

**VOTE HOW YOU PLEASE,
BUT *Please* VOTE!**



METROPOLITAN RUNOFF ELECTION

★ **BALLOT BREAKDOWN** ★

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WHY IS THERE A METROPOLITAN RUNOFF ELECTION? ★ ★ ★

In the Metropolitan General Election on August 3rd of this year, Freddie O’Connell won the most votes securing 27% of the total votes cast for mayor. However, because O’Connell did not secure more than half of total votes cast, a runoff election is necessary. On September 14th, O’Connell will run against the candidate with the second highest number of votes in the Metropolitan General Election, Alice Rolli, who earned 20% of the votes cast.

For at-large council candidates, the top five candidates with the most votes win, but only if they win more than 10% of all votes cast. Zulfat Suara was the only candidate to secure a seat in the August 3rd Metropolitan General Election with 10.7% of all votes cast. Because this leaves four at-large council seats available, the top eight candidates that earned the most votes in the Metropolitan General Election will participate in a runoff election. In the Metropolitan Runoff Election on September 14th, voters will choose four candidates and the candidates with the most votes will win the four remaining seats.





MAYOR

The mayor is the chief executive of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County. Mayors serve a four-year term and can serve a maximum of two terms. The mayor is responsible for enforcement of all laws and ordinances in Davidson County. They have the power to veto any ordinance passed by Metro Council, and Council can override a mayor's veto with a two-thirds majority.

The mayor writes the budget for each fiscal year. The council then takes the mayor's budget and creates a substitute budget with recommended changes. When passed, this becomes the city's official budget. Historically, the Metro Council has not made major changes to the mayor's budget.

The mayor is also responsible for overseeing all Metro departments, which provide services to residents and set policy priorities for the community. The mayor appoints citizens to serve on boards and commissions, which work to set rules and priorities for Nashville as outlined in the Metro Charter.



ILLUSTRATION BY GRACE EVANS

FREDDIE O'CONNELL MAYOR

Freddie O'Connell, a Democrat and lifelong Nashvillian, has bachelor's degrees in music and computer science from Brown University. He founded Mimetic Industries, a company that creates tangible artifacts of internet-based moments, and has served on the boards of Nashville MTA, Walk Bike Nashville, the Belcourt Theatre and Cumberland Region Tomorrow. O'Connell won the Metropolitan General Election on August 3rd with 27% of the vote.

He has served on Metro Council since 2015. During this tenure, he has served as chair of both the Public Works Committee and the Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Committee. In 2021, he led efforts to regulate "transportainment," or large entertainment vehicles in the downtown area. He intends to implement a three year public transit plan to reduce bus transfers and traffic without raising taxes. He intends to lead the effort towards dedicated transit funding, expanding WeGo and improving infrastructure for bicyclists and pedestrians. O'Connell feels improving transit will improve the city's affordability crisis.

O'Connell wants to address affordable housing by retaining the affordable housing that exists by raising income thresholds for property tax freezes for those 65 and older. O'Connell wants to continue contributing 30 million per year to Barnes Housing Fund which leverages affordable housing developments and also addresses wage increases.

O'Connell released a list of "15 Fixes on Day One" where he discusses developing a public safety plan that incorporates both safety and justice, establishing a standalone department to manage solid waste (currently managed by Metro Water Services), ensuring all Metro buildings are powered by solar energy within three years, and creating new standards to ensure Metro's effective and transparent communication with the Nashville community. O'Connell wants to focus the investment strategy of the city on Nashvillians, rather than tourism and opposed the Titan's Stadium deal.

O'Connell is endorsed by the Laborers' International Union of North America Local 386, the Central Labor Council of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, the Equity Alliance, the Service Workers International Union, the Nashville Business Council and more.



ILLUSTRATION BY GRACE EVANS

ALICE ROLLI MAYOR

Nashville native and Republican Alice Rolli earned her bachelor's degree in international relations from Stanford University and an MBA from the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia. She has worked in both state and federal government, including serving as the assistant commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development under Gov. Bill Haslam's administration, as well as Senator Lamar Alexander's campaign manager. Rolli has never held public office.

Rolli is the former Vice President of Sales and Advocacy for QuaverEd, a music education technology company. In May 2022, she became the vice president of sales and marketing for Possip, a company providing a teacher-to-parent communication platform. Rolli fired her campaign firm and campaign manager mid-August after discovering their ties to the Proud Boys, an all male far-right neo-fascist militant organization that promotes and engages in political violence.

Rolli supports charter schools and school vouchers and one of her main priorities is improving first grade reading rates. Rolli considers discussions of gun safety legislation to be “a national political issue,” but would ensure school resource officers in elementary schools to increase school safety. Rolli attributes recent tax increases, as well as a lack of access to high quality schools, as contributors to the affordable housing crisis. Her solutions to this affordability crisis include easing permitting to decrease costs of building and using programs like the Barnes Fund to create affordable multi-family housing units.

To fight crime, Rolli is focused on the recruitment and retention of first responders and police officers. Rolli supports using License Plate Readers but believes that this information should be disposed of after a reasonable amount of time. She is endorsed by the Nashville Fraternal Order of Police. Rolli is also endorsed by Community Leaders for America, home of the national forum of Republican mayors, and the Davidson County Republican Party.

She wants to manage growth from a regional perspective, understanding the reliance on state and federal funding for infrastructure and program implementation. Rolli believes Nashville's top infrastructure issue is shoring up the city's finances and resetting spending priorities. She supports the Titan's stadium deal.

METRO COUNCIL

The Metropolitan Council is the legislative branch of the consolidated city-county government of Nashville and Davidson County. Metro Council has 40 council members, 35 of whom are elected by voters in their district and 5 of whom are at-large members elected by all voters.

Metro Council holds regular meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month, where they consider and act on ordinances and resolutions related to the policies and operations of Metro government. Council may consider legislation ranging from honoring a community member to amending the overall annual budget. Council meetings are open to the public and feature time for community members to comment on proposed legislation.

Metro Council currently has eleven committees including the Budget and Finance Committee and the Planning and Zoning Committee. Metro council members serve as participants and leaders on committees as appointed by the vice mayor. Committees consider proposed legislation and provide reports and recommendations to the entire council.

Metro Council approves legislation by majority vote, and legislation is then signed by the mayor. If the mayor vetoes an ordinance or resolution passed by Council, Council can override it with a two-thirds majority.

COUNCIL AT LARGE



ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH MORRIS

BURKLEY ALLEN COUNCIL AT LARGE

Burkley Allen was born in Arkansas and moved to Nashville in 1982. Allen received a bachelor's degree in physics from Davidson College and master's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Virginia. Her career as a mechanical engineer includes working in energy systems and air pollution control. Allen has held various positions on community boards and volunteered with groups such as Rebuilding Together Nashville, Nashville Organized for Action and Hope, and Meals on Wheels. Allen has also held executive positions in professional organizations and her church.

Allen has served as a council member since 2011. During her council terms, Allen passed legislation that included lowering speed limits, improving bike parking, allocating funding for affordable housing, and creating a tax incentive for real estate developers to set aside units for median income Nashvillians. She supports spending a majority of the city budget on public schools and public safety. She wants to develop more public private partnerships to improve affordable housing options.

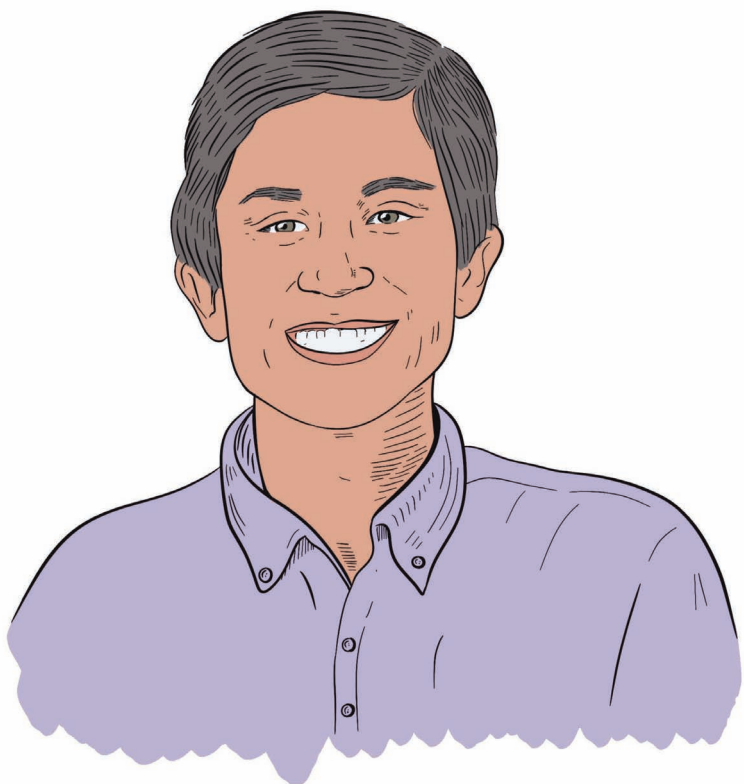


ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH MORRIS

CHRIS CHENG COUNCIL AT LARGE

Chris Cheng is a Nashville native. He received bachelor's degree in international relations and global business from the University of Southern California, where he was student body president. He then joined the Army Rangers and served in Kuwait and Afghanistan. Post-military, he earned master's degrees in public policy and business administration from Harvard University.

Cheng currently owns Hot Sauce Nashville with his wife, Chelsea. As a small business owner, he feels he is keenly aware of the small business community's needs. He pledges to vote on tax policies, zoning requirements, permits, and infrastructure investments that would benefit small business owners.

Cheng plans to prioritize community investments such as parks and recreational areas. His goal is to partner with local sustainability organizations to build a cleaner environment, and strengthen our land and waterways to mitigate the impact of extreme weather. He will also advocate for improved infrastructure. To address Nashville's housing issues, he supports increasing mixed-use developments and multi-family units, as well as transitional housing for the homeless.



ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH MORRIS

QUIN EVANS-SEGALL COUNCIL AT LARGE

Quin Evans Segall is a native Nashvillian who attended the University of Alabama for both her undergraduate and law school education. Evans Segall's professional career began clerking for federal judge Gregory F. Van Tatenhove, appointed in 2006 by President George W. Bush. She then practiced law with Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP in Alabama.

Today she is an attorney and co-owner of City House Title. She currently serves as a member of the Tennessee Performing Arts Center Foundation Board, the Nashville Industrial Development Board, and is the beautification chair of the Belmont-Hillsboro Neighborhood Association.

If elected, Evans Segall says she will focus on changing the way the Metro government functions to create more resilient and efficient systems to meet the needs of Nashvillians. She hopes to push to change zoning codes to build more affordable housing faster and update the budget process to account for long term needs. Evans Segall prioritizes access to affordable childcare as a campaign issue and has advocated using public financing to build daycare centers.

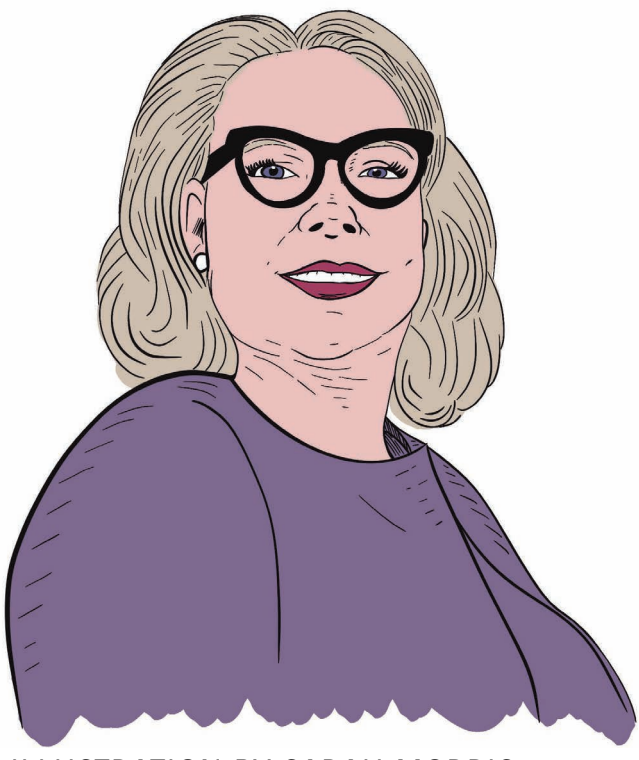


ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH MORRIS

OLIVIA HILL COUNCIL AT LARGE

Olivia Hill is a native Nashvillian who spent ten years as a gas turbine specialist in the U.S. Navy, including serving in combat during Operation Desert Storm. She then worked for 26 years in the power plant at Vanderbilt University. After retiring in 2021 as assistant manager of the plant, Hill brought and won a lawsuit against her former employer on the basis of sex, gender identity, and disability discrimination in the workplace. Hill is the first-ever trans candidate for Metro Council.

Hill was the winner of Vanderbilt University’s LGBTQIA Advocate of the year award in 2020. She has been a mentor and volunteer with the University’s Trans Buddy program for four years. She also serves on the board of the Nashville LGBT Chamber.

Her platform is committed to equitable growth for all voices as Nashville expands. She believes the license plate reader program approved by Metro Council is prone to mistakes and disproportionately harms minorities. She has promised to make the budget process more transparent and to fight for affordable housing.



ILLUSTRATION BY ABIGAIL COPPAGE

HOWARD JONES COUNCIL AT LARGE

Howard Jones was born in Whites Creek and received bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Tennessee State University. Jones also earned a doctorate in education from Trevecca University. He is a senior pastor at Fairfield Baptist Church and owner of Kingdom Cafe and Grill. He was previously the assistant principal at John F. Kennedy Middle School.

Jones has had several bids for public office including running for Tennessee State Senate in 2018, Metro Council at-large in 2019, and Davidson County Clerk in 2022. During his run for State Senate, he violated Metro Nashville Public Schools policy by signing up MNPS employees for campaign email blasts. In May 2023, he attended the “Protect Kids Not Guns Rally” at the capital.

His priorities include improving access to opportunities for economic growth in lower-income sectors of the community, expanding and preserving the city’s parks, dedicated funding for WeGo, and investing in a transit system that prioritizes public transport, walking, and biking. He is opposed to the Titans stadium financing bill and says, “The Council conceived a two billion dollar plan for football and I believe that we can conceive at least one billion dollar plan to create affordable housing for all.”



ILLUSTRATION BY ABIGAIL COPPAGE

DELISHIA PORTERFIELD COUNCIL AT LARGE

Delishia Porterfield is a Nashville native and holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in education from Tennessee State University. She is a special education coach and became a member of Nashville’s Metro Council in a special election in 2019, representing District 29. She is the current chair of the Minority Caucus, and vice chair of the Public Health and Safety Committee. She previously served as the chair of the Education Committee and Vice Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Porterfield serves on multiple boards of directors, including Ignite Her Pursuit, the Destiny Theatre Experience, and eMPowerment. She is currently the director of leadership and advocacy for Stand Up Nashville. Porterfield is a former state co-chair of Bernie Sanders’ presidential bid.

Porterfield advocates dedicated funding to WeGo, as well as extending hours, adding bus routes and providing sidewalks and sheltered locations at bus stops. She opposed the Titans stadium financing bill and license plate readers. She thinks increasing inventory overall, working with developers and community organizations to incentivize the construction of affordable housing, and advocating for living wages are possible solutions to Nashville’s housing problems.

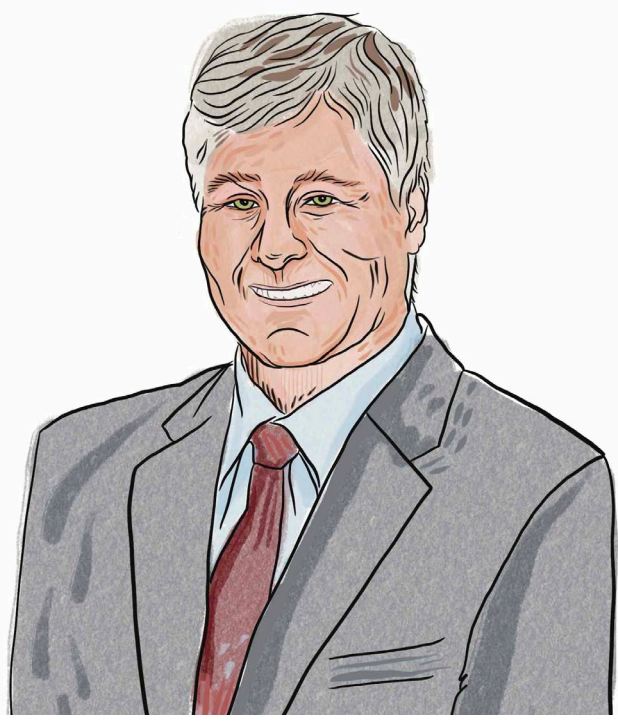


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RUSS PULLEY COUNCIL AT LARGE

Russ Pulley moved to Nashville in 1985 and has a bachelor’s degree in governmental administration from Christopher Newport University. Pulley was a police officer and a state trooper before becoming a law enforcement officer with the FBI. He worked for the U.S. Department of Justice for 41 years until he retired.

Pulley was elected to represent Metro Council District 25 in 2015. He serves on the Budget and Finance, Codes, and Public Safety committees. Pulley is the chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure committee and the vice chair of both the Education and Rules committees.

Pulley’s platform includes incentivizing private developers to absorb a significant portion of infrastructure cost related to the new Titans stadium and investing in affordable housing through the funding of sources like the Barnes Fund. Pulley advocates investing in the deconcentration of poverty and mental health services, but not at the expense of the police. He voted in favor of the new Titan’s stadium legislation. He believes that without the new deal, the city was responsible for a larger public subsidy that would come from taxpayer funds to renovate the old stadium.

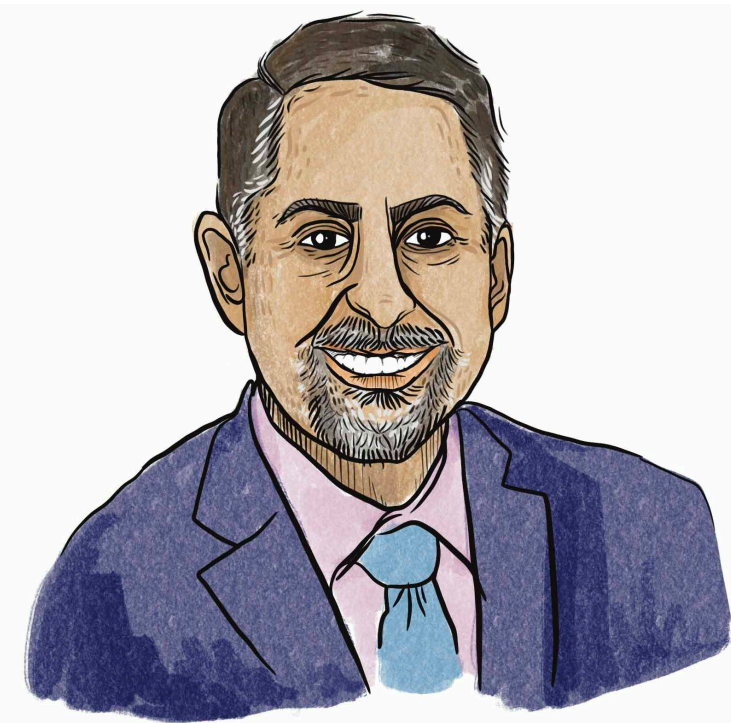


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JEFF SYRACUSE COUNCIL AT LARGE

Jeff Syracuse moved to Nashville in 1998 to attend Middle Tennessee State University. After receiving his bachelor’s, he earned an MBA from University of Phoenix in Nashville. Syracuse has been an active member of the Donelson community, serving on the Donelson Hills Neighborhood Watch and Neighborhood Association. He has served as President of the Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce, and led projects for Donelson Gateway Project and Hip Donelson.

In addition to 25 years working for BMI, Syracuse has also worked with Music Makes Us and the Blues Foundation and established the “Music at the Mansion” series while serving as president of Friends of Two Rivers Mansion.

Syracuse has served on the council since 2015 with neighborhood safety and sustainable growth of Nashville as his key priorities. He has campaigned on protecting Music City’s music ecosystem. He voted in favor of license plate readers and the Titans stadium financing bill, and he supports more funding for transit. Syracuse led a meeting series called “Safe Schools and Communities: Addressing the Gun Violence Epidemic” in the wake of the Covenant school shootings.

DISTRICT COUNCIL



One council member from each of the 35 districts comprising Davidson County is elected to Metro Council. Districts are determined by population and reconsidered every ten years based on new federal Census results. Metro council members can serve up to two consecutive four-year terms.



ILLUSTRATION BY CARA LOUISE HARRIS

DAVETTE BLALOCK DISTRICT 4

Davette Blalock has lived in District 4 for more than 30 years. She is a realtor, mother, Girl Scout leader, and former Metro Nashville Councilwoman for District 27, where she served two terms from 2011 to 2019. A graduate of Overton High School, Blalock has lived in District 4 for more than 30 years. She has worked as an insurance agent for more than 20 years, and currently runs the Blalock Realty Group.

Blalock previously served two terms representing District 27 in Metro Council from 2011 to 2019. She pushed for longer term limits for council members in order to give them more time to understand the ins and outs of Metro. She sponsored legislation to limit single use plastic bags in Nashville and to create a new design overlay on Nolensville road . She supported adding traffic calming measures in her district as well as increasing penalties for reckless driving.

Blalock believes in environmentally responsible city development and fully funding police and fire departments. She hopes to leverage her relationships with state and city elected officials to benefit Nashvillians.



ILLUSTRATION BY CARA LOUISE HARRIS

MIKE CORTESE DISTRICT 4

Mike Cortese has lived in Nashville since attending Belmont University. He received his bachelor's degree in music business from Belmont in 2004 and received a master's degree in education from Belmont in 2019. He is currently an adjunct professor at Belmont and provides team building services with his company Elevate Training & Consulting. Previously, he worked for the artist management firm Sports Entertainment Group.

In 2019, Cortese ran for Metro Council District 4 and was defeated by current councilmember Robert Swope. He is running in part because he believes there was not strong communication between residents and Swope. He hopes to increase engagement and improve quality of life for his community.

He believes the new Titans stadium financing legislation will benefit Nashville, and while he has personal privacy concerns about license plate readers he believes the program is valuable for law enforcement. Cortese has volunteered at Room in the Inn, an organization that provides resources and rooms to the unhoused and Nashville Rescue Mission.



ILLUSTRATION BY DESTINY DESTEFANO

JEFF ESLICK DISTRICT 11

Jeff Eslick grew up in Nashville and received a bachelor's degree from Middle Tennessee State University. He currently resides in Old Hickory and runs an advertising agency.

If elected, Eslick's top priorities will be investing in public safety by expanding the police force and increasing the number of School Resource Officers, managing the city's growth by making sure new developments respect current residents and neighbors, and responding to Nashville's homelessness issue by reducing the number of homeless encampments. He believes it is important to continue cultivating tourism by investing in downtown Nashville and favors the new Titan Stadium deal.

Eslick is not in favor of increased property taxes and believes that once the requirements of the Metro Council's Financial Reserve Policies are met, current tax rates should be lowered.



ILLUSTRATION BY DESTINY DESTEFANO

ERIC PATTON DISTRICT 11

Eric Patton has lived in Nashville for 13 years. He works as director of client relations at an accounting firm. Patton has previously held minor roles in political campaigns and volunteered with the Human Rights Campaign. He is currently on campaign leave from the local Old Hickory Neighborhood Association. Patton is an active member of Belmont United Methodist Church.

If elected, Patton's priorities are safer, well-funded schools, improved city services, and support for local small businesses. Patton opposed the Titans stadium financing bill and spoke at the public hearing on the issue. He described his position

on license plate readers as “mixed,” saying it’s reasonable technology for the police to have as long as it is used responsibly. Patton believes there are “nowhere near” enough police officers in Nashville and that it is dangerous to have an understaffed police department. He believes the Metro Council should focus on everyday issues, including growing homelessness and providing dedicated funding for WeGo.



ILLUSTRATION BY CARA LOUISE HARRIS

TASHA ELLIS DISTRICT 29

Tasha Ellis has lived in the Nashville area for 21 years. She received a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Tennessee State University and an MBA from Trevecca Nazarene University. Ellis is the founder of Ellis Strategies, a company that runs direct mail campaigns for political parties. Her employment history includes time with the Tennessee Democratic Party as well as roles in operations and communications.

She has served as treasurer of Davidson County Democratic Party and Davidson County Democratic Women, a board member for the 260 Change Fund, and a mentor for TnAchieves.

Ellis wants to work alongside Metro’s police chief to address infrequent patrolling, and supports increased police staffing to address public safety. She also hopes to address homelessness and youth and early childhood development. When asked how she would have voted on the Titans stadium financing bill and license plate readers, Ellis said she would need more information.



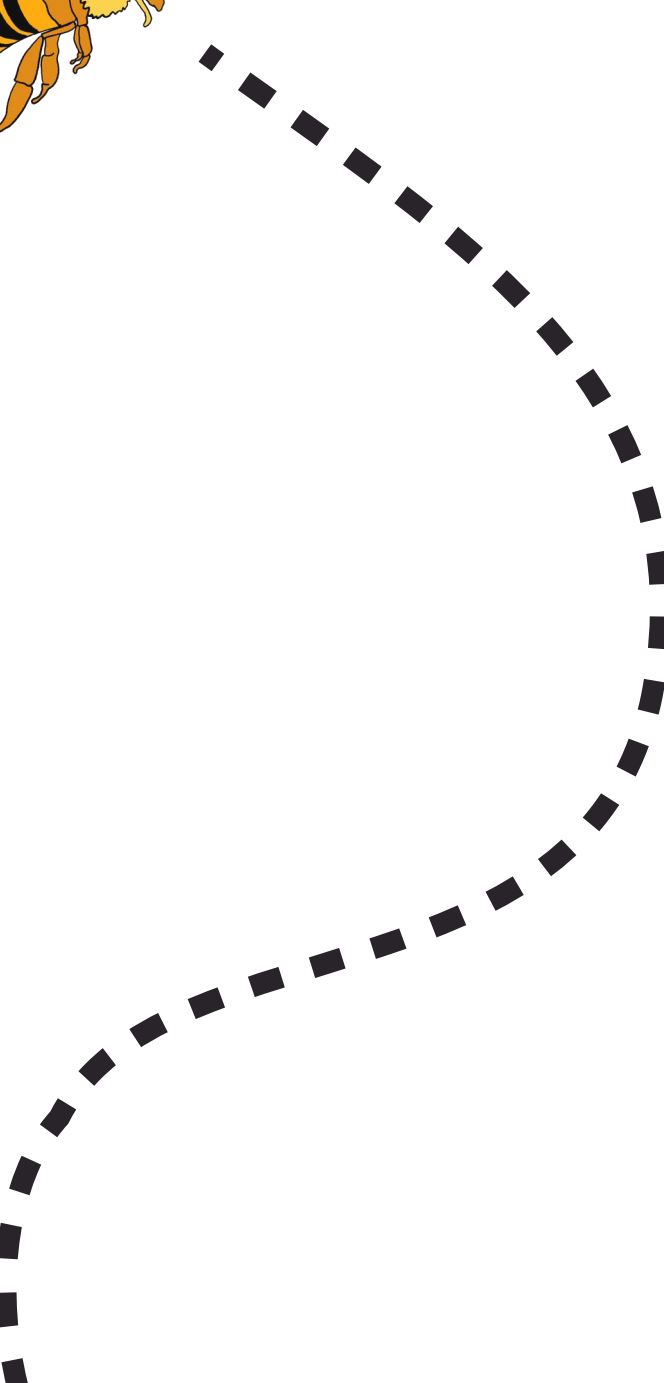
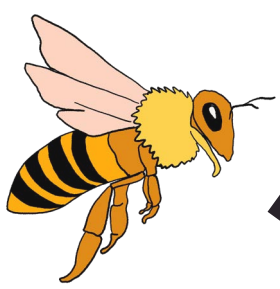
ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH MORRIS

JOHN REED DISTRICT 29

John Reed received a bachelor’s degree in political science from University of Tennessee at Martin. He currently works as a political consultant with Roundtable Consulting.

Reed got his start working with Howard Gentry's Nashville mayoral campaign in 2015 and since has been involved in managing, consulting, and field organizing campaigns at local and state levels. He was also a data analyst in South Carolina for Senator Bernie Sanders's presidential campaign.

Reed wants his district to have walkable communities that are well-equipped to support thriving local businesses. Reed actively supports efforts to raise the minimum wage and would invest in public education and common-sense gun laws. He’s an advocate for reproductive justice and LGBTQIA+ rights. He believes everyone deserves to live no further than a 15 minute walk from a park or recreation area and wants to protect green spaces.



TN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SPECIAL ELECTIONS

The Tennessee House of Representatives is holding a special election for the District 51 representative seat that was vacated in June 2023 with the passing of Rep. Bill Beck.

The Tennessee House of Representatives, alongside the Tennessee State Senate, forms the legislative branch of the Tennessee state government and works alongside the Governor of Tennessee to create laws and establish a state budget.

Legislative authority and responsibilities of the Tennessee House of Representatives includes passing bills on public policy matters, setting state budgets, raising and lowering taxes, and voting to uphold or override gubernatorial vetoes. The House has the sole power to originate impeachment proceedings against public officials, who are then brought before the Senate for trial. Tennessee is one of six states that requires a majority vote from both of its legislative chambers to override a veto.



ILLUSTRATION BY CARA LOUISE HARRIS

AFTYN BEHN DISTRICT 51

Aftyn Behn is a licensed master social worker with a master of social work degree, specializing in disability studies and public policy, from the University of Texas at Austin. Behn has worked as a community organizer with Indivisible and Tennessee Justice Center and in 2022, Behn joined RuralOrganizer.org as Campaign Director.

In March 2019, Behn wrote an op-ed with the Tennessean on the issue of racism in the state legislature. In April 2019, Behn participated in a 30-hour sit-in at Tennessee Governor Bill Lee's office advocating for the removal of Representative David Byrd who was accused of sexual assault; Behn was also removed from Tennessee House chambers after protesting House Speaker Glen Casada's support for Representative Byrd.

Behn intends to "offer backup" to the Tennessee state representatives Justin Jones, Justin Pearson, and Gloria Johnson, known as the "Tennessee Three". Behn's priorities as representative include opposing anti-LGBTQIA+-rights legislation; reforming Tennessee state gun laws and campaign finance; pursuing reproductive justice; investing in caregiving infrastructure; challenging state preemption of local governance, in part to achieve housing justice; elevating the perspectives of constituent school board members on education issues; and incentivizing economic growth through small businesses.

DAVID C. HOOVEN DISTRICT 51

David C. Hooven, a native Nashvillian, has a bachelor's degree in education from Middle Tennessee State University and is a retired Army veteran. Hooven currently works in real estate at JDR Investments in Brentwood, TN.

Hooven has only a few campaign priorities on his website. He advocates for civil communication and financial literacy programs for students and teachers. Hooven purports that many teachers are impoverished because they don't know how to manage their personal finances. Hooven also hopes to reform the criminal justice system by having advocates assigned to those released from prison who assess the prisoner's financial situation.

Hooven has volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, his church The Donelson Fellowship, Men of Valor, Cure International and Mountain Top Outreach Ministries for Youth and Adults.

The following candidate had no information online and was not included in this issue:
Annabelle Lee, Independent running for Tennessee House of Representatives in District 51.



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