

# 2026 Bradley County Republican Primary Election

# Voter Guide

501(c)(3) - compliant  
and nonpartisan

## All Republican Candidates

County Primary Election | 5/5/2026



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[BradleyTNvoterGuide.com](https://www.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 Republican Primary Election Voter Guide for All Republican Candidates

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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 All Republican 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.
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 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 Candidates 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

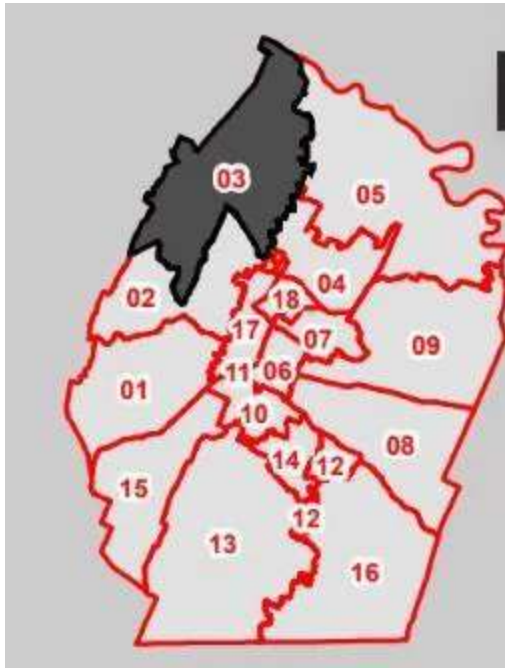
All candidates (including independents) for **Governor, U.S. Senate, U.S. House, Tennessee Senate (odd-numbered districts), and Tennessee House** must follow the qualifying dates for the August election. For **municipal elections** held with the November election, the qualifying dates below apply.

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

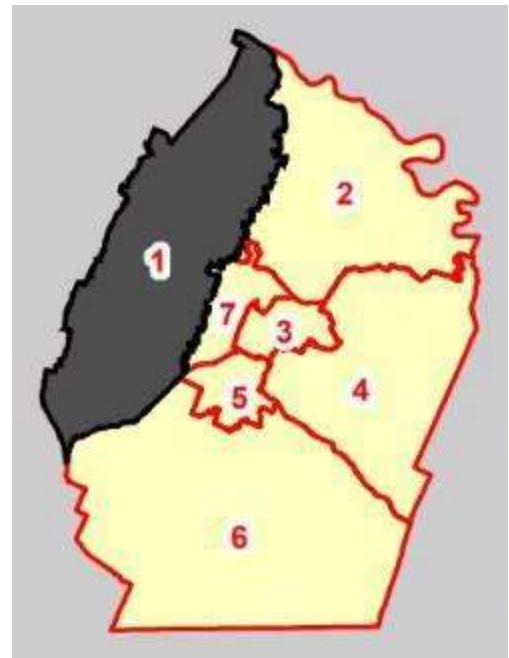
# Where is my Voting District or Precinct?

## Precincts and Commissioner Districts

The 18 Bradley County Precincts

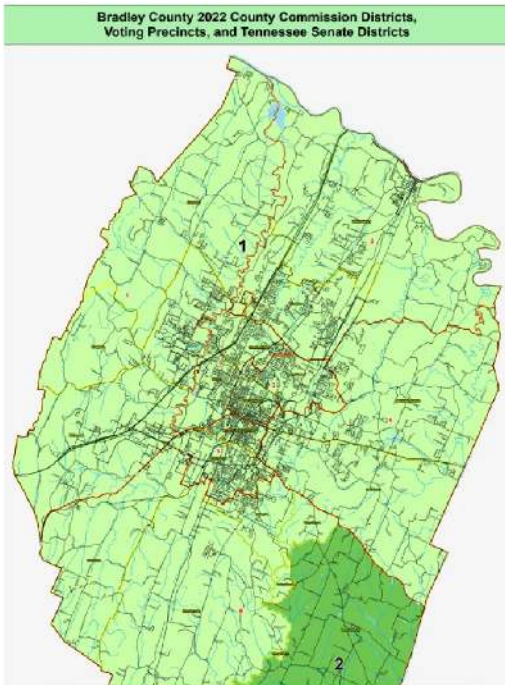


The 7 Commissioner Districts

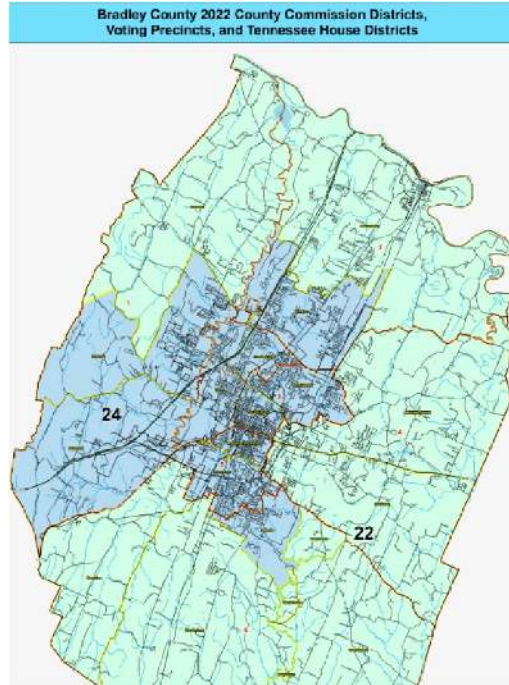


## The New 2022 Senate and House Districts

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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for All Republican Candidates**

**County Mayor**

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# County Mayor | Survey Questions Index

- 1) **Purpose:** What do you view as the purpose and role of the County Mayor?
- 2) **Candidate's Focus/Initiatives:** What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as County Mayor?
- 3) **Budget:** What would be your top three spending, savings, and economic development priorities?
- 4) **Budget:** What are your qualifications and experience in preparing and balancing a budget as required by state law?
- 5) **Constitutional Liberties:** As the County Mayor, 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?
- 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) **Moral Values:** Should government laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why, or why not?
- 8) **Zoning/Planning:** What policies would you support to prevent and disclose potential conflicts of interest between developers and members of Bradley County's zoning and planning committees, and how would you ensure that land-use decisions are made transparently, ethically, and in the best interest of residents rather than private interests?
- 9) **Immigration:** What role, if any, do you believe the Mayor's office should have in guiding Bradley County's cooperation with ICE and federal immigration enforcement?
- 10) **Adult Entertainment:** The Adult Entertainment Act (AEA) in Tennessee restricts certain adult performances, such as drag shows, in front of minors. Do you personally support the AEA, and regardless of your personal views, how would your office ensure its enforcement?
- 11) **Quality and fairness in the Workplace:** How would you ensure that government employees in Bradley County are treated fairly, hired on merit and qualifications, and not based on any factors not related to the performance of the position?

# County Mayor

(In alphabetical order)



D. Gary Davis



Scott 'Donut' Gilbert



## D. Gary Davis

### Candidate Information

**Email Address:** gdavis@bradleycountyttn.gov  
**Occupation/Vocation:** Bradley County Mayor  
**Years as a resident of Bradley County:** Lifelong resident  
**Campaign Website:** votegarydavis.com

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

The County Mayor's role is to lead the day-to-day administration of county government with integrity, vision, and accountability. That means managing the budget responsibly, overseeing county departments, working with the County Commission, and making sure taxpayer dollars are used wisely. It also means planning for the future, supporting public safety, improving infrastructure, and helping create opportunities for responsible growth. Just as important, the County Mayor should be accessible to the people, transparent in decision-making, and focused on serving the entire county, not politics or special interests. At its core, the job is about steady leadership, solving problems, and making county government work well for the people it serves.

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

My areas of focus are responsible growth, financial stewardship, infrastructure planning, and strong public services. I bring experience in budgeting, economic development, public safety, and the day-to-day operations of county government. As County Mayor, I would focus on managing growth in a way that protects quality of life, improving roads and infrastructure, supporting first responders, and keeping county government transparent, efficient, and accountable. I would also continue working to strengthen economic development, expand broadband access, and make sure we are planning ahead instead of reacting late. My goal would be simple: deliver steady leadership, practical solutions, and results that benefit the people of Bradley County.

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

My top spending priorities would be public safety, infrastructure, and essential county services. That means supporting law enforcement, fire, EMS, and schools, while also investing in roads, facilities, and the services people rely on every day. My top savings priorities would be responsible budgeting, controlling unnecessary spending, and making sure every tax dollar is tied to a real need and measurable result. On economic development, my focus would be on recruiting quality jobs, supporting existing industry, and preparing for growth through infrastructure, workforce development, and long-range planning. The goal is simple: spend wisely, save where we can, and grow the local economy in a way that benefits families across Bradley County.

**4) Budget: What are your qualifications and experience in preparing and balancing a budget as required by state law?**

I have real, hands-on experience working through the county budget process and understanding what it takes to meet the requirements of state law. That includes reviewing department requests, weighing priorities, matching needs against available revenue, and helping build a balanced budget that is both responsible and realistic. I understand that budgeting is not just about numbers on paper. It is about making tough decisions, setting priorities, and ensuring county government can meet its obligations without losing sight of the taxpayers who fund it. My experience in county government has given me a clear understanding of the process, the pressures, and the discipline required to prepare and present a balanced budget.

**5) Constitutional Liberties: As the County Mayor, 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?**

As County Mayor, I would champion a county government that respects and protects the freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment and the Tennessee Constitution: free speech, peaceful assembly, and the free exercise of religion. That means making sure county government remains viewpoint-neutral, open to the public, and careful not to burden those rights through unnecessary rules or uneven enforcement. I would support transparent public meetings, equal treatment for all residents, and policies that protect both public safety and individual liberty. My job would not be to decide which voices, beliefs, or viewpoints are acceptable, but to ensure county government honors the rights of every citizen under the law.

**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?**

I would support every lawful tool available to protect vulnerable people: enforcing Tennessee's pro-life laws, strengthening cooperation with law enforcement and nonprofits to fight human trafficking, supporting Adult Protective Services and tougher action against elder abuse and exploitation, and expanding practical partnerships that connect the poor and homeless to shelter, treatment, mental health care, and long-term stability. Tennessee provides statewide trafficking and adult abuse reporting resources that local government should actively support and coordinate with. As County Mayor, I would focus on protecting life, defending the vulnerable, and making sure county government is a serious partner in prevention, rescue, and support.

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

Moral principles like honesty, personal responsibility, respect for life, and justice have long influenced good laws, and I believe those values should continue to guide public service. But government should not simply try to codify religion or favor one denomination's doctrine. The U.S. and Tennessee Constitutions protect both the free exercise of religion and freedom from government-established religion. So my view is this: our laws should reflect strong moral principles that promote order, dignity, and accountability, while still respecting the constitutional rights and freedoms of every citizen. That balance matters in a free society.

**8) Zoning/Planning: What policies would you support to prevent and disclose potential conflicts of interest between developers and members of Bradley County's zoning and planning committees, and how would you ensure that land-use decisions are made transparently, ethically, and in the best interest of residents rather than private interests?**

I would support clear disclosure requirements, recusal rules, and strong ethics standards for anyone serving on zoning or planning bodies. If a member has a financial interest, business relationship, or personal connection that could influence a decision, that should be disclosed publicly and that person should step aside. I also support open meetings, public notice, clear agendas, recorded votes, and easy public access to applications and supporting documents before a vote. Land-use decisions should be based on the facts, the county's plans and regulations, and the long-term best interest of residents, not private pressure or insider relationships. Public trust depends on transparency, consistency, and accountability.

**9) Immigration: What role, if any, do you believe the Mayor's office should have in guiding Bradley County's cooperation with ICE and federal immigration enforcement?**

The Mayor's office should support lawful cooperation with ICE and federal authorities when it involves criminal enforcement, public safety, and compliance with state and federal law. Programs like ICE's 287(g) framework operate through formal agreements, training, and federal oversight, so any cooperation should be clear, legal, and accountable. At the same time, the Mayor should make sure county resources are used responsibly, constitutional rights are respected, and local government stays focused on its core duty to keep Bradley County safe. My approach would be simple: follow the law, cooperate where appropriate, insist on transparency, and make public safety the priority.

**10) Adult Entertainment: The Adult Entertainment Act (AEA) in Tennessee restricts certain adult performances, such as drag shows, in front of minors. Do you personally support the AEA, and regardless of your personal views, how would your office ensure its enforcement?**

Yes. I support laws that keep minors from being exposed to sexually explicit adult performances. Tennessee's AEA was enacted in 2023 to prohibit "adult cabaret entertainment" on public property or where it can be viewed by minors, and after litigation, the Sixth Circuit allowed the law to take effect; the U.S. Supreme Court later declined review. As County Mayor, my office would not play politics with enforcement. We would support lawful enforcement by the appropriate authorities, make sure county departments cooperate as required, and insist that enforcement be consistent, constitutional, and focused on protecting children.

**11) Quality and fairness in the Workplace: How would you ensure that government employees in Bradley County are treated fairly, hired on merit and qualifications, and not based on any factors not related to the performance of the position?**

Yes. I support laws that keep minors from being exposed to sexually explicit adult performances. Tennessee's AEA was enacted in 2023 to prohibit "adult cabaret entertainment" on public property or where it can be viewed by minors, and after litigation, the Sixth Circuit allowed the law to take effect; the U.S. Supreme Court later declined review.

As County Mayor, my office would not play politics with enforcement. We would support lawful enforcement by the appropriate authorities, make sure county departments cooperate as required, and insist that enforcement be consistent, constitutional, and focused on protecting children.



## Scott 'Donut' Gilbert

We made multiple attempts to communicate with Scott 'Donut' Gilbert; however, the Candidate did not complete the survey by the submission deadline.

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2026 Republican Primary Election  
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**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. 1A

(In alphabetical order)



Daniel E. Beaty

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## Daniel E. Beaty

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

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# County Commission Dist. 1B

(In alphabetical order)



Mike Hughes

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## Mike Hughes

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

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## County Commission Dist. 2A

(In alphabetical order)



Louie Alford



Caleb Luzader



## Louie Alford

### Candidate Information

**Email Address:** lalford42@gmail.com  
**Occupation/Vocation:** Retired teacher  
**Years as a resident of Bradley County:** 74  
**Campaign Website:** Louie Alford County Commissioner District 2 Seat A

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

Mange the county budget and set tax rate

**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?**

Experience and Leadership in all phases of county government.

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

Yes

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

Spend as little tax as possible, but try to make sure our county employees are paid a living wage

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

Not anymore

**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?**

Make sure we continue to fund organization that help these groups

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

Tougher zoning rules and try to slow down growth

**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?**

Same as number eight

**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?**

Keep the laws and the constitution in mind



## Caleb Luzader

### Candidate Information

**Email Address:** FFluzader@gmail.com  
**Occupation/Vocation:** Firefighter / Real Estate Professional  
**Years as a resident of Bradley County:** 30  
**Campaign Website:** None

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

The role of a Commissioner is to set the tax rate and approve a balanced budget. Beyond that, a commissioner works within their district to represent their constituents and vote their will. A commissioner should interface with their community and answer questions and be a liaison to the happenings within their county government.

**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?**

I would consider myself a jack of a many trades. I have an understanding of many different subjects. From economic development to first responders and their needs within their job descriptions. My focus would be to ensure that we create an equitable growth plan and bolster our infrastructure to appropriately and comfortably usher in the growth that is coming.

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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?**

Absolutely, I believe the 10 commandments have created a moral anchor and litmus test for the creation of regulation in government and communities.

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

We have to figure out how to create more income for the county. As it sits the main source of income is property tax. We need to put our minds together to create an environment that maintains low property taxes and creates income from ancillary sources. Economic development and tourism dollars, industry, and other areas should be studied intently to ensure the brunt of the tax base does not only come from property owners. I feel like this covers all three priorities combined.

**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 biggest issue that COVID has brought in my opinion is affordable housing. Many young people starting out can simply not afford to purchase a home.

As a commission we can continue to partner with NGO's such as city fields that is committed to bringing in affordable housing to the workforce.

**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?**

I am adamantly pro-life. First and foremost, the unborn. Every child deserves a chance at life, and to be loved. My spiritual conviction is strong about protecting life of all marginalized individuals.

The HCI grant is a phenomenal way that we can work with organizations within our community to ensure that we protect those that may not be able to protect themselves. In regards to trafficking victims, we must continue to support our organizations that support trafficking victims and partner with LEO's to bring those involved to justice. We must also continue to fund our law enforcement to protect children and elderly from cyber crimes and scams.

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

We need to really zero in on development districts and appropriate zoning. Ensuring we protect property values and the right to a peaceful life of constituents. While also continuing to encourage investment in our county to bring not just "good" paying jobs, but GREAT paying jobs. We should also if able continue to support entrepreneurship to the next generation.

**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?**

Our Homeless shelter needs help. This is a great opportunity once again, for HCI. Partnering with in organizations that help solve the issues plaguing homelessness. Many which are mental health issues and addiction.

**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?**

Protecting the constitutional rights of all Americans is the MOST important thing for all elected official. Your right to assemble should be protected. Your right to free speech should be protected, even when it hurts my feelings. Your freedom to exercise your religion is the cornerstone of this nation, and the reason we exist.

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## County Commission Dist. 2B

(In alphabetical order)



Andrew Dinsmore



Jeremy Richards



Terri Williams-Murray

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## Andrew Dinsmore

### Candidate Information

**Email Address:** Andrew@VoteDinsmore.com  
**Occupation/Vocation:** Grocer  
**Years as a resident of Bradley County:** 14  
**Campaign Website:** VoteDinsmore.com

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

The role of a Bradley County Commissioner is to be a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars while representing the voices of the people in their district. It's about making practical, informed decisions that support smart growth, strong infrastructure, and efficient county services.

A commissioner must work collaboratively with fellow commissioners, local leaders, and community organizations to move Bradley County forward. That requires listening, clear communication, and being actively engaged in the community.

In my view, this role is grounded in service, communication, and transparency bringing people together and ensuring decisions are made openly and in the best interest of the entire county.

**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?**

My background is in operations, budgeting, and serving people daily through my work in the grocery industry. I've spent years managing teams, controlling costs, and making decisions that directly impact families in our community.

My focus will be on smart intentional growth, infrastructure, and fiscal responsibility making sure we're planning ahead as Bradley County continues to grow. That includes roads, Public Safety, and essential services that keep pace without overburdening taxpayers.

I'll also prioritize transparency and communication so people understand what's happening and why. I want to bring a practical, focused approach that ensures we're making responsible decisions today while preparing for the future.

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

I do believe the principles found in the Ten Commandments, things like honesty, respect for others, and personal responsibility are strong moral foundations that have shaped our communities and our country for generations.

Those values provide a clear guide for right and wrong, and I believe they should be reflected in how we approach laws and leadership. When our decisions are grounded in those principles, it leads to stronger families, safer communities, and better outcomes for everyone. Our role in local government should be to apply those values in a fair, practical way that serves our entire community.

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

My top priorities come down to being responsible with what we have while planning for what's ahead. First, I want to make sure we're investing in infrastructure, roads, and public safety so we can keep up with growth the right way.

Second, I'm focused on smart spending and finding efficiencies. We need to look closely at where dollars are going, cut waste where we can, and make sure taxpayers are getting real value they can see.

Third, economic development should be intentional. I support growth that brings quality jobs and strengthens our local economy, while protecting what makes Bradley County a great place to live.

**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 created real challenges for our businesses, schools, healthcare, and we're still seeing some of those effects today. While the Commission can't control everything, it can play a outspoken role in helping our community recover and stay prepared moving forward.

That means supporting local businesses, making sure our schools and emergency services have what they need, and being responsible with how any available funding is used. It's also about learning from what worked and what didn't so we're better prepared in the future as a Commission and community.

**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?**

I believe we have a responsibility to protect the most vulnerable in our community, the unborn, victims of trafficking, the poor and homeless, and our elderly. That starts with supporting laws and policies that value life, protect people from exploitation, and ensure safety and dignity.

Through my work and community involvement, I've spent years working alongside people from all walks of life and life situations, and I understand how important strong partnerships are. At the county level, that means working with law enforcement, nonprofits, and local organizations to strengthen support systems and use resources wisely.

Protecting the vulnerable takes both compassion and action, and I'm prepared to help move that forward.

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

Growth is coming whether we like it or not, so the key is managing it the right way. We need to be proactive, not reactive, when it comes to housing, zoning, and infrastructure.

That means making sure our roads and utilities are keeping up with development, not falling behind. Zoning decisions should be thought out and protect the character of our communities while still allowing for responsible growth.

I believe in a balanced approach by supporting development that makes sense, while making sure it's planned, sustainable, and doesn't put strain on the taxpayers. It all comes down to smart growth, good planning, and listening to the people who live here.

**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?**

This is an issue that requires both compassion and common sense. We need to make sure we're helping those who truly need it, while also maintaining safe, clean public spaces for everyone in our community.

That starts with strong partnerships with nonprofits like United Way, local churches, and service organizations to connect people with housing, job opportunities, and mental health support. At the same time, we need clear, consistent policies that prevent long-term encampments and ensure accountability.

I believe we can have a balanced approach that focuses on helping people move forward, using resources wisely, and making decisions that serve all residents of our county.

**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?**

Protecting Constitutional liberties is a core responsibility of government. As a commissioner, I will support policies that respect our beliefs and uphold freedoms of speech, peaceful assembly, and religious expression.

That means making sure county actions are fair, consistent, and don't overstep their bounds. It also means working with legal counsel and law enforcement to ensure our decisions align with the Constitution.

I believe government should be limited, responsible, and focused on protecting individual rights while maintaining public safety.

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## Jeremy Richards

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

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## Terri Williams-Murray

We made multiple attempts to communicate with Terri Williams-Murray; however, the Candidate did not complete the survey by the submission deadline.

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## County Commission Dist. 3A

(In alphabetical order)



Tommy "Big Tom" Anderson



Milan M. Blake



## Tommy "Big Tom" Anderson

### Candidate Information

**Email Address:** tommyanderson96@gmail.com  
**Occupation/Vocation:** Restaurateur  
**Years as a resident of Bradley County:** 49

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

To be a voice for the residents & to go about the people's business.

**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?**

As a local business owner, I want to bring common sense, a business sense, to the table. I would like to set down and audit our budget to see where we can find money.

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

I think that every Christian should follow the Ten Commandments.

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

I want to look at the budget, line by line, page by page, to find money, that has to be there. With the growth coming into Bradley County, this means more houses, which means more property taxes coming in, without having to have a tax increase.

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

We are still feeling the strain of Covid & I feel like there is still more to do to get us back where we were before Covid.

**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?**

I would do everything in my power to help with this. It is our calling to take care the unborn, less fortunate, & elderly.

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

More transparent, not behind closed doors or late night meetings at the dinner table, but out in the open.

**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 off, is to realize there is a problem & actually discuss it, instead of acting like it doesn't exist.

**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 support them all & I will always be a voice for the people.



## Milan M. Blake

### Candidate Information

**Email Address:** milan.blake@gmail.com  
**Occupation/Vocation:** Financial System Analyst  
**Years as a resident of Bradley County:** 25  
**Military Background:** US Army, Combat Veteran  
**Campaign Website:** facebook.com/profile.php?id=61580082032204

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

A Commissioner's job is to be a responsible steward of tax dollars. We approve the budget, set the property tax rates, and make policy decisions that affect every resident in Bradley County. I have served as Finance Committee Chairman for 12 years, and my approach has never changed: read every document, review every line item, and ask the hard questions when the numbers don't add up. That level of accountability is what taxpayers deserve. Oversight is only part of it. A commissioner should be accessible, prepared, and accountable. When someone has a concern, they deserve a commissioner who listens and follows through. That's public service, It isn't a title. It's a commitment to doing the work every day.

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**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?**

My areas of focus are financial oversight, education, and economic development. After 12 years chairing the Finance Committee, I know where the money goes, how it gets there, and where the gaps are. I love it when people ask me questions about the budget because transparency starts with conversation. That experience and openness allow me to hold the line on accountability. My focus going forward is a continuation of the work I've already been doing: ensuring fiscal transparency, supporting K-12 education, and uplifting small businesses in our community. As one of the senior members of the commission, I want to provide steady leadership and help guide newer commissioners through the complexities of county government and the budget process.

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

I 100% believe the moral principles found in the Ten Commandments provide a strong foundation for how we treat one another, and many of our laws already reflect those values. Don't steal, don't lie, don't harm your neighbor. These aren't just religious principles. They are the building blocks of a just society. As a commissioner, I have sworn an oath to uphold the Constitution three times, and I did the same as a U.S. Army veteran. I take every one of those oaths seriously. I believe that good governance and moral principles are not in conflict. When we make decisions rooted in honesty, fairness, and respect for others, sound moral character and sound government go hand in hand.

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

In every public Finance Committee meeting, I remind members of the laws that dictate how we budget. Maintenance of Effort requirements mean we must appropriate the same amount or more to certain government functions. Schools, roads, elections, the library, and many more carry MOE protection. That accounts for roughly 64% of the budget. Add contractual obligations like feeding inmates, and discretionary spending narrows quickly. Understanding that reality is step one. Where we can save is through efficiency. Streamlining operations and, when the political climate allows, centralizing services. That requires elected officials to set aside territory, trust me, that's not easy! For economic development, smart incentives to organizations that commit to bringing good jobs to Bradley 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?**

COVID exposed real weaknesses in how government communicates with its citizens. Many people lost trust during that time, and I understand why. The best way to rebuild that trust is through transparency and accountability in everything we do.

Bradley County received ARPA funds to address COVID impacts. As Finance Committee Chairman, I have worked to ensure those dollars are spent responsibly on infrastructure and services that provide lasting value.

**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?**

The County Commission does not have legislative authority over these issues. We cannot pass laws. But what we can do is advocate, educate, and support. Every September and October, I sit down with nonprofit organizations that work on these very causes to review their funding and understand their needs. That's how I stay connected to the work being done for the unborn, the trafficked, the poor, the homeless, and the elderly. Bradley County is blessed with churches, nonprofits, and volunteers doing incredible work. As a commissioner, my role is to make sure government is a partner in that effort, not an obstacle.

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

This is one of the most important issues facing Bradley County. Residents feel growth is happening too fast. Developers and utility companies see demand for more housing. The commission's job is to find the healthy balance. That means responsible zoning that protects existing neighborhoods while allowing smart, managed growth. Infrastructure must keep pace with development, not chase it. It is important to understand the limits of our authority. Annexation falls under the Cleveland City Council, not the commission, and only property owners who request it can be annexed. I respect property rights, but a corporation in Manhattan that sees Bradley County as a revenue line on their bottom line is not the same as a local property owner.

**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?**

I have spent time with organizations on the front lines: the Caring Place, City Fields, the Salvation Army, and others. They consistently tell me there are people who are homeless by circumstance and people who are homeless by choice. These require very different approaches. Those who have fallen on hard times and want help, the commission should support organizations and programs that provide a path forward. Housing assistance, job training, and mental health services make a real difference when someone is ready to accept them. We cannot force help on those who do not want it. But for those who do, Bradley County should make sure the door is open and the resources are there.

**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 have sworn an oath to uphold the Constitution three times as a county commissioner. I don't take those words lightly. Right here on the commission, other members have suggested eliminating communication from audience, the portion of our agenda where the public speaks directly to their government. I was emphatic that I would never support that. People have a protected right to address their government, and I will always defend that right. Freedom of speech, peaceable assembly, and the exercise of religion are not negotiable. They are not granted by the commission. They belong to the people. It is all of our jobs to make sure local government never stands in the way of those liberties.

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# County Commission Dist. 3B

(In alphabetical order)



Denny H. Collins

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## Denny H. Collins

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

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# County Commission Dist. 4A

(In alphabetical order)



CJ Davis



Josh Taylor

Independent Survey by



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## CJ Davis

### Candidate Information

**Email Address:** cjbcrfire@gmail.com  
**Occupation/Vocation:** Public Safety  
**Years as a resident of Bradley County:** 40  
**Campaign Website:** None

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

A Bradley County Commissioner represents their district while helping make decisions that guide the county. This role includes approving the budget, setting policies, overseeing spending, and ensuring accountability. Commissioners work with the county mayor, who manages the budget, while they provide funding and oversight, all to support services like public safety, infrastructure, and growth in the community.

**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?**

My areas of focus are public safety, emergency management, and responsible government operations, built on over 20 years of experience in fire, EMS, and county government leadership. I have a strong background in budgeting, grant management, and policy development, along with hands-on experience coordinating multi-agency operations and planning for large-scale events and emergencies. I also understand the day-to-day impact county decisions have on employees, families, and local businesses.

**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 believe the moral principles in the Ten Commandments, honesty, respect for others, and personal responsibility provide a strong foundation for how we should live and treat one another. Those values have helped shape many of the principles our laws are built on today. However, as a County Commissioner, I am elected to represent everyone in the community, regardless of their beliefs. Laws and ordinances should be grounded in fairness, accountability, and protecting individual rights, not tied to any single religion. I believe we can stay true to our personal faith while ensuring our government remains fair, respectful, and focused on serving the entire community.

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

My top spending priorities would be strengthening public safety—making sure our fire, EMS, sheriff's office, and 911 personnel are properly staffed, trained, and paid competitively. Also, investing in infrastructure and schools to keep up with growth. On the savings side, I would focus on a thorough review of the county budget to eliminate waste, improve efficiency, and ensure we are maximizing all available state and federal grants before considering any tax increases. For economic development, my priority is responsible growth—supporting small businesses, attracting quality industry, and working with planning and city partners to make sure development is matched with infrastructure, workforce readiness, and long-term sustainability for Bradley 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?**

Yes, COVID created lasting challenges for businesses, schools, healthcare systems, and essential services. The Commission can help by supporting local businesses, strengthening public health partnerships, investing in workforce and school support, and ensuring our emergency services are prepared and properly funded to handle future disruptions.

**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?**

As a conservative Republican, I believe government should protect the most vulnerable while respecting the rule of law and the proper role of local government. At the county level, that means supporting law enforcement and multi-agency efforts to combat human trafficking, strengthening partnerships with nonprofits and faith-based organizations that serve the poor and homeless, and ensuring our elderly are protected through strong public safety, emergency response, and community support programs. I also believe in protecting life and supporting policies that value the unborn, while recognizing that many of those decisions are made at the state level. Locally, I will focus on practical solutions—funding essential services, supporting families in need, and working with community partners to make a real impact.

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

The Commission should focus on responsible growth by aligning housing, zoning, and infrastructure planning. That means working closely with planning and city partners to ensure roads, schools, utilities, and emergency services keep pace with development, while protecting the character of our communities and making smart, long-term decisions.

**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?**

The Commission should take a balanced approach that addresses both compassion and public safety. This means working with local nonprofits, faith-based groups, and service providers to connect individuals with housing, mental health resources, and job assistance, while also supporting law enforcement in maintaining safe public spaces. The goal is to help people get back on their feet while ensuring the quality of life for 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?**

As County Commissioner, I will uphold and defend the Constitutional liberties of every resident by ensuring our policies respect freedom of speech, peaceful assembly, and religious expression. I'll support clear, consistent ordinances that protect these rights while maintaining public safety, and I'll work with law enforcement and county departments to ensure those rights are respected in practice. Just as importantly, I'll promote transparency and accountability so citizens always have a voice and confidence their freedoms are being protected.



## Josh Taylor

### Candidate Information

**Email Address:** info@votejoshtaylor.com  
**Occupation/Vocation:** L&B Appliance  
**Years as a resident of Bradley County:** Life Long Resident  
**Campaign Website:** votejoshtaylor.com

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

County legislative body. Highest ranking legislative body within the county. Controls budget for all county departments as well as develop policy and planning for the county. Individual commissioner represents the needs and interests of not only their district but Bradley County as a whole.

**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?**

I've served on the Board of Education, working through budgets, policy decisions, and real issues that affect families every day. I manage a family business, which has taught me responsibility, accountability, and how to make decisions that matter. As a pastor, I've also spent years working with people, listening, and leading through real life situations. I hold dual bachelor's degrees in Business Administration and Accounting along with an MBA from Lee University. That background gives me a practical, grounded perspective on growth, education, public safety, infrastructure, and responsible use of taxpayer dollars.

**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 a strong moral foundation and I feel they reflect values that helped to shape this country. Being a Christian is who I am and the morals and principles that come along with that are part of what makes me who I am. My faith in God guides everything I do in life. I am a Conservative who believes that family values and morals still matter.

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

Fiscal responsibility. My ultimate goal is managing public finances prudently by spending no more than revenue collected, having a goal of reducing debt, ensuring economic stability, and maintaining public trust. I intend to be a part of setting strict budgetary limits, reducing wasteful spending, and ensuring long-term fiscal sustainability.

**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 pandemic created real challenges, it also highlighted areas where thoughtful planning and local leadership can make the community more resilient moving forward.

**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?**

To vote my conscience in a way that represents my constituents while also standing up for those who are often unheard. I believe every life has value and should be protected. I support protecting the unborn, fighting human trafficking, helping the poor and homeless, and caring for the elderly. Our laws should reflect compassion, justice, and respect for the most vulnerable.

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

So often growth is handled reactionary or after the fact. I believe this "inventible growth" should be carefully planned for and handled in such a way to not outpace the counties capacity and infrastructure or ability to support it.

**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?**

Addressing homelessness and vagrancy in Bradley County requires a multi-faceted approach that focuses on both immediate needs and long-term solutions.

**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?**

To vote my conscious in the interest of representing my constituents and protecting against federal overreach in our personal lives. I believe the constitution should be followed as originally intended.

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# County Commission Dist. 4B

(In alphabetical order)



Deb Gleason



Rich Kienlen



Melanie Dale Lawson



David Thomas Ricketts

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## Deb Gleason

### Candidate Information

**Email Address:** freedomvision08@gmail.com  
**Occupation/Vocation:** Retired  
**Years as a resident of Bradley County:** TN 14  
**Campaign Website:** debgleason.com

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

The county commissioner is the fiduciary, obligated to manage the people's tax fund. Avoiding ALL conflicts of interest, ensuring that the people's money is spent by prioritizing the people's interests and needs. Representing the people by maintaining transparency and integrity and making decisions that protect the people's rights and properties.

**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?**

When speaking with the people in the 4th District, the issues that are foremost to them are the fear of another tax increase, ongoing development in their areas, and ensuring that our zoning structure is protecting them and their property. They also have concern about the effect this development is having on the infrastructure costs due to the out-of-control traffic congestion. These will be my focus.

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

Absolutely! Our government was established on these moral principles. These commandments establish that as a Christian nation, our personal relationship with Jesus Christ is first in foremost in our pursuit to maintain a civil society and to govern with Godly wisdom in the affairs of men/women.

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

Before I committed to any spending, savings, and economic development priorities, as a fiduciary, my first responsibility is understanding the budgetary process of Bradley County. There are expenditures and departments that are governed by State law. Spending and development in this county in the name of progress appears to have wreaked havoc regarding the zoning/re-zoning of land in communities. Building of substandard homes, which will eventually lower property values, and the negative impact to our infrastructure. Should a developer be allowed to come into our county, build, make their profit/wealth and then leave the taxpayers holding the bag with the cost of improving the infrastructure to sustain the development? This is a subject matter that needs to be reviewed.

**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 devastation that took place based on a mandate, not a law, is unbelievable. It hurts to think of how much harm was done to our community. At this point, I'm not sure how the Commission can minimize the destruction that took place. In my opinion they could have done something to protect the rights and well-being of the community, but feared repercussion of those who didn't consider or understand the unconstitutional mandates being imposed on the people, the churches, and businesses. For the future, the Commission can follow the Constitution and protect the God given rights of the people, which supersedes any mandate.

**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?**

Let's go to the Bill of Rights and the Bible: Article 14 ". . . nor shall any State deprive any person of life . . ."; Exodus 20:13 "You shall not murder." Liberty means the state of being free from oppressive, arbitrary, or unreasonable restraint by government or other powers. The Constitution states equal protection, regarding the poor and homeless and the elderly. The Bible: Believers are commanded to protect, defend, and generously support the vulnerable, including orphans, widows, and the aged (Psalm 82:3-4; Proverbs 31:8-9; Isaiah 1:17). The protection of this group of vulnerable people should be first and foremost in taking legal action against all who would harm, kill, or abuse them. The punishment to fit the crime.

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

We need to get back to a community-based outlook for our county. Our neighborhoods need to be protected from large-scale developers who are not concerned with our local community and who change the natural beauty of our area by bulldozing acres of trees and causing major traffic issues with underfunded infrastructure. Also building sub-standard housing developments that lower the property values of our homes in the existing communities.

**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?**

To name a few scripture: Isaiah 58:7, Leviticus 25:35, Romans 12:13: The Believer is charged with caring for the poor and needy. However, some people are needy not because of being unable to provide for themselves, but because society has created an avenue using the goodwill of the people which some take advantage of. The churches in the area are attempting to meet that need but fall short in coming along side these individuals to "teach them how to fish" instead of taking from the system. There are so many good-hearted well-meaning people, but a deficit in those who can spend the time working alongside these individuals. This must be a collective effort of area philanthropists and churches working together.

**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?**

Let's go to the United States of America Bill of Rights . . . I will always uphold the First Amendment Right of Free Speech, the establishment of religion and the free exercise thereof, and the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. To do otherwise, is a breach of my oath of office.



## Rich Kienlen

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

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## Melanie Dale Lawson

### Candidate Information

**Email Address:** Mel.Lawson34@yahoo.com  
**Occupation/Vocation:** Dental  
**Years as a resident of Bradley County:** Tennessee  
**Campaign Website:** Melanie Dale Lawson for District 4 County Commission

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

To me, the role of a County Commissioner is really about serving the people. It's about making responsible decisions, being careful with taxpayer money, public safety, bringing transparency and careful planning infrastructure. But just as important, it's about listening making sure the people of District 4 feel heard and represented. At the end of the day, it's about doing what's right for our community and thinking about the long-term future.

**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?**

I wouldn't say I come in with one single area of expertise, but I do come in with a strong commitment to serving this community and making thoughtful, responsible decisions. My focus would be on things like public safety, infrastructure, and being careful with taxpayer money. I also think it's important to listen to the people of District 4 and stay connected to what matters most to them. As far as initiatives, I want to take the time to understand the needs and make decisions that truly benefit our community.

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

I believe faith and personal values are very important in many people's lives, including my own, and principles like honesty, respect, and treating others well are things we all can agree on. At the same time, as a County Commissioner, my responsibility is to serve everyone in our community. That means making decisions based on fairness, the law, and what's best for the people of District 4 as a whole. My focus would be on doing what is right, being transparent, and making sure every person feels represented and respected.

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

I would focus on three main things: public safety, infrastructure, and responsible growth. Making sure our first responders are supported is important, and we also need to keep up with roads and services as our community grows. At the same time, I want to see smart economic development that benefits our area without changing what makes it special. I also think it's important to be careful with spending and make sure we're using taxpayer money wisely.

**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 created real challenges for our community, especially for small businesses, schools, and healthcare systems. While many of those decisions were handled at different levels, I do believe the County Commission can help by focusing on recovery and support. That means working to keep local businesses strong, making sure essential services are supported, and being prepared for future challenges. It also means listening to what people need now and making thoughtful, practical decisions that help our community continue moving forward in a positive way.

**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?**

I believe with all my heart that it's very important that we take care of the most vulnerable in our community, whether that's the unborn, those who are being trafficked, the poor and homeless, or the elderly. While not all of those issues are handled at the county level, I do think we can play a role by supporting local organizations, strengthening public safety, and making sure resources are being used to truly help people. My goal would be to approach those issues with compassion and work with others to support those who need it most.

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

Growth is happening, so we have to be smart about how we handle it. For me, that means making sure development, zoning, and infrastructure are all planned together not separately. We need to make sure our roads and services can keep up, while also protecting what people love about this community. I think it's important to listen to residents and take the time to make thoughtful decisions so we're not creating problems down the road.

**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?**

I've been looking into programs in other states where people who are experiencing homelessness can work with local animal shelters. It helps both sides the people have a place to stay and a sense of purpose, and the animals get care and attention. I'm still learning more about how it all works, but I think it's something worth exploring here in our community.

**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 believe our Constitutional rights are something we should always respect and protect. As a County Commissioner, my role would be to make sure any decisions we make at the local level are fair, lawful, and respectful of those freedoms. Whether that's speech, assembly, or religion. At the end of the day, it's about treating people with respect and making sure everyone in our community feels their rights are protected.



## David Thomas Ricketts

### Candidate Information

**Email Address:** RICKETTSDT@YAHOO.COM  
**Occupation/Vocation:** MECHANIC/TRUCK DRIVER  
**Years as a resident of Bradley County:** 20 YEARS  
**Military Background:** U S MARINE CORPS  
**Campaign Website:** NONE

**1) Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Bradley County Commissioner?**  
TO LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE OF THE 4TH DISTRICT, USE MY COMMON SENSE TO MAKE THE BEST DECISIONS TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF BRADLEY COUNTY.

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**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?**

MY SPECIAL FOCUS IS ON INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH OF THE COUNTY. BUILDING NEEDS TO MORE REGULATED BECAUSE THE INFRASTRUCTURE CAN NOT HANDLE THE LOAD THAT IS BEING PUT ON IT. THE COUNTY GETS TAXES FROM ALL THE HOUSES BEING BUILT BUT THE INFRASTRUCTURE IS NOT IS NOT KEEPING UP AT THE SAME PACE. I DO NOT BELIEVE TAXES NEED TO BE RAISED , THIS IS ELECTION YEAR TAXES WON'T GO UP THIS YEAR BUT THEY WILL NEXT YEAR. DEPARTMENTS IN THE COUNTY ARE COMPLAINING ABOUT LOSING EMPLOYEES TO HIGHER PAY IN OTHER AREAS . THIS WILL ALWAYS HAPPEN.WE CANNOT PAY UNION WAGES WHEN THE MAJORITY OF TAX PAYERS DON'T MAKE UNION WAGES.

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

OUR FOUNDING FATHERS FOUNDED THIS NATION SO WE COULD HAVE OUR GOD GIVEN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM OF RELIGION (NOT FROM RELIGION). AS A CHRISTIAN MY WIFE AND I ATTEND LEBANON BAPTIST CHURCH . I THE WHOLE BIBLE IS IMPORTANT INCLUDING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS THAT SHOULD BE DISPLAYED IN ALL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS. BIBLE IS SHORT FOR( BASIC INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE LEAVING EARTH). NOTHING OFFICIAL IN THE BIBLE ABOUT THAT BUT , BETTER TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO. I RELY ON GOD TO HELP ME MAKE MY DECISIONS. IT IS A RULE THAT I LIVE BY.

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

BALANCE THE BUDGET,NO WASTEFUL SPENDING , WORKFORCE 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 IS OVER , IT CAUSED A LOT OF PROBLEMS . WE HAVE DONE GOOD IN RECOVERY.

**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?**

I SUPPORT ALL LAWS THAT PROTECT THE UNBORN. ABORTION SHOULD NOT BE AND OPTION. HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS OUT OF CONTROL. WE MUST DO WHAT WE CAN BY LAW TO PUT AN END TO IT. WE NEED TO PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE WORKING FARM AND HOUSING FOR THE HOMELESS. WE DO HAVE PLENTY OF LAND TO DO THIS. AS FOR THE POOR WE NEED TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO GIVE THEM A HAND UP AND NOT A HAND OUT. THE ELDERLY SHOULD BE CHECKED ON DAILY AND TO MAKE SURE THERE NEEDS ARE MET. I DO WHAT I CAN TO HELP THEM. NOT BECAUSE I HAVE TO. IT'S BECAUSE I WANT TO. THE BIBLE GIVE US INSTRUCTIONS .

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

HOUSING NEEDS TO BE REGULATED, INFRASTRUCTURE HAS NOT GROWN WITH THE HOUSING MARKET. WHILE BUILDERS AND REAL ESTATE AGENTS ARE GETTING RICHER THE INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE SCHOOL SYSTEMS ARE LAGGING BEHIND. ZONING NEEDS TO BE REGULATED MORE , THE HOUSES BUILT , MORE VEHICLES ON THE ROADS , MORE EMERGENCY SERVICES NEEDED, MORE ROAD CONGESTION, MORE ROAD REPAIR ,LARGER BUDGETS. THE LIST GOES ON AND ON. RAISING TAXES AND WASTEFUL SPENDING IS NOT THE ANSWER. AS FOR JOBS AND WORK FORCE WE NEED TRAINING AND SKILLED LABOR JOBS TO MAINTAIN A GOOD JOBS IN THE COUNTY TO KEEP WORKERS HERE,NOT SEE THEM GO TO OTHER COUNTIES AND STATES FOR EMPLOYMENT.

**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?**

SOME PEOPLE FALL ON HARD TIMES. THIS COULD BE FIXED IN SOME WAYS TO PROVIDE HOUSING WITH WORKING FARMS. ALSO WE COULD HAVE TRAINING IN SEVERAL SKILLS FOR THE HOMELESS IN A LOT OF AREAS. THE OPTION WOULD BE WORK THE FARMS AND DIFFERENT SKILLS AND A HOME IS PROVIDED FOR YOU ON THAT LAND. IN THE STATE OF TEXAS THEY HAVE THIS OPTION FOR THE HOMELESS.

**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 'M A US MARINE. I TOOK AN OATH TO UPHOLD THE US CONSTITUTION AND I STILL DO. THE BILL OF RIGHTS , AND MOST IMPORTANT THE TEN COMMANDMENTS AND THE BIBLE ARE ALSO IMPORTANT TO ME.I WILL NOT ALLOW HURTFUL,HATEFUL,OR ABUSIVE SPEECH. PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY IS NOT A PROBLEM AS LONG AS IT DOES NOT DISRUPT OR CAUSE PROBLEMS OR INTERRUPTIONS IN INFRASTRUCTURE OR HAVE A BAD EFFECT OR HARM PEOPLE. THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF THIS GREAT NATION GIVE US FREEDOM OF RELIGION ,PEOPLE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO WORSHIP HOW THEY WANT AS LONG AS IT IS PEACEFUL AND DO NOT CAUSE PROBLEMS OR BREAK LAWS.

# County Commission Dist. 5A

(In alphabetical order)



Bobby Goins

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## Bobby Goins

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

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# County Commission Dist. 5B

(In alphabetical order)



Cindy Slater

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## Cindy Slater

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

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# County Commission Dist. 6A

(In alphabetical order)



Tim Mason

Independent Survey by



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## Tim Mason

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

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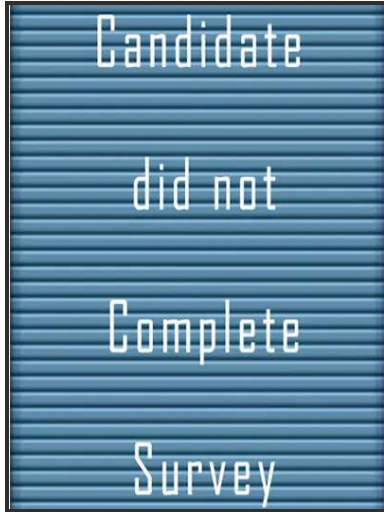


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# County Commission Dist. 6B

(In alphabetical order)



Chad Dean



Tommy Ledford

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## Chad Dean

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

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## Tommy Ledford

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

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# County Commission Dist. 7A

(In alphabetical order)



Rusty Asble

Independent Survey by



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## Rusty Asble

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

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# County Commission Dist. 7B

(In alphabetical order)



Stephen Beasley

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## Stephen Beasley

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

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**Trustee**

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# Trustee | Survey Questions Index

- 1) **Purpose:** What do you view as the purpose and role of the County Trustee?
- 2) **Candidate's Focus/Expertise:** What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise that qualify you for the position of County Trustee?
- 3) **Quality and fairness in the Workplace:** How would you ensure that government employees in Bradley County are treated fairly, hired on merit and qualifications, and not based on any factors not related to the performance of the position?
- 4) **Federal Overreach:** What would be your feeling about federal government overreach when it violates the 10th Amendment in respect to States Rights? Is federal overreach ever acceptable?
- 5) **Federal Overreach Remedies:** What action would you be willing to undertake to correct or prevent federal overreach?
- 6) **Personal Medical Decisions:** What is your belief about the federal government's involvement, as it relates to the position of the Trustee and his/her staff, in our personal medical decisions?
- 7) **Moral Values:** Should government laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why, or why not?
- 8) **Constitution:** Do you view the U.S. Constitution from a perspective of it as a Living Document or from the view that it should be followed as it was originally intended?

# Trustee

(In alphabetical order)



Tim Akins

Independent Survey by



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## Tim Akins

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

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**County Clerk**

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# County Clerk | Survey Questions Index

- 1) **Purpose:** What do you view as the purpose and role of the County Clerk?
- 2) **Candidate's Focus/Expertise:** What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise that qualify you for the position of County Clerk?
- 3) **Quality and fairness in the Workplace:** How would you ensure that government employees in Bradley County are treated fairly, hired on merit and qualifications, and not based on any factors not related to the performance of the position?
- 4) **Federal Overreach:** What would be your position regarding federal government overreach when it violates the 10th Amendment in respect to States Rights? Is federal overreach ever acceptable?
- 5) **Federal Overreach Remedies:** What action would you be willing to undertake to correct or prevent federal overreach?
- 6) **Personal Medical Decisions:** What is your belief about the federal government's involvement, as it relates to the position of the Clerk and his/her staff, in our personal medical decisions?
- 7) **Moral Values:** Should government laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why, or why not?
- 8) **Constitution:** Do you view the U.S. Constitution from a perspective of it as a Living Document or from the view that it should be followed as it was originally intended?

# County Clerk

(In alphabetical order)



Wanda Justice

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## Wanda Justice

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

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# Register of Deeds

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# Register of Deeds | Survey Questions Index

- 1) **Purpose:** What do you view as the purpose and role of the County Registrar of Deeds?
- 2) **Candidate's Focus/Expertise:** What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise that qualify you for the position of County Registrar of Deeds?
- 3) **Quality and fairness in the Workplace:** How would you ensure that government employees in Bradley County are treated fairly, hired on merit and qualifications, and not based on any factors not related to the performance of the position?
- 4) **Federal Overreach:** What would be your feeling about federal government overreach when it violates the 10th Amendment in respect to States Rights? Is federal overreach ever acceptable?
- 5) **Federal Overreach Remedies:** What action would you be willing to undertake to correct or prevent federal overreach?
- 6) **Personal Medical Decisions:** What is your belief about the federal government's involvement, as it relates to the position of the Registrar of Deeds and his/her staff, in our personal medical decisions?
- 7) **Moral Values:** Should government laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why, or why not?
- 8) **Constitution:** Do you view the U.S. Constitution from a perspective of it as a Living Document or from the view that it should be followed as it was originally intended?

# Register of Deeds

(In alphabetical order)



Stacia Crye-Shahan



Mark Hall



Missy Mathews

Independent Survey by



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## Stacia Crye-Shahan

### Candidate Information

**Email Address:** staciafordeeds@gmail.com  
**Occupation/Vocation:** Commercial Property/General Manager  
**Years as a resident of Bradley County:** Lifelong resident of Bradley County, 51 years.  
**Campaign Website:** facebook.com/StaciaforDeeds

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

The Register of Deeds is the very foundation of local government. Every property right, every real estate transaction, every boundary line in Bradley County rests on the accuracy and integrity of this office. By recording, indexing, and preserving deeds, mortgages, liens, and plats, the Register protects the God-given right to own property — a right our founders enshrined because they understood that private property is inseparable from liberty itself. Without trustworthy land records, commerce fails and citizens lose protection. If elected, I will run this office with precision, transparency, and accountability — modernizing where needed, protecting always, and honoring the public trust placed in this foundational institution.

**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise that qualify you for the position of County Registrar of Deeds?**

With 30 years of management experience, including 25 in commercial real estate, I have led complex operations, contracts, vendor relationships, compliance requirements, and financial accountability — including a regional role with Jones Lang LaSalle overseeing twelve centers across seven states. That executive experience translates directly to leading a government office with precision and accountability. I have researched nearly all 95 Tennessee Register of Deeds offices, studied the governing statutes under TCA Titles 8, 10, 13, and 66, and developed a thorough understanding of recording workflows, fraud prevention, e-recording systems, and public access platforms. I am prepared to lead effectively from day one and committed to continuous learning throughout my term.

**3) Quality and fairness in the Workplace: How would you ensure that government employees in Bradley County are treated fairly, hired on merit and qualifications, and not based on any factors not related to the performance of the position?**

Staffing decisions will be made thoughtfully and in the best interest of the office and the citizens it serves. What I bring is fresh leadership and a genuine commitment to building a team that Bradley County can be proud of. With three decades as a manager I know how to build and lead a professional team. My approach is straightforward — clear expectations, consistent standards, and direct communication. If elected, day one I sit down with every member of the team and listen. They know this work. My job is to lead them and bring out their best.

**4) Federal Overreach: What would be your feeling about federal government overreach when it violates the 10th Amendment in respect to States Rights? Is federal overreach ever acceptable?**

The Register of Deeds office operates entirely under Tennessee state law and county authority. No federal agency directs how we record, index, or preserve property records — nor should they. Federal overreach into state and local government functions undermines the constitutional framework our founders carefully designed. I cannot think of a circumstance where federal overreach into a state's sovereign functions is acceptable. Local government closest to the people governs best.

**5) Federal Overreach Remedies: What action would you be willing to undertake to correct or prevent federal overreach?**

The Register of Deeds operates strictly under Tennessee state law. I fully support our state legislature's authority to push back against unconstitutional federal mandates. I will work cooperatively with county and state officials to ensure this office remains exactly what it was designed to be — a local institution, accountable to the citizens of Bradley County and no one else.

**6) Personal Medical Decisions: What is your belief about the federal government's involvement, as it relates to the position of the Registrar of Deeds and his/her staff, in our personal medical decisions?**

Personal medical decisions belong to the individual. Every person who works in this office will be treated with dignity and respect — including the right to make their own medical decisions.

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

Yes. The principles of honesty, integrity, and respect for others have guided civilizations for thousands of years and are reflected throughout our legal and governmental traditions for good reason. I am a person of faith and my values guide everything I do. Good government at every level should reflect those same timeless principles. If elected, I will bring that commitment to honesty, integrity, and accountability to the Register of Deeds office every single day.

**8) Constitution: Do you view the U.S. Constitution from a perspective of it as a Living Document or from the view that it should be followed as it was originally intended?**

If elected, I will follow the law as written — that is the oath I will take and the standard I will hold myself to every day. That principle extends to the U.S. Constitution as well. I believe it should be followed as originally intended. Our founders were deliberate and precise in what they wrote. The amendment process exists as the proper path for change. The Register of Deeds office operates under Tennessee state law and I will apply that same conviction — the law means what it says.



## Mark Hall

### Candidate Information

**Email Address:** markhall@myyahoo.com  
**Occupation/Vocation:** Small Business Owner  
**Years as a resident of Bradley County:** 32 years  
**Military Background:** Marine Corps

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

The Register of Deeds, maintains, preserves and records any and all official documents regarding land transactions, official ownership and power of attorney. Also insures a clear chain of ownership while maintaining accurate and consistent records of land transactions and property ownership. Other official documentation such as DD214s, regarding military discharge records are housed, recorded and archived by the Register of Deeds office.

**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise that qualify you for the position of County Registrar of Deeds?**

As a small business owner, I know the importance of excellent customer service. Efficient and effective communication and feedback are essential. Accurate , secure and timely documentation while maintaining the integrity and confidence that our great county deserves.

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**3) Quality and fairness in the Workplace: How would you ensure that government employees in Bradley County are treated fairly, hired on merit and qualifications, and not based on any factors not related to the performance of the position?**

My commitment and dedication to the hard working men and women of Cleveland and Bradley County is paramount. Great customer service is implemented by great county employees. I will meet, observe and discuss new ideas, with existing colleagues will make the Register of Deeds of office, the best in the great state of Tennessee.

**4) Federal Overreach: What would be your feeling about federal government overreach when it violates the 10th Amendment in respect to States Rights? Is federal overreach ever acceptable?**

Historically. Federal overreach is implemented when local government fails to meet its obligations and responsibilities. Proper leadership is critical. That's why it's important to have the right leadership in the right places.

**5) Federal Overreach Remedies: What action would you be willing to undertake to correct or prevent federal overreach?**

After having served two terms in the House of Representatives, I would be a strong advocate for the citizens of Cleveland and Bradley County.

**6) Personal Medical Decisions: What is your belief about the federal government's involvement, as it relates to the position of the Registrar of Deeds and his/her staff, in our personal medical decisions?**

HIPPA laws prohibit any use of personal information regarding medical conditions or health care issues.

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

The Ten Commandments should be every person's goal, guide and principles to live by.

**8) Constitution: Do you view the U.S. Constitution from a perspective of it as a Living Document or from the view that it should be followed as it was originally intended?**

Yes I do.



## Missy Mathews

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

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**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. 2

(In alphabetical order)



Vicki Beaty

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## Vicki Beaty

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

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# County School Board Dist. 4

(In alphabetical order)



Sandy Benson



Ashlan Morelock



Troy Weathers

Independent Survey by



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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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## County School Board Dist. 6

(In alphabetical order)



Amanda Lee

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## Amanda Lee

### Candidate Information

**Email Address:** alee@bradleyschools.org  
**Occupation/Vocation:** CFO  
**Years as a resident of Bradley County:** 46 years  
**Campaign Website:** do not have one

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

The purpose of the Bradley County School Board is to provide governance, oversight, and strategic direction for the school system, always with students' best interests at the center. The Board sets policy, approves the budget, and establishes long-term goals to support academic success and responsible operations. A key responsibility is hiring and evaluating the Director of Schools, ensuring strong leadership and holding them accountable for the system's performance, while not being involved in daily operations. The Board also serves as a bridge between the school system and the community, ensuring stakeholder voices are heard and reflected in decision-making. Ultimately, its role is to ensure Bradley County Schools deliver a high-quality education while responsibly managing public resources.

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**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?**

My areas of focus and expertise are in operations management, budgeting and financial oversight, and building strong partnerships with customers and stakeholders. Through my experience running and growing a business, I've developed a practical, results-driven approach to problem solving, cost management, and accountability—skills that translate directly to effective school board governance. As a Bradley County School Board Member, my top three initiatives would be:

1. Strengthen financial stewardship and transparency
2. Support workforce development and career pathways
3. Recruit, support, and retain high-quality teachers and staff

Overall, my focus would be on making thoughtful, data-driven decisions that improve student outcomes while maintaining strong accountability to the community.

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

Laws and regulations should be grounded in broadly shared principles such as honesty, respect for others, personal responsibility, and justice—many of which are reflected in the Ten Commandments. Values like prohibitions against theft, lying, and harming others are foundational to a stable and functioning society. In my view, while moral principles similar to those found in the Ten Commandments can and do influence our legal system, laws should ultimately be based on common ground that applies to everyone, regardless of their personal faith.

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

My plan is to focus on the basics—reading, writing, and math—and make that the priority in every classroom. We need to make sure students are on grade level, support teachers so they can focus on teaching, and set clear expectations for behavior and performance. I also believe strong communication with parents is key, because education works best when schools and families are working together. If we stay focused on the fundamentals and hold high standards, we will see better results for our students.

**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?**

While Bradley County performs better than surrounding districts and above the state average in early reading, we're still not where we want or need to be as a district. My approach is to refocus resources on what works and to be more intentional. We're seeing relative success in the early grades compared to nearby districts, so we need to identify what's working and expand it—targeted reading intervention, small group instruction, and consistent, proven curriculum. We need to expand reading support so that we don't lose momentum after elementary school. If we build on what's working and make sure progress continues through every grade level, we will improve reading outcomes across the board.

**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 is through consistent, clear communication and making it easy for them to stay engaged. I believe the most important stakeholder in a student's education is the parent. Teachers and schools play a critical role, but a student's success is most influenced by what happens at home.

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

I believe it is a parent's choice whether to vaccinate their child, in consultation with their healthcare provider, and it should not be mandated by the school system beyond what is required by state law. Schools should focus on keeping students in the classroom and avoid broad mandates that disrupt learning.

**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?**

My position is that our schools should stay focused on core academics—reading, writing, math, and preparing students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed.

**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?**

My view is that schools should stay focused on core academics and provide age-appropriate instruction, while respecting the primary role of parents in addressing sensitive topics. I believe schools should avoid taking positions on complex social issues and instead focus on education.

**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 to focus on prevention, accountability, and creating a safe, structured environment for every student. At the end of the day, nothing is more important than the safety of our children, and we must take a proactive, no-nonsense approach to protect them.

**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 Board already has important measures in place—meetings are videoed and publicly streamed, and there are established policies for anyone who wants to speak during public comment.

# County School Board Dist. 7

(In alphabetical order)



F. Alan Smith

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## F. Alan Smith

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

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