

## **November 2018 Voter Guide**

### **U.S. House Tennessee District 2**

Description: The United States is divided into 435 congressional districts, each with a population of about 710,000 individuals. Each district elects a representative to the U.S. House of Representatives for a two-year term. Representatives are also called congressmen/congresswomen.

#### **Candidates:**

**Name:** Tim Burchett

Party: Rep

Campaign Phone: (865) 215-2005

Web Site: <http://www.burchettforcongress.com/>

**Name:** Jeffrey Grunau

Party: I

Address: 655 Brochardt Blvd Knoxville, TN 37934

Campaign Phone: (865) 253-5424

Web Site: <http://ReasonAndDecency.com>

Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/Learningtotalkaboutpolitics/](http://www.facebook.com/Learningtotalkaboutpolitics/)

**Name:** Renee Hoyos

Party: Dem

Address: P.O. Box 10103 Knoxville, TN 37939

Campaign Phone: (865) 748-5615

Email: [will@hoyosforcongress.com](mailto:will@hoyosforcongress.com)

Web Site: <http://hoyosforcongress.com>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/hoyos4congress/>

Twitter: [twitter.com/Hoyos4Congress](https://twitter.com/Hoyos4Congress)

**Name:** Keith LaTorre

Party: I

**Name:** Greg Samples

Party: I

Address: 5201 Kingston Pike Suite 1-141 Knoxville, TN 37919

Campaign Phone: (865) 440-5513

Email: [greg@gregsamples4congress.com](mailto:greg@gregsamples4congress.com)

Web Site: <http://www.gregsamples4congress.com>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/GregSamples4Congress/>

Twitter: [twitter.com/gregsamples](https://twitter.com/gregsamples)

**Name:** Marc Whitmire

Party: I

Campaign Phone: (423) 303-0191

Email: [marc.whitmire@whitmire2018.com](mailto:marc.whitmire@whitmire2018.com)

Web Site: <http://www.whitmire2018.com>

Facebook Page: [fb.me/whitmire2018.com](https://fb.me/whitmire2018.com)

**Q: *Voting: If elected, what will you do to ensure that the voting rights of all Americans are protected and that our elections are accessible and secure from internal and external threats?***

**Tim Burchett:** - no response –

**Jeffrey Grunau:** On the security aspect, there are thousands of counties and local authorities in the US that have their own Election Commissions that run elections. The Federal Government can't burden them all with the costs of converting to a standardized system. There are actually already a lot of people working on this issue. The larger problem, however, is far worse than how this question is phrased makes it sound. It includes widespread voter apathy and declining faith in our system and hatred of political opponents. The root cause is tribalism and excessive devotion to a particular party. It's similar to the cause of all the other great conflicts around the world. Divisions based solely on differences in religious beliefs, or ethnic origins, or political philosophy. It's not going to be cured by governments or politicians. It will require that reason and decency start to prevail. That's not some utopian dream. Reason can be something as simple as understanding Gerrymandering is voter Fraud, e.g.

**Renee Hoyos:** Voting rights should be protected and free from interference. We have seen efforts to constrain voting through domestic initiatives and, of course, efforts by foreign powers to influence national elections. We need to encourage more voting, and I would oppose any efforts to suppress voter turnout. Voter registration and the necessary identification should be easy for all eligible voters to access. Limiting early voting locations hinders participation, and I support efforts to expand the ease of registered voters to cast ballots through absentee and early voting, as well as on election day. Many of these decisions are made at the state level, but federal initiatives can promote voter registration and turnout. The federal government needs to work closely with states to ensure voting systems are secure and results cannot be tampered with electronically or otherwise. This should include technical assistance and financial assistance in instances where security upgrades are needed.

**Keith LaTorre:** - no response –

**Greg Samples:** Beyond making sure via ID that all voters are who they say they are, and are qualified to vote in the precinct they are attempting to vote in, it is important that the integrity of the voting machines are not in doubt. Any software company that wants to sell voting software must be willing to provide the computer code before it is compiled in order to make sure there is no backdoor access to the results. This has been a threat since the 2000 election.

**Marc Whitmire:** I support H.R. 2840, the Automatic Voter Registration Act to ensure that all citizens will be able to vote when election day arrives. I also believe that anyone who has served their time in jail should they have committed a crime should have their voting rights restored, without any stipulations or conditions, once that time is served. Unlike our current administration, I would ensure that we provide proper funding to our states for security in our election process. I support moving to a fully paper ballot system as it is the most secure method. These ballots should be mailed out to voters a month before the election, and the ballot should include an envelope in which they can be mailed back to the election commission in. I also feel that informed voters are essential in a democracy, so I wish to provide an information booklet with each ballot that has details about the candidate along with a paragraph or two that the candidate composes themselves.

**Q: Immigration:** *Explain your position on immigration to the United States. Do you support or oppose DACA, a pathway to citizenship, and border security? What legislation would you propose or support for your position?*

**Tim Burchett:** - no response –

**Jeffrey Grunau:** The US National debt is currently over \$176,000 per taxpayer. The more taxpayers you have the lower that amount is. The Social Security trust fund is expected to be depleted in 15 years due to the fact that benefits to retirees are about to start exceeding the amount collected from people in the work force. Fed Chairman Jerome Powell, in his testimony to Congress earlier this year, was asked about the economic impact of deporting the young working age people covered by DACA. He responded by explaining that economic growth comes basically from either increases in productivity or increases in the labor force. He explained that the work force has been growing at about 0.5 % per year and that some of that is from immigration. He stated the Fed doesn't do immigration policy, but that that is a factor that needs to be considered. I would have to agree.

**Renee Hoyos:** I support DACA with the caveat that it is for a limited number of people and “deferred” status does not solve the problem. We need to have a clear pathway to citizenship for all childhood arrivals. Research shows that militarizing the border has led to people crossing in more dangerous areas of the borderlands resulting in rescues and unnecessary deaths. While research shows apprehensions are on the decline, up ties occur based on violence in Central America. Thus, working to stabilize countries in Central and South America goes a long way towards lowering the need to militarize along the border. A wall would have little to no effect on border crossings. I would propose and/or support legislation that would create a clear pathway to citizenship, improve our worker visa program, and expand citizenship opportunities to childhood arrivals.

**Keith LaTorre:** - no response –

**Greg Samples:** I support the removal of governmental impediments to free trade. Political freedom and escape from tyranny demand that individuals not be unreasonably constrained by government in the crossing of political boundaries. Economic freedom demands the unrestricted movement of human as well as financial capital across national borders.

**Marc Whitmire:** I fully support DACA. We made a promise to DACA recipients, and I feel we should keep our promises to those people. I also believe we must overhaul our immigration system so that we can bring in good folks from all nations. The current process to gain citizenship is vastly complex and expensive, and serves as a deterrent for good people to become citizens, forcing millions of people to hide in plain sight, in constant fear of deportation and separation from their families. Speaking of, under no circumstances should children be separated from their families in the case of immigrants or asylum seekers. Lastly, I feel we must abolish ICE, CBP, and CIS and revert back to the INS. Prior to 2003 and before the implementation of the Department of Homeland Security, the INS did a fine job of handling immigration, for 1/4 the cost of ICE, CBP, and CIS. ICE agents have overstepped their bounds and we must not allow this to continue.

**Q: Census:** *What steps will you take to ensure that the upcoming census is fully funded, accurate, and avoids under-counting?*

**Tim Burchett:** - no response –

**Jeffrey Grunau:** The US Constitution mandates a Census every 10 years. The US Census is substantially more expensive when initial voluntary response rates are lower. If people do not respond to requests that are sent by mail to complete a census form, the US Census bureau has to pay someone to go to the actual address that did not respond to try to ask them the questions in person. A more detailed description of this problem can be found on the Government Accountability Office's website. Here is the URL: [gao.gov/highrisk/2020\\_decennial\\_census/why\\_did\\_study](http://gao.gov/highrisk/2020_decennial_census/why_did_study). More information about the US Census can be found on the US Census Bureau's website [Census.gov](http://Census.gov). If you want to help reduce the tax burden of the US Census, please share this information and encourage everyone you know to fill out their census form when they first get it. Otherwise, Congress fully funding it IS a Constitutional duty.

**Renee Hoyos:** The decennial census is part of the U.S. Constitution and very significant in assessing the make-up of America - beyond just the numbers. Adequate funding is necessary and one reason I am so concerned about potential budget cuts in this area. In addition to funding, the Census Bureau needs to continue the tradition of working towards an exact "enumeration." This should include all peoples living in the United States and should not differentiate based on status. The U.S. Congress has an oversight role that it should use to make sure the census is reliable and accurate.

**Keith LaTorre:** - no response –

**Greg Samples:** I see no current reason why this should be a problem.

**Marc Whitmire:** First and foremost, we must have an accurate census. Many government programs, policies, and funding are tied to the census. Districts are drawn along lines of census results, which can hold sway over the outcome of elections. Therefore we cannot allow funding to be cut as it was in 2017, and we cannot allow a responsibility this great to be delegated to a private, for-profit corporation. I will fight to ensure that our Census Bureau receives the funding it requests, and I will fight to remove the questions that our current administration is attempting to add to the 2020 census inquiring about citizenship status as this will discourage millions of people from filling out the census, and thus vastly skew the numbers of the census causing untold issues in reporting and implementation of government programs.

## **Tennessee Senate District 5**

Description: The upper house of Tennessee's General Assembly is called the Senate. The state is divided into 33 senatorial districts, from each of which one senator is elected. Senators are elected to four-year terms with those from even-numbered districts being elected in the same general election, and those representing odd-numbered districts being elected two years later.

### **Candidates:**

**Name:** Randy McNally

Party: Rep

Address: 94 Royal Troon Circle Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Campaign Phone: (865) 483-5544

Email: [randymcnally@bellsouth.net](mailto:randymcnally@bellsouth.net)

**Name:** Stuart Starr

Party: Dem

Address: 707 N C St Lenoir City, TN 37771

Email: starr4tnsenate5@gmail.com  
Web Site: <http://starr4tnsenate5.org>  
Facebook Page: therightdemocrat

***Q: Election Laws and Voting Rights: What specific measures would you take to improve voter registration, access to voting, voter turnout and the redistricting process?***

**Randy McNally:** - no response –

**Stuart Starr:** Voter apathy measured by voter turnout is among the worst on our nation. we have bi partisan support in TN.that works toward improving voter registration and turnout. I would want to give funding to each counties board of election to continue these efforts. I also might want to direct funding to the schools through grants to teach more civics and government classes at the high school level. Gerrymandering by State legislators is before the Federal Courts at this time. Unless we have grass roots support for more fair redistricting, it will be left to the Courts.

***Q: Education: What would you do to provide and fund an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12?***

**Randy McNally:** - no response –

**Stuart Starr:** Education is only one component of children's social welfare in TN. Our schools are expected to break cycles of poverty, ignorance, abuse and addiction. Our schools are expected to provide a social life for students. Our schools are expected to transport thousands of student s a day. Our schools are expected to feed and provide daycare for 8 to 10 hours day. Our schools are expected to teach thousand on a limited budget and yet provide a customized educational experience. Our schools are expected to enthrall all students with incredibly diverse backgrounds. We ask too much of our schools. If we were going to design an education system, today, would it look anything like what we have? I believe we need to address education and children's social welfare simultaneously starting with a blank slate. Even the way, in which we fund education and children's social welfare need to be changed, again starting with a blank sheet of paper.

***Q: Healthcare: What steps should the state of Tennessee take to provide healthcare access for all Tennesseans?***

**Randy McNally:** - no response –

**Stuart Starr:** I believe in accepting Medicaid expansion funded by the federal government. However, we will never have a solution to improving access to healthcare for all until we address healthcare costs. I beleive this can be done by allowing patients greater medical freedom as to treatment and spending.

## **Tennessee Senate District 7**

Description: The upper house of Tennessee's General Assembly is called the Senate. The state is divided into 33 senatorial districts, from each of which one senator is elected. Senators are elected to four-year terms with those from even-numbered districts being elected in the same general election, and those representing odd-numbered districts being elected two years later.

## **Candidates:**

**Name:** Jamie Ballinger

Party: Dem

Address: 1205 Luttrell Street Knoxville, TN 37917

Campaign Phone: (865) 556-7027

Email: [manager@jamieballinger.com](mailto:manager@jamieballinger.com)

Web Site: <http://jamieballinger.com>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/JamieBallingerSenate/>

Twitter: [twitter.com/JBforSenate](https://twitter.com/JBforSenate)

**Name:** Richard Briggs

Party: Rep

Address: 11631 Lanesborough Way #913 Knoxville, TN 37934

Campaign Phone: (423) 736-8457

Email: [rmbriggs52@gmail.com](mailto:rmbriggs52@gmail.com)

Web Site: <http://www.briggsforsenate.com>

Facebook Page: <https://m.facebook.com/RichardBriggsTN/>

**Q: *Election Laws and Voting Rights: What specific measures would you take to improve voter registration, access to voting, voter turnout and the redistricting process?***

**Jamie Ballinger:** A person's right to vote is a precious privilege and duty. Sadly, Tennessee has the lowest voter turnout of any state in the country. The root of this problem is the lack of a strong Civics curriculum in our schools. So many folks just don't know how their government works or feel like it only works for some. This uncertainty discourages many citizens from voting and makes many feel like their vote just does not matter. I commend the TN Secretary of State for implementing online voter registration. To further foster registration, I believe that we should take this a step further and institute automatic voter registration when a citizen turns 18. We also need to ensure that voting is more convenient by adding additional early voting locations. Finally, any redistricting process should be non-partisan. Citizens deserve to know that when they vote, the power of their vote will not be diminished because they live in a district designed to benefit one party over another.

**Richard Briggs:** High schools should actively encourage students to register when turning 18 and then have voter registration forms available in school administration offices and with guidance counselors. Registration forms to vote could be made available to the public at the time of renewing car registrations and driver's licenses. A much more challenging issue, however, is getting registered voters to actually vote. The voter participation in Tennessee and especially in Knoxville, has been embarrassing. Informing oneself on the issues and then voting should be celebrated as a patriotic duty. Extended early voting periods, neighborhood voting centers, and a simple absentee voter process are essential for improving voter participation. I'm often asked, "How can we best honor our veterans and those who have sacrificed for our country?". My response has always been, "VOTE". Our freedoms and the right to vote are what our veterans fought and died to defend.

**Q: *Education: What would you do to provide and fund an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12?***

**Jamie Ballinger:** A strong public school system is the foundation upon which great communities are built, and public schools are the best chance for the most people to better themselves. Despite this, we

under fund our public schools by \$500 million according to our own State Comptroller's Office. I will fight to fully fund public schools. Specifically, I will work to increase teacher pay to that comparable in other states, because we are losing too many talented teachers to other states or to the private sector. In addition, we need to invest in career and technical training programs in our schools. Skilled trades are vital to our society and in short supply. We can accomplish all of this by reevaluating what we prioritize in our state's budget. Public education changed my life and allowed me to be the first in my family to graduate college. Unlike our current leadership who voted to send \$70 million of our taxpayer money to private schools, I will fight to keep public money in public schools.

**Richard Briggs:** How we educate our children will determine whether our state and country can compete in the global economy of the future. Only 39% of third grade Knox County school children are reading at grade level. This is completely unacceptable and resources must be reallocated to address the issue. Although \$1.5 billion additional dollars have been budgeted to education in the past 6 years, our teachers are still paid less than the national average. Admitting we have a problem and are failing our children is the first step. To address these critical needs, Tennesseans must start a dialogue on what are our true priorities in the state and where we are going to allocate resources.

***Q: Healthcare: What steps should the state of Tennessee take to provide healthcare access for all Tennesseans?***

**Jamie Ballinger:** Tennesseans need access to health insurance that doesn't break the bank. I support the Governor's Insure Tennessee plan and, therefore, I will fight every day until we have expanded Medicaid. We know that expanding Medicaid will provide insurance coverage to the 300,000 WORKING Tennesseans without coverage, including 28,999 veterans, and it will also lower health insurance premiums across Tennessee. The failure of our legislature to do more than talk about expanding Medicaid cost Tennesseans over \$4 Billion (and rising) in Federal taxes that we had already paid. Meanwhile, our neighboring states of Kentucky and Indiana expanded Medicaid to keep their citizens' tax dollars at home. Our current legislature's failure to expand Medicaid has also resulted in the closure of ten rural hospitals (and the jobs of all who worked there) and rising healthcare premiums for Tennesseans. In the State Senate, I won't let politics prevent me from making Medicaid expansion THE top priority.

**Richard Briggs:** As a physician, I have been the recognized state senate leader and advocate for access to health care for all Tennesseans. Over \$1 billion each year of our federal tax money does not come back to Tennessee and is being sent to other states due to inaction. In the meantime, 300,000 Tennesseans (including 25,000 veterans) have no insurance and many rural hospitals have closed primarily due to uncompensated care. Governor Haslam's Insure Tennessee was a sound proposal but cannot pass the state legislature. New ideas and proposals are called for that include personal responsibility on the part of recipients, no cost to the taxpayers, removal of federal mandates, and sharing of costs with beneficiaries. Not all will be satisfied but a conservative approach that can pass the state legislature gives hope to patients with no insurance and relieves the burden of uncompensated care on the hospitals and cost shifting to citizens fortunate enough to have health insurance.

### **Tennessee House of Representatives District 13**

Description: The larger house, and arguably the more representative one, of Tennessee's bicameral legislature is called the House of Representatives. It occupies the largest space in the State Capitol known as the House Chamber seen at left. The state is divided into 99 House districts from each of which one representative is elected.

**Candidates:****Name:** Zachary Houk

Party: I

Address: 941 Shamrock Ave KNOXVILLE, TN 37917

Campaign Phone: (423) 258-7996

Email: [zhouk@houk4tn.com](mailto:zhouk@houk4tn.com)Web Site: <http://www.houk4tn.com>Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/houk4tn](http://www.facebook.com/houk4tn)**Name:** Gloria Johnson

Party: Dem

Address: 2506 Brice Street Knoxville, TN 37917

Campaign Phone: (865) 660-9800

Email: [vote gloriajohnson@gmail.com](mailto:vote gloriajohnson@gmail.com)Web Site: <http://vote gloriajohnson.com>Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/VoteGloriaJohnson/>Twitter: [twitter.com/VoteGloriaJ](https://twitter.com/VoteGloriaJ)**Name:** Eddie Smith

Party: Rep

Campaign Phone: (865) 978-5798

Web Site: <http://vote eddiesmith.com/>

**Q: *Election Laws and Voting Rights: What specific measures would you take to improve voter registration, access to voting, voter turnout and the redistricting process?***

**Zachary Houk:** One step to improve registration has already taken place in that one can now register online. Access to voting could possibly be remedied by special bus routes or carpooling offered through neighborhood associations. Improving voter turnout is a big task. There are so many people that feel unrepresented by current two party system and have no hope in ever seeing true improvement. Something that can remedy this is to cease the suppression of third party candidates and the disparagement of those that would vote for a third party. There is a logical fallacy that third party candidates take votes away from candidates in the two major parties. I say that they are not entitled to those votes anyway. Redistricting should be done by true nonpartisan, independent entities in a way that doesn't favor one party or another.

**Gloria Johnson:** For voter registration I would like to see something like an automatic voter registration with opt out rather than opt in as some states are doing. I also think the same day registration is an excellent idea to increase participation. Consider extending the hours and days of early voting so that it accommodates working voters who have less flexibility. Make sure everyone has easy access to a photo ID and that there is no cost involved. We should allow state issued student ID's for voting, and we can make sure the process to re-instate voting rights is transparent, manageable, and streamlined for those trying to move through the process. Consider only requiring the last four digits of the Social Security number rather than the full number, many are reluctant to give out their full Soc Sec numbers. Voters

would benefit from more opportunities to hear candidates discuss the issues publicly so they feel like they know the candidate's positions. Redistricting should be non-partisan.

**Eddie Smith:** - no response –

**Q: Education: What would you do to provide and fund an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12?**

**Zachary Houk:** One of the thing that can remedy this is the cutting of bureaucratic red tape. Too much money goes into the bureaucracy surrounding the school system and not enough focus is spent on actually making sure the children are receiving a proper education. What some people fail to realize is that money doesn't belong to the state it belongs to the people, the taxpayers. The state wastes the money of the people and often the first response to fix a problem that the state creates is to throw more money at it. I believe that there exists better approaches to funding public education but it takes taking a step back to better focus on true priorities.

**Gloria Johnson:** We need to make sure we are funding all schools in an equitable fashion so that every child has a great neighborhood school to attend. We need to invest in our young people with innovative and diverse programs, recognizing that children learn in different ways, and offering programs that acknowledge those differences within our public schools. We need to increase our vocational choices rather than decrease them. We need to focus on the whole child and not reduce each child to a test score. Teachers know tests are important, but tests shouldn't be the driver of our education system--the driver should be a desire to gain knowledge and experiences that make our kids smart, successful, and happy young people. Just as plants grow from being fed and watered, not measured -- children grow and learn from teaching, not testing. Let's make sure every school has the tools they need, our teachers are paid well, and our students have access to a great learning environment!

**Eddie Smith:** - no response –

**Q: Healthcare: What steps should the state of Tennessee take to provide healthcare access for all Tennesseans?**

**Zachary Houk:** I would like to see full practice authority for nurse practitioners and a greater promotion of direct primary care. This allows for greater number of healthcare providers, which drives competition, lower cost, and better healthcare. Being able to provide a lower cost, higher quality of healthcare will make for happier people.

**Gloria Johnson:** It is well past time we expand Medicaid in Tennessee. Just as we said in 2014, we will see hospital closures and 300,000 Tennesseans go without care-including 25,000 veterans. We are leading the nation in rural hospital closures because we have not expanded Medicaid. We have refused more than \$5 billion dollars of TN tax dollars returning to our state for Tennessee family's care and missed out on creating 15,000 jobs each year by refusing to expand Medicaid or pass Haslam's Insure TN. In states that expanded, like Ohio, where 96% of those participating who have opioid issues have been treated! Can you imagine if we were able to treat 96% of the folks in Tennessee who are struggling with addiction? There is nothing we could do that would have a more positive impact on our opiate crisis than expanding Medicaid, the evidence is clear from all the states that chose to expand. We would be seeing smaller increases or even decreases in insurance premiums as other states that expanded as well.

**Eddie Smith:** - no response -

### **Tennessee House of Representatives District 14**

Description: The larger house, and arguably the more representative one, of Tennessee's bicameral legislature is called the House of Representatives. It occupies the largest space in the State Capitol known as the House Chamber seen at left. The state is divided into 99 House districts from each of which one representative is elected.

#### **Candidates:**

**Name:** Justin Davis

Party: Dem

Address: 1005 Middleton Place Knoxville, TN 37923

Campaign Phone: (865) 333-9802

Email: [jdavisknox14@gmail.com](mailto:jdavisknox14@gmail.com)

Web Site: <http://www.votejustindavis.com/>

Facebook Page: Justin Davis For TN Representative District 14

Twitter: [twitter.com/knox14j](https://twitter.com/knox14j)

**Name:** Jason Zachary

Party: Rep

Campaign Phone: (615) 741-2264

Web Site: <http://jasonzacharyforcongress.com/>

**Q: *Election Laws and Voting Rights: What specific measures would you take to improve voter registration, access to voting, voter turnout and the redistricting process?***

**Justin Davis:** One thing I always felt to be important is to increase civics and government courses in schools. I believe that if we spent more time teaching our children about government then they will be more likely to participate. I also believe that we need to extend early voting, including extended voting hours on weekends. I believe that redistricting needs to be done by a bipartisan group that includes members from both major political parties.

**Jason Zachary:** - no response -

**Q: *Education: What would you do to provide and fund an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12?***

**Justin Davis:** I do not support the voucher system. I feel that we need to increase funding for our public schools. We need to include teachers and administrators in the conversation when we examine school funding so that we better understand the needs of the schools. We need to set better policy aimed at getting our students reading on grade level. I am also advocating teacher/staff pay raises across the board so that we are retaining our teachers and encouraging others to take up teaching as a career. I am in favor of expanding our vocational and technical training in our schools so that our students who choose not to attend college are better trained to take up a quality job upon graduation. We need to better fund our school breakfast/lunch programs so that children are well nourished and ready to learn. Education is the key to a successful future in our state and now is the time to begin investing in that future.

**Jason Zachary:** - no response -

**Q: *Healthcare: What steps should the state of Tennessee take to provide healthcare access for all Tennesseans?***

**Justin Davis:** First, we need to expand Medicaid so that the tax dollars we are sending to Washington are coming back to work for Tennesseans. By expanding Medicaid we can begin to reopen our closed hospitals, combat the opioid crisis, and insure more of our citizens. We need to help cut back on wasteful spending and seek to invest in preventative care. Tennesseans are among the unhealthiest citizens in America. We need to focus on encouraging citizens to eat better, workout, and avoid a lifestyle that can lead to poor health. This will help lead to a healthier Tennessee.

**Jason Zachary:** - no response -

### **Tennessee House of Representatives District 15**

Description: The larger house, and arguably the more representative one, of Tennessee's bicameral legislature is called the House of Representatives. It occupies the largest space in the State Capitol known as the House Chamber seen at left. The state is divided into 99 House districts from each of which one representative is elected.

#### **Candidate:**

**Name:** Rick Staples

**Party:** Dem

**Address:** P.O. Box 1122 Knoxville, TN 37902

**Campaign Phone:** (865) 385-3589

**Email:** teamrickstaples@gmail.com

**Web Site:** <http://teamrickstaples.com>

**Q: *Election Laws and Voting Rights: What specific measures would you take to improve voter registration, access to voting, voter turnout and the redistricting process?***

**Rick Staples:** We need to change our regressive and targeting voter ID laws, including protecting minority and senior voters. Last session I co-sponsored a bill to assist college students with voting.

**Q: *Education: What would you do to provide and fund an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12?***

**Rick Staples:** I am currently on a newly formed bi-partisan committee to create ideas to streamline and strengthen the early education system in Tennessee. I previously served on, and continue to support, several boards which deal with educational support. I have secured funding to assist organizations that deal with these issues.

**Q: *Healthcare: What steps should the state of Tennessee take to provide healthcare access for all Tennesseans?***

**Rick Staples:** Right now, the best thing that the State of Tennessee can do ensure and provide quality health insurance, is to pass the Medicaid Expansion. As a member of the House Health Committee I have worked tirelessly to pass the Medicaid Expansion. It is my first priority and should be the priority of all other elected officials in the state.

### **Tennessee House of Representatives District 16**

Description: The larger house, and arguably the more representative one, of Tennessee's bicameral legislature is called the House of Representatives. It occupies the largest space in the State Capitol known as the House Chamber seen at left. The state is divided into 99 House districts from each of which one representative is elected.

### **Candidates:**

**Name:** Bill Dunn

Party: Rep

Address: 5309 LaVesta Rd. Knoxville, TN 37918

Campaign Phone: (865) 687-4904

Email: [billdunn33@gmail.com](mailto:billdunn33@gmail.com)

Web Site: <http://www.BillDunn4TN.com>

Facebook Page: [@BillDunn4TN](#)

**Name:** Kate Trudell

Party: Dem

Address: 311 Oak Park Drive Knoxville, TN 37918

Campaign Phone: (865) 344-0525

Email: [connect@votetrudell.com](mailto:connect@votetrudell.com)

Web Site: <http://votetrudell.com>

Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/VoteTrudell](http://www.facebook.com/VoteTrudell)

Twitter: [twitter.com/KateBTrudell](https://twitter.com/KateBTrudell)

### **Questions:**

**Q: *Election Laws and Voting Rights: What specific measures would you take to improve voter registration, access to voting, voter turnout and the redistricting process?***

**Bill Dunn:** It has never been easier in the history of the state of Tennessee to register and vote. As a legislator, I supported election laws that make it even easier to register to vote. Now a person can register on line at a home, work or at a public library. With early voting, a person has at least two weeks to cast his or her vote. If someone doesn't want to take advantage of their right and duty, then the government shouldn't throw hard-earned tax dollars at them to try and force them to vote. Secure elections are important and that is why I supported the Voter ID bill. The Tennessee Constitution spells out how redistricting is to occur, and it needs to be followed.

**Kate Trudell:** Voting is the cornerstone of democracy. As one of Tennessee's Representatives, I would prioritize legislation that makes it as easy as possible for people to register to vote and to cast their ballots. Allowing online voter registration was a start, but we can improve by allowing same day voter registration, expanding early voting periods, and eliminating voter purging practices. I also would propose restoring voting rights back to individuals with felony convictions immediately following their completion of their prison sentence, parole and probation; because restricting voting rights does not curb

crime. Additionally, voting rights should not be contingent upon an individual's ability to pay court costs or child support payments; I would work to remove the tie between financial status and voting rights. Also, to ensure that redistricting can happen through a fair, nonpartisan manner, I would work to establish an independent state commission to oversee that process.

**Q: Education: What would you do to provide and fund an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12?**

**Bill Dunn:** Education is a passion and a priority of mine. For 150 years, the Democrats ran state government, and we were last or near to last in education. I remember meeting with then Governor Bredesen to discuss educational reforms that would help our students succeed. While he agreed with my analysis, he said he did not want to “prod the beast”. He was not willing to take on the education establishment and stand up for Tennessee students and families. Governor Haslam embraced these reforms, and we were successful in implementing them. In only 8 years of Republican leadership, Tennessee has moved out of the bottom. In fact, Tennessee is the fastest improving state in the nation 3 years in a row in education. We now have the highest graduation rates in the history of Tennessee and students can go to college tuition free for 2 years saving them from outrageous debt. However, there are special interests who want to roll back these reforms. I am running to keep the momentum going forward.

**Kate Trudell:** I want our state to be a place that ensures a quality education and an equal shot at success for every child regardless of what zip code they call home or what their parents do for a living. I will aim to shore up resources for our public schools and community schools rather than diluting that investment by supporting voucher programs and charter schools. I will focus on expand our Pr-K programs to platform all children in our state for success from the start. An investment in our schools also means an investment in our teachers. I’ll be committed to raising teacher pay, not only to ensure they are compensated appropriately, but also to make Tennessee competitive for our nation’s top educators. Ultimately, I believe we have the money to fully fund our public schools; right now Tennessee just does not prioritize education in our spending. For example, we outspend 3 to 1 to support an inmate in our prison system to a student in our public schools. I am committed to changing that.

**Q: Healthcare: What steps should the state of Tennessee take to provide healthcare access for all Tennesseans?**

**Bill Dunn:** Any healthcare reform must be sustainable and fiscally responsible. Our children and grandchildren are already on the hook for \$20 trillion in federal debt. I serve as a volunteer on a local hospital board. Therefore, I have firsthand knowledge of how the federal government bureaucracy consumes dollars that could be better used for actual healthcare. Obamacare cut the funding to hospitals that helped them supply charity care, and now these cuts are causing some of our hospitals to struggle. If Tennessee received federal funds as a block grant then we could be more effective and efficient in using those dollars. This could lead to better outcomes for those in need. We are fortunate to have several organizations like the Interfaith Health Clinic, Dr. Kim's Free Clinic and the Knoxville Academy of Medicine's Project Access to provide services to the working poor and uninsured. The state should enter into public/private partnerships with them to amplify their impact.

**Kate Trudell:** I agree with the other 65% of Tennesseans that support Insure Tennessee. By not expanding Medicaid, an estimated 280,000 hardworking Tennesseans and 25,000 veterans are now without access to the healthcare they need. We are at risk for losing over 30 rural hospitals, which provide care to our friends and neighbors in some of our states most beautiful hills. I will work hard to

expand Medicaid through Insure Tennessee and help restore access to affordable healthcare for people, families, and most importantly our veterans. No one in our state should have to choose between putting food on the table and treating an illness. And the numbers tell us that it won't just help with basic access to healthcare, expanding Medicaid could also help reduce private insurance premiums and boost the economy by putting healthcare professionals back to work and keeping our rural hospitals open. We can no longer allow our Legislature to prioritize partisan politics over the health of its citizens.

## **Tennessee House of Representatives District 18**

Description: The larger house, and arguably the more representative one, of Tennessee's bicameral legislature is called the House of Representatives. It occupies the largest space in the State Capitol known as the House Chamber seen at left. The state is divided into 99 House districts from each of which one representative is elected.

### **Candidates:**

**Name:** Martin Daniel

Party: Rep

Address: 1834 Duncan Woods Lane Knoxville, TN 37919

Campaign Phone: (865) 617-0828

Email: [martin@martindaniel.org](mailto:martin@martindaniel.org)

Web Site: <http://martindaniel.org>

Facebook Page: [danielfortennessee](#)

Twitter: [twitter.com/repmartindaniel](https://twitter.com/repmartindaniel)

**Name:** Greg Mackay

Party: Dem

Address: 504 Bosworth Road Knoxville, TN 37919

Campaign Phone: (865) 253-7222

Email: [info@VoteGregMackay.com](mailto:info@VoteGregMackay.com)

Web Site: <http://VoteGregMackay.com>

Facebook Page: [Www.Facebook.com/VoteGregMackay](https://www.facebook.com/VoteGregMackay)

Twitter: [twitter.com/VoteGregMackay](https://twitter.com/VoteGregMackay)

**Q: *Election Laws and Voting Rights: What specific measures would you take to improve voter registration, access to voting, voter turnout and the redistricting process?***

**Martin Daniel:** I would encourage the election commission to set up more voter registration stations at all political events for the year preceding a significant primary or general election. Mass media should be used to improve voter turnout.

**Greg Mackay:** As the Administrator of Elections I ran the 2008 Presidential election which is, to this day, the largest election in the history of Knox County. On the last weekend to register prior to that election we held a voter registration drive with the assistance of the League of Women Voters. We had volunteers at every Krogers in Knox County and registered over 10,000 people. I support "no excuse" absentee voting which allows any registered voter to obtain a mail-in ballot if they want to vote at home. As the Administrator of Elections I recommended the Convenience Voting Plan which combines Early Voting and Election Day into a ten day voting period, ending on Election Day, that allows citizens to vote at any Voting Center. I also support same day voter registraion. It is being used in 15 states and has

been proven to increase voter turnout. The power to redistrict is now in the hands of the politicians. We need to devise a system wherein office holders are not choosing their own voters.

***Q: Education: What would you do to provide and fund an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12?***

**Martin Daniel:** The Comptroller of the Treasury recently determined that K-12 schools are being adequately funded per the BEP guidelines. That said, the state, and the local governments, should strive to pay our devoted teachers more. Education is not subject to a "one size fits all" solution. Testing and accountability are important, but I believe that local control of K-12 education is best. I believe smaller, community schools are preferable and possibly more effective than the mega large box schools that have become so prevalent. The Tennessee Dept of Education should, among other things, listen to the parents and to the teachers to determine how to improve our schools. Currently, it does not seem to be doing that.

**Greg Mackay:** Education and its funding is a top priority. I would vote against vouchers and against for profit charter schools that take education dollars away from public schools. We need to revisit the BEP, which was last revised in 2007, to make sure it is equitable to all.

***Q: Healthcare: What steps should the state of Tennessee take to provide healthcare access for all Tennesseans?***

**Martin Daniel:** Healthcare is a complex issue for Tennesseans. Government cannot solve all of society's problems, and it should not be our first option to turn to as to the issues that we must address. That said, I am open to any program that is economically sustainable for the state and that is in the best interest of Tennesseans. To make healthcare more accessible and affordable, I believe that we should make the market more transparent and competitive. Significant reform of Certificate of Need laws(laws that require government permission to open healthcare facilities) should be undertaken to make healthcare facilities and services more accessible, telemedicine should be encouraged, and, to make the healthcare market more competitive, we should require posting and disclosure of the prices for common medical procedures.

**Greg Mackay:** We should have already passed Governor Haslam's Insure Tennessee plan. This would provide coverage to 280,000 working Tennesseans. It was a financially sound plan that would help If elected I intend to push forward and pass some form of healthcare expansion.

### **Tennessee House of Representatives District 19**

Description: The larger house, and arguably the more representative one, of Tennessee's bicameral legislature is called the House of Representatives. It occupies the largest space in the State Capitol known as the House Chamber seen at left. The state is divided into 99 House districts from each of which one representative is elected.

#### **Candidates:**

**Name:** Edward Nelson

**Party:** Dem

**Address:** 311 Morgan St. #5 Knoxville, Tennessee 37917

**Campaign Phone:** (615) 480-2530

Email: [hello@vote4edward.com](mailto:hello@vote4edward.com)  
Web Site: <http://vote4edward.com>  
Facebook Page: [facebook.com/en4tn](https://www.facebook.com/en4tn)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/edwardnelson4tn](https://twitter.com/edwardnelson4tn)

**Name:** Michelle Westover  
**Party:** I  
**Address:** 9713 Will Merritt Rd Strawberry Plains, TN 37871  
**Campaign Phone:** (865) 659-7181  
**Email:** [Westovercampaign2018@gmail.com](mailto:Westovercampaign2018@gmail.com)  
**Facebook Page:** Michelle Westover for State Representative

**Name:** Dave Wright  
**Party:** Rep  
**Campaign Phone:** (865) 215-2534

***Q: Election Laws and Voting Rights: What specific measures would you take to improve voter registration, access to voting, voter turnout and the redistricting process?***

**Edward Nelson:** Voter turnout in Tennessee is abysmal. Some sources will say we rank 48th and others will say we are dead last at 51. We should be ashamed of either figure. There are simple measures we can take that will make it easier for folks to vote. Having automatic voter registration is the first step. Next, we can allow students to vote using their state-issued student ID. As far as I know, this is the only form of state-issued identification that is not allowed at the polls. Allowing folks to vote at any polling location, regardless of precinct, is another direction we should be pushing for. Finally, we must restore the rights of felons who have paid their debt to society, automatically and without lengthy and expensive processes.

**Michelle Westover:** I would implement public voter registration drives, provide free transportation to citizens who do not drive or do not have a way to the voting stations. To increase voter turnout I would implement traditional and social media to make voters more aware of the dates.

**Dave Wright:** - no response -

***Q: Education: What would you do to provide and fund an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12?***

**Edward Nelson:** A well funded public education system is the foundation of any successful society. As a product of the public ed system, and someone who is still a student at a state-school, I know the great service that is provided to everyone. We must stop so-called "school choice" programs from expanding further and defunding public schools in the forms of vouchers and charters. We must expand universal pre-K so that every child gets a good head start and can read at grade level by grade 3. Additionally, we have to pay our teachers what they are worth. I understand that without teachers, there would be no other jobs. Making sure that they have classrooms with the proper equipment, books, and supplies regardless of their zip code, should be a top priority.

**Michelle Westover:** I would sponsor programs that would generate revenue for state funded programs. I believe that the revenue generated by the legalization of medical marijuana would provide funding that could increase teacher salaries, provide more up to date teaching materials and equipment.

**Dave Wright:** - no response –

**Q: Healthcare:** *What steps should the state of Tennessee take to provide healthcare access for all Tennesseans?*

**Edward Nelson:** The biggest failure of the General Assembly has been their inability to expand Medicaid in Tennessee. This has left almost 200,000 working class families without any insurance at all. It has also led to 10 rural hospital closures across Tennessee, making us #1 in the country in hospital closures per capita. For all this talk of fiscal conservatism, it just makes no sense to send over \$3million of our tax dollars to other states every single day when we could spend it right here to help Tennesseans in need. All told, republicans have spent over \$4billion to keep hospitals open in states like Arkansas, Kentucky, and Louisiana. I think we would spend that money better here at home. When I was a medical provider in the Navy, I had the privilege of focusing on the needs of every patient that came through my door and not how much a certain treatment would cost. I think that every provider, and more importantly every patient, should have that same right in Tennessee

**Michelle Westover:** I would work to make healthcare insurance affordable and accessible to all Tennesseans. I would expand the accessibility of free transportation to and from medical appointments to all citizens.

**Dave Wright:** - no response -

### **Tennessee House of Representatives District 89**

Description: The larger house, and arguably the more representative one, of Tennessee's bicameral legislature is called the House of Representatives. It occupies the largest space in the State Capitol known as the House Chamber seen at left. The state is divided into 99 House districts from each of which one representative is elected.

#### **Candidates:**

**Name:** Justin Lafferty

Party: Rep

Address: PO BOX 30971 Knoxville , TN 37930

Campaign Phone: (865) 300-9534

Email: [justinlafferty2018@gmail.com](mailto:justinlafferty2018@gmail.com)

Web Site: <http://www.laffertyforhouse.com/>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/LaffertyforStateHouse>

**Name:** Coleen Martinez

Party: Dem

Address: 9515 Hickory Knoll Lane Knoxville, TN 37931

Campaign Phone: (865) 567-0569

Email: [martinezrep89@gmail.com](mailto:martinezrep89@gmail.com)

Web Site: <http://coleenmartinez.com>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/MartinezRep89/>

Twitter: [twitter.com/martinezrep89](https://twitter.com/martinezrep89)

#### **Questions:**

***Q: Election Laws and Voting Rights: What specific measures would you take to improve voter registration, access to voting, voter turnout and the redistricting process?***

**Justin Lafferty:** I live in a country that has laws already in place to allow voters to register when they are of age. We also have laws to ensure easy access to voting locations, an absentee process, and early voting locations that are open for weeks at a time to improve opportunity for people to vote at a time convenient for them. As for voter turnout, what right do I have to compel someone to go vote if they choose not to. I have chosen not to vote in races where I did not feel informed enough to decide between candidates. The redistricting process is as old as our republic. It has also been abused by both political parties for their benefit. Yet despite this fact our republic has survived and prospered. Because ultimately it is the people that decide who gets elected.

**Coleen Martinez:** I would include automatic voter registration whenever someone is issued a state I.D. I would also do more outreach in high schools, colleges, and apartment complexes to register more people to vote and update their voter registration if they have recently moved. I would suggest making election day a holiday so no one misses work or is docked pay for missing work to vote. I would suggest voting by mail. We need to take a look at voting precincts and make sure we are not making it harder for someone to vote. I also think we could increase voter turnout by having non-partisan races and using a majority vote for winners. Instead of having 7 different State House districts, we would have representation for Knox County in the State House where the top 7 vote getters would represent the county in Nashville. Lastly, regarding the redistricting process, I believe our districts need to be drawn with a bipartisan committee. The districts also need to reflect our community.

***Q: Education: What would you do to provide and fund an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12?***

**Justin Lafferty:** I think the best way to provide high quality education is for parents to be involved. Studies have shown that reading to a child before reaching school age greatly improves the chances of success in school. Sharing best practices across the state can also be utilized to improve learning. Ideas and practices that produce the desired results should be shared and implemented. Some students learn faster than others. This does not mean one is smarter and the other less. It just means we need to recognize the differences and respond accordingly. Moving kids through the system based simply on their age does not address this fact and should be considered when placing students in class rooms.

**Coleen Martinez:** We need to do three things to provide and fund public education. First, we need to change the law that says that Tennessee does not have to fully fund public education. Second, we need to look at the TN Promise funding model and replicate it for public education. Third, we need to add to our State Constitution that every student in Tennessee has a right to a Free, Fair, and Appropriate education. We are underfunding our public education system by \$500-900 million. Our teachers are underpaid and often working second jobs. Our schools are under-resourced with technology older than a decade. Plus, our students are 30% proficient in core subjects. With old technology and students barely proficient, we are certainly not preparing students for higher education or for a career in the 21st Century. I support universal pre-K for all students in Tennessee.

***Q: Healthcare: What steps should the state of Tennessee take to provide healthcare access for all Tennesseans?***

**Justin Lafferty:** A good first step would be allowing the consumer to know how much a visit to the doctor or a procedure or even a x-ray actually cost. Why is it that in a world where technology has

driven down the cost of almost everything health care keeps getting more expensive at a rate much greater than that of inflation? We have spent so much money trying to provide access for all that we have ignored the basic issue of cost. It has been estimated that almost half the money spent on health care comes from administrative, compliance and legal costs. If we could address these issues and let the consumer decide what best suits their needs, then we could redirect a tremendous amount of money toward those who need it most and are least able to afford actual care.

**Coleen Martinez:** The state of Tennessee needs to expand Medicaid so that 300,000 hard-working Tennesseans with low-paying jobs can have access to affordable health care. 75% of Tennesseans believe we should expand Medicaid. We have lost \$4 billion in our tax dollars for health care. That money has gone to Washington, D.C., Kentucky, or California because those states expanded Medicaid. We have had 8 rural hospital closures in Tennessee and we lead the nation in hospital closures. The majority of Tennessee is considered to be rural. So, imagine that most of the residents in Tennessee are living in a town without a hospital. This means that a pregnant woman has to drive 100 miles to have a baby. Many politicians have touted that our state is business friendly but businesses will stop coming to Tennessee if our towns do not have hospitals in them. The simplest, most affordable, and best way to help opioid addicts is to expand Medicaid.