



**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*

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



# County Commissioners

**District:** There are 21 designated Districts across the county

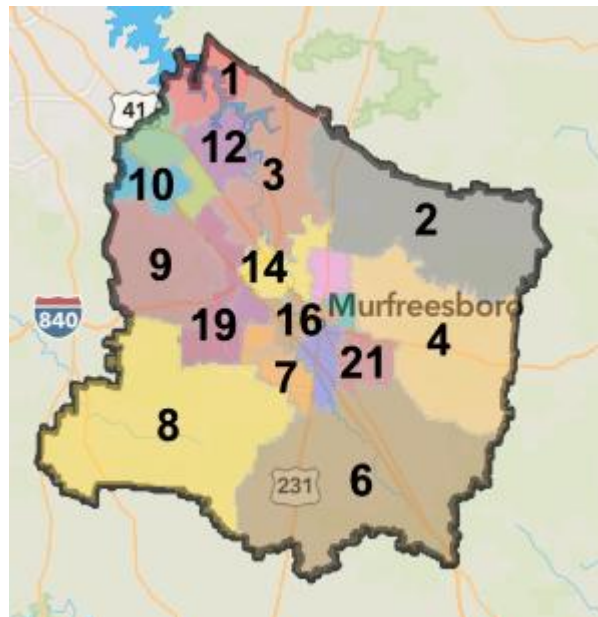
**Length of Term:** 4yrs, with all terms expiring in the same year

**Estimated Annual Budget:** \$958.5 Million

County Commissioners act as the legislative body for the county, responsible for setting policies, adopting the annual budget, setting tax rates, and managing county finances. They represent specific districts, often serving on committees like the Budget Committee to oversee expenditures, infrastructure projects, and county-wide services.

Key responsibilities include:

- Budget & Finance: Approving the county budget, reviewing bond issues, and recommending taxes.
- Legislative Actions: Adopting county laws, zoning regulations, and policies authorized by the State of Tennessee.
- Administrative Oversight: Appointing certain department heads and members to various boards.
- Infrastructure & Projects: Working on major public projects, such as school improvements or judicial centers.
- Representation: Acting as the primary point of contact for constituents regarding county services.



## Commission District 1

**Candidate Name:** David Gammon



**Background:** My name is David Gammon and I have been married to my wife for 41 years. We have 2 adult children, Carmen and Britt who have blessed us with 4 grandkids and 2 great grandchildren. My wife and I attend Grace Church in LaVergne. I am proud to have called LaVergne home for over 55 years. Our family has expansive ties in our community and have been blessed to see the growth of our community. I have over 40 years of experience in Security and Law enforcement as well as owning and operating several businesses in the community. I am a graduate of Smyrna high school and have completed further training classes at MTSU.

**Why am I running and what qualifies me?** I have 12 years of experience as Commissioner of District #1. I want all of our citizens to feel respected and to know that their voices will be heard. I will listen and follow-up on concerns that citizens bring to my attention.

**What do I see as the biggest challenges?** We are going through a period of unprecedented growth and expansion along with expansion comes infrastructure needs that should be addressed. I'm also concerned that needs such as housing, education and public safety are also addressed. Planning needs to be done before and not after these needs are addressed, I will work hard to help find a solution to the landfill problems in Rutherford County which affects us all.

### **What goals would I like to accomplish?**

- #1. I would like to resolve the landfill issue and plan for the future needs of the County in this regard.
- #2. I would like to focus on our taxes preventing excessive increase and providing more support for our elderly residents in terms of tax freeze and tax forgiveness were appropriate.
- #3. I would advocate for our school staff, first responders, and all County employees to receive the best pay and benefits possible.

**I chose to run as a Republican because...** I chose to run Republican because I support the traditional values that the party stands for including traditional social and family values, as well as supporting and standing firm for "God and Country "



## Commission District 1

**Candidate Name:** Jamie Knight

**Phone:** (931) 273-3539

**Email:** [jamielknight@comcast.net](mailto:jamielknight@comcast.net)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61586414637386>



### Background:

I am a lifelong resident of Middle Tennessee, where I married my high school sweetheart and raised our two sons. In 2023, our family endured the unimaginable loss of our oldest son, Kenneth. That tragedy changed our perspective forever; it taught us the true meaning of resilience and the vital importance of a community that stands together when life is hardest.

Today, our family continues to grow. Our youngest son, Kyle, was recently married, and we've been blessed with a step-granddaughter who reminds us daily why we must fight to preserve the future of this county.

My faith is the compass for my life. As a Baptist, I believe leadership isn't found in a title, but in service, integrity, and the biblical mandate to love and care for our neighbors. I don't just talk about community—I show up for it.

Professionally, I am a job creator and small business owner. I own and operate a real estate brokerage, a title company, a real estate school, and a property management company. I don't just study the economy; I live it. I understand the "red tape" that stifles growth and the weight of a budget that must balance. I'm ready to bring that private-sector accountability to the County Commission.

### Why am I running and what qualifies me?

I'm running because I've seen how "business as usual" at the county level overlooks the very people it's supposed to serve. Too often, the voices of families and small business owners are drowned out by bureaucracy.

I am not a career politician. I am a problem solver.

- Budgeting: I manage multiple companies; I know how to trim waste.
- Growth: I deal with land use and zoning every day; I know what works and what's a raw deal for taxpayers.



(Jamie Knight continued...)

- Action: While others talk about "theory," I've spent years helping families navigate the realities of housing, property rights, and local regulations.

### **What do I see as the biggest challenges?**

Our county is at a crossroads. Managing growth responsibly is our greatest hurdle. If we continue to let development outpace our infrastructure, the taxpayers will be the ones left holding the bag for overcrowded schools and crumbling roads. We must protect our rural character and property rights from short-sighted planning.

Furthermore, we have a transparency deficit. Citizens shouldn't feel like outsiders in their own government. Whether it's a zoning change or a tax increase, you deserve a seat at the table and an honest answer—not a "done deal" behind closed doors.

### **What goals would I like to accomplish?**

- Smart Growth, Not Fast Growth: Infrastructure must come before rooftops.
- Fiscal Discipline: I will treat your tax dollars with the same respect I treat my own business's bottom line. No more wasteful spending.
- Protecting Property Rights: Your land is your greatest asset. I will fight any government overreach that threatens it.
- Radical Transparency: I'll work to ensure every meeting and decision is accessible and clear to every resident.

### **I chose to run as a Republican because...**

I am a Republican because I believe in limited government, individual liberty, and fiscal conservatism. I believe the best government is the one closest to the people.

My platform is simple: Common sense over bureaucracy. I believe in low taxes, personal responsibility, and the idea that government should work for the people—not the other way around. I'm asking for your vote to bring conservative, business-minded leadership to our County Commission.



## Commission District 4

**Candidate Name:** Brian Burns

**Phone:** (615) 405-5647

**Email:** Brian@BSky.email



**Background:** My name is Brian Burns and I have lived in Rutherford County since 1987; I moved to Murfreesboro from Crossville TN and attended college at MTSU. I have been married to Michelle Burns for 27 years and have a 14-year-old daughter that attends Oakland High School. I have been self employed for 31 years, owning a building and remodeling company.

**Why am I running for District 4 County Commissioner?** I am running for Rutherford County Commission because I believe our community deserves strong, local leadership that listens, stands firm, and puts residents first. I live here, travel the same roads, and experience the same challenges as the families I'm asking to represent. Like many of you, I want to protect our quality of life, ensure that our tax dollars are used wisely, and make decisions that benefit our community today and for future generations to come.

I am committed to being a clear and consistent voice for the people of this county- especially when it comes to protecting our neighborhoods and holding government accountable. I will ALWAYS stand against expanding the landfill, and I will work to ensure responsible growth, smart spending, and transparency in every decision made on your behalf. I am running because Rutherford County is HOME and it deserves leadership that will stand up, speak out, and never stop fighting for the people who live here.

**What is our Biggest Challenge as Commissioner?** I will keep this real short, it is the Landfill and the Budget, the landfill is and will always be a NO vote, we have got to quit being all of Middle Tennessee's garbage can. With our budget and property taxes, we must be good stewards of our citizens' money.

### What goals would I like to accomplish?

- Landfill closed in the next 3 years
- A budget that reflects living within our means
- Having Great Schools that actually teach our children and leaving the WOKE agendas and politics out of our schools
- Keeping our streets, neighborhoods, and greenways safe and getting control of our counties' homeless problem



(Brian Burns continued...)

**I chose to run as a Republican because...** We in Rutherford County share the strong values that the Republican Party has demonstrated in our great county, and let's be honest the Democratic party is crazy is best.



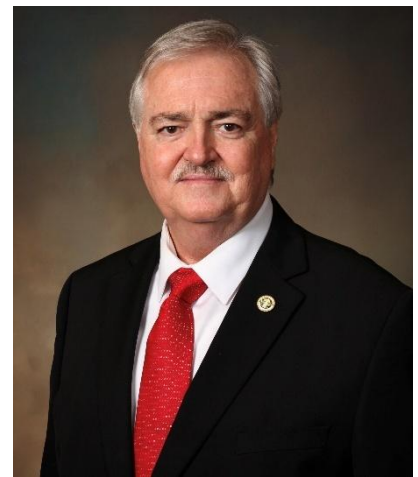
## Commission District 4

**Candidate Name:** Robert Peay, Jr. (Incumbent)

**Phone:** (615) 603-5038

**Email:** rpeay45390@aol.com

**Facebook:** @RobertWPeay (Robert Peay for County Commission)



**Background:** I'm Robert Peay. My beloved wife, Pat, passed away last year after a courageous battle with leukemia. Our 44 years of marriage taught me the true meaning of unconditional love. She was a renowned Rutherford County home economics educator. We raised two wonderful daughters, Dr. Rachel Peay Cornett (Lipscomb University Professor) and Katie Peay (Biosystems Engineer). I'm also the VERY proud Papa to five grandchildren: Camille, Rocco, Isaac, Charlie, and Luca. I attend North Boulevard Church of Christ with my family. I'm an alumnus of Kittrell High School and MTSU. Professionally, I am retired from the manufacturing industry where I humbly labored in many roles over the years from shift work to management. I have been a small business owner and served my community as a volunteer firefighter. In my spare time, I farm in Readyville and enjoy cheering for our local athletes like the Oakland Patriots.

**Why am I running and what qualifies me?** My love for Rutherford County runs deep. My ancestors were trustees who signed the original petition to help make Rutherford County a county. Much has changed since then, but my family still resides here in District 4 and I want to help Rutherford remain a great place for everyone. From my years of experience serving as a commissioner, I know that the role comes with its particular challenges and demands. My deep commitment to fighting for the best for District 4 and for all of Rutherford County has never wavered. It brings me joy to help my fellow neighbors! My servant's heart desires to continue working hard to get things right for the people of District 4.

**What do I see as the biggest challenges?** Paying for growth has always been one of our biggest challenges when it comes to ensuring public safety, schools, roads, etc. remain up to par while keeping costs low. This idea gets mentioned often, but while serving on the county's budget committee I have seen firsthand how conscientious we have to remain when it comes to fiscal responsibilities. District 4 also has both rural and suburban areas whose unique interests have to be well represented.

**What goals would I like to accomplish?** Beyond my personal commitment to our community, I would be focused on maintaining our AAA status for bond ratings across all three agencies. This distinction, held only by the State of TN and two other counties, saves our taxpayers millions of



(Robert Peay, Jr. continued...)

dollars whenever we enter the bond market and I helped secure these superior ratings as Budget Committee Chairman. I have served on the Public Works committee as well and I would like to see us seek better solutions for waste disposal besides just landfilling. We need to remain vigilant about the water quality of the Stones River, too, since this supplies our drinking water. I have always held a good record of being responsive to the needs of my constituents and if reelected I will remain a diligent public servant.

**I chose to run as a Republican because...** I am a Christian. I have also always been fiscally conservative and one of the most important roles a commissioner has is to be a good steward of the citizens' tax dollars. These strong party values align with my own.



## Commission District 4

**Candidate Name:** Michael Rodgers

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**Facebook:** [Facebook.com/Rodgersforcommissioner](https://www.facebook.com/Rodgersforcommissioner)



### **Background:**

I've lived in Murfreesboro since 1999. I attended Middle Tennessee State University, where I studied Criminal Justice Administration and played rugby on the National Sweet 16 team in 2001. I am married and have one daughter, who recently graduated from Tennessee Tech University. My family has deep roots in public service, which helped shape my values.

My wife and I attend Experience Church at the Murfreesboro Main Campus. My formal education includes a Master's Degree in Leadership and Public Service from Lipscomb University. I have completed the FBI LEEDA Leadership Trilogy and Police Staff and Command College through Northwestern University. I have spent my career in law enforcement, serving in supervisory and leadership roles with responsibility for personnel, budgets, training, and long-term planning.

### **Why am I running and what qualifies me?**

I am running because Rutherford County is growing rapidly, and county government has not kept pace. Growth demands smart planning, thoughtful analysis, and cooperation across departments. We must begin looking to the future while respecting the people who built this community and remembering where we came from.

I am qualified because I have spent my career managing complex projects, solving real problems, and making decisions with limited resources and high accountability. I already do the kind of work this office requires.

### **What do I see as the biggest challenges?**

One of the biggest challenges in District 4 is leadership culture. Effective government depends on collaboration, trust, and respect for the people, all people. When ego outweighs humility, everything else fails. We cannot afford leadership that creates unnecessary friction or uncertainty. We need steady, professional leadership that values people, listens, and collaborates to solve problems. Another challenge is managing growth responsibly. Land development has moved forward with little consideration for the people it impacts. Roads, schools, public safety, and county services are overloaded. Many systems are outdated and reactive instead of planned and efficient. We must replace short-term fixes with long-term planning.



(Michael Rodgers continued...)

A final challenge is how county employees are treated and supported. Hiring and retaining good employees requires competitive compensation, clear policies, and consistent communication. Currently, there is no incentive for education, language skills, specialized training, or other things that would benefit the county. The longevity pay is so minimal it won't cover a trip to Bu-  
cee's. Employees feel undervalued, and many struggle to afford living in the county they serve. The pay structure is unclear, and employees get little help when they ask for clarification. County employees deserve transparency, respect, and leadership that sees them as an investment, not a commodity.

**What goals would I like to accomplish?**

If elected, my primary goal is to bring professional leadership to District 4. We should make data and community-informed decisions, not those that boost my ego. I will advocate for transparent decision-making, clearer communication, and policies that are fair, consistent, and easy to understand. Another goal is to improve long-term planning to manage growth responsibly while making sure infrastructure, schools, and public safety keep pace with development. Last, I want to ensure county employees are treated with respect and valued for their service by supporting competitive compensation, meaningful incentives, and clear pay structures.

**I chose to run as a Republican because...**

I am running as a Republican because Republican principles align with how I lead and how I believe government should function. I believe in limited, accountable government that focuses on core services and uses taxpayer dollars responsibly. Decisions should be practical, data-informed, and made as close to the local level as possible.

I also believe government works best when it respects individual responsibility, values hard work, and stays out of the way whenever possible. Those principles guide my approach to leadership, budgeting, and long-term planning.



## **Commission District 6**

**Candidate Name:** Jonathan Beverly (Incumbent)

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**Website:** www.jonathanbeverlytn.com

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/JonathanBeverlyTN>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/jonathanbeverlytn/>



### **Background:**

My name is Jonathan Beverly and a proud husband to my wife, Amanda, of nearly six years and father to William (3) and James (1). Our family worships at the Experience Community Church and I am honored to raise my family in Rutherford County. I am a graduate of Rutherford County Schools, MTSU for undergrad, and Bethel University for graduate studies. I have served as a police officer in Smyrna since 2013. At the Smyrna Police Department I train new officers, handle the community outreach, and am a hostage negotiator. Additionally, I was appointed to the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Commission by Governor Lee in 2023 and was elected Chairman in 2026.

Outside of public service, I own a small business, am an active real estate agent, proud Rotarian, former President of the Stones River Fraternal Order of Police, which represents officers at 14 different law enforcement agencies, and serve on the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club.

I enjoy spending time with family and traveling. Fun fact, I should have his commercial pilot's license by the end of 2026.

### **Why am I running and what qualifies me?**

I have dedicated both aspects of my life, personal as a Commissioner and professional as a police officer, to the service of others. Our community is an amazing place to live, and like you, I believe that conservative values must be upheld. Small, effective, and responsible government are the cornerstones of my beliefs. I have been a life-long Republican, never veering from the values we hold to be true, and my actions at the polls and the County Commission reflect my words.

### **What do I see as the biggest challenges?**

Infrastructure and schools! We must keep Rutherford County a great place to live. Proper planning and education are the key to a successful society.

### **What goals would I like to accomplish?**

I would like our community to improve Rutherford County's infrastructure, support our public schools, and equip our first responders.



(Jonathan Beverly continued...)

**I chose to run as a Republican because...**

I have seen those who work in my profession vilified by the left. The Republican Party stands for the things I believe in.



## **Commission District 7**

**Candidate Name:** Michael Kusch (Incumbent)

**Phone:** (615) 351-9164

**Email:** D7kusch@gmail.com



### **Background:**

I am Michael Kusch, your current District 7 County Commissioner.

I am a graduate from the University of Oklahoma with a BS in Environmental Design and a 39 year resident of Rutherford County and married to Stephanie (McNabb) Kusch a native of Murfreesboro who serves on the boards of Murfreesboro Main Street and the Discovery Center and is an active member of Rutherford Cable and 100 women Who Care About Rutherford County. Stephanie is Senior VP and Area Manager of Client Services at Pinnacle Bank. Together we have six grown children (5 who live in Rutherford County) and 4 grandchildren in the Rutherford County School system.

### **Why am I running and what qualifies me?**

As a longtime public servant, I am focused on protecting constituents' rights, resolving complex issues, and bringing together the right stakeholders to deliver results for District 7 residents and all of Rutherford County.

I am passionate on critical county issues including traffic congestion, responsible growth, public safety, education, and opposing the expansion of the Middle Point Landfill. These priorities remain central to my reelection campaign and I will continue to advocate for smart, community-focused solutions.

I serve on the Steering, Legislative, and Governmental Committees and previously chaired the Public Works Committee. I'm also a 19-year member of the Rutherford County Regional Planning Commission, bringing extensive institutional knowledge to county growth decision-making.

### **What do I see as the biggest challenges and goals to accomplish?**

I am proud of the accomplishments and progress we have made in my last 12 years as Commissioner. I am just as proud of the many times I have said NO to ideas or plans that would have been detrimental or wasteful to the taxpayers.

The challenges are complacency, the ill-informed and fear of innovation. My goals are to continue to bring "common sense" and understanding, doing what's right for the masses,



(Michael Kusch continued...)

and thinking outside the box.

Objectives:

- \* Stop Middle Points landfill expansion,
- \* Creating a budget line-item for infrastructure ( roads) improvements. ( we currently have no budget for new roads) ( help w/ traffic congestion)
- \* Funding new jail
- \* Continue to find alternate ways to raise (or re-direct) money other than raising taxes ( ie: access lottery money, real estate transfer fees,
- \*School Facilities Tax

**I chose to run as a Republican because...**

I have been a registered Republican for 50 years now. While the party has certainly changed /evolved over 5 decades, it still represents my core beliefs.

(Traditional values, smaller government, America first, free market, fiscal responsibility, strong defense, second amendment rights and much , much more)



## **Commission District 8**

**Candidate Name:** Bill Tollett

**Phone:** (615) 542-1368

**Email:** BillyTollett1@gmail.com



**Background:** I am married to Cathy Tollett of 32 years. I am father of two and both are teachers at Rutherford County Schools. I have earned a Bachelor's degree from Tennessee Tech and a Masters degree from Cumberland Univ. and additional courses at MTSU. I currently serve as Eagleville Vice Mayor.

**Why am I running and what qualifies me?** I understand this is a fast growing county with growth not looking too slow, I feel it is important to manage the growth responsibly. I have experience as a School Principal and a small business owner. I support Law enforcement and in my role as Vice Mayor of the City of Eagleville I have led the charge to increase pay for Police, firefighters and first responders.

I am a resident of Rutherford County of 33 years, who understands our community because I experience it daily our schools, roads, taxes, growth, and public services. I have served in civil capacity as Vice Mayor of the City of Eagleville.

### **What do I see as the biggest challenges?**

1. Supporting growth without losing character of the community.
2. Balancing fiscal responsibility while funding essential services.

### **What goals would I like to accomplish?**

1. Manage growth responsibility.
2. Manage the budget responsibility.
3. Support strong schools without being wasteful
4. Improve infrastructure and public safety.

### **I chose to run as a Republican because...**

1. My voting history is Republican and I believe in the conservative values of the party.
2. The values align with my beliefs.



## Commission District 9

**Candidate Name:** Joshua James (Incumbent)

**Phone:** (615) 203-9604

**Email:** [Joshuajames4tn@gmail.com](mailto:Joshuajames4tn@gmail.com)



**Background:** I have been married for just over 20 years and have 2 children. A boy and a girl, one in college and the other one in high school. I grew up to be 3rd generation attending Highland Heights Church of Christ in Smyrna. I have an Associates from Motlow (Smyrna Campus), a Bachelors from MTSU school of Business, and a Couple of Technical certifications from Total Tech out of Nashville. My work experience has been with the Army and UPS for the past 25 years both of which I am still employed and serving, and of course this past term as the

**Why am I running and what qualifies me?** Have you ever gotten sick and tired of being sick and tired? I used to yell back at the TV and Radio about the current state of affairs. Then my wife said she had heard enough and to take it outside. So, I did. Before I knew it friends and neighbors started pushing me to run for office. Next thing I knew I was and am serving now, although my wife occasionally reminds me that when she asked me to take it outside she didn't mean to make it bigger. The biggest issue is that so many people don't know the happenings of their government. For me communication and listening is the biggest issue we the people need from our leadership and some common sense.

**What do I see as the biggest challenges?** Here in Rutherford County we don't have a revenue problem, we have a spending problem. For too long parts of the county have been ignored and now we are having to catch up the needs for example our general infrastructure. We have decision makers who aren't listening or seem to already have their minds made up. Rutherford county has just gotten too big for itself.

**What goals would I like to accomplish?** I intend to always listen, search out the best possible solutions, and never stop asking "Why?" or "Is there a better way?".

**I chose to run as a Republican because...** I didn't choose to be a republican. I am one. I am a fiscally responsible conservative, with common sense. And although our party, like families. can have infighting from time to time our fundamentals are rooted in those attributes.



## Commission District 10

**Candidate Name:** Phil Wilson (Incumbent)

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**Personal Email:** philwilsongovt@icloud.com



**Background:** I am the current County Commissioner for District 10 in Rutherford, which encompasses the western areas of Smyrna and La Vergne. I have served as Vice-Chairman of the Health and Education Committee, and as a member of the Steering, Legislative, and Governmental Committee and Property Management Committee. I attended Middle Tennessee State University and have been a resident of Rutherford County for over 30 years. My wife of 27 years, Natalie, a recent graduate of Leadership Rutherford, and I are active together with the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Smyrna, and we attend Hope Fellowship Church in Smyrna.

**Why am I running and what qualifies me?** I have a passion for public service and a strong desire to make a positive impact in the community. I am an advocate for keeping government spending and property taxes as low as possible. My voting record and four years of RCTV meetings on YouTube serve as proof of my conservative principles. I have played a pivotal role in shepherding the school system's building plans, ensuring the county can finance capital projects without a tax increase. I use the same budgetary approach before voting to approve any request. County government must be efficient and as lean as possible to keep more money in people's pockets.

**What do I see as the biggest challenges?** Balancing growth responsibly while keeping government spending and property taxes as low as possible continues to be our biggest challenge.

**What goals would I like to accomplish?** Balancing growth responsibly to support economic growth, job creation, and attainable housing; increasing support for our first responders and public safety personnel; and continuing support for education.

**I chose to run as a Republican because...** I align with conservative principles, including limited government, low taxes, free-market economic policies, strong national defense, and greater authority for states and local communities. I believe in increased support of law enforcement and first responders, school choice and parental rights, personal property rights, and attainable housing solutions.



## **Commission District 11**

**Candidate Name:** Anthony Johnson (Incumbent)

**Phone:** (615) 631-6215

**Background:** I am Anthony Johnson and I have been married to Debby for 48 years. We have 3 children, 2 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. We attend Fresh Vision Church in Smyrna. I am proud to be a lifelong resident of Smyrna. I am a graduate of Smyrna High School, and Officers Candidate School-US Army. I am a US Army veteran. I retired from AvcoNought/Textron Aerostructures in Nashville after 29 dedicated years of service.



**Why am I running and what qualifies me?** Proven service and leadership. I have served as County Commissioner representing a part of Smyrna for 20 years, consisting of 17 years and am continuing with 3 years back after a 12 year absence. I love Smyrna and Rutherford County. I strive to move Rutherford County into the future as a great place to live, raise a family, work and worship.

I do this by listening to everyone and making myself available to everyone. I research, listen to my constituents and experts on all issues that arise and pray on the issues for guidance to come to what I really feel is the right decision being in the best interest of my constituents.

**What do I see as the biggest challenges?** Keeping taxes as low as possible while addressing the needs of our constituents. Need for new schools, new updated jail. Better employee wages and retaining qualified employees.

Improving solid waste disposal while diverting waste from landfills.

**What goals would I like to accomplish?** I would like to have Rutherford County become the leader in Recycling for Tennessee. I want our schools to remain and improve to be the best in the state. I want our Public Safety and Health providers to be the best in the State or country.(Law enforcement, fire, EMS EMA)

**I chose to run as a Republican because...** I have strong moral values, love God, my family and the United States of America. I love living in Smyrna, Rutherford County and will not be compromised. I am dedicated to all constituents being heard and to being a driving force moving Rutherford County forward into a Great, Safer and Healthier future.



## Commission District 12

**Candidate Name:** Carl Boyd (Incumbent)

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**Facebook:** Carl Boyd for Rutherford County Commissioner of District 12



**Background:** My name is Carl Boyd, and I am married to the former Karen O'Neal of Lavergne, Tennessee. Karen and I have been married for 42 years. We have 3 children: Brittany Boyd Oliver (Jason), Adam, and Conner (Hanna). We also have 2 awesome grandchildren, Ann Marie Oliver and Evelyn Oliver. Karen and I are members of Highland Heights Church of Christ in Smyrna. I am a 1977 graduate of Smyrna High School, and I attended MTSU. I am retired from United Parcel Service with 37 years of service. I was a manager for United Parcel Service for most of my career, overseeing several different operations in the Mid-South District.

**Why am I running and what qualifies me?** Living in Smyrna and Rutherford County for 56 of my 66 years, I care deeply about my community and the people who live here. I do not want Rutherford County to become an unlawful, crime-ridden place to live. I also want to see our school system continue to excel in all areas. Maintaining one of the lowest tax rates in Middle Tennessee is very important to the people of Rutherford County, too.

**What do I see as the biggest challenges?** Maintaining our low tax rate and still providing excellent services to the residents of Rutherford County is the biggest challenge, especially considering our growth. Rutherford County faces the challenge of building a new jail and several new schools. Completing these projects while keeping taxes low and preserving the AAA bond rating is difficult, but achievable with effective leadership.

**What goals would I like to accomplish?** I would like to provide Rutherford County's citizens with sound conservative leadership over the next four years. In my first term, the County Commission has completed four high school expansions, an elementary school, a forensic center (construction underway), and several other projects while maintaining one of the lowest tax rates in Middle Tennessee. I have been, and will continue to be, a conservative force on the County Commission, enabling the citizens of Rutherford County to enjoy premier services and low taxes. I intend to serve the people of Rutherford County to the best of my ability.

**I chose to run as a Republican because...** I am a pro-life, Christian conservative. I believe we have an obligation to maintain a community that is safe for our families, to educate our children at a high level, and to maintain low taxes.



## **Commission District 13**

**Candidate Name:** Brian Stoll

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**Background:** My name is Brian Stoll, and I've been a resident of Rutherford County for 18 years. I am the proud dad of two wonderful girls and I've built a life here rooted in service and resilience. My background includes serving as an Army combat medic in Mosul, Iraq; FEMA response on the ground in Harrison County, MS just days after Hurricane Katrina; wildland firefighting in the Cascade Mountains; and as a volunteer Lieutenant on a fire department here in the county. I hold a CISSP certification in cybersecurity and have over 20 years of experience in Information Technology making systems, processes, and infrastructure dependable and secure.

**Why am I running for County Commissioner and what qualifies me to serve?** I'm running for District 13 County Commissioner because Rutherford County needs pragmatic, no-nonsense leadership to ensure taxpayer dollars are used efficiently without unnecessary burdens or red tape. My battle-proven experience in military service, disaster response, public safety, and corporate affairs qualifies me to tackle local challenges with analytical depth and a focus on competence. I'll apply this to county operations while prioritizing intellectual honesty and practical fair-minded decision-making.

**What do I see as the biggest challenges facing my office?** Rapid population growth and inefficient resource management! Rutherford County is one of Tennessee's fastest-growing areas with recent annual growth rates exceeding 2% and has often been reactive rather than proactive in capacity planning while leaving us on our heels as we scramble to catch up. This has led to growth outpacing infrastructure, resulting in crowded schools, severe traffic congestion, overpaying for projects, underutilizing existing resources, and rushing capital expenses that could be deferred with proper planning — leading to avoidable tax increases on hardworking families and businesses.

**What goals would I like to accomplish if elected?** I aim to keep taxes in check by advocating for smarter budgeting: streamlining operations, negotiating better contracts, and prioritizing essential infrastructure while pushing non-critical projects down the road. I'll promote transparency, encourage better decision-making through accountability, and foster sustainable economic growth, all while listening to constituents and welcoming independent thinking among residents.

**I chose to run as a Republican because...** I embody core Republican principles of limited government, fiscal conservatism, and personal responsibility. These values drive my contrarian approach to probing inefficiencies and ensuring decisions are based on facts, not fleeting trends or strong emotions.



## Commission District 14

**Candidate Name:** Wayne Irvin (Incumbent)

**Background:** My name is Wayne Irvin. I'm an attorney and CPA by training and experience. I also teach business law at MTSU. In my career, I've done a lot of tax work, mergers & acquisitions, financings, and business transactions. I came to Middle Tennessee when I met the love of my life, Patricia. Since then I've learned that I was just coming home -- my family originally came here not long after the American Revolution. Having family that has been here that long, I feel my roots run deep in Rutherford County. In 2014, I turned towards public service when I accepted an opportunity to work with the Tennessee Attorney General in Nashville -- as a part of that work, I was the lead attorney on public utility rate cases that saved millions of dollars for Tennessee utility ratepayers. Then, a few years ago, I started my law practice here in Murfreesboro, helping individuals and families and businesses navigate tax, transactions, estate planning, and other matters. And more recently, as part of my efforts to help the next generation, I started teaching at MTSU. I was elected to the Rutherford County Commission in 2022.



**Why am I running and what qualifies me?** Public service and volunteering have been a part of my entire life -- I have volunteered at church and community projects and have worked on political campaigns since I was a student at Abilene Christian University. While I majored in accounting, I spent my summers in college working in the legislative and executive branches of the federal government in Washington, D.C. Since then, I've continued to serve others through my career in law, by volunteering and contributing to many charitable organizations and political campaigns, and through my teaching at MTSU. Continuing as the Commissioner for District 14 would be a way to continue to serve.

**What do I see as the biggest challenges?** Budgets, taxes, transparency, the size and role of county government, as well as infrastructure such as the Middle Point Landfill, transportation, education, and communications. It's important to note that each challenge presents an opportunity. I would like to help Rutherford County take advantage of the opportunities that it has by virtue of its people, its location, its educational systems, and its overall approach to continuing to grow and realize its potential.

**What goals would I like to accomplish?** Balanced budgets with no tax increase, no expansion of Middle Point Landfill, and continuing to support law enforcement would be three significant goals.



(Wayne Irvin continued...)

**I chose to run as a Republican because...** the party has traditionally aligned with the goals that I share of low taxes, smaller and more efficient government at all levels, strong law enforcement, recognition and respect of individual rights (for example, as reflected in the First and Second Amendments), and basic free market economic principles.



## Commission District 15

**Candidate Name:** Shawn McGowan

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**Background:** I have been married to my wife Laura, a preschool teacher at Providence Christian Academy, for almost 30 years and we have two adult children. Meghan is a Rutherford County school teacher and Ryan works in supply chain management in Macon, GA. I am the CFO of Altius Solutions, Inc and I am also a Certified Public Accountant. I received my bachelor's degree in accounting from Villanova University and an MBA from Oklahoma State University. We are members and volunteers at Experience Community Church.

**Why am I running and what qualifies me?** I am running for office because I want to give back to my community and bring practical, real-world, financial and operational expertise to local government. Over my 35-year career, I have managed budgets, evaluated capital projects, and reduced waste—experience I believe will strengthen the commission's decision-making.

**What do I see as the biggest challenges?** I think the biggest challenge the county commission, and most county elected officials face, is to balance the growth that we know is coming to our county, while trying to retain its rural character and keep spending down.

**What goals would I like to accomplish?** The main goals I would like to achieve during my term would be continuing to pass balanced budgets, ensuring that the Middle Point Landfill does not expand and closes as soon as possible, and exploring better solid waste solutions that will reduce our reliance on landfills.

**I chose to run as a Republican because...** I chose to run as a Republican because of our party's core principles of fiscal responsibility, limited government intervention, and personal freedom. I grew up as a Reagan Republican and saw how his conservative agenda set the county on the right track and have been a faithful Republican ever since.



## Commission District 16

**Candidate Name:** Phil Dodd (Incumbent)

**Phone:** (615) 631-8609

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**Background:** My name is Phil Dodd. I have been married to my wife Melissa Meagher Dodd for 38 years. We have 3 sons, Phillip, Griffin and Thomas, daughter-in-law Nikki and grandson Davis. Our family attends St Rose of Lima Catholic Church here in Murfreesboro.



I'm grateful to be a lifelong resident of Rutherford County and I'm proud that my grandson is a fifth generation Rutherford Countian. I am a product of Reeves-Rogers Elementary School, Central Middle School and a graduate of Oakland High School and Middle Tennessee State University.

**Why am I running and what qualifies me?** I have been interested in and observing local governance since I was in high school. After some years of public engagement in community service and Youth Ministry, I was encouraged to run for County Commission by Mayor Ernest Burgess and former Finance Director Lisa Nolen. The timing was right and I jumped into my first political campaign in 2014. The timing was right because my years in local business and community service prepared me to be a reasonable voice in continuing the financial stability and quality of life handed down to us by our previous leaders. My community service, particularly my time as President of Greenhouse Ministries Board of Directors, prepared me to always consider the dignity and wellbeing of all Rutherford County citizens when making financial decisions.

**What do I see as the biggest challenges?** The Commission is faced with many challenges. Being committed to a reasonable tax rate while maintaining adequate school funding and public safety functions is a perennial challenge. Continuously pursuing solid waste solutions and responding to traffic concerns while maintaining a balanced rate of population growth is also of critical importance.

### What goals would I like to accomplish?

- Maintain a balanced budget
- Provide opportunities for our students to receive the highest quality education in the State of Tennessee
- Provide support to public safety officials and first responders
- Continue expanding our alternatives to an expansion of the Middle Point Landfill
- Complete the implementation of the newly created Capital Improvement Plan (to include roadway and traffic improvements)
- 



(Phil Dodd continued...)

- Update the County's aged Long Range Traffic Plan
- The implementation of PlanRutherford (a long-term planning guide for development in Rutherford County), that is committed to balancing growth and housing affordability.

**I chose to run as a Republican because...** Republican values are the best platform to achieve fiscal security and social welfare.



## Commission District 17

**Candidate Name:** Terrence Hodge

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**Facebook:** Terry Hodge for County Commissioner-District 17



**Background:** My name is Terry Hodge, and I have been a lifelong resident of Rutherford County since the age of three. My wife, Linda, and I have been married for 44 years. We have two grown children, Ashley and Drew, and five grandchildren who are all proud residents of Rutherford County. Linda and I worship at World Outreach Church.

I attended Reeves Rogers Elementary, Bradley Middle School, and Oakland High School before earning my business degree from Middle Tennessee State University. I spent 29 years in the manufacturing of automotive wheel weights and, in 2004, sold my business, Hodge Manufacturing Company. After that, I started Hodge Construction Services, where I continue to provide general home repairs and light remodeling.

In addition to my business experience, I had the honor of serving 16 years on the Rutherford County School Board, where I worked to support students, families, and responsible budgeting for our schools.

**Why am I running and what qualifies me?** I am running for Rutherford County Commission, District 17, because I care deeply about this community and the people who call it home. With years of business experience and 16 years of service on the school board, I bring proven leadership, sound judgment, and a commitment to serving our county well.

**What do I see as the biggest challenges?** One of the most pressing challenges facing the County Commission is responsibly managing growth while protecting taxpayers. Continued population increases require new schools, additional personnel, and long-term budget planning. The Middle Point Landfill remains a significant issue until its closure. The new Rutherford County Transfer Station, however, positions us well for the future and represents a smart investment in long-term infrastructure.



(Terry Hodge continued...)

**What goals would I like to accomplish?** If elected, I will ensure every tax dollar is managed responsibly and transparently. My priority is protecting Rutherford County's financial strength while planning wisely for future growth, so the next generation inherits a community that remains strong, sustainable, and full of opportunity.

**I chose to run as a Republican because...** I am running as a Republican because I believe in conservative principles — fiscal responsibility, limited government, and accountability to the taxpayers. Those values have guided my voting record for many years and will guide my service on the County Commission.



## Commission District 20

**Candidate Name:** Trey Gooch (Incumbent)

My name is Trey Gooch and I currently serve on the Rutherford County Commission, District 20. I have lived in Rutherford County since 1985 and am married to Diana Gooch. We have two grown children and five grandchildren. I recently retired from Walgreens Drug Store having been a store manager for 27 years. Prior to Walgreens, I worked for the Rutherford County Board of Education with the Adult Education Program. I am a graduate of Culleoka High School (Maury County), Martin Methodist College (Pulaski) and Middle Tennessee State University.



As a County Commissioner, I currently serve on the Budget Committee, the Health and Education Committee and the Purchasing Committee. I also serve as the Chairman Pro Tempore for the Commission.

My biggest accomplishments during my last term was the adoption of Plan Rutherford, our new Transfer Station, funding and building our Forensic Center, starting the process of funding and building a new Correctional Center and building six Public Safety Buildings. These are examples of my dedication to maintaining public services for the residence of Rutherford County during our unprecedented population growth. Other accomplishments include fully funding our school system, achieving AAA bond rating and pay raises for county employees.

I am running for reelection to work toward the completion of a new Corrections complex, to complete a long term traffic plan for Rutherford County and to develop a more efficient and effective recycling program for Rutherford County citizens. As a lifelong Republican, I provide a clear fiscally conservative voice on the Commission.



## Commission District 21

**Candidate Name:** Jeff Lloyd

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**LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jeff-lloyd21st/>



**Background:** My name is Jeff Lloyd. I have been married to my wonderful wife, Jerika, for 12 years. We have two incredible children, Jentzen (5) and Janae (2). We attend New Vision Baptist Church and enjoy travelling, sporting events, and spending quality time with family and friends. I graduated from Siegel High School, completing my education as a Chattanooga Moc, where I played football and earned a degree in Business Administration. I am currently a Regional Director for Go Store It and coach middle school football at Providence Christian Academy. Prior to Go Store It, I spent 17 years in retail operations.

**Why am I running and what qualifies me?** I am running because I have been called to serve. I grew up in Murfreesboro, have lived in the district for the past 10 years, and I am passionate about helping to improve the quality of life for people. My personal and professional experience, willingness to listen, and ability to collaborate with others to solve problems are a few reasons I am qualified.

**What do I see as the biggest challenges?** Too few people understand the importance of participating in local elections, making it easier for unqualified individuals to win and then linger once in office. Balancing funding for public education, public safety, infrastructure, and other items while experiencing explosive population growth is a huge challenge.

**What goals would I like to accomplish?** If elected, I'd like to increase participation in our local elections. I'd also like to use feedback from our district residents to make the best decisions regarding how funding is distributed within the county.

**I chose to run as a Republican because...** I am a Christian. I love our Country and am proud to be an American. I believe in low taxes, responsible spending, and limited federal and state government interference in our community.



## Commission District 21

**Candidate Name:** Clarence Santini

**Phone:** (615) 879-2367

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**Background:** My name is Clarence Santini, and I have been married to my wife Candace Santini, for eleven years. Together we have four awesome children, Alma (30), Joy (26), Hayley (25), and Clarence the 2nd (24). We also have a twelve year old grandson, Grayson. We attend the Experience Community Church. My family moved here in 1977 from Michigan. I graduated from Riverdale High School in 1987, attended Middle Tennessee State University in 1988, getting my Emergency Medical Technician Certification, I then attended Tennessee Tech University in 1990-1991 obtaining my Paramedic License. Which I still work as a paramedic today. In my personal time I enjoy doing things with my wife and my children and grandchild, I enjoy doing things at our church, and I like old Wrestling shows . I really enjoy History as well.

**Why am I running and what qualifies me?** As a person who feels strongly about our conservative values, I believe that everything starts at the local level. We must take care of our local citizens, before we can try to take care of our State, or National problems. We must have a voice to the government that represents our constituents.

**What do I see as the biggest challenges?** In my honest opinion, So many people try to stereo type a politician by their race, Republican or Democrat , which is good, as an elected official I believe that the official shall represent everyone in the district. I will always be a conservative, as long as it doesn't go against our Lord and Saviour's Word. Also that it doesn't do against our Constitution.

**What goals would I like to accomplish?** I would really like to open the door to my constituents, and be their voice to the county court, let them see that I am truly representing them, majority rules.

**I chose to run as a Republican because...** Republican values are a lot higher than democrats , I am against Same Sex marriage, agaist Abortion, I agree with the second amendment.

