



Voters Guide

TIPTON COUNTY PRIMARY VOTER GUIDE

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 April 30. Election Day is May 5. **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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PUBLICATION INFORMATION

A publication of Rose Media Co. LLC, Tipton County, Tennessee.

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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 May 5, Tipton County is holding a primary election. A primary is how political parties decide which candidates move on to the general election in August.

No Democratic candidates entered the race, so all candidates on the May 5 ballot are Republican. If you're wondering about Independent candidates — they don't participate in the primary and will appear on the ballot for the first time in August.

Any registered voter can participate in the May 5 primary by selecting a Republican ballot when they arrive to vote.

This guide walks through every 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 now through April 30.
Election Day is May 5.**

What you need to know about voting in the primary

Before you vote

✓ Are you registered?

The deadline to register was April 6. 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 • April 15–30

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.

Election Day • May 5

Polls open until 7 p.m.

Vote at your assigned location only

We will be updating the results live as the returns come in! Visit facebook.com/paperfoldsnews for more.

Our methodology

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

Paper Folds contacted every candidate on the May 5 ballot via email or Facebook message and asked them to complete the same questionnaire.

Candidates submitted their answers from April 1-8 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, and to ask for help reaching candidates for whom we could not find contact information.

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

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.

Regretfully, we did not receive responses from the following candidates, so their answers do not appear within these pages.

County Commission
District 2: James Hardin
District 3: Richard Kelley, John Anthony Mashburn
District 4: Walker A. Adams, Jason R. Skinner
District 6: James "Jimbo" Adkins
District 8: Cecil G. Watson

School Board – District 4: Matt McCann

Constable – District 3: Reuben Miller

Questions about our process?

Reach us at news@paperfoldsnews.com



The following county-wide 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)

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.



Source: Tennessee Secretary of State, Tipton County Election Commission



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



Source: Tennessee Secretary of State, Tipton County Election Commission



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) / Tik Tok: [@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.

Continued on page 9

Continued from page 8

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 re-

spond 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 government 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

toward shared goals.

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



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.



Source: Tennessee Secretary of State, Tipton County 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

Note: No contested races in the primary



Source: Tennessee Secretary of State, Tipton County Election Commission



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 some things 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 happenstance, 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.

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 mis-

take 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 mes-

sage 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.



I believe in a county government that **listens first**, **acts with integrity**, and **stays focused** on the core services that keep our families **safe** and our community **thriving**.

Let's get to work!

I would appreciate your support on election day

**Vote Daugherty
for County Executive**

votedaugherty.com





DAUGHERTY

★ ★ ★

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Paid for by the committee to elect Daugherty County Executive - Cyndi Roe, Treasurer

Paid for by the committee to elect Daugherty County Executive - Cyndi Roe, Treasurer

Michelle Smith

Occupation: Realtor

Get in touch:

Facebook: Michelle Smith County Commission-
er 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 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 is-

sues 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 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**

Continued from page 34

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



Source: Tennessee Secretary of State, Tipton County Election Commission



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 Commission 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

Continued from page 40

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 serv-

ing 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 every 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 vio-

lent 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 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.

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 Com-

missioners 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 Fairbo

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 offic-

es 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

Continued from page 49

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



Source: Tennessee Secretary of State, Tipton County Election Commission



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.

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



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: Scottie DeLashmit,
Shane Waits



Source: Tennessee Secretary of State, Tipton County Election Commission



CIRCUIT COURT CLERK

Scottie DeLashmit

Occupation: Court Administrator

Get in touch:

Friends for Scottie - Facebook

Questionnaire

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

A: Four years ago I ran for this position believing the office would be vacant due to the incumbent retiring. I felt then and still feel that I have strengths and experience to best serve as the next Tipton County Circuit Court Clerk. Campaigning had to go on hold four years ago when my father became ill and required hospice care and our efforts were not successful. The experience that God has allowed me to gain through my time serving in child protective services, law enforcement, juvenile court, and general sessions court give me a perspective that other candidates do not have. I wish to continue to serve the citizens of Tipton County.

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

A: I have a deep-rooted commitment to Tennessee's legal and law enforcement communities, I offer a unique blend of academic expertise and frontline leadership. I am a graduate of Lambuth College with a degree in Communications. My

professional foundation includes a Georgetown Fellowship in Juvenile Justice Reform and years of service as an adjunct professor in the Criminal Justice Department at Dyersburg State. As the current President of the Tennessee Fraternal Order of Police, I lead over 7,000 law enforcement professionals. My work goes beyond leadership; I have collaborated directly with state and local lawmakers to draft legislation that improves the lives of both our officers and the citizens they protect. With a career defined by helping victims, witnesses, and defendants navigate the judicial system, I am more than up to the task of serving as the next Circuit Court Clerk of Tipton County.

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

A: This office is the keeper of records for three courts, General Sessions, Juvenile, and Circuit Courts. All warrants, indictments, petitions, and motions are filed with this office. It is the repository for all records of the courts served. The office also tracks and collects

all court fines, fees, and restitution to victims.

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

A: The top three issues facing the Tipton County Circuit Court Clerk's Office are,

- one, our best assets are our employees, who deserve extensive and comprehensive training to better serve the people we serve;
- two, the office requires a standard operating procedure manual, ensuring uniformity in handling cases for the victims and law enforcement officers;
- and three, expanding digital access to court records to provide a more convenient and efficient way for the public to review information, ensuring transparency and responsibility.

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

A: I believe the deputy clerks deserve better working conditions, better training, and better support from the elected clerk.

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

A: I will attend the Tipton County Commission meetings quarterly to deliver reports from all three courts to the governing body of the County. I will also push to get easier access to the public court records for all, as public servants report to the people they serve.

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

Jessica Miller, Munford

A: I plan on having a seat at the front counter in the office making myself readily available to the citizens of Tipton County. I also plan on developing a presence on social media, allowing the office to easily communicate with the public.

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 accepted donations from corporations or PACS. I have taken donations from local businesses.

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

A: Transparency and truthfulness are paramount for someone in leadership.

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

A: None of us are perfect, we all make mistakes. Admit it, own it, do not repeat it, and move forward, while learning from it.

Q: Why should voters choose you in this race?

A: I feel as though my experiences as a child protective investigator for the State of Tennessee, a law enforcement officer for fifteen years, the director of juvenile services for seven years and a court administrator for ten years gives me a unique insight into the

office of Circuit Court Clerk. These positions are the ones that utilize the Circuit Court Clerk's office the most. I wish to empower our current deputy clerks to better serve the public by providing them the training and support they need and deserve. I have dedicated my life to this county as a public servant and ask that the public allow me to continue to serve as the next Circuit Court Clerk.

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

A: I feel as though this office can better serve our citizens by becoming more efficient with records management and improved customer service.

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

A: I have always tried to lead by example, sometimes failing but learning from it. Many of the examples deal with my investigating child sexual abuse which I cannot discuss due to confidentiality laws. I can discuss my leadership within juvenile court. In 2012, I collaborated with the Tennessee Supreme Court Administrative Office of the Courts to pilot a new, streamlined juvenile court case management system. By serving as a pilot county, we secured this system at minimal cost; it has since become the state-mandated standard for all 95 counties, with the full transition currently underway. Juvenile court also piloted a new specialized foster care review board where I served the state on

several committees as the court liaison. This allowed me to present at the American Bar Association Family Conference in Washington, DC. I have also led the Tennessee Fraternal Order as state president for eight years protecting those who protect us.

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

A: Answering from the view of Circuit Court Clerk, I would immediately provide updated training for the current staff, ensuring everyone gets properly trained in electronic filing. This is mandated by the state to become available in all courts in the near future. We need to prepare for the future so we are not left behind.

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

A: To modernize our operations, we will prepare for the upcoming Tennessee mandate requiring electronic filing across all courts. Once the state selects a unified case management system, we will implement it to streamline filings and provide the public with easier access to records. As always, we will maintain the highest standards of transparency while strictly adhering to state laws regarding the confidentiality of juvenile records.



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 perspective 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

Continued from page 59

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: Stephanie Presley





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: Matt McCann (D4), Audrey Ferrell Eckel (D6), Michael Scott (D6), and Mike Gill (D8)

No candidate qualified for the District 2 race.





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,

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



Thank You

I would like to thank the citizens of Tipton County for the privilege of allowing me to serve you as your Circuit Court clerk for the past 32 years. It has been such an honor to serve this great county and I have been truly blessed!

Having announced my retirement and not seeking re-election, I would like for you to consider voting for Shane Waits in the May 5 primary.

He has my endorsement and I am confident he can keep the office of Circuit Court Clerk operating and moving in the direction it needs to go.

Sincerely,
Mike Forbess, Tipton County Circuit Court Clerk

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, conserva-

tive 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

For 13 years, I have served Tipton County in the Court Clerk's office under the leadership of the current Circuit Court Clerk, Mike Forbess.

My goal in taking the Circuit Court Clerk's office to the next level is not only to have more easily accessible records, but to continually strengthen the great working relationships with the other offices and agencies so that together, we can even better serve our community.

I feel I am the best candidate for this position, as I am the only candidate in the May 5th primary who has worked in the office of the Circuit Court Clerk with experience in the day to day operations of this office. As we head into the 2026 primary, I will continue to reach out to as many as I can and meet with even more of the citizens of Tipton county. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting and engaging with the people throughout the county in the last few months and have had nothing but positive experiences while doing so.

If you have any questions about what we do in the Circuit Court Clerk's office please reach out. I am asking for your vote, support, and prayers during the next several weeks.

Sincerely,
Shane Waits, Tipton County Deputy
Circuit Court Clerk



vote

SHANE WAITS

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 running 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 investing 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 over-

seeing 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. 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 6

Michael Scott

Occupation: Self-employed

Get in touch:

<https://www.facebook.com/michael.scott.31521301>

Questionnaire

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

A: After many years as a parent on the outside, my need to become involved comes from the desire to be more directly involved with the schools' curriculum and my child's education.

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

A: Right out of high school I joined the US Marines and from that time, I've been either leading in some way or self-employed. Most of my career choices involve a leadership role of some sort.

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

A: To represent the community I plan to serve which starts with well thought out policies that coincide with traditional values, always putting the welfare of the children and those in charge of them first. Obviously, there are numerous responsibilities (most of which I may be unfamiliar with because I've never served in this capacity), but I've got the ability to understand situations

and make decisions based on the well-being of those involved.

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

A: I'm not sure as to what they are because I'm not directly involved with any of the goings on. I can only assume that children safety, budgets, and hiring the best teachers possible are top of the list.

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

A: Children that have direct issues with teachers, but have no means of addressing the situation without the fear of retaliation by students or the teacher themselves.

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

A: By the fact that all of the information that the public is allowed to have, will have. There's no reason to attempt to hide anything from plain view and have an answer for the public in regards to decisions

being made, budgets, etc.

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

A: My personal information will always be available to anyone that has the need to access me.

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 accepted, nor will I accept, any outside funding from ANY source.

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

A: Leading by serving others first with humility. Being accountable for any and all decisions made regardless of situation. With nothing to hide, there's no need for deception.

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

A: I've been wrong before, I'll be wrong again. I can accept my mistakes and will always learn from them. Mistakes don't necessarily define people, how they acknowledge and move forward does.

Q: Why should voters choose you in this race?

A: Children, teachers and staff need trustworthy people to represent them in the choices and decisions being made which affect them directly and I plan to do that ethically and humbly.

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

A: Nothing specifically other than I've been saying I would get involved and the opportunity presented itself. My only goal is to improve the school system in ways beneficial to students and teachers alike.

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

A: Leading by example has been a daily duty for me for as long as I can remember. First, in the military being a squad leader through boot camp, countless jobs, and being a father has taught me the best lessons in the world. Raising responsible children is the goal of every parent.

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

A: School security simply because there can NEVER be enough forms of safety for the children, teachers, and others.

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: Trying to find more information about it from their website as I was unaware of it, there's not a lot to go on. It's just recently been

Continued from page 76

implemented, so more research needs to happen I'm sure.

Q: School Board: Will your decisions be based on what's best for students or influenced by party loyalty? – Submitted anonymously

A: Decisions of mine will NEVER be based on anything except for what's best for the students.

Q: School Board: Is there any consideration of offering a virtual public school option in Tipton County? – Submitted anonymously

A: If there were an exceptional need, possibly so.

Q: School Board: How do you plan to support K–12 education in Tipton County? – Submitted anonymously

A: Being available to assist in whatever manner is required is how I plan to serve.



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 be-

lieve 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,

Continued from page 79

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, Tipton 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.



Source: Tennessee Secretary of State, Tipton County 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



Source: Tennessee Secretary of State, Tipton County Election Commission

CONSTABLE - DISTRICT 2

Chris Fisher

Occupation: Southwest Tennessee EMC
Lineman

Get in touch:

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

Continued on page 84

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

May 5

Republican & Democratic County Primary

Early voting: April 15–30

Absentee ballot request deadline: April 25

✓ Paper Folds Voter Guide — available now

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 16

November 3

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

Source: *Tipton County Election Commission*,
tiptonco.com/election_commission



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more on the upcoming elections



Source: Tennessee Secretary of State, Tipton County Election Commission