

VOTE TIPTON



TIPTON COUNTY GENERAL & STATE PRIMARY VOTER GUIDE

▶ PAPER FOLDS

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Our voters guide is here – and there's a lot of information!

This is a consequential election for Tipton County — and we don't use that word lightly.

County Executive Jeff Huffman has held office since 1986. His name has appeared on every Tipton County ballot for nearly five decades and this is the first election since the late 1970s that it won't.

County Clerk Mary Gaither, Register of Deeds Claudia Peeler, and Circuit Court Clerk Mike Forbess are also longtime incumbents stepping aside. The offices they've shaped for a combined generation are now open, and voters deserve to know who wants them and why.

That's what this guide is about.

We'll be honest: **it's longer than we planned**, but when we asked candidates to tell voters who they are and what they stand for, they had a lot to say! We think that's a good thing. The people running for office in Tipton County are, for the most part, people who have spent their lives here. They care about this place — reading through their answers, that comes through.

We hope you'll take the time to read them and take special note of our contested races for Circuit Court Clerk and School Board District 6.

Early voting is open now through Aug. 1. Election Day is Aug. 6. **Tipton County is at a turning point, and the people who show up get to help decide what comes next.** Our job is to give you the information. What you do with it is up to you.

The best-informed voters are the ones who read the responses, ask their own questions, and show up.

Thank you for reading. Tipton County deserves strong local information, and we're committed to providing it.



Echo Rose

Editor-in-Chief, Paper Folds News



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How to use this guide

Not sure what's on your ballot or what any of it means?
Start here.

On Aug. 6, Tipton County voters are casting two ballots at once: the State Primary and the Tipton County General Election.

The State Primary is how parties choose their nominees for state and federal races. The only state primary race we cover in this guide is Tennessee House District 81, where two Republicans, Jason Fleming and Brett A. Giannini, are on the ballot. No Democratic candidate qualified for District 81, so that race is decided entirely in the Republican primary.

The County General Election is different: it's not a primary, and every registered voter can vote in it regardless of party. This is where Tipton County actually elects its county offices — county executive, county commission, sheriff, county clerk, circuit court clerk, register of deeds, school board, and constables — for the next term. Because this is the general election, Independent candidates appear on the ballot alongside Republican nominees for the first time; independents don't run in primaries.

This guide walks through the District 81 race and every county office up for election: what each position does, who's running, and what the candidates said when we asked them the same questions.

Early voting is open July 17 through Aug. 1.

Election Day is Aug. 6.

What you need to know about voting in the election

Before you vote

✓ Are you registered?

The deadline to register was July 7. Check your status at tiptonco.com/election_commission or call 901-476-0223.

✓ Bring a photo ID.

Tennessee or federal government-issued only. Your ID can be expired. College IDs and out-of-state IDs are not accepted. No ID? A free one is available through the Tennessee Department of Safety.

✓ Know where to go.

Your polling place is on your voter registration card — or look it up at tiptonco.com/election_commission.

Early voting • July 17-Aug. 1

Mon–Fri, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. | Sat, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Early voting locations

Election Commission, 113 E. Church St., Covington
First Baptist Church, 102 Kimbrough Dr., Atoka

Note: You can vote at either location during early voting.

Our methodology

Transparency with voters is important to us. Here's how this guide was put together.

Paper Folds attempted to contact every county general and District 81 candidate on the Aug. 6 ballot via email or Facebook message and asked them to complete the same questionnaire.

Candidates submitted their answers from June 10-24 through an online form. Responses are printed as submitted — we did not edit for content, grammar, or spelling.

We also reached out to the Tipton County Republican Party and the Tipton County Democratic Party to share our process and plans.

Reader questions were solicited in advance and incorporated into the questionnaire alongside our own. Questions submitted by readers are attributed by name and city.

Many of these questionnaires were published in our Tipton County Primary Voter Guide, in April, prior to the May 5 county primary.

Advertising was offered to all candidates. Every advertisement in this guide is paid political advertising. Purchasing an advertisement had no bearing on how a candidate's questionnaire responses were presented.

Questions about our process?

Reach us at news@paperfoldsnews.com

The following offices are up for re-election:

County Executive

County Legislative Body (2 each in 9 districts)

County Trustee

Sheriff

County Clerk

Circuit Court Clerk

Register of Deeds

Constables

School Board Members (in districts 2, 4, 6 and 8)

Tennessee House of Representatives - District 81

U.S. House of Representatives - Districts 5 & 8

Tennessee Governor

**Let's take a look at each office up for
re-election, the function of their position, who currently
holds it, and the term length.**

TN House District 81

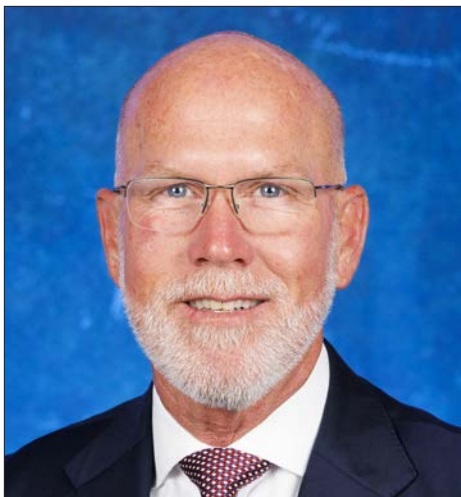
Term length: 2 years

What this position does: The District 81 representative serves in the Tennessee House of Representatives, voting on state laws, the state budget, and policies covering education, healthcare, taxes and public safety.

Current officeholder: Debra Moody (not seeking re-election)

Who can vote: Registered voters who live in House District 81, which covers Tipton County and part of Haywood County

On the ballot: Jason Fleming, Brett Giannini



TN HOUSE DISTRICT 81

Jason Fleming

Occupation: Chief of Staff - City of Covington

Get in touch:

www.flemingforhouse.com

Questionnaire

Q: What prompted you to run for this office at this time?

A: I am currently serving as Chief of Staff to Covington Mayor Jan Hensley. I came to this position after retiring from a 40-year career with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and a 32-year career in the Tennessee Army National Guard. Soon after the devastating tornadoes that struck our area in March 2023, I began receiving calls from community leaders encouraging me to consider running for elected office. After much prayer and reflection about whether this was part of God's plan for my life, I realized I didn't have a reason to say no. Service to others has been the foundation of my life for more than 40 years. Whether serving my country in uniform, serving the public through my federal career, or serving my community in local government, I have always felt called to help others. Seeking elected office is simply another opportunity to serve, give back to the community that has given so much to me, and help shape a stronger future for the people of District 81.

Q: What professional, educational, or personal experiences best prepared you for this role?

A: I honestly believe God has been preparing me for this role for more than 40 years. Through my career with the United States

Department of Agriculture, my 32 years in the Tennessee Army National Guard, and my service in local government, I have continually developed the leadership, problem-solving, and decision-making skills necessary to serve effectively. I consider myself a lifelong learner. During my nearly 40-year career with USDA, I worked in Information Technology and became known as someone others could rely on to solve complex problems and provide sound solutions. That experience taught me how to analyze challenges, manage resources, and make informed decisions. My military service further strengthened my leadership abilities. I sought out difficult assignments, completed every level of professional military education available to me, and was ultimately selected to attend the U.S. Army War College as a resident student. The War College prepares senior military and civilian leaders to operate at the highest levels of leadership and strategic decision-making. When I became Chief of Staff for the City of Covington, I continued investing in my professional development. I completed TOTAL, Tipton County's local leadership program; graduated from the University of Tennessee's Certified Public Manager Program; completed the WestStar Leadership Program; and was selected for the 2026 cohort of the Delta Regional Authority's Executive Leadership

Institute. Each of these experiences has helped prepare me to serve the citizens of District 81. Together, they have given me a unique combination of leadership experience, practical problem-solving skills, and a deep understanding of the challenges facing our communities today.

Q: What do you believe are the primary responsibilities of this office?

A: First and foremost, I believe a State Representative works for the people. The primary responsibility of this office is to represent the citizens of District 81 and ensure their voices are heard in Nashville. A State Representative must carefully review, debate, and vote on legislation that affects our families, businesses, schools, and communities. That requires listening to constituents, studying issues thoroughly, and making informed decisions based on both the needs of the district and the long-term interests of Tennessee. I also believe a State Representative should be accessible and responsive to the people he or she serves. State government can be difficult to navigate, and citizens sometimes need assistance dealing with state agencies. When that happens, their representative should be an advocate who helps them find answers and obtain the services they need. Another important responsibility is overseeing how taxpayer dollars are spent. State Representatives play a critical role in the budget process, and I believe they should work to ensure their district receives its fair share of state resources while remaining committed to fiscal responsibility and accountability. At its core, this office is about service. If elected, I will work every day to listen to the people of District 81, represent their interests with integrity, and be a strong voice for our communities in Nashville.

Q: What are the top three issues facing Tipton County right now?

A: First, we must address the lack of infrastructure, particularly water, sewer, and

natural gas capacity. As growth continues to move north from the Memphis region and as BlueOval City creates new economic opportunities, our ability to attract residential, commercial, and industrial development will depend on having the infrastructure in place to support that growth.

Second, Tipton County faces a shortage of adequate housing. We need housing options for young families, working professionals, seniors, and the workforce that will support economic growth throughout West Tennessee. The state legislature can help by reducing unnecessary red tape that makes it harder and more expensive to build or buy a home. That means looking for ways to streamline permitting, cut delays, and review regulations that drive up costs for builders and first-time homebuyers. If we want young people to be able to put down roots here, we need to make it easier for them to find an affordable place to live. Without additional housing, we risk losing opportunities for growth and making it more difficult for our children and grandchildren to live and work in the communities where they were raised. Third, we need improved east-west transportation connectivity. While we have strong north-south routes, the lack of a major east-west connector highway limits mobility, economic development opportunities, and access across the county. Improving transportation infrastructure would benefit residents, businesses, agriculture, and future development.

These three issues are closely connected. If we want Tipton County to manage growth responsibly, attract new investment, and maintain the quality of life that makes this community special, we must address infrastructure, housing, and transportation together. As State Representative, I will work with local leaders and state agencies to ensure Tipton County has a strong voice in securing the resources and support needed to address these challenges.

Q: What is one issue you believe is being overlooked or not getting enough attention?

A: One issue that does not receive enough attention is leadership and workforce development, particularly among young people. We often talk about economic development, new industries, and job creation, but long-term success depends on having people prepared to lead those organizations, businesses, schools, and communities. We need to continue investing in career and technical education, workforce training, leadership development programs, and opportunities that encourage young people to build their futures right here in West Tennessee. Throughout my career in the military, federal government, and local government, I have seen firsthand that strong organizations are built by strong leaders. The same is true for communities. If we want Tipton County and District 81 to thrive for generations to come, we must intentionally develop the next generation of workers, professionals, business owners, and community leaders. Growth is important, but preparing people to lead and succeed in that growth is equally important. That is an investment that will pay dividends for decades to come.

Q: How will you ensure transparency and accountability in this office?

A: I believe transparency and accountability begin with accessibility. If elected, I will make myself available to the people of District 81 and maintain open lines of communication with the citizens I serve. Whether through community meetings, public events, email, phone calls, or social media, I want constituents to know they can reach me and share their concerns, ideas, and opinions. Transparency also means being willing to discuss difficult issues openly and honestly. I believe elected officials should explain not only how they voted, but why they voted the way they did. Even when people disagree with

a decision, they deserve to understand the reasoning behind it. Accountability requires listening, learning, and making informed decisions. When faced with complex issues, I will seek input from subject matter experts, stakeholders, and the citizens who will be affected by the legislation. Once I have gathered the facts and understand where my constituents stand, I will make the best decision I can and be accountable for that vote. At the end of the day, accountability means remembering who you work for. The people of District 81 are my employer, and if elected, I will always strive to represent them with integrity, transparency, and respect.

Q: How do you plan to stay engaged with constituents after taking office? — Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: In today's world, there are more ways than ever to stay engaged and connected with constituents. One of the most obvious is through social media—whether Facebook, X, Instagram, or a website—these platforms allow for regular communication, updates, and feedback. Just as important, however, is face-to-face engagement. Town halls and community meetings provide structured opportunities to hear directly from citizens, while less formal gatherings throughout the community are just as valuable. Both allow for honest conversation and real accountability. Beyond organized events, I believe engagement also happens in everyday life—being present in the community, going to church, shopping locally, attending school and civic events, and simply living life alongside the people you serve. I have lived in this community my entire life, and staying connected has always been a natural part of who I am. That will not change if I am elected to serve as your next State Representative.

Q: Do you accept campaign donations from corporate donors or PACs, and if so,

how do you ensure they do not influence your decisions? — Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: Campaign contributions do not determine my positions on issues. My values and principles determine my positions, and organizations often choose to support candidates whose values already align with theirs. Any contribution I receive will be reported in accordance with Tennessee law and publicly disclosed. At the end of the day, my responsibility is to the citizens of District 81, and every vote I cast will be based on what I believe is best for the people I represent.

Q: What does ethical leadership mean to you in public service?

A: Ethical leadership in public service means making decisions based on moral principles, integrity, accountability, and respect for others. It means being honest with people, even when the issues are difficult, and remembering that public office is a position of trust. For more than 40 years, ethical leadership is what I have tried to practice. Whether serving at USDA, in the Tennessee Army National Guard, or in municipal government, I have sought to lead with a strong internal moral compass, to be transparent in my decisions, and to treat people with dignity and respect. As your State Representative, ethical leadership means focusing on the needs of the people of District 81, not personal gain or political convenience. I will work to make decisions that are thoughtful, principled, and accountable to the citizens I serve.

Q: How would you handle a situation where you made a mistake or faced public criticism?

A: No leader is perfect, and anyone who serves in a leadership position long enough will eventually make a mistake or face criticism. When that happens, I believe the best approach is to address it directly, honestly,

and without delay. If (when) I make a mistake, I will take ownership of it, acknowledge the error, seek advice from trusted advisors and subject matter experts when appropriate, and work diligently to correct the problem. Accountability begins with accepting responsibility rather than looking for excuses or someone else to blame. Transparency is equally important. The public deserves to know when mistakes are made and what is being done to address them. Attempting to avoid an issue or deflect responsibility only creates skepticism and erodes trust. I believe it is far better to be open, honest, and proactive in communicating with the people I serve. When faced with public criticism, I will listen carefully and seek to understand the concerns being raised. Whenever possible, I believe direct conversations are the most effective way to address disagreements or misunderstandings. Even when people ultimately disagree with a decision, they deserve to know that they have been heard and that the decision was made thoughtfully and in good faith. Throughout my career in the military, federal government, and local government, I have learned that trust is one of a leader's most valuable assets. The best way to maintain that trust is through humility, accountability, and honest communication.

Q: Why should voters choose you in this race?

A: I believe voters should choose me because I have spent a lifetime preparing to serve others. Through my career with the United States Department of Agriculture, my 32 years in the Tennessee Army National Guard, and my service in local government, I have been blessed with opportunities to lead, solve problems, and work alongside people from all walks of life. The education, training, and leadership experiences I have received did not happen by accident. Along the way, countless mentors,

teachers, leaders, and community members invested in me, challenged me, and helped shape who I am today. I have been fortunate to receive some of the highest levels of professional and leadership education available, and I believe those experiences have prepared me well to represent the people of District 81.

At this stage of my life, I am not seeking public office for personal recognition or career advancement. I have already enjoyed two rewarding careers and have been blessed far beyond what I deserve. My desire to serve comes from a sense of gratitude and a belief that I still have something to give back to the community that has given so much to me.

This race is not about me. It is about the people of District 81 and ensuring they continue to have strong conservative representation in Nashville. I believe in the importance of conservative values such as fiscal responsibility, limited government, personal accountability, and respect for our communities and traditions. I am committed to taking those values to Nashville and advocating on behalf of the citizens of Tipton and Haywood Counties, making certain their voices are heard and their interests are protected.

At its core, public service is about serving others, and that is exactly why I am running. In many ways, I view this opportunity as a chance to provide a return on the investment that so many people have made in me over the years. If elected, I will work every day to honor that investment through principled leadership, hard work, and faithful service to the citizens of District 81.

Q: What specific issue or concern motivated you to run for this office?

A: I am often asked what specific issue motivated me to run or what the first piece of legislation I plan to introduce will be. The truth is, there was not one single issue or concern that led me to seek this office.

What motivated me most were the people who reached out and encouraged me to run. Following the devastating tornadoes in 2023 and through my work in local government, I received calls from community leaders and citizens who believed I could continue serving our community in a greater capacity. After much prayer and reflection, I came to believe this was an opportunity I should seriously consider. I also believe our communities need people who are willing to step forward, accept responsibility, and serve. Public service is not always easy. It requires time, sacrifice, and a willingness to accept scrutiny and criticism. Yet strong communities depend on people who are willing to invest themselves in the service of others. For me, this campaign is not driven by a single issue. It is driven by a desire to continue giving back to the community that has given so much to me. Service has been the foundation of my life for more than 40 years, whether through the military, my federal career, or local government. Seeking this office is simply another opportunity to serve. And regardless of the outcome of this election, I fully expect that service to others will continue to be a part of my life.

Q: Describe a time you led by example. What actions did you take, and what was the outcome? — Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: During my time in uniform, I always tried to lead by example. Regardless of rank or position, I never wanted to be seen as someone who used authority for personal advantage or avoided difficult work because of a title. During my deployment to Afghanistan, I served on a small Embedded Training Team that lived with and trained a battalion of the Afghan National Army. Every member of our team had to contribute. If someone failed to do his part, critical tasks could be missed or other soldiers would have to carry an additional burden. As a senior leader on

that team, I never hesitated to do my share, whether that meant manning a crew-served weapon, standing guard during the night, or cleaning the latrine. Those tasks may not have been glamorous, but they mattered. More importantly, they showed the team that leadership was not about rank; it was about responsibility. The result was an incredibly cohesive team. Every soldier knew that senior leadership would do its part and would not use rank as an excuse to stand apart from the work. Nearly 20 years later, many of us remain close, and I believe that bond was strengthened by the trust we built during that deployment. There were many other times in my career when I was the last man out of the field after training or the last one through the chow line. I did that because I believe leaders should put others ahead of themselves. As State Representative, I would bring that same approach to public service. The needs of the people of District 81 would remain front and center. To me, leadership is not about being served; it is about serving others.

Q: If you had \$100,000 to allocate to one priority, what would it be and why? —

Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: If I had \$100,000 to allocate to a single priority, I would invest it in workforce and leadership development programs for young people and emerging leaders in our communities. Infrastructure, economic development, and job creation are all important, but none of those investments reach their full potential without people who are prepared to lead, innovate, and succeed. Whether through career and technical education, workforce training, internships, mentorship programs, or leadership development opportunities, investing in people produces benefits that last for generations. Throughout my military, federal, and local government careers, I have seen firsthand how education, training, and mentorship can change the

trajectory of a person's life. I am a product of leaders who invested their time and energy in me, and I believe we have a responsibility to do the same for the next generation. A \$100,000 investment in developing future workers, business owners, educators, first responders, and community leaders would continue paying dividends long after the money was spent. Strong communities are built by strong people, and investing in people is one of the best investments we can make. At the end of the day, roads, buildings, and infrastructure are important, but people are our most valuable resource. If we prepare them well, they will solve challenges we cannot even foresee today.



TN HOUSE DISTRICT 81

Brett A. Giannini

Occupation: Retired Memphis Police Lieutenant

Get in touch:

On Facebook: Brett Giannini for TN House 81 or Brett Giannini (personal page), Cell 901-545-9623, email brettgiannini48@gmail.com

Questionnaire

Q: What prompted you to run for this office at this time?

A: With Representative Moody retiring, it's now time for another solid Republican to step up and continue the conservative ideals Tipton and Haywood County citizens want. I'm the candidate with a verifiable record of low taxes, limited government and support for public safety.

Q: What professional, educational, or personal experiences best prepared you for this role?

A: I'm a 26 year Memphis police officer, Active U.S. Air Force Reservist, 18 year Atoka alderman, 4 year Tipton County Commissioner, 10 years on the Tipton County 911 Board, and I'm the past Chairman of the Tipton County Republican Party. I have been involved with the Republican Party since I was 16. I realized at an early age self reliance and less government was important.

Q: What do you believe are the primary responsibilities of this office?

A: The text book answer is to fund a budget and make laws for the State of Tennessee. My primary responsibility is to you and to make sure we aren't abusing tax-payers by a bureaucratic system that doesn't consider the real world effects of legislation. Letting you keep more of what you earn for you and

your family.

Q: What are the top three issues facing Tipton County right now?

A: I'm going to include Haywood in my answer because I believe the top three are the same for the whole district. Economic growth, road and utility infrastructure, and crime suppression.

Q: What is one issue you believe is being overlooked or not getting enough attention?

A: How well our Tipton County Schools are doing. We have one of the best rural school districts in the state and I wish we had more opportunity to showcase the teachers, administrators and volunteers that make it as good as it is, especially the TCAT programs. We should all be proud and I want everyone else to know how good they are.

Q: How will you ensure transparency and accountability in this office?

A: Anyone who knows me knows how accessible I am. I give my cell and email to anyone who wants it. I post it on social media. I'm going to return your calls, texts and emails, I'm not going to send you a form letter if you're in my district. I'll give them to you now, 901-545-9623 and brettgiannini48@gmail.com. I've done that for the 18

years I've been an alderman/commissioner and I see no reason to stop now. I see it as an opportunity to help more folks.

Q: How do you plan to stay engaged with constituents after taking office? — Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: Thanks Jessica. See my previous and in addition to that, I'll keep my FB public, I'll post regularly and attend local meetings,

Q: Do you accept campaign donations from corporate donors or PACs, and if so, how do you ensure they do not influence your decisions? — Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: Yes, I have accepted a donation from the Memphis Police Association, which I have been a member for 26 years. I have been publicly endorsed by Americans for Prosperity but I have not received a monetary donation from them. They have gone door-to-door on my behalf. It's worth noting that I have not had any contact with them since being informed of the endorsement.

Q: How would you handle a situation where you made a mistake or faced public criticism?

A: Of course I'd admit my mistake, correct it as much as possible and make sure the same mistake didn't happen again.

Q: Why should voters choose you in this race?

A: I have the experience and temperament for this position. I've been in debates discussing legislation and I know how to make an effective argument for a cause I feel is good for the majority. I won't be the one who chooses a "go-along to get-along" path. I also will say again, you'll be able to communicate with me and probably most importantly is that I have a record you can look at. Judge me for what I've done, not what I say I'll do. I'm proud to be a conservative republican and my record proves I'm loyal to those beliefs.

Q: What specific issue or concern motivated you to run for this office?

A: Nothing specific besides Rep. Moody retiring. I think she's done a great job for the district as those conservatives before her did and I want to continue that service. I would not be running if she had not retired.

Q: Describe a time you led by example. What actions did you take, and what was the outcome? — Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: Having a career in law enforcement and military affords me many opportunities to lead, usually on a daily basis. In the context of being an elected official, I was once contacted by a citizen who was having trouble crossing Hwy 51 at Tipton road because the grass got too tall. I went out and weed-eated the area myself. I didn't say it wasn't my responsibility, I didn't tell her to call the state or even say I'd call someone. I didn't leave it for someone else to handle. That's what citizens expect from their elected officials and that's the kind of service they deserve.

Q: If you had \$100,000 to allocate to one priority, what would it be and why? — Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: If it were my own personal money, I'd give it to charity and split up in quarters between the Carl Perkins Center, Confidential Care Mobile Ministries, the Boys and Girls Club and Tipton County Animal Shelter. If it's our tax-dollars, I think I'd add it to the road maintenance budget.



Don't skip out on voting – every ballot is important.

Tipton County saw that firsthand during the August 2022 County General election.

When the results came in, District 1 School Board candidates Dwain Edwards and John W. Yarbrough Jr. were tied with 126 votes each.

Your vote matters.

Tipton County Executive

Term length: 4 years

What this position does: The County Executive directs, organizes and coordinates county government activities and oversees daily operations of county departments and programs.

Current officeholder: Jeff Huffman

Who can vote: Registered voters who live anywhere in Tipton County

On the ballot: Billy Daugherty



COUNTY EXECUTIVE

William “Billy” Daugherty

Occupation: Chief Financial Officer

Get in touch:

Website: votedaugherty.com / Facebook: Billy Daugherty for Tipton County Executive / Instagram: [votedaugherty](https://www.instagram.com/votedaugherty) / TikTok: [@votedaugherty](https://www.tiktok.com/@votedaugherty) / YouTube: [@votedaugherty](https://www.youtube.com/@votedaugherty) / X: [@Vote_Daugherty](https://twitter.com/Vote_Daugherty)

Questionnaire

Q: What prompted you to run for this office at this time?

A: I felt called to step forward because I believe this is the right time in my life and in the life of our county for me to serve in this role. After 28 years in public service, I have spent my career learning how county government works, leading people, managing difficult responsibilities, and making decisions that affect real families. I believe those experiences have prepared me for this moment. Tipton County deserves steady, experienced leadership, and I believe I am prepared to serve in a way that is responsible, transparent, and focused on the people who call this county home.

Q: What professional, educational, or personal experiences best prepared you for this role?

A: I have dedicated nearly three decades to public service, including senior leadership experience within both the Sheriff's Office and the Board of Education - two of the largest and most essential components of county government. Those experiences taught me how to manage people, work within budgets, solve problems under pressure, and make decisions that affect real families. Just as importantly, they taught me the value of listening, accountability, and treating people with respect.

With that experience, I have worked directly in county finance and administration.

As Chief Financial Officer for Tipton County Schools, the County's overall largest employer, I am responsible for all aspects of the district's financial activities in a budget of just over \$150,000,000 in FY26. In my previous role as Chief Deputy at the Tipton County Sheriff's Office, which is County's second largest budget and employer, I oversaw general departmental operations across the five major divisions (patrol, corrections, civil/courts, criminal investigations, & administrative).

In addition to my professional experience, I have also served on a number of local and statewide boards and organizations, which has strengthened my understanding of community needs, public service, and collaborative leadership.

I have also completed specialized training that directly relates to county government leadership. I am a Certified Public Administrator through the University of Tennessee County Technical Assistance Service's County Officials Certificate Training Program, a comprehensive program designed to provide county officials and employees with technical, administrative, managerial, and leadership training and a broad understanding of county government operations. I am also a Certified County Finance Officer (CCFO), a specialized certification regarding Tennessee county government accounting,

budgeting and financial reporting.

Educationally, I hold an Associate of Applied Science in Justice Services from Dyersburg State Community College and a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Bethel University. I am a graduate of Northwestern University's Staff and Command School. I have also completed additional upper-level hours of accounting core coursework through the University of Memphis.

Taken together, these experiences have given me a practical understanding of public safety, education, finance, personnel management, communications, strategic planning, and the day-to-day responsibilities of county government. They have prepared me not only to lead, but to lead responsibly.

Q: What do you believe are the primary responsibilities of this office?

A: The primary responsibility of the County Executive is to provide sound leadership over the day-to-day operation of county government, make sure taxpayer dollars are managed wisely, and help coordinate the work of departments so government serves people effectively. The office must also help plan for growth, protect county resources, and work with the County Commission, department heads, and other elected officials to keep county government moving in the right direction. The County Executive is essentially the vision setter.

Q: What are the top three issues facing Tipton County right now?

A: First, managing growth in a way that protects our quality of life. Secondly, it is important that we balance development and infrastructure as the County grows. Third, maintaining strong public services while being responsible with taxpayer dollars, especially as county government balances competing needs across departments.

Q: What is one issue you believe is being overlooked or not getting enough attention?

A: Long-range planning demands attention from everyone at every level in the County. It is easy to focus only on today's problems but the decisions we make now about land use, infrastructure, public services, and responsible growth will shape Tipton County for decades.

Q: How will you ensure transparency and accountability in this office?

A: Transparency starts with open communication and clear reporting. Taxpayers should know how decisions are made, how money is spent, and what goals county government is working toward. That means being accessible, offering clear information, respecting open meetings and public input, and being willing to answer tough questions. Accountability also means setting expectations, measuring performance, and owning outcomes. I value President Reagan's mantra, "Trust, but verify."

Q: How do you plan to stay engaged with constituents after taking office? – Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: I plan to continue to be visible and accessible. That means attending community events, meeting with citizens across the County, maintaining open lines of communication, and using both in-person conversations and regular public updates to keep people informed. I do not believe leadership should happen only from behind a desk. People deserve elected officials who listen, show up, and remain connected to the everyday concerns of working families.

Q: Do you accept campaign donations from corporate donors or PACs, and if so, how do you ensure they do not influence your decisions? – Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: Though I have not received donations from a political action committee (PAC), campaign donations would be considered

from all legitimate sources. Any campaign support I receive will be handled lawfully, transparently, and with the understanding that public office is a public trust. The standard I will apply in office is simple: do what is right, legal, and in the best interests of the County. Any and all decisions will be based on the appropriate policies, procedures, and laws governing the applicable situation.

Q: What does ethical leadership mean to you in public service?

A: Ethical leadership means doing the right thing even when it is difficult, unpopular, or inconvenient. I have navigated this at different times throughout my public service career. Ethical leadership also means telling the truth, being fair, honoring the public's trust, and remembering that the office belongs to the people, not the person who holds it. It essentially highlights the moral responsibility to serve others over self-interest and should be marked by humility, integrity, and accountability. Ethical leadership to me is straightforward: put people and professionalism before politics.

Q: How would you handle a situation where you made a mistake or faced public criticism?

A: I recognize that inaction is the only way to avoid mistakes. Although, failing to act when duty calls is also a mistake. When I make a mistake, I will own it, correct it, and learn from it. No leader is perfect, but honest leadership requires humility and accountability. If criticism is fair, I will accept it and address it. If criticism is based on misunderstanding, I will respond with facts and clarity. Either way, I believe the public deserves honesty, not excuses.

Q: Why should voters choose you in this race?

A: Voters should choose me because I have years of proven public service leadership experience, a deep understanding

of county government, and a long record of service to this community. Beyond my professional work in public safety, education, and finance, I have also served on numerous boards and community organizations locally and statewide, including efforts related to child advocacy, public safety, community action teams, workforce and student mentoring, and civic leadership. Those experiences have kept me connected to the real needs of our people and have reinforced my belief that public leadership is about service, stewardship, and working with others for the good of the whole community. I intend to lead with common sense, integrity, and a servant's heart.

Q: What specific issue or concern motivated you to run for this office?

A: What really motivated me to run was seeing how important the next few years are going to be for Tipton County. We are growing, and the decisions being made now will shape how we manage that growth while holding onto the character and values that make Tipton County what it is. I have seen enough through my years in public service to know that growth can be a real blessing, but only if it is handled with wisdom, planning, and a clear sense of responsibility to the people who are already here. Tipton County needs leadership that will think ahead, protect taxpayers, preserve quality of life, and make decisions that are not just good for today, but good for the future. That concern, more than anything else, is what led me to step forward.

Q: Describe a time you led by example. What actions did you take, and what was the outcome? – Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: While serving as Chief Deputy, I helped lead through a jail overcrowding crisis when the county needed additional space but had to be mindful of cost, operations, and staffing. I worked with others in county govern-

ment and with architects to help design an expansion that fit the existing facility, met the need, and avoided unnecessary long-term strain on personnel and logistics, all while helping maintain safe and efficient jail operations throughout construction. The project came in just under budget, delivered the relief the county needed, and gave me experience that later proved valuable during the rebuilding of the two Covington schools lost in the 2023 tornado.

Q: If you had \$100,000 to allocate to one priority, what would it be and why? – Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: If I had \$100,000 to allocate to one priority, I would put it toward a county-wide infrastructure assessment tied to growth planning. Before the next wave of growth hits us, we need an updated, clear picture of where we stand on roads, drainage, utilities, public safety capacity, and other infrastructure needs so we can make smart decisions instead of expensive guesses. This kind of investment helps Tipton County plan ahead, protect taxpayer dollars, and make sure growth is supported by facts rather than reaction. If we do not prepare wisely now, taxpayers will pay more later.

Q: County Executive – How do you plan to improve transparency in county operations? – Submitted anonymously

A: I believe transparency begins with communication. The people of Tipton County deserve a government that is open, understandable, and accessible.

I want to make county government more visible through regular communication and a stronger public presence. One way I plan to do that is through a county government video series that helps explain how departments work, what services they provide, and how their work affects everyday life in Tipton County. I also want to highlight the men and women behind the scenes who serve this County every day, because citizens deserve

to know about the people and processes that keep county government moving.

I also believe the County should have a strong, effective social media presence. Social media can be a valuable tool for sharing timely updates, explaining county projects and decisions, highlighting departments, and keeping citizens informed in a way that is direct and easy to access. Good communication helps build trust.

Q: County Executive – How will you support Tipton County Schools and their leadership moving forward? – Submitted anonymously

A: Supporting Tipton County Schools means recognizing just how important they are to the future of this County. Our public schools are one of the most important responsibilities county government helps support, because the strength of our schools affects families, communities, workforce readiness, and the future of this county. They prepare the next generation, and make Tipton County a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

I believe one of the greatest strengths I bring to this role is that I already have a strong, positive relationship with school leadership and the Board of Education. That matters, because when people know and trust one another, it is much easier to communicate honestly, solve problems, and work together for the good of our students and community.

Because I have served within the school system, I also bring a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities our schools face. That experience gives me valuable perspective and helps ensure that schools will have a voice in county-level conversations that affect their future. As County Executive, I will respect the role of the Board and administration while working to maintain open communication and a strong spirit of cooperation. Good government works best when leaders communicate well, respect one another's roles, and work together to-

ward shared goals.

planned, and respectful of the people who already call Tipton County home.

Q: What is your plan to continue Tipton County's growth while ensuring infrastructure can support it? – Submitted anonymously

A: My plan is to make sure growth in Tipton County is intentional, not accidental. We cannot afford to chase growth after the fact. We need to plan ahead so that infrastructure and county services are ready to support new development before growth begins to outpace them.

Not only does this require the long-range planning, it also requires coordination. I want county government working closely with municipalities, utility providers, schools, developers, and other local partners, so we are looking ahead instead of reacting too late. The County's vision should be to protect quality of life and community character while planning for growth supported by infrastructure and services.

It also means expecting growth to pay attention to infrastructure realities. If an area is growing, we need to be honest about what that means in traffic, road capacity, drainage, water and sewer, school impact, and emergency services. I support responsible development, but I also believe county government has a duty to ask whether the supporting infrastructure is there, whether it can be there in time, and how costs will be managed responsibly.

We should also recognize that this is not a theoretical issue. Based on Tipton County's population growth estimates and county records, the conversation matters now. Growth brings opportunity, but it also puts pressure on infrastructure and services.

So my plan is simple in principle: grow wisely, continue to coordinate early, require honest evaluation of infrastructure needs, and make decisions that protect both taxpayers and quality of life. I want Tipton County to keep growing, but I want us to grow in a way that is sustainable, well-



Municipal candidates, you're up next!

Paper Folds will publish a voter guide and host a candidate forum ahead of the Nov. 3 election.

Make sure you stay updated! Send an email to echo@paperfoldsnews.com to find out when our candidate toolkit launches!



County Legislative Body

Term length: 4 years

What this position does: County commissioners serve as the legislative body for Tipton County, passing ordinances, setting the county budget and policy, and overseeing county government functions.

Who can vote: Registered voters within the specific commission district. Find your district at tiptonco.com/election_commission.

County Legislative Body

Current officeholders

District 1: Sheila Barlow, Rusty Wooten

District 2: Justin Gangaware, Michael W.
Naifeh

District 3: Richard Kelley, John Anthony
Mashburn

District 4: Walker A. Adams, Brett A. Giannini

District 5: Randy M. Roe, Glenn Turner

District 6: Jimbo Adkins, Michelle Smith

District 7: Courtney Fee, Brad Case

District 8: James Lamont Sneed, Cecil
Watson

District 9: Jonathan Murphy, David Copeland



COUNTY COMMISSION – DISTRICT 2

Justin Gangaware

Occupation: Sales Agronomist for GreenPoint Ag

Questionnaire

Q: What prompted you to run for this office at this time?

A: At this time I'm seeking re-election to continue serving the residents of district 2 and continue building on the work we have put in over the last four years.

Q: What professional, educational, or personal experiences best prepared you for this role?

A: Having served in this role for the last four years has provided me invaluable on the job training and prepared me on going forward.

Q: What do you believe are the primary responsibilities of this office?

A: In short, the county commission is the legislative body for the county. We are in charge of setting the tax rate for the county, collecting and managing those funds for an array of services. Public safety, public works and infrastructure, and other community services are top of the list.

Q: What are the top three issues facing Tipton County right now?

A: 1.Planning and zoning and how we can foster growth in a smart and planned manner 2. Continuing to have a tight grip on the crime in which Sherrif Beasley and his department have done a nice job 3. Severe weather. The number of natural disaster declarations have been on the rise over

the last few years. Whether it's tornadoes, straight line wind events, flooding, or winter weather, the effects have put a strain on our public works department.

Q: How will you ensure transparency and accountability in this office?

A: I plan on creating a social media page dedicated to topics related to county government.

Q: How do you plan to stay engaged with constituents after taking office?

— *Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford*

A: I've always answered calls, texts, and emails and engaged in conversations on the topic at hand and will continue to do that.

Q: Do you accept campaign donations from corporate donors or PACs, and if so, how do you ensure they do not influence your decisions? — Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: No

Q: What does ethical leadership mean to you in public service?

A: Just doing the right thing for the right reasons. Sometime the right thing is not always the most popular. The balance is to vote in a matter that will bring value to the county all while keeping your constituents

trust.

Q: How would you handle a situation where you made a mistake or faced public criticism?

A: I would definitely own up to it and try my best to correct or minimize the damage from it.

Q: Why should voters choose you in this race?

A: Because I truly care for my friends and neighbors in my district. I take this job seriously and come into every vote well informed. I've enjoyed helping my constituents whether it be through the public works department or something else.

Q: What specific issue or concern motivated you to run for this office?

A: I had a former commissioner and friend come to me and shared how he thought I would be good for this role. His trust in me was the motivation that got me to run four years ago.

COUNTY COMMISSION – DISTRICT 2

James Hardin

Occupation: Business owner

Get in touch:

Instagram: @jameshardincountyco

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61585919615901&mibextid=wwX-lfr&mibextid=wwXlfr>

Questionnaire

Q: What prompted you to run for this office at this time?

A: The desire to serve my community. I feel I've learned enough lessons, mostly the hard way, that I can be a useful advocate for the people of district 2.

Q: What professional, educational, or personal experiences best prepared you for this role?

A: Running a business for over 14 years

Q: What do you believe are the primary responsibilities of this office?

A: To be an effective interagent between the citizens and local government

Q: What are the top three issues facing Tipton County right now?

A: Growth, Home Ownership, and Crime

Q: What is one issue you believe is being overlooked or not getting enough attention?

A: Young people leaving the county after college instead of settling their families here.

Q: How will you ensure transparency and accountability in this office?

A: Weekly office hours and social media interaction

Q: How do you plan to stay engaged with constituents after taking office? — Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: Monthly updates through social media

regarding potential issues, opportunities, or changes the board will be making decisions on.

Q: Do you accept campaign donations from corporate donors or PACs, and if so, how do you ensure they do not influence your decisions? — Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: I do not.

Q: What does ethical leadership mean to you in public service?

A: Putting the needs of the county above your own.

Q: How would you handle a situation where you made a mistake or faced public criticism?

A: Be upfront and apologize. Learn and grow.

Q: Why should voters choose you in this race?

A: I care deeply for my city and county. I have several new ideas I would like to propose to the board that could help promote healthy, sensible growth while maintaining our historical identity.

Q: What specific issue or concern motivated you to run for this office?

A: I have employed many young people from our county, and they are going off to college and staying gone. I would like to

help Tipton County become a destination for young families and new businesses.

Q: Describe a time you led by example. What actions did you take, and what was the outcome? — Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: Owning a business in Tipton County is a privilege most people don't get to experience. It has always been important to me to use the opportunities I'm given to be helpful, when possible. To that end, I am thankful that my restaurant was able to host, sponsor, and donate to many worthy causes resulting in a good amount of money being provided to organizations that need it.

Q: If you had \$100,000 to allocate to one priority, what would it be and why? — Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: As we all know, 100,000 doesn't go as far as it used to these days. I would love to see sensory equipment installed at several playgrounds in the county, and if there was anything left over, I would find a few minor beautification projects to do.

Q: How do you plan to improve transparency in county operations? — Submitted anonymously

A: As stated, monthly social media updates on county issues as well as office hours.

Q: What ideas do you have to ensure funding issues, such as those related to rebuilding schools, do not happen again? — Submitted anonymously

A: I think making sure the appropriate insurance is in place to begin with would be a good start.



COUNTY COMMISSION – DISTRICT 2

Michael Woods Naifeh

Occupation: Fire Chief/EMA Director

Get in touch:

Michael Naifeh County Commission District 2
on Facebook

Questionnaire

Q: What prompted you to run for this office at this time?

A: Service to the community and county I love and have lived in my entire life is the reason I continue to want to serve. Starting as a volunteer fire fighter in 1986 in Mason and then onto working as a Sheriff's Deputy, 39 years in the fire service and nearly two decades in law enforcement, this county is a special place to live and raise a family. Seeking my third term as county commissioner service before self is what drives me regardless of the negativity that comes from having your name on a ballot. It's the highest honor to serve and I do not forget that.

Q: What professional, educational, or personal experiences best prepared you for this role?

A: With nearly 39 years in the fire service and nearly two decades in law enforcement, I have always enjoyed helping those in need and giving back to the community. I hold a master's degree in business administration, National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program graduate, and have been involved in local government for the entirety of my adult life.

This coupled with my current role as a Fire Chief/Emergency Management Director have positioned me with a unique understanding of how local governments can make a positive impact on those in which we serve. Locally elected officials should always

hear the voice of those who they have the duty to represent.

Q: What do you believe are the primary responsibilities of this office?

A: As a county commissioner we are the legislative body of the county. We appropriate money for our core departments including the sheriff's department, fire department, EMS services, clerk's offices, public works department, general session judge office, along with some limited oversight of county school budgets.

We approve the budgets for the departments and then set the tax rates accordingly. In addition, we are the approving body, by state law, on zoning and rezoning issues. Future planning and long-term capital projects are also a large part of our duties.

Q: What are the top three issues facing Tipton County right now?

A: Public Safety (to include law enforcement, fire service, EMS)
Public Education funding
Future Growth planning

Q: What is one issue you believe is being overlooked or not getting enough attention?

A: There are several issues that are important to consider for the long-term health

of this county, but I believe future growth and zoning is at the top. We spent a significant amount of money on a land use plan about two years ago but now comes the work of migrating the wishes of the people into to our zoning and planning so that we can have smart growth. I know many that do not want growth, but it is or will eventually come. The county's burden is to make sure we protect the interest of the citizens while not infringing on the rights of private landowners who under the constitution have a right to do as they wish with the land as long as they met code. It is not as easy as just denying every rezoning request as we know from a long line of court cases across the state.

We have much work to do to get this right.

Q: How will you ensure transparency and accountability in this office?

A: Open meetings, both for committee and full body meetings, are essential to transparency and accountability. Unfortunately, we have very few citizens that attend our meetings at the county level and I wish more of our constituents were involved. I treasure feedback from citizens regardless of their opinion. I seek out this feedback from those I both agree with and do not agree with. It is the only way to solve any issue in my opinion.

Q: How do you plan to stay engaged with constituents after taking office? – Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: Great question and I certainly agree that elected officials should but present in the community and listen to those who have elected them. I have a social media page, and my phone and email are listed on the county website. I ask anyone with concerns to reach out to me, and I do my best to pass on important information through social media and am always available to speak to neighborhood groups or civic groups.

Q: Do you accept campaign donations

from corporate donors or PACs, and if so, how do you ensure they do not influence your decisions? – Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: I do not accept corporate and PAC donations for my office.

Q: What does ethical leadership mean to you in public service?

A: Ethical leadership is something that we hope all of our elected officials at every level would subscribe. Elected officials should not be looking for a title just to have a title or to enrich themselves or family off of connections or insider information.

Ethical leaders should put the interest of their constituents and those who are working on the public's behalf first. The only way to do this in my opinion is to work to understand the issues and seek input before making a decision or advocating for one position over the other.

Q: How would you handle a situation where you made a mistake or faced public criticism?

A: Criticism comes with trying to be a leader and or putting your name on a public ballot and unfortunately, we all make mistakes as some point in our careers. I have made some mistakes and faced criticism, but I simply own it and ask for forgiveness from those around me that I have let down. Those that know my heart will forgive and those that have an agenda against you will carry it forever. It is unfortunately the way of the world and there has been only one who walked this world without sin.

I lean on my faith and ask my Lord to forgive me and move on as best as I can while trying to be a better person, more informed, and better prepared.

Those in positions of leadership and or elected officials have to keep doing what they feel is best for their constituents. For me, I have come to realize that prayers for

discernment are the most powerful tool I have.

Q: Why should voters choose you in this race?

A: Common sense and experience.

The county is at a crossroads where we will have a new county executive, several new clerks all while trying to maintain a fiscally conservative budget that works for all of Tipton County. My thirty-nine years in public safety, two terms as a commissioner, and lifelong connection to the people of this wonderful county sets me apart from many others.

I believe my biggest strength is common sense and level headedness that allows me to evaluate every situation without getting to emotionally high or low. It serves me well on fire calls in as it did in the patrol car for all of those years. I try to treat everyone with dignity and respect. My parents wouldn't have had it any other way.

Q: What specific issue or concern motivated you to run for this office?

A: There were multiple issues but strengthening public safety in this county was the main issue I wanted to address. Since I was elected, the commission has increased the sheriff's budget around 4.5 million dollars and the county fire budget about 1.2 million dollars, including opening our second county (fully staffed) station in Charleston earlier this year. All while remaining debt free as a county.

I know that public safety has been my chosen career, but I firmly believe that without good public safety we don't have a strong county. There is certainly more we can and will do.

Q: Describe a time you led by example. What actions did you take, and what was the outcome? – Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: Thank you for the question, Amanda.

As a company officer with Memphis Fire and later in my current role as Fire Chief it is easy to lose connection with your crews and forget where you came from. In my early years in the law enforcement and the fire service the leaders that I respected the most are those who weren't afraid to get their hands dirty. I told myself that if I was ever fortunate enough to be in a leadership role that I would not forget where I came from.

When I made Lieutenant, I got transferred to a busy engine house with some senior fire fighters that were used to doing things a certain way. After some time, I wanted to change somethings that I thought would make the house more efficient but received some push back and things got a little shaky. One of the senior drivers came to me and told me that he didn't think my ideas would work. By happen stance, during this time frame, we made a couple of big fires that allowed the crews to see me work. I think that was the turning point for us.

I always made sure that I was one of the first to pick up a mop or clean the toilets and always helped clean hose and wash the truck after calls. I tried not to ask my crews to do anything that I would not do myself and I think the personnel started respecting my work ethic.

The result was that after some period of time we had grown closer as a hose. We (most of us) started working out at the same time every afternoon as group and or meals became a safe place for all of us to connect as people.

It was nothing that I did that was special or unique to leadership it is just human nature. As an elected official or as fire chief we must not forget that we are no better than anyone else and we are here to serve those that do the work on a daily basis.

Q: If you had \$100,000 to allocate to one priority, what would it be and why? – Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: Thank you for the question and as I stated earlier, I believe we need some outside experts to take a look at our zoning and planning codes. When and if growth is going to happen in the county is the million-dollar question but we only have one chance to ensure that the will of the people is done.

We need to make sure that our zoning and planning is as tightly controlled as it can be under state and federal law if we want to have a sustainable county in the next 20 to 30 years. In a recent meeting with planning experts from the University of TN, we were told that there are many things we can do to ensure that any growth that does happen is done at the highest quality level.

The balancing act is having smart codes that match what we can do under the law while not infringing on the rights of private property owners. I believe we can do it for much less than the \$100,000 in you hypothetical, but it has to be a priority.

Q: County Commission: How do you plan to improve transparency in county operations? – Submitted anonymously

A: From my perspective as a sitting commissioner nothing that we vote on or make decisions on is done outside the bounds of the sunshine law requirements. Our committee meetings, full commission meetings, and records are open to the public as they should be. I would encourage anyone with the perception that this is not the case please attend our meetings. Very few citizens attend and it seems to be the same people most of the times unless we have a zoning issue before us. If there is a specific incidence that is being referred to please reach out to me and I will get you an answer.

I would like to see all of meetings be broadcast/streamed and or posted on county website so that everyone could view at their convenience. The county has the money and resources to make this happen and I will work toward getting this done.

Q: County Commission: What ideas do you have to ensure funding issues, such as those related to rebuilding schools, do not happen again? – Submitted anonymously

A: Great question. I met with Dr. Combs several times, including with Linkous Construction, and talked with him on a regular basis during this process to try to understand the situation. He can confirm.

Both of my children graduated from Covington High School and received a great education. Their post high school success speaks to that end. My wife is a public-school teacher. I know first-hand the hard work and value that teachers bring to our community.

Moving forward I think a committee or group made up of both the school board and county finance committee should be formed. Communication is the key in any future builds so that both bodies are at least on the same page and understand the situation. If I am re-elected and faced with a similar situation, I can ensure you that setting the stage early will be a priority.

I would like to publicly thank, again, Dr. Combs, and his staff for their work to get the two beautiful, state of the art, schools built that will serve this county well for years to come.

Jason Skinner

Occupation: Operations Manager

Get in touch: Jason Skinner for Tipton County Commissioner District 4 (on Facebook)

Questionnaire

Q: What prompted you to run for this office at this time?

A: I've been interested in government for quite some time. My previous employer had strict guidelines with employees being involved in government, but after I made a career change, it gave me the opportunity I didn't have beforehand.

Q: What professional, educational, or personal experiences best prepared you for this role?

A: I've been in corporate leadership for 10+ years. Being involved with project management and finances gives me a heads up with working with a team and managing budgets responsibly. I have several licenses in emergency response and civil code which have prepared me for dealing with pressure and professional service aspects.

Q: What do you believe are the primary responsibilities of this office?

A: Having the integrity to be honest with constituents, no matter if it's the answer they want to hear, is number one. Being respectful to the citizens and ensuring the decisions I am part of making are in the best interest of the county and my district. Working well with all county leadership round out my top 3.

Q: What are the top three issues facing Tipton County right now?

A: This is would be my first term as a commissioner, so what I think or know is irrelevant. If elected, I will gain the needed information and determine what issues I feel need addressing and work with the rest of

the commission to turn negatives into positives.

Q: What is one issue you believe is being overlooked or not getting enough attention?

A: We must ensure public safety and education are always moving forward. It's neither overlooked or pushed to the side, but these 2 issues must stay a top priority for the citizens of Tipton Co.

Q: How will you ensure transparency and accountability in this office?

A: I'm a very approachable individual. All my contact information is available. If there are ever any questions of concerns I will make every effort to have them addressed and ensure follow up.

Q: How do you plan to stay engaged with constituents after taking office? — Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: I am always out and about in my district and I love talking with people in public places. I'm active on social media as well, and often engage in conversation with comments I feel add value.

Q: Do you accept campaign donations from corporate donors or PACs, and if so, how do you ensure they do not influence your decisions? — Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: No, I do not.

Q: What does ethical leadership mean to you in public service?

A: Ethical leadership involves leaders making decisions based on the right thing to do for the common good, not just based on what is best for themselves or for the bottom line. Having ethical leaders isn't as simple as hiring or electing "good" people. Communities should strive to fill their leadership ranks with people who embody the principles of ethical leadership with regard to integrity, respect, accountability, justice, service and community.

Q: Why should voters choose you in this race?

A: I love the community I live in. My wife and I chose to plant our roots here, and watch our kids grow in a safe environment. I want to serve the county to ensure Tipton County continues to be the kind of place that drew me to it 15 years ago.

Q: What specific issue or concern motivated you to run for this office?

A: There are no specific issues or concerns.



COUNTY COMMISSION – DISTRICT 5

Randy M. Roe

Occupation: Retired - former City, County, State, & Federal Law Enforcement Officer

Get in touch:

Randy M. Roe - Tipton County Commissioner (Facebook)

Questionnaire

Q: What prompted you to run for this office at this time?

A: Having served one term, encouraged to run again

Q: What professional, educational, or personal experiences best prepared you for this role?

A: Primarily, a law enforcement career motivating a sincere and genuine desire to help the community.

Q: What do you believe are the primary responsibilities of this office?

A: To pass reasonable annual budgets, protecting/safeguarding interests of citizens and ensure continuity of public services

Q: What are the top three issues facing Tipton County right now?

A: Economy; Public Safety; Infrastructure/Growth Management

Q: What is one issue you believe is being overlooked or not getting enough attention?

A: Uncontrolled growth putting pressure on infrastructure

Q: How will you ensure transparency and accountability in this office?

A: Setting clear, measurable goals and fostering open communication

Q: How do you plan to stay engaged with constituents after taking office? –

Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: Proactive communication, consistent presence and transparent governance.

Q: Do you accept campaign donations from corporate donors or PACs, and if so, how do you ensure they do not influence your decisions? – Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: No

Q: What does ethical leadership mean to you in public service?

A: Serving with integrity, honesty and accountability, focusing on the public good over personal gain

Q: How would you handle a situation where you made a mistake or faced public criticism?

A: Own it, apologize for it and implement a corrective action plan.

Q: Why should voters choose you in this race?

A: Because I understand the needs of the community; I bring real-world experience; I focus on results, not politics; I have clear priorities; I am accessible and accountable; I am trustworthy; and I care about the future

of Tipton County.

Q: What specific issue or concern motivated you to run for this office?

A: I'm running because I deeply care about the future of our community - our schools, our families and the opportunities we leave for the next generation. I'm not driven by politics, but what's best for the people. I try to bring practical, common-sense leadership focusing on real results.

Q: Describe a time you led by example. What actions did you take, and what was the outcome? – Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: As the Deputy Chief of the United States Probation Office for the Western District of Tennessee, there were many times when I faced situations where difficult decisions had to be made that not everyone agreed with. I took the time to listen to all sides, made decisions based on what was right and fair, and held firm. I always communicated openly about why I chose this or that. While not always easy, I earned respect which ultimately led to better outcomes for everyone involved.

Q: If you had \$100,000 to allocate to one priority, what would it be and why? – Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: In a small community, \$100,000 could be used where people will feel it every day - so, I'd look for ways to leverage that money to bring in additional funding, so we can multiply its impact. The goal would be simple - real improvements and real value for the people who live here.

Q: County Commission: How do you plan to improve transparency in county operations? – Submitted anonymously

A: By maintaining open and honest deliberations during times of decision making. Encourage greater citizen attendance at meetings, as it helps to enhance overall

awareness, decrease confusion and clarify misunderstandings.

Q: County Commission: What ideas do you have to ensure funding issues, such as those related to rebuilding schools, do not happen again? – Submitted anonymously

A: See response above



COUNTY COMMISSION – DISTRICT 5

Glenn Turner

Occupation: School Administrator

Get in touch:

901-409-0816

Questionnaire

Q: What prompted you to run for this office at this time?

A: I have been lucky enough to serve the citizens of District 5 for a four terms and I wanted to continue representing District 5 and Tipton County with managing planned growth that is expected in our county the next 4 years.

Q: What professional, educational, or personal experiences best prepared you for this role?

A: I have spent the majority of my working career as a school administrator and have been involved in youth and school sports these have afforded me the opportunity to develop great relationships with Tipton County residents.

Q: What do you believe are the primary responsibilities of this office?

A: Working with the county commissioners to maintain fiscal responsibility and ensure that the county's regulations help enhance the quality of life in Tipton County.

Q: What are the top three issues facing Tipton County right now?

A: Growth management/development, infrastructure improvements, and quality job attraction.

Q: What is one issue you believe is being overlooked or not getting enough

attention?

A: We as a county are not overlooking this issue but we haven't received much help from the state as of yet but lack of sewer availability in the eastern part of county, especially the Hwy 14 corridor is concerning.

Q: How will you ensure transparency and accountability in this office?

A: Our general meetings and committee meetings are open to the public and are advertised. County government is audited by the state's comptroller office each year and those results are made public.

Q: How do you plan to stay engaged with constituents after taking office? –

Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: I regularly have constituents phone, email, or Facebook message me with questions, concerns, etc.

Q: Do you accept campaign donations from corporate donors or PACs, and if so, how do you ensure they do not influence your decisions? – Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: I do not accept campaign donations to run for county commission.

Q: What does ethical leadership mean to you in public service?

A: Doing the right thing even when no one is looking sums it up. Ethical leadership doesn't change in private or public service. Doing the right thing should never go out of style.

Q: How would you handle a situation where you made a mistake or faced public criticism?

A: I'm certainly not perfect and do learn from my mistakes. I have been criticized on social media and been reflected on negatively in newsprint at times. I try to take the negatives that are spoken about me and see if I can use anything said to improve my performance or decisions. I would rather than someone hammer me on social media to call and ask me about a situation. I have decided long ago that I'm not going to combat keyboard warriors but I do ask that people engage in meaningful dialogue with me.

Q: Why should voters choose you in this race?

A: I'm experienced as a commissioner and want to represent the citizens of Tipton County. I listen to the residents and do my best to vote their interests.

Q: What specific issue or concern motivated you to run for this office?

A: When I initially sought office, I wanted to be a voice for the people and help keep the charm of Tipton County.

Q: Describe a time you led by example. What actions did you take, and what was the outcome? – Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: When I was principal I used to supervise our round of second load buses loading and then personally answer the phone until 4 or after every day. Someone asked me one time why I did that and I said I get to talk to the kids in a relaxed atmosphere and try to build positive relationships. I answered the phone because if parents called

with questions or concerns I possibly could help or handle that situation at that time and not let it carry over to the next day. I enjoyed that hour of my day because of the interactions with the students and community.

Q: If you had \$100,000 to allocate to one priority, what would it be and why? – Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: \$100,000 could help with renovations to existing buildings or funds to complete different studies on infrastructure improvements and needs. Infrastructure improvements are a major area of need in our county.

Q: County Commission: How do you plan to improve transparency in county operations? – Submitted anonymously

A: Our general meetings and committee meetings are advertised open to the public. Each department is included in the internal management audit each year and those results are made public.

Q: County Commission: What ideas do you have to ensure funding issues, such as those related to rebuilding schools, do not happen again? – Submitted anonymously

A: This is a complex answer because there were several layers with private and government entities involved in rebuilding the two schools that were damaged from the tornado. It is unusual that one school would be a loss from a natural disaster much less two which increased that difficulty. I don't know that insurance companies will ever want to easily pay out 65-70 million dollars but as a county we need to always keep any leverage that we have in that situation.

Michelle Smith

Occupation: Realtor

Get in touch:

Facebook: Michelle Smith County Commissioner Dist 6

Questionnaire

Q: What prompted you to run for this office at this time?

A: I have enjoyed serving the county and wanted to continue doing so.

Q: What professional, educational, or personal experiences best prepared you for this role?

A: I am a Realtor so I am accustomed to working well with people. I have a background in accounting so serving on the finance committee made sense. I wanted to help my neighbors with any problems or concerns.

Q: What do you believe are the primary responsibilities of this office?

A: To serve the county and be a good steward, try to be a conservative, Christian leader.

Q: What are the top three issues facing Tipton County right now?

A: Growth, public safety, juvenile crime

Q: What is one issue you believe is being overlooked or not getting enough attention?

A: I believe every issue is addressed as the need arises

Q: How will you ensure transparency and accountability in this office?

A: By being available to my constituents and answering any questions they may have.

Q: How do you plan to stay engaged

with constituents after taking office? – Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: I am available by phone, email, etc. I attend all meetings that I am able to attend.

Q: Do you accept campaign donations from corporate donors or PACs, and if so, how do you ensure they do not influence your decisions? – Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: No

Q: What does ethical leadership mean to you in public service?

A: Doing what is right for the county even when it's inconvenient, consistency is important

Q: How would you handle a situation where you made a mistake or faced public criticism?

A: I always pray about decisions that affect the county and try to make the best decision that will benefit everyone.

Q: Why should voters choose you in this race?

A: I enjoy my position and I do more than just attend meetings. I go to conferences as well as take classes on government issues so that I may serve my constituents well.

Q: What specific issue or concern motivated you to run for this office?

A: I wanted to continue projects that we have started

Q: If you had \$100,000 to allocate to one priority, what would it be and why? – Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: Public safety because that has to be top priority

Q: County Commission: How do you plan to improve transparency in county operations? – Submitted anonymously

A: I believe there is a great level of transparency now

Q: County Commission: What ideas do you have to ensure funding issues, such as those related to rebuilding schools, do not happen again? – Submitted anonymously

A: I do not agree that there were funding issues with the rebuild. The insurance process is complicated but it is a process. I believe the School Board, Dr. Combs did a good job in handling such a horrible situation for our schools.



COUNTY COMMISSION – DISTRICT 7

Brad Case

Occupation: Global Project Manager/Johnson & Johnson

Get in touch:
901-409-0816

Questionnaire

Q: What prompted you to run for this office at this time?

A: I am seeking re-election because I believe our community deserves someone who is honest, accessible, and focused on getting things done. Too often, people feel disconnected from the decisions that impact their daily lives. I want to continue to step up, represent our district with transparency, and make sure the voices of the people here are heard, respected, and acted on. I'm not good at a lot of things in my life, but caring for, having empathy for, and listening to the needs of people and then turning that into action is something that has always been tattooed on my heart. In all of my decision making as Commissioner in District 7, the one and only thing I want the voters to remember is this: You are first, period. Not one thing I vote for and not one decision I make is self-motivated. The voters and community of District 7 are an extension of my family, and I for darn sure won't let anyone mess with my family. YOU voted for me when you could've chosen someone else. That is a responsibility and a level of trust that won't ever be compromised nor taken for granted. I listen to the people of District 7 and 100% vote and make decisions based on that... Period.

Q: What professional, educational, or personal experiences best prepared you for this role?

A: I've been fortunate to build a foundation of experience through my career, education, and public service that has prepared me for this role. In my work as a Global Project Manager with Johnson & Johnson, I've learned how to lead complex projects, solve problems efficiently, and work with people from a wide range of backgrounds to achieve results all over the world. When major decisions surrounding our district come before me, I approach the process steps and decision making in the same manner I would any project that I have successfully lead.

My academic background includes a Bachelor's degree in Social Services from Belhaven University, a Master's in Public Policy and Administration from Northwestern University, and a PhD in Social Psychology from Liberty University. That combination has given me a deeper understanding of both policy and people—how decisions are made and how they impact real lives.

Most importantly, my service as County Commissioner for District 7 since 2022 has given me direct, hands-on experience working for our community. It's where theory meets reality, and where I've been able to focus on practical solutions that make a difference locally.

Q: What do you believe are the primary responsibilities of this office?

A: 100%, being the representative and the voice of the people and community that voted for you and to represent them as a gentleman with honor and respect.

Q: What are the top three issues facing Tipton County right now?

A: Tipton County is facing a few key challenges that are all connected to our continued growth. First, we are seeing increased pressure on our infrastructure such as roads, utilities, and public services as more people move here to our county. Managing that growth in a way that preserves our quality of life is critical.

Second, like many communities, families are feeling the impact of rising costs and economic uncertainty. Supporting smart economic development and ensuring opportunities for good-paying jobs remains a priority.

Finally, education and workforce development are essential to our future. We need to make sure our schools are preparing students not just for graduation, but for meaningful careers, while also supporting the needs of local businesses.

These issues are interconnected, and addressing them thoughtfully will be key to ensuring Tipton County continues to grow in a strong and sustainable way.

Q: What is one issue you believe is being overlooked or not getting enough attention?

A: Communication and Transparency between local government and the people/voters. Decisions are made and lives are changed without enough input from those who these choices affect most.

Q: How will you ensure transparency and accountability in this office?

A: Transparency and accountability start with clear communication and accessibility. I believe the people of our community deserve to know not only what decisions are being made, but why they are being made

and to have an avenue to voice any and all comments or concerns. I am merely the voice and vote for the people of District 7 and it is them and ONLY THEM that motivates every decision made as a commissioner.

I have and always will prioritize open lines of communication and being accessible to constituents, whether that's through posts on social media, text/phone calls, or my favorite, going door to door. It's important that people feel informed and have the opportunity to be heard and to have a stake in the decisions being made.

Accountability also means taking responsibility for decisions and outcomes. I believe in setting clear expectations, following through on commitments, and being willing to listen and adjust when needed. Public service is about earning trust, and that requires openness, consistency, and a genuine willingness to serve.

Q: How do you plan to stay engaged with constituents after taking office? – Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: Since taking office in 2022, I have consistently made myself available in my community's day to day lives by always being out and about in my district, going by their houses just to say "hi" and to see if there is anything they need from me. One of my pet peeves is for someone to get elected and then have them disappear only to show back up on people's doorsteps during "election year" with a big smile on their face asking for their vote.

Q: Do you accept campaign donations from corporate donors or PACs, and if so, how do you ensure they do not influence your decisions? – Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: No campaign donations or corporate donors or PAC's. The only money I raise is

through the shirts I make here at my house (using my own money to do so) and from people in my district who want to support me... which I normally decline.

Q: What does ethical leadership mean to you in public service?

A: To me, ethical leadership in public service means making decisions based on what is right for the community, not what is easiest or most politically convenient. It requires honesty, consistency, and a willingness to put the public's interest above personal or political gain.

Ethical leadership also means being transparent in how decisions are made, taking responsibility for outcomes, and treating people with fairness and respect. It's about building trust through actions, not just words.

At the end of the day, public service is a responsibility, not an entitlement. Ethical leadership means showing up every day committed to serving others with integrity and accountability.

Q: How would you handle a situation where you made a mistake or faced public criticism?

A: If I make a mistake or face public criticism, the first step is to acknowledge it directly and take responsibility. No one in public service is perfect, and accountability starts with being honest when something doesn't go as planned. I believe it's important to listen carefully to concerns, understand the impact of the situation, and communicate clearly about what happened and what steps will be taken to address it. People deserve transparency, not defensiveness. Most importantly, I would focus on correcting the issue and learning from it to ensure it doesn't happen again. Public trust is built not by avoiding mistakes, but by how you respond when they occur.

Q: Why should voters choose you in this race?

A: Simply put: The people and community

of District 7 know they can trust me and that I have nothing but their interests and voice behind every vote and decision made. Seriously, if an elected official sticks to the principle of LISTENING and VOTING based on the feedback from the people and community that voted for them, this job becomes a lot more simple.

Q: What specific issue or concern motivated you to run for this office?

A: From the feedback and sentiment I have heard from the people I represent, it is that contractors and people who aren't from Tipton County want to come out here and poach our land to develop it into the next Collierville or Cordova or Bartlett. There is a fear that Tipton County has come into the crosshairs of Big Business and Big Money that want to remove the rural normalcy and values that we all love and cherish about Tipton County and replace it with corporate branding and west coast values. To which I say: That's a cute plan, but it ain't happening in District 7 as long as I'm in office...

Q: Describe a time you led by example. What actions did you take, and what was the outcome? – Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: A recent example that stands out is a rezoning issue that generated strong opinions from multiple sides of the community. Situations like that require more than just making a decision—they require listening, understanding concerns, and being present.

I made it a priority to engage directly with residents, hear their perspectives, and ensure that all voices were considered before any decision was made. Leading by example, to me, meant being accessible, transparent, and willing to have honest conversations, even when they were difficult.

The outcome was a more informed decision-making process that reflected the input of the community, while also reinforcing trust

that their concerns were heard and taken seriously and in the end, my community of District 7 was heard and the rezoning and subsequent development was taken off the table all together.

Q: If you had \$100,000 to allocate to one priority, what would it be and why? – *Submitted by Amanda Faurbo*

A: If I had \$100,000 to allocate to one priority, I would focus on addressing the growing impact of the opioid crisis in our community. Specifically, I would invest those funds into supporting or establishing a local rehabilitation and recovery initiative.

This could include partnering with existing providers, expanding access to treatment resources, and supporting programs that help individuals not only recover, but successfully reintegrate into society. The opioid crisis affects not just individuals, but families and the broader community.

Investing in recovery is not only the right thing to do, it's also a long-term solution that can reduce strain on our healthcare system, law enforcement, and local resources. Helping people get back on their feet strengthens the entire community.

Q: County Commission: How do you plan to improve transparency in county operations? – *Submitted anonymously*

A: Improving transparency in county operations starts with making information more accessible, understandable, and consistent. I believe residents should be able to easily see how decisions are made, how funds are allocated, and what progress is being made on key initiatives.

In the age of social media and communication we live in today, the ease of getting information out to the masses has never been easier or convenient. Personally, I have a "Commissioner" page on Facebook that I use to relay information. However, nothing beats taking time out of your day to simply go to people's front door to talk to them and get their feedback on important decisions

and or issues.

Transparency is not just about making information available, it's about making it meaningful and accessible so people can truly understand what is happening in their local government.

Q: County Commission: What ideas do you have to ensure funding issues, such as those related to rebuilding schools, do not happen again? – *Submitted anonymously*

A: Ensuring funding challenges like those related to rebuilding schools do not happen again starts with better planning, transparency, and long-term accountability. Large projects require clear financial forecasting, realistic budgeting, and consistent oversight from the beginning.

We can easily strengthen the budgeting process by prioritizing long-term capital planning, regularly reviewing funding projections, and making adjustments early rather than reacting late. It's also important to ensure that communication between county leadership, school officials, and the public remains clear and consistent throughout the process. Increasing transparency around how funds are allocated and tracked can help prevent gaps or surprises. When people can clearly see where funding stands at each stage, it builds trust and allows for earlier course correction if needed.



COUNTY COMMISSION – DISTRICT 7

Courtney Fee

Occupation: High School Principal

Get in touch: cfee21@aol.com

FB messenger to Courtney Fee

Questionnaire

Q: What prompted you to run for this office at this time?

A: The desire to serve our community, and specifically the people of District 7.

Q: What professional, educational, or personal experiences best prepared you for this role?

A: Because of my years of experience as a county commissioner and as a member of the Finance Committee, I am prepared and ready to serve Day 1. Also preparing me for this work is my daily role of principal of the district's largest high school. In my daily work, I interact with all types of families and all types of people. That experience prepares me to serve all the constituents within our county, and specifically in District 7.

Q: What do you believe are the primary responsibilities of this office?

A: The primary role of the Commissioner is to serve the people of a district by being their voice on the County Commission--as Commissioner, you represent your constituents as you conduct business with other commissioners. Another responsibility is to hear your constituents needs, and identify if any type of county services can offer solutions. Our overall responsibility is to make decisions that are in the best interest of our county and our constituents so that the strong quality of life we enjoy is sustainable.

Q: What are the top three issues facing Tipton County right now?

A: Wastewater sewer and future strategies to ensure capacity; strategic planning for desired growth in the county, and ensuring strong, sustainable schools within our county.

Q: What is one issue you believe is being overlooked or not getting enough attention?

A: I believe we enjoy a strong quality of life in this county where issues are addressed. As mentioned earlier though, planning for strategic growth is critical--it's a balance.

Q: How will you ensure transparency and accountability in this office?

A: I am always available to answer any questions about a vote or an issue.

Q: How do you plan to stay engaged with constituents after taking office? — Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: I'm easily accessible by phone, FB, and email, and I'm often out and about in our area.

Q: Do you accept campaign donations from corporate donors or PACs, and if so, how do you ensure they do not influence your decisions? — Submitted by Jessica

Miller, Munford

A: I do not accept donations from corporate donors or PACs.

Q: What does ethical leadership mean to you in public service?

A: Ethical leadership means that I am 100% responsible for my decisions and interactions as we conduct the county's business. It also means that when doing business, interactions with others are authentic, in good conscience, and with good intentions. Our goal is always to conduct business in a way that moves our county forward.

Q: How would you handle a situation where you made a mistake or faced public criticism?

A: Making a mistake and facing public criticism are two different things. With mistakes, you commit to being present, listening to the critics, and offering explanations and improvement/recovery plans when appropriate. With regard to public criticism, the question that drives my response is whether it is criticism based on truth or rumor. As mentioned earlier, I am 100% accountable for my actions and will respond when a response is appropriate.

Q: Why should voters choose you in this race?

A: My experience on the Commission and as a leader on the Finance Committee, my accessibility to the constituents of District 7, and my commitment to represent our constituents' voices as we conduct the county's business.

Q: What specific issue or concern motivated you to run for this office?

A: No specific issue, simply wanting to preserve the strong quality of life in our county.

Q: Describe a time you led by example. What actions did you take, and what was the outcome? — Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: Although I do not like to revisit it, a time I led by example was during COVID as a school leader. We did not really know what to do during that time, although we kept going, developed many plans, and kept people moving forward in the midst of absolute uncertainty. We carried on in the face of tremendous adversity, made decisions that were not always popular, and kept moving forward. Leadership is quite difficult at times, and that time period tested us all. We all navigated it and have rebounded well since then.

Q: If you had \$100,000 to allocate to one priority, what would it be and why? — Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: Juvenile services, because I believe we have some opportunities in the area of prevention of and response to juvenile delinquency.

Q: How do you plan to improve transparency in county operations? — Submitted anonymously

A: See previous answer.

Q: What ideas do you have to ensure funding issues, such as those related to rebuilding schools, do not happen again? — Submitted anonymously

A: The role of the Finance Committee is to evaluate funding issues as they arise, and prepare as best we can for unforeseen circumstances. Additionally, we are there to ensure the taxpayers' dollars are spent wisely. We cannot predict all the financial issues that may arise in our future, however, I commit to addressing them with a measured approach, evaluating all aspects of the issue, and offering my authentic voice and vote.



COUNTY COMMISSION – DISTRICT 7

Alvis Ferrell

Occupation: Maintenance Tech

Get in touch: ALVIS FERRELL Facebook

Questionnaire

Q: What prompted you to run for this office at this time?

A: I want to be a part of the new era in Tipton County Government. I was recently unaware of some things that were happening in our county and my district. I want to do what i can to make our county government more transparent and keep my constituents informed.

Q: What professional, educational, or personal experiences best prepared you for this role?

A: I was on the school board for 14 years and have worked in industry in many roles of supervision and maintenance.

Q: What do you believe are the primary responsibilities of this office?

A: To represent the people that elect you and keep them informed about what our county government is doing. Most of all the primary responsibility to be available to all the people of district 7.

Q: What are the top three issues facing Tipton County right now?

A: More good paying jobs Vocational Training for students Support for Public Education

Q: What is one issue you believe is being overlooked or not getting enough attention?

A: Transparency and accountability

Q: How will you ensure transparency and accountability in this office?

A: I would like to see the county commission meeting live streamed. I also plan to post the agenda and the notes from the meetings

Q: How do you plan to stay engaged with constituents after taking office? — Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: I will make posting on Facebook and post my email address and give out my phone number.

Q: Do you accept campaign donations from corporate donors or PACs, and if so, how do you ensure they do not influence your decisions? — Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: No I am self supported and i am not supported by any political group.

Q: What does ethical leadership mean to you in public service?

A: Being 100% transparent and not doing anything that a Christian would not do.

Q: How would you handle a situation where you made a mistake or faced public criticism?

A: If I made a mistake i would admit to it and do my best to make it right.

Q: Why should voters choose you in this race?

A: I bring common sense and many years of experience fixing things.

Q: What specific issue or concern motivated you to run for this office?

A: Recent zoning proposals for district 7 and not hearing anything about it until someone outside my district asked me about it.

Q: Describe a time you led by example. What actions did you take, and what was the outcome? — Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: As a supervisor and a maintenance technician i always lead by example. I solve problems with the best possible outcome my times.

Q: If you had \$100,000 to allocate to one priority, what would it be and why? — Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: Vocational Education

Q: How do you plan to improve transparency in county operations? — Submitted anonymously

A: By posting meetings and results on Facebook and push for live streaming the meetings.

Q: What ideas do you have to ensure funding issues, such as those related to rebuilding schools, do not happen again? — Submitted anonymously

A: Be sure we have the sufficient insurance for rebuilding schools or county buildings.



COUNTY COMMISSION – DISTRICT 9

David Copeland

Occupation: Financial Representative

Get in touch:

Facebook: District Nine for David Copeland

Questionnaire

Q: What prompted you to run for this office at this time?

A: Having the ability to continue to move Tipton County forward and bring the services and amenities to our citizens that they deserve. I have had the privilege to work on several projects in this capacity that truly make a difference and look forward to all that we have planned for this great county.

Q: What professional, educational, or personal experiences best prepared you for this role?

A: I have done work most of my career that impact families, finances and businesses to achieve their goals and objectives.

Q: What do you believe are the primary responsibilities of this office?

A: To serve the county's citizens. To spend taxpayer money wisely. To fund services that impact the daily lives of the people of Tipton County. And to look for opportunities that would enhance the lives of our citizens and help with the continued success of Tipton County.

Q: What are the top three issues facing Tipton County right now?

A: Responsible growth. good paying jobs and finding ways to reduce our juvenile crime.

Q: What is one issue you believe is being overlooked or not getting enough attention?

A: Many citizens have suggested that we have more public spaces; like parks, beautiful walking trails, dog parks, and somewhere that families can go for recreation, IE pickleball courts. Utilizing the river as a major local and tourist attraction, they all go hand in hand.

Q: How will you ensure transparency and accountability in this office?

A: My phone number, email address are on the county's website; so contact me anytime.

Q: How do you plan to stay engaged with constituents after taking office? – Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: My fellow county commissioner Murphy and I hold "community awareness" meetings in both Brighton & Atoka; where ALL residents of Tipton County are welcome; not just district 9 folks. We have speakers to help educate like senior scams, weather awareness, Alzheimer's awareness, etc... and we bring other elected officials in to explain their office duties as well. At the end of the day I work for all 9 districts; and glad to do so.

Q: Do you accept campaign donations

— JASON —
FLEMING
STATE HOUSE

Paid for by The Committee to Elect Jason Fleming — Jim Wyatt, Treasurer

Vote

JAMES HARDIN

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Paid for by the Committee to Elect James Hardin

from corporate donors or PACs, and if so, how do you ensure they do not influence your decisions? – *Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford*

A: no I do not.

Q: What does ethical leadership mean to you in public service?

A: It means being honest, accessible, open minded, and willing to listen to all sides to come to a conclusion that is beneficial for the citizens and the county.

Q: How would you handle a situation where you made a mistake or faced public criticism?

A: you own it, explain it, apologize for it

Q: Why should voters choose you in this race?

A: I take this position seriously. I'm very accessible to my constituents, I want to work others in the county who have the counties best interest at heart. I hold community awareness events to keep you informed. I feel the voters want someone who can make the best decisions even though they maybe hard and at times unpopular. I bring a level head, open mind to all ideas, and a willingness to listen as well as I have experience in county government. I have been a good steward of taxpayers money; I support law enforcement (I ride with our deputies several times a year to better understand what issues they may need and support them in keeping YOU safe. I'm a big proponent of our great public school system and all their achievements. It's a privilege to serve ALL of Tipton County.

Q: What specific issue or concern motivated you to run for this office?

A: I just wanted to be involved in the county that I loved so much and one that has been good to my family and to help set the table for the next generation's success

Q: Describe a time you led by example. What actions did you take, and what was the outcome? – *Submitted by Amanda Faurbo*

A: I lead by example everyday with integrity and honesty. Whether that be helping families secure their financial future or the counties financial future.

Q: If you had \$100,000 to allocate to one priority, what would it be and why? – *Submitted by Amanda Faurbo*

A: Using that money to increase spay/neuter programs. Our animal shelter is almost full and we can not adopt our way out of this pressing issue. Please spay and neuter your pets.

Q: County Commission: How do you plan to improve transparency in county operations? – *Submitted anonymously*

A: Our meetings are posted, the minutes are posted and they are open to the public and hold more community awareness events

Q: County Commission: What ideas do you have to ensure funding issues, such as those related to rebuilding schools, do not happen again? – *Submitted anonymously*

A: We can't do anything to prevent a natural disaster and thankfully no one was hurt at the schools. The schools had insurance and we didn't have to raise taxes to build the beautiful new schools.



COUNTY COMMISSION – DISTRICT 9

Jonathan G. Murphy

Occupation: Funeral Director

Get in touch:

Questionnaire

Q: What prompted you to run for this office at this time?

A: First and foremost, I have always had a desire to serve others. This county has experienced tremendous growth over the last 30 years and I would like to continue to serve as we grow even more in the coming years.

Q: What professional, educational, or personal experiences best prepared you for this role?

A: As a funeral director, one of my responsibilities when serving a family is listening. As an elected representative, listening to those you represent cannot be overstated. You are the voice of the people in government, so listening is paramount.

Q: What do you believe are the primary responsibilities of this office?

A: The primary responsibility of the office of County Commissioner is to ensure that the county and all its entities are run efficiently and that there is no waste of taxpayers money.

Q: What are the top three issues facing Tipton County right now?

A: 1 - Public Safety. A safe county is an inviting, welcoming county

2 - Zoning. A growing county must be responsive and smart in its growth plans

3 - Education. A growing county must

provide continued educational opportunities to young adults such as those offered by TCAT and Dyersburg State

Q: What is one issue you believe is being overlooked or not getting enough attention?

A: Infrastructure. Water and sewer infrastructure will need to continually addressed as new housing developments are built.

Q: How will you ensure transparency and accountability in this office?

A: A continual reminder that all meetings are open to the public is the best way to ensure transparency in government.

Q: How do you plan to stay engaged with constituents after taking office? –

Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: My co-commissioner, David Copeland and I stage community awareness meetings for our constituents and will continue to stage those meetings in the future. Additionally, I have my contact information made available on the county website so any constituent can contact me at any time.

Q: Do you accept campaign donations from corporate donors or PACs, and if so, how do you ensure they do not influence your decisions? – Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: No.

Q: What does ethical leadership mean to you in public service?

A: It means being honest in all of your actions while serving in the office.

Q: How would you handle a situation where you made a mistake or faced public criticism?

A: Admit it and face it head on. Rectify the mistake if at all possible.

Q: Why should voters choose you in this race?

A: I have almost 10 years in this office serving the people of district 9. I hope that the voters would return me to office to capitalize on that leadership moving forward.

Q: What specific issue or concern motivated you to run for this office?

A: There was not a specific issue that lead me to want to run. There was a vacancy on my first term and I felt that the commission job was one that suited my desire to serve.

Q: Describe a time you led by example. What actions did you take, and what was the outcome? – Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: When Blue Oval began construction, the county realized that there were no regulations regarding travel trailers. The committee on which I serve and am chairman, began to work with the planning commission to address the issue. After a number of meetings and over a period of several months, travel trailer regulations for the county were formally adopted.

Q: If you had \$100,000 to allocate to one priority, what would it be and why? – Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: Fire protection. The county is in the midst of growing its fire department and those funds would be of help to the fire service.

Q: County Commission: How do you plan to improve transparency in county operations? – Submitted anonymously

A: I believe that there is transparency in county operations. Budgets for each department are available for examination as well as minutes from each county commission meeting as well as committee meetings.

Q: County Commission: What ideas do you have to ensure funding issues, such as those related to rebuilding schools, do not happen again? – Submitted anonymously

A: I believe that communication and cooperation are the backbone of good government.

County Trustee

Term length: 4 years

What this position does: The trustee acts as the county treasurer — collecting property taxes and other revenue, managing county funds and investments, and distributing money to other county accounts as required.

Current officeholder: Kristie Glass Maxwell

Who can vote: Registered voters who live in Tipton County

On the ballot: Kristie Glass Maxwell



COUNTY TRUSTEE

Kristie Glass Maxwell

Occupation: Tipton County Trustee

Get in touch:

Kristie Glass Maxwell on Facebook

Questionnaire

Q: What prompted you to run for this office at this time?

A: It has been an honor to represent Tipton County for the last 20 years as Trustee. I love my job. Helping our citizens daily is a passion of mine and our entire office.

Q: What professional, educational, or personal experiences best prepared you for this role?

A: Finance has been an interest of mine since I was a child. I followed that instinct and obtained a BBA in Finance. Prior to becoming Trustee, I enjoyed a 20 year career in banking.

Q: What do you believe are the primary responsibilities of this office?

A: The primary responsibilities of the Trustee are:

- 1- to collect County taxes
- 2- to keep a fair and accurate record of funds received and disbursed
- 3- serve as the County's banker and to invest temporary, idle funds for the County
- 4- administer the State's Tax Relief program. I also believe it is our responsibility to help our citizens and to give them excellent service.

Q: What are the top three issues facing Tipton County right now?

A: As far as the Trustee's office, we are working to find additional space to store our

tax roll books. We are also working to find as many convenient ways as possible for our taxpayers to pay their taxes. We have operated a satellite office (during tax season) at Munford City Hall since 2006. It has been very successful in assisting our citizens in the south end of the County. We also accept payments online, by mail, and in person at the Courthouse in Covington M-F from 8-5. As postage rates continue to increase, alternate methods of reminding taxpayers about their taxes will need to be explored.

Q: What is one issue you believe is being overlooked or not getting enough attention?

A: I would love for every citizen that may qualify for the State's Tax Relief program to apply for it. Information is listed on the back of the annual tax bill that is mailed out each October. This program is available to our Senior Citizens & Disabled Citizens (an income limit applies). It is also available for our Disabled Veterans and the Widows/Widowers of our Disabled Veterans.

Q: How will you ensure transparency and accountability in this office?

A: Our office provides monthly financial reports to the County Executive, County Commissioners, and the County Clerk who files them with the minutes of the County Com-

mission meetings. We are audited annually by the Comptroller's Office and to date, we receive a clean audit annually.

Q: How do you plan to stay engaged with constituents after taking office? – Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: I will continue to work one on one daily with our constituents when they are in the office and when they call the office. I will continue to be available to them for anything for which I may help them. I will continue to return phone calls and answer emails promptly.

Q: Do you accept campaign donations from corporate donors or PACs, and if so, how do you ensure they do not influence your decisions? – Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: I have not had any campaign donations to date.

Q: What does ethical leadership mean to you in public service?

A: To me it means being fair and courteous to our constituents, our staff members, and others that you come in contact with and being consistent with the application of State laws among all taxpayers.

Q: How would you handle a situation where you made a mistake or faced public criticism?

A: Like any mistake, I would try to learn from it, move on, and be as productive as I could be to get the job done.

Q: Why should voters choose you in this race?

A: My staff and I have done the best job we can for the County. We have a seasoned staff with over 80 years of combined service. They are excellent and they are what makes us look good. We strive to work well with other County offices and we strive to provide our internal customers and our external

customers with excellent service. We do our very best to help anyone who calls or comes in the office. We have consistently maintained excellent tax collection percentages and we work diligently, daily to invest County funds for a maximum return with keeping safety of the funds as our top priority.

Q: What specific issue or concern motivated you to run for this office?

A: When I was in banking, I dealt with the Trustee's office and I learned a little more about what the office did. Ms. Laura Max, the previous Trustee, announced her plans to retire in 2006. I have always loved and been very proud to be from Tipton County. There was also a long history of excellent County Officials in Tipton County, with whom I had always admired. I hoped to be able to serve our citizens in this office while doing a job I thought I would love and representing the County I loved.

Q: Describe a time you led by example. What actions did you take, and what was the outcome? – Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: I'm a pretty simple person. I come to work and I try and do the best job that I can and I try and help as many people as I can. I hope I make a positive difference in our Citizen's day and situation.

Q: If you had \$100,000 to allocate to one priority, what would it be and why? – Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: We have been very fortunate in our office to work with a County Commission that has always been in tune with the needs of our office and they have provided funding for our necessities.

Tipton County Sheriff

Term length: 4 years

What this position does: The sheriff is the county's chief enforcement officer – they enforce state and local laws, manage the county jail and deputies, secure the courthouse and perform civil process duties.

Current officeholder: Shannon Beasley

Who can vote: Registered voters who live in Tipton County

On the ballot: Shannon Beasley



SHERIFF

Shannon Beasley

Occupation: Sheriff

Get in touch:

I can be reached on Facebook under my name, Shannon Beasley

Questionnaire

Q: What prompted you to run for this office at this time?

A: I began my career with the Sheriff's Office in November of 1990 as a Reserve Deputy and was hired full time in August of 1991 at the age of 19. I have served the citizens of Tipton County since then, which is basically my whole adult life. After the previous Sheriff retired in 2021, I wanted to continue my service and felt as though I still had something to offer to our community. With the support of my family and the previous Sheriff, I was appointed by the County Commission in October of 2021 to fill the remainder of that term until the 2022 election cycle. I knew at the time of my appointment in October of 2021 that I was going to run for election in August of 2022. I was humbled and blessed to be elected in August and have proudly served as the Sheriff of Tipton County since then and I again look forward to continuing to serve another term after the August 2026 election. I am unopposed in this election cycle, thankfully. I am asked every day why I continue to put out campaign signs and I tell everyone that serving as the Sheriff of this county is a blessing and I would never take this job and the responsibilities lightly. I want the people I serve to know that I appreciate them and take nothing for granted.

Q: What professional, educational, or personal experiences best prepared you

for this role?

A: Growing up, my parents instilled morals and ethics in me, taught me right from wrong and to use my manners. I was like any other kid and that sometimes came with tough lessons such as being grounded from activities I loved or sometimes with a belt... but I never forgot those lessons and was being taught there were consequences for my actions, or lack thereof. My dad put me to work at his gas station in Covington when I was about 13 years old and taught me simple life lessons in a work environment and how to teach people and customers. I graduated from Covington High School in 1989 and attained an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice from Dyersburg State Community College. During that time, I continued to work for my dad at his gas stations until I took the job at the Sheriff's Office. I attended the Law Enforcement Training Academy in 1992 and throughout my career I have had numerous specialized training courses such as DUI Instructor, SWAT, Chemical Munitions, Firearms Instructor, Supervisory courses, Critical Incident training to name a few. The training I believe help mold me to take on command and leadership roles throughout my career is the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA. I graduated from this 10 week leadership program in June of 2009 and this training certainly prepared me

for where I am today. I have been blessed with great role models such as my parents, my father-in-law and previous Sheriffs that helped develop me to who I am today. Some of you are aware that my father and father-in-law were also law enforcement officers as well, so I didn't really have a fighting chance to do anything else!!

Q: What do you believe are the primary responsibilities of this office?

A: There are many responsibilities of a Sheriff day in and day out however, the primary responsibilities of a Sheriff are serving our citizens, courts, serving civil process and operating the jail. This answer could be lengthy but I will try to keep it short as possible. The Sheriff and all the men and women of our office are responsible for:

- * Keeping the peace (which most people see every day with our marked patrol division cars)
- * Investigating crimes and narcotics investigations
- * Courts - providing building security, maintaining security and order in the courts, executing court orders or actions
- * Serving legal process
- * Jail Operations - booking/releasing inmates, meal prep and feeding, medical, court prep, transport of inmates to and from appointments, timely and daily logs of inmate actions/care, work crews, litter crews, safety of inmates and maintaining training of corrections officers just to name a few.
- * Mayor/County Commission - working with and being transparent with the Mayor and county commission. Having the trust of these men and women allows us to operate smoothly. I have been and will continue to be transparent with them because their trust in me to spend your tax dollars wisely makes the difference in how we are able to operate within our communities and I thank them for that.

As I stated, this one could get lengthy but I hope I have given you a very brief insight of the duties and the Sheriff's responsibilities.

Out of everything mentioned, the jail is a monster in itself and carries a lot of responsibility with the required duties and care of inmates however, each and every division is a valuable part of our operation and carries much responsibility. The whole operation has to work like a "well oiled machine".

Q: What are the top three issues facing Tipton County right now?

A: For law enforcement, I think that protecting our communities is top priority. Although the violent crime in Memphis has seen a drastic decrease recently, it is important that all law enforcement in Tipton County continue to work alongside one another to reach the same goal...keeping violent crime out and protecting our citizens. Not only do all of our law enforcement agencies within Tipton County work together, it's just as important that we work with other surrounding counties and municipalities to combat area crimes because criminals have no boundaries. Crime is mostly fueled by illegal narcotics so the battle with drugs is and always will be a priority.

Outside of law enforcement, I think the biggest issue we face is future growth and infrastructure strain. With the Ford Motor Company as our next door neighbor I believe that growth is certain to come, which can and will effect crime as well. However, growth can be good if it is done with the proper oversight and leadership from our county officials. Growth can bring a lot of activities, parks and businesses that many folks always say we wish we had here, but currently do not.

Economic issues and cost of living have affected everyone and I think continue to be an issue we face, but so does most Tennesseans. The cost of living soared during and post COVID and although some daily items have lowered slightly in price, they are still high compared to pre-COVID prices.

Q: What is one issue you believe is

being overlooked or not getting enough attention?

A: From a law enforcement stand point I would say one thing being overlooked and needs more attention is mental health. Our office, as well as all other law enforcement agencies, deal with this issue every day and we have seen mental health issues soar over the years. There seems to be limited resources or at least facilities (beds) to properly house these patients. The length of care seems shorter and it is like “get them in, get them out” and a revolving door. There is no doubt that the number of mental health beds across the state has decreased drastically than where we were 30 years ago. Unfortunately, many of these mental health consumers end up in jail for crimes they committed or for their absolute own personal protection from themselves and to others. The jail is not the place for some of these people and they need to be in facilities getting the professional care they need.

In light of these mental health issues, a large portion of our personnel have received Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to help our personnel better understand those dealing with crisis and how to hopefully talk to and treat these individuals. Our goal is to have all of our personnel trained in CIT and we are trying to send them each time a class is available.

Q: How will you ensure transparency and accountability in this office?

A: In one of the first questions in this survey, I mentioned about how, as a child and teenager, I was held accountable for my actions or lack thereof. We all must hold one another accountable as bosses, supervisors and even co-workers. Accountability ensures that the proper things are done, how they are done and when they are done.

Especially in today's society, people expect transparency from law enforcement and government officials. In a world full of social media today, we use social media to keep our citizens informed on arrests that stir pub-

lic interest, community involvement/public relation events, crimes occurring across the county, driving safety tips, severe weather alerts/tips, special operations we conduct and many other uses.

In 2023, I was able to work with the County Commission and secured body cameras for our personnel. These cameras afford us transparency on complaints, actions and arrests. The body cameras give us a great tool to investigate complaints made by the public, the actions/responses of our deputies and the evidence needed in the court room, which allows us transparency and accountability. These cameras also afford us great training tools as well when we find things that went right or maybe could have been handled differently.

Q: How do you plan to stay engaged with constituents after taking office? – Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: As the Sheriff, I am out of the office probably more than other elected officials and this allows me to be out in the community more. Seeing constituents is probably easier for me than other elected officials due to the nature of the job. I am able to attend neighborhood watch meetings that County Commissioners hold in their districts, I attend our schools to be with our children and faculty, and talk to church groups. As the Sheriff, I rely on our community residents to help be the eyes and ears for us when we aren't around, I need our citizens just as much as they need us...this is a partnership that is needed in order for us all to be successful.

Q: Do you accept campaign donations from corporate donors or PACs, and if so, how do you ensure they do not influence your decisions? – Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: A Sheriff is different than other elected officials that may be running for state

held political positions but a Sheriff cannot accept a donation directly from a corporation. A PAC can make a donation but only a limited amount, and I believe that amount differs when dealing with state elected offices being sought? Whether it is a corporate donor or PAC, a Sheriff does not vote on nor set new laws, that is done by the state legislative body so there is nothing there to be influenced for a Sheriff. As far as a local level, a Sheriff, just like any other candidate running for county office, accepts donations to help fuel their campaign. These donations are accepted and documented via the state campaign funding report. A contribution is accepted as a token of appreciation and not with a "favor" owed. A contribution allows you to buy campaign paraphernalia but what a candidate wants is the contributors support at the ballot box and the support of all their friends knowing that they are supporting the right man or woman for the job...you don't have the right man or woman if there is a "favor" or an influence attached.

Q: What does ethical leadership mean to you in public service?

A: Ethical leadership is just this...your integrity, morals and ethics. It is doing what is right or making the right decision, even when it is not the popular decision. Being fair across the board, leading by example and treating everyone with dignity and respect...and expecting your staff to do the same.

Q: How would you handle a situation where you made a mistake or faced public criticism?

A: We are all human and make mistakes, so it is going to happen. When it does happen -- own it, deal with it, correct it, learn from it and move on.

Many times, people want to criticize right off the bat but we must deal with facts. Acting without facts can make things worse so make sure you have the facts on any situation. In our profession the worst thing you can do is ignore or stay silent. You must at

least acknowledge the perceived mistake and investigate from there. Being transparent helps keep public trust.

As the leader of a law enforcement agency, and all other leaders of their respective agencies, have endured criticism...especially from social media warriors. We get it, not everyone is going to agree with some decisions we have to make, so you have to be prepared and willing to take that criticism.

Q: Why should voters choose you in this race?

A: I choose to run for Sheriff because I have dedicated my whole adult life serving Tipton Countians and proud to do so! I have worked my way through the ranks from Deputy to, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, Chief and now Sheriff. I have built strong relationships across the county and I am committed to serving Tipton County with integrity and experience. I will continue our tough on crime approach and do all we can to keep Tipton County safe.

Although I am unopposed, I do not take this job for granted. I am still putting out campaign signs out of respect for this office and the respect of the community. I can't thank you enough for entrusting me with this office and I humbly ask for your vote at the ballot box!!

Q: What specific issue or concern motivated you to run for this office?

A: Nothing in specific other than I have been here my whole career and I want to continue with the work we have done.

Q: Describe a time you led by example. What actions did you take, and what was the outcome? – Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: Unfortunately, in this profession, you have many times that you are put into positions to lead by example, and not always in a leadership role. For me as Sheriff, I think back to the tornado of 2023 when it ripped

through Brighton and Covington. From the point it was over and we began giving medical attention to the injured, not being able to get ambulances or emergency personnel to those in need and overcoming those obstacles. Working with utility crews so they could get to areas to do their jobs, to working with public works and citizens clearing roadways. After those initial things began to unfold, I knew that it was a matter of time before the thieves would hit the roads in search of items to steal, further victimizing our citizens that just lost everything or most everything they had. We quickly began overtime operations and put deputies in neighborhoods to deter these thefts...but they came anyway. We took a hard stance and worked with the DA's office and the courts to show zero tolerance for this behavior and we made several arrests for these thefts and let them know that Tipton County was not the place for them to commit their crimes. There were so many aspects of the destruction this tornado left behind but we came together as a whole community and stood strong together.

Q: If you had \$100,000 to allocate to one priority, what would it be and why? – Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: Outside of the office, I would allocate to either mental health or drug addiction, which sometimes go hand in hand.

Inside the office, I would definitely invest in my staff. Without our men and women, I am nothing and our county would not be safe, our jail would not run, our courts would not function, cases would not get solved and our administrative offices would collapse. These men and women go to work everyday and never know what the day brings them. I would not worry about equipment or material things, I would invest in them...period.

Q: Sheriff: How can you improve transparency within the sheriff's department? – Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: In today's society, people expect transparency from law enforcement and government officials. In a world full of social media today, we use social media to keep our citizens informed on arrests that stir public interest, community involvement/public relation events, crimes occurring across the county, driving safety tips, severe weather alerts/tips, special operations we conduct and many other uses.

In 2023, I was able to work with the County Commission and secured body cameras for our personnel. These cameras afford us transparency on complaints, actions and arrests. the body cameras give us a great tool to investigate complaints made by the public, the actions/responses of our deputies and the evidence needed in the court room, which allows us transparency and accountability. These cameras also afford us great training tools as well when we find things that went right or maybe could have been handled differently.

As of now, I handle almost all of our social media posts and all press releases. We use social media as a tool to let the public know what we are doing, things that are going on across the county, travel conditions due to traffic crashes, severe weather related reports, etc... I certainly would like to see our social media posts improve to help get even more of our messages out so that our citizens see more of what we are doing. Transparency is the key to trust with our citizens.

County Clerk

Term length: 4 years

What this position does: The county clerk maintains public records, issues business licenses, processes vehicle registrations and marriage licenses, and handles election documentation and filings.

Current officeholder: Mary Gaither

Who can vote: Registered voters who live in Tipton County

On the ballot: April Fortner



COUNTY CLERK

April Fortner

Occupation: Administrative Assistant @ Tipton County Clerk

Get in touch:

<https://www.facebook.com/fortnerfortiptoncountyclerk>

Questionnaire

Q: What prompted you to run for this office at this time?

A: After sixteen years of dedicated service to the community as County Clerk, Mary Gaither has decided to retire. I felt it was necessary to run for County Clerk to ensure a smooth transition and make certain we maintain the outstanding standards and service set at our office.

Q: What professional, educational, or personal experiences best prepared you for this role?

A: For 23 years, I have worked at the County Clerk's Office, gaining experience across each department. I feel that my comprehensive understanding of daily operations has equipped me for this next stage in my career.

Q: What do you believe are the primary responsibilities of this office?

A: The County Clerk's Office is responsible for a wide range of tasks, including issuing motor vehicle registrations and titles, boat registrations, collecting privilege taxes, notary applications and bonds, and managing the issuance of marriage licenses, business licenses, beer permits, and birth certificates. In addition, we keep the records for the County Legislative Body and serve as its

acting Clerk. My years of experience and knowledge have given me the expertise and understanding needed to effectively maintain the duties of this office.

Q: How will you ensure transparency and accountability in this office?

A: The County Clerk's Office is dedicated to upholding transparency whenever appropriate. Much documentation handled by our office is not considered public record. Nonetheless, we implement many checks and balances to promote employee accountability and monitor performance.

Q: How do you plan to stay engaged with constituents after taking office? –

Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: As your County Clerk, I am committed to being accessible and engaged with the community. I will be a working clerk, which means you will see me actively assisting at the counter in both our Covington and Munford offices. My presence at these locations will ensure that I stay connected to the daily operations and the needs of our citizens. Additionally, my door is always open to anyone who has questions or concerns about our office. I encourage open communication and

welcome all feedback, as it is important to me that everyone feels heard and supported.

demonstrate leadership by example through my attitude, dedication, and commitment to serving the citizens of Tipton County.

Q: What does ethical leadership mean to you in public service?

A: Ethical leadership is exemplified through the ongoing implementation of empathy, transparency, integrity, and respect. I am committed to upholding these principles in all aspects of my service as County Clerk.

Q: How would you handle a situation where you made a mistake or faced public criticism?

A: When faced with a mistake or public criticism, I believe it is important to respond with dignity and integrity. Making mistakes is a natural part of life - nobody is perfect. What truly matters is how one conducts themselves after the mistake occurs. How you handle such a situation shows your character and commitment to accountability.

Q: Why should voters choose you in this race?

A: My experience and expertise allow me to effectively guide this office toward continued progress and success at the County Clerk's Office.

Q: What specific issue or concern motivated you to run for this office?

A: I wanted to ensure that the County Clerk's Office remained in capable hands. Having a candidate with direct experience in our office is essential in maintaining success in our office.

Q: Describe a time you led by example. What actions did you take, and what was the outcome? – Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: While I cannot identify a particular instance, I consistently strive each day to

Circuit Court Clerk

Term length: 4 years

What this position does: The circuit court clerk manages records for the Circuit Court and other county courts, maintains filing and docket systems and collects court fees.

Current officeholder: Mike Forbess

Who can vote: Registered voters who live in Tipton County

On the ballot: Connie Fayne, Shane Waits



CIRCUIT COURT CLERK

Connie Fayne

Occupation: Chief Deputy Clerk

Get in touch: Facebook-Fayne for Circuit Court Clerk

Questionnaire

Q: What prompted you to run for this office at this time?

A: The number of years I've dedicated to public service and as Chief Deputy, I'm already in a leadership position.

Q: What professional, educational, or personal experiences best prepared you for this role?

A: Associate Degree in Business/Accounting plus forty-one years of experience.

Q: What do you believe are the primary responsibilities of this office?

A: Maintain court and financial records, assist the judge and professional customer service.

Q: What are the top three issues facing Tipton County right now?

A: Activities for youths, juvenile detention center and treatment for the mentally ill.

Q: What is one issue you believe is being overlooked or not getting enough attention?

A: Literacy in our youth.

Q: How will you ensure transparency and accountability in this office?

A: Working closely with my staff, judges and law enforcement. Make sure that my staff is well trained and have open commu-

nication with them and the public. I will be involved with daily tasks when it comes to court and financial records.

Q: How do you plan to stay engaged with constituents after taking office? — Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: Visibility in the office and community involvement.

Q: Do you accept campaign donations from corporate donors or PACs, and if so, how do you ensure they do not influence your decisions? — Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: I haven't received any donations from corporate donors or PACs. If I were to accept donations, I would not let that influence my decisions in any way. Always abide by the law.

Q: What does ethical leadership mean to you in public service?

A: To me it means commitment to my staff and the citizens of Tipton County. Always treating people how you want to be treated. Displaying integrity and honesty.

Q: How would you handle a situation where you made a mistake or faced public criticism?

A: If I made a mistake, if it something that

can be fixed, correct it. Public criticism is always something that election officials face. Evaluate the situation to see if it needs to be addressed or not and strive to do better.

Q: Why should voters choose you in this race?

A: Forty-one years of experience, chief deputy, familiarity with each court and book-keeping abilities.

Q: What specific issue or concern motivated you to run for this office?

A: One of the main things I think about is how people should be treated when they enter our office.

Q: Describe a time you led by example. What actions did you take, and what was the outcome? — Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: An elderly man came into the office and did not understand the outcome of his daughter's case. I went to him face to face and explained to him the disposition and also located her attorney so that he could talk to him as well. He seemed to understand the process clearer.

Q: If you had \$100,000 to allocate to one priority, what would it be and why? — Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: Mental health care. Because so many people with mental health issues come through the court system and in Tipton County there are limited resources for treatment and housing available to them.

Q: What is your vision for the office, including modernization or maintaining current systems? — Submitted anonymously

A: First is great customer service. The employees will be a well and dual trained. All clerks have scanners and will be prepared for electronic filing when becomes available. It has been budgeted to upgrade our com-

puter system and add additional employees.



CIRCUIT COURT CLERK

Michael “Shane” Waits

Occupation: Deputy Court Clerk

Get in touch:

Shane Waits for Circuit Court Clerk - Facebook

Questionnaire

Q: What prompted you to run for this office at this time?

A: With the announcement of Mike Forbess, the current Circuit Court Clerk, retiring, I felt that there was a need to keep some consistency while also simultaneously embracing the changes that will inevitably be coming. I want to serve Tipton County by being a part of that process and applying my years-long background as a Deputy Clerk to help ensure that our office continues to perform at maximum efficiency

Q: What professional, educational, or personal experiences best prepared you for this role?

A: Not only have I worked directly in the office of Circuit Court Clerk, but I have also dealt with the public within other areas such as during my time managing at The Covington Leader prior to taking my current position. In addition, I run my own small, part-time business, Tipton County Printing, where customer service is the main goal. Those skills are necessary when working with the public.

Q: What do you believe are the primary responsibilities of this office?

A: The primary responsibilities are keeping accurate and accessible records, maintaining an organized docket, and assisting the public. For instance, such assistance may

include entering a new filing, researching a record, or helping drivers find out what steps need to be taken so as to get their license reinstated.

Q: What are the top three issues facing Tipton County right now?

A: a. Training - New laws and regulations are constantly changing, in addition to software updates that are implemented from time to time whereas consistent training would be beneficial

b. Limited Record Keeping Space - Presently, we have records in three separate locations across north Tipton County. Having a singular location where they could all be safely stored would be a top priority.

c. Public Awareness - For the most part, the general public is unaware of the services online that allow them to access their court date, see the amount that is owed on fines, or simply pay fines online. Getting this information out would greatly cut down on time spent answering calls.

Q: What is one issue you believe is being overlooked or not getting enough attention?

A: I feel like office training for the Deputy Clerks would prove invaluable to the office. My goal will be to get as much training for the deputy clerks as possible. Recently there

have been adjustments made in the disbursements of costs on criminal and traffic cases where a fund for training is in place. Utilizing these funds would offset some of the budgeted costs from the county.

Q: How will you ensure transparency and accountability in this office?

A: Although there are already many safety nets in place to ensure the accuracy of this office such as regular audits and publicly accessible files (with the exception of juvenile and sealed records) that can be viewed upon request, my ultimate goal would be to have all records scanned electronically as to have even easier access to those records.

Q: How do you plan to stay engaged with constituents after taking office? – Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: I have always and will continue to volunteer in this community. For instance, I have served on the Covington-Tipton County Chamber of Commerce board since 2014 and been involved with multiple other events around the county for even more years than that. I have no intentions of changing and am going to make efforts to get involved with other organizations. Moreover, I will be accessible to the public at any point in time as I don't just work in Tipton County, my family and I live here.

Q: Do you accept campaign donations from corporate donors or PACs, and if so, how do you ensure they do not influence your decisions? – Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: I have not received any campaign donations other than those from private individuals that just genuinely want to see me succeed. And as far as decision-making goes, the office of the Circuit Court Clerk really holds no power or control over decisions; we have to follow the laws and rules that are already set in place. Nevertheless, I plan on consulting with the office manager on any in-office decisions as another per-

spective can always show a different “angle” that might be overlooked by the eyes of just 1 individual.

Q: What does ethical leadership mean to you in public service?

A: Ethical leadership to me is self-explanatory. As a Christian, I try to make all my decisions with the thought of “is this right?” I have had other opportunities over the years that would have made financial sense, but did not sit well with me and I do not regret turning those down. At the end of the day, I have to be able to sleep at night. Working under the public eye can be very difficult but inevitably ethics must be maintained for the integrity of both the office and county.

Q: How would you handle a situation where you made a mistake or faced public criticism?

A: Mistakes can and will be made as we are all human. All you can do after a mistake is face it, take accountability, and move forward. With regards to public criticism, it is going to happen no matter what you do. Like most others, I have experienced on some level or another within my own private life, and although nobody likes to be criticized, you have to put it behind you. Being a public servant and in the public eye, you cannot please everyone. (prayer helps too!)

Q: Why should voters choose you in this race?

A: I feel like I am the best candidate for this position being I am the only candidate in this primary, with 13 years of hands-on experience in the office. I also know how the other deputy clerks operate and where their strengths lie as well as having strong working relationships with all law enforcement agencies, defense attorneys, public defenders, district attorneys, and judges. Paired with this office's “service-oriented” dynamic and my years-worth of customer service

experience, I feel I am the perfect fit that would enable this office to run as smoothly, efficiently, and effectively as possible for all parties, especially the public.

Q: What specific issue or concern motivated you to run for this office?

A: With the announcement of the current Circuit Court Clerk, Mike Forbess, not seeking re-election, I have decided to run for this position with his endorsement. I am wanting the chance to advance from the current position I have held for the past 13 years working under Mike in his office. I also want to play a part in taking this office to the next level as we enter this next era and move forward in this digitized world while also maintaining the integrity, discretion, and respect this office has always championed for over the years.

Q: Describe a time you led by example. What actions did you take, and what was the outcome? – *Submitted by Amanda Faurbo*

A: In previous jobs, I have and still do try to intervene when situations with a customer escalate and co-workers become overwhelmed not knowing how to handle the situation. More times than not, people just want to be heard, so just listening to what they need and acknowledging them first helped invariably. It not only helped fellow employees, but also the customer as well to see that most issues can be resolved in a calm and peaceful manner.

Q: If you had \$100,000 to allocate to one priority, what would it be and why? – *Submitted by Amanda Faurbo*

A: If I had \$100,000 at my disposal, I would probably allocate it to technology, which is still a broad range. Digital filing is on the way and having more info accessible to the public via online not only would give better service to everyone, but would also cut down on the time deputy clerks spend answering simple “when is my court date”

type questions. The more productive we can be, the better we can serve without increasing manpower.

Q: Circuit Court Clerk: What is your vision for the office, including modernization or maintaining current systems?
– *Submitted anonymously*

A: One of my priorities will be to have current files scanned in for convenience and easier accessibility. Once we have current files scanned, then move onto previous years where we could move the hard copies out of the front office and clear space. Moving forward, digital is on the way. I think as with a lot of projects and updates, that keeps getting delayed and pushed back on more than just one level throughout the state. I would like to be able to receive an email or phone call, and within a matter of minutes send a pdf version of the file without having to pull a hardcopy and going through the process of scanning to an email and refiling the document.

Register of Deeds

Term length: 4 years

What this position does: The register records legal documents — especially deeds, mortgages and property transfers — preserving the official land record for the county.

Current officeholder: Claudia Peeler

Who can vote: Registered voters who live in Tipton County

On the ballot: Trena Jones, Stephanie Presley



REGISTER OF DEEDS

Trena Jones

Occupation: Deputy Register of Deeds

Get in touch:

Trena Jones for Tipton County Register of Deeds — Facebook

Questionnaire

Q: What prompted you to run for this office at this time?

A: I decided to run for the Register of Deeds office at this time because, I've dedicated more the 20 years to serving the people of Tipton County in this office.

Q: What professional, educational, or personal experiences best prepared you for this role?

A: The experience that has best prepared me for this role is, I've proudly served Tipton County for over 32 years, including 12 years as Deputy Assessor of Property and over 20 years of service in the Register of Deeds office where I'm presently still working as Deputy Register of Deeds. I've worked with every aspect of the office's responsibilities, I do all the ordering and I keeps a record of all expenditures and the balance of each account monthly. With my experience, I'm ready to continue serving Tipton County with dedication and integrity.

Q: What do you believe are the primary responsibilities of this office?

A: The Register of Deeds office is responsible for recording and maintaining public land records, collection recording fees and taxes and protecting important documents like property deeds, mortgages, and land records and ensuring they remain accurate and accessible for our citizens.

Q: What are the top three issues facing Tipton County right now?

A: Public Safety 2) Education 3) Infrastructure. I know the Register of Deeds doesn't set policies on these issues, but I do feel the office plays a supporting role. With accurate land records and reliable public access to records, I feel do help our county local government make the best informed decisions for our county.

Q: What is one issue you believe is being overlooked or not getting enough attention?

A: After 20 years working in this office, I've seen how technology has changed the way we serve the public. Most people don't think about the Register of Deeds office until they're buying a home, recording a deed or searching for important documents. We have a responsibility to ensure they're accurate, secure and easily accessible for our future generation.

Q: How will you ensure transparency and accountability in this office?

A: As Register of Deed my commitment is to lead and operate with professionalism, follow all state laws, be accountable for the work we do and provide reliable service every day.

Q: How do you plan to stay engaged with constituents after taking office?

A: My commitment is to remain visible, be accessible because the Register of Deeds office is here to serve the people of Tipton County.

Q: Do you accept campaign donations from corporate donors or PACs, and if so, how do you ensure they do not influence your decisions?

A: Yes, I do accept campaign donations from corporate donors, as permitted by the law. However, the contributions do not and will not influence my decisions. Regardless of where a lawful contribution comes from, it will not influence how I perform the duties of the Register of Deeds office. My responsibility is to serve every citizen fairly, ethically, and with integrity.

Q: What does ethical leadership mean to you in public service?

A: To me ethical leadership means treating everybody the same as I would want them to treat me.

Q: How would you handle a situation where you made a mistake or faced public criticism?

A: If I made a mistake, I would take responsibility, correct it as soon as possible, and put measures in place to prevent it from happening again.

Q: Why should voters choose you in this race?

A: The voters should choose me because I've proudly served Tipton County for more than 32 years, including 12 years as Deputy Assessor of Property and presently serving more than 20 years as Deputy Register of Deeds. With my experience, I'm ready to continue serving Tipton County with dedication and integrity. I'm not running to learn the job I'm running because I'm prepared to lead it. I know the office, I know the work and I

understand the people we serve. I believe experience matters, and I would bring knowledge, and a strong work ethic to this role every day.

Q: What specific issue or concern motivated you to run for this office?

A: The issue that motivated me to run for this office is making sure the Register of Deeds continues to provide the level of service to the people of Tipton County.

Q: Describe a time you led by example. What actions did you take, and what was the outcome?

A: There is no specific example for me. When a customer comes in the office, I try to help them solve their issues so when they leave the office they're satisfied with the service they received.

Q: If you had \$100,000.00 to allocate to one priority, what would it be and why?

A: If I had \$100,000 to allocate to one priority, I would give it the Boys and Girls club, because I believe youth development and academic success is the future.



REGISTER OF DEEDS

Stephanie A. Presley

Occupation: Real Estate Closing Agent, Owen & Witherington Attorneys at Law

Get in touch:

Stephanie Presley for Register of Deeds — Facebook

Questionnaire

Q: What prompted you to run for this office at this time?

A: This is truly the next step in my career. The question was presented to me, if I wanted to run, so I did not hesitate.

Q: What professional, educational, or personal experiences best prepared you for this role?

A: As a closing agent, I don't just see one side of the process — I see real estate from beginning to end. I understand what attorneys, lenders, and title companies expect. I know how errors happen, how to catch them, and how to prevent them. I understand how critical it is that once documents are submitted, they are recorded accurately and efficiently. I also manage escrow accounts, where I am entrusted with large sums of money that must be balanced to the penny. That requires discipline, transparency, and accountability — qualities essential in any public office, especially one that handles official records and fees.

Q: What do you believe are the primary responsibilities of this office?

A: I believe this office should be run with efficiency, accuracy, and a commitment to the public. It should be a place where records are handled correctly the first time, where the public is treated with respect, and where the integrity of our county's history is

protected.

Q: What are the top three issues facing Tipton County right now?

A: Growth in the north end of the county; cost of affordable housing; cost of affordable rent.

Q: What is one issue you believe is being overlooked or not getting enough attention?

A: How to have growth in the north end of the county that people can agree on and be proud of.

Q: How will you ensure transparency and accountability in this office?

A: I am committed to bringing my experience, work ethic, and dedication to detail into the Register of Deeds office. This office is transparent — all records are viewable to the public.

Q: How do you plan to stay engaged with constituents after taking office? — Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: I want this office to be involved with county activities. It is important to me to give back.

Q: Do you accept campaign donations from corporate donors or PACs, and if so, how do you ensure they do not influence

your decisions? – *Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford*

A: No, this is not allowed.

Q: What does ethical leadership mean to you in public service?

A: I believe all people should have ethics. Ethical leadership is a must in my opinion as a public servant for the county.

Q: How would you handle a situation where you made a mistake or faced public criticism?

A: Everyone can make a mistake — we are all human. People who work with me will tell you: if I make a mistake I will own it. Public criticism... people will always have their opinions. I am pretty thick-skinned, so most criticism rolls off me. If I need to address it, I will. If it doesn't merit addressing, I will let it be.

Q: Why should voters choose you in this race?

A: My experience in real estate. I am not learning this business — I have lived it for the last 25 years.

Q: What specific issue or concern motivated you to run for this office?

A: I have been in this business since Ms. Peggy Spain was the Register of Deeds. She and Claudia both ran a wonderful, efficient office. My goal is to carry on that tradition.

Q: Describe a time you led by example. What actions did you take, and what was the outcome? – *Submitted by Amanda Faurbo*

A: I had a closing just last week where we were down to the wire. Buyers needed to get moved as soon as possible. They were getting a government-backed loan and approval came in very late in the afternoon. Everyone was in a panic. I arranged for the buyers to come in at almost 5pm so they could get

closed and have the weekend to move in. Time is of the essence in my job.

Q: If you had \$100,000 to allocate to one priority, what would it be and why? – *Submitted by Amanda Faurbo*

A: My church has several charities they support. I would probably allocate it to one of those.

Tipton County School Board

Term length: 4 years

What this position does: School board members set local education policy, approve the school district budget, hire/supervise the superintendent and oversee district academic and operational priorities.

Who can vote: Registered voters within the specific commission district. Find your district at tiptonco.com/election_commission.

Tipton County School Board

Current members (terms ending 2026):

District 2: Loretta Eubanks

District 4: Matt McCann

District 6: Jason L. Jenkins

District 8: Mike Gill

On the ballot: Christopher Sage (D2), Matt McCann (D4), Audrey Ferrell Eckel (D6), and Mike Gill (D8)

Christopher Sage

Occupation: Pharmacist

Questionnaire

Q: What prompted you to run for this office at this time?

A: I was prompted to run because I believe strong schools are essential to the long-term health of a community. As a lifelong resident of Tipton County, the husband of a teacher, and the father of two children in our local schools, I have a direct and personal understanding of how school decisions affect families, educators, and students. I believe this is the right time to serve by bringing a thoughtful, steady, and student-centered voice to the board.

Q: What professional, educational, or personal experiences best prepared you for this role?

A: I believe my professional training, educational background, and personal connection to our schools have prepared me well for this role. I graduated from Covington High School in the Top 10 of my class, attended Christian Brothers University, and earned my Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Pharmacy. As a pharmacist, I have been trained to analyze information carefully, communicate clearly, act ethically, and make decisions that require both precision and accountability. Beyond my professional background, this role is personal to me. Covington has been my home for more than 40 years. My wife is a teacher, both of our children attend our local schools, and I continue to maintain meaningful ties to Covington High School. I understand that school board decisions affect classrooms, families, teachers, and the long-term direction of the community. I would bring to the board a

combination of analytical discipline and local commitment.

Q: What do you believe are the primary responsibilities of this office?

A: The primary responsibility of this office is responsible governance. A school board should set direction through policy, provide careful oversight of public resources, support accountability, and ensure that decisions are consistently focused on the best interests of students. I do not view the role as one of micromanaging educators or daily school operations. Rather, the board should ask thoughtful questions, evaluate information carefully, listen to the community, and work with school leadership to create the conditions necessary for academic growth, teacher effectiveness, fiscal responsibility, and public trust.

Q: What are the top three issues facing Tipton County right now?

A: The three issues I see as most important are student achievement, teacher and student support, and responsible stewardship. Student achievement must remain the central focus. Our schools should be preparing students not only to graduate, but to think clearly, work hard, communicate well, and succeed in a rapidly changing world. With the rise of artificial intelligence, new technology, and changes in the workforce, students need strong academic foundations, sound judgment, adaptability, and the ability to use tools responsibly. At the same time, we must recognize that success does not look the same for every student. College preparation is important, but so is preparation for

technical careers, skilled trades, military service, and direct entry into the workforce. Teacher and student support is also critical. Strong schools require strong classrooms, and strong classrooms require teachers who are respected and supported, along with students who are held to clear expectations in a safe and orderly environment. Finally, Tipton County must plan wisely for the future, which includes infrastructure, finances, staffing, and community trust. A school board should make decisions with long-term discipline, transparency, and a clear understanding that today's choices shape the future of our children and our community.

Q: What is one issue you believe is being overlooked or not getting enough attention?

A: One issue I believe does not always receive enough attention is whether we are preparing every student for life after graduation in a practical and realistic way. Academic achievement is essential, but readiness should mean more than earning a diploma. Students need strong reading, math, communication, and critical-thinking skills, but they also need exposure to career paths, technical training, skilled trades, financial responsibility, work ethic, and the changing role of technology and artificial intelligence. That means preparing students for college, technical careers, skilled trades, military service, blue-collar professions, and direct entry into the workforce. Success does not look the same for every student, and our schools should help each student leave with strong judgment, practical skills, adaptability, personal accountability, and a clear and meaningful path forward. At the same time, the school system should remain accountable for whether students are truly being prepared for the demands of adult life.

Q: How will you ensure transparency and

accountability in this office?

A: I would ensure transparency and accountability by being prepared, asking informed questions, communicating clearly, and making decisions in a way that the public can understand and evaluate. School board members are entrusted with students, public resources, and community confidence, and that trust should be handled carefully. Transparency means the community should know what decisions are being made, why they are being made, and how those decisions serve students. Accountability means looking honestly at results, reviewing data, following through on goals, and being willing to adjust when something is not working. I also believe accountability requires accessibility. Board members should be willing to listen, be responsive to concerns, and remain connected to the families, teachers, staff, and community members they serve. I would work to keep decisions focused on students, grounded in facts, and respectful of the taxpayers, families, teachers, and staff who depend on the school system.

Q: How do you plan to stay engaged with constituents after taking office? — Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: I plan to stay engaged with constituents by remaining accessible, listening consistently, and communicating clearly. A school board member should not only be visible during campaign season, but should remain connected to the parents, teachers, staff, students, and taxpayers affected by board decisions. I would make it a priority to listen to concerns, attend school and community events when possible, respond thoughtfully to questions, and maintain open lines of communication. I also believe engagement requires humility. Board members should be willing to hear different perspectives, ask good questions, and make decisions with an understanding of how those decisions affect

classrooms, families, and the broader community. Ultimately, staying engaged means remembering that this office exists to serve the public. I would work to be present, prepared, responsive, and focused on the long-term success of our students and schools.

Q: Do you accept campaign donations from corporate donors or PACs, and if so, how do you ensure they do not influence your decisions? — Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: No

Q: What does ethical leadership mean to you in public service?

A: Ethical leadership means doing what is right even when no one is looking. In public service, it means remembering that the office exists to serve the people, not the individual holding the position. It requires honesty, humility, fairness, transparency, and the discipline to make decisions based on principle rather than convenience or pressure. For a school board member, ethical leadership also means being a responsible steward of public trust. Decisions should be made with care, preparation, respect for taxpayers, and a consistent focus on what is best for students, families, teachers, and the long-term health of the school system.

Q: How would you handle a situation where you made a mistake or faced public criticism?

A: As a Christian, I believe we are all fallible, and that belief should produce humility rather than pride. If I made a mistake, I would first acknowledge it honestly. Public service requires the willingness to take responsibility, correct what can be corrected, learn from the situation, and move forward with greater wisdom. If I faced public criticism, I would try to listen carefully before reacting. One of my known strengths is the ability to separate emotion from substance, evaluate

the facts, and think through difficult situations clearly. Some criticism may be unfair, but some may reveal concerns that deserve attention. I would want to respond with maturity, accountability, clear communication, and respect for the people I serve. Leadership is not proven by never making a mistake or never being criticized. It should be proven by how a person responds when those moments come.

Q: Why should voters choose you in this race?

A: Voters should choose me because I have a personal stake in our schools, a lifelong commitment to this community, and the professional discipline to make thoughtful decisions. Covington has been my home for more than 40 years. I graduated from Covington High School, my wife is a teacher, and both of our children attend our local schools. As a pharmacist with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree, I am trained to analyze information carefully, communicate clearly, and make decisions with accountability. I would bring that same approach to the school board: student-centered, fact-based, transparent, and focused on long-term improvement. This race is not about personal recognition. It is about stewardship and helping our schools prepare students for the future. I would work to be a steady, accessible, and responsible voice for students, families, teachers, staff, and taxpayers.

Q: What specific issue or concern motivated you to run for this office?

A: The specific concern that motivated me to run is student readiness after graduation. I want our schools to prepare students not only academically, but also practically, with the judgment, accountability, work ethic, and adaptability needed for life after high school. The timing of my decision also came from encouragement within the community. Several people who know me and

my connection to Covington encouraged me to consider serving. When Ms. Loretta Eubanks shared that she would not be seeking another term, I began to think seriously about whether this was the right time for me to step forward. After considering the needs of our students, families, teachers, and community, I felt a responsibility to offer myself for service.

Q: Describe a time you led by example. What actions did you take, and what was the outcome? — Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: Throughout my life and career, my approach to leadership has been shaped by a simple principle: I should never ask someone to do something I would not be willing to do myself. In every leadership role I have held, I have tried to lead by example through consistency, fairness, preparation, and a willingness to step in when needed. Professionally, I have always cared deeply about the trust of the people I lead. While accountability to supervisors is important, I believe the true measure of leadership is often found in how the people working alongside you experience your leadership. I have tried to earn that trust by staying involved in the day-to-day work, treating people with respect, and holding everyone to the same standard regardless of their position. Two of the greatest compliments I have received reflect that philosophy. One person told me she had never had a manager who was still willing to do the daily work and jump in when needed. Another told me that I treated everyone the same regardless of who they were. To me, that is leading by example: setting the standard through your own actions, serving alongside others, and creating trust through fairness and consistency.

Q: If you had \$100,000 to allocate to one priority, what would it be and why? — Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: If I had \$100,000 to allocate to one priority,

I would divide it among our schools and allow each school to use its portion based on its specific needs. Tipton County is not one-size-fits-all. From Atoka to Brighton, Munford to Drummonds, and Covington to every school community in between, each part of our county has its own strengths, challenges, student populations, and local needs. The people closest to those schools often have the clearest understanding of how funds can make the greatest impact. That money could be used for academic support, classroom resources, student readiness, technology, career preparation, safety, or other practical needs identified at the school level. I believe this approach respects local judgment while still requiring accountability. Each school should be able to explain how the funds were used, why that choice was made, and how it benefited students. To me, responsible stewardship means not only spending money carefully, but placing resources where they can do the most good. A school board should support wise decision-making at the local level while ensuring transparency, fairness, and measurable benefit for students.

Q: What is your position on Tennessee's Education Freedom Scholarship program, and how do you believe it would impact local public schools? — Submitted by David Quinn, Tipton County

A: My position on Tennessee's Education Freedom Scholarship program is that I respect a parent's desire to make the best educational decision for his or her child, and I understand that the program may be rooted in good intentions. There are students in failing school systems who need better options, and I believe that is where this type of policy is most defensible. However, I also believe we must be honest about the impact this program can have on local public schools and whether it creates an uneven playing field. Public schools are required to serve every student who walks through the

door, including students with disabilities, students with academic challenges, students with transportation needs, and students from difficult economic circumstances. Private schools receiving state scholarship dollars may serve families well, but they are not held to the same public accountability structure, and they generally retain more control over admissions, enrollment, and the services they provide. My concern is that the program can redirect public education dollars while not necessarily helping the students who need the most support. For many low-income families, the scholarship amount may still not be enough to cover the full cost of private education, including tuition differences, transportation, fees, uniforms, and other expenses. As a result, the program may be most useful to families who already have the means to access private school, while public schools continue serving the majority of students and the most complex needs. As a school board member, my priority would be to protect and strengthen Tipton County public schools. I respect family choice, but public dollars should come with transparency, accountability, and a clear understanding of how local schools, students, teachers, and taxpayers are affected.

Q: Will your decisions be based on what's best for students or influenced by party loyalty? — Submitted anonymously

A: My decisions will be based on what is best for students, not party loyalty. I am a conservative Christian, and my values are important to me, but I do not believe public service should be reduced to political pressure or party labels. Those who know me best know that I am not someone who is easily pressured, swayed, or compromised. I evaluate issues carefully, separate emotion from substance, examine the facts, respect the law, and make decisions according to principle and sound judgment. On the school

board, my responsibility would be to serve students, families, teachers, staff, and taxpayers with fairness, transparency, and a focus on the long-term good of our schools.

Q: Is there any consideration of offering a virtual public school option in Tipton County? — Submitted anonymously

A: I am not currently aware of this option being offered in Tipton County, but I would be willing to evaluate and study it carefully if there is interest or a demonstrated need.

Q: How do you plan to support K–12 education in Tipton County? — Submitted anonymously

A: I plan to support K–12 education in Tipton County by focusing on strong academics, teacher support, student readiness, accountability, and responsible use of public resources. Students should be prepared not only to graduate, but to succeed in life after graduation, whether that path leads to college, technical training, skilled trades, military service, or the workforce. The school board's responsibility is to help create the policies and provide the oversight that make those priorities possible. The board should not micromanage daily operations, but it should set clear expectations, ask informed questions, support safe and effective learning environments, and ensure that decisions are aligned with the best interests of students. As a school board member, I would work to listen carefully, evaluate information responsibly, and make decisions that keep students, families, teachers, staff, and taxpayers in mind. My goal would be to help strengthen our schools with steady leadership, transparency, and a clear focus on long-term student success.



SCHOOL BOARD - DISTRICT 6

Audrey (Ferrell) Eckel

Occupation: Homemaker

Get in touch:

[https://www.facebook.com/profile.](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100071436031207/audrey466@yahoo.com)

[php?id=100071436031207/audrey466@yahoo.com](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100071436031207/audrey466@yahoo.com)

Questionnaire

Q: What prompted you to run for this office at this time?

A: Honestly, my grandchildren. I have two granddaughters at Drummonds Elementary right now, and another grandchild on the way. When you watch your own grandchildren walk through those school doors every morning, it changes the way you think about what is happening inside. I have five children of my own and nine grandchildren, almost ten, and I have spent decades watching how schools shape the people our kids become. I reached a point where I realized that sitting on the sidelines and hoping for the best was not enough. I want a seat at the table where the decisions are made, because the children in this county deserve someone in that room who is thinking about them first, every single time.

Q: What professional, educational, or personal experiences best prepared you for this role?

A: Raising five children is the greatest education I have ever received. No textbook, no degree, and no seminar teaches you more about patience, accountability, advocacy, and showing up every single day than being a mother does. I have navigated every stage of a child's development, from learning to read to watching them become parents themselves. I am also married to a man who serves as the General Sessions

and Juvenile Court Judge for this county, so I have a front-row seat to what happens when the system fails our children, and what it looks like when the right intervention at the right time changes a child's entire trajectory. That combination of personal experience as a mother and grandmother, and the perspective I have gained through my family's deep involvement in this community, is what I will bring to this board.

Q: What do you believe are the primary responsibilities of this office?

A: The school board exists to serve the children of this county. That means making sure every dollar is spent wisely, every teacher has the support and resources they need, every school is safe, and every parent has a voice. It also means holding the district accountable for results, not just activity. Are our children reading at grade level? Are they prepared for what comes after graduation, whether that is college, a trade, or the workforce? Those are the questions the school board should be asking and answering, transparently, to the families who trust us with their children.

Q: What are the top three issues facing Tipton County right now?

A: First, parental engagement. We have

parents across this county who love their children and want them to succeed but may not know how to be an active partner in their child's education. We need to meet those parents where they are, especially in single-parent households, and give them the tools and support to stay involved.

Second, teacher retention and support. We are blessed with amazing teachers in Tipton County, but if we do not invest in keeping them, supporting them, and respecting them, we will lose them to districts that will.

Third, accountability and transparency. Families deserve to know how their schools are performing, how their tax dollars are being spent, and what is being taught in their children's classrooms. Trust is earned through openness, and I want to make sure that trust is never taken for granted.

Q: What is one issue you believe is being overlooked or not getting enough attention?

A: Resources for parents. We spend a great deal of time talking about what schools should be doing, what teachers should be doing, and what students should be doing, but we rarely talk about equipping parents to do their part. I am convinced that the vast majority of parents in this county want their children to succeed, but some of them, especially those in single-parent households or those who struggled in school themselves, do not have the training or the tools to help their children on that path. If we invested in parental support programs, mentoring, workshops, even something as simple as showing a parent how to help with homework, I believe we would see the impact in every classroom in this county.

Q: How will you ensure transparency and accountability in this office?

A: By being accessible, honest, and consistent. I believe that every decision the school board makes should be explainable

to any parent who asks. If we cannot explain why we made a decision in plain language, then we probably should not have made it. I will attend every meeting I can, respond to families who reach out, and make sure that the public's business is conducted in public. I also believe in accountability for results. It is not enough to pass a budget or adopt a policy. We have to follow up and ask whether it worked. That is how you earn the trust of the people you serve.

Q: How do you plan to stay engaged with constituents after taking office? –

Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: The same way I engage with my community now: by being present. I live here. I worship here. My grandchildren go to school here. I am not going to disappear after an election. I plan to be at school events, to be available when a parent or teacher needs to talk, and to make myself as accessible as possible. I also want to hear from the people who do not normally show up to school board meetings, the quiet parents, the working single moms, the grandparents raising grandchildren. Their voices matter just as much, and I intend to seek them out.

Q: Do you accept campaign donations from corporate donors or PACs, and if so, how do you ensure they do not influence your decisions? – Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: I am running a grassroots campaign funded by the support of family, friends, and community members who believe in what I stand for. I am not beholden to any corporation or political action committee. The people I answer to are the families of District 6, and that is not going to change after the election. My values are not for sale. They never have been, and they never will be.

Q: What does ethical leadership mean to you in public service?

A: It means doing the right thing even when it is not the popular thing. It means being honest when you do not have all the answers. It means putting the people you serve ahead of your own interests, every single time. And it means being the same person in a closed meeting that you are standing in front of the community. I was raised to believe that your word is your bond and that integrity is not something you put on for election season. It is who you are every day. That is how I have lived my life, and that is how I will serve on this board.

Q: How would you handle a situation where you made a mistake or faced public criticism?

A: I would own it. I am not a perfect person, and I am not going to pretend to be one. If I make a mistake, I will say so, explain what happened, and work to make it right. I have raised five children, and if there is one thing motherhood teaches you, it is humility. You learn very quickly that you do not have all the answers and that the best thing you can do is admit when you are wrong, learn from it, and keep showing up. Public criticism comes with public service. I am not running for this seat because I need people to agree with me. I am running because I care about these kids, and that does not change because someone is unhappy with a decision I make.

Q: Why should voters choose you in this race?

A: Because I am not a politician. I am a mother, a grandmother, and a member of this community who has skin in the game. I have two granddaughters at Drummonds Elementary right now and another grandchild on the way. This is not theoretical for me. Every decision that board makes affects my family the same way it affects yours. I will bring common sense, conservative values, and a mother's heart to that seat. I will fight for strong academics, safe schools,

fiscal responsibility, and keeping parents at the center of their children's education. And I will do it with honesty, transparency, and the understanding that this seat belongs to the people of District 6, not to me.

Q: What specific issue or concern motivated you to run for this office?

A: Watching what happens when children fall through the cracks. Through my husband's work in Juvenile Court, I have seen up close what it looks like when a child does not have the support they need at home or at school. Truancy, behavioral issues, kids ending up in the court system because somewhere along the way, someone was not paying attention. That is not acceptable to me. I have heard my husband say, from the bench to a courtroom full of people, that "we have a short window of opportunity to make a lasting impact in these children's lives and we cannot waste time." I believe the school board has a role to play in catching those children earlier, working with families before problems become crises, and making sure every child in this county has someone in their corner. That is what motivated me to run, and that is what will drive every decision I make.

Q: Describe a time you led by example. What actions did you take, and what was the outcome? – Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: Every day of raising five children was an exercise in leading by example. But if I had to point to one thing, it would be the way our family has approached faith and service. My husband and I did not just tell our children to go to church, to serve others, to work hard, and to treat people with respect, we also tried to demonstrate that in front of them. But trust me, it wasn't without its challenges. When our children faced their own failures, we addressed the issue head on and then encouraged them. When they struggled, we

reminded them that “Great things come from doing the hard things.” And now I watch my own children raise their children the same way. That is the outcome. When you lead by example, it does not just change a moment. It changes a generation. I intend to bring that same approach to the school board: show up, do the work, and let my actions speak louder than any campaign promise.

Q: If you had \$100,000 to allocate to one priority, what would it be and why? – Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: I would invest it in a parental engagement and support program. We can pour money into curriculum, technology, and facilities, and all of those things matter, but nothing changes a child’s trajectory like an involved parent. I would use those funds to create workshops, mentoring programs, and resources specifically designed to help parents, especially those in single-parent households, become active partners in their child’s education. I have said it throughout this campaign and I will say it again: a child’s education begins at the kitchen table. If we invest in strengthening that foundation, every dollar we spend inside the schoolhouse will go further.

Q: School Board: What is your position on Tennessee’s Education Freedom Scholarship program, and how do you believe it would impact local public schools? – Submitted by David Quinn, Tipton County

A: I believe that parents are the best decision-makers when it comes to their children’s education. As a mother of five and grandmother to nine (almost ten), I have seen firsthand that no two children learn the same way, and I will always support a parent’s right to choose the path that is best for their child.

At the same time, I want to be honest about the concerns I share as someone run-

ning for school board in a rural county. Programs like the Education Freedom Scholarship can be a valuable tool for families, but they also carry real risks if there is not proper accountability in place. One concern that has already surfaced across the state is parents using scholarship funds to pull children into homeschool settings without meaningful oversight. When that happens, some children are not receiving the education they deserve, and there is no system in place to catch them before they fall behind. Parental choice is a right I will always defend, but choice without responsibility is not freedom. It is neglect.

There is also a fairness issue that I think deserves more attention. When a child is in public school, they are held to rigorous state-required testing like TCAP. Teachers are evaluated on those results. Schools are graded on those results. Entire districts are held accountable based on those results. But when taxpayer dollars follow a child to a private school or a homeschool setting through the EFS program, those same testing requirements do not follow. We are asking public schools to meet a high standard of accountability while funding alternatives that are not held to the same measure. If we are going to use public money to fund a child’s education, regardless of where that education takes place, there should be a consistent standard to make sure that child is actually learning.

The other concern that hits close to home for a county like Tipton is funding. When students leave public schools through programs like EFS, the dollars follow them. For larger urban and suburban districts, that may be manageable. For a rural district operating on tighter margins, the long-term impact on our schools, our teachers, and our programs is something we have to take seriously.

My focus on the school board will be making Tipton County schools so strong that families want to be here. That means invest-

ing in the fundamentals: reading, writing, math, strong teachers, safe classrooms, and keeping parents engaged at every level. I want our schools to be the first choice, not the fallback. And for any family that does choose a different path, I believe there should be accountability measures in place to make sure every child in Tennessee is actually receiving an education, not just enrolled in one on paper.

Q: School Board: Will your decisions be based on what's best for students or influenced by party loyalty? – Submitted anonymously

A: My decisions will always be based on what is best for the children of Tipton County. Period. I am a conservative, and I am not shy about that, but my conservatism is rooted in values, not political games. I believe in parental responsibility, fiscal accountability, strong character development, and high academic standards. Those are not partisan ideas. Those are common sense.

I am not running for school board to serve a political party. I am running because I am a mother, a grandmother, and a member of this community who believes that every child in this county deserves an excellent education. When I sit in that seat, the only agenda I will bring is the well-being of our students and the stewardship of our taxpayers' investment in these schools.

Q: School Board: Is there any consideration of offering a virtual public school option in Tipton County? – Submitted anonymously

A: We actually have experience with this in Tipton County already. Since the tornado, children who are required to attend court school have been doing so remotely, and I can tell you from firsthand experience through our family's involvement with Juvenile Court that it has been a tremendous challenge. It has been difficult for the children, difficult for their parents, difficult for the

teachers responsible for overseeing those classes, and frankly, difficult for the court system itself.

Here is the reality: a virtual school requires children who are highly self-motivated, and that is a lot to ask of a young person. When parents are working and not at home to oversee what their child is doing during the school day, those children are left to fend for themselves. That creates an impossible situation for teachers and administrators trying to reach students who cannot or will not apply themselves without someone standing beside them.

I am not opposed to exploring options that serve families in unique circumstances, but I believe strongly that in-person instruction with a caring teacher and a structured environment is what most children need. Before we expand anything virtual, we need to be honest about the challenges we have already seen right here in Tipton County. Education requires engagement, and that starts with a parent who is present and involved.

Q: School Board: How do you plan to support K–12 education in Tipton County? – Submitted anonymously

A: It starts with parents. I raised five children, and the most important thing I learned is that a child's education does not begin and end at the schoolhouse door. It begins at the kitchen table. Parents have to be involved, engaged, and accountable. The school board's job is to create an environment where teachers can teach, students can learn, and families feel welcome and heard.

We are blessed in Tipton County. We have amazing teachers and amazing law enforcement. The tools are in place to educate our children and to keep them safe. What I would like to see are resources put in place for parents, especially single-parent households. I am convinced that these parents want their children to succeed, but many of them may not have the training themselves in how to assist their children on that path.

My family and I want to thank everyone for their vote and support in the May Primary Election.
As we move forward to the August 6th General Election,
I would appreciate your vote and support again.

With my experience working in the Circuit Court Clerk's office and my years of production management at The Covington Leader, along with running my own business, Tipton County Printing, I believe we can not only maintain, but improve upon the services we provide for the public in this office.

For the ones that do not know me, please feel free to reach out. I would be more than happy to answer any questions that you might have about me or the Circuit Court Clerk's office.

Early Voting - 7/17 through 8/1

Election Commission, 113 E. Church Ave, Covington

or

Atoka First Baptist, 102 Kimbrough Rd, Atoka

Shane WAITS

Circuit Court Clerk



We need to meet those parents where they are and give them the support and the tools to be active partners in their child's education.

My husband, Judge Eckel, recently addressed the Tipton County Board of Education about the work being done through Juvenile Court, our Youth Service Officers, and the progress we are making in reducing truancy and supporting struggling families. That partnership between the courts and the schools is exactly the kind of collaboration I want to see more of. When we work together, putting children first and holding ourselves and each other accountable, our schools get stronger. That is what I am committed to.



SCHOOL BOARD - DISTRICT 8

Michael Gill

Occupation: Airport Director

Get in touch:
mgill@tipton-county.com

Questionnaire

Q: What prompted you to run for this office at this time?

A: I was prompted to run because I believe public education is the foundation of a strong community and the engine for long-term economic growth. Over the past two years serving in this role, I've gained valuable insight into both the opportunities and challenges facing our schools. I felt a responsibility to continue that work bringing consistency, strategic planning, and a steady, collaborative approach to the board. This isn't about politics for me; it's about making thoughtful decisions that position our students and our community for long-term success.

Q: What professional, educational, or personal experiences best prepared you for this role?

A: My experience as an executive director and former Fire Chief, combined with my education in Administration and numerous certifications in leadership, emergency management, and public safety, has prepared me to lead, plan strategically, and make informed decisions. I bring a practical, solutions-focused approach to serving our schools and community.

Q: What do you believe are the primary responsibilities of this office?

A: The role of a school board member is governance not day-to-day management.

That means setting policy, ensuring responsible use of taxpayer dollars, holding leadership accountable, and maintaining a clear long-term vision for the district. Every decision should be centered on student success and strengthening the community.

Q: What are the top three issues facing Tipton County right now?

A: The three biggest issues are growth, workforce readiness, and funding. Our county is growing, and that's a good thing but if we don't plan ahead, our schools will feel the strain. At the same time, we must ensure students are prepared for real opportunities coming to this region, and we must do it while being responsible with taxpayer dollars.

Q: What is one issue you believe is being overlooked or not getting enough attention?

A: I believe we don't spend enough time on long-term planning. It's easy to focus on immediate issues, but without a clear vision for where we're going, we end up reacting instead of leading. With the growth in our county, we need to be planning now for what our schools will need years down the road not just next year.

Q: How will you ensure transparency

and accountability in this office?

A: Transparency comes from clarity, and accountability comes from leadership. I will continue to ask the right questions in public meetings, so constituents understand decisions, ensure taxpayer dollars are used responsibly, and hold leadership accountable for results. The community deserves clear answers and consistent follow through.

Q: How do you plan to stay engaged with constituents after taking office? – Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: I stay engaged by being present, accessible, and responsive. I encourage concerns to follow the proper process, and if they have, I will step in to help. I also prioritize listening to teachers and staff they understand the day-to-day challenges, and their input matters.

Q: Do you accept campaign donations from corporate donors or PACs, and if so, how do you ensure they do not influence your decisions? – Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: I am not accepting campaign donations. I want to be clear that my decisions are not influenced by money only by what is right for our students and our community.

Q: What does ethical leadership mean to you in public service?

A: Ethical leadership means doing the right thing, even when it's difficult. It means being transparent, following proper processes, and making decisions based on facts not pressure or politics. Public service is built on trust, and that trust has to be earned every day.

Q: How would you handle a situation where you made a mistake or faced public criticism?

A: If I make a mistake, I will own it and fix it plain and simple. If there's criticism, I will listen, evaluate it, and respond professionally. Leadership is about accountability, not

perfection.

Q: Why should voters choose you in this race?

A: Voters should choose me because I lead with accountability, ask the right questions, and focus on long-term results not short-term politics. I've proven I will serve with integrity, and I will continue to put students and the community first.

Q: What specific issue or concern motivated you to run for this office?

A: What motivated me to run was the need for better long-term planning. Our county is growing, and our schools have to be prepared. I want to make sure we are thinking ahead, not reacting, and making decisions that benefit students for years to come.

Q: Describe a time you led by example. What actions did you take, and what was the outcome? – Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: I've always believed you don't ask people to do what you're not willing to do yourself. In leadership roles, I've worked alongside my team during critical situations and when implementing changes. By setting the example, it builds trust and raises the standard for everyone. The result is a more accountable and effective organization.

Q: If you had \$100,000 to allocate to one priority, what would it be and why? – Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: I would invest in workforce readiness and career education programs to better prepare students for life after graduation and support long-term economic growth.

Q: School Board: What is your position on Tennessee's Education Freedom Scholarship program, and how do you believe it would impact local public schools? – Submitted by David Quinn, Tip-

ton County

A: I understand the intent behind giving parents more choice, but my priority is our public schools. As this program expands, we must ensure it does not take away resources or stability from the schools that serve the majority of our students. I will always advocate for strong, well-supported public education in our community.

Q: School Board: Will your decisions be based on what's best for students or influenced by party loyalty? – Submitted anonymously

A: My decisions are based on students, not politics. While I have my own beliefs, I work with all members to make the best decisions for our schools. This role is about results, not party lines.

Q: School Board: Is there any consideration of offering a virtual public school option in Tipton County? – Submitted anonymously

A: I support virtual learning and new technology, but it must be done responsibly. It should expand opportunities for students without pulling resources away from our core classrooms. The priority must always remain strong, well supported public schools.

Q: School Board: How do you plan to support K–12 education in Tipton County? – Submitted anonymously

A: I will support K–12 education by focusing on accountability, strategic planning, and supporting teachers. That means making smart financial decisions, listening to those in the classroom, and ensuring students are prepared for real opportunities after graduation.

Constable

Term length: 4 years

What this position does: Constables are elected law enforcement officers with authority to keep the peace, serve civil process and uphold state and local law within the county (their jurisdiction).

Who can vote: Registered voters within the specific commission district. Find your district at

tiptonco.com/election_commission.

Constables

Current officeholders

District 1: Brian “Moody” Max

District 2: Chris Fisher

District 3: Reuben Miller

District 4: Curtis Mayo Jr.

District 5: *Vacant*

District 6: James “Shug” Stroud

District 7: Michael J. Osborn

District 8: *Vacant*

District 9: Kyle Smith

Chris Fisher

Occupation: Southwest Tennessee EMC Lineman

Questionnaire

Q: What prompted you to run for this office at this time?

A: In order to assist the Tipton County Sheriff's Office and the City of Covington Police Department protect and serve our community. I call Covington home and strongly believe it takes everyone who lives here working together to make it a community where people want to live, work, raise a family, play and retire!

Q: What professional, educational, or personal experiences best prepared you for this role?

A: Being a utility lineman for forty-two years prepared me to always strive to work in a safe manner not only personally but also for those working on my crew. Situational awareness is a must in line work. Safety, watching out for others safety and situational awareness are key traits in line work and law enforcement. This will be the third time I have sought this position. Through the required training and brotherhood through my first two terms I believe I am well suited to make a positive difference for my family and other families in our community.

Q: What do you believe are the primary responsibilities of this office?

A: To assist law enforcement agencies educate and protect our citizens to enhance the quality of life for all that live and visit here. To acquire as much training as possible to make a positive difference.

Q: What is one issue you believe is being overlooked or not getting enough

attention?

A: The lack of mentors for our youth and young adults.

Q: How will you ensure transparency and accountability in this office?

A: I will adhere to the federal, state and local laws as they pertain to being a Constable. The office of Constable is a self supported office. Myself and my family choose to make a difference in our community by investing in the required resources and training to provide this service.

Q: How do you plan to stay engaged with constituents after taking office? – Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: I routinely stay in contact with our local law enforcement agencies to remain aware of our citizens concerns. I strive to patrol our community on a regular basis. Those in my district are aware of how to contact me when they need assistance.

Q: Do you accept campaign donations from corporate donors or PACs, and if so, how do you ensure they do not influence your decisions? – Submitted by Jessica Miller, Munford

A: I do not accept such donations.

Q: What does ethical leadership mean to you in public service?

A: Ethical leadership is one of the key components in public service! I believe leaders should set the example and raise the bar.

Q: How would you handle a situation where you made a mistake or faced public criticism?

A: I would communicate with my peers to see other ways the situation could have been handled. Seek any training that may be beneficial in the situation and strive to make improvements so the same mistake is not repeated.

Q: Why should voters choose you in this race?

A: My history in the previous two terms has proven my desire to be a benefit to our community. I have over seven thousand hours of patrol, have performed CPR fourteen times, administered first aid until medical arrived on scene numerous times, have worked special events, have backed up all law enforcement agencies that operate in Tipton County hundreds of times. This community matters to me and my family. I want to continue making a positive difference and would appreciate their vote.

Q: What specific issue or concern motivated you to run for this office?

A: Being aware that our local law enforcement agencies are at times understaffed, overwhelmed due to increased criminal activity in general and at specific times, and budget restraints are a few of the issues and concerns as to why I choose to run for the office of constable.

Q: If you had \$100,000 to allocate to one priority, what would it be and why? – Submitted by Amanda Faurbo

A: I would allocate the money to the Boys and Girls Club our children are our greatest asset and our future!! Our children are our best investment opportunity!

In summary: What candidates say are the top issues

Growth and development

Named by more candidates than any other issue. Nearly every commissioner, the county executive candidate, the sheriff, and the register of deeds candidate cited growth as a top concern. The common thread: infrastructure isn't keeping pace.

Roads, sewer, and utilities

Rarely mentioned without growth. Turner (Commission D5) specifically called out the Highway 14 corridor's lack of sewer access as a real and unaddressed constraint.

Public safety

Law enforcement, fire, and EMS appeared on most commission candidates' lists, though responses read more as a record of progress than an urgent alarm.

Education

Commissioners treat it as a budget issue. School board candidates focus almost entirely on parental engagement over curriculum or instruction quality.

Juvenile crime

Named by Copeland and Murphy (Commission D9). Echoed indirectly by Eckel, Fisher, and others.

Mental health

The most important issue nobody put in their top three. Both Sheriff Beasley and Commissioner Case named it independently as the county's most overlooked problem. Beasley said the jail has effectively become a mental health facility.

Giannini

STATE REPRESENTATIVE



Conservative Values Serving Us

- ★ Keep taxes low
- ★ Support smaller, more efficient government
- ★ Cut regulations on small businesses
- ★ Strengthen laws requiring violent criminals to serve their full prison sentence
- ★ Hold Soros-funded DAs accountable
- ★ Increase emphasis on career and technical education in our schools
- ★ Vote pro-life
- ★ Defend the Second Amendment



Republican Primary August 6
Early Voting begins July 17

f Brett Giannini for TN House 81



Conservative Values Serving Us

Brett Giannini has spent a lifetime serving his country, his community, and his fellow man. He serves as a Law Enforcement Specialist in the U.S. Air Force Reserve and has deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Panama, Colombia, and twice to the Middle East. Brett joined the Memphis Police Department in 2000 working his way up from patrol to Lieutenant where he supervises Crime Scene Investigators. He has worked in the Organized Crime Unit, Felony Response Bureau, and Homicide Bureau.

Brett was elected to the Atoka Board of Aldermen in 2008 and the Tipton County Commission in 2022. He served 10 years on the Tipton County Emergency Communications Board and is a former Chairman of the Tipton County Republican Party. Brett and his wife, Mara, have been married 28 years and are the parents of two young adults.



f Brett Giannini for TN House 81

Photos of Brett in uniform do not constitute an endorsement by the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

**ON AUGUST 6TH, ELECT
REPUBLICAN BRETT GIANNINI**

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF BRETT GIANNINI, NICOLE LIGHTSEY, TREASURER

Key Dates for the 2026 Election Cycle

August 6

State Primary & County General Election

Voter registration deadline: July 7

Early voting: July 17–Aug. 1

Absentee ballot request deadline: July 27

Paper Folds Voter Guide — July 17

November 3

Municipal, State & Federal General Election

Voter registration deadline: Oct. 5

Early voting: Oct. 14–29

Absentee ballot request deadline: Oct. 24

Paper Folds Voter Guide — Oct. 13



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the upcoming elections