



CAPITOL & 5TH

PUBLIC STRATEGIES

2020 ELECTION UPDATE

Federal and State General Election Results



Though little in 2020 has gone as expected, the 2020 Tennessee general election produced largely anticipated outcomes in Tennessee. The elections in Tennessee were orderly and efficient with a tremendous early vote which likely dampened the turnout on election day, except in a few places around the state. The influx of early voting will allow for some statewide analysis, but the majority of reports continue to trend exceptionally conservative. Only a few urban and suburban districts remain competitive between the two major political parties in Tennessee; most competitive elections this cycle were in the August Primaries.

With nearly 3 million Tennessee votes counted so far, President Trump easily secured the statewide vote, matching his 2016 performance in the state. Vice-President Biden only garnered 38% of the vote, continuing a weak trend where Tennessee Democrats are unable to break 40% in a statewide election except for former Governor Phil Bredesen in his unsuccessful bid for the US Senate in 2018. Additionally, all congressional incumbents succeeded in their re-election efforts. The spotlighted races to succeed retiring members US Senator Lamar Alexander and Congressman Phil Roe were won by Republican candidates by very large margins.

Tennessee's 2020 state elections featured a myriad of both uncontested and a handful highly competitive races. With the departure of several Republican incumbents in the House and one in the Senate, the GOP leadership campaigned heavily around the state to assure victory in a few shifting urban and suburban districts. Even with several contested elections around the state, chances of Republicans losing their supermajority in Tennessee was almost negligible. In the end, both chambers of the Tennessee House and Senate will acquire new members due to an incumbent upset on November 3 and several defeats in the August primaries. Efforts to secure the Republican supermajority were overall successful and the composition of the two bodies will remain largely the same. The Senate will now have 27 Republicans members with 6 Democrats, while the House composition will remain unchanged at 73 Republicans and 26 Democrats.

CONGRESSIONAL RACES



U.S. SENATE

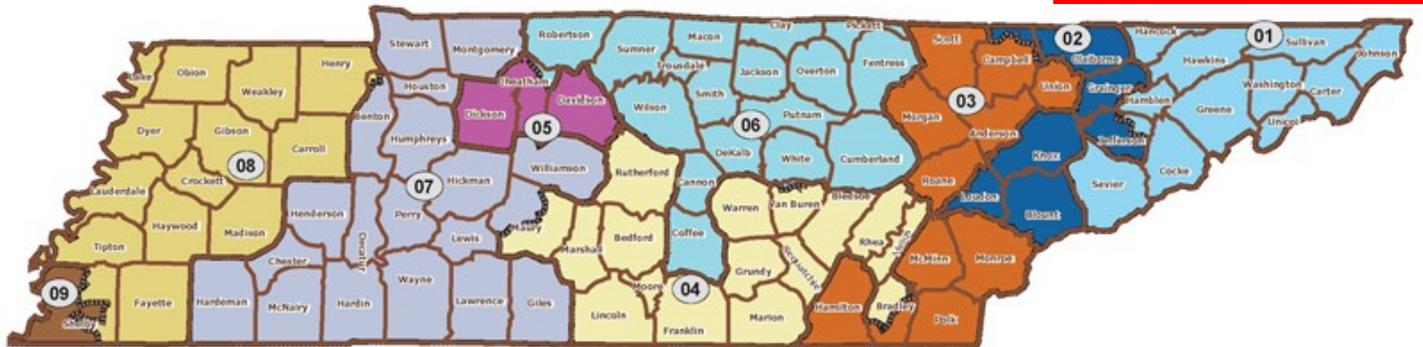
In the high-profile race to succeed retiring Sen. Lamar Alexander, former Ambassador to Japan and Commissioner of Tennessee Economic & Community Development, Bill Hagerty, defeated Democratic environmentalist from Memphis, Marquita Bradshaw, by roughly 800,000 votes—capturing just shy of 70 percent of the vote.

A Gallatin native, Hagerty’s campaign platform emphasizes supporting law enforcement, combating illegal immigration, ending human trafficking, and confirming constitutionalist judges.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The race to replace retiring Congressman Phil Roe in the first congressional district was won by self-funded pharmacist and Republican candidate Diana Harshbarger, capturing nearly 75 percent of the vote and defeating Democratic candidate Blair Walsingham after winning a highly contested primary in August.

Harshbarger’s campaign platform emphasizes immigration reform, health care reform, addressing the opioid crisis, and congressional term limits.



2nd District

Tim Burchett — R



4th District

Scott DesJarlais — R



6th District

John Rose — R



8th District

David Kustoff — R



3rd District

Chuck Fleischmann — R



5th District

Jim Cooper — D



7th District

Mark Green — R



9th District

Steve Cohen — D

OVERVIEW

Incumbent Congressmen Reps. **Tim Burchett** (R-TN02), **Chuck Fleischmann** (R-TN03), **Scott DesJarlais** (R-TN04), **Jim Cooper** (D-TN05), **John Rose** (R-TN06), **Mark Green** (R-TN07), **David Kustoff** (R-TN08) and **Steven Cohen** (D-TN09) all prevailed in their general election races.

STATE SENATE RACES



Dr. Page Walley, R-Bolivar

SD-26

Chester, Decatur, Fayette, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, McNairy, and Henderson Counties

As the only vacant Senate seat in the 2020 election cycle, the race to fill retiring Sen. Delores Gresham's seat was won by Republican candidate and former House Representative, Dr. Page Walley, claiming victory over Democratic opponent Civil Miller-Watkins and securing 75 percent of the vote. Wally won a closely contested primary in August defeating former Commissioner of Agriculture Jai Templeton.

Dr. Walley previously served as the Commissioner of the Department of Children's Services and was appointed to that position by former Gov. Don Sundquist. A licensed clinical psychologist, Dr. Walley currently works as the Chief Public Policy and Community Engagement Officer for St. Francis Ministries and is also the current Vice-Mayor of Bolivar.

Part of Davidson County

SD-20

Considered to be the most anticipated state Senate race this election cycle, the SD-20 seat flipped as the sole Republican incumbent of Nashville, Steve Dickerson, was unseated by Democratic challenger Heidi Campbell of Oak Hill. Though Dickerson was widely considered a moderate by his caucus counterparts, the changing landscape of his district in a highly partisan election cycle proved to be an insurmountable hurdle to his re-election bid. The final vote tally was 52 to 48 percent.

For the first time since 2006, Tennessee Senate Democrats will welcome a new caucus member: Heidi Campbell. A Nashville native, Campbell formerly worked in the music industry and was the first female Mayor of the city of Oak Hill. Her campaign platform centers around disability rights, economic responsibility, public education, and environmental protection.



Heidi Campbell, D-Nashville

CONTESTED RACE SPOTLIGHT

SD-10

Bradley and part of Hamilton Counties

WINNER



Todd Gardenhire, R-Chattanooga

Like Dickerson, incumbent Sen. Todd Gardenhire faced a tough race this election cycle due his increasingly purple urban district in Hamilton County. While the Senator's conservative base in Bradley county has historically been strong enough to counterbalance the progressive downtown district, his race against Democrat Glenn Scruggs was hard fought. Sen. Gardenhire was ultimately successful in his re-election bid beating Scruggs by an 8-point margin.



Glenn Scruggs, D-Chattanooga

STATE HOUSE RACES



Scotty Campbell, R-Mountain City

HD-03 Johnson and part of Sullivan Counties

Former Rep. Timothy Hill's vacated seat was won by Republican Scotty Campbell, a radio show host from Mountain City who ran unopposed in the general election. Campbell previously served in the Tennessee House of Representatives from 2011 – 2012 and was a member of the House Finance, Ways & Means and Health & Human Services committees. Campbell's platform centers around private-sector job creation and limited government.

HD-03 Part of Washington County

Republican Tim Hicks of Gray was victorious against Democratic opponent Brad Batt of Johnson City in the race for the HD-6 seat formerly occupied by Micah Van Huss. Hicks is a homebuilder and owner of Hicks Construction and serves on the Washington County Regional Planning Commission. Hicks is a recovering addict and centered his campaign around the theme of a "fresh start." He is a proponent of public education and technical and vocational workforce development.



Tim Hicks, R-Gray

HD-07 Part of Washington County

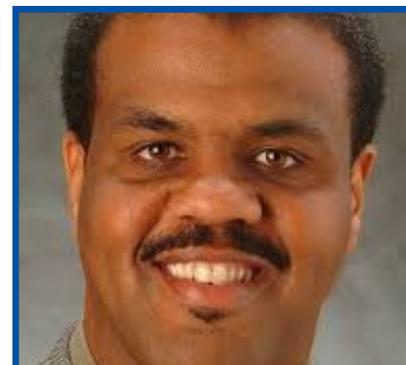


Rebecca Alexander, R-Jonesborough

Republican Rebecca Alexander of Jonesborough ran unopposed in her race after defeating incumbent Matthew Hill in the primary. Alexander previously worked in corporate marketing before retiring to raise a family. She earned her master's in education from East Tennessee State University and now helps run her family's business, Dillow-Taylor Funeral Home. Alexander is proponent of agricultural autonomy, state's rights, and permit-less carry.

HD-15 Part of Knox County

Democrat Sam McKenzie claimed victory over Independent Troy B. Jones in the race for the Knoxville HD-15 seat formerly occupied by Rick Staples. McKenzie is a physicist at Oak Ridge National Laboratory where he has worked for over 30 years. He served eight years on the Knox County Commission in addition to serving on the Knoxville Utilities Board for five years. McKenzie's platform emphasizes criminal justice reform, Medicaid expansion, and increasing the minimum wage.



Sam McKenzie, D-Knoxville

HD-16 Part of Knox County



Michele Carringer, R-Knoxville

Retiring Rep. Bill Dunn's seat was won by Republican candidate Michele Carringer of Knoxville. Carringer currently serves as the Knox County Commissioner representing District 7 and previously represented District 7A from 2009-2010. Carringer supports maximizing government efficiency and keeping taxes low.

STATE HOUSE RACES



Eddie Mannis R-Knoxville

HD-18 Part of Knox County

The seat vacated by retiring Rep. Martin Daniel began as a highly competitive race among Republicans, but nominee Eddie Mannis ultimately defeated Democrat Virginia Couch for the HD-18 seat by a margin of 10 points. Mannis is the owner of Prestige Cleaners in Knoxville and served as Chief Operating Officer for the City of Knoxville under former Mayor of Knoxville, Madeline Rogero. Mannis also served as the Chairman of the Knoxville Airport Authority and the Knoxville Zoo. Mannis supports high quality public education, economic development, and protecting health care for vulnerable populations.

Weakley and part of Obion and Carroll Counties **HD-76**

Retiring Rep. Andy Holt's vacated seat was won by Republican Tandy Darby of Greenfield, beating out Independent Jeff Washburn of Dresden. Darby is a financial advisor in addition to working on his family's farm at Akin and Porter Produce in Greenfield. He has previously served on the board for the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce and the Weakly County Economic Development Board. Darby's platform centers around low taxes, high-paying jobs, and high-quality education.



Tandy Darby, R-Greenfield



Torrey Harris, D-Memphis

HD-90 Part of Shelby County

The HD-90 seat featured an unusual race this year after incumbent Rep. John Deberry was removed from the Democratic ballot in August for his conservative voting record. Though Deberry was able to run as an Independent this election cycle due to a newly passed law, he was not successful in beating out 29-year-old Democrat Torrey Harris of Memphis who secured 77 percent of the vote. Harris currently works as a Director of Human Resources with Shelby County government and supports affordable healthcare and sensible gun legislation. Harris is also the first openly LGBTQ member of the Tennessee General Assembly.

Marshall and part of Franklin, Lincoln, and Marion Counties **HD-92**

The HD-92 seat formerly occupied by Rick Tillis was won by Republican Todd Warner after running an unopposed general election race. A farmer and self-employed businessman from Chapel Hill, Warner has previously served on the Marshall County School Board as an Alderman. His campaign platform centers around 2nd Amendment rights, combating illegal immigration, and protecting family farms.



Todd Warner, R-Chapel Hill



John Gillespie, R-Bartlett

HD-97 Part of Shelby County

In perhaps the most competitive House race this election cycle, the HD-97 seat vacated by retiring Rep. Jim Coley was won by John Gillespie of Bartlett who successfully captured 51 percent of the vote. Gillespie currently works as a Grant Coordinator at Trezevant Episcopal home and was the campaign manager for former Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell in 2010. Gillespie is a proponent of strong law enforcement, increasing access to Pre-K and vocational training, and supporting competition and flexibility in the health care marketplace.