

# 2026 Bradley County Democrat Primary Election

# Voter Guide

501(c)(3) - compliant  
and nonpartisan

## County Commission Dist. 5A

County Primary Election | 5/5/2026



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[BradleyTNvoterGuide.com](http://BradleyTNvoterGuide.com)

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

Contact us at: [advocates@bradleytnvoterguide.com](mailto:advocates@bradleytnvoterguide.com) | Updated 4/20/2026

For other Voter Guides and more information, please go to our website: [www.BradleyTNvoterGuide.com](http://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 Democrat Primary Election Voter Guide for County Commission Dist. 5A

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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 Democrat 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 Commission Dist. 5A 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 Commission Dist. 5A 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 Commission Dist. 5A 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](http://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](mailto: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
	<b>* This qualifying deadline applies to primary candidates, candidates nominated by caucus, and independent candidates for the offices on the May primary ballot.</b>
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
	<b>* This qualifying deadline applies to primary and independent candidates for the offices on the August primary ballot.</b>
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 Democrat Primary Election  
Voter Guide  
for County Commission Dist. 5A**

**County  
Commission**

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# County Commission | Survey Questions Index

- 1) **Purpose:** What do you view as the purpose and role of the Bradley County Commissioner?
- 2) **Candidate's Focus/Initiatives:** What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as Bradley County Commissioner?
- 3) **Moral Values:** Should government 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 Commission 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 poor and homeless, and the elderly?
- 7) **Business/Jobs:** How should the commission handle development of housing, zoning and infrastructure in Bradley 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 Bradley county residents?
- 9) **Constitutional Liberties:** As the County Commissioner, what measures will you champion to protect the individual Constitutional liberties of all Bradley County residents, such as freedom of speech, peaceable assembly and exercise of religion?

# County Commission Dist. 5A

(In alphabetical order)



Shady Hernandez

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## Shady Hernandez

### Candidate Information

**Email Address:** Shadyhernandez3@hotmail.com  
**Occupation/Vocation:** Human Services Practitioner  
**Years as a resident of Bradley County:** 21 years  
**Campaign Website:** None right now

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

One to represent my district as the voice for the constituents. It is my job to listen to the needs and advocate to make lasting changes happen.

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

Children, families, elderly, underserved and those in need. I have worked in the nonprofit sector serving the people of Bradley County for many years, hearing their concerns and needs. I want to now be part of making changes in housing, property taxes, police presence, trash pick up, and many more needs in my community.

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

The Ten commandments are the base on which morals and conduct should begin: loving God and our neighbors. All the laws should take that into consideration.

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

Property taxes, business development in my district, employment, transportation, sidewalks

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

Yes, we are still dealing with low employment. With my knowledge in the community, I would like to help develop programs to train people for new positions.

**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 poor and homeless, and the elderly?**

Having worked with the most vulnerable of our county, I have first hand knowledge of the needs of these areas. It would be excellent to be more involved in being part of law making for the protection of many.

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

My district could use more help with developing more income based housing to help families with lower wages.

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

First it would be important for the commission to accept that the increase in rentals while people are making less money creates a cycle of homelessness. Most of us Americans live paycheck to paycheck. We would be homeless in a couple of months if we didn't have a job. The cost of gas and the basic cart makes families have to chose between rent, gas to keep a job, and food on the table. It is naive to think that homelessness is simple. We need to address multiple issues to keep our district financially healthy.

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

I will meet up with people to make sure that their voices are heard at a County level.