

2026 Bradley County Republican Primary Election

Voter Guide

501(c)(3) - compliant
and nonpartisan

County School Board Dist. 4

County Primary Election | 5/5/2026



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BradleyTNvoterGuide.com

Online Voter Registration/Record Updating available until 4/6/2026 at: <https://sos.tn.gov/elections>

Contact us at: advocates@bradleytnvoterguide.com | Updated 4/20/2026

For other Voter Guides and more information, please go to our website: www.BradleyTNvoterGuide.com

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 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. Thereby it does not support or oppose any candidate.

Bradley County 2026 Republican Primary Election Voter Guide for County School Board Dist. 4

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Introduction to the Voter Guide

This Guide is brought to you by Advocates for Bradley County in partnership with Church Voter Guides.

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 Tennessee nonprofit, initially started in Colorado Springs in April of 2021. This new Voter Guide for the 2026 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 a contested 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 County School Board Dist. 4 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.
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 County School Board Dist. 4 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 County School Board Dist. 4 throughout Bradley County for their 2026 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.

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 Bradley County region:

www.BradleyTNvoterGuide.com

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:

advocates@bradleytnvoterguide.com

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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Key Dates for the 2026 Election Cycle

Tuesday, May 5, 2026 - State and County Primary Election

Primary elections may be held for **state judicial offices and applicable county offices**, subject to the call by political parties.

Deadline to Call Primary	Monday, August 25, 2025
Deadline to Rescind Call for Primary	Friday, November 21, 2025
First Day to Pick Up Petitions	Monday, December 22, 2025
Qualifying Deadline*	Thursday, February 19, 2026, 12:00 Noon
	* This qualifying deadline applies to primary candidates, candidates nominated by caucus, and independent candidates for the offices on the May primary ballot.
Withdrawal Deadline	Thursday, February 26, 2026, 12:00 Noon
Voter Registration Deadline	Monday, April 6, 2026
Early Voting Period	Wednesday, April 15 – Thursday, April 30, 2026
Absentee Ballot Request Deadline	Saturday, April 25, 2026

Thursday, August 6, 2026 - Primary and General Election

Primary elections will be held for **Governor, U.S. Senate, U.S. House, Tennessee Senate (odd-numbered districts), Tennessee House, and Republican and Democratic State Executive Committees**. General elections will be held for **vacant state judicial offices and applicable county offices**.

First Day to Pick Up Petitions	Friday, January 9, 2026
Qualifying Deadline*	Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 12:00 Noon
	* This qualifying deadline applies to primary and independent candidates for the offices on the August primary ballot.
Withdrawal Deadline	Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 12:00 Noon
Voter Registration Deadline	Tuesday, July 7, 2026
Early Voting	Friday, July 17 – Saturday, August 1, 2026
Absentee Ballot Request Deadline	Monday, July 27, 2026

Tuesday, November 3, 2026 - State and Federal General Election

All candidates (including independents) for **Governor, U.S. Senate, U.S. House, Tennessee Senate (odd-numbered districts), and Tennessee House** must follow the qualifying dates for the August election. For **municipal elections** held with the November election, the qualifying dates below apply.

First Day to Pick Up Petitions	Monday, June 22, 2026
Qualifying Deadline	Thursday, August 20, 2026, 12:00 Noon
Withdrawal Deadline	Thursday, August 27, 2026, 12:00 Noon
Voter Registration Deadline	Monday, October 5, 2026
Early Voting	Wednesday, October 14 – Thursday, October 29, 2026
Absentee Ballot Request Deadline	Saturday, October 24, 2026

Where is my Voting District or Precinct?

Precincts and Commissioner Districts

The 18 Bradley County Precincts



The 7 Commissioner Districts



The New 2022 Senate and House Districts

Tennessee Senate District 1 and 2



Tennessee House Districts 22 and 24



Map Resources: [Enter Your Address](#) to see your New Voting Districts • [Bradley County GIS Maps](#) • [Voting Maps](#)

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**Bradley County
2026 Republican Primary Election
Voter Guide
for County School Board Dist. 4**

**County School
Board**

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County School Board | Survey Questions Index

- 1) **Purpose:** What do you view as the purpose and role of the Bradley County School Board?
- 2) **Candidate's Focus/Initiatives:** What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what top three initiatives would you undertake as Bradley County School Board Member?
- 3) **Moral Values:** Should government laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why, or why not?
- 4) **Vision:** What is your plan to get our schools back to the basics and fundamentals of public education?
- 5) **Budget:** Over 60% of taxpayer money goes to education in Bradley County. Only about 1/3 of 3rd and 8th graders are able to read at grade level. Without raising the budget, what is your solution to improving reading levels?
- 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?
- 7) **COVID Protocol:** What is your position on school vax requirements, testing, contact tracing, masking 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?
- 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?
- 10) **Problem/Solution:** What is your plan to tackle the problem with bullying, child sex crimes and the physical safety of our children?
- 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?

County School Board Dist. 4

(In alphabetical order)



Sandy Benson



Ashlan Morelock



Troy Weathers

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Sandy Benson

Candidate Information

Email Address:	sandyandkurt055@gmail.com
Occupation/Vocation:	retired nurse/teacher
Years as a resident of Bradley County:	23
Military Background:	veteran of United States Air Force Nurse Corps
Campaign Website:	none

1) Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Bradley County School Board?

Primarily, I see the school board as being tasked with overseeing the proper education of our public school students. This requires staying within designated budget requirements. This cannot happen without also providing proper maintenance and upkeep of buildings and grounds with consideration for student safety and well-being of all children within the system under our care. The school board is also responsible for policy, which must reflect transparency and honesty in dealing with parents and public entities.

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

I come from a background of nursing and education. During my years of teaching, I have organized and implemented curriculum for RN students, LPN students, CNA students, and high school Health Occupations students, so I understand the challenges teachers face in the classroom. I can also assess health issues and how they intersect with education. First of all, any decisions should always have a positive affect on classroom education as the primary goal. Secondly, safety of the students is essential at all times. After these two major challenges, I would seek to prioritize open communication between parents, teachers and administrators.

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

Ideally, the law of the land is closer to Biblical principles as it reflects the Ten Commandments. I have no objection to any of these moral principles. These are guidelines which God gives to provide the best environment for raising children and maintaining order and harmony in any society. They are certainly ideals our government should aspire to achieve.

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

I would plan to assess needs in the classroom and seek to apply the budget in a way to meet those needs in the best way possible. Teachers need to be supported and listened to. Teacher training should reflect their needs. It should address practical needs such as classroom management and draw from experienced teachers who are successful.

5) Budget: Over 60% of taxpayer money goes to education in Bradley County. Only about 1/3 of 3rd and 8th graders are able to read at grade level. Without raising the budget, what is your solution to improving reading levels?

I would want to assess how much time students spend actually reading at school and how much time is spent on computer screens. Research and assessment of schools that are successful with reading scores could certainly offer some insight into the problem. It is a major concern that our students are struggling with this deficit and it should be looked at closely in order to pinpoint weaknesses in 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?

Communication is essential. Many working parents are very busy and it may require reaching out personally for a conference or inviting the parents to parent night or open house to initiate contact. Certainly the parent or guardian is the key stakeholder and the one with a continuous ongoing relationship with the child. As a member of the school board I would seek to keep an open mind in individual situations to encourage transparency among teaching staff and administration to resolve issues in the best way possible.

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

My position is always the best interest of the student. Sometimes the health department mandates school closures for flu epidemics for a limited time until the situation dissipates. Also, while students and staff are out recovering, a complete and thorough cleaning of the building might be helpful. I believe vaccines should be evaluated for their risk/benefit ratios. There have been some studies addressing this issue. The studies should be scientific and not biased in their approach. Some communicable diseases require contact tracing and testing if it comes under the health department guidelines. Some of the extreme practices during COVID 19 seemed to be overkill. Masks don't seem to be that helpful. Handwashing is key to prevention of most communicable diseases.

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?

These are political-type issues. I fail to see their place in the classroom when students are struggling with reading comprehension. I don't see these issues as fundamental for education of our students. Basic respect for all students regardless of race or ethnic identity should be incorporated into general classroom protocols. Disrespectful behavior of students in regard to these issues should not be tolerated.

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?

Sex education should be age specific. Certain details should be delayed to closer to puberty, when children need to know about their bodies and reproduction processes. Details of LGBTQ sexual relationships has no place in public education. Co-ed public bathrooms are not appropriate, even for adults. I do not support trans students participating in sports that do not correlate to their biological birth sex.

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 be consequences in place for misbehavior of any kind. Crimes should be referred to the juvenile courts. Safety of our children is always the first priority.

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?

Board meetings should always be open to the public and welcoming to those who wish to participate in the process. Online public comments should be accessible to those who wish to participate in that manner.



Ashlan Morelock

We made multiple attempts to communicate with Ashlan Morelock; however, the Candidate did not complete the survey by the submission deadline.

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Troy Weathers

We made multiple attempts to communicate with Troy Weathers; however, the Candidate did not complete the survey by the submission deadline.

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