providing them with the support they need to do their jobs safely and effectively. Leadership demands responsibility. I enforce the law with integrity, and I expect the same from those I lead.

Why am I running and what qualifies me? My goal in running for Sheriff of Rutherford County is to change the culture of the department by rebuilding morale, strengthening leadership, and moving the Sheriff's Office to the next level of professionalism and service. I believe a strong department starts with supported deputies and leadership that leads by example.



(Kenneth Barrett continued...)

After 28 years with the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office, serving in multiple divisions and holding leadership roles for over two decades, I have seen firsthand what works and what needs improvement. Those experiences have prepared me to lead with transparency, consistency, and accountability.

As Sheriff, I will be a clear voice for both the department and the community, committed to transparency, integrity, and trust. My vision is a Sheriff's Office that works alongside the people it serves, by being forward-thinking, community-focused, and proud of the badge it wears.

What do I see as the biggest challenges? The biggest challenges facing the Sheriff's Office today are internal culture, deputy retention, jail overpopulation, and meeting the growing demands of a rapidly expanding county.

To address retention and morale, we must focus on strengthening leadership, improving communication within the department, and ensuring deputies feel supported, valued, and properly trained. A strong culture starts at the top and is built through consistent leadership and even the simplest gestures of acknowledgment toward the deputies who keep this county safe. Retention will also improve when deputies know they are supported in advancing their careers by staying up to date with the latest technology, education, and training that helps move them in their desired direction.

Jail overpopulation presents many challenges. First, we must work closely with the state to evaluate how state inmates can be transferred to other facilities to increase space, while also developing a long-term plan for necessary jail expansion to meet future needs.

After nearly 28 years of service, I understand that strong agencies are built on leadership, not control. By leading by example, setting high standards, and supporting our deputies, we can strengthen the department from within and better serve the citizens of Rutherford County with professionalism and integrity.

What goals would I like to accomplish? If elected, my goals center on three core principles: servant leadership, transparency, and accountability.

Servant leadership means putting people first, telling the truth even when it's hard, leading with



(Kenneth Barrett continued...)

respect, and always placing the community and the agency before personal or political interests. A healthy Sheriff's Office starts with leadership that supports its deputies, sets clear expectations, and leads with strength, not control. Rebuilding morale and strengthening the culture within the department will be a top priority because a strong agency begins with supported, valued deputies. Trust begins when leadership is honest, consistent, and focused on serving others.

Transparency is essential to building trust and strengthening relationships, both within the department and with the community. The public deserves to understand what deputies do every day and the challenges they face while protecting this county. By communicating openly, highlighting professionalism, and engaging directly with citizens, we can rebuild trust on both sides.

Accountability means holding everyone to the same standards, from the Sheriff to every deputy, while ensuring that the community has confidence in the work of the Sheriff's Office. To me, being a Sheriff who listens means leading with intention, not ego. It means a department that feels supported and held to high standards, and a community that feels informed, protected, and truly valued. Servant leadership, accountability, and transparency are how we move the Sheriff's Office forward and position it for the next level of service.

I chose to run as a Republican because... I chose to run as a Republican because that reflects who I am and the values I have lived by my entire life. My core beliefs align with conservative principles: personal responsibility, integrity, accountability, and service to others. Being a Republican doesn't mean serving a political party, it means standing on principles.

As Sheriff, my responsibility is not to politics, but to the people of Rutherford County. My focus is on public safety, strong leadership, and earning the trust of the community through transparency and fairness. These values guide my decisions, my leadership style, and my commitment to serve every citizen with respect, regardless of party affiliation.



Candidate Name: Trey Mansfield

Website: www.TreyMansfield.com

Trey Mansfield is a Murfreesboro Police Officer and Republican candidate for Rutherford County Sheriff with more than 33 years of law enforcement experience.



Trey has firsthand knowledge of police leadership, modern policing, patrol operations, K-9 handling, SWAT service, and community-focused law enforcement. He has led officers in high-pressure situations, worked alongside federal, state, and local agencies, and helped implement operational standards that strengthen accountability and professionalism.

Trey is running for Sheriff to bring strong leadership, higher standards, and renewed public trust to the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office. He believes the office must operate with integrity, transparency, and full compliance with the law while keeping public safety as its top priority.

His campaign focuses on three core principles:

- Protecting Families and Communities through strengthened drug prevention, enforcement, and rehabilitation partnerships
- Defending Our Children by continuing to support and enhance the School Resource Officer (SRO) program, expanding child advocacy services, and aggressively targeting child predators
- Restoring Confidence in the Jail System by ensuring full legal compliance, improving operations, and reducing costly litigation

A consistent Republican voter with a long-standing commitment to conservative values, Trey believes in limited government, constitutional protections, personal responsibility, and supporting the men and women in law enforcement who put their lives on the line every day. Trey and his family are proud to call Rutherford County home, and he is committed to serving the citizens of this community with honor and accountability.



Candidate Name: Steve Spence

Phone: (615) 653-8784

Website: <https://spenceforsheriff.com>

Facebook: Spence for Sheriff

Background: My wife Darlene and I have been married for 36 years all while living on our family farm in the Midland Community. We are blessed with three children, six grandchildren and one on the way, all living in Rutherford County. We enjoy attending Franklin Road Baptist Church, in Murfreesboro.



While approaching my 39th year with the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office, I remain committed to serving our community with the same dedication I brought to my first days at the old jail on West Main Street. My career has taken me through roles in Detention and Patrol, earning promotion to Sergeant, and becoming the first FTO Sergeant. I later advanced to Lieutenant, then Training Captain, Patrol Captain, and ultimately Law Enforcement Major, where I oversaw all Law Enforcement Divisions.

Today, I serve as the Administrative Deputy Chief, where I manage our Human Resources Department, Accounts Payable/Receivable and Budget, Fleet Services, Building Maintenance, and the Community Engagement Unit.

The last three fiscal years, I have managed our eighty-one million dollar budget, worked consistently with county leaders to meet our financial objectives and minimize effects to taxpayers. I worked to secure over seventeen million dollars in state and federal grants, which helps reduce added tax burdens.

This journey has strengthened my commitment to the people of Rutherford County and to the mission of this office. I will work hard to make sure the people have confidence in my leadership and their Sheriff's Office.

Education

I graduated from Riverdale High School in 1984 and later graduated the Tennessee Law Enforcement Academy in 1989.

A fraction of Law Enforcement certifications and courses over the years include:

- FBI LEEDA Law Enforcement Executive Development Association
- Advance Training Seminars Mid-Level Management



(Steve Spence continued...)

- Leadership Matters Training for Administrative, Financial and Executive Officers Course
- Leadership Skills for Challenging Times
- Governor's Office of Homeland Security Counter Terrorism Advance Course (80-hours)
- Special Event Management for Law Enforcement, Public Safety officials and Event Organizers
- Child Abduction Response Team Training Program
- Advance ICS Command and General Staff Complex Incidents (ICS-400)
- Train the Trainer Incident Command System
- Department Homeland Security Insider Threat Training & FBI Terrorism Conference

Why am I running and what qualifies me? I want to keep Rutherford County a place where families are safe, deputies are supported, and the law is enforced with integrity.

My 38 years with the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office in addition to my range of experience, commitment to serve and dedication to public safety are what qualify me.

What do I see as the biggest challenges? Staff Salaries, providing our employees a better work environment and ensuring everyone feels valued.

Building a new jail to comply with mandated state regulations, is a necessity.

What goals would I like to accomplish? Enhance training for personnel, improve the current work environment and continue to work on improving employees' salaries. These standards will help retain our current high quality staff while encouraging new recruits. This allows us to build a more professional and dedicated team of law enforcement individuals.

A new jail offers the potential to reduce the recidivism rates. We do this by increasing current educational and life skills programs. Building stronger relationships with our communities through visibility and interaction is key to success.

I chose to run as a Republican because... I agree, the values and goals represented by the party's platform and path provide the best opportunity to effect change. Although, as the Chief Law Enforcement Officer of the County, I cannot allow outside influences to affect my duties as a constitutional law enforcement officer.

