



**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	



The Republican Party of Rutherford County has assembled this voter guide to help you make informed decisions in the voting process. The Republican Party does not endorse any candidates in a Primary election.

Any responses to the candidate questions found in the guide have been provided by the candidate AS SUBMITTED by that candidate. All candidates were provided identical requests. Any candidate who did not submit their information is not included in this guide. For more information regarding particular candidates, we encourage you to contact that candidate directly. It is our best effort to ensure that information contained in this voter guide is accurate. However, it is the responsibility of the voter to verify all information for themselves.

If you have any questions regarding how or where to vote, you may contact the Rutherford County Election Office at (615) 898-7743, or visit their office located at 1 South Public Square, Suite 103, Murfreesboro, TN 37130. You may also visit them online at [www.rutherfordcountyttn.gov/election](http://www.rutherfordcountyttn.gov/election)

## ***“FUN (RATHER NOT SO FUN) FACT”***

As of 2/1/2026 there were 216,232 registered voters in Rutherford County.

During the last county general primary election (May 2022) only 10.26% of registered voters actually voted. PLEASE VOTE!!!

## ***Primary vs General Election***

### Primary Election:

An election held to narrow the field of candidates. Voters choose which candidates will advance to the general election by selecting a party's nominee for the office.

### General Election:

The final election where voters choose who will hold the office. Candidates from different parties (and sometimes independents) compete, and the candidate with the most votes wins.

In 2026, there will be 3 different elections that we need YOU to vote in!

- May 5th State and County Primary Election
- August 6th Primary and General Election
- November 3rd State and Federal General Election



## **Early Voting (April 6, 2026 - April 30, 2026)**

Early Voting begins twenty (20) days and ends five (5) days before each election with the exception of the Presidential Preference Primary which ends seven (7) days before election. Early Voting is conducted at the Election Commission Office, and at satellite locations to be announced.

No reason is needed to vote early. If needed, the voter may change his/her address or name while voting early. Inactive voters can also be reactivated. We strongly encourage candidates and their workers, who may encounter a voter who needs to change his/her name or address, to do so prior to the deadline to register or at the latest, during early voting.

Voters need to bring a state or federal government issued ID with them.

Hours for early voting will be decided by the Election Commission and announced for each election.

On the last day of early voting, machines will be sealed and taken to a secure location. Early voting results will be tallied after closing of the polls at 7:00 p.m. on election night.

### **Early Voting Polling Locations**

<b><u>Christ Life Church - Smyrna</u></b> - 1004 Hazelwood Drive, Smyrna Monday - Friday 9:00am - 6:00pm Saturday 8:00am - 12:00pm	<b><u>Rutherford County Election Commission Annex</u></b> - 426 E. Vine Street, Murfreesboro Monday - Friday 9:00am - 6:00pm Saturday 8:00am - 12:00pm
<b><u>Lane Agri-Park Livestock Pavilion</u></b> - 315 John R. Rice Blvd, Murfreesboro Monday - Friday 9:00am - 6:00pm Saturday 8:00am - 12:00pm	<b><u>Rutherford County Election Office</u></b> - 1 South Public Square, Murfreesboro Monday - Friday 7:00am - 7:00pm Saturday 8:00am - 12:00pm
<b><u>Lavergne Multi-Purpose Building</u></b> - 5093 Murfreesboro Road, Lavergne Monday - Friday 9:00am - 6:00pm Saturday 8:00am - 12:00pm	<b><u>Smyrna Town Hall</u></b> - 315 S. Lowry Street, Smyrna Monday - Friday 9:00am - 6:00pm Saturday 8:00am - 12:00pm
<b><u>Middle Tennessee Association of Realtors</u></b> - 311 Butler Drive, Murfreesboro Monday - Friday 9:00am - 6:00pm Saturday 8:00am - 12:00pm	<b><u>World Outreach Church - Leadership Park</u></b> - 1921 New Salem Hwy, Murfreesboro Monday - Friday 9:00am - 6:00pm Saturday 8:00am - 12:00pm
<b><u>Murfreesboro SportsCom</u></b> - 2310 Memorial Blvd, Murfreesboro Monday - Friday 9:00am - 6:00pm Saturday 8:00am - 12:00pm	



## Election Day Polling Locations

Polls open from 7:00 AM till 7:00PM the day of the election. You can Vote at any of these locations listed below on Election Day. The Rutherford County Election Commission has established a new voting process to make voting easier. Convenient Vote Centers provide you with more polling locations to choose where you want to cast your vote on Election Day. You are allowed to VOTE at ANY of the thirty (30) locations that are most convenient to your work, school or travel inside Rutherford County on Election Day. You are no longer assigned a mandated polling location. If you have always taken advantage of early voting, these changes will not affect you. Early Voting stays the same. Locate the nearest center to you here. Voters need to bring a state or federal government issued ID with them.

<p><b><u>Hobgood Elementary School</u></b> 307 Baird Lane South, Murfreesboro</p>	<p><b><u>North Boulevard Church of Christ</u></b> 1112 North Rutherford Boulevard, Murfreesboro</p>
<p><b><u>Sports Com</u></b> 2310 Memorial Blvd, Murfreesboro</p>	<p><b><u>Lascassas Elementary School</u></b> 6300 Lascassas Pike, Lascassas</p>
<p><b><u>Milton Church of Christ</u></b> 12155 Lascassas Pk, Milton</p>	<p><b><u>Kittrell Elementary School</u></b> 7801 Old Woodbury Pike, Readyville</p>
<p><b><u>Whitworth-Buchanan Middle School</u></b> 5555 Manchester Pike, Murfreesboro</p>	<p><b><u>Christiana Middle School</u></b> 4675 Shelbyville Pike, Christiana</p>
<p><b><u>Rockvale Middle School</u></b> 6543 Highway 99, Rockvale</p>	<p><b><u>Eagleville Community Center</u></b> 317 Old Highway 99, Eagleville</p>
<p><b><u>World Outreach Church (Leadership Park)</u></b> 1921 New Salem Rd, Murfreesboro</p>	<p><b><u>Blackman High School</u></b> 3956 Blaze Drive, Murfreesboro</p>



## Election Day Polling Locations cont'd

<b><u>LaVergne Middle School</u></b> 382 Stones River Road, LaVergne	<b><u>Cedar Grove Elementary School</u></b> 354 Chaney Rd, Smyrna
<b><u>Rock Springs Elementary School</u></b> 1000 Waldron Road, LaVergne	<b><u>Stewarts Creek Elementary School</u></b> 200 Red Hawk Parkway, Smyrna
<b><u>Stewartsboro Elementary School</u></b> 10479 Old Nashville Highway, Smyrna	<b><u>Smyrna Middle School</u></b> 712 Hazelwood Drive, Smyrna
<b><u>Smyrna Elementary School</u></b> 1001 Sam Davis Road, Smyrna	<b><u>Browns Chapel Elementary School</u></b> 6128 Baker Road, Murfreesboro
<b><u>Lane Agri-Park Livestock Pavilion</u></b> 315 John Rice Boulevard, Murfreesboro	<b><u>Blackman United Methodist</u></b> 4380 Manson Pike, Murfreesboro
<b><u>Leanna Church of Christ</u></b> 4198 Sulphur Springs Road, Murfreesboro	<b><u>Wilson Elementary School</u></b> 1545 Cut Off Road, Murfreesboro
<b><u>Siegel Middle School</u></b> 355 West Thompson Lane, Murfreesboro	<b><u>Mitchell-Neilson Primary School</u></b> 1303 Jones Boulevard, Murfreesboro
<b><u>Cason Lane Academy</u></b> 1330 Cason Lane, Murfreesboro	<b><u>Barfield Elementary School</u></b> 350 Veterans Parkway, Murfreesboro
<b><u>MTAR</u></b> 311 Butler Drive, Murfreesboro	<b><u>Central Magnet School</u></b> 701 East Main Street, Murfreesboro



## Rutherford County 2026 Election Schedule (Voters)

Election & Date	Last Day to Register	Absentee By-Mail Voting Period	Early Voting Period	Offices to Be Elected
<p><b>May 5, 2026</b></p> <p>Republican Primary Democratic Primary</p> <p>Murfreesboro School Board</p>	<p><b>April 6, 2026</b></p>	<p>February 4, 2026 through April 25, 2026</p>	<p>April 15, 2026 through April 30, 2026</p>	<p>Party Nominees for County Mayor, Trustee, Sheriff, County Clerk, Circuit Court Clerk, Register of Deeds, County Commissioners Districts 1-21, Rutherford County School Board Zones (1,4,7)</p> <p>Party Nominees for Murfreesboro School Board</p>
<p><b>August 6, 2026</b></p> <p>State &amp; Federal Primary</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>Rutherford County General Election</b></p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>Murfreesboro City Municipal</b></p>	<p><b>July 7, 2026</b></p>	<p>May 8, 2026 through July 27, 2026</p>	<p>July 17, 2026 through August 1, 2026</p>	<p>TN Governor, U.S. Senate, U.S. Congress 4th District, TN Senate 13th District, TN House of Representatives 13<sup>th</sup>, 34<sup>th</sup>, 37<sup>th</sup>, 48<sup>th</sup> &amp; 49<sup>th</sup> District Nominees, Party Committeemen &amp; Committeewomen,</p> <p>County Mayor, Trustee, Sheriff, County Clerk, Circuit Court Clerk, Register of Deeds, County Commissioners Districts 1-21, Smyrna Town Court Clerk</p> <p>School Board Zones 1, 4, 7 Road Board Zones 1, 4, 7</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Mayor of Murfreesboro, 3 Council Member Seats, 3 School Board Seats</p>
<p><b>November 3, 2026</b></p> <p>State &amp; Federal General</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>Eagleville, LaVergne &amp; Smyrna Municipal Elections</b></p>	<p><b>October 5, 2026</b></p>	<p>August 5, 2026 through October 24, 2026</p>	<p>October 14, 2026 through October 29, 2026</p>	<p>TN Governor, U.S. Senate, U.S. Congress 4th District; TN State Senate 13th District, TN House of Representatives 13<sup>th</sup>, 34<sup>th</sup>, 37<sup>th</sup>, 48<sup>th</sup>, &amp; 49<sup>th</sup> Districts</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Eagleville (Mayor, 3 Council), LaVergne (Mayor &amp; 2 Council) Smyrna (Mayor, 3 Council)</p>

Last updated 1/8/2025



## Circuit Court Clerk

**District:** All of Rutherford County

**Length of Term:** 4yrs

**Candidate(s):** Melissa Harrell (I), Jeff McKinney

The Rutherford County Circuit Court Clerk is responsible for maintaining dockets, preserving records, and handling administrative matters for civil, criminal, and family-related cases (including divorce and child custody). They act as the public-facing hub for filing documents, processing payments, and issuing subpoenas or summons in accordance with Tennessee law.

Key responsibilities include:

- **Records Management:** Retaining and filing documents for Circuit, General Sessions, and sometimes specialized courts.
- **Case Administration:** Preparing dockets, issuing subpoenas, summons, and handling child support or divorce filings.
- **Financial & Public Duty:** Processing fees, fines, and acting as a public liaison for court information.

They also ensure the proper administration of oaths to witnesses and jurors.



**Candidate Name:** Melissa Harrell (Incumbent)

**Background:** I am the current Rutherford County Circuit Court Clerk and a lifelong resident of Rutherford County. I am a graduate of Riverdale High School and the proud mother of two sons, Colby and Corey, who were raised here with strong values of hard work, responsibility, and respect for the law.



Before being elected in 2014, I owned and operated a professional business for more than 24 years, where I gained hands-on experience in budgeting, management, and customer service. Since taking office, I have led the Circuit Court Clerk's Office with integrity, efficiency, and fiscal discipline. I am proud to be the only Rutherford County Circuit Court Clerk in more than 30 years to receive clean annual financial audits from the State Comptroller's Office—clear proof that taxpayer dollars are being managed responsibly.

**Why am I running and what qualifies me?** As a Conservative Republican and the current Circuit Court Clerk, I believe government should be limited, efficient, and accountable to the taxpayers it serves. I am running for re-election to continue modernizing office operations, improving customer service, and ensuring the Clerk's Office remains fiscally sound.

Under my leadership, the office has consistently operated under budget while responsibly generating revenue for the county—helping reduce pressure for property tax increases. Since the last election, my office has efficiently collected and turned over more than \$18,171,187.44 to the county, demonstrating careful stewardship of taxpayer dollars and a strong commitment to transparency and accountability.

**What do I see as the biggest challenges?** One of the most significant challenges facing the Clerk's Office is the State's planned implementation of a new statewide court system, which will require another major software conversion. As the current Clerk, I have successfully led the office through three prior system conversions, ensuring continuity of operations, data security, and minimal disruption to the public. My experience positions our office to manage this transition efficiently and cost-effectively.

In addition, state laws and court procedures continue to evolve. As a member of the Court Clerks Legislative Board, I work with state leaders to ensure Rutherford County remains compliant while advocating for practical, common-sense policies that respect local government and promote efficient court operations.

**What goals would I like to accomplish?** My priorities are simple and conservative: maintain clean audits, operate within our means, modernize responsibly, and provide dependable, professional service to the public. I am committed to running the Clerk's Office like a well-managed business—focused on accountability, results, and respect for taxpayers—while supporting the fair and orderly administration of justice.



**Candidate Name:** Jeff McKinney  
**Phone:** (615) 419-2842  
**Email:** jeffmckinney2929@gmail.com

**Website:** [www.electjeffmckinney.com](http://www.electjeffmckinney.com)  
**Facebook:** [facebook.com/electjeffmckinney](https://facebook.com/electjeffmckinney)  
**Instagram:** [Instagram.com/electjeffmckinney](https://Instagram.com/electjeffmckinney)



**Background:** My name is Jeff McKinney, and I am proud to call Rutherford County home. I have been a Rutherford County resident for most of my life. This community means everything to me. I have been married to my wife, Amy, for over 10 years. We have two wonderful chocolate labs - Bryant and Maggie. My family originally moved to Murfreesboro to start the Boys and Girls Club of Rutherford County where my dad, Steve McKinney, worked as the Executive Director for 20+ years. I attended Central Middle School and Oakland High School where I graduated in 1992. I am a proud United States Army Veteran, having served as a Combat Medic. I spent five years working in the Circuit Court Clerk's Office and am currently employed by the District Attorney's Office. I am a lifetime member of Disabled American Veterans as well as a member of The American Legion Post 141.

**Why am I running and what qualifies me?** I am not a politician. I am just a hardworking person who cares deeply about serving others. It is truly my desire to make a real difference for our community. During my time working in the Circuit Court Clerk's Office, I experienced firsthand how critical the role of the Circuit Court Clerk's Office is to our judicial system, our local attorneys, law enforcement, and most importantly, the citizens we serve. I was able to personally identify areas where improvement, leadership, accountability, and support for the employees are desperately needed. That experience led me to pursue this role, as I am confident that I can address the gaps necessary to ensure the Circuit Court Clerk's Office operates at its best.

**What do I see as the biggest challenges?** One of the biggest challenges for the employees in this office is the lack of respect, accountability, and dependable leadership. Our employees deserve a leader who values their work, listens to their concerns, holds every employee to the same fair standards, and is willing to collaborate with them, leading by example. Another serious issue in the Circuit Court Clerk's Office is the extremely high employee turnover rate, which was unheard of under previous Circuit Court Clerks' tenures. Constant employee turnover disrupts the flow of daily operations, increases training costs, and slows down service to the public. Most importantly, it hurts employee morale and places extra strain on the remaining staff. Addressing these challenges requires a leader who will be present, dependable, transparent, and committed to supporting each and every employee while delivering excellent service to our community. Strong leadership matters.



(Jeff McKinney continued...)

**What goals would I like to accomplish?** My goal is to rebuild a Circuit Court Clerk's Office that serves our community with integrity, efficiency, professionalism, and compassion. First, I want to create a positive, respectful workplace where the employees feel valued, supported, and empowered. When employees are respected and are equipped with necessary training, overall morale will improve, the department turnover rate will decrease, and service to the public will improve. Second, I will restore accountability and dependable leadership. That means consistently being present, accessible, and leading by example. Finally, my goal is to restore pride in the Circuit Court Clerk's Office.

Why I chose to run as a Republican.

**I chose to run as a Republican because...** I chose to run as a Republican because the values of the Republican party align with my personal views and beliefs. If elected, I look forward to serving the citizens of Rutherford County.



# County Clerk

**District:** All of Rutherford County

**Length of Term:** 4yrs

**Candidate(s):** Lisa Duke Crowell (I)

The Rutherford County Clerk is an elected, four-year constitutional officer serving as the clerk to the county legislative body and handling public records. Responsibilities include issuing marriage licenses, business licenses, notary commissions, motor vehicle registrations, and county beer permits, along with managing probate records (wills) and various taxes.

Key duties and functions of the Rutherford County Clerk include:

- **Licensing and Registration:** Issuing motor vehicle titles and registrations, marriage licenses, business licenses, pawnbroker licenses, and notary public commissions.
- **County Commission Support:** Serving as the secretary to the County Commission, which includes keeping official minutes and records of the commission and the Rutherford County Beer Board.
- **Record Management:** Maintaining public records, including county records, and handling probate of estates (wills) and conservatorships/guardianships.
- **Tax Collection:** Collecting various taxes, such as hotel/motel/campground taxes and business taxes.
- **Other Services:** Assisting with passport applications and conducting marriage ceremonies.

The office serves as a central hub for residents to handle motor vehicle registration, notary services, and various county-level legal and business records.



**Candidate Name:** Lisa Duke Crowell (Incumbent)

**Background:** My name is Lisa Duke Crowell, and I am running for re-election of Rutherford County Clerk. I moved to Murfreesboro in 1972 and have proudly called Rutherford County my home ever since. I have been married to my husband, Jeff, for 24 years. Together we have a combined family of 3 wonderful adult children: Kenny and his wife Crystal, Kevin and his wife Marla, Morgan and her husband Martin. We also have 8 amazing grandchildren: Kloey, Colby, Malayna, Cameron, Charlotte, Shelby, William and Sophie, ranging in age from 26 years old to 5 years old. I also have the privilege of still enjoying my parents Faye and Jim Martin.



I attended Riverdale High School, Boro Barber Academy and the Nashville School of Real Estate. I began my Real Estate career in 2002 until I took office on September 1, 2010.

Since taking office as the Rutherford County Clerk, I have earned several achievements including:

- Tennessee County Clerk of the Year 2023-2024
- Leadership Rutherford Class of 2016
- Certified Public Administrator Class of 2017
- Certified County Finance Officer Class of 2022
- Local Government Leadership Program Class of 2022
- Served as the Tennessee County Clerk's Association Legislative Chairman from 2019 - 2023
- Served as Secretary/Treasurer for the Tennessee County Clerk's Association 2023 – 2024
- Served as the Legislative Chairman for the County Officials Association of TN 2022 – 2023
- Currently serving as the President for the Tennessee County Clerk's Association Fun Fact or

Hobby: I enjoy Zumba when time allows, I also like to read, draw, paint, walk, and volunteering at church and most of all I love spending time with my family and friends.

**Why am I running and what qualifies me?** I have a vision of what the Rutherford County Clerk's Office should be, which includes a friendly and knowledgeable team. We have been diligently working toward that vision. This work includes adding multiple kiosks to 2 of the County Clerk's office locations, adding a third County Clerk's office location in the Blackman area of Murfreesboro with an outdoor kiosk that serves the public with renewal availability 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. I continue to see improvements that need to be implemented, and I work toward those goals for the betterment of the County Clerk's Office, it's future, the services to the public, and our team.



(Lisa Duke Crowell continued...)

**I chose to run as a Republican because...** I have believed in the values and standards of the Republican principles for more than 30 years. I strive to bring those principles to the County Clerk's office in the way we operate the office. Taking pride in values that the Republican party represents and passing those values on for generations to enjoy all while providing my constituents transparent, ethical, professional and friendly service.



# County Commissioners

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

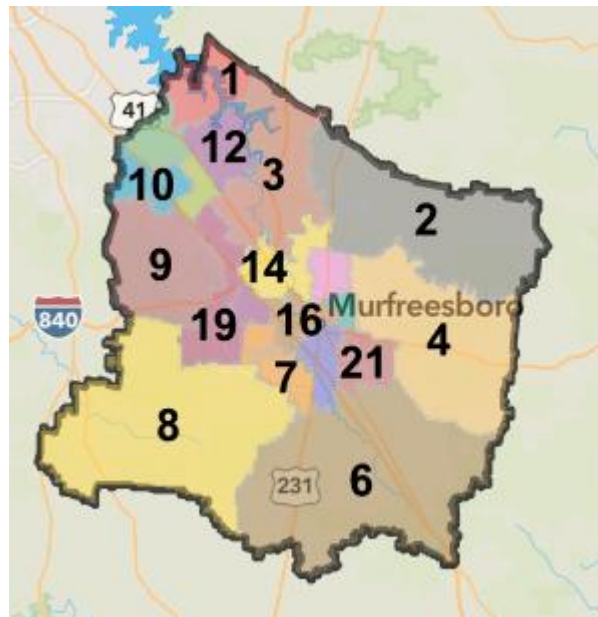
**Length of Term:** 4yrs, with all terms expiring in the same year

**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

**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.



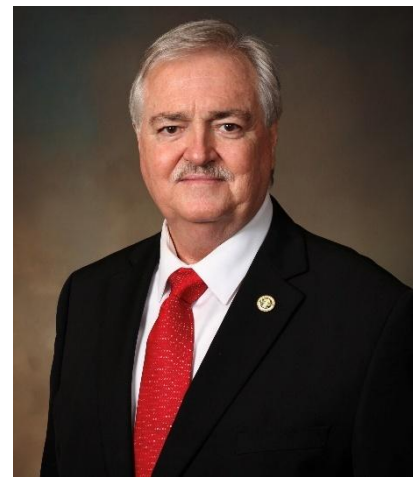
## Commission District 4

**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

**Phone:** (615) 900-4651

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

**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)

**Phone:** (615) 967-7932

**Email:** info@jonathanbeverlytn.com

**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)

**Phone:** (615) 456-0472

**Official Email:** [philwilson@rutherfordcountyttn.gov](mailto:philwilson@rutherfordcountyttn.gov)

**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)

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

**Email:** [carlboyd1959@yahoo.com](mailto:carlboyd1959@yahoo.com) or [carlboyd@rutherfordcountyttn.gov](mailto:carlboyd@rutherfordcountyttn.gov)

**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

**Phone:** (615) 605-6257

**Email:** info@district13.vote

**Website:** www.district13.vote

**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

**Phone:** (615) 809-1203

**Email:** McGowan15th@gmail.com

**Website:** www.McGowan15th.com

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/McGowan15th>



**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

**Email:** phillip.dodd50@gmail.com

**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

**Phone:** (615) 390-8941

**Email:** [terryhodgefor17@gmail.com](mailto:terryhodgefor17@gmail.com)

**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

**Phone:** (615) 692-8716

**Email:** jefflloyd21st@gmail.com

**Facebook:** @jefflloyd21st

**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

**Email:** cjsantini47@gmail.com



**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.



# County Mayor

District: All of Rutherford County

Length of Term: 4yrs

Estimated Annual Budget: \$958.5 Million

Candidate(s): Randy Allen, Joe Carr (I), Craig Harris

The Rutherford County Mayor serves as the chief executive officer and chief financial officer, directing daily county operations, managing departments (e.g., Ambulance, Planning, Solid Waste), and acting as the general agent for the county. The mayor oversees departments, appoints board members, and possesses veto power over legislative resolutions.

Key aspects of the Rutherford County Mayor role include:

- **Administrative & Executive Leadership:** The mayor oversees departments such as Building Codes, Emergency Services, Juvenile Youth Services, and PAWS.
- **Financial Oversight:** They act as the county's budget officer, managing finances and having the authority to draw warrants on the general fund.
- **Legislative Role:** The mayor has veto power over resolutions passed by the county commission, though the commission can override this with a majority vote.
- **Appointment Power:** The mayor appoints department heads and members of various county boards.
- **Focus Areas:** Current priorities often include managing infrastructure growth, public safety, and developing services like forensic centers.

The mayor must be a qualified voter, at least 25 years old, and a resident of the county.



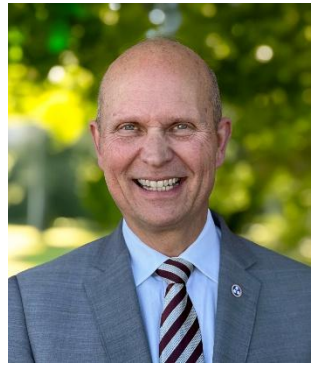
**Candidate Name:** Randy Allen

**Website:** randyallenforcountymayor.com

**Facebook:** randyallenforrutherfordcountyTN

**Instagram:** randyallenforcountymayor

**X:** @randyallenmayor



**Background:** Randy Allen is a dedicated lifelong resident of Rutherford County and is running for County Mayor with a commitment to enhancing the quality of life for all residents. Currently serving as the Chief Operations Officer at Rutherford County Area Habitat for Humanity, he manages daily operations and strives to improve the organization's impact in our community.

**Why am I running and what qualifies me?** With a strong background in business, government, and community service, Allen is a strategic leader who prioritizes trust, transparency and fiscal responsibility. Over the years, he has remained consistently dedicated to creating opportunities for both families and businesses through job creation, workforce development, and active community engagement.

**What do I see as the biggest challenges and what goals would I like to accomplish?** As Rutherford County faces unprecedented growth, Allen is committed to tackling challenges head-on, including budget overruns, infrastructure updates, and government overreach. His key priorities include attracting high-paying jobs, supporting our law enforcement and crime prevention initiatives, reducing government waste, and firmly opposing the expansion of the Middle Point landfill.

**I chose to run as a Republican because...** Randy is devoted to the values of the Republican Party and holds a stellar voting record. He remains a member of the Rutherford County GOP and his wife, Cynthia, is a member of the Republican Women of Rutherford County. Both adhere deeply to conservative values centered on God, family, and liberty. They have been married 34 years, reside in Murfreesboro and are both alumni of Middle Tennessee State University.



**Candidate Name:** Joe Carr (Incumbent)

**Phone:** (615) 519-3184

**Email:** joecarr48@gmail.com

**Website:** carr4tn.com

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/joe.carr.520>

**X:** @JoeCarrTN



**Background:** My name is Joe Carr, and I am your Rutherford County Mayor. I have been a Rutherford Countian for over 60 years. I went to elementary school here, attended Riverdale High School (Class of '76) and did my undergraduate and graduate work at MTSU.

I have been married to my beautiful wife, Ginny Carr, for 43 years. We have three beautiful adult children and two grandchildren. We are members at Believer's Chapel here in Murfreesboro. My roots to Rutherford County go back six generations on my mother's side. I am a businessman, having owned two different highly successful engineering firms, a former state representative, TDEC Assistant Commissioner and farmer in Lascassas, Tn. my hobbies (other than being a bit of a workaholic) are breaking and training walking horses, beekeeping (20 hives) and my son and I own a sawmill.

**Why am I running and what qualifies me?** I am running for a second term as County Mayor to finish what we have started. We have accomplished so much in 3 1/2 years; over \$380 million in school capital investment, a new \$17 million Solid Waste Transfer Station that was critical to halting the expansion of Middle Point Landfill, the construction of the states 6th regional Forensic Center, we've balanced budgets for 3 years in row, given pay raises to county employees and are one of 54 counties nationwide with three AAA Bond Ratings.

**What do I see as the biggest challenges?** Growth: how do we manage our growth while at the same time realizing its positive effects on our community? We absolutely must plan and implement a strategy that provides for the infrastructure needs of the county while at the same time keeping taxes low. Rutherford County's property tax rate is one of the lowest in the state. The plan is in place, now we just need to execute.

**What goals would I like to accomplish?** Continue to put a long-range infrastructure and a sustainable funding model together that meets the needs of the fastest growing county in the state.

**I chose to run as a Republican because...** The Republican Party Platform values life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It is that simple. My version of that is Micah 6:8 "...seek justice, love mercy and walk in humility." Stand Firm



**Candidate Name:** Craig Harris



**Background:** My name is Craig Harris; I am the County Commissioner for district 15 and Chairman of the Steering committee for 8 years. I am married to Suzanne Harris for 25 years and I have 3 children Raegan, Trey, and Seth. Our family attends New Vision church in Murfreesboro, TN. I am a graduate of Bethel University 1988 with degrees in finance and accounting. I have been Ceo for Construction Concepts of TN. for over 30 years and serve on several boards. I raised my family, opened a business, and created jobs right here in Rutherford County.

**Why am I running and what qualifies me?** I'm running for County Mayor because I believe conservative values and commonsense leadership can build a Rutherford County that works for everyone-while protecting the values that make our community strong.

**What do I see as the biggest challenges?** The biggest challenges we face in our county are, Development/Growth, Property Taxes, Public schools, Traffic, and Public Safety. I have addressed these concerns as Commissioner and will continue as Mayor.

**What goals would I like to accomplish?** I would like to see Rutherford County to strive and to make changes and policy to be leaders in Growth, Schools, Taxes, and Safety.

**I chose to run as a Republican because...** I believe choice in a party is a moral decision. I want to align myself with a party that shares my values and champion my issues. I will be a leader that represents my party and never turn my back on it when it gets tough or take the easy path. I believe in our party and when united we are the commonsense leaders who lead us in state rights, second amendment, pro-life, and Christian values.



# Murfreesboro City School Board

District: Citywide

Length of Term: 4yrs, with the terms staggering

Murfreesboro City Schools (MCS) serves approximately 10,000 students from Pre-K through 6th grade across 13 campuses.

Key details about the district include:

- **Focus & Structure:** MCS is dedicated to PK-6th grade education, providing a specialized focus on early childhood and elementary learning, with a strong emphasis on arts, science, and hands-on learning.
- **Academic Performance:** The district has an overall "above average" rating, with roughly 43% of students proficient in math and 40% in reading.
- **Magnet & Specialized Programs:** The district operates several specialized schools and magnet programs to foster specific interests.
- **Demographics:** The district is noted for its diversity, ranking 10th out of 131 districts in Tennessee.
- **Extended School Program (ESP):** A highly utilized, year-round program operating from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. for, offering enrichment activities and, in some cases, safe, school-based care.
- **Governance:** It is a municipal school district (a department of the City of Murfreesboro) governed by an elected seven-member board.



**Candidate Name:** Barbara Long

**Phone:** (615) 607-5146



**Background** I am Barbara Hutchins Long. I am a native of Murfreesboro TN. I attended Hobgood Elementary, Central Middle and Oakland High School. I have my masters in Early Childhood Education and Curriculum and Instruction. I am a widow. I was married my late husband Dr. Tony Long for 25 years. We have 2 amazing daughters- Michelle Austin and Mendi Wrather and 5 grandchildren. We founded Crossway Baptist Church of which I am still hold many leadership roles. I lead and teach a multigenerational Connect class at Crossway each Sunday.

I taught 1st and 2nd grade at McFadden School of Excellence for 31 years. It was a great career. I had the privilege of being on the steering and development team to design the magnet school curriculum, and educational structure as it is today.

**Why am I running for office?** I am running for my 2nd term for Murfreesboro City School Board. I have truly enjoyed representing Murfreesboro citizens on our School Board. I'm sure I have ruffled a few feathers during my first term, but I have brought experience of being a teacher in the classroom. That experience gives me an insight into decision making of our school district. I bring a knowledge to the table of efficiency, common sense, and student and teacher wellbeing. I see clearly financial needs for our district as well as where waste can be eliminated.

**Biggest challenges?** One of the challenges we face in Murfreesboro is growth as well as the diverse population who we have the responsibility to educate.

**What goals would I want to achieve?** I want to ensure we offer the best education possible in Murfreesboro. We want to offer parents a choice of which city school they prefer to send their child. I want to monitor our curriculum to make sure the teachers have cutting edge materials, and training. I want to protect tax payer dollars by teasing out any unnecessary spending.

**Why did I choose to run republican?** The public deserves to know WHO I am. My outlook and values align with the Republican Party. I am a Christian unashamedly. I believe education is a partnership with parents. It takes a village/community to raise a child. The schools' teachers and support staff are a part of that village. I want my community to be safe, efficient, supportive with high moral standards. That's why my family and I have chosen to live, work and play in Murfreesboro my entire life.



# Rutherford County School Board

District: There are 7 designated Zones across the county

Length of Term: 4yrs, with the terms staggering

Estimated Annual Budget: \$625.8 Million, accounting for approx. 75% of county budget

Candidate(s) Zone 1: Charles Isbell, Tammy Sharp (I)

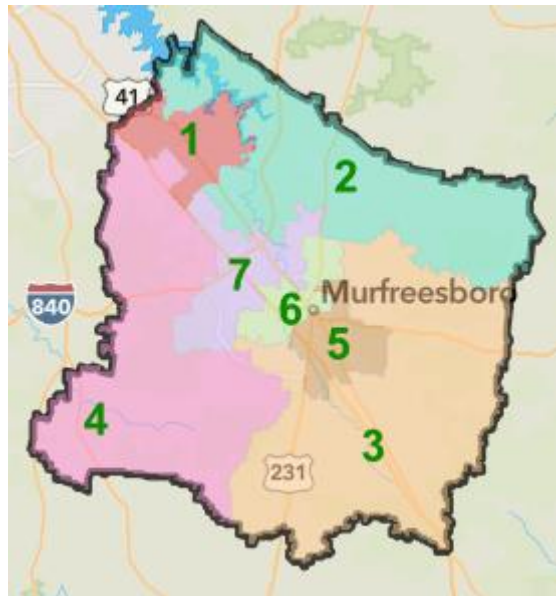
Candidate(s) Zone 4: Katie Darby (I)

Candidate(s) Zone 7: Frances Rosales (I)

The Rutherford County School Board is responsible for governing the school district by setting policies, adopting annual budgets based on student growth, and hiring the Director of Schools. The board ensures academic standards, manages employee contracts, and oversees the district's overall strategic direction.

Key aspects of the Rutherford County Board of Education include:

- Governance & Policy: The board adopts policies and sets goals for the district.
- Budgeting: They determine budget priorities for the General Purpose (GPS) budget, which is then ratified by the Rutherford County Commission.
- Leadership: They appoint and evaluate the Director of Schools.
- Operations: They handle the hiring/dismissing of employees, school consolidation, and procurement of materials.
- Public Meetings: The board holds meetings where citizens can address them, provided they follow set procedures.



## Zone 1

**Candidate Name:** Chuck Isbell

**Phone:** (615) 785-4349

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

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/share/1B5FyiyJra/>



**Background:** My name is Chuck Isbell. I am the father of three children—David, Maggie, and Nate, who is forever 13. We lost Nate in 2020 after he was struck by a speeding, distracted driver. I am also blessed with two wonderful grandchildren, Lilly and Noelle. I attend Hope Fellowship Church in Smyrna and am proud to come from a long line of Tennesseans, with family roots tracing back to the First Families of the State of Tennessee. I have been a resident of Rutherford County for over 29 years (Smyrna & La Vergne) Professionally, my experience as a Site Supervisor in Gallatin during the day and an HVAC Instructor at a Nashville trade school in the evenings brings practical, real-world experience and a strong work ethic to the board. I am also active in my community, serving as Treasurer for the La Vergne Housing Authority Committee and as a member of the La Vergne Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. In my spare time, I am an active member of Families for Safe Streets. I fought to end the irresponsible “Parental Responsibility Zones” that removed bus service for certain students to save money. My record of volunteer service and professional career has prepared me well for this position.

**Why am I running and what qualifies me?** I am running for school board to bring a fresh perspective focused on safety, stability, and strong leadership. Keeping our children safe must always be a top priority. I will continue working closely with our School Resource Officers, building strong relationships so they remain top of mind when it comes to staff training, active shooter preparedness, and safety drills. Having our SROs conduct this training not only strengthens preparedness but also saves taxpayer dollars because it is provided at no additional cost to the district. Proactive training and collaboration are critical to protecting our schools.

Our district is performing well, and we need leadership that recognizes effective leadership and works to retain it. I support our Director and believe that maintaining stability at the top also protects taxpayer dollars. Strong, consistent leadership benefits students, staff, and our entire community.

I will continue putting students, teachers, bus drivers, and school staff first. I fought to end the irresponsible “Parental Responsibility Zones” that removed bus service to cut costs, and I will always advocate for decisions that prioritize children and families. We can continue building on the progress our district has made and move our schools forward with steady leadership.



(Chuck Isbell continued...)

**What do I see as the biggest challenges?** Rapid Growth and Capacity: Educating children requires adequate space. Our district is growing rapidly, with elementary enrollment increasing and high schools projected to grow by 14% by 2030. We need long-term planning that creates stable school zones that are not adjusted every two years, ensuring students have the space and resources they need while providing consistency for families.

Teacher Support: We must support our teachers by being fiscally responsible, providing the tools they need to succeed, and ensuring they have a voice in their working conditions. Teaching is demanding work, and when educators feel unsupported, it affects morale and retention. As we face rising costs and construction decisions, we must keep teachers in mind along with students and families.

Balancing Growth and Cost: District leaders work to keep pace with enrollment growth, while county commissioners evaluate the long-term financial impact. Both share the responsibility of balancing student needs with fiscal sustainability.

Budget Pressures: As enrollment increases, so do educational costs. The district has faced projected deficits, including a recent \$6.1 million shortfall partly due to rising transportation expenses. While the fund balance has been strengthened, careful decisions must be made about when to use reserves and when to adjust spending.

Competitive Pay: Rising living costs and increasing healthcare premiums create pressure on teacher retention. Remaining competitive in compensation and benefits is essential to keeping high-quality educators in our district.

**What goals would I like to accomplish?** My approach is rooted in common-sense solutions that prioritize students and responsible leadership. My goals include:

- Building a new high school to serve La Vergne and Smyrna, relieving overcrowding and keeping pace with growth.
- Providing schools with strong academic support, well-maintained facilities, and balanced opportunities for athletics.
- Practicing fiscal responsibility through disciplined budgeting and working with county leaders to manage construction costs wisely.
- Strengthening student safety by reinforcing bus discipline policies and installing exterior cameras to hold drivers accountable.
- Maintaining firm standards against bullying and violence while promoting respect, accountability, and discipline.



(Chuck Isbell continued)

**I chose to run as a Republican because...** I have chosen to run as a Republican because I believe in faith, family, and personal responsibility. I believe parents — not government bureaucrats — should have the primary voice in their children’s education. Taxpayer dollars must be spent wisely, and our schools should reflect values of respect, discipline, teamwork, and accountability, with students at the center of every decision.

I am running because I am committed to using my experience and skills to ensure our schools remain the centerpiece of the Rutherford County community. Keeping the education, safety, and well-being of every student and the families we serve at the forefront of every decision is not just a priority. This is a responsibility.



## Zone 1

**Candidate Name:** Tammy Sharp (Incumbent)

**Phone:** 1-865-383-3023

**Email:** bSharpVote4Tammy@gmail.com



**Background:** I am currently single and the proud mother of a son, and I understand firsthand the importance of strong schools and a stable, values-based learning environment.

I spent almost 20 years in the commercial banking industry, focusing on fiscal accountability, transparency, and responsible financial management — experience that directly supports overseeing the 5th largest public school district in Tennessee.

I have proudly represented LaVergne and Smyrna for the last 8 years on the Rutherford County School Board.

I am currently attending Springhouse Church in Smyrna, TN.

**Why am I running and what qualifies me?** I am running for the Rutherford County School Board because parents deserve a strong voice, students deserve meaningful career pathways, and taxpayers deserve responsible stewardship. As School Board Chair, I worked to expand school choice, strengthen vocational programs, improve curriculum oversight, and help bring our district to a balanced budget.

**What do I see as the biggest challenges?** Key challenges include maintaining fiscal discipline amid rising enrollment, protecting parental choice, and strengthening vocational opportunities while managing continued growth. My eight years on the board and more than two decades in banking have prepared me to lead in these areas.

**What goals would I like to accomplish?** When re-elected, I will work to expand school choice, strengthen career and technical training, maintain a balanced budget, and build stronger partnerships with local businesses so students graduate ready for college or the workforce.

**I chose to run as a Republican because...** I chose to run as a Republican because I believe in fiscal responsibility, local control, and parental rights in education. These are the principles that guide my service to students and taxpayers.



## Zone 4

**Candidate Name:** Katie Darby (Incumbent)



**Background:** My name is Katie Darby. 22 years ago my husband, Jay and I put roots down in Rutherford County and it has been home for our family ever since.

We are blessed with three children who were and are in the Rutherford County school system—Garyn (19), Brylie (15), and Halen (13). We actively attend church and are members at LifePoint. Our faith community has been a steady source of support and perspective. I'm a believer in Jesus Christ, and my faith is the foundation of who I am, how I make decisions, and how I try to serve others. My kids are my heart! They are a constant reminder of why I care so deeply about the safety, education, and future of every child in our schools.

**Why am I running and what qualifies me?** I'm running because I care deeply about the students in our district and I believe strong schools are built when families, educators, and leadership work together with trust and clear communication. I first decided to run after one of my own children was impacted by a school safety situation that left me wanting more timely information and clarity. That experience motivated me to serve, and fueled a desire to strengthen how we communicate, respond as a district & to give parents a voice.

I've been on the school board for almost 4 years and I bring a steady, objective approach to the work and I'm willing to do the homework—read the material, ask thoughtful questions, and look at issues from multiple angles. I'm a parent with two children currently in the district and one who recently graduated, so I understand the day-to-day reality families experience. I'm known for logical thinking, removing emotion from debate, and focusing on what's best for students while also being a careful steward of taxpayer dollars.

**What do I see as the biggest challenges?** One of the biggest challenges is ensuring the board stays focused on independent, objective oversight. That can be difficult when decisions are sometimes made too quickly, without fully exploring options, asking for more detail, or considering different viewpoints.

Another challenge is increasing parent engagement. When more parents show up, speak up, and stay informed, it strengthens accountability and helps the board better understand what families are experiencing. I'd love to see more parents involved.



(Katie Darby continued...)

**What goals would I like to accomplish?** If I'm re-elected, I want to help keep our district moving forward in a few practical ways - ways that I've consistently advocated for:

- Keep student safety a top priority by supporting clear protocols and strong communication with families.
- Strengthen transparency and parent partnership so parents feel informed, respected, and heard.
- Finding new avenues to help support our district and save money
- Elevating the nutrition program
- Support academic excellence by focusing on data-driven solutions that improve learning outcomes and student success.
- Promote responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars through careful budgeting and thoughtful evaluation of spending decisions.
- Encourage healthy, respectful discussion at the board level so decisions are well-vetted and reflect the needs of the whole community.

**I chose to run as a Republican because...** I chose to run as a Republican because it aligns with my values: faith, family, personal responsibility, and a belief that parents should have a strong voice in their children's education. I also believe in fiscal conservatism, being careful and transparent with taxpayer dollars, and keeping the focus on strong academics and safe schools.

I will continue to represent the community with integrity and common sense, strive toward collaboration, ask thoughtful, probing questions when needed, and always keep students at the center of every decision.



## Zone 4

**Candidate Name:** Clarissa Smith

**Why am I running and what qualifies me?** I am running for School Board because I care deeply about our children, our families, and the future of Rutherford County. As a 56-year-old Christian woman with decades of experience in Human Resources and as the owner of Smith Bus Services, which has proudly served this county for nearly 50 years, I understand both the people and the practical needs of our school system.



My professional background in HR has equipped me to navigate personnel matters, policies, and organizational leadership. My experience as a bus contractor gives me firsthand knowledge of how school operations impact students and families every single day. I believe in steady leadership, strong values, and practical solutions that support students, parents, and educators.

**What do I see as the biggest challenges?** One of the biggest challenges facing our community is growth. Rutherford County continues to expand rapidly, and with that growth comes increased pressure on transportation, school capacity, and infrastructure. We must address overcrowding, the need for new schools, and the difficulty in finding suitable and affordable locations for those schools.

Transportation is also a critical issue. Ensuring safe, efficient, and reliable transportation for students requires thoughtful planning and responsible budgeting. As someone directly involved in student transportation, I understand the complexity of these challenges and the importance of proactive planning.

**What goals would I like to accomplish?** If elected, my goals would be to promote responsible fiscal management, long-term planning for growth, and a strong partnership between schools and families. I want to ensure that we are building schools strategically, selecting appropriate locations, and planning transportation routes effectively as our county grows.

I also want to support policies that maintain high academic standards while respecting parental involvement and community values. Our schools should be places where students are safe, challenged academically, and prepared for future success.

**I chose to run as a Republican because...** I chose to run as a Republican because my values align with the principles of fiscal responsibility, local control, accountability, and faith-centered leadership.



(Clarissa Smith continued...)

I believe government works best when it is efficient, transparent, and responsive to the people it serves.

As someone who is physically conservative in my political beliefs, I support practical, common-sense solutions that protect taxpayers while ensuring our children receive a quality education. I believe strong families, strong communities, and responsible stewardship are foundational to a successful school system.



## Zone 7

**Candidate Name:** Frances Rosales (Incumbent)

**Phone:** (615) 900-5198

**Email:** [Vote4FrancesRosalesZone7@gmail.com](mailto:Vote4FrancesRosalesZone7@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** /FrancesRosalesRCSchoolBoard



**Background:** My name is Frances Rosales. I have been married for over a decade, and my husband and I are raising four children. Our children attended Blackman schools and graduated from High School, and our youngest attends Poplar Hill Elementary. As both a longtime parent in Rutherford County Schools and the mother of a current elementary student, I understand firsthand the opportunities and challenges facing our district. Of all my roles, being a mother is the most important.

I have called Tennessee home since 1985, when I moved from Puerto Rico as a child. After first living in Miami, my family settled in Tennessee, where I built my education, career, and family life. I earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and bring more than 20 years of experience in management, business development, and marketing—including work with Fortune 500 companies—to my service on the school board.

Faith and service are central to our family. We attend Bethel Murfreesboro, where we serve in children's ministry and hospitality, and I serve as a Spanish translator. We also founded BreakThru Tennessee, a nonprofit serving local families for over 15 years. Murfreesboro is our home, and we are committed to investing in this community for generations to come.

**Why am I running and what qualifies me?** The philosophy that drove me to run initially remains unchanged. I believe every child, regardless of socioeconomic background, deserves a quality education, as it forms the foundation for future success. My motto continues to be: Together, we can give our children the future they deserve. I am running for re-election as both a parent and an educator. For the past three years, I have served as a substitute teacher in the city schools, while also being the parent of a child currently in elementary school.

My combined experience in the classroom and as a public-school parent provides me with practical, real-world perspective and a strong commitment to ensuring students receive a high-quality education. In addition, my background in business and management has strengthened my ability to develop thoughtful policies that support Rutherford County Schools, analyze fiscal impact, and focus on long-term sustainability.

That experience has also equipped me to effectively collaborate with fellow board members and district staff, build consensus, and move policies forward. Beyond the local level, I have worked to



(Frances Rosales continued...)

advocate for legislative solutions, lobby for needed laws, and help secure the passage of bills that benefit our schools and protect students. By combining classroom insight, parental perspective, and business leadership, I bring a balanced and results-driven approach to serving our community.

**What do I see as the biggest challenges?** Rapid growth remains one of our district's biggest challenges. When I first ran for office, overcrowding led to rezoning every two years, creating instability for families—including my own neighborhood.

After being elected, I worked toward long-term solutions. Through collaboration and strategic planning, we secured land and built two new schools to address capacity needs.

However, Rutherford County continues to grow by roughly 1,000 students each year—nearly the equivalent of adding a new school annually. Rising construction costs and inflation make simply raising property taxes unsustainable.

This is a complex issue that requires coordination among multiple government entities. We must pursue innovative funding strategies and thoughtful legislative solutions to manage growth responsibly, provide stability for families, and ensure strong schools for future generations.

**What goals would I like to accomplish?** During my service, I have delivered results and remain committed to building on that progress. My accomplishments include:

- Strengthened school safety by securing funding for SRO training, implementing key safety policies, firmly advocated for safety training conducted by our School Resource Officers at no cost to taxpayers.
- Championed statewide legislation requiring active shooter training for substitute teachers, which was signed into law by Governor Bill Lee.
- Supported educators by voting for pay raises and a competitive salary structure to help keep teacher shortages low.
- Addressed overcrowding by securing land, supporting new school construction, and establishing policies to protect taxpayer dollars during site selection.
- Expanded opportunities for students through the creation of the Rutherford County Schools Foundation and championing financial literacy education beginning in elementary school.
- Advanced parental rights policies by reviewing 150 library books for age appropriateness, removing materials deemed inappropriate, and requiring parental consent for select titles.



(Frances Rosales continued...)

- Secured passage of a Fourth of July instructional observance resolution in our schools and am currently working to make it statewide.
- Supported leadership stability through the Director's contract extension.
- Supported opening school board meetings with prayer.

If re-elected, I will continue prioritizing safety, fiscal responsibility, strong academics, and long-term planning. I will also focus on expanding CTE partnerships with Motlow and TCAT, pursuing a dedicated CTE center, investing in renovations for older schools, providing zoning stability for families in our growing communities through the construction of a new high school in the Smyrna and Blackman areas, strengthening financial literacy, and ensuring parents, educators, and students have a strong voice in decision-making.

**I chose to run as a Republican because...** I chose to run as a Republican because I have consistently voted Republican since I was eighteen years old, and my voting record reflects that commitment. The Republican Party most closely aligns with my core values, which are rooted in my faith and shaped by biblical principles.

I believe in limited government, fiscal responsibility, and the idea that higher taxes are not always the solution to every challenge. I believe strong families and strong communities — not expanded government — are the foundation of a healthy society. The principle seen in the early church in the Book of Acts, where people voluntarily supported and helped one another, reflects my belief that communities are most effective when individuals step up to serve and support each other. This belief is one of the reasons my family and I started a nonprofit organization.

My decision to run as a Republican is rooted in long-held convictions about personal responsibility, local control, and empowering families and communities.



## Zone 7

**Candidate Name:** Julie Wishing

**Background:** My name is Julie Wishing. My husband, Anselm "Ans" Wishing -a former Navy pilot- and I have been married for 40 years. We have proudly called Murfreesboro home since 1993. We raised our two children in Rutherford County Schools and both graduated from Siegel High School. For more than 30 years, I have been actively involved in our community as a volunteer tennis coach at Siegel High School (several state championships with Coach Jeff Martin), founder and president of the Murfreesboro Tennis Association, Girl Scout leader, Realtor, and community organizer.



My love for this community helped fuel me to build partnerships with the Murfreesboro city, Rutherford county, and MTSU officials to establish the Adams Tennis Complex at Old Fort Park and I currently serve as an area league coordinator for the U.S. Tennis Association.

Our family has been deeply involved in our church community for 30+ years, from World Outreach Church to The Olive Tree Church. My Christian faith shapes my commitment to service, integrity, and putting others before self.

**Why am I running and what qualifies me?** Rutherford County needs principled, conservative leadership that keeps students first and politics second. As a mother of public school graduates, a longtime community leader, and Christian I believe leadership is about responsibility, accountability, and service.

I have experience building partnerships, leading organizations, managing budgets, and working with local government and families. I understand how board decisions impact classrooms, teachers, and parents. I will bring steady judgment, thoughtful questions, and a practical, solutions-focused approach to the board.

**What do I see as the biggest challenges?** Rutherford County continues to grow rapidly, and we must expand capacity without lowering standards. Student safety must remain non-negotiable. We must carefully balance taxpayer-funded education with maintaining a strong, effective public school system. And we must strengthen trust between families and the school system through transparency, communication, and consistency.

These challenges require disciplined leadership and a clear focus on what matters most — our students.



(Julie Wishing continued...)

**What goals would I like to accomplish?** If elected, I will prioritize safe, orderly learning environments where teachers can teach and students can succeed. I will push for responsible budgeting that protects core academic priorities while respecting taxpayers. I will work to improve communication so parents feel informed, respected, and heard. I support measurable strategies that raise academic performance and prepare students for college, careers, and responsible citizenship.

I will also advocate for professional, respectful board leadership rooted in integrity and common sense.

**I chose to run as a Republican because...** I am running as a Republican because my Christian faith and conservative values align with the principles of accountability, parental rights, fiscal discipline, and limited government. I believe parents are the primary influence in their children's lives and should have a strong voice in their education.

As a Republican candidate, I am committed to protecting families' involvement, maintaining high academic expectations, safeguarding students, and ensuring taxpayer dollars are managed wisely. I believe strong families + strong schools are the foundation of a strong Rutherford County. Phil 2:3



# Register of Deeds

District: All of Rutherford County

Length of Term: 4yrs

Candidate(s): Heather Dawbarn (I)

The Rutherford County Register of Deeds, is responsible for creating, preserving, and providing public access to legal records, primarily focusing on property transactions, deeds, liens, and mortgages. The office ensures accuracy in real estate ownership, manages fee-based recording, and utilizes modern technologies like e-filing and digitization to maintain secure, transparent records.

## Key Responsibilities in Rutherford County

- **Recording Legal Documents:** The office records, indexes, and preserves essential documents, including warranty deeds, quitclaim deeds, deeds of trust, mortgages, liens, plats, and power of attorney.
- **Public Record Access:** The register serves as the custodian of property records, offering a transparent and efficient system for public access.
- **Property Tax Base Support:** The records filed are essential for defining the local government's property tax base.
- **E-Filing and Digital Transformation:** Modernizing the office through digital document preservation, in-sourcing, and electronic filing (e-filing).
- **Fee Management:** Processing recording fees, handling overages by keeping them in the office account, or issuing refunds



**Candidate Name:** Heather Dawbarn (Incumbent)

**Phone:** (615) 898-7870

**Email:** [Heatherrdawbarn@aol.com](mailto:Heatherrdawbarn@aol.com)



**Background:** My name is Heather Dawbarn and I have been married to Jake Robinson for 40 years. We have 2 beautiful married daughters, Sydney (Lucas) and Whitney (Walker). God added to our blessings with 4 precious grandchildren, London (12), Jude (2.5), Madeline (19 months) and Peter (2 months.) We've lived in Smyrna, Murfreesboro and now Rockvale since 2003.

Both our daughters and their families live in Murfreesboro, so Rutherford is our home place!

**Why am I running and what qualifies me?** I am running for reelection to the office of Register of Deeds. I was first elected to this office in 2010 which made me the first Republican to ever hold the seat in Rutherford County. My goals then and now are to make and preserve a record of instruments required or allowed by law to be filed or recorded. These records provide public notice of property ownership, liens, contracts and other transactions that affect the public interest. Each term has revealed new technologies and strategies for improving the services provided by the Register's office and opportunities to influence much needed legislation. Working within organizations such as the Tennessee Association of Registers and the County Officials Association of Tennessee has allowed me to showcase Rutherford County's forward leadership within the State and share our success with other Registers across the state.

**What do I see as the biggest challenges and what goals would I like to accomplish?** The biggest challenge facing the Rutherford County Register's office is our growth. Utilizing a strategy of innovation combined with strong staff development through a vigorous cross training program, the Rutherford County Register's office has become a recognized front runner across the state. Realizing our constituents had growing concerns in regard to property fraud, we worked alongside our software vendor in creating a fraud alert system. Property owners in Rutherford County may go to [mylandalert.com](http://mylandalert.com) and register for a free service which notifies an individual if anything in their name is recorded within the Register's office.

**I chose to run as a Republican because...** I chose to run as a Republican because I believe in limited government which is accountable to the citizens. In taking my oath, I commit to uphold the constitutions of Tennessee and the US, with integrity without prejudice, partiality or favor.



# 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](http://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.



# Trustee

District: All of Rutherford County

Length of Term: 4yrs

Candidate(s): Teb Batey (I)

The Rutherford County Trustee is an elected official serving as the county's treasurer, responsible for collecting property taxes, managing and investing county funds, and dispersing revenue to local departments. Key duties include acting as the county bank, administering state-sponsored tax relief programs for elderly/disabled residents, and managing cash flow for government, education, and highway departments.

Key responsibilities of the Rutherford County Trustee include:

- Tax Collection: Acting as the primary agent for collecting all state and county property taxes, with taxes typically due by the first Monday in October.
- Financial Management: Serving as the county treasurer by handling all receipts and disbursements for operating departments.
- Investment of Funds: Investing idle county funds to generate interest.
- Tax Relief Programs: Administering the state's tax relief program and the senior tax freeze for qualified residents.
- Record Keeping: Maintaining accurate records of tax payments and performing daily reconciliation of accounts.



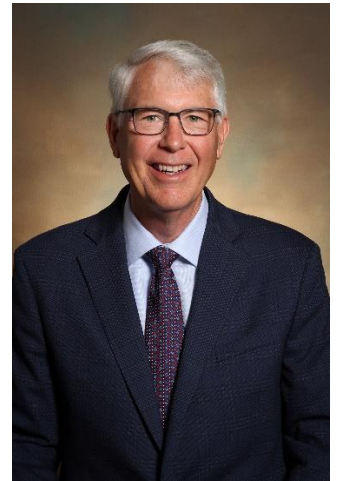
**Candidate Name:** Teb Batey (Incumbent)

**Phone:** (615) 642-4391

**Email:** [teb@miltoncoc.org](mailto:teb@miltoncoc.org)

**Background:** My name is Teb Batey. My wife Kari and our three children, Houson, Kate, and Taylor, live on our family farm in the Milton Community.

We attend the Milton Church of Christ where I preach most Sundays. I am a proud graduate of Middle Tennessee Christian School, David Lipscomb College earning a degree in Finance & Economics, and MTSU earning a Master's Degree in Business Administration.



**Why am I running and what qualifies me?** The responsibility of being an effective elected official requires two things: 1) to serve the community unselfishly and 2) to perform your duties with commitment and competency. I believe my background in customer service, business management and training in finance is beneficial to the citizens of Rutherford County. I am running again for the Office of Trustee because I love coming to work every day to serve my community and I want to continue the improvements I have envisioned for the Trustee's office.

**What do I see as the biggest challenges?** The biggest challenge is to implement beneficial technologies while continuing to provide personal service to our citizens. The world continues to lose personal contact. While technology allows the Trustees Office to be more accessible, convenient and efficient, I continue to care about the individuals and desire to serve and communicate in very personal ways.

**What goals would I like to accomplish?** I want to be innovative in making the Trustee's Office convenient and for the Trustee's Office to be the most helpful place to do business.

**I chose to run as a Republican because...** I believe in the ideals of individual freedom and less, but effective, government. I support the principles of the Republican Party.

