

# 2022 Hamilton County Republican Primary

# Voter Guide

501(c)(3) - compliant and  
nonpartisan

## All Republican Party Candidates

County Primary Elections | 5/3/2022



[www.VoteChattanooga.org](http://www.VoteChattanooga.org)

**YOUR VOTE  
MATTERS**

**5/3/2022**

Online Voter Registration/Record Updating available until 4/4/2022 at: <https://sos.tn.gov/elections>

Contact Church Voter Guides at: [Info@VoteChattanooga.org](mailto:Info@VoteChattanooga.org) | Updated 4/1/2022

For other Voter Guides and more information, please go to our website: [www.VoteChattanooga.org](http://www.VoteChattanooga.org)

Church Voter Guides does not endorse or oppose any candidates for public office or any political party.

The Voter Guide Information contained in this document is provided for informational purposes only. It was obtained directly from the candidates and other sources, and we have done our best to convey it to you accurately, but nothing herein has been "fact checked". Utilize this Voter Guide at your own discretion. We take no responsibility for the factual nature of the content, or for publishing errors, etc. To the best of our knowledge, this Voter Guide is 501(c)(3) and officially nonpartisan, and thereby it does not support or oppose any candidate.

# Hamilton County

## 2022 Republican Primary Voter Guide

### for All Republican Party Candidates

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## Introduction to the Voter Guide

*Church Voter Guides* is an independent 501(c)(3) faith-based nonprofit organization. We serve the public by providing objective research and education on matters specifically of interest to Christians, primarily through the production and distribution of 501(c)(3)-compliant, nonpartisan voter guides.

*Church Voter Guides* does not endorse or oppose any candidates for public office or any political party.

Church Voter Guides, a Chattanooga nonprofit, initially started in Colorado Springs in April of 2021. *This new Voter Guide for the 2022 Republican Primary* is being distributed electronically only, both through our interactive website and by downloadable and printable PDF files. We have produced one Voter Guide for each seat that is: (1) conducting an election this year, and (2) for which at least one candidate in that election answered our Questionnaire. Our Voter Guides are being promoted through a wide-ranging network of area churches, faith-based non-profit organizations, mainstream and social media, and other means.

The purpose of our Voter Guides is to educate and inform voters of each candidate's positions on a variety of policy issues that they are likely to address if elected. As a Voter Guide designed to be distributed through Churches, we ask the candidates questions on topics that are of utmost interest to the Christian voter.

### How to Get the Most Benefit from this Voter Guide

The core information in this Voter Guide comes directly from the County Primary Elections candidates themselves. We asked them questions, they answered (with a 120 word limit), and we have published their responses here. In order to understand and utilize this information to the fullest, so that you may vote in the most informed way, we suggest the following:

1. Pray and ask the Almighty for discernment. The Kingdom of God is all about truth, while politics is a system fraught with compromise. Make sure you consider the candidates' answers with a Heavenly mindset.
2. Ask yourself, "Did the candidate actually answer the question, or rather side-step it, or give a fluff, wishy-washy, and/or 'political' type answer that leaves you not really knowing where he/she truly stands on the issue?"
3. Learn more about the candidates running for All Republican Party Candidates including their positions on issues we did not cover in our questionnaire, by visiting their official campaign websites (if they have one.) The website URL for each candidate is listed in the Voter Guide.
4. Educate yourself more about the Christian/Biblical perspective regarding many of the subjects covered in our Voter Guide by reading topical articles on our website: [www.VoteChattanooga.org](http://www.VoteChattanooga.org)
5. Use search engines to find additional information about each candidate, including written articles and videos, other voter guides, and even voting records for those who have served in public office before. You may even want to watch online recordings of the local All Republican Party Candidates meetings to see how incumbents conduct themselves and vote.
6. Reach out to the candidates themselves through the provided email addresses and other means, in order to ask them questions of personal importance to you. Please make sure to show great respect toward each candidate and his/her time, especially to those with whom you disagree. Running for office is hard, stressful, time-consuming work, and these are your fellow citizens who have lives, families, jobs...and feelings (just like you!)

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## What makes a Voter Guide 501 (c)(3) - Compliant and Nonpartisan?

Federal tax law permits nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations to develop and distribute materials about political candidates' positions on issues, in order to educate voters impartially and on a nonpartisan basis; meaning that it is free from party affiliation, bias, or designation. The IRS states that 501 (c)(3) organizations may conduct any range of activities to promote voter participation and educate voters so long as it is nonpartisan. But, 501(c)(3) organizations are explicitly prohibited from supporting or opposing candidates for public office.

Some of the activities 501(c)(3) nonprofits *MAY* perform: Conduct or promote voter registration; educate voters on the voting process; distribute nonpartisan sample ballots, candidate questionnaires, and **voter guides**; organize "get-out-the-vote" activities; encourage and help people to vote; educate the candidates on issues important to their organization; and continue to do issue advocacy during an election.

So, first and foremost: **Church Voter Guides** does **NOT** endorse or oppose any candidates for public office or any political party.

Second, all of our staff and volunteers are required to act in a nonpartisan manner when working for or representing the organization and the creation of the Voter Guide.

Third, we do not edit, revise, or editorialize candidate responses to our Questionnaire. We do not even correct typos. **Candidate answers are published verbatim**, ensuring that their responses accurately represent their positions and perspectives on these issues. We then simply share this information through the Voter Guide, and you decide whom you believe to be the best candidate.

To be fair and impartial, we reached out by email, text, and phone when determined necessary, to all registered candidates running for All Republican Party Candidates throughout Hamilton County for their 2022 elections, inviting them to answer our questionnaire. Candidate information is presented in alphabetical order by **last name**. If a Candidate did not respond at all, or did not choose to participate, or did not choose to respond to certain answers in the questionnaire, then it is noted where applicable. If there were not enough candidates running, then we did not produce a Voter Guide for that seat.

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**Join Our Growing Grassroots Coalition of Citizens, Churches/Nonprofit Organizations, and Media Partners Committed to Promoting the Voter Guide throughout Our Region**

*Let's get the word out!*

It's simple. Just share our website URL all around the Hamilton County region:

[www.VoteChattanooga.org](http://www.VoteChattanooga.org)

Tell your friends and neighbors, post on social media, and ask your Pastors to promote it to your congregation (we'll even provide you /them with the announcement info and the slide deck.)

Please contact us for any reason, we'd love to collaborate with you: [Info@VoteChattanooga.org](mailto:Info@VoteChattanooga.org)

*The "Small Print": The information contained in this document is being provided for informational purposes only. It was obtained directly from candidates and other sources, and we have done our best to convey it to you accurately, but nothing herein has been "fact checked". Utilize this Voter Guide at your own discretion. We take no responsibility for the factual nature of the content, or for publishing errors, etc. To the best of our knowledge, this Voter Guide is 501(c)(3)-compliant and officially nonpartisan, and thereby it does not support or oppose any candidate*

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**Hamilton County**  
**2022 Republican Primary Voter Guide**  
**for All Republican Party Candidates**

**J U D G E**

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## Judge | Survey Question Index

- 1) **Purpose of Judges:** What do you view as the purpose and role of Judges?
- 2) **Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives:** What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as a Judge?
- 3) **Moral Values:** Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?
- 4) **Interaction with Personalities:** How do you deal with difficult people, including peers, lawyers, their clients or litigants?
- 5) **Legal Interpretation:** How would you interpret the Constitution and the laws of the State of Tennessee within your jurisdiction?
- 6) **Personal Challenges:** For new judges, what challenges do you think you might encounter as you transition from a role as advocate to a new role as a judge? For incumbent judges, what have you learned during your term that will inform you going forward as a judge?
- 7) **Venue Challenges:** What challenges face the court you are running for, and how will you effectively overcome those challenges?
- 8) **Legal Representation:** If you observed a party in your courtroom being poorly represented by an unprepared or ineffective lawyer, how would you handle the situation?

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## Circuit Court Judge Div. 2

(In alphabetical order)



**MIKE DUMITRU**



**JIM EXUM**

Independent Survey by





## MIKE DUMITRU

### Candidate Information

<b>Email Address:</b>	info@mikeforjudge.com
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	Lawyer
<b>Resident of Hamilton County:</b>	Ten years total. We moved to Hamilton County in 2011, moved away for work in 2014, and returned in 2016.
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	<a href="https://www.MikeforJudge.com">https://www.MikeforJudge.com</a>

### 1) Purpose of Judges: What do you view as the purpose and role of Judges?

A judge's purpose is to serve as a neutral referee of legal disputes. A judge is the embodiment of the law and upholds the integrity of the rule of law in a dispassionate, but empathetic, way. A judge's primary job is to observe and decide. A judge must listen to the unique facts of every case, apply the law to those facts, and render a just decision. A judge also serves as a manager in the courtroom, both by setting the tone of the proceedings through his or her demeanor, and ensuring cases move along efficiently and fairly. In sum, a judge's role is to ensure that justice is administered civilly, effectively, and efficiently.

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**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as a Judge?**

I consider myself a generalist, having spent more than a decade litigating a wide variety of matters for individual and business plaintiffs and defendants in the state and federal courts of Hamilton County and neighboring counties. In those years of practice, I have developed a thorough understanding of the Rules of Civil Procedure, the Rules of Evidence, and the Local Rules of Court that govern every matter filed in Circuit Court. My primary initiative is to be an accessible judge, both to the lawyers and litigants in my courtroom, as well as the citizens of Hamilton County who want to learn more about the judiciary and the vital role it plays in our democratic republic.

**3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

Laws are created by legislators, who are representatives of their direct constituents. The people, through the legislature, must determine what principles guide their laws. A judge is merely the embodiment of those laws, and a judge must apply those laws fairly to all. That said, my world view is informed by my Christian values, which are an essential part of who I am. Micah 6:8 instructs us to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God. A judge must be humble enough to understand that he or she must do justice without imposing his or her own values on those in the courtroom. I will always seek to do what I believe is just under the law, but my role is not to judge the law or the litigants based on my personal beliefs.

**4) Interaction with Personalities: How do you deal with difficult people, including peers, lawyers, their clients or litigants?**

Temperament is a judge's most important asset. I deal with "difficult" people with civility and as much patience as the circumstances allow. Litigation is an adversarial process often involving skilled attorneys zealously advocating for their clients without willingly making substantive concessions. And in addition to the obvious financial stress, litigation carries with it an incredibly emotional toll, often leaving a dark cloud hanging over the heads of those involved. This combination of factors does not always lend itself to civility and kindness. So it is imperative that the judge set and maintain a tone of civility throughout the course of the lawsuit, while simultaneously ensuring that all parties abide by the rules of procedure and ethics.

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**5) Legal Interpretation: How would you interpret the Constitution and the laws of the State of Tennessee within your jurisdiction?**

I have a conservative judicial philosophy. We have three branches of government, and the judiciary is not the one responsible for legislating. Judges should make decisions based only on the facts and the law presented by each individual case and should try to rule narrowly. In that vein, I would interpret these sources in accordance with: (i) the words of the Constitution or other applicable statute itself; (ii) the stated intent of the duly-elected legislature; (iii) the principle of stare decisis; and (iv) common sense, which goes a long way.

**6) Personal Challenges: For new judges, what challenges do you think you might encounter as you transition from a role as advocate to a new role as a judge? For incumbent judges, what have you learned during your term that will inform you going forward as a judge?**

Candidly, the only people fully aware of the challenges I will face are those who serve and have served as Circuit Court judges. But after spending a significant amount of time speaking with several current and former judges to educate myself on this very issue, I believe the biggest challenge I will face is the drastic difference between advocating for one position and objectively analyzing several competing positions. But I feel that my work ethic and experience objectively analyzing cases during the litigation process leave me well-prepared to directly tackle these challenges.

**7) Venue Challenges: What challenges face the court you are running for, and how will you effectively overcome those challenges?**

The COVID-19 pandemic caused a litany of logistical problems for the judiciary, including halting all proceedings for a period of time. Our Circuit Courts therefore face a substantial backlog of cases that will require almost immediate attention on a compressed schedule. I am confident that my work ethic and ability to work with others will enable me to address that issue head-on, and I look forward to the opportunity to do so. Another challenge is the general apathy or distrust many citizens have when it comes to the judiciary. In addition to my time in the courtroom, I plan on meaningfully engaging my community—especially young people—off the bench to provide citizens with an insight into how our judiciary works and the valuable role it plays in our republic.

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**8) Legal Representation: If you observed a party in your courtroom being poorly represented by an unprepared or ineffective lawyer, how would you handle the situation?**

This is a very difficult and sensitive topic because it asks me to judge the competence or quality of another member of the bar. A judge's job is not to intervene in a lawsuit and provide legal counsel to parties before the court. That said, the judge's focus should always be ensuring fairness and producing a just result. Thus, if a lawyer (or a party representing himself or herself pro se) is causing harm to the rule of law or the lawsuit itself, a judge can step in and gently help guide the party to the proper procedural or statutory vehicle without favoritism. In such exceptional circumstances, I would exercise my discretion to work with counsel for both sides to ensure the existence of the most level playing field possible.

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## JIM EXUM

### Candidate Information

<b>Email Address:</b>	exumforjudge@gmail.com
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	Attorney
<b>Resident of Hamilton County:</b>	28 years (1981-1986, 1999-Present)
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	<a href="https://www.ExumforJudge.com">https://www.ExumforJudge.com</a>

#### 1) Purpose of Judges: What do you view as the purpose and role of Judges?

Judges are to be neutral arbiters of the law. They hear proof and then apply the facts they hear to the law as written and come to a decision. However, just because judges make decisions, that does not mean such must be made without compassion and empathy. The best judges explain their decision so that all parties understand the reasoning. People want to be heard and know their position was considered. A decision should be rendered in a fair and honest manner but also in an understandable fashion. As a conservative republican, I do not subscribe to an activist court. Courts are to interpret the law and render decisions. A court is not there to impose its values on others.

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**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as a Judge?**

My practice focuses on family law and defense of the police. Family law matters comprise about 75% of this Court's caseload. I have had a significant family law practice for 10 years, and handled numerous divorce and child custody cases as a part of my work. I have the necessary experience to handle these matters from Day 1. I intend to have more non-jury days, if elected, as we need to ensure that family law matters are expedited and heard quickly. Having divorce and child custody issues linger for years is not helpful to anyone. Making resolution of these cases a top priority will encourage the parties involved to resolve their differences in a timelier manner.

**3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

Our laws are based on the precepts in the Ten Commandments. Therefore, God's law serves as the foundation of our judicial system. However, laws are made by man and we are all flawed. Romans 13 says that followers are to be subject to the laws of governing authorities. Although judges cannot rule according to our personal beliefs, my convictions and ethics are never absent in my professional life, nor would they be absent on the bench. Others should be able to see our faith in our attitude and treatment of others. My faith will be on display for others on the bench, as it is in my everyday life, through a level demeanor and kindness towards all.

**4) Interaction with Personalities: How do you deal with difficult people, including peers, lawyers, their clients or litigants?**

Such dealings are unavoidable and prayer helps. I take the approach of treating others as I would want to be treated. Attorneys have clients to represent and often we disagree. But that does not mean we have to be disagreeable. However, in dealing with an attorney who is difficult, I do not change, but lead by example. As for litigants, empathy is key. For family and police clients, I often cannot fathom the burden they carry. Divorcees are experiencing the end of a marriage and learning how to navigate a new reality for themselves

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and their children. The decisions they have to make are serious and I try to keep my patience, because they are under a terrible strain.

**Hamilton County 2022 Judge Primary Elections | Circuit Court Judge Div. 2 | Jim Exum**

**5) Legal Interpretation: How would you interpret the Constitution and the laws of the State of Tennessee within your jurisdiction?**

I am a textualist and interpret laws as they are written. I am not a legislator and therefore it is not my job to create law or read into what a legislature may have meant. I may not agree personally with every decision I make but the decision I reach will be one that the law requires. Application of the law fairly as to all people is a hallmark of our justice system. As a conservative republican, I do not believe in an activist court that legislates from the bench. Voters elect people to make the law and judges are there to interpret and apply the law as written.

**6) Personal Challenges: For new judges, what challenges do you think you might encounter as you transition from a role as advocate to a new role as a judge? For incumbent judges, what have you learned during your term that will inform you going forward as a judge?**

The most difficult part will be taking off the advocacy hat and assuming the role of a neutral. Both sides to a case often present compelling arguments. Deciding what is in the best interests of the parties and that which comports with the law is the daily obligation of the court. I am prepared to handle such matters and render decisions in a fair and legally sound manner. However, I often face such challenges in my practice advising clients of what is in their best interests and how to navigate troubling waters. Through the Lord's guidance and a sense of humility, I trust I will be able to effectively perform my duty.

**7) Venue Challenges: What challenges face the court you are running for, and how will you effectively overcome those challenges?**

The biggest challenge is the COVID backlog of cases. There are many family law and jury trials that must be heard as the pandemic halted these matters. I will have more non-jury days to hear family matters, and will utilize technology to hear out-of-town witness testimony so matters may be expedited. Zoom has made matters easier to hear when witnesses may not be geographically available. Further, I am a proponent of Scheduling Orders to keep litigation on track. Every party should have expectations of each other and of the

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Court. A schedule creates a covenant amongst the Court and the parties to keep litigation moving efficiently towards an end. This reduces cost and time parties must spend litigating a matter.

**Hamilton County 2022 Judge Primary Elections | Circuit Court Judge Div. 2 | Jim Exum**

**8) Legal Representation: If you observed a party in your courtroom being poorly represented by an unprepared or ineffective lawyer, how would you handle the situation?**

I have unfortunately seen this happen. It is always best to recess the hearing and take the attorneys back into chambers to discuss the situation. There is never a need to embarrass an attorney or a party in court in front of others. Demeanor in this job is key and remaining even-handed and empathetic when faced with ineffective counsel requires the utmost care and consideration. Parties should be represented well and it is often obvious when an attorney is not up to the task. A discussion amongst the parties away from others is best. Judges and attorneys are only people. At the end of the day, we are all seeking the best outcome for the parties under the law.

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## Criminal Court Judge Div. 3

(In alphabetical order)



**AMANDA DUNN**



**BOYD PATTERSON**



**REBECCA STERN**

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## AMANDA DUNN

### Candidate Information

<b>Email Address:</b>	amanda@amandadunnforjudge.com
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	Attorney
<b>Resident of Hamilton County:</b>	18
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	<a href="https://www.AmandaDunnforJudge.com">https://www.AmandaDunnforJudge.com</a>

#### 1) Purpose of Judges: What do you view as the purpose and role of Judges?

Criminal Court Judges hear all felony cases, and some misdemeanor cases, that are prosecuted in Hamilton County. The role of the Criminal Court Judge is to preside over jury trials and day to day court operations with impartiality and fairness to all parties. I take seriously the role of enforcing the Constitutional rights of all parties who

#### 2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as a Judge?

I am a trial lawyer, and have tried cases in every Circuit and Criminal Court in Hamilton County, as well as Juvenile Court and the Federal Court. During that time, I have represented a number of people who would be considered persistently and seriously mentally ill. I am passionate about the Mental Health Court, which is presently supervised by Judge Poole, and believe this accountability court can provide significant services for those defendants who qualify to reduce the number of reoffenders and decrease the number of mentally ill being housed in our local jail.

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**3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

I am a Christian and live my life by the Ten Commandments. As a judge, I would not be in a position to create laws, ordinances, and regulations. I also recognize the division of church and state created by the United States and Tennessee Constitutions. I will strive to enforce all laws created by our Tennessee General Assembly and believe our legislature has thoughtfully crafted the laws to incorporate the fundamental beliefs of most Tennesseans.

**4) Interaction with Personalities: How do you deal with difficult people, including peers, lawyers, their clients or litigants?**

After over 17 years as a lawyer, I understand that most people are dealing with daily struggles I know nothing about. I believe that if you asked any member of the bar, whether a defense attorney or a prosecutor, they will tell you that I treat every person I encounter with respect and kindness. We can all be challenged by difficult personalities, but maintaining your dignity and treating the other person with dignity is the key to effective communication with “difficult” personalities.

**5) Legal Interpretation: How would you interpret the Constitution and the laws of the State of Tennessee within your jurisdiction?**

I will interpret the Constitution and the laws of the State of Tennessee in accordance with the state and federal Supreme Court interpretations that have become common law.

**6) Personal Challenges: For new judges, what challenges do you think you might encounter as you transition from a role as advocate to a new role as a judge? For incumbent judges, what have you learned during your term that will inform you going forward as a judge?**

Being a new judge will be a tremendous challenge. I have no doubt that I will encounter a situation, a case, or a defendant each day that will challenge my understanding of the law or how to apply the law in a just fashion. There is no question that all judges are concerned with “doing the right thing” in each case, and I believe I will face that same challenge every day. I also feel that the desire to do what is just will drive me to continue working hard and learning every day.

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**7) Venue Challenges: What challenges face the court you are running for, and how will you effectively overcome those challenges?**

All courts in Tennessee were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly after courts were closed for a significant period of time by the Supreme Court of Tennessee. I anticipate that despite every effort of my predecessor to resolve cases, there will be some backlog of cases that need to be tried or otherwise resolved. I plan to work with the prosecutors and defense attorneys to determine the most effective way to move the oldest cases toward a swift resolution.

**8) Legal Representation: If you observed a party in your courtroom being poorly represented by an unprepared or ineffective lawyer, how would you handle the situation?**

If it appeared to me that a lawyer was struggling, it would be my preference to speak with that attorney in private with the approval of opposing counsel. As I noted above, I recognize that all of us deal with daily struggles that can affect how we work or communicate, and lawyers are no exception. I would never embarrass a lawyer in front of his or her client or the public sitting in a courtroom. However, I also recognize the constitutional right of every defendant to effective assistance of counsel, and want to ensure those constitutional rights are upheld every single day.

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## BOYD PATTERSON

### Candidate Information

<b>Email Address:</b>	boyd@boydpatterson.com
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	Attorney
<b>Resident of Hamilton County:</b>	42 years. 1973-1994 (elementary, middle, high school, college; Hamilton County). 1995-2000 (graduate school in Georgia; law school in Pennsylvania). 2000-present (law practice;
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	<a href="https://BoydPatterson.com">https://BoydPatterson.com</a>

### 1) Purpose of Judges: What do you view as the purpose and role of Judges?

Old Testament judges served the tribes of Israel as fair administrators of justice and as leaders. Likewise, I will serve Hamilton County citizens inside the courtroom by administrating justice fairly, to all parties. While I am the only candidate endorsed by three police unions and the sheriff, I will remain fair to defendants. Tennessee law provides that non-violent, non-repeat offenders sincere about changing their lives for the better, should get a chance to do so through probation. Tennessee law also provides that violent, repeat offenders can go to the penitentiary. As criminal court judge, I will follow the law. I will also take a leadership role outside the courtroom in educating citizens about the issues driving criminal behavior.

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**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as a Judge?**

Three areas of special interest: gangs, jury trials and innovation. As Gang Task Force Coordinator, I partnered with agencies that helped at-risk youth make better decisions and reject gangs. As both a prosecutor and defense attorney, I tried over 50 jury trials, published litigation articles and wrote an evidence book. Regarding innovation, I helped establish three new courts in Hamilton County (Juvenile Drug Court, Youth Court, Mental Health Court), developed an iPad app for jury selection, designed computer programs that identified gang members in court and created an online network of child abuse prosecutors across the state. As criminal court judge, I would remain a resource to citizens, lawyers and innovators in all three areas.

**3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

Some of the Ten Commandments serve as cornerstones of the criminal justice system. Murder, theft and bearing false witness in court all carry criminal penalties. Unruly delinquents can be disciplined in juvenile court for not honoring their parents' wishes. While other Commandments may not be represented in criminal law, the freedom to adhere to those Commandments should remain protected as religious freedom. Likewise, we must protect the freedom to not follow Commandments unaffiliated with the justice system. Although failing to follow them may eventually cause bigger problems, church should remain separate from state. If the laudable motivation to provide for one's family morphs into "coveting" to the point of stealing from others, the justice system would then apply.

**4) Interaction with Personalities: How do you deal with difficult people, including peers, lawyers, their clients or litigants?**

Trial lawyers deal with difficult people every week. The first step: listen to the "difficult" person. He/she may be correct. If so, perhaps you can simply agree. If you need more information, continue to listen and gather information. If the problem does not involve you, perhaps you can point the person in the right direction. If the problem does involve you, separate aspects of the problem upon which you can agree from aspects in dispute. When communicating your position, stay professional without getting personal. Remain patient throughout the interaction. If all this fails, you may have to disengage and return to the discussion later.

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**5) Legal Interpretation: How would you interpret the Constitution and the laws of the State of Tennessee within your jurisdiction?**

Criminal court judges must follow precedent. Legal issues often undergo in-depth analysis by appellate courts. Accordingly, I would interpret the Constitution and laws using clear judicial precedent as a guide. In novel cases without clear precedent, a balance of originalism, textualism and moral reasoning usually proves fitting. The original intent of the framers provides a solid foundation when examining novel issues. Originalism also reduces the risk of judicial advocacy. When the foundational concepts of freedom and democracy need greater context, examining specific tracts of Constitutional text provides guidance. Finally, moral reasoning allows criminal court judges to consider the specific needs of victims, defendants and greater society when facilitating a fair and just result.

**6) Personal Challenges: For new judges, what challenges do you think you might encounter as you transition from a role as advocate to a new role as a judge? For incumbent judges, what have you learned during your term that will inform you going forward as a judge?**

The most helpful guidance in transitioning from advocate to judge flows from the examples set by other judges. Practicing law in several different courts across multiple jurisdictions provided numerous role models. Additionally, all of the Hamilton County judges related to criminal law who were in place when I started practicing law have retired. The judges who subsequently filled those slots also provided beneficial examples of transition. Work ethic, patience and respect for everyone in the courtroom overcame all obstacles related to their transitions from advocates to judges. Additionally, I enjoy maintaining a student's perspective, which facilitates openness to different viewpoints and humility.

**7) Venue Challenges: What challenges face the court you are running for, and how will you effectively overcome those challenges?**

In addition to the criminal court docket, the office I seek presides over Mental Health Court (MHC). MHC supervises non-violent defendants who, due to a mental condition, keep getting caught up in the system. As a former counselor with two degrees in psychology, I recognize the prevalence of mental illness in criminal court. In 2015, I helped set up MHC and later served as a member of the team. If elected, I will establish a subdivision of MHC that exclusively serves military veterans. Due to trauma related to their service, many veterans suffer from PTSD and substance abuse. Veterans were there for us when we needed them. If veterans need help, we should be there for them.

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**8) Legal Representation: If you observed a party in your courtroom being poorly represented by an unprepared or ineffective lawyer, how would you handle the situation?**

The adversarial process requires competency on both sides. Fortunately, most attorneys develop reputations that help judges discern their competency before cases proceed very far. If an attorney appears inexperienced or unprepared, I would investigate if the shortcomings can be remedied. Simply asking the attorney certain questions could spur better representation. In pretrial matters, consultation with a more experienced colleague may provide the attorney with the understanding needed to proceed. Defendants often recognize shortcomings in his/her lawyer's performance. If the attorney seems unable or unwilling to improve, granting the defendant's motion for new counsel may result. If the shortcomings surface at trial, I would make inquiries at sidebar. If the situation is truly beyond repair, declaring a mistrial could be necessary.

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## REBECCA STERN

### Candidate Information

<b>Email Address:</b>	sternjudge2022@gmail.com
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	Attorney
<b>Resident of Hamilton County:</b>	65
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	<a href="https://SternJudge.com">https://SternJudge.com</a>

#### 1) Purpose of Judges: What do you view as the purpose and role of Judges?

To fairly preside over any cases brought before the Court, to know and apply the law as it exists at the time and to make sure justice is done.

#### 2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as a Judge?

I believe in using problem solving courts, like drug courts and mental health courts to address non-violent criminal defendants. I established the Hamilton County Drug Court in 2005. If elected I will preside over the Hamilton County Mental Health Court.

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**3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

Yes.

**4) Interaction with Personalities: How do you deal with difficult people, including peers, lawyers, their clients or litigants?**

I try to understand where they are coming from and why they are being difficult. I try to remain calm and not let my own feelings prevent me from being fair and treating those people with respect.

**5) Legal Interpretation: How would you interpret the Constitution and the laws of the State of Tennessee within your jurisdiction?**

Strictly.

**6) Personal Challenges: For new judges, what challenges do you think you might encounter as you transition from a role as advocate to a new role as a judge? For incumbent judges, what have you learned during your term that will inform you going forward as a judge?**

I was previously a Criminal Court Judge but am not an incumbent in this race. So I'll answer the second question. That each criminal defendant that comes before me has their own unique background and that that should be taken into consideration in handling their cases.

**7) Venue Challenges: What challenges face the court you are running for, and how will you effectively overcome those challenges?**

I would be presiding over the Mental Health Court. It is always a challenge to deal with mentally ill criminal defendants. I will try to find out what is the best mental health treatment for each participant and attempt to oversee that treatment.

**8) Legal Representation: If you observed a party in your courtroom being poorly represented by an unprepared or ineffective lawyer, how would you handle the situation?**

I would ask to speak to the attorney and the opposing attorney, express my concerns and possibly try to find a more experienced and competent attorney to assist.

Independent Survey by



**Hamilton County**  
**2022 Republican Primary Voter Guide**  
**for All Republican Party Candidates**

**COUNTY**  
**COMMISSION**

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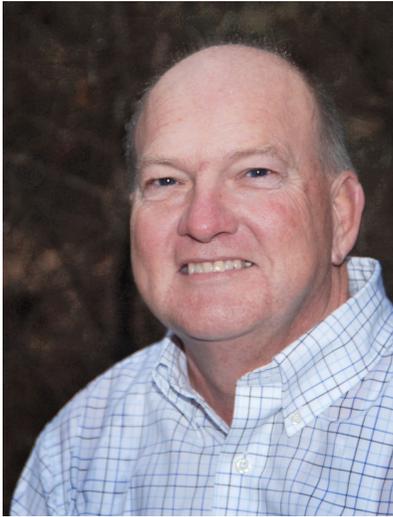
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## County Commission Dist. 1

(In alphabetical order)



**RANDY FAIRBANKS**



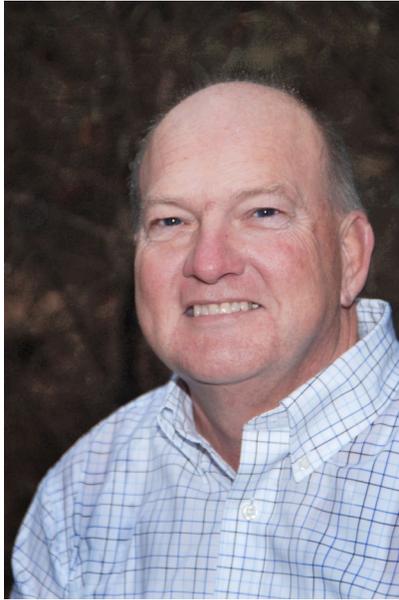
**GENE-O SHIPLEY**



**STACY SWALLOWS**

Independent Survey by





## RANDY FAIRBANKS

### Candidate Information

<b>Email Address:</b>	rfairbanks@fairbanks CPA.com
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	Cpa
<b>Resident of Hamilton County:</b>	65
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	<a href="https://www.fairbanks2022.com">https://www.fairbanks2022.com</a>

### 1) County Commission's Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County Commission?

The County Commission is the legislative body of the county. Our job is to oversee and approve all expenditures of the county. We are tasked with making sure the citizens' tax dollars are spent wisely.

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**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County Commissioner?**

My expertise is in the financial area. As a CPA for 35 years, my focus on the commission is on our yearly budget and analyzing our expenditures.

**3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

Yes. If we are guided by these principles, then our actions in all dealings will be above reproach.

**4) Budget: What would be your top three spending, savings, and economic development priorities?**

Development of the McDonald Farm is at the top of my list. We have seen from Enterprise South what a benefit to the citizens of Hamilton County this would be in keeping our taxes low. Second, I would like to work out a way that if there is ever a tax increase, senior citizens on fixed incomes would be exempt. These citizens simple cannot afford more taxes. Third, I would like to explore the possibility of duplicate services in Hamilton County being consolidated to save the county money. Although I don't support metro government.

**5) Covid Recovery: Has the COVID situation created problems that the Commission can mitigate, specifically regarding businesses, schools, healthcare systems, and other vital services?**

The commission can continue to support safe practices that protects our citizens without shutting down our businesses and schools. Our citizens need to make a living and our children need to learn.

**6) Life Value: Planned Parenthood is trying to reestablish itself in Hamilton County. What is your view of this organization? In the past they received county funding, is this appropriate of allocation of county funds? Why or why not?**

I do not support Planned Parenthood. Most of what they stand for and promote are against my Christian beliefs. I would never support taxpayer money going to fund this organization.

Independent Survey by



**7) Election Process: If it is shown that the county's voting machines have been/can be compromised, what actions would you take to purify the ballot box as stated in the Tennessee Constitution pursuant to Article IV, Section 1, Para. 2?**

The integrity of the ballot box is the key to fair and honest elections. If this process is compromised in any way, I would do whatever it takes to remedy the problem. This includes replacing unreliable equipment or processes.

**8) Protecting Life: What legal means, if any, would you support to protect the most vulnerable in our county, including the lives of the unborn, the trafficked, the poor, and the elderly?**

There are things we as commissioners can and can't do legally. I have supported and voted for resolutions that have come before the commission that directly affects the vulnerable citizens of this county. I believe it is our duty to help the less fortunate. I also have a great relationship with our sheriff's office. I would use that relationship to help as well.

**9) Business/Jobs: How should the commission handle development of housing, zoning and infrastructure in northern Hamilton County?**

The county should seek and encourage development and growth. This is what keeps our taxes low. This growth has to be planned and controlled to not damage or infringe on anyone else's property. I'm very protective of citizens' property rights.

**10) Homelessness/Vagrancy: How can the Commission address any increase in the homeless/vagrant population in our county in ways that best serve all Hamilton County residents?**

What used to be mainly a downtown Chattanooga problem, homelessness is now prevalent throughout Hamilton County. Our churches and charitable organizations have to work hand in hand to assist these people with the help they need to move from homelessness to being able to live a normal life.

**11) Constitutional Liberties: As a Commissioner, what measures will you champion to protect the individual Constitutional liberties of all Hamilton County residents, such as freedom of speech, peaceable assembly and exercise of religion?**

The best way I can protect the citizens' rights is to speak up and stand against any actions which limits their freedoms that are guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

Independent Survey by





## GENE-O SHIPLEY

### Candidate Information

We made multiple attempts to communicate with Gene-o Shipley; however, the Candidate did not complete the survey by the submission deadline.

Independent Survey by





## STACY SWALLOWS

### Candidate Information

<b>Email Address:</b>	Stacy4Commissioner@epbfi.com
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	Instructor-Tn College Applied Technology
<b>Resident of Hamilton County:</b>	57 years
<b>Military Background:</b>	Army National Guard

### 1) County Commission's Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County Commission?

The commissioners role is to be good stewards of the taxpayers money and ensure it is spent to the desires and interest of that particular district and overall of Hamilton County taxes. To review budgets from all departments and submissions from the Mayor for review. Commissioners also sit on different boards for more focused work or cause. Weekly meetings are held for review of such work for discussion and decision process for voting. I believe commissioners should be hosting regular direct district meetings in the community along with digital format to communicate their positions.

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**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County Commissioner?**

Special focus on the development of the McDonald Farm as a multi use land development to include industrial, educational, agricultural, and recreational use. Long term proposal for waste water treatment plant and land fill requirements currently and future. Initiative to increase public safety in areas of police, fire, and EMS while especially ensuring school security. My expertise in running a business and making financial decisions, having worked within Hamilton County government as a paramedic for 16 years, and a educator within HCDE. Working directly with multiple public safety departments during that time gives me insight on the mechanics of government policy and procedure.

**3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

I as a Christian do believe our founding fathers had this phrase purposely placed within our Constitution, "One Nation Under God". This simple phrase gave the basis of how our government is supposed to govern its people and make its decisions. I believe government needs keep this in mind and apply more often when making decisions that may affect those core beliefs.

**4) Budget: What would be your top three spending, savings, and economic development priorities?**

1. Spending on infrastructure to support the development of the McDonald Farm and long term needs for additional sewer capacity to meet mandates currently in place and relieve restrictions for building.
2. I believe savings should be based upon the cost analysis of buying quality more than quantity when justified. Too often money is spent without a forecast of future replacement costs. This idea sometimes is more costly short term, but cost effective in long term creating savings.
3. Development of the McDonald Farm would spur growth for the northern portion of the county in all areas and give the quickest return on investment due to the demand of industry needs.

**5) Covid Recovery: Has the COVID situation created problems that the Commission can mitigate, specifically regarding businesses, schools, healthcare systems, and other vital services?**

The commission has been following guidelines set up by the CDC, though questionable at times concerning the effectiveness. These guidelines have created problems socially, economically, and mentally across all socio-economic boundaries. Attempting to mitigate this should become more of a personal issue than a broad spectrum mandate.

Independent Survey by



**6) Life Value: Planned Parenthood is trying to reestablish itself in Hamilton County. What is your view of this organization? In the past they received county funding, is this appropriate of allocation of county funds? Why or why not?**

I believe that people have a right to do with their body as they wish, but do not believe views of Planned Parenthood align with my beliefs. I do not see the funding for this organization.

**7) Election Process: If it is shown that the county's voting machines have been/can be compromised, what actions would you take to purify the ballot box as stated in the Tennessee Constitution pursuant to Article IV, Section 1, Para. 2?**

I believe anyone can have access to voting. I think a person should be required to prove their identity to be able to vote and that any voting machines should not be linked to any system which could "hack" externally. Voting machines should be more vigorously tested and authenticated.

**8) Protecting Life: What legal means, if any, would you support to protect the most vulnerable in our county, including the lives of the unborn, the trafficked, the poor, and the elderly?**

I believe life begins with a heartbeat and should be protected like any other individual living outside the body. Human trafficking should be classified as a higher level of sentencing and prosecuted at the most severe level and would support such. The poor and elderly are more vulnerable than others and should be looked upon as needing more protection and with that a more severe punishment under the letter of law.

**9) Business/Jobs How should the commission handle development of housing, zoning and infrastructure in northern Hamilton County?**

Infrastructure should be main focus before any consideration in housing development. When housing development is considered and zoning changed, then the affected community should have full input on type of request. This has been a problem in the past for notification to residents during the "COVID" crisis and resulted in questionable changes. The commissioners have the opportunity to develop growth that will not adversely impact the environment or the citizens wishes to protect their community from over growth.

Independent Survey by



**10) Homelessness/Vagrancy: How can the Commission address any increase in the homeless/vagrant population in our county in ways that best serve all Hamilton County residents?**

The county will need to look at ways beyond what the private sector can provide to the homeless in ways of shelter and mental health. This has long been under funded and neglected. Some people "choose" not be part of society and refuse help. This may or may not be overcome, but there must be pathways that those who choose to no longer live on the streets to better their lives. This must be done in conjunction with both faith based organizations and mental health professionals. Temporary quarters and more social specialists will be needed and to be funded. I support that measure.

**11) Constitutional Liberties: As a Commissioner, what measures will you champion to protect the individual Constitutional liberties of all Hamilton County residents, such as freedom of speech, peaceable assembly and exercise of religion?**

These rights are the basis of our constitution and freedom speech most importantly. I sometimes may not agree with the view of other individuals, but I do recognize the rights of all. The boundary which I draw is the destruction of property, violence or the intrusion upon freedom of religion. I will not turn my back on these liberties and the principles that I was raised to protect. I will use all means to protect these liberties while in office or as an individual.

Independent Survey by



## County Commission Dist. 8

(In alphabetical order)



**MIKE CHAUNCEY**



**TUCKER MCCLENDON**

Independent Survey by





## MIKE CHAUNCEY

### Candidate Information

<b>Email Address:</b>	rmchauncey@comcast.net
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	Realtor
<b>Resident of Hamilton County:</b>	46
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/mikechaunceycountycommission">https://www.facebook.com/mikechaunceycountycommission</a>

### 1) County Commission's Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County Commission?

Members of the Hamilton County Commissioner work to serve constituents and the county through many duties that include passing legislation through resolution or ordinance, approving the county's fiscal budget, setting the County property tax rate, establishing policy, and serving as a voice for the people.

Independent Survey by



**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County Commissioner?**

My 16 year professional career in Real Estate Sales has given me a strong understanding as to what people what to see in their communities. Quality of life is very important to me. Its seems that all the focus is on economic development, but I also want to focus on parks, recreation & green spaces for resident to enjoy. Public education is also very near and dear to me. I want to work closely with the new Mayor and schools board members to improve the literacy rates in our public education systems.

**3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

Yes absolutely! If the law is a reflection of God's character and people are made in God's image, then the law fits human nature as well as that of God.

**4) Budget: What would be your top three spending, savings, and economic development priorities?**

I am in favor of low taxes and small government. My top spending priorities would be to ensure that our Police Dept, Fire Dept and first responders have all the recourses they need to protect the citizens and themselves. Secondly, responsible spending on public education and lastly repairing our roads and infrastructure to keep up with the unbridled development that's currently taking place.

**5) Covid Recovery: Has the COVID situation created problems that the Commission can mitigate, specifically regarding businesses, schools, healthcare systems, and other vital services?**

As a county Commissioner i will make every effort to keep our schools, business's, healthcare systems and other vital services open and operational. The solution to the problem should not be greater than the problem itself.

**6) Life Value: Planned Parenthood is trying to reestablish itself in Hamilton County. What is your view of this organization? In the past they received county funding, is this appropriate of allocation of county funds? Why or why not?**

Planned Parenthood is an existential danger to not only unborn children, but school age children and their families here in Hamilton County. On the surface Planned Parenthood claims to offer many services but remain the largest provider of abortions, including late terms abortions in some facilities, in the world, they also have plans to provide sex education in the public schools. As a County Commissioner I would vote against allocating county funds to this organization.

Independent Survey by



**7) Election Process: If it is shown that the county's voting machines have been/can be compromised, what actions would you take to purify the ballot box as stated in the Tennessee Constitution pursuant to Article IV, Section 1, Para. 2?**

Our US government only works when legal votes are counted and when campaigns follow the law. Fair elections are the foundation of our democracy, and the FBI should be committed to protecting the rights of the voters. When the legitimacy of elections is corrupted, our democracy is threatened.

**8) Protecting Life: What legal means, if any, would you support to protect the most vulnerable in our county, including the lives of the unborn, the trafficked, the poor, and the elderly?**

I am a father of a beautiful teenage girl and I cherish her life more than anything. It's our responsibility to protect the most vulnerable in our communities and that includes the unborn. I am pro-life and will continue to take a pro-life approach on the Hamilton County Commission.

**9) Business/Jobs: How should the commission handle development of housing, zoning and infrastructure in northern Hamilton County?**

I am very concerned about unbridled development in the county which could exacerbate infrastructure issues. Business's will be reluctant to come and invest if we have unfractured problems so it's important we stay on top of it.

**10) Homelessness/Vagrancy: How can the Commission address any increase in the homeless/vagrant population in our county in ways that best serve all Hamilton County residents?**

My heart goes out to those suffering from mental illness and or substance abuse that may be the cause of their homeless situation. The homeless issues that Hamilton County has needs to be a prioritized to help those that are homeless but also those business and residents that are directly affected.

**11) Constitutional Liberties: As a Commissioner, what measures will you champion to protect the individual Constitutional liberties of all Hamilton County residents, such as freedom of speech, peaceable assembly and exercise of religion?**

As a County Commissioner I will fight for all Civil liberties and Constitutional rights. The constitution should not be treated as a living breathing document.

Independent Survey by





## TUCKER MCCLENDON

### Candidate Information

<b>Email Address:</b>	tucker@tuckermcclendon.com
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	Director Of Events
<b>Resident of Hamilton County:</b>	27
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	<a href="https://www.tuckermcclendon.com">https://www.tuckermcclendon.com</a>

### 1) County Commission's Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County Commission?

The Commission is the governing authority of the County government, responsible for approving nearly a billion dollars of expenditures each year and setting policy for the County government.

Independent Survey by



**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County Commissioner?**

In addition to ensuring the continuation of the conservative fiscal policies that have made Hamilton County the most financially stable county in Tennessee, my time on the School Board showed me the importance of school facilities, and I look forward to working with the new mayor and Commission on addressing the issue.

**3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

The 10 Commandments are meant for individuals and their relationship with God, not a government. My faith is important to me, and I certainly embrace the Commandments in living my daily life when I am a Commissioner.

**4) Budget: What would be your top three spending, savings, and economic development priorities?**

Again, the Commission will scrutinize all expenditures to ensure we are getting value for the taxpayers. I will focus on our ability to fund new school facilities and having an infrastructure strategic plan in place for the county. Having worked with small businesses, my focus will be on making sure we have proper programs and resources to support local businesses in the County.

**5) Covid Recovery: Has the COVID situation created problems that the Commission can mitigate, specifically regarding businesses, schools, healthcare systems, and other vital services?**

I think Mayor Coppinger and Gov. Lee managed the pandemic well. We are through this, hopefully with no return, and we need to return to normal. No mandates.

**6) Life Value: Planned Parenthood is trying to reestablish itself in Hamilton County. What is your view of this organization? In the past they received county funding, is this appropriate of allocation of county funds? Why or why not?**

I am pro-life. No government can ban an organization from existing, but I will not support any taxpayer funds for Planned Parenthood.

Independent Survey by



**7) Election Process: If it is shown that the county's voting machines have been/can be compromised, what actions would you take to purify the ballot box as stated in the Tennessee Constitution pursuant to Article IV, Section 1, Para. 2?**

If such a thing happens, we will address it. However, I have full confidence in the way our Election Commission managed elections.

**8) Protecting Life: What legal means, if any, would you support to protect the most vulnerable in our county, including the lives of the unborn, the trafficked, the poor, and the elderly?**

The County is not the governing body that sets abortion law. Both the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department and the Chattanooga Police Department work with state and federal law enforcement on trafficking issues. It's against the law, so new legal measures are unneeded. County Government has many programs for the poor and elderly, and we should always consider ways to do better, but I wouldn't foresee the need for legal means beyond what already exists.

**9) Business/Jobs: How should the commission handle development of housing, zoning and infrastructure in northern Hamilton County?**

The Commission is the place where final votes are taken for any new developments in the County, not just the northern part of the county. The Commission always has to balance the need for new housing with the need to preserve the quality of life we enjoy in Hamilton County.

**10) Homelessness/Vagrancy: How can the Commission address any increase in the homeless/vagrant population in our county in ways that best serve all Hamilton County residents?**

The homeless issue is more of an issue in the City than it is in the County. I am unfamiliar at this time with what the County does programmatically but am certainly sympathetic to these people as human beings and their impact on the rest citizens. We should also utilize our non-profit community as much as possible.

**11) Constitutional Liberties: As a Commissioner, what measures will you champion to protect the individual Constitutional liberties of all Hamilton County residents, such as freedom of speech, peaceable assembly and exercise of religion?**

As a Commissioner, I will always support the liberties the Constitution provides for every citizen.

Independent Survey by



## County Commission Dist. 10

(In alphabetical order)



**JEFF EVERSOLE**



**DEAN MOORHOUSE**

Independent Survey by





## JEFF EVERSOLE

### Candidate Information

**Email Address:** j.eversole@gmx.com  
**Occupation/Vocation:** Business Management  
**Resident of Hamilton County:** 26  
**Campaign Website:** <https://www.voteJeffEversole.com>

#### 1) County Commission's Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County Commission?

- Approve zoning changes for Hamilton County
- Appoint local Judicial, local elected positions when the elected cycle of a candidate cannot be completed
- Approve and manage the Hamilton County budget
- Represent their District Constituents AND the Hamilton County citizens

Independent Survey by



**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County Commissioner?**

- Business budgeting, I have experience managing a billion dollar budget
- Business strategic planning including infrastructure with an outlook of 10/15/25 year vision
- Business acumen on how to resolve problems for permanent solutions. Moving things forward

**3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

Yes, The 10 Commandments guide us in everyday life ensuring principles and integrity is brought into how we act and respond.

**4) Budget: What would be your top three spending, savings, and economic development priorities?**

Spending;

1. Updating our schools to improve the students' environment, increase teacher salaries to be competitive with bordering sates and engage more parents and/or guardians to get involved
2. Address and fix our streets and aging infrastructure
3. Support first responders to make our neighborhoods safer

Saving;

1. Ensure we don't allow non-discretionary funds to the commission
2. Review properties the County owns and their feasibility for future needs. Sell if we don't need
3. Ensure I do my part in ensuring your tax dollars are spent wisely and on necessity items. No tax increases

Economic Development priorities;

1. Addressing zoning inaccuracies.
2. Address unsafe roads from overdeveloped areas
3. Ensure our first responders have the equipment needed to address the changing environment of growth in District 10

Independent Survey by



**5) Covid Recovery: Has the COVID situation created problems that the Commission can mitigate, specifically regarding businesses, schools, healthcare systems, and other vital services?**

As the community reopens, my responsibility will be to ensure we continue to open freely and the government takes a back seat to families getting back together again.

**6) Life Value: Planned Parenthood is trying to reestablish itself in Hamilton County. What is your view of this organization? In the past they received county funding, is this appropriate of allocation of county funds? Why or why not?**

Planned Parenthood will not be allowed to reestablish within our county. I will not approve any penny to the county funds to be used for the organization.

**7) Election Process: If it is shown that the county's voting machines have been/can be compromised, what actions would you take to purify the ballot box as stated in the Tennessee Constitution pursuant to Article IV, Section 1, Para. 2?**

The Commission would not have authority in this instance. I will however, use my influence in government to ensure all resources are utilized in the case fraud is proven to ensure the voice of the people are accurately accounted for.

**8) Protecting Life: What legal means, if any, would you support to protect the most vulnerable in our county, including the lives of the unborn, the trafficked, the poor, and the elderly?**

The commission only supports the Constitution of the US, Constitution of Tennessee and Federal/state/local laws. My beliefs is to protect the unborn and to use my position to ensure my values reflect my beliefs. During budget season, I would ensure the proper organizations are properly funded to support the stop of illegal trafficking and the care of the elderly. I would ensure the poor has the means of job placements through the County's new vocational programs and financial assistance needs

**9) Business/JobsHow should the commission handle development of housing, zoning and infrastructure in northern Hamilton County?**

We need additional zoning to allow for larger parcels of property with minimal housing. The NE Hamilton County area needs a R5 (1 house per 5 acres) R3 (1 house for 3 acres) implements to allow road infrastructures to catch up.

Independent Survey by



**10) Homelessness/Vagrancy: How can the Commission address any increase in the homeless/vagrant population in our county in ways that best serve all Hamilton County residents?**

Funding is the largest step to ensure the homeless/vagrant population is addressed. We are seeing more opportunities to support this growing situation in the county daily.

**11) Constitutional Liberties: As a Commissioner, what measures will you champion to protect the individual Constitutional liberties of all Hamilton County residents, such as freedom of speech, peaceable assembly and exercise of religion?**

I believe in the Constitution of the United States and our God given liberties. As a commissioner I will do everything in my power to protect this sacred liberty

Independent Survey by





## DEAN MOORHOUSE

### Candidate Information

<b>Email Address:</b>	electdeanmoorhouse@gmail.com
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	Retired Healthcare Executive
<b>Resident of Hamilton County:</b>	46 years
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	<a href="https://www.deanmoorhouse.com">https://www.deanmoorhouse.com</a>

### 1) County Commission's Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County Commission?

The County Commission is the regulatory, approval and funding body for Hamilton County. The budget for every department in county government is set and approved by the County Commission. Approval for bonds for major projects such as new schools and major road improvements are approved by the County Commission. In addition to the budget process, the County Commission formulates and approves resolutions, which are the rules that must be followed by all of county government. All zoning changes for residential, commercial, industrial and manufacturing must be approved. Issues affecting the health and safety of the citizens are approved by the County Commission, such as mask mandates. All purchases requiring bids are also approved by the County Commission.

Independent Survey by



**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County Commissioner?**

As a graduate of UTC's school of business and small business owner, with many years of experience in formulating and managing budgets, I will focus on wise spending of the taxpayers dollars. I will continue to stand and protect small landowners rights. With 2/3 of the growth in the last decade occurring in North East Hamilton County we must focus on responsible growth, improvements to our roads, providing adequate support to police, fire and first responders and enhanced property tax reduction programs to protect our elderly, on fixed income, from rising taxes and inflation. I have a proven track record in District 10 of raising over \$2 million for the youth, schools, elderly and underserved populations within my district.

**3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

The law of God as given to Moses on Mount Sinai, should set the standard for all governmental laws, ordinances, resolutions and regulations.

**4) Budget: What would be your top three spending, savings, and economic development priorities?**

My top three spending priorities are road improvements, ensuring the police department, volunteer fire departments and first responders are adequately funded for the protection of our citizens. My top three savings initiatives would focus on technology updates to save labor cost, establishing productivity standards for government offices, and establishing inventory control measures for government services. Economic development is driven by the availability of a well trained work force and low cost of living. Investment in vocational education and pre-kindergarten programs are keys to workforce enhancement along with keeping taxes low.

**5) Covid Recovery: Has the COVID situation created problems that the Commission can mitigate, specifically regarding businesses, schools, healthcare systems, and other vital services?**

In the interest of keeping property taxes low, I am not in favor of County funded mitigation programs for this or similar situations. I believe natural disaster relief money should come from the State and Federal Government. The State of Tennessee is offering low interest loan programs for small business owners. My last check indicated millions of dollars were unclaimed. Our schools and healthcare systems are perhaps the most impacted. The school system is receiving from the State, millions to address their needs. The county is scheduled to receive from the State around \$150 million to address health issues. Most of the \$150 million has already been allocated to health department services, sewer system improvements and clean water.

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**6) Life Value: Planned Parenthood is trying to reestablish itself in Hamilton County. What is your view of this organization? In the past they received county funding, is this appropriate of allocation of county funds? Why or why not?**

My view of planned parenthood is very unfavorable. I will not vote in favor of funding this organization. I have reviewed some of the planned parenthood brochures. I find them obscene, repulsive and a violation of God's law.

**7) Election Process: If it is shown that the county's voting machines have been/can be compromised, what actions would you take to purify the ballot box as stated in the Tennessee Constitution pursuant to Article IV, Section 1, Para. 2?**

Direct connection of any voting device to the internet has been proven to my satisfaction as an opportunity for ballot tampering. This practice must be stopped. All ballots, especially absentee ballots must have a watermark to verify their authenticity. Methods of ballot reconciliation must be in place in the event of machine malfunction.

**8) Protecting Life: What legal means, if any, would you support to protect the most vulnerable in our county, including the lives of the unborn, the trafficked, the poor, and the elderly?**

I am 100% opposed to abortion both spiritually and morally. The county commission does not make laws but I certainly support prosecution to the fullest extent of the law any violations of human trafficking and abuse of the elderly.

**9) Business/Jobs: How should the commission handle development of housing, zoning and infrastructure in northern Hamilton County?**

Growth must be responsible. An organized comprehensive growth plan must be formulated, adopted and followed to protect our existing neighborhoods, steep slopes and waterways. Our area currently does not have an updated plan. More importantly a one size fits all approach to development does not work in every set of circumstances. Consideration must be given to road and school capacity, impact on surrounding neighbors property and the over all safety of the citizens. Development should be consistent with the standards within the community. Too often, developers use the value of the property and homes in the neighborhood with large lot sizes to improve the appraisal of high density small lot size homes.

Independent Survey by



**10) Homelessness/Vagrancy: How can the Commission address any increase in the homeless/vagrant population in our county in ways that best serve all Hamilton County residents?**

According to one reference, in 2021 over 1200 individuals are homeless in our area, with over 350 individuals in Hamilton County. Unfortunately many of those are our veterans. Homelessness is often the product of drug or alcohol addiction and mental illness but this is not always the case. Support services for addiction and mental illness are available downtown but often are not available in the outlying areas. I would support public/private partnerships for the treatment and rehabilitation centers in outlying areas. With real estate prices soaring, affordable housing is the next step for those who become employed and homeless.

**11) Constitutional Liberties: As a Commissioner, what measures will you champion to protect the individual Constitutional liberties of all Hamilton County residents, such as freedom of speech, peaceable assembly and exercise of religion?**

Our Constitution guarantees the right to exercise freedom of speech, peacefull assembly and freedom of religion. I will oppose any resoulution that would violate these inalienable rights.

Independent Survey by



## County Commission Unopposed

(In district order)



**GREG MARTIN**



**RUTH JENO**



**STEVE HIGHLANDER**



**JOE GRAHAM**

Independent Survey by





## GREG MARTIN

### Candidate Information

<b>Email Address:</b>	countycommissionergregmartin@gmail.com
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	Realtor
<b>Resident of Hamilton County:</b>	43 - I lived 15 years in New Orleans and the Mississippi
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	<a href="https://www.electgregmartin.com">https://www.electgregmartin.com</a>

#### 1) County Commission's Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County Commission?

The Hamilton County Commission is the local legislative body. Its powers are defined in the Tennessee State Constitution.

#### 2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County Commissioner?

The District County Commissioner is "the eyes and ears" of the community. I want to represent my community as a part of the legislative body of the local county government. I am most excited about the economic development that can happen at the McDonald Farm in the coming years. If this property is developed properly the county tax base will grow. This economic growth and development ensures that property taxes will not be raised at an alarming rate.

Independent Survey by



**3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

Yes. The 10 Commandments are the bedrock of our American moral fabric.

**4) Budget: What would be your top three spending, savings, and economic development priorities?**

The development of McDonald Farm as an Industrial Park is my number one priority for economic development. This ensures that when we borrow money to build schools and other infrastructure that we are able to do it at the lowest interest rates possible. The average age of our school buildings is 48 years old. We need to replace the buildings that are outdated. We have done this at Middle Valley Elementary recently in our community. It needs to happen in all parts of the county.

**5) Covid Recovery: Has the COVID situation created problems that the Commission can mitigate, specifically regarding businesses, schools, healthcare systems, and other vital services?**

Candidate Did Not Respond

**6) Life Value: Planned Parenthood is trying to reestablish itself in Hamilton County. What is your view of this organization? In the past they received county funding, is this appropriate of allocation of county funds? Why or why not?**

I am NOT an advocate of Planned Parenthood. I will work in every way possible to prevent them from gaining any ground in our community. I do not support the propagation of their message that seeks to destroy life that is created at conception. They should not receive any county funds.

**7) Election Process: If it is shown that the county's voting machines have been/can be compromised, what actions would you take to purify the ballot box as stated in the Tennessee Constitution pursuant to Article IV, Section 1, Para. 2?**

I believe citizens should have to show an ID to vote and that voting should be with paper ballots. Nothing in our government is more sacred than our election process to determine who governs.

Independent Survey by



**8) Protecting Life: What legal means, if any, would you support to protect the most vulnerable in our county, including the lives of the unborn, the trafficked, the poor, and the elderly?**

I would take every legal measure to support the unborn and vulnerable populations. In a Judeo-Christian tradition, one of the purposes of government is to care for and protect the weak and vulnerable. 100% Pro-life!

**9) Business/Jobs: How should the commission handle development of housing, zoning and infrastructure in northern Hamilton County?**

The whole county should be treated equally. I am an advocate for property rights. We do need to build at least one if not two waste water sewage treatment plants to help with development, provide a safer quality of water in our streams creeks and rivers, and lift the moratoriums placed on certain parts of the county by the EPA.

**10) Homelessness/Vagrancy: How can the Commission address any increase in the homeless/vagrant population in our county in ways that best serve all Hamilton County residents?**

The laws regarding trespassing and vagrancy need to be enforced. I supported the mental health court and drug court to help the homeless or others with mental health issues.

**11) Constitutional Liberties: As a Commissioner, what measures will you champion to protect the individual Constitutional liberties of all Hamilton County residents, such as freedom of speech, peaceable assembly and exercise of religion?**

These rights are inalienable. They can't be given or taken by the government or others. They are the rights that we should be willing to die for in America.

Independent Survey by





## RUTH JENO

### Candidate Information

<b>Email Address:</b>	ruthjeno@epbf.com
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	Red Bank Commissioner
<b>Resident of Hamilton County:</b>	72
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	<a href="https://voteruthjeno.com">https://voteruthjeno.com</a>

### 1) County Commission's Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County Commission?

The commission is the administrative body for the county government. They hold the authority for government taxing, budgeting, appropriating and purchasing, ensuring the security of the county's assets. They represent the county's interest at the state and federal levels.

Independent Survey by



**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County Commissioner?**

As a current elected official in Red Bank, having served three 4 year terms as city commissioner, and nine years on the planning commission. I understand the importance of conservative, honest and responsible leadership. Early childhood education and literacy is the solution for successful students. We must prepare children for life after graduation whether it be college or entering the workforce. I will advocate for additional schools focusing on trades and technology. I will advocate for a SRO officer for every middle and high school. I will support the sheriffs department, supplying their needs to protect our citizens.

**3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

Yes, I believe in doing what is right for everyone. If we follow Gods commandments we can't go wrong.

**4) Budget: What would be your top three spending, savings, and economic development priorities?**

Education: 64% of the county budget is allocated to the school system. I support a strong budget for education. Economic growth: The top development project is the McDonald farm. It will bring commercial and residential growth to the north end of the county. We should create recreation and open green space within the development.

**5) Covid Recovery: Has the COVID situation created problems that the Commission can mitigate, specifically regarding businesses, schools, healthcare systems, and other vital services?**

Covid, with all its challenges has created problems for the world. Our county mayor made the decisions relating to Covid. The recommendations of the Center of Disease Controls our health department and the governors office factored in his decision. The decision was entirely the mayor's responsibility.

**6) Life Value: Planned Parenthood is trying to reestablish itself in Hamilton County. What is your view of this organization? In the past they received county funding, is this appropriate of allocation of county funds? Why or why not?**

I would never support or vote to allocate any funds to this organization or any like it. Tax dollars should not be used to fund any organization outside of government business. I am pro-life and I believe In God and his creation of life.

Independent Survey by



**7) Election Process: If it is shown that the county's voting machines have been/can be compromised, what actions would you take to purify the ballot box as stated in the Tennessee Constitution pursuant to Article IV, Section 1, Para. 2?**

Having the machines inspected after they are delivered. And adding extra poll watchers

**8) Protecting Life: What legal means, if any, would you support to protect the most vulnerable in our county, including the lives of the unborn, the trafficked, the poor, and the elderly?**

I would use any legal means available to protect the vulnerable.

**9) Business/Jobs: How should the commission handle development of housing, zoning and infrastructure in northern Hamilton County?**

Hamilton County planning agency reviews planning and zoning requests. They make a recommendation to the commission. Each case should be carefully addressed individually.

**10) Homelessness/Vagrancy: How can the Commission address any increase in the homeless/vagrant population in our county in ways that best serve all Hamilton County residents?**

Homelessness is a growing problem. I would propose the city and county work together to help the homeless population.

**11) Constitutional Liberties: As a Commissioner, what measures will you champion to protect the individual Constitutional liberties of all Hamilton County residents, such as freedom of speech, peaceable assembly and exercise of religion?**

I support our constitutional liberties as long as it's done in a orderly manner without breaking the law.

Independent Survey by





## STEVE HIGHLANDER

### Candidate Information

**Email Address:** dshighlander@yahoo.com  
**Occupation/Vocation:** Retired, Teacher, Minister, Farmer  
**Resident of Hamilton County:** 65

#### 1) County Commission's Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County Commission?

The purpose of the Hamilton County Commission is to serve and meet the needs of the citizens of the individual districts and the county as a whole. After many years of serving as an educator and pastor of a small church, as well as having parents who served in churches and as missionaries, my life has been dedicated to serving God and people. The Commission, as other government service jobs, should be a calling rather than trying to lift one's self up for any other reason.

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**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County Commissioner?**

As a long time teacher, father, and grandfather, as well as serving two terms on the School Board, I feel highly qualified in the educational aspects of the Commission. I want the morals and ethics of our students to have a high value placed on them as well as striving for the highest academic standards possible. While I am careful with my personal finances, I strive even harder to be a good steward of taxpayer or church dollars. Commissioners need to be very careful in how they spend the tax dollars received from hard working citizens. We need to make sure that the citizens get their money's worth for every dollar spent.

**3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

Despite what some "modernists" claim, our country was founded and developed on Biblical mores. Our laws and are and should reflect those Biblical principles. They are the foundation for Western Civilization. Governments in Western Europe are presently being greatly weakened by the acceptance of laws and ethics associated with Eastern religions. The Bible demonstrates the greatest form of freedom and equality that women, children, and minorities have ever seen since the dawn of civilization.

**4) Budget: What would be your top three spending, savings, and economic development priorities?**

While being cautious about avoiding waste, I want to spend for the educational needs and practical training of our young people to prepare them for life as productive citizens. Presently we have an outstanding bond rating in Hamilton County. It is essential that we save to maintain that rating in order to borrow money at a cheap rate for such major items as essential schools and economic development projects (such as we did for VW and Amazon which brought us hundreds of jobs). We need economic growth, people need housing, and people have the right to sell their properties and products. Infrastructure improvements such as better roads are necessary for all of the above.

**5) Covid Recovery: Has the COVID situation created problems that the Commission can mitigate, specifically regarding businesses, schools, healthcare systems, and other vital services?**

While the State government supersedes the County, the Commission has and needs to continue giving support to the Health Department. The Commission regularly urges citizens to take precautions. When asked what I recommend on masks and vaccines, my reply has been, "I have a Doctor's degree, but it is not in medicine. If you trust your physician, seek their advice and follow it." Since I have been on the Commission, we have directed additional funding for the extra cleaning and sanitation of schools. We have supplemented other vital services provided by first responders which I agree with.

Independent Survey by



**6) Life Value: Planned Parenthood is trying to reestablish itself in Hamilton County. What is your view of this organization? In the past they received county funding, is this appropriate of allocation of county funds? Why or why not?**

I believe every life has immense value from the time of conception until the hour one's soul leaves his/her mortal body. The great grandparent has value as does the infant. I cannot support any organization that seeks to eliminate life.

**7) Election Process: If it is shown that the county's voting machines have been/can be compromised, what actions would you take to purify the ballot box as stated in the Tennessee Constitution pursuant to Article IV, Section 1, Para. 2?**

It is absolutely essential that the voting process be valid and pure. We have been assured by the Election Commission that they have installed fail safes to make sure of our results in this county. If I find our process is or might be compromised, I will do everything under my power allowed by law to rectify the situation.

**8) Protecting Life: What legal means, if any, would you support to protect the most vulnerable in our county, including the lives of the unborn, the trafficked, the poor, and the elderly?**

I have served on an Anti-Trafficking Committee, have studied means of rescue and shared them with others. The unborn, infants, and the elderly are especially vulnerable and are unable to function without our assistance. first and foremost, help should come from strong families whenever possible. When not available, we have the blessed obligation to reach out. When individuals are poor because of circumstances beyond their control and not able to meet their needs, it becomes our humanitarian duty to help them. Sometimes that help might include job training or placement. I kept my invalid grandmother in my home until she was 98. When I had to take her to a nursing home, I feed and cared for her almost daily.

**9) Business/JobsHow should the commission handle development of housing, zoning and infrastructure in northern Hamilton County?**

People have the right to develop and/or sell their properties, but there needs to be appropriate zoning and infrastructure along with the development. I took the new RPA (Regional Planning Agency) Director on a 2 1/2 hour ride around the northern region of the county on my side of the river. He was in agreement that we need to enhance infrastructure and develop an appropriate northern corridor use plan to set parameters for zoning and housing.

Independent Survey by



**10) Homelessness/Vagrancy: How can the Commission address any increase in the homeless/vagrant population in our county in ways that best serve all Hamilton County residents?**

One way if to increase the offerings in the area of mental health for these individuals which is often a major cause of their homeless/vagrant condition and often why they are incarcerated. More supervised residence facilities would be a great boon to the needs of many. Offering treatment to relieve drug and alcohol addictions can help those seeking to avoid those entrapments.

**11) Constitutional Liberties: As a Commissioner, what measures will you champion to protect the individual Constitutional liberties of all Hamilton County residents, such as freedom of speech, peaceable assembly and exercise of religion?**

As a Commissioner, I am willing to go to any length to protect the First Amendment rights stated above. As our Constitution states, these are our "inalienable" rights. Our Founders said they were from Above, not man-made, and we cannot allow them to be eroded in any form or fashion.

Independent Survey by





## JOE GRAHAM

### Candidate Information

**Email Address:** jgraham@accentprintinginc.net  
**Occupation/Vocation:** Owner/Operator Several Small Businesses  
**Resident of Hamilton County:** 44 years all continuous  
**Campaign Website:** <https://www.electjoegraham.com>

#### 1) County Commission's Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County Commission?

It's the Legislative Branch of local government. It is the funding agent that funds all the Hamilton County Departments. The School system, Sheriff's Office, Health Department, the Correctional system, the Court system, the Parks and Recreation Department, the Highway Department, the 911 Center, Emergency Services, and all the Constitutional Offices.

Independent Survey by



**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County Commissioner?**

As a businessman, with over 30 years of experience with starting many small businesses, that I am still operating today. I bring a vast knowledge of fiscal and economic experience with christian values and a large amount of common sense. I am very good with customer service and my problem solving abilities. I am also very good at finding solutions that anyone may have. My initiatives are many but, to name a few, I would love to improve our Educational System, create safer neighborhoods, and facilitate long term planning that will handle positive growth.

**3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

Yes!!! America was founded upon Judeo-Christian principles, which I and my family hold very dear to us. As a Husband, Father, Grandfather, Businessman and local leader, all of my decision making is based on prayer, hard work, and studying the facts.

**4) Budget: What would be your top three spending, savings, and economic development priorities?**

Top three spending: Schools, Safe Communities, and Improving Infrastructure. Savings: In the budgeting process, find what is working and make it better, and what is not working should be cut for savings. Economic Development: Improve our infrastructure to encourage job growth in many sectors. Work with our schools and local businesses to help build our work force, and to create a business friendly environment.

**5) Covid Recovery: Has the COVID situation created problems that the Commission can mitigate, specifically regarding businesses, schools, healthcare systems, and other vital services?**

COVID has created many, many problems but, the Commission should help inform and educate the public. They should not in anyway mandate or force businesses or the residents to wear or do anything on or to their bodies they do not see fit. I believe in personal responsibility.

**6) Life Value: Planned Parenthood is trying to reestablish itself in Hamilton County. What is your view of this organization? In the past they received county funding, is this appropriate of allocation of county funds? Why or why not?**

ABSOLUTELY in no uncertain terms NO!!!! This is not an appropriate use of tax dollars, no way!!! People behaving or misbehaving should take personal responsibility for their actions. God does not make mistakes.

Independent Survey by



**7) Election Process: If it is shown that the county's voting machines have been/can be compromised, what actions would you take to purify the ballot box as stated in the Tennessee Constitution pursuant to Article IV, Section 1, Para. 2?**

We will follow the law. If this were to be proven, we would need to implement a system that would be trusted that no-one could compromise, NO-ONE!!

**8) Protecting Life: What legal means, if any, would you support to protect the most vulnerable in our county, including the lives of the unborn, the trafficked, the poor, and the elderly?**

I would support every law on the books to protect the innocent and the vulnerable and work to add more if needed. This is a must, no question!!

**9) Business/Jobs: How should the commission handle development of housing, zoning and infrastructure in northern Hamilton County?**

With a long term plan for positive growth and proper infrastructure. We must allow people to come and grow with us without causing a detriment to the citizens that have already been here paving the way for our great future.

**10) Homelessness/Vagrancy: How can the Commission address any increase in the homeless/vagrant population in our county in ways that best serve all Hamilton County residents?**

We need to work closer with our churches and outreach programs to help the homeless. The vagrant population needs help so, they don't become a detriment to themselves or others.

**11) Constitutional Liberties: As a Commissioner, what measures will you champion to protect the individual Constitutional liberties of all Hamilton County residents, such as freedom of speech, peaceable assembly and exercise of religion?**

I will fight with every breath in my body, and every measure available to absolutely protect our individual Constitutional liberties of ALL HAMILTON COUNTY residents. FREE SPEECH, PEACEABLE ASSEMBLY, EXERCISE of RELIGION!!!!

Independent Survey by



**Hamilton County**  
**2022 Republican Primary Voter Guide**  
**for All Republican Party Candidates**

**County Mayor**

Independent Survey by



Church Voter Guides does not endorse or oppose any candidates for public office or any political party

## County Mayor | Survey Question Index

- 1) **County Mayor's Purpose:** What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County Mayor?
- 2) **Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives:** What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County Mayor?
- 3) **Moral Values:** Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?
- 4) **Budget:** What would be your top three spending, savings, and economic development priorities?
- 5) **Covid Recovery:** Has the COVID situation created problems that the County Mayor can mitigate, specifically regarding businesses, schools, healthcare systems, and other vital services?
- 6) **Protecting Life:** What legal means, if any, would you support to protect the most vulnerable in our county, including the lives of the unborn, the trafficked, the homeless, and the elderly?
- 7) **Business/Jobs:** How should the commission handle development of housing, zoning and infrastructure in northern Hamilton County?
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- 9) **Constitutional Liberties:** As a Mayor, what measures will you champion to protect the individual Constitutional liberties of all Hamilton County residents, such as freedom of speech, peaceable assembly and exercise of religion?

Independent Survey by



## County Mayor

(In alphabetical order)



**MATT HULLANDER**



**SABRENA SMEDLEY**



**WESTON WAMP**

Independent Survey by





## MATT HULLANDER

### Candidate Information

<b>Email Address:</b>	info@matt4mayor.com
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	Business Owner / Family Foundation Founder
<b>Resident of Hamilton County:</b>	48
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	<a href="https://www.Matt4Mayor.com">https://www.Matt4Mayor.com</a>

#### 1) County Mayor's Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County Mayor?

I believe that Hamilton County's next mayor will need to provide strong leadership to keep the momentum going that we currently enjoy. As the only business guy in this race, I've had hundreds of employees and more importantly, made payroll for over two decades. I am a strong fiscal conservative and my path has always been led by faith and family. If I am fortunate to be elected, I will be guided by my life verse: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." - Proverbs 3: 5-6

Independent Survey by



**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County Mayor?**

Number one is safety. You can't learn, work or live a fulfilling life if you aren't safe. Also, The County's sewer system is limiting our ability to grow. I am prepared to provide additional funding from the American Relief Program (ARP) that will assist WWTA customers. I believe that in order to move forward above ground, we have to fix what's below it. We're going to take a hard look at the County's roads and ditches, especially in the north end of the County. Within my first month of taking office, I will be implementing a plan for trash pickup. It will be easy to implement and cost effective. My other top priorities include: Job Growth Education Veterans and Leadership.

**3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

Absolutely. If more would follow the basics provided to us, we'd have a true culture shift across every sector of society. I am 100% pro-life and a strong supporter of the Second Amendment.

**4) Budget: What would be your top three spending, savings, and economic development priorities?**

My top priorities for spending will be on Safety, Infrastructure and Job Growth. I will take a detailed look at the budget to find areas where we can save, areas that need additional investment to continue their success and areas that frankly, are no longer necessary. I look for ways to invest in success and don't plan to invest in mediocrity.

**5) Covid Recovery: Has the COVID situation created problems that the County Mayor can mitigate, specifically regarding businesses, schools, healthcare systems, and other vital services?**

This is easy for me. There should be no mandates. This is a decision that should be made by individuals and families.

**6) Protecting Life: What legal means, if any, would you support to protect the most vulnerable in our county, including the lives of the unborn, the trafficked, the homeless, and the elderly?**

I proudly marched with Tennessee Right to Life in January. I am 100% pro-life and will do all I can to make sure no county funding goes to anything to hurt the unborn. As Mayor, I will fight to keep planned parenthood OUT of Hamilton County.

Independent Survey by



**7) Business/Jobs: How should the commission handle development of housing, zoning and infrastructure in northern Hamilton County?**

One of the first things I will be looking at as Mayor is the Regional Planning Agency. We need to work on a plan to promote appropriate growth. That means planning that is easy for both developers and neighbors to navigate toward reasonable solutions. As for northern Hamilton County and especially McDonald Farm, we have to get it right. As Mayor, I know we have a unique opportunity. This 2100 acre tract will provide us opportunities for development and environment to live together. I believe the unique topography offers opportunities to those who want to enjoy all of the beauty of the area while also providing a solid foundation for growth that will be done- - over the coming years.

**8) Homelessness/Vagrancy: How can the Commission address any increase in the homeless/vagrant population in our county in ways that best serve all Hamilton County residents?**

This is a huge burden on the City and the County. I applaud efforts by the Chattanooga Housing Authority that provides programming and vouchers for area homeless veterans. There are other cities and counties who have effective programs in place and I can't wait to meet with colleagues in developing a strong strategy for Hamilton County.

**9) Constitutional Liberties As a Mayor, what measures will you champion to protect the individual Constitutional liberties of all Hamilton County residents, such as freedom of speech, peaceable assembly and exercise of religion?**

Following a difficult summer two years ago that involved riots and destruction in downtown, we've learned the importance of following the law. As Mayor, I will work hand in hand with law enforcement to make sure people enjoy their freedoms without breaking the law. It's a vital piece of our country's history and one of our own as well. Everything we do should be guided by the US Constitution and laws governing our state.

Independent Survey by





## SABRENA SMEDLEY

### Candidate Information

<b>Email Address:</b>	sabrena@sabrenarealty.com
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	Broker/Realtor & Owner Of Pure Barre Fitness
<b>Resident of Hamilton County:</b>	Lifelong Resident
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	<a href="https://www.SabrenaForMayor.com">https://www.SabrenaForMayor.com</a>

#### 1) County Mayor's Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County Mayor?

The Mayor of Hamilton County must provide moral, responsible leadership for county government including all associated departments, agencies, and offices. The annual budget is the principal tool used to address the needs of residents, community leaders, and county officials. It is imperative that input from all sectors be visible in a transparent budget that fully promotes a vibrant, successful community. The office of Mayor in itself doesn't have much statutory authority, but as the head of county government, it is a position with tremendous leadership potential. Ultimately, the job is all about strong leadership, and that's why it's so vitally important to elect someone who is really ready for the job and running for all the right reasons.

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**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County Mayor?**

I hear some say it's important for the County Mayor to have a business background, others say it's important to have experience in government. I say, why not both? I've founded a successful small business, built up another, raised a family, earned an MBA, and have twice been elected by my colleagues as Chairman of the County Commission. If elected Mayor, I will be the strongest possible advocate for our first responders who keep us safe. Equally important is a strong education budget with a school system that listens to our parents, and finally, I will fight for better long term planning to meet infrastructure needs and prepare for responsible growth, which includes road paving, water, and wastewater improvements.

**3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

God gave us the Ten Commandments as a guide for right living. This is how I strive to conduct myself as a public servant and will continue to do so if elected Mayor. Everything government does should be based on the only objective grounding for moral truth, which is the revealed Word of God in the Bible. That said, although the Bible certainly addresses the role and responsibilities of leaders, it isn't an instruction manual on good government. Discerning how to apply biblical principles in the gray areas is why I pray for "the wisdom of Solomon, the favor of David, and the grace of Esther" who was raised up "for such a time as this."

**4) Budget: What would be your top three spending, savings, and economic development priorities?**

The conservative philosophy I have applied in both business and government is that leadership means stewardship. If elected Mayor, I will prioritize funding for public safety, education, and infrastructure including road paving, school facilities, water, and wastewater treatment. Outside of these priorities, we must look very closely at spending requests and ensure they meet our community's needs without imposing unnecessary taxes on our citizens. Our County has seen tremendous economic growth over the last decade, and I believe the hard work in front of us all is long term planning to get the basics right to be prepared for responsible, balanced growth.

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**5) Covid Recovery: Has the COVID situation created problems that the County Mayor can mitigate, specifically regarding businesses, schools, healthcare systems, and other vital services?**

The COVID-19 pandemic sparked challenges and disruptions that none of us have experienced before. Unfortunately, those challenges were politicized with liberal agendas to the point that information from public health officials could not be trusted. I learned about the important role local government plays in responding to a crisis when a tornado hit my district. That crisis management experience has helped prepare me for future contingencies and reinforced the importance of maintaining the public's trust. As County Mayor, I will do everything in my power to keep our economy and schools open during a crisis by supporting our health care workers and educators, and providing clear, factual information so people can make the best decisions for themselves and their families.

**6) Protecting Life: What legal means, if any, would you support to protect the most vulnerable in our county, including the lives of the unborn, the trafficked, the homeless, and the elderly?**

We are blessed to have a state legislature second to none on protecting the unborn, and I fully support those efforts. Public funding should never go to those who take unborn lives. I believe our local law enforcement agencies are vigilant in protecting the weakest in our society, guarding against human traffickers and those who would abuse our elderly. The "homeless" situation I believe to be the biggest single symptom of our moral failing as a society. We have a duty to help folks through better drug abuse treatment programs and "bootstrap" programs to help those who want to help themselves, but we should never enable bad behavior or become a magnet for lifestyle homelessness.

**7) Business/Jobs: How should the commission handle development of housing, zoning and infrastructure in northern Hamilton County?**

In the fight against annexation, which I helped lead, folks were upset about being taxed without representation and the disrespect for the most important investment most of us will ever make – our homes. Similarly, all future growth must respect our existing neighborhoods. Hamilton County has designated through its growth plan where development should occur and infrastructure should only be extended to previously designated growth areas. Zoning must follow these principles, protecting residential zones and allowing more intensive uses only where growth areas have been designated. It may be past time we revisit our urban growth plan given the boom of the past decade, again, respecting the needs of our residents.

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**8) Homelessness/Vagrancy: How can the Commission address any increase in the homeless/vagrant population in our county in ways that best serve all Hamilton County residents?**

The challenge of homelessness requires balancing compassion and common sense. We can't become a destination for lifestyle homelessness by subsidizing bad behavior. Of course we all want to help folks from our community who have fallen into hard times. That starts with the body of Christ. "If we are the body, why aren't his hands reaching?" Local government's role should be to provide leadership in the community to help our citizens give a hand up to those who truly need it, not a taxpayer-funded handout for those refusing help. That could include expanding drug courts and vocational education programs to give people a second chance, helping them back on their feet and off the streets.

**9) Constitutional Liberties As a Mayor, what measures will you champion to protect the individual Constitutional liberties of all Hamilton County residents, such as freedom of speech, peaceable assembly and exercise of religion?**

The Constitution isn't optional during a crisis. If anything, government should be constitutionally limited, especially to guard our liberties during the toughest of times. As the late Justice Scalia said, "The Constitution is not a living organism, it's a legal document. It says what it says and doesn't say what it doesn't say." I know firsthand what it was like to have my own small businesses shut down. I will never do that to my fellow citizens. As your next Mayor, I will always fight to keep our houses of worship, our schools, and our businesses open, and for your right to express your opinions in government meetings and through peaceful assembly.

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## WESTON WAMP

### Candidate Information

<b>Email Address:</b>	weston@westonwamp.com
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	Entrepreneur; Founder, Millennial Debt Foundation
<b>Resident of Hamilton County:</b>	Went to UT in Knoxville, but have lived and voted in
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	<a href="https://www.WestonWamp.com">https://www.WestonWamp.com</a>

#### 1) County Mayor's Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County Mayor?

The job of County Mayor is defined under Tennessee state law as the chief financial officer and fiscal agent of each county – beyond that the job description is vague. Ultimately, it is a leadership position with specific financial responsibilities. In Hamilton County, 64% of the county budget is public education, meaning that the County Mayor has an incredibly important role in ensuring stewardship of taxpayer dollars within the department of education, as well as setting priorities for the construction and renovation of school facilities. By tradition, the County Mayor in Hamilton County is involved in virtually every aspect of economic development and appoints members of various boards from Erlanger to the WWTA to the Regional Planning Commission.

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**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County Mayor?**

Our "Hamilton First" agenda is the comprehensive set of proposals in the race for County Mayor, and it can be read in its entirety at [westonwamp.com](http://westonwamp.com). My experience spans business, public policy and education, as both a public school parent and a member of the Tennessee Board of Regents. The Board of Regents governs Tennessee's 40 community and technical colleges. My proposals range from a Mayor's Parent Council to empower parents to a Mayor's Apprenticeship Initiative, which would provide paid apprenticeships with local companies to students as they finish their diplomas. Lastly, our proposal to create the Mayor's Volunteer Corps would galvanize communities of faith to serve disadvantaged schools with a focus on addressing student hunger and early childhood reading.

**3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

Government laws, ordinances and regulations should first and foremost follow the principles of the U.S. Constitution. Our country's founding is deeply connected to Judeo-Christian morals. That "certain unalienable rights" are given by a Creator is central to understanding the American experiment. However, we were founded as a pluralistic society and the Ten Commandments should guide the personal behavior of all Christians.

**4) Budget: What would be your top three spending, savings, and economic development priorities?**

Under Mayor Coppinger's leadership, Hamilton County Government has been run very efficiently, which has contributed to the county being the highest bond-rated county in Tennessee and having the lowest tax rate in 70 years. Without a tax increase, implementing performance pay for our teachers and modernizing our most dilapidated school facilities would be priorities for me. Along the same lines, my priorities in economic development would be to increase career training and vocational education opportunities to better develop our workforce. I have proposed the creation of a world class, "open enrollment" middle/high school near downtown, in partnership with the City of Chattanooga, that would spur economic development and job creation for a generation to come.

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**5) Covid Recovery: Has the COVID situation created problems that the County Mayor can mitigate, specifically regarding businesses, schools, healthcare systems, and other vital services?**

We have learned many difficult lessons during the pandemic. Never again should some people's jobs be deemed "essential" and others "non-essential." Likewise, mandates have undermined trust in public health institutions. Masking schoolchildren is one of the worst policies of my lifetime. It is inexcusable and shameful that our children, who were at little to no risk from the virus, bore the brunt of many of the government's misguided policies.

**6) Protecting Life: What legal means, if any, would you support to protect the most vulnerable in our county, including the lives of the unborn, the trafficked, the homeless, and the elderly?**

I am 100% pro-life and will use the office of County Mayor to advocate for our youngest and oldest citizens, especially our most vulnerable citizens, the unborn.

**7) Business/Jobs: How should the commission handle development of housing, zoning and infrastructure in northern Hamilton County?**

The north part of Hamilton County is very special to me. Many of my family members live between Soddy Daisy and Bakewell. The Sale Creek community is unlike any other in Hamilton County. When considering development in the north end of the county, the Commission should be respectful of the distinctly different way of life that has caused many families to remain in those communities for generations. Development opportunities at McDonald Farm should be considered patiently and, in the meantime, the land should be opened for recreational and agricultural use by the people who bought it – the citizens of Hamilton County.

**8) Homelessness/Vagrancy: How can the Commission address any increase in the homeless/vagrant population in our county in ways that best serve all Hamilton County residents?**

Homelessness is primarily an issue in the City of Chattanooga. In recent years, when the City of Chattanooga and Hamilton County cooperate, big things are possible. If the City cannot get its downtown homelessness issues under control, the Commission could explore ways that it could bolster efforts to provide dignity through housing and job training and, if necessary, mental health treatment to those in need.

**9) Constitutional Liberties: As a Mayor, what measures will you champion to protect the individual Constitutional liberties of all Hamilton County residents, such as freedom of speech, peaceable assembly and exercise of religion?**

As County Mayor, I will actively and vocally oppose any and all infringements on the rights provided by the U.S. Constitution.

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**Hamilton County**  
**2022 Republican Primary Voter Guide**  
**for All Republican Party Candidates**

**C o u n t y S c h o o l**  
**B o a r d**

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# County School Board | Survey Question Index

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## County School Board Dist. 6

(In alphabetical order)



**JON BAKER**



**CINDY FAIN**



**DELORES GROSS VINSON**

Independent Survey by





## JON BAKER

### Candidate Information

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<b>Resident of Hamilton County:</b>	12
<b>Military Background:</b>	NAVY, ARMY, MERCHANT MARINE

### 1) School Board's Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County School Board?

School Board members are the elected leaders of the Hamilton County school system. They are responsible for hiring and supervising the superintendent. They are responsible for ensuring that students are educated and prepared to join society as good citizens. They provide safe, healthy facilities for learning to take place. The board reviews and adopts policies towards the goal of education. This includes budgets, funding, and curriculum.

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**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what top three initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County School Board Member?**

3 areas of concerns: Parental rights being violated. Repeated episodes of refusing oversight to parents. Children are being indoctrinated. Administrative indifference to curriculum questions. Increase in inherently divisive practices in school. What my initiatives are: Call for the monthly school board meeting to be held in a facility that can accommodate all of the attendees. Establish a hotline for parental complaints. Conduct weekly random class audits based on complaints I receive.

**3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

I most certainly believe that when God was taken out of our government and our classrooms we lost our moral compass. Simply looking at statistics on crimes and societal decay would bear out that observation. Our Founding Fathers repeatedly acknowledged God as the Creator. They based many of our important documents on Christian Doctrine. When I take my seat on the School Board I will base my decisions on 3 questions: Is it for kids? Is it for good? Is it for God?

**4) Vision: What is your plan to get our schools back to the basics and fundamentals of public education?**

It is time for the return of common sense. Common Core is an example of this. For 50 years the federal government used this program's funding to persuade local school districts to give up autonomy. They mandated much of the outcomes we see today, i.e. spending inordinate amount of time studying for a standardized test. When complaints rolled in, we were told that we could opt out of Common Core but, the government would have to approve curriculums created. We have witnessed a catastrophic decline in reading and math abilities in students. I propose the budget be reviewed for items that stray from the educational mandate given by the people.

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**5) Budget: With 64% of taxpayer's money goes to education in Hamilton County. About 1/3 of 3rd to 8th graders are able to read at grade level. Without raising the budget, what is your solution to improving reading levels?**

It will take a school system that can honestly look at the current situation. Most of the solutions offered involve staffing more experts to study why kids can't read. My proposal is to eliminate these experts and hire more teachers and, I propose that all class sizes be reduced to a maximum of 15 students. Doing this will allow teachers to identify and give extra attention those in need. Following the ratio given in the question means 10 students with difficulty versus 23 students in current class sizes. Additionally, smaller class sizes will be attractive to parents considering alternative schooling. Thus, stopping the exodus of thousands of students leaving public school.

**6) Parental Rights: What is the best way to involve parents in the student's education? Who do you believe is the most important stakeholder in a student's education?**

Absolute transparency of curriculums and classrooms are mandatory. Schools have developed policies over the last several decades which have placed barriers between parents and the schools. These policies have to be changed to enable parents to participate. Since the use of Zoom has become normalized, parents should be able to view the activities of the classrooms during the day, or stream it at night. Asking who the most important stakeholder is very telling about the state of our society. Who but the guardian has the moral and legal right to raise their children? This country does not believe in turning our children over to the State nor, is there a Constitutional requirement they do so.

**7) COVID Protocol: What is your position on school vax requirements, testing, contact tracing, masking and quarantines in the schools?**

If you have been following the recent news, you will see all of the responses to c19 are either being eliminated or, reduced to meaningless rules and regulations. We are now seeing the physical, mental, and spiritual damage caused by the inept and emotional leadership. The CDC has now admitted there has been a 48% increase in attempted teen suicides. Students' mental health issues are now becoming a far greater problem than c19 was. My position is to never close schools down again, except in the case of dangerous weather. I will never mandate masks/vax again. That is strictly an individual choice.

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**8) CRT: What is your position for a curriculum that incorporates the teaching of diversity, equity and inclusion, Critical Race Theory and Social-Emotional Learning?**

The most important thing we have to keep in mind about these curriculums is their words do not have the same definition as what we are familiar with. For the promoters of these doctrines, diversity means requiring a statistical spread of races regardless of individual qualifications. Equity means equal outcomes, not equal opportunity. Inclusion means excluding those who don't agree with them. CRT is based on victims and oppressors. Every group is divided as such. And those subgroups can likewise be divided ad infinitum. CRT's goal is to divide people. I will seek out and remove these teachings from the classroom. The doctrine names are constantly changing but, their philosophy has not.

**9) Social-Emotional Learning/Sex Education What is your stance on comprehensive sex ed, including details of LGBTQ sexual relationships being taught in schools K-12? What is your stance on gender neutrality, co-ed bathrooms, trans sports?**

I am not a homophobe, however, I observed decades ago that homosexuality could never be successful since they could not reproduce. What they doing now is RECRUITING new members. I saw this 4 years ago on UTC campus at a Drag Queen Show. The entertainers came out and encouraged anyone, regardless of age, who wanted to join this exciting lifestyle to see them after the show. I looked around at the students and adolescents in the audience and saw many that the message resonated with. God created Man and Woman. Allowing men who identify as a woman to use the same facilities and compete directly with women is abhorrent to me.

**10) Problem/Solution: What is your plan to tackle the problem with bullying, child sex crimes and the physical safety of our children?**

My plan is having smaller class sizes. As a former platoon leader and deck division petty officer I watched for signs of bullying. A teacher with 35 students cannot see, nor have the time to deal with bullying. A teacher with 15 students has a better grasp of intrapersonal dynamics. Bullies need anonymity. A small class gives them no place to hide. This plan applies to sex crimes and physical safety. Smaller numbers mean greater attention given to each student

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**11) School Board Meetings: How can the board make greater accommodations for all citizens who want to participate in school board meetings, including public comments?**

It is incredible that Board meetings are still held in a room that can only accommodate 40 spectators. We have facilities all over Hamilton County that could seat 200, 300, or 400 people. The technology today in every school can link board members and staff with anything that would be needed. Public comment should be displayed, real time, on the meeting video screens with a scrolling format like Facebook. Both the board members and the public would be able to see it. The agenda should be changed to allot 1 hour for citizen's 5 minutes of comment. Many people are unable to sign up because of the limited number of slots available.

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## CINDY FAIN

### Candidate Information

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<b>Resident of Hamilton County:</b>	13
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	<a href="https://ElectCindyF.wixsite.com/website">https://ElectCindyF.wixsite.com/website</a>

#### 1) School Board's Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County School Board?

My view and purpose is to ensure all students, parents and teachers are treated as individuals with freedoms and rights. Ensure that our students are being taught the basics and fundamentals in life to be independent thinkers with pathways to opportunity.

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**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what top three initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County School Board Member?**

My focus is encouraging parents to read to their children from age 0 - 5 years old so they will have a jump when starting school. I have a daughter that is in first grade in the Hamilton County School System and as any other parent I want the best for my child. My top three initiatives when I am elected will be: reviewing and researching the curriculum used in HCS; parents rights and involvement and

**3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

Yes they should follow the moral principals of the Ten Commandments because we as a society should want to do what is right and ethical so we can have freedom and opportunity.

**4) Vision: What is your plan to get our schools back to the basics and fundamentals of public education?**

I want to do what is right for our students, parents and teachers and will not be intimidated, bullied or silenced. I will make sure Hamilton county schools continue to be a safe place for learning minus the fear and social pressures that have been burdening our children for the last two years.

**5) Budget: With 64% of taxpayer's money goes to education in Hamilton County. About 1/3 of 3rd to 8th graders are able to read at grade level. Without raising the budget, what is your solution to improving reading levels?**

From birth to 5 years of age, children should be read to daily. When a child is born in Tennessee, the parent is given the opportunity to sign up for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and receive a free book every month until the child is 5 years old. Reading to your child daily will be a huge jumpstart to your child's education.

**6) Parental Rights: What is the best way to involve parents in the student's education? Who do you believe is the most important stakeholder in a student's education?**

Parents should have access and know the curriculum that is being taught in schools. Parents are the most important stakeholder in the student's education.

**7) COVID Protocol: What is your position on school vax requirements, testing, contact tracing, masking and quarantines in the schools?**

I oppose mandates for masks, vaccinations, contact tracing and quarantines in the schools.



**8) CRT: What is your position for a curriculum that incorporates the teaching of diversity, equity and inclusion, Critical Race Theory and Social-Emotional Learning?**

I oppose Critical Race Theory and Social - Emotional Learning. When one is not allowed to call out problems you end up with more violence, more suffering, more cruelty and more division. CRT is a system that views someone by race or color and not by character or behavior. It can find racism in anything you do. Assumes racism is everywhere. Critical Race Theory should NOT be taught in our schools.

**9) Social-Emotional Learning/Sex Education What is your stance of comprehensive sex ed, including details of LGBTQ sexual relationships being taught in schools K-12? What is your stance on gender neutrality, co-ed bathrooms, trans sports?**

I oppose sex education in elementary school. Sex Ed curriculum for middle and high school students should be approved by parents and have the option to opt out. I am against gender neutrality. Why would we burden our children with one more added social pressure.

**10) Problem/Solution: What is your plan to tackle the problem with bullying, child sex crimes and the physical safety of our children?**

Bulling should not be tolerated at all. Child sex crimes should be punished to the fullest degree. Physical safety should always be top priority everyday with every student and teacher.

**11) School Board Meetings: How can the board make greater accommodations for all citizens who want to participate in school board meetings, including public comments?**

Alternate locations for some meetings and interactive video conferencing to allow questions to be asked remotely are ideas I would consider.

Independent Survey by





## DELORES GROSS VINSON

### Candidate Information

<b>Email Address:</b>	dvinson90@aol.com
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<b>Resident of Hamilton County:</b>	48 years
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	<a href="https://VoteVinsonSchoolBoard.org/">https://VoteVinsonSchoolBoard.org/</a>

### 1) School Board's Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County School Board?

The purpose and role of the school board is the developing and implementing policy as guides for administrative action and for directing the director of schools, adopting a budget, establishing educational goals, and perhaps most importantly, providing adequate and direct means for keeping the citizens informed about the schools and for keeping itself and the school staff informed about the needs and wishes of the public

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**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what top three initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County School Board Member?**

I am a retired educator, having taught in both public and private schools. I am a current substitute teacher so can keep my finger on the pulse of education. I will focus on increased, vastly increased, academic achievement, school choice, and improved administrative support of faculty and staff.

**3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

The principles as presented in the Ten Commandments should be followed. They are no more than moral and ethical principles for good conduct. It is said, and I concur, that to restore morality we must first recognize the source from which all morality springs. The Ten Commandments is a good place to start.

**4) Vision: What is your plan to get our schools back to the basics and fundamentals of public education?**

We must get back to teaching the basics in every subject. Eschewing Critical Race Theory, explicit sex education, and social-emotional learning will render greater academic emphasis.

**5) Budget: With 64% of taxpayer's money goes to education in Hamilton County. About 1/3 of 3rd to 8th graders are able to read at grade level. Without raising the budget, what is your solution to improving reading levels?**

Teaching phonics is the surest way to improve reading levels. We should institute a reading class at every level K-8, and have the principles of reading carry over into other course work.

**6) Parental Rights: What is the best way to involve parents in the student's education? Who do you believe is the most important stakeholder in a student's education?**

The best way to involve parents in their students' education is simply to invite them! There should be dedicated times that will allow working parents the opportunity engage with faculty and staff. The whole community, in particular the parents, are important stakeholders in students' education.

**7) COVID Protocol: What is your position on school vax requirements, testing, contact tracing, masking and quarantines in the schools?**

With the possible exception of quarantining those with communicable illnesses, I am opposed to all of these measures.

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**8) CRT: What is your position for a curriculum that incorporates the teaching of diversity, equity and inclusion, Critical Race Theory and Social-Emotional Learning?**

I am opposed.

**9) Social-Emotional Learning/Sex Education What is your stance of comprehensive sex ed, including details of LGBTQ sexual relationships being taught in schools K-12? What is your stance on gender neutrality, co-ed bathrooms, trans sports?**

I am opposed.

**10) Problem/Solution: What is your plan to tackle the problem with bullying, child sex crimes and the physical safety of our children?**

These problems are all adequately addressed in the county's Code of Acceptable Student Behavior and employee handbook. Were these enforced, the problems would be severely curtailed.

**11) School Board Meetings: How can the board make greater accommodations for all citizens who want to participate in school board meetings, including public comments?**

Hamilton County already has accommodations for those who wish to participate in school board meetings. They meet in the early evening, allow for public comment, publish pictures and contact information for board members on the website, and make meetings and minutes available on-line.

Independent Survey by



## County School Board Dist. 9

(In alphabetical order)



**GARY KUEHN**



**TATE SMITH**



**JAMES WALKER**

Independent Survey by





## GARY KUEHN

### Candidate Information

<b>Email Address:</b>	garykuehnd9@gmail.com
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	Retired Educator
<b>Resident of Hamilton County:</b>	44
<b>Military Background:</b>	father of two that were active, one marine and one army.

### 1) School Board's Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County School Board?

Representing at all times the community without ties to special interest or partisan groups. The duties of a board member are as follows: 1. Select, Hire, and work with the superintendent and his staff to create vision and goals for the school system and stateholders. 2. Determine the needed budget to address the vision and goals of the system while also figuring out which money should go into which programs, facilities, and personnel. 3. Regulating and upholding the educational laws and standards passed down from state and federal government hat will lead to the best and most appropriate education for the children in the system.

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**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what top three initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County School Board Member?**

Having been in education for 39 years, my expertise has a lot to offer the system as a board member. My three top initiatives are: 1. Improved and increased opportunity for early childhood literacy, especially in Pre-K to 3rd grade. 2. Increased Vocational Education programs and schools in the Hamilton County System. 3. Increased opportunities for parental involvement in a child's education such as visiting schools and classrooms, volunteering in them, having a say in the type of assignments best suited for their child's learning style, and opportunities for participation on school leadership teams.

**3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

Our basic laws and guidelines from civilizations beginning have been based on moral principles and like the 10 commandments. Many laws and guidelines are determined by the state and federal government and are required to be followed by a system. If you are asking me, do I believe we should stand and say the pledge, including the words, "one nation under God", YES. If you are asking me do I believe students should be allowed to pray in school, I believe in the time of silence at the beginning for those that want to pray to have the opportunity and those that don't that right also. I believe our school rules and guidelines should follow the moral principles including kindness, helpfulness, truthfulness, fairness, dignity.

**4) Vision: What is your plan to get our schools back to the basics and fundamentals of public education?**

As a board member I would suggest and push for improved early childhood literacy. This will help now and in the future. This push would involve more opportunities for Pre-K involvement, but also better reading programs in K - 3rd grades. Math fundamentals such as times tables should be included again in the curriculum for younger ages so when they hit middle/high grades they can do certain math without the need of a calculator. There is not the need for so many different liberal art electives, but there is a need for Vocational Education electives and possibly before high school age.

Independent Survey by



**5) Budget: With 64% of taxpayer's money goes to education in Hamilton County. About 1/3 of 3rd to 8th graders are able to read at grade level. Without raising the budget, what is your solution to improving reading levels?**

Firstly, parents (the most important teacher in a child's life) need to get more involved and set a reading routine at night where they read to the student or the student to them. Next, students should take reading again in middle school rather than have it incorporated within their english class. They spend more time writing then on reading and skills are lost. Students again should be required to read aloud in class as needed and especially passages out of textbooks. Teachers say they don't have enough time to teach reading so do less testing prep. such as benchmarks and add more time for reading, especially in middle/high.

**6) Parental Rights: What is the best way to involve parents in the student's education? Who do you believe is the most important stakeholder in a student's education?**

Parents are the greatest teachers in the child's life, teaching them right and wrong, About work and service, and reading, writing, and basic math. Parents should visit their child school and classroom, volunteering where needed And should have a say in the types of assignments their child does that best meets their learning style. There should be open school enrollment so that if your zone school does not have an offering for your child you can provide transportation to one that does, allowing the same opportunities as other students would have. This does not mean vouchers.

**7) COVID Protocol: What is your position on school vax requirements, testing, contact tracing, masking and quarantines in the schools?**

The state and federal government may regulate school vaccination requirements such as with mumps, measles, diphtheria, but right now with so little knowledge and data to support this the decision to vaccinate should be left up to the parent, along with the choice of wearing a mask or not for their child. However, as in the past with the flu, the system should continue to determine quarantines of school closures for the safety of all stakeholders involved. The system should be able to determine if masks should be worn by STAFF, not students, but even then, the right to vaccination or not should be left up to the individual employee.

Independent Survey by



**8) CRT: What is your position for a curriculum that incorporates the teaching of diversity, equity and inclusion, Critical Race Theory and Social-Emotional Learning?**

CRT has no place in the public school system and our state has made that clear by passing a law against the teaching of a curriculum that centers around CRT. This is not to say that instruction about diversity and inclusion should be avoided in a curriculum. It has been taught for many years along with cultural strengths and differences. Good teachers teach from different perspectives but without forcing a perspective on a student. Each administrator of a school should be diligent in checking to make sure that a CRT curriculum is not being taught and expect feedback in return. I will address Social Emotional Learning below.

**9) Social-Emotional Learning/Sex Education What is your stance of comprehensive sex ed, including details of LGBTQ sexual relationships being taught in schools K-12? What is your stance on gender neutrality, co-ed bathrooms, trans sports?**

State and Federal government regulate these curriculum's and what is expected and allowed in a school system. At this time, Tennessee takes a stance that you are identified by your birth sex, and this is what will be used for school guidelines such as bathrooms and sports, etc. I believe this is the best approach to take. The title in this question involves the term Social Emotional Learning and this is where many issues can be helped. There needs to be SEL education in all levels of school and having the right personnel in a school is important to address those issues for all levels.

**10) Problem/Solution: What is your plan to tackle the problem with bullying, child sex crimes and the physical safety of our children?**

These problems mentioned in this question Segways back to SEL mentioned previously. My plan would be as follows: 1. Try to increase the number of counselors and school psychologists in all schools including elementary schools. The need for someone to talk with and share events or situations is very important, especially at a young age. 2. All schools should have a school resource office or school security officer, but one that has been educationally trained to help counsel as needed, not just responsible for safety. 3. Consistent and fair discipline guidelines should be incorporated at all levels but also locations fo all age levels, available for students sent out of school to prevent their learning loss.

Independent Survey by



**11) School Board Meetings: How can the board make greater accommodations for all citizens who want to participate in school board meetings, including public comments?**

The school board could move to another location on West 40th street that has a boardroom twice the size of the current boardroom. They don't have to do this everytime but for a meeting with a topic known to draw a crowd, it would help. Also they should continue the 5 minute max. time and the requirement to be scheduled on the agenda to speak. I don't understand what is meant by including public comments??

Independent Survey by





## TATE SMITH

### Candidate Information

<b>Email Address:</b>	smith_tate7@live.com
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	Service Writer
<b>Resident of Hamilton County:</b>	22, parents moved from Ringgold, GA
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/TateSmithDistrict9HamCo/">https://www.facebook.com/TateSmithDistrict9HamCo/</a>

#### 1) School Board's Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County School Board?

The purpose of the School Board is to be a governing body that represents the students, parents, and teachers of Hamilton County. The School Board's role is to listen to any questions or concerns that directly affect the Hamilton County school system. From those questions and concerns the board considers an action plan to assist or make changes.

#### 2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what top three initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County School Board Member?

My focus is on school funding.

Independent Survey by



**3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

No, I believe in the separation of Church and State. While I agree and value the Ten Commandments, they do not represent every citizen. This same stance was taken by our nation's forefathers with the belief in representation for all.

**4) Vision: What is your plan to get our schools back to the basics and fundamentals of public education?**

Our schools are teaching lessons that are relevant to current times which is engaging to our students. While I agree our students must learn the basics and fundamentals, I support a curriculum that incorporates the teaching of diversity, equity and inclusion, and Social-Emotional Learning.

**5) Budget: With 64% of taxpayer's money goes to education in Hamilton County. About 1/3 of 3rd to 8th graders are able to read at grade level. Without raising the budget, what is your solution to improving reading levels?**

I believe that students should be allowed to read materials on their reading level that provides the same information on grade level. We cannot bridge the gap between instructional level and grade level reading unless we give them a chance to practice. Perhaps there could be an increase of small reading groups, which should include secondary level, that focuses on their reading skills.

**6) Parental Rights: What is the best way to involve parents in the student's education? Who do you believe is the most important stakeholder in a student's education?**

Students are the most important stakeholder. Parents should be involved in their child's education which involves positive and consistent communication. Parents need to buy-in.

**7) COVID Protocol: What is your position on school vax requirements, testing, contact tracing, masking and quarantines in the schools?**

Independent Survey by



Student's safety is vitally important and their parents should be the one to make decisions about their child's health. Vaccine, testing, and masks do mitigate risk but shouldn't be enforced in schools.

**8) CRT: What is your position for a curriculum that incorporates the teaching of diversity, equity and inclusion, Critical Race Theory and Social-Emotional Learning?**

Our schools can benefit from incorporating material that educates our students to understand their classmates' cultures and how they may differ from their own. Also, social-emotional learning has shown positive effects in children learning how to manage their feelings and emotions which in-turn allows for a happier student who is more willing to learn.

**9) Social-Emotional Learning/Sex Education What is your stance of comprehensive sex ed, including details of LGBTQ sexual relationships being taught in schools K-12? What is your stance on gender neutrality, co-ed bathrooms, trans sports?**

It is important that our students have comprehensive sex-ed because it teaches them to better understand their anatomy. Lessons including details of LGBTQ sexual relationships do not belong in K-12. While I do believe it is a right for any person to identify themselves freely, I do not support co-ed bathrooms or a trans-person to compete in a sport which they could have an obvious unfair advantage.

**10) Problem/Solution: What is your plan to tackle the problem with bullying, child sex crimes and the physical safety of our children?**

School is supposed to be a safe place for our children. If a student does not feel safe in class, walking the halls, or anywhere on the school grounds it greatly increases anxiety. One idea could be to streamline a bullying/abuse reporting app or Google document which would allow a student to quickly and effectively report their situation.

**11) School Board Meetings: How can the board make greater accommodations for all citizens who want to participate in school board meetings, including public comments?**

Independent Survey by



Modern times require modern solutions! I would advocate for a designated time slot during board meetings for the live comment section via YouTube where citizens who are unable to be present could chime in with their concerns.



## JAMES WALKER

### Candidate Information

<b>Party:</b>	Republican
<b>Email Address:</b>	jameswalker66@gmail.com
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	Tennessee Education Lottery
<b>Resident of Hamilton County:</b>	55

### 1) School Board's Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County School Board?

Hold HCDE accountable for the Academic Education of Hamilton County Students

Independent Survey by



**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what top three initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County School Board Member?**

Ensuring Parents are allowed to be engaged in All aspects of HCDE. HCDE does not make parents feel welcome in our schools!

**3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

Yes! We have too many laws, regulations etc. The moral principles of The Ten Commandments are the "backbone" of all current laws!

**4) Vision: What is your plan to get our schools back to the basics and fundamentals of public education?**

We need to cut out all of the outside groups that want to infiltrate our schools. It is not the schools job to be the Social Worker, Police Officer or Counselor! It is the schools kid to Educate Children not Raise Them!

**5) Budget: With 64% of taxpayer's money goes to education in Hamilton County. About 1/3 of 3rd to 8th graders are able to read at grade level. Without raising the budget, what is your solution to improving reading levels?**

These numbers have not changed in years and are comparable to most school districts across the country, which is discouraging! I believe Reading begins at home and HCDE is fighting a tough battle if parents don't start at home!

**6) Parental Rights: What is the best way to involve parents in the student's education? Who do you believe is the most important stakeholder in a student's education?**

Make Parents feel welcome at schools! Every employee of HCDE works for the Parents and Students! Families are the Most Important Stakeholders!

**7) COVID Protocol: What is your position on school vax requirements, testing, contact tracing, masking and quarantines in the schools?**

Schools have No Business when it comes to Students Health!

Independent Survey by



**8) CRT: What is your position for a curriculum that incorporates the teaching of diversity, equity and inclusion, Critical Race Theory and Social-Emotional Learning?**

Governor Lee made it clear when it comes to CRT and I agree with him! I am against Social-Emotional Learning!

**9) Social-Emotional Learning/Sex Education What is your stance of comprehensive sex ed, including details of LGBTQ sexual relationships being taught in schools K-12? What is your stance on gender neutrality, co-ed bathrooms, trans sports?**

The Home is the only place that needs to have discussions about sexuality! There are only two sexes! Co-Ed bathrooms are not necessary! I am against students of opposite sexes playing on sports teams!

**10) Problem/Solution: What is your plan to tackle the problem with bullying, child sex crimes and the physical safety of our children?**

We must treat all students equally! We must have swift resolution to bullying complaints! We should have one contact at Central Office to handle bullying. Principals, Teachers and Parents should have access to this person.

**11) School Board Meetings: How can the board make greater accommodations for all citizens who want to participate in school board meetings, including public comments?**

I think starting them later would help more people participate. I think we should allow as many parents to speak that want to speak. We have discussed having time at Agenda Sessions for public comments as well!

Independent Survey by



## County School Board Dist. 10

(In alphabetical order)



**RODDEY COE**



**PATRICK LEE**



**FAYE ROBINSON**

Independent Survey by





## RODDEY COE

### Candidate Information

<b>Email Address:</b>	roddey@electroddey.com
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	IT
<b>Resident of Hamilton County:</b>	9
<b>Military Background:</b>	Army Veteran
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	<a href="https://ElectRoddey.com/">https://ElectRoddey.com/</a>

**1) School Board's Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County School Board?**

To ensure all children have the opportunity to receive a great education.

Independent Survey by



**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what top three initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County School Board Member?**

I am a Governor appointed member of the TN Council on Developmental Disabilities and the Council on Autism Spectrum Disorders. With those memberships, I have advocated to the legislature for better support and services for our students and educators. I have advocated in the schools, locally and across the state, for our teachers and students in many IEP meetings. I have treated those meetings as a partnership between parents and teachers to ensure the greatest education for our students. I feel too much of our budget is tied up within the central office. More money should have a direct impact on the students, whether that is classroom supplies, school supports, or teacher salaries.

**3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

I would have a difficult time to say that all of the ten commandments should be codified into law. As a fellow Christian, I do feel that it is important to hold the moral values of the ten commandments close to my heart. As an Army veteran, I also choose to respect and follow the constitution. That means that I also choose to honor people's freedom of religion.

**4) Vision: What is your plan to get our schools back to the basics and fundamentals of public education?**

I plan to support policy that returns authority to the school principals, reduces the size and spending in the central office, and increases the voices of parents and teachers.

**5) Budget: With 64% of taxpayer's money goes to education in Hamilton County. About 1/3 of 3rd to 8th graders are able to read at grade level. Without raising the budget, what is your solution to improving reading levels?**

I remember when I was a student, schools actively participating in programs like Book-It! These programs provided positive reinforcement to our students to encourage them to read. Programs like this also provided encouragement for parents to participate in reading to their student. Programs like these have corporate sponsors and do not incur a cost to the local school.

Independent Survey by



**6) Parental Rights: What is the best way to involve parents in the student's education? Who do you believe is the most important stakeholder in a student's education?**

I have had some teachers email a weekly agenda and principals that do a quarterly zoom meeting. This has helped keep information in bite sized chunks to help prevent from becoming overwhelmed. I feel that both the parents and the teachers are important stakeholders but the student is the most important stakeholder. It is their future that is determined and the future community that will experience the consequences.

**7) COVID Protocol: What is your position on school vax requirements, testing, contact tracing, masking and quarantines in the schools?**

Schools should treat Covid like other infections. If you are sick, stay home. Other than that, it is the choice of the parent and student.

**8) CRT: What is your position for a curriculum that incorporates the teaching of diversity, equity and inclusion, Critical Race Theory and Social-Emotional Learning?**

We should not be teaching our students that they are victims or oppressors. We should not be hindering the interactions of students, this is what causes the divides between our students and communities. If we allow children to be children and play, they will include their peers regardless of race, religion, socio-economic status, disability, etc. We must make sure that our curriculum teaches history, reading, math, english, etc. If we cannot get the core academics right, we are doing a disservice to our students.

**9) Social-Emotional Learning/Sex Education What is your stance of comprehensive sex ed, including details of LGBTQ sexual relationships being taught in schools K-12? What is your stance on gender neutrality, co-ed bathrooms, trans sports?**

Sex ed, if taught, should consist of teaching to prevent the spread of disease and pregnancy prevention at an age appropriate level. In schools, I feel that bathrooms and sports should be restricted to biological gender.

**10) Problem/Solution: What is your plan to tackle the problem with bullying, child sex crimes and the physical safety of our children?**

I think the first thing that needs done is to decrease the division taught our students. I also believe that it is important to start relationships earlier between law enforcement and students.

Independent Survey by



**11) School Board Meetings: How can the board make greater accommodations for all citizens who want to participate in school board meetings, including public comments?**

I would like to see board agenda meetings take place at schools across the county. This would help increase access for those across the county and allow public comments at the agenda session before the discussion actually occurs.

Independent Survey by





## PATRICK LEE

### Candidate Information

**Email Address:** leepatrickd@gmail.com  
**Occupation/Vocation:** Small Business Owner  
**Resident of Hamilton County:** 51 years, not continuous, worked in ATL for 2 years, SLC for 12 years, moved back in 2010

#### 1) School Board's Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County School Board?

Maintain governance standards Manage the superintendent Encourage ongoing education Review policies Evaluate policy implementation Review budgeting and finance Evaluate instruction and education

Independent Survey by



**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what top three initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County School Board Member?**

I don't have a special focus in one area but do have my education and business experience that gives me a broad understanding of people, business, education and knowing what questions to ask. I have been humbled by life and overcome the force of circumstances many times, which makes all the difference when incorporating programs that are likely to work and those that never stood a chance. My three initiatives are (1) Back to basic education, reading, writing, math, science and history. (2) Budget accountability (3) Transparency, parent's right to know.

**3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

There is no doubt in my mind that the Ten Commandments are a necessary foundation for a positive and civil society. I respect everyone's right to agency, but there has to be a source for community standards and basic moral principles. Morality has always, in all times of human history, played a key role in how a society prevails or fails. Even for those that want to take God out of the equation, commandments 4-10 are simple common sense moral principles for a harmonious world.

**4) Vision: What is your plan to get our schools back to the basics and fundamentals of public education?**

Teachers and Principals are charged with too many duties and responsibilities that are outside the scope of educating children. They cannot be blamed for the maladies of society and forced to "take responsibility" for them. We are not properly utilizing the education, skills and the compassion of our educators. Unfortunately, we have to battle anti-Christian hate and indoctrination that has overtaken our school's curriculum, including divisive race and gender misinformation.

**5) Budget: With 64% of taxpayer's money goes to education in Hamilton County. About 1/3 of 3rd to 8th graders are able to read at grade level. Without raising the budget, what is your solution to improving reading levels?**

The answer is simple, "parents". Unfortunately, we can't force parents to be present and active in their own children's lives. Educators can only give students basic tools and teach how to use them, in the end it's up to the student to use these to learn and grow. Though, there are exceptions, it's the parent(s) that are the greatest influence when it comes to attendance, participation and success of the education process.

Independent Survey by



**6) Parental Rights: What is the best way to involve parents in the student's education? Who do you believe is the most important stakeholder in a student's education?**

Churches are the best way to involve parents in their children's education. It's simply not the function of a school system or government to compel parental involvement, but Churches are able to educate and motivate parents in their role of "the family". Children are the most important stakeholders when it comes to their own education but we all benefit from civil, educated people in our community.

**7) COVID Protocol: What is your position on school vax requirements, testing, contact tracing, masking and quarantines in the schools?**

Covid should be handled like any other flu, no mandatory vaccine, no testing, no masks or quarantines in schools. This should be handled at home or a doctor's office/hospital.

**8) CRT: What is your position for a curriculum that incorporates the teaching of diversity, equity and inclusion, Critical Race Theory and Social-Emotional Learning?**

I am opposed to incorporating anything that is divisive, racist and/or promotes any type of discrimination or disinformation. For these reasons, I cannot support them and feel they are extremely corrosive to society, especially children.

**9) Social-Emotional Learning/Sex Education What is your stance of comprehensive sex ed, including details of LGBTQ sexual relationships being taught in schools K-12? What is your stance on gender neutrality, co-ed bathrooms, trans sports?**

Sex Ed should be "age appropriate" and teach a basic understanding of human reproduction. Details of LGBTQ sexual relationships are not necessary when teaching a man's role and a woman's role as it pertains to reproduction. No, No and No to co-ed restrooms and trans sports. Though, there are exceptions to every rule, generally, men are created to naturally do things that women don't and women do things that men naturally don't. It's wrong to force the majority of people to be ashamed of their natural "hard-wiring" in order to somehow validate the few exceptions.

Independent Survey by



**10) Problem/Solution: What is your plan to tackle the problem with bullying, child sex crimes and the physical safety of our children?**

I wish I could guarantee the safety of every child in this world, but no one can 100% protect every child from harm. I feel that our principles, teachers and resource officers do an excellent job of watching out for our children's physical safety. Bullying is an interesting issue. I am not sure how we ended up with bullying policies that enable the bullies. The only way to handle a bully is to stand up to them, yet kids fear being disciplined for doing just that, causing anxiety, helplessness and resentment.

**11) School Board Meetings: How can the board make greater accommodations for all citizens who want to participate in school board meetings, including public comments?**

I have not seen any restrictions to the access of School Board Meetings. For obvious reasons, public comments have to be scheduled and citizens are given 5 minutes to express their concerns. If all meetings were simply an open forum, the Board, which is comprised of people that have full-time jobs themselves would never end and nothing significant would be accomplished.



## FAYE ROBINSON

### Candidate Information

<b>Email Address:</b>	farobinson9104@gmail.com
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	Retired insurance agent
<b>Resident of Hamilton County:</b>	48
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.ElectFayeRobinson.com">http://www.ElectFayeRobinson.com</a>

### 1) School Board's Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County School Board?

Adopt a budget, encourage ongoing education, review policies in place, evaluate policy implementation, monitor success, hire and evaluate superintendent, listen to concerns of students, parents, teachers, and citizens.

Independent Survey by



**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what top three initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County School Board Member?**

Accountability and outcome from students and teachers. 1. Emphasis on early education - PreK - 3rd Grade. 2. Providing safe and up to date facilities for students and teachers. 3. Having life skills in order that students are ready for higher education or the workforce.

**3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

Yes. Society must have guidelines.

**4) Vision: What is your plan to get our schools back to the basics and fundamentals of public education?**

Foundation of Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, RESPECT, and Home Economics.

**5) Budget: With 64% of taxpayer's money goes to education in Hamilton County. About 1/3 of 3rd to 8th graders are able to read at grade level. Without raising the budget, what is your solution to improving reading levels?**

Make reading part of the curriculum. Enlist parents and community volunteers to read to students.

**6) Parental Rights: What is the best way to involve parents in the student's education? Who do you believe is the most important stakeholder in a student's education?**

Encourage parents and discuss child's development. As far as most important stakeholder, that could vary with a parent, guardian, or a very caring teacher.

**7) COVID Protocol: What is your position on school vax requirements, testing, contact tracing, masking and quarantines in the schools?**

As of March 2022 and knowing we have therapeutics, I believe it is time to removed the mask and quarantines in the classroom. The choice of vaccines should be between the child, parents, and physician.

Independent Survey by



**8) CRT: What is your position for a curriculum that incorporates the teaching of diversity, equity and inclusion, Critical Race Theory and Social-Emotional Learning?**

I am against CRT. It seems society is going backwards. I consider myself to be diverse. I thought we had already fought that battle, therefore, let's move on.

**9) Social-Emotional Learning/Sex Education: What is your stance on comprehensive sex ed, including details of LGBTQ sexual relationships being taught in schools K-12? What is your stance on gender neutrality, co-ed bathrooms, trans sports?**

It seems this is going too far.

**10) Problem/Solution: What is your plan to tackle the problem with bullying, child sex crimes and the physical safety of our children?**

Install cameras on school yard, hallways, and classrooms. Have school nurses who could see if child abuse is present or if a classmate hurt another person. Let the students understand that bullying WILL NOT be tolerated.

**11) School Board Meetings: How can the board make greater accommodations for all citizens who want to participate in school board meetings, including public comments?**

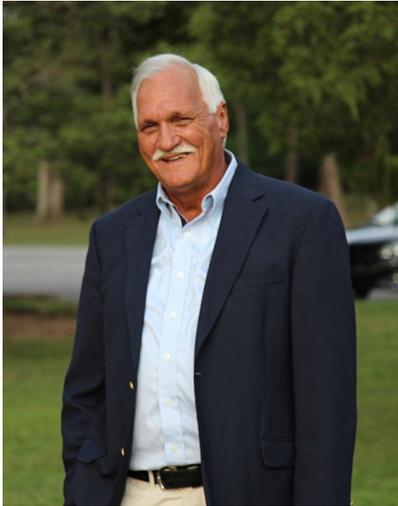
Make their concerns known and placed on the meeting agenda.

Independent Survey by



## County School Board Unopposed

(In district order)



**JOE SMITH**



**CHARLIE PATY**



**LARRY GROHN**



**VIRGINIA ANNE MANSON**

Independent Survey by





## JOE SMITH

### Candidate Information

<b>Email Address:</b>	ddkjoesmith@gmail.com
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	Ex Dir Prison Prevention Ministries
<b>Resident of Hamilton County:</b>	68 years
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/JoeSmithD3Schoolboard">https://www.facebook.com/JoeSmithD3Schoolboard</a>

### 1) School Board's Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County School Board?

A school board member has 2 primary responsibilities. The first is to supervise and evaluate one employee, the Superintendent. Secondly, a school board member is responsible for setting policy for the entire school system which includes the annual operating budget.

Independent Survey by



**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what top three initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County School Board Member?**

I have been married for 46 years and have 2 grown children, raised 19 foster children and have 8 grandchildren. After a 25 year career at the YMCA serving as the Executive Director for programs for at risk youth, I now serve as Executive Director of Prison Prevention Ministries. I am a youth counselor, coach and mentor. I am a member of Abba's House in Hixson and a number of civic organizations to include the Hixson Kiwanis Club and Friends of Hixson. My top 3 initiatives are 1. raising the achievement levels of all students 2. being a good policymaker for the 6,000 people who work for the school system 3. transparency to taxpayers in demonstrating we are spending their money efficiently.

**3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

As a wise man once said, "The main things are the plain things, and the plain things are the main things." You CANNOT legislate morality. For me and my family, we believe strongly and follow judao beliefs.

**4) Vision: What is your plan to get our schools back to the basics and fundamentals of public education?**

I recommend combining old school wisdom with new school technologies. We know instructional strategies that work. We need to make sure we don't throw out the baby with the bath water. If great things are already happening in our schools and classrooms and you throw technology at it, it is going to magnify the greatness. For the past 15-20 years, we have been trying to use assessment solutions for pedagogy problems. Let's spend more time learning and less time testing. We need to refocus and reengage in a more meaningful conversation around the foundation of teaching and learning. It's all about teaching the right skills.

**5) Budget: With 64% of taxpayer's money goes to education in Hamilton County. About 1/3 of 3rd to 8th graders are able to read at grade level. Without raising the budget, what is your solution to improving reading levels?**

It is not acceptable in Hamilton County 37.5% of third graders read at grade level. In Hamilton County we are now outperforming the state in this area, as statewide third graders are reading on grade level at 35%. Prior to the pandemic, Hamilton County adopted a new literacy curriculum. We have experienced improvement even during this unprecedented time. Our improvement is not enough. We must do better. We need to make sure that our early learners are entering kindergarten prepared to learn. Parents across Hamilton County must do more preparing their children as they enter Kindergarten, and then partnering with teachers to develop a love for reading at very early ages. If a student cannot read, they cannot learn.

Independent Survey by



**6) Parental Rights: What is the best way to involve parents in the student's education? Who do you believe is the most important stakeholder in a student's education?**

The most important relationship in every student's life, second only to the parent is the classroom teacher. However, we cannot expect our teachers to be the parent, the nurse, the social worker, the counselor, and the disciplinarian. I believe that the biggest reason that many of our students in Hamilton County underperform is due to dysfunctional parenting and problems in the home. The educator's job is to educate. The parent's job is to parent.

**7) COVID Protocol: What is your position on school vaccination requirements, testing, contact tracing, masking and quarantines in the schools?**

The entire pandemic was a frustrating and often confusing time because of the information we were given was at times conflicting and all over the place. I always felt like masking a child should be left up to the parent. Wherever one's ideology may have been to the COVID response, you were able to find the data to back up whatever your claims may have been. I experienced first hand the damage done to our young people by closing schools, quarantining students, and mandating masks. If we are ever faced with those kinds of decisions again, I am personally all about parental choice.

**8) CRT: What is your position for a curriculum that incorporates the teaching of diversity, equity and inclusion, Critical Race Theory and Social-Emotional Learning?**

At its core, CRT segregates people into 2 main categories, Oppressors or victims. We can all agree that racism and discrimination are wrong and have no place in public education in Hamilton County. However, CRT is nothing more than racially motivated propaganda and has no place in our education system either.

**9) Social-Emotional Learning/Sex Education: What is your stance of comprehensive sex ed, including details of LGBTQ sexual relationships being taught in schools K-12? What is your stance on gender neutrality, co-ed bathrooms, trans sports?**

I am a born again follower of Jesus Christ. I believe the Holy Bible is the infallible word of God and true cover to cover. I do not want sex education taught in the public schools. That is the parent's responsibility. I love all people and respect their right to make any choices about their life that they choose. In my view, there is no such thing as gender neutrality, you are either male or female from birth. Boys should go to boys' bathrooms and girls should go to girls'. Athletes should compete with other athletes that are their same birth sex.

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**10) Problem/Solution: What is your plan to tackle the problem with bullying, child sex crimes and the physical safety of our children?**

We need to do more bolder things on student safety. There need be zero tolerance for bullying much like offenses such as drugs, weapons and acts of violence. Hamilton County currently has, in place, a code of conduct. We must do more to train our staff related to consistent enforcement of that code.

**11) School Board Meetings: How can the board make greater accommodations for all citizens who want to participate in school board meetings, including public comments?**

Anyone who has a desire to speak at any school board meeting, has the right to do that by simply making a written request. I have asked that we, as a board, consider having improved protocols with regard to how this process is handled. For example, we should consider having periodic special meetings where we allow parents, or any stakeholders, ample time to speak to the board and ample time for the board to respond. Parent input is vitally important to me as a school board member.

Independent Survey by





## CHARLIE PATY

### Candidate Information

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<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	Attorney
<b>Resident of Hamilton County:</b>	68 years

#### 1) School Board's Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County School Board?

Set and Approve a yearly budget. Ensure that proper grade/age appropriate curriculum is being taught in the class room. Discuss and address in a calm and respectful manner in school board meetings and in one on one meetings, concerns which members of the community, teachers, school support staff and administrators may have regarding school funding, grade curriculum and content of materials being taught. Increase and improve programs to help and assist teacher and student's performance outcomes. Increase a better working relationship between the County Commission, School Board and School Administration.

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**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what top three initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County School Board Member?**

Special Focus: Ensure that the money budgeted for schools is going to help teachers and students to prepare the students for each level and the next level of the student's academic development. 1. Ensure that the proper grade/age appropriate curriculum and materials are being taught. 2. Provide the necessary resources to teachers for them in their attempts to teach students. 3. Provide necessary resources to those students that, for one reason or another, fall behind in their academic development to assist them to achieve grade level proficiency.

**3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

Our governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. do follow some of the moral principles of the Ten Commandments. Our laws do not allow a person to murder, steal, lie, commit fraud, bear false witness without being subjected to possible criminal charges and resulting punishment upon conviction.

**4) Vision: What is your plan to get our schools back to the basics and fundamentals of public education?**

It must and has to start at the kindergarten and first grade through 3rd grades to increase emphasis on each child being able to read, write and do math. Scientific studies have shown that there is a direct correlation between writing down course work and learning the material and memory retention. Computers are being relied upon to much in the class room. Computers have their place as a learning tool; but, having students writing down course work will in my opinion increase a child's knowledge of a subject and help the student retain the information.

**5) Budget: With 64% of taxpayer's money goes to education in Hamilton County. About 1/3 of 3rd to 8th graders are able to read at grade level. Without raising the budget, what is your solution to improving reading levels?**

I am not so sure that we can improve reading levels without budget considerations. Tennessee ranks as one of the lowest states in spending on education in the nation. Our governor and state legislators are attempting to address the funding issue. However, programs could be set up for volunteers give extra help to those students who fall behind in their reading. I know that students from private schools, as part of community service, go to different after school programs to help children with reading and math. Couldn't houses of worship partner with schools in their areas to do the same?

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**6) Parental Rights: What is the best way to involve parents in the student's education? Who do you believe is the most important stakeholder in a student's education?**

Before the school year begins parents should be given a syllabus for each subject that is being taught to their child and the source materials and contents of the source materials from which the subject will be taught. And, this should be done in a time frame to allow parents to address any concerns with the teacher and school administration before the school year begins. The student is the most important stakeholder in a student's education and secondary are the parents and the community as a whole.

**7) COVID Protocol: What is your position on school vax requirements, testing, contact tracing, masking and quarantines in the schools?**

There have been vax requirements in effect for attendance in public schools for decades, long before Covid. That being said, it is the right of the parents, in consultation with their child's doctor, to best determine their child's health related decisions. If a person, teacher or child, wants to wear a mask, that is their personal decision. Contact tracing has been around for years in other health related instances, but I don't believe it to be all that useful on a daily system wide basis. If a person is asymptomatic then they should not be in quarantine. Just like if a person has the flu, shouldn't they stay home to recover and not risk exposing others.

**8) CRT: What is your position for a curriculum that incorporates the teaching of diversity, equity and inclusion, Critical Race Theory and Social-Emotional Learning?**

While we are all individuals and have different life experiences, we are, under our laws, equal, we all should all be treated as such, and the curriculum should be taught as such. No one ethnic group should be singled out for unequal treatment. The last I checked there is only one race; that is the Human Race. CRT and S-EL have no place in the class room. If parents, on their own time, outside of the school setting want their children about CRT and S-EL then it is up to the parents, not the schools.

**9) Social-Emotional Learning/Sex Education What is your stance of comprehensive sex ed, including details of LGBTQ sexual relationships being taught in schools K-12? What is your stance on gender neutrality, co-ed bathrooms, trans sports?**

Sex education should be focused on the scientific reproductive process. There is no gender neutrality; males have one X and one Y chromosome and females have two X chromosomes. You're either male or female and should as such you should use the bathroom designated as such. There should be no trans sports. Sexual relationships are not a proper subject for school curriculum. It is the parent's responsibility to teach their children about sexual relationships; not the schools.

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**10) Problem/Solution: What is your plan to tackle the problem with bullying, child sex crimes and the physical safety of our children?**

There should already be protocols and procedures in place to deal with bullying. If there is not, then school administrators in conjunction with input from teachers and parents should develop clear, concise, step by step policies and procedures to deal with bullying. There are already criminal code statutes that cover sex crimes and how to report and then let law enforcement do their investigations and reports.

**11) School Board Meetings: How can the board make greater accommodations for all citizens who want to participate in school board meetings, including public comments?**

Just as the City of Chattanooga publishes its meeting agenda 2 weeks in advance of its meetings then so too can the school board. This would allow those people who are interested to attend and prior to the meeting make their views and opinions known to their district representative. Also, at the end of each meeting the public should be allowed a brief period of time to comment on agenda items or any other school related items.

Independent Survey by





## LARRY GROHN

### Candidate Information

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<b>Resident of Hamilton County:</b>	2007-2017, 2020-Present
<b>Military Background:</b>	Military Spouse
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	<a href="http://ElectGrohn2022.com">http://ElectGrohn2022.com</a>

### 1) School Board's Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County School Board?

The direct supervision of the curricular activities of the district through the Superintendent. Oversight of the district budget and the flow of funds into direct instructional activities.

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**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what top three initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County School Board Member?**

Educator (1990-2007). Science and social studies teacher 6-12 grade. MS Ed, - Curriculum and Instruction. Researching multimillion dollar budgets.

Master's Thesis, Readability of Supplemental Materials in High School.

- 1) I fully support and will actively work to ensure the curriculum guidelines enacted by HB0580 in May, 2021 and HB1944 enacted in 2022 are followed.
- 2) Increase the direct the amount of funds necessary into the instruction or remediation in reading and math.
- 3) To have a physical presence in the district 8 schools. I want the students to know who I am and what I do.

**3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

America was build upon the ideals from the Bible and the Enlightenment. I see no problem with relying upon the Ten Commandments to guide my personal actions, especially as an elected official. Most world religions in some form also support the idea of the commandments. That being said, I have no desire to impose or try to force my beliefs on anyone. I will always be respectful of other religions and the followers of them.

**4) Vision: What is your plan to get our schools back to the basics and fundamentals of public education?**

First, the district's TCAP scores show the huge negative affects of distant learning in the 2020-2021 school year. The district is currently doing what I call pull-out programs which have nothing to do with our crucial academics need for reading or math improvement. cultural competency using the Language Arts curriculum. I will work to remove extraneous non-academic programs.

Second, the EL Education K-5 program. This Language Arts curriculum needs to have a complete review by a select school board committee. I believe this program and the contract should be scrapped and replaced if necessary.

Third, it's obvious that some elementary schools in the district need extra financial support.

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**5) Budget: With 64% of taxpayer's money goes to education in Hamilton County. About 1/3 of 3rd to 8th graders are able to read at grade level. Without raising the budget, what is your solution to improving reading levels?**

I do not believe the proper program and approach is being used for the Language Arts curriculum. In addition, the entire staff of K-5 teachers need targeted training in language instruction and acquisition. My Master's thesis was on readability. I am very familiar with benchmarks, goals and interventions for early vocabulary and comprehension. More funds must be dedicated to this effort. The District TCAP scores clearly shows the long-term effects ripple all the way into high school. problem is critical and should be addressed in the current budget talks for the 2022-2023 school year.

**6) Parental Rights: What is the best way to involve parents in the student's education? Who do you believe is the most important stakeholder in a student's education?**

This has been a constant issue for at least the last 30+ years. In many families both parents both work, some more than one job. Some adults had a bad educational experience and coming into school is very stressful. There are language issues and illegal resident issues. The district MUST develop new forms of accommodation for parents. Maybe the district could set aside 2 or 3 times a year to meet parents on a Saturday. This would need to be part of the benefits package (salaries) for teachers.

**7) COVID Protocol: What is your position on school vax requirements, testing, contact tracing, masking and quarantines in the schools?**

I believe the parent is the sole decision-maker on health issues for their family. The CoVid vaccine is totally different than the DPT or polio vaccines. Covid vaccines DO NOT provide immunity like the other vaccines. Schools do not require students to take a flu shot. Why, because the flu shot is a best guess by scientist on what variation of the flu will be dominant each year. A recent broad study of the efficacy of masks concluded the vast majority of most masks are insufficient to prevent transmission. If we truly follow the science, we would never have imposed masks mandates.

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**8) CRT: What is your position for a curriculum that incorporates the teaching of diversity, equity and inclusion, Critical Race Theory and Social-Emotional Learning?**

Critical Race Theory, DEI and Social-Emotional Learning ideologies based primarily on Critical Theory which came out of the Franklin School in the 1920s-1930s. These ideologies in various degrees teach moral relativism, anti-family, anti-religion, social activism which is anti-establishment, anti-cultural and anti-institution. I will work to eliminate all vestiges of these programs. The school board must be the force pushing for a complete refashioning of our district's curriculum. Critical Race Theory promotes divisiveness by separating people into small individual interest groups in a struggle for social and political power. Looking at our TCAP scores, the district should be laser beam focused on academics, not ideologies.

**9) Social-Emotional Learning/Sex Education What is your stance of comprehensive sex ed, including details of LGBTQ sexual relationships being taught in schools K-12? What is your stance on gender neutrality, co-ed bathrooms, trans sports?**

Our administration has been allowing indecency books and supplemental materials. There are groups locally and nationally which push an ideology which I believe the majority of the community would totally be supportive. I have personal family issues with the transgender ideology. I believe it has severely damaged an entire generation of girls. There are only two sexes and two genders. The Trans ideology seeks to destroy the great gains made for women's sports because of Title IX. We cannot allow this fringe movement to have any foothold in our schools.

**10) Problem/Solution: What is your plan to tackle the problem with bullying, child sex crimes and the physical safety of our children?**

Bullies must suffer the full consequences of their actions. They cannot be allowed back into the school and be able to intimidate their victims any further. The district should provide whatever counseling support it provides to help these individuals. Some form of In-School suspension may need to be reinstated in our schools. I believe the district should actively recruit retirees to be in the schools in their community on a regular basis. They need to become known by the students. They need to become more eyes and ears to prevent problems. They'll become mentors and develop friendships with the students. Most importantly they will help hold students responsible for their behavior.

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**11) School Board Meetings: How can the board make greater accommodations for all citizens who want to participate in school board meetings, including public comments?**

Why can't the school board have meetings through the district on Saturdays? Why can't the school board make itself more accessible? can't the board decide to have more than one meeting in a month? If the board truly wants parental involvement and feel the heartbeat of the community, it must reach out to make those connections. We work for the people, we should go out to accommodate the people.

Independent Survey by





## VIRGINIA ANNE MANSON

### Candidate Information

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### 1) School Board's Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County School Board?

The job of a school board member is very straightforward. We must work together to debate and establish policy, approve budget requests, monitor progress, and hire a superintendent. Beyond the scope of the job, it is just as vital for me to speak about the unique role that each school board member has in building relationships within their community and working with their district commissioner as a team.

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**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what top three initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County School Board Member?**

I have spent my adult life in education. Working with administrators, teachers, and parents advocating for a strong educational experience for students. In my experience administrators, teachers, and parents working together results in the highest performing schools. A strong education is crucial to an individual's future. A strong educational system is crucial for our county's future. I have been, and will be, an advocate for students, families, and parental involvement in our Hamilton County Schools. Focus on fundamental education of students not indoctrination. Advocate for neighborhood/community schools, more local control. Transparency in what is being taught in our schools and how the budget is spent.

**3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

Our country was founded on Judeo-Christian values. Our rights come from our Creator. The Ten Commandments are the basic standard of behavior for how we should live our lives as Christians. I believe there is nothing wrong with governmental laws, ordinances, or regulations following the moral principles of the Ten Commandments. Our constitution is founded on these principles and as government leaders we should stay true to the constitution for which we are sworn.

**4) Vision: What is your plan to get our schools back to the basics and fundamentals of public education?**

I will work to establish policies that create transparency in what is being taught in our community. Schools stand to educate our children, not to push political indoctrination. I will find ways to encourage and support parental engagement, which I believe is the strongest factor in pursuing fundamentals in public education. The focus on social agendas takes away from giving students a strong, robust education, which is a crucial component for a successful life.

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**5) Budget: With 64% of taxpayer's money goes to education in Hamilton County. About 1/3 of 3rd to 8th graders are able to read at grade level. Without raising the budget, what is your solution to improving reading levels?**

Low literacy rates and academic preparedness are the greatest challenges our public schools face. Our highest performing schools have strong partnerships between the teachers, administrators, and parents. The challenge is the lowest performing schools in our district have little to no parent involvement, leaving teachers responsible for not only teaching but providing all-encompassing support. There seems to be a growing trend that separates teachers, administrators, and parents. This is a disservice to teachers and parents, but most importantly, the students. I would work to establish policies that create open, transparent, dialogue about curriculum and the direction of our community schools between parents and teachers. I like what I have read in Governor Lee's TISA. The resources follow the student, not the system.

**6) Parental Rights: What is the best way to involve parents in the student's education? Who do you believe is the most important stakeholder in a student's education?**

The most important stakeholders, as the guardians of their children, are parents. As I said before, the highest performing schools have strong parent involvement. Parents know their children better than anyone. There should be transparency in what our children are learning in school. I would support Governor Lee's proposal in the State of the State address that mandate that parents be made aware of the materials that are available to students in their libraries.

**7) COVID Protocol: What is your position on school vax requirements, testing, contact tracing, masking and quarantines in the schools?**

I do not agree with mandating vaccines or masking in our schools. It is the choice of the parents to determine what is in the best interest of their child. From the beginning of the pandemic, children have been those at least risk. As far as contact tracing and quarantine, just as it has been in the past, if a child is sick, whether it is with Covid or any other illness, they should stay home until they are fever or symptom free. It angers me that school systems and states have kept our children in masks while allowing those who can vote to be maskless. This shows me from the beginning, this was never about safety and always about politics.

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**8) CRT: What is your position for a curriculum that incorporates the teaching of diversity, equity and inclusion, Critical Race Theory and Social-Emotional Learning?**

Our schools and teachers' job are to educate our children and not to indoctrinate them. Any curriculum which forces our children to be hyper focused on race does a disservice to our society and opposes the teachings of Martin Luther King; to judge people by the content of their character and not the color of their skin. Our education system should be teaching our children to be critical thinkers with a firm base in writing, reading, and arithmetic. There must also be a full and accurate teaching of the history of our country, both good and bad.

**9) Social-Emotional Learning/Sex Education What is your stance of comprehensive sex ed, including details of LGBTQ sexual relationships being taught in schools K-12? What is your stance on gender neutrality, co-ed bathrooms, trans sports?**

Conversations about sexuality belong in the home with parents. Basic biology is certainly appropriate for schools. I believe allowing a biological male to compete against biological women is a disservice to the strides women have made over decades.

**10) Problem/Solution: What is your plan to tackle the problem with bullying, child sex crimes and the physical safety of our children?**

There has been a drifting away from parent involvement in their child's school. I think parent involvement and focusing on fundamental education are the most significant deterrent to bullying or sexual grooming of our children. Community neighborhood schools where relationships are developed between teachers, students and parents are a deterrent as well

**11) School Board Meetings: How can the board make greater accommodations for all citizens who want to participate in school board meetings, including public comments?**

Providing a bigger venue for the board meetings first comes to mind. School board members should work to keep a good relationship with open dialogue with the parents and schools in their District. As the next school board member, I will work to educate parents on the procedures and rules of our meetings and make myself available to parents and their concerns to communicate these issues with fellow board members and central staff.

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**Hamilton County**  
**2022 Republican Primary Voter Guide**  
**for All Republican Party Candidates**

**District Attorney**

Independent Survey by



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- 9) **Budget/Financial Role:** As District Attorney, how would you optimize, direct, and/or inspire your office to improve its process, efficiency, and effectiveness to maximize your resources to prosecute cases?
- 10) **Constitutional Liberties:** As a District Attorney what measures will you champion to protect the Constitutional liberties of all Hamilton County residents including guaranteeing due process and each of The Bill of Rights?

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**11) Citizens' Duty/Grand Jury:** The grand jury is one of the unheralded tools the people have to monitor and correct waste and corruption in our government. What is your understanding of the grand jury system? What can the district attorney do to motivate and empower the members of our grand jury to investigate and explore goings on in all levels of our local government? Refence Antonin Scalia's Opinion - United States v. Williams, 112 S.Ct. 1735, 504 U.S. 36, 118 L.Ed.2d 352 (1992)

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## District Attorney

(In alphabetical order)



**NEAL PINKSTON**



**COTY WAMP**

Independent Survey by





## NEAL PINKSTON

### Candidate Information

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<b>Resident of Hamilton County:</b>	19
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#### **1) District Attorney's Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County District Attorney?**

Tennessee's Constitution established local District Attorneys to represent the government in prosecuting crimes. A DA's fundamental role is two-fold: to prosecute the guilty and to protect the innocent by ensuring truth and justice prevail. As Hamilton County's top law enforcement officer, I am responsible for overseeing a staff of 27 prosecutors who handle more than 50,000 criminal cases each year. Additionally, the DA is responsible for keeping crime victims informed throughout the court process.

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**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County District Attorney?**

I've prosecuted thousands of violent criminals during 19 years as a prosecutor, including ten death penalty cases. As DA, I created a Cold Case Unit to review the county's 200 unsolved homicides. I created TARGET, a multi-agency unit to combat gangs and illegal guns. This led to the dismantling of one gang and the weakening of others. I created a Digital Forensics Unit. Electronic evidence is now a component of almost every crime and being able to analyze it is crucial to a successful prosecution. When re-elected I will continue my focus on violent crimes. Not every initiative we try will work but I will keep trying until we find what works best to keep our community safe.

**3) Moral Values: Should government laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

As a Christian I follow the Ten Commandments and believe Jesus' teaching that the two most important are to love God and your neighbor. As a prosecutor my focus is criminal law, which does follow the Ten Commandments. I believe the historic rise in violent crime is a direct result of our society's departure from God's Word, primarily manifested through the breakdown of families. As a prosecutor, I see daily the devastating impact of not following God's word.

**4) Biggest Problem/Solution: How would you improve the rules/ policies/ procedures of how non-violent domestic abuse cases are handled?**

Unfortunately, we don't meet a victim of non-violent domestic abuse until that person has already become the victim of a violent abuser. My office has Victim Witness Coordinators who work hard to help these victims, not only as they navigate the system, but also by connecting them with the help and resources they need to remove themselves from abusive situations and become empowered to cut ties with the abuser.

**5) Drug Laws: Do you support creating an option to charge low-level drug possession as a misdemeanor rather than a felony? Why or why not?**

Tennessee law already classifies low-level drug possession as a misdemeanor. There are appropriate exceptions when simple possession can become a felony charge, such as when an adult gives drugs to a minor or when an individual possesses drugs on or near school property.

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**6) Rehabilitation & Prevention: What programs and policies would you implement as District Attorney to reduce crime and increase public safety in the county?**

As DA I've taken great steps to keep our community safe. Each year my staff and I successfully prosecute thousands of offenders. Additionally, the Cold Case Unit I created works to take killers off the streets and my TARGET Unit focuses on gang violence and illegal guns. I've partnered with Drug Recovery Courts and Mental Health Courts to address non-violent offenders. I've designated prosecutors to focus on violent crimes and juvenile matters who work directly with law enforcement. As DA I will continue this hard work by building on these accomplishments for the benefit of Hamilton County.

**7) Juvenile Justice: What would you do to reduce the number of juveniles - particularly Latino and African American youth - who are brought into the criminal justice system? What policies would you put in place to ensure fair and unbiased use of prosecutorial discretion in juvenile court?**

It is our obligation to ensure everyone who breaks the law, young and old, is treated fairly. Whenever possible we provide rehabilitation to juveniles to deter future criminal behavior. To accomplish this we evaluate every case on its own merits and then work hard to identify each child's individual needs. Anger management, drug treatment, and counseling are some of the services offered to non-violent offenders. All prosecutors are to be impartial and fair. Our goal is to ensure we do all we can to achieve rehabilitation so these children do not carry criminal behavior into adulthood and are instead able to reach their potential.

**8) Victims Protection: What legal means, if any would you support to protect the most vulnerable in our County, including the unborn, the trafficked and the elderly?**

I support any legal means to protect our most vulnerable. State law mandates a multi-agency team review each instance of child abuse. My office recently helped craft the duties of a similar team designed to address cases of elder abuse. My office fully supports Tennessee law regarding the unborn and we have shifted some resources to give more focus to victims of human trafficking as those numbers have surged. As DA I take very seriously my duties to both prosecute criminals and protect the innocent, particularly the most vulnerable among us.

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**9) Budget/Financial RoleAs District Attorney, how would you optimize, direct, and/or inspire your office to improve its process, efficiency, and effectiveness to maximize your resources to prosecute cases?**

When I became DA I reviewed every expense my office incurs. As a result, we shrank our annual budget by nearly \$300,000. I changed the way we present our budget request to the county, providing a line item for each expense so taxpayers know where every dollar is going. I'm currently moving our office files to a digital case filing system and when possible we provide evidence in a digital format. These moves are saving hundreds of thousands of dollars in manpower, paper, ink, and the use of office copy machines. This has streamlined the process of providing discovery (evidence) to defendants. These changes were invaluable during the pandemic as it allowed staff to work from home.

**10) Constitutional Liberties: As a District Attorney what measures will you champion to protect the Constitutional liberties of all Hamilton County residents including guaranteeing due process and each of The Bill of Rights?**

As DA I am ethically obligated and personally committed to protecting the Constitutional liberties of every citizen in Hamilton County. As a prosecutor it is not my goal to "win" at the expense of a defendant's rights. In fact, it is my duty to ensure the guilty are vigorously prosecuted and the innocent are protected with equal zeal. Often victims are frustrated by the great effort we take to ensure the rights of offenders are protected. We work hard to ensure victims are aware of their rights as well. Each citizen of Hamilton County should have the ability to safely exercise their Constitutional rights.

**11) Citizens' Duty/Grand Jury: The grand jury is one of the unheralded tools the people have to monitor and correct waste and corruption in our government. What is your understanding of the grand jury system? What can the district attorney do to motivate and empower the members of our grand jury to investigate and explore goings on in all levels of our local government? Refence Antonin Scalia's Opinion - United States v. Williams, 112 S.Ct. 1735, 504 U.S. 36, 118 L.Ed.2d 352 (1992)**

As a bedrock of our justice system the Grand Jury reviews almost every felony charge we prosecute. The Grand Jury has the ability and the obligation to ask questions of law enforcement and prosecutors to ensure corruption is uncovered. As Justice Scalia wrote, if evidence exists in a case that would take away probable cause the Grand Jury should hear it. In fact, I believe all evidence should be freely disclosed and it is my office policy that we share every piece of evidence we have, even information that's not required by law to be disclosed.

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## COTY WAMP

### Candidate Information

<b>Email Address:</b>	coty@cotywamp.com
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	General Counsel, Hamilton County Sheriff's Office
<b>Resident of Hamilton County:</b>	Born and raised in Hamilton County, left for 7 years for college and law school and then came back!
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	<a href="https://www.CotyWamp.com">https://www.CotyWamp.com</a>

#### 1) District Attorney's Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County District Attorney?

The District Attorney is the Chief Law Enforcement Officer of the Judicial District. The District Attorney prosecutes every person in the county who commits a criminal offense. First and foremost, the District Attorney should seek truth and justice. The District Attorney is tasked with protecting victims of crime and protecting the most vulnerable members of our community. At this time in Hamilton County the District Attorney should focus on combatting violent crime, cracking down on criminals who sell heroin and fentanyl, and protecting our children from abuse at all costs. The DA controls our criminal justice system and that person must accept that responsibility and lead with dignity and integrity.

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**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County District Attorney?**

We must focus on gang and violent crime, heroin and fentanyl dealers, and child abuse (including child sex abuse). Gang and violent crime rates have increased under the leadership of our current District Attorney. Heroin and fentanyl dealers are not receiving the punishment that they deserve. And child victims are being overlooked. I will create a Gang and Violent Crime Unit that works directly with the Chattanooga Police Department. I will also restore the position of a Child Sex Abuse Prosecutor who will focus only on serious child abuse cases. The Child Sex Abuse prosecutor will work full-time out of the Children's Advocacy Center office so that they can be involved in investigations from beginning to end.

**3) Moral Values: Should government laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

Absolutely. Not all of the Ten Commandments can be made applicable to criminal justice, but many of them can and should be. Particularly, the Ten Commandments instruct that believers shall not murder, steal, make idols, and shall not bear false witness against neighbors. These are commandments that the criminal justice system should replicate. Moral principles should play a role in how our District Attorney chooses to prosecute and prioritize. As a believer, I hope that all of our local elected officials would answer "yes" to this question.

**4) Biggest Problem/Solution: How would you improve the rules/ policies/ procedures of how non-violent domestic abuse cases are handled?**

There is no such thing as non-violent domestic abuse. Domestic abuse is inherently violent. Under my leadership, there will be additional resources within the DA's office to ensure victims of domestic violence are taken care of while the case is pending and connected with the the Family Justice Center for additional resources. I will have a victim-witness coordinator in my office who will work only with victims of domestic violence. I am committed to placing a dedicated prosecutor in the same office space as the Children's Advocacy Center and Family Justice Center so that those organizations have constant support from my office.

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**5) Drug Laws: Do you support creating an option to charge low-level drug possession as a misdemeanor rather than a felony? Why or why not?**

We need to stop shaming the addicts and instead, send the dealers to prison. Those dealing the most dangerous drugs, heroin and fentanyl, are murdering our young people at unacceptable rates. One hundred and nine (109) people died of a drug overdose in Hamilton County in 2021 alone. That's more than three times as many deaths than from homicide. Low-level drug possession is already charged as a misdemeanor, and it should remain that way. Misdemeanor users who are in possession of illegal substances will be prosecuted, but I do not think that jail is the best place for addicts. We need to identify more resources for addicts, and crack down on dealers.

**6) Rehabilitation & Prevention: What programs and policies would you implement as District Attorney to reduce crime and increase public safety in the county?**

A Gang and Violent Crime Unit in the DA's Office. The Chattanooga Police Department needs additional resources to combat violent crime. I will contribute resources by funding a Unit that acts as a direct connection between the Police Department and the DA's Office. To ensure serious offenders are handled appropriately once the case makes its way to court, the Unit will have a dedicated prosecutor that also works with the major crime divisions of the Police Department. I will also hold Assistant District Attorneys accountable when it comes to plea reductions and/or dismissals on serious offenses. Every offense cannot be negotiable. It's time to draw hard lines in the sand on violent felonies.

**7) Juvenile Justice: What would you do to reduce the number of juveniles - particularly Latino and African American youth - who are brought into the criminal justice system? What policies would you put in place to ensure fair and unbiased use of prosecutorial discretion in juvenile court?**

Our juvenile justice system should be focused on rehabilitation and giving juveniles opportunities to exit the criminal justice system and never return. However, if I'm elected, the exception to that will be teenagers, specifically 16 and 17 year olds, who put a gun in their hand and seek to harm others. Juvenile crime rates are increasing. Gangs prey on vulnerable teenagers to do their dirty work. To deter this, my office will petition juvenile court to transfer 16 and 17 year olds who commit violent crimes to be tried in Criminal Court as adults. Deterrence is the word that we need to use more often for the next decade. We have to deter juveniles from committing serious offenses.

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**8) Victims Protection: What legal means, if any would you support to protect the most vulnerable in our County, including the unborn, the trafficked and the elderly?**

Of course those that prey on our most vulnerable deserve the harshest sentences. However, it's not just the laws that must exist in order to secure harsh sentences for these offenders... the prosecutors handling the cases have to prioritize these offenses and refuse to negotiate on them. Although there are legislators that consistently attempt to enact legislation that protects unborn children, it is devastating that the legislation never makes its way to the Governor's desk. I want to see legislation signed into law that makes it a criminal offense for women to ingest illegal narcotics while pregnant.

**9) Budget/Financial RoleAs District Attorney, how would you optimize, direct, and/or inspire your office to improve its process, efficiency, and effectiveness to maximize your resources to prosecute cases?**

When elected, I will immediately cut down on wasteful spending by eliminating positions that my opponent has needlessly created. This will include the position he created for his wife. I will also immediately begin implementing electronic discovery so that attorneys for criminal defendants are given evidence in a timely and efficient manner that holds all parties accountable. I intend to re-structure the office by implementing vertical prosecution. This structure will create efficiency by causing prosecutors to take a closer look at cases in General Sessions court and ensure that serious cases do not fall through the cracks. Most importantly, I intend to inspire my office by supporting, encouraging, and listening to the people who work for me.

**10) Constitutional Liberties: As a District Attorney what measures will you champion to protect the Constitutional liberties of all Hamilton County residents including guaranteeing due process and each of The Bill of Rights?**

As a former public defender in Hamilton County I understand, on a unique level, the importance of constitutional rights and due process. Justice does not always mean that there will be a conviction. Justice does not always mean that the bad guy goes to jail. Because even the bad guy has unalienable rights. If the rights of just one criminal defendant are not protected, then our whole system is in jeopardy. As a prosecutor in Bradley County, if I believed the constitutional rights of a criminal defendant had been violated, I dismissed the case without hesitation. District Attorneys across the country should first and foremost uphold the constitution and protect the liberties that make this nation great.

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**11) Citizens' Duty/Grand Jury: The grand jury is one of the unheralded tools the people have to monitor and correct waste and corruption in our government. What is your understanding of the grand jury system? What can the district attorney do to motivate and empower the members of our grand jury to investigate and explore goings on in all levels of our local government? Refence Antonin Scalia's Opinion - United States v. Williams, 112 S.Ct. 1735, 504 U.S. 36, 118 L.Ed.2d 352 (1992)**

Tennessee law gives a lot of authority and power to the Grand Jury. As District Attorney, I will be present each time a new Grand Jury is empaneled. There should be more of an emphasis on the Grand Jury as a body of "inquirers" than simply a body that determines whether there is probable cause for an indictment. The Grand Jury is designed to be a body of citizens that has the authority and ability to dig into local government and determine what is working and what isn't. They're then called to report their findings. If utilized to the fullest extent the law allows, the Grand Jury has the ability to hold all of local government accountable to the people.

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**Hamilton County**  
**2022 Republican Primary Voter Guide**  
**for All Republican Party Candidates**

**Sheriff**

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# Sheriff | Survey Question Index

- 1) **Sheriff's Purpose:** What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County Sheriff?
- 2) **Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives:** What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County Sheriff?
- 3) **Moral Values:** Should government laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?
- 4) **Constitution as a Sheriff:** What does the term "Constitutional Sheriff" mean to you and how is a Tennessee county sheriff positioned?
- 5) **County Citizen:** If an agency of the Federal Government violated the due process rights of a citizen in Hamilton County, what would you do?
- 6) **Government Overreach:** DHS just issued a document on February 7th 2022 "Summary of Terrorism Threat to the U.S. Homeland". The number 1 threat example they give is. "... there is widespread online proliferation of false or misleading narratives regarding unsubstantiated widespread election fraud and COVID-19. Grievances associated with these themes inspired violent extremist attacks during 2021."  
  
Please explain why you agree or disagree with the statement made by DHS.
- 7) **Government Responsibilities:** Explain how the Sheriff is an integral part of protecting the lives and liberty of citizens of Hamilton County.

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## AUSTIN GARRETT

### Candidate Information

<b>Email Address:</b>	austingarrettsheriff@gmail.com
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	Chief Deputy Of The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office
<b>Resident of Hamilton County:</b>	Austin Garrett moved to Hamilton County in 1993
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	<a href="https://AustinGarrettSheriff.com/">https://AustinGarrettSheriff.com/</a>

#### 1) Sheriff's Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County Sheriff?

As the constitutionally elected Sheriff, it is my duty to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of law enforcement services to the citizens of Hamilton County.

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# Survey Question Index

## **2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County Sheriff?**

I have 29 years of Law Enforcement experience which includes command and executive level responsibilities. 25 years of service at the CPD, retiring as a Lt in command of the special operations. During my time as chief deputy, we have cast vision and are transitioning to intelligence led law enforcement philosophy in the deployment to personnel and resources. This approach is one I will continue to lead as Sheriff as it contributes to the efficient and effective delivery of law enforcement services. My focus is on the overall reduction of crime and enhancing the quality of life for the citizens of Hamilton County.

## **3) Moral Values: Should government laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?**

Yes. Our country was established on Judeo Christian values which are reflected and forward in our constitution. Laws, ordinances, and regulations which stand with the constitution hold in the moral principles of the Ten Commandments.

## **4) Constitution as a Sheriff: What does the term "Constitutional Sheriff" mean to you and how is a Tennessee county sheriff positioned?**

As Sheriff you are sworn to uphold our laws and defend both the US and Tennessee constitution. It is clear in the oath in which every sheriff is sworn by that I will be a sheriff who abides by the constitution. My power and authority rest in the constitution.

## **5) County Citizen: If an agency of the Federal Government violated the due process rights of a citizen in Hamilton County, what would you do?**

Follow the law. I would follow the US constitution and the Tennessee Constitution. I consider one of the highest responsibilities as sheriff is to be ethical, moral, and legal.

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## Survey Question Index

**6) Government Overreach: DHS just issued a document on February 7th 2022 "Summary of Terrorism Threat to the U.S. Homeland". The number 1 threat example they give is. "... there is widespread online proliferation of false or misleading narratives regarding unsubstantiated widespread election fraud and COVID-19. Grievances associated with these themes inspired violent extremist attacks during 2021."**

**Please explain why you agree or disagree with the statement made by DHS.**

If the elected body of the state of Tennessee or the United States passes a law that holds up to the constitution, I will obey the law.

**7) Government Responsibilities: Explain how the Sheriff is an integral part of protecting the lives and liberty of citizens of Hamilton County.**

It is important to note that the sheriff is elected by the people and answers to the people. The Sheriff is the highest elected Law Enforcement Officer. As sheriff, it is my job to be fair and balanced when discharging duties and protecting the rights of the citizens of Hamilton County.

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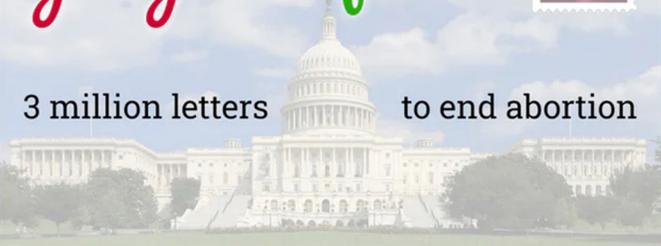
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# Notes

