

Category: Knox County Mayor

Candidates:

Name: **Brad Anders**

Party: Rep

Address: 3428 Hackworth Road Knoxville, TN 37931

Campaign Phone: (865) 539-5348

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

Email: brad@bradanders.com

Name: **Rebecca Deloa**

Party: Dem

Name: **Rhonda Gallman**

Party: Dem

Address: 2431 Hoitt Ave Knoxville , Tennessee 37917

Campaign Phone: (865) 936-4647

Email: rhondagallman01@gmail.com

Name: **Linda Haney**

Party: Dem

Address: 2929 Long Hollow Rd Powell, TN 37849

Campaign Phone: (865) 719-0597

Email: lhformayor@gmail.com

Name: **Glenn Jacobs**

Party: Rep

Address: PO Box 23348 Knoxville, TN 37933

Campaign Phone: (865) 248-9674

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

Email: info@jacobsformayor.com

Name: **Bob Thomas**

Party: Rep

Address: 6815 STONE MILL DRIVE KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

Campaign Phone: (865) 309-4364

Web Site: <http://BOBTHOMAS.COM>

Email: ELECTBOBTHOMAS@yahoo.com

Questions:

Q: 1. What initiatives would you undertake to improve the quality of life for Knox County residents?

Brad Anders: One area we can make a positive impact on our families and community is within the school system. There are many students that will never enter college, but there

are tremendous employment opportunities for them if we provide the right training. Many of the traditional trades are experiencing a significant workforce shortage. I'd like to see us provide more career and technical training classes within the schools, geared towards those opportunities. Education is the great equalizer and we need to have path for all students to be ready for whatever steps they take after high school, no matter if it is college or a career trade.

This measure will enable more people to enter the workforce and will cause an overall improvement to our local economy.

Rebecca Deloa: - no response -

Rhonda Gallman: I will myself available to listen and learn and take action regarding the issues and concerns of the people.

Linda Haney: Work with the School Board to expand the Community School model in the County.

Promote industry and businesses that are environmentally safe and pay a living wage to come to Knox County.

Improve our infrastructure so it will support responsible development.

Find a way to expand the facilities to treat mental illness and treatment for addiction.

Consider the possibility of having bus service in the County.

Work to make Knox County a litter-free environment, and energy efficient.

Glenn Jacobs: Between ORNL and UT, we have two world-class research institutions. We need to leverage those assets to bring more good-paying jobs to our area. Knox county has the potential to be a global leader in the research & development and advanced manufacturing sectors. We also have some great outdoor recreation facilities that we need to promote and market.

We need more emphasis on Career and Technical Education (CTE) in our schools. Our children should have the tools they need to excel in whatever area they choose, be it continuing onto college or in the trades.

We need to form community coalitions to battle the drug epidemic. Government has a role, but all of us need to be involved.

Our veteran's services office does a good job, but I'd like to see us do better.

I plan on introducing the Mayor's Roundtable to build coalitions within the private sector to improve economic opportunity throughout the county.

Bob Thomas: The quality of life is very good in Knox County - the trick may be to maintain it with all the growth we are experiencing. That's part of what continues to draw so many new residents and businesses to our beautiful part of the World. We must continue to improve education. We also must focus on taking care of our seniors and Veterans. There are many elderly that do not feel safe in their own homes and that is not acceptable. Also, we have to work harder to attract businesses with better paying jobs. Our growth is what keeps our taxes low and that is a major factor to maintaining our quality of life.

Government needs to do what it's meant to do - provide the services that individuals

cannot do for themselves. I feel the Mayor needs to lead, but bring everyone into the process. That's how the best decisions are made for the community as a whole.

Q: 2. In what areas does Knox County need to increase expenditures to maintain or improve the quality of life in our community? What circumstances would you consider sufficiently important to necessitate a raise in taxes?

Brad Anders: First, we need to find a sustainable plan to improve the pay of our front-line employees: Sheriff deputies and classroom teachers. Although Knox County has been able to draw quality people here to work, the market for teachers and law enforcement has become very competitive and we should take measures to ensure we can keep the talent we have and recruit more.

Secondly, we need to invest in our long-term infrastructure needs. Knox County is experiencing an incredible growth spurt, and our roads are feeling the pressure. From potholes and congestion, we need a long-term plan to be pro-active. Our parks are also feeling the stress and need to be addressed.

My goal as mayor is to live within our growth. A tax increase is the last option and should only be considered when the county can no longer provide necessary services and all other efficiencies have been found. Our debt load can not increase much more as it would negatively impact our bond rating and increase our debt payments.

Rebecca Deloa: - no response -

Rhonda Gallman: Safety First!

Everyone wants to feel safe.

Safe Schools, Safe Roads and Safe Transportation for Schools, will be mu number one priority.

Linda Haney: Teachers and Sheriff's deputies need to have an increase in pay. We expect them to give their all and so they need to be compensated for all they give.

All Knox County Schools in every zip code should be improved and fully functioning to meet the needs of Students and Teachers.

Our infrastructure needs to be maintained and improved.

The crisis in drug addiction must be addressed by providing treatment for the disease.

If it is not possible to find the funds in the existing budget it could necessitate a raise in taxes.

Glenn Jacobs: Raising taxes and increasing overall government spending will harm our quality of life, not enhance it. There are many areas in which we can address inefficiencies to cut spending without reducing services. In addition, I believe that we can utilize public-private partnership to take some of the funding burden off of the taxpayers for certain services.

I will fight any proposed tax hikes. Taxes hurt the poor and those on fixed incomes more than anyone else. Just like we do in our own households, government must live within its means, not continually demand more money from its citizens.

Bob Thomas: We need to maintain our infrastructure better. Improve our safety and security. And we need to run our county as efficient as possible. We need to stop all waste. The government is well funded, it just needs a good business-minded person to lead the way. I don't know why we would raise property taxes. There are still many recovering from the depression and struggling to pay the taxes as they are. Keep in mind, most of our revenue comes from a consumption tax which is the fairest way to tax people. Our budget is @\$800M - we have plenty of funds to run the county efficiently.

Q: 3. What do you believe are the most pressing challenges facing Knox County? How would you address them as mayor?

Brad Anders: I think the most important issue facing our community is making sure we are developing a work force prepared for tomorrow's job opportunities. We should be focusing more resources on technical training so that we are preparing students who are not interested in college for the work force.

I believe the mayor must work with the school system and the state to promote a greater emphasis on the trades and technical careers. If we can raise the level of technical training and give students more opportunities to earn a better living, we can significantly impact the lives of entire families for generations.

Rebecca Deloa: - no response -

Rhonda Gallman: Maintaining our infrastructures, requesting more funds for school supplies and here's another issue to chew on, street lights. I have some people that like the idea of street lights and side walks and some that enjoy their privacy. The more you listen, they more you learn. And I have always been all ears.

Linda Haney: Improving education for all boys and girls in all zip codes in the County. Growth and expansion of the County are great but need to be done responsibly. Attracting jobs to the County that pay a living wage. Combating the opioid crisis must be addressed. The only way to address these issues will be to show the citizens of Knox County that the Commission, School Board, and Sherriff's Office and the Mayor can work together to find efficient and effective ways to solve them.

Glenn Jacobs: By far, the most pressing challenge is the drug epidemic. Government cannot solve this problem alone. All of us--families, churches, schools, non-profits, and business-- must take an active role. The mayor's job is to help build this coalition and take an active leadership role.

We must also build an economy which takes advantage of the opportunities the 21st Century will present. We have the assets to do so, especially in the advanced manufacturing sector. Here, the mayor must take an active role in making us even more business friendly so that we can attract and keep business which create high-paying jobs. More and more, schools are becoming community hubs. The mayor should work closely with the school system to make sure that our schools are satisfying the changing needs of our kids.

Bob Thomas: 1. Continue to improve education. I have a great relationship with the "other" Bob Thomas and we see eye-to-eye on many issues our schools are facing. I look forward to working with him as our county grows. 2. Safety and security of our seniors and Veterans, which will improve their quality of life. I truly believe that they are the one segment that gets neglected the most. 3. Draw good businesses to Knox County with good paying, career-minded jobs. The bottom line to me is...we have to leave Knox County better than we found it for those will follow us. I have over 40 years of business experience and involvement in the Knox County community. I have made budgets and made payrolls. I have led people. I am well experienced to lead this county forward into the future. My qualifications are listed on BobThomas.com.

Category: Knox County Sheriff

Candidates:

Name: **Tom Spangler**

Party: Rep

Address: P.O. Box 457 Knoxville, TN 37901

Campaign Phone: (865) 256-0016

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

Email: spangler884@gmail.com

Name: **Lee Tramel**

Party: Rep

Address: 400 Hill Ave Knoxville , TN 37901

Campaign Phone: (865) 633-7089

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

Email: leetramel2018@icloud.com

Questions:

Q: 1. What is the greatest challenge facing the Sheriff's Office? How would you overcome that challenge?

Tom Spangler: The Sheriff's office has lost so many officers (mostly due to recent retirements) that have had many years of Law Enforcement experience and the culture, meaning morale of the officers and support staff.

I want to create a career development program that allows an officer to get the training necessary to be promoted and or be placed in the department that they are best suited for. I

believe allowing these men & women to pursue their law enforcement career goals will make them want to stay with the Sheriff's office instead of pursuing other agencies. I also feel this will be a crucial tool in recruiting talent both locally as well as from other areas. I also will promote based on merit, work experience as well as work ethic, not based on who an individual knows or is related to. This in and of itself will drastically improve the morale and culture at the Sheriff's office.

Lee Tramel: Our greatest challenge is allocating resources to best protect our community. We must pay our front line deputies more so we can continue to recruit and retain the very best officers available. Our Sheriff's office is only as strong as the individual officers on the street. Whether they are solving a crime or simply being courteous to someone involved in a traffic accident, we need to provide competitive pay to keep the very best on the streets.

Q: 2. What do you see as the most serious law enforcement issues affecting Knox County? What measures can the Sheriff's Office take to address them?

Tom Spangler: Our citizens safety especially our children in the schools is without a doubt one of the most serious. Drugs have been and always will be tied to crime. The type of drug(s) vary every few years. We have to work in conjunction with everyone, including the private sector, medical professionals and other government agencies to combat this issue. I want to put a Law Enforcement Officer in each school, not have an officer assigned to 2-3 schools. I want to put more resources into educating our children and coming alongside of their parents for issues that they may be facing, whether it be bullying, drugs etc. I want more patrol officers on the streets. As a former Patrol officer and supervisor of Patrol I know how important it is to have an adequate number of Officers in our neighborhoods and on our streets.

Lee Tramel: The greatest law enforcement issue facing our community is the opioid crisis and the crime that comes with it. The crisis is affecting thousands of people every year. From property crimes to fund their addiction to overdose deaths, this crisis is affecting every level of law enforcement and our community. Until we can make progress in this crisis, it will be consuming our resources and destroying families.

The KCSO is already taking several pro active steps to fight this epidemic, but we must continue to educate the public, eradicate the funding sources for addicts, and incarcerate those repeat offenders who perpetuate this crisis.

Q: 3. In Knox County, deaths from opioid overdoses continue to increase. Knox County is projected to see 365 overdose deaths for 2018. What is the Sheriff's Office's role in addressing the opioid crisis?

Tom Spangler: The role of the Sheriff's Office is first and foremost to be enforcers of the laws that the legislature creates. Our second responsibility will be to EDUCATE the public, our staff, our officers and especially our children. We must make an impression on our children at a young age to the dangers of DRUGS. The last part will be treatment of an addict, this likely will be the most difficult. Treatment is not something that you can force

on an individual and it work. That individual must want to receive help before it can be effective. I want to be clear that I will be very tough on drug dealers & those individuals who prescribe illegally. I will make sure that Sheriff's office is working hard with other law enforcement agencies to take down dealers and those who assist them in bringing drugs into our community. I will not forget about the victims of the crimes that are committed by the dealers and or the users. My number one priority is the safety of our community.

Lee Tramel: We are already enacting several pro-active measures like our retail crime unit, fighting to cut off the money to fund addiction, or our "shot at life program" in our jails that provide Vivatrol to non violent addicts. I want us to expand these programs as well as have the courage to try other outside the box strategies to end this crisis.

For those incarcerated in our jails, I want to see us provide mental health and drug abuse treatment opportunities. Rather than sit around for days on end, I want us to push them towards improving their lives so they will stay out of our jails.

Category: Board of Education

Race: Board of Education District 1

Candidates:

Name: **Andre Canty**

Address: 4628 Holston Dr. Apt 20 Knoxville, Tennessee 37914

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

Email: cantyforschoolboard@gmail.com

Name: **Dametraus Jagers**

Address: PO Box 14436 Knoxville, TN 37914

Campaign Phone: (865) 964-3798

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

Email: djagers@electjagers.com

Name: **Evetty Satterfield**

Address: 310 Ben Hur Ave Knoxville, TN 37915

Campaign Phone: (865) 300-5257

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

Email: EvettyForTheFirst@gmail.com

Questions:

Q: 1. Protecting our school children from gun violence is very much on our minds today. However, school children are also threatened by harassment, bullying, and other mistreatment within our schools. How would you prioritize school safety resources?

Andre Canty: Firstly to emphasize the importance of and funding towards restorative justice practices. Having that in place tackles the issues of harassment and bullying head on with the victim and victimizer. Supporting more mental health and social workers in schools to investigate the root causes of bullying because there's normally a catalyst for that type of behavior. Establishing accountability to the abuser, but also digging into what caused the abuser to act on someone. I do not believe in turning schools into prisons in the sake of safety. School should be a sanctuary and not a jail where due process and humanity are stripped away.

Dametraus Jagers: As a parent of two KCS students and the spouse of one that works in our schools, I take school safety seriously. I will not advocate for arming our teachers with guns. Such a tactic would create unhealthy school environments for teachers and students. We have to take a holistic approach to ensuring the safety of our schools internally and externally. We must focus on creating school environments that address the social and emotional health of students and teachers. I would advocate for preventative measures to prevent and combat bullying, harassment and mistreatment. These measures must be implemented in collaboration with teachers, principals, school counselors and mental health professionals. Cultural competency training for all school staff is critical to this process and I would advocate for bolstering our security plan on the district level and at individual school levels. I would prioritize the creation of clear security protocols and a communication strategy for all parties.

Evetty Satterfield: I will prioritize the resources by supporting principal's efforts to create a positive educational environment for all students, faculty, and staff. Hold stakeholders accountable that do not follow KCS policies regarding harassment, bullying and other mistreatments. I also support adequate staffing of Student Resource Officers that are trained properly to work with various populations and diverse backgrounds and always advocate for resources to implement more social workers in our schools.

As a board member, I will commit to being available to hear concerns and praises regarding school safety.

Q: 2. What issues will be most important for Knox County Schools in the coming years? As a board member, what actions would you advocate for to address these issues?

Andre Canty: Transition from a punitive culture to restorative after the recommendations from the DEO Task Force, which I was on. I'll fight for shifting funding and emphasis to allow faculty to fully transform issues related to this shift in culture dealing with cultural competency, PBIS, restorative justice, and the Memorandum of Understanding with law enforcement and schools.

There also has been a lack of decision making on priorities in the budget from the people most affected, so making it accessible with how its read and facilitate collectively decide on those priorities. Investing what we think is important and divesting from we think is not. With that, I believe a current teacher should be a rep in the same capacity as a student rep.

Teacher shortage from a generation leaving and a generation coming up going towards other districts. I'd work with the staff and all of my city and county counterparts to build a culture welcoming to younger teachers of color.

Dametraus Jagers: I believe that the following issues will be important to Knox county schools; funding our district at a level that is consistent with our size, our priorities and future aspirations; recruitment and retention of a highly qualified and diverse teacher workforce and district level staff, and improving community relations and engagement, including community partnerships that can provide additional financial and educational resources to our schools and career training, apprenticeships and employment opportunities for our students. I will advocate for; a funding model that distributes funding equitably; funding for programs and services that benefit underserved students; and equipping schools and faculty with 21st century tools and resources to meet the educational needs of students. I will also prioritize 21st century facilities that support 21st century learning.

Evetty Satterfield: Knox County is population is increasing and it's paramount that Knox County Schools are moving in the direction to support this growth. Ensuring that schools, specifically in District One, have stellar facilities and create an exciting learning environment for scholars. This means buildings that are up to code, free from unwanted insects, rodents and other hazards to student's health and well-being. Before building new schools, we must renovate and remodel existing building and have a sense of urgency when schools submit maintenance requests.

Knox County Schools student demographics have rapidly changed and the teacher population has not. KCS must recruit and retain qualified teachers of color who understand student's cultures and backgrounds from an experiential standpoint. I will support KCS current recruitment department, evaluate and present quality teacher residency programs for the Board of Education to support and advocate for resources to focus on retaining qualified teachers

Q: 3. Each month, the Board must act on many contracts and recommendations proposed by the superintendent. What processes would you personally adopt to evaluate the value of these recommendations before voting on them?

Andre Canty: In a democratic process that would have people affected by it make a recommendation to me before voting. That would involve having fellow board reps, some central staff, parents, students, admin and teachers to collectively look at each contract and recommendations using a rubric. That rubric would investigate if the values and structure of a contract and recommendation align with strengthening the foundation of our children's education. I would look at how recommendations and contracts would benefit all of us equally regardless of race, class, zipcode, language, accessibility etc. For contracts, I'd look at how companies wages are, how they treat their staff, how their leadership is structured...etc. It is in itself a collective process before an individual vote as I represent a collective voice in the district and the county.

Dametraus Jagers: As a board member, I will be committed to coming to board meetings prepared and informed about items on the agenda. My ability to conduct my own research and communicate well with district staff, school staff and community stakeholders will help me in being more effective in the evaluation and voting process. Implementing these measures will be key for me as a new board member. Once I am on the board and have more experience, I will make it a priority to collaborate with fellow board members to evaluate and improve board processes on a regular basis.

Evetty Satterfield: My approach will be a need versus a want evaluation regarding each contract and/or recommendation. Identify which population would benefit the most and which ones will benefit the least from the recommendations and evaluate the short and long-term impact of such recommendations and/or contracts.

I will hold monthly meetings for the District One community, present my recommendations and gather information from all stakeholders to support the voting decision.

Race: Board of Education District 4

Candidate:

Name: **Virginia Babb**

Address: 140 Major Reynolds Place Knoxville, Tennessee 37919

Campaign Phone: (865) 599-9707

Email: virginia_babb@yahoo.com

Questions:

Q: 1. Protecting our school children from gun violence is very much on our minds today. However, school children are also threatened by harassment, bullying, and other mistreatment within our schools. How would you prioritize school safety resources?

Virginia Babb: There are many issues that school children and staff face everyday and unfortunately gun violence seems to be a growing one. However, this is just one problem our students are facing today. To me, the societal pressures with 24/7 social media access, harassment, and other issues call for additional support of social workers and counselors. I do think there need to be protocols in place to deal with all types of safety issues at schools and all personnel and students need to know how to act accordingly in case any unfortunate situation happens. When we look at prevention and dealing with some of these issues, however, priority should be in having more personnel trained to work with troubled students.

Q: 2. What issues will be most important for Knox County Schools in the coming years? As a board member, what actions would you advocate for to address these issues?

Virginia Babb: I believe a major priority for the Knox County Schools is to prepare our students for life after graduation. The school system has to continue to work with area

employers to ensure we are training students not only to go on to four year and community colleges, but that students are prepared to leave high school and acquire a quality job. Employer needs will always be changing, so we will need to regularly evaluate our methods for meeting those needs. I think enhancement of CTE training is important in the schools, but KCS needs to make sure that the training within the school setting is matching the needs of the community.

Another issue for Knox County is continuing to find ways to fund the increasing technology needs at all the schools. KCS is going to have to develop a comprehensive plan to handle the needs for technology across the county. This plan will need to address the needs of both staff & students and take in to account the short life cycle of most technology.

Q: 3. Each month, the Board must act on many contracts and recommendations proposed by the superintendent. What processes would you personally adopt to evaluate the value of these recommendations before voting on them?

Virginia Babb: Before voting on contracts and recommendations put forth by the superintendent I would first read the contract or recommendations and then, if needed, perform further research before making my decision. If it is a controversial decision, I would like to hear presentations on both sides of the issue before voting.

Race: Board of Education District 6

Candidate:

Name: **Terry Hill**

Address: 8609 Garrison Dr Knoxville , Tennessee 37931

Campaign Phone: (865) 254-5884

Email: Terry.hill@knoxschools.org

Questions:

Q: 1. Protecting our school children from gun violence is very much on our minds today. However, school children are also threatened by harassment, bullying, and other mistreatment within our schools. How would you prioritize school safety resources?

Terry Hill: Our first priority must be to keep our kids physically safe. All of our schools have an armed school security officer on site during and often after school hours. In addition we partner closely with the Knox County Sheriff Department and Knoxville Police Department to provide officers in our schools. Schools are equipped with cameras and "buzz in access". The Knox County Board of Education has a zero tolerance for any harassment, period. Our entire school staff as well as students are told to report these behaviors. Our guidance curriculum includes teaching our children strong character and what to do if yourself or others are being mistreated. A culture of kindness for every person in our schools should be our minimum expectation.

Q: 2. What issues will be most important for Knox County Schools in the coming years? As a board member, what actions would you advocate for to address these issues?

Terry Hill: Knox County Is growing at an unprecedented pace. Schools in many areas of our County are currently at or over capacity. The rapid change in technology and equipment remains an ongoing challenge as well as training our teachers to accommodate these changes. Revenue to meet thre growing needs for our students is a constant challenge. The State of Tennessee has developed a funding formula through the BEP (better education plan) that has never been fully funded. Advocacy through local school boards and private citizens must remain a constant. Recruitment of local business and industry to partner with our schools is an underutilized resource. A renewed focus on career and technology education brings new energy to these partnerships. This remains an ongoing advocacy in my tenure as a school board member.

Q: 3. Each month, the Board must act on many contracts and recommendations proposed by the superintendent. What processes would you personally adopt to evaluate the value of these recommendations before voting on them?

Terry Hill: All members of the BOE are provided information and copies of contracts prior to meetings for our review. Central office staff have accommodated any requests for clarification and fiscal impact I have requested and been diligent in the details. It remains my responsibility as a school board member to adhere to due diligence and be prepared.

Race: Board of Education District 7

Candidate:

Name: **Patti Lou Bounds**

Address: 913 North Meadows Blvd. Knoxville , TN 37938

Campaign Phone: (865) 406-8623

Web Site: <http://Pattibounds.comp>

Email: Pattibounds8@gmail.com

Questions:

Q: 1. Protecting our school children from gun violence is very much on our minds today. However, school children are also threatened by harassment, bullying, and other mistreatment within our schools. How would you prioritize school safety resources?

Patti Lou Bounds: Knox County Schools has tried to be proactive in protecting our students both physically and mentally. Knox County Schools has an armed School Resource Officer in each school. We have cameras, locked entrances and where funds have been available secure vestibules. Fences have been erected at most if not all elementary schools. Our middle and high schools are in the process of receiving fences as well. The Knox County School Board has implemented PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports), Restorative Practices and Cultural Competency.

Q: 2. What issues will be most important for Knox County Schools in the coming years? As a board member, what actions would you advocate for to address these issues?

Patti Lou Bounds: No one can predict what the issues in coming years will be. Our world is changing at an unbelievable pace. At this time arming teachers and metal detectors have taken front stage. It has temporarily replaced the push for one to one classrooms with technology. As a board we have to look at facility upgrades. I personally believe every child deserves to be in a building, not a portable classroom that should only be temporary, not a permanent solution. I also will advocate for smaller class sizes. We also need to fix the lack of enough substitutes.

Q: 3. Each month, the Board must act on many contracts and recommendations proposed by the superintendent. What processes would you personally adopt to evaluate the value of these recommendations before voting on them?

Patti Lou Bounds: Before even being sworn in as a board member I saw it as my responsibility to study each contract and recommendation; to ask questions of the superintendent and his staff; and travel if necessary to review models such as The International Baccalaureate. I will continue to do so. As Chairman, last year, my goal was to visit every one of the almost 90 schools in our system. It was an invaluable experience to see first hand the success and needs of each school as I visited.

Race: Board of Education District 9

Candidates:

Name: **Kristi Kristy**

Address: 2337 Winners Drive Knoxville, TN 37920

Campaign Phone: (865) 368-0778

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

Email: klkristy@msn.com

Name: **Amber Rountree**

Address: 6005 Chalmers Dr Knoxville, TN 37920

Campaign Phone: (865) 712-6005

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

Email: voterountree@gmail.com

Questions:

Q: 1. Protecting our school children from gun violence is very much on our minds today. However, school children are also threatened by harassment, bullying, and other mistreatment within our schools. How would you prioritize school safety resources?

Kristi Kristy: Most importantly, we must protect our kids from physical attacks against which they are defenseless. This week, Governor Haslam proposed doubling the amount the state spends on school safety grants to \$10 million per year. He also proposed \$25 million in one-time school safety grant funding to protect our kids. Funding for an adequate number of school resource officers, security locks, and surveillance cameras is crucial for student safety. Next, we need to make sure every student has access to counselors and social workers. This is especially important at the middle and high school levels where most of the reported incidents of bullying and harassment take place. Finally, money spent on anti-bullying campaigns should focus on students at the elementary level. Research shows that these types of campaigns are most effective on kids under the age of 10.

Amber Rountree: School safety is not an area that is currently funded through the State of Tennessee under the Basic Education Program (BEP) formula. I believe that our Board should work with our delegation to address this issue. Knox County works to provide a well-trained, armed officer at each of our schools to provide our children with a safe learning environment. With regard to harassment and bullying, this is another area of BEP that should be addressed because mental health and social services are underfunded (e.g. 1 social worker/2000 students). Knox County is lucky to partner with Great Schools Partnership (GSP) in our community schools initiative which helps provide mental health and other wraparound services to our students and families. It is my priority to work with to expand this initiative in South Knoxville.

Q: 2. What issues will be most important for Knox County Schools in the coming years? As a board member, what actions would you advocate for to address these issues?

Kristi Kristy: Our district must do more to increase student outcomes and close the achievement gap. In 2015 Knox County was designated as an exemplary school district by the state of Tennessee. At that time, we were raising proficiency levels, narrowing our achievement gaps, and guaranteeing growth for all students. In two short years we have fallen to the lowest state designation of Needs Improvement. Knox County schools are going in the wrong direction, and we must do more to increase student achievement at all levels. Because we know that the use of technology in the classroom allows teachers to tailor lessons to meet individual needs, I support 1:1 technology in all classrooms. Also, as a district, we are struggling to prepare our students for careers and post-secondary education. I strongly support Career and Technical Education programs. Students enrolled in CTE classes are more likely to graduate, be employed, and earn higher wages.

Amber Rountree: 1. Funding.

The mandates required by the state for Response to Instruction and Intervention (RTI2) and technology required for students to take state mandated assessments are unfunded mandates. Combined with the underfunded areas in the Basic Education Program of school nurses, social workers, guidance counselors and English Language Learners, school districts are faced with the burden of picking up the lapse in state funding. Our board must work with our county commission and our mayor to partner with state legislators in addressing the inequities at the state funding level.

2. Literacy.

Reading is the foundational skill for our future success. Given the research that indicates the connection between reading level and future academic success, it is imperative that Knox County Schools work to strengthen literacy programs at every grade level, but in particular for our youngest students. Programs like "Leaders are Readers" can help provide mentoring and literacy skills.

Q: 3. Each month, the Board must act on many contracts and recommendations proposed by the superintendent. What processes would you personally adopt to evaluate the value of these recommendations before voting on them?

Kristi Kristy: Many proposals are considered by the school board, and most of them have merit. The issue with government is that you usually are not choosing between a good idea and a bad idea, you are usually choosing between competing good ideas with a limited amount of funding. When issues come before the school board I will use these standards:

1. Is it constructive?
2. Will it help foster a safe and creative environment where students can learn and teachers can teach?
3. Will it help increase student achievement?
4. Is this a good use of taxpayer money?
5. How does this compare to similar proposals?

I highly value the thoughts and opinions of those working in our schools and living in our community, and our students are best served when we seek input from all stakeholders.

Amber Rountree: Having served on the Board for one term, I already have a process in place to evaluate the recommendations placed on our agenda. Once the agenda is published, I read each agenda item and then make note of any questions or concerns. Prior to the meeting, I contact appropriate staff with clarifying questions and during our work session meeting, I also voice these questions so fellow Board members and the public can also gain understanding about the items. After the work session, if I still have questions about the item, I follow up with the staff or superintendent the next day so I can get further information before voting on any item. It is essential for Board members to thoroughly evaluate all information and determine if the goals/outcomes associated with the programs are beneficial to our students and wisely use taxpayer funds.

Category: County Commission

Race: County Commission District 3

Candidates:

Name: **Cody Biggs**

Party: Dem

Address: 408 West Meadecrest Drive Knoxville, TENNESSEE (TN) 37923

Campaign Phone: (865) 773-4027

Web Site: <http://www.codybiggs.org>

Email: codybiggs@codybiggs.org

Name: **Randy Smith**

Party: Rep

Address: 3304 McKamey Road Knoxville, TN 37921

Campaign Phone: (865) 909-0431

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

Email: randysmithforcommission@gmail.com

Questions:

Q: 1. Knox County is projected to grow by more than 100,000 people by the year 2040. Many factors will have to be balanced to manage this growth. What land use policies would you adopt to accommodate this growth while retaining Knox County's quality of life?

Cody Biggs: I want to listen and learn to the community of Knoxville while making all land use policy decisions. There should be a balanced, but progressive, support for businesses and homeowners, however each situation can and hopefully will be different. We should plan to adopt measures that support the people of Knoxville: affordable homes and rental properties that do not impact or increase our cost of living for Knoxville residents; rezoning should be considered at any time that more housing opportunities would be provided. Business opportunities should be provided in favorable circumstances that will continue to grow a vibrant community.

Randy Smith: As county leaders we must keep open space and park land available and insure that traffic flows smoothly, so that we maintain our great quality of life. To do that, we must work hand-in-hand with the Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission on land use policies. One example: Including higher densities in the urban core and suburban areas. In addition, we must work with the local utility companies so that they extend their services to areas not currently served, a move that will allow for growth in those outlying areas. Further, we also need to make use of Employment Centers and Commercial Centers - a type of land use policy that focuses on convenience and traffic considerations.

Q: 2. What will your top three priorities be if you are elected county commissioner? Describe the initiatives you would pursue to achieve your priorities.

Cody Biggs: - Our education should be a top priority by making sure the budget works for all: students, teachers, parents and administrators. I want to work on the relationship between the community, students and teachers, and make sure that we all think education is a priority, not just a select few.

- I want us all to be able to enjoy our beautiful landscape in Knoxville, and I will always support measures to improve the safety, security, and quality of public spaces and roadways. Living directly beside one of our amazing green-ways I have witnessed first hand the need to make things better and I want to use my voice to formulate policies that will increase public space involvement and use.

- The County Commission should be creating opportunities, not barriers, for businesses and homeowners both. I will make zoning decisions based on the benefit of the community. Working with the MPC, businesses, homeowners, and rental property associations, I will listen and promote the best for Knox County.

Randy Smith: Job Growth - I want the county to continue maintaining a business-friendly environment that leads to the recruitment of companies and the expansion of existing ones. Education - I will seek and support programs and policies that continue to achieve academic gains.

Safe Streets/Neighborhood Safety - County leaders as a whole must work to improve infrastructure such as successful examples like the intersection of Gleason Road and Ebenezer, Parkside Drive, Bob Gray, and Western Avenue. We need to invest in smart flow traffic technology, and we also must continue to make sure the Knox County Sheriff's office has the tools it needs to continue making our communities safe.

Q: 3. Taxes are the way citizen's support and invest in their community. What circumstances would you consider sufficiently important to necessitate a raise in taxes?

Cody Biggs: One example that should be addressed is our teachers whom are the guiding force and inspiration in our kids/young adult's lives. Salaries & benefits should be among the best for those in our educational system for the hard work they put into our future leaders of the world. Other examples would be emergency medical, fire, and police aid being paid what they deserve for the unrecognized service and safe and secure quality of life they provide. Taxes are a basis for how these amazing people are paid and should be thoroughly discussed, reviewed, discussed again, and ways to make improvements happen should be made available. If this means raising taxes, then that is something that I am willing to discuss & hear from all parties about, but a lot can be made from a little when someone cares enough. We should be making sure that nothing is left on the table, or being wasted, before putting new money on the table to spend. We must invest to get a return, these folks deserve our investment.

Randy Smith: I do not see any reason to raise taxes at this time.

Race: County Commission District 7

Candidates:

Name: **Charles Busler**

Party: Rep

Address: 2213 Steven Drive Knoxville, Tn 37938

Campaign Phone: (865) 256-2604

Web Site: <http://NA>

Email: Charlesbusler@comcast.net

Name: **Steve Hart**

Party: Dem

Address: 6315 Lacy Road Knoxville, TN 37912
Campaign Phone: (865) 232-8495
Email: hart2hart65@gmail.com

Questions:

Q: 1. Knox County is projected to grow by more than 100,000 people by the year 2040. Many factors will have to be balanced to manage this growth. What land use policies would you adopt to accommodate this growth while retaining Knox County's quality of life?

Charles Busler: I would work with Legacy Park Foundation to continue to grow greenways, open spaces and access to water fronts.

Steve Hart: - no response -

Q: 2. What will your top three priorities be if you are elected county commissioner? Describe the initiatives you would pursue to achieve your priorities.

Charles Busler: 1. Keep tax rates low. Keep reviewing budgets to assure tax payers money is being used properly.

2. Education. A complete independent study of our current education process. We need to evaluate the dollars currently being spent in Knox County to assure that young people are being properly prepared for the future.

3. Advancement in Government Technology.

Steve Hart: - no response -

Q: 3. Taxes are the way citizen's support and invest in their community. What circumstances would you consider sufficiently important to necessitate a raise in taxes?

Charles Busler: A tax increase is always recessive and not progressive.

Steve Hart: - no response -

Race: County Commission District 10 At-Large

Candidates:

Name: **Tori Griffin**

Party: Dem

Address: 4205 Ivy Ave Knoxville, TN 37914

Campaign Phone: (865) 313-3554

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

Email: griffinorknox@gmail.com

Name: **Larsen Jay**

Party: Rep

Address: P.O. Box 52331 Knoxville, TN 37919

Campaign Phone: (865) 384-2656

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

Email: Larsen@ElectLarsenJay.com

Name: **Ronnie Rochelle**

Party: Rep

Address: 12214 Cotswold Lane Knoxville, TN 37922

Campaign Phone: (865) 300-8829

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

Email: ronnie@ronnierochelle.com

Questions:

Q: 1. Knox County is projected to grow by more than 100,000 people by the year 2040. Many factors will have to be balanced to manage this growth. What land use policies would you adopt to accommodate this growth while retaining Knox County's quality of life?

Tori Griffin: Zoning is and will be a crucial element in the growth of this county. As new residents and businesses come, a strategy that accommodates growth, affordability, and sustainability must be put in place now to prepare for 2040. The City is implementing Recode Knoxville which will modernize zoning standards; the County should take the same initiative. Mixed-use development is the best approach.

Larsen Jay: As more people move into Knox County and businesses continue to prosper, we must find proactive ways to be ready and positively harness that growth. Regarding land use, I am a firm believer in personal property rights and citizens should be able to use or sell their land if the use is deemed appropriate by our planning teams and oversight committees. However, as more land is developed throughout Knox County, it's crucial that we also invest in the infrastructure to support its use and impact on all citizens. As a Commissioner, I would rely heavily on the staff and board members of the Metropolitan Planning Commission who are charged with studying land usage, development policies and how best to manage growth while keeping housing and business prices affordable. Additionally, with every decision that would reach our governing body, I will meet with the citizenry and gather as much information as possible to make the best decision for Knox County.

Ronnie Rochelle:

1. Protect well defined environmentally sensitive areas
2. Plan industrial plats with buffer for residential developments and increased traffic patterns.
3. Regulate housing density including adding retention ponds, common areas, flood plain control, and water runoff regulations.

4. Coordinate with the city of Knoxville on land use planning including transportation, water and sewage infrastructure, and the establishment of industrial, agriculture, and green zones throughout the county.
5. And finally, pollution prevention regulations in all forms including noise, light, and waste discharges.

Q: 2. What will your top three priorities be if you are elected county commissioner? Describe the initiatives you would pursue to achieve your priorities.

Tori Griffin: Jobs-It's important to me that we, Knox County, petition and attract quality businesses to this dynamic region. Allowing blue collar and tech industries to call Knox County home — while offering great incentives for these companies to stay long term. This can be done with negotiations set in providing employees with livable wages, benefits, and paid family sick leave.

Education- I plan to be an advocate for quality education. I am confident that by cutting wasteful spending and partnering with various businesses and non-profits, we can spend more in the classroom, as well as offering competitive wages to educators.

Housing-I am a proponent in continuing to make housing more affordable, as well as increasing the pipeline to home ownership. Let's keep what works while utilizing federal, state, and local dollars to purchase blighted properties. We can then offer lower rates to residents and developers to increase home value — therein beautifying neighborhoods.

Larsen Jay: If elected to serve the residents of Knox County as a Commissioner, my top three priorities would be to pursue policies and initiatives that will (#1) keep the cost of living and cost of government as low as possible. I believe this is the foundation for growing businesses, excellent public education and great job opportunities. Additionally (#2), I believe it's essential that we invest in strong law enforcement and our first-responders, and as such, I will work to support initiatives that directly translate to safer neighborhoods. And finally, (#3) I would dedicate myself to helping support better mental/emotional health and addiction recovery services. I believe we must make significant improvements in this area in order to have a strong citizenry and workforce across Knox County.

Ronnie Rochelle: Priority number one is reduce our massive debt load which is suffocating our community. Presently, we have \$662,000,000 of bonded debt. The debt service payments for this amount are \$75,000,000 a year assuming we stay within budget which we do not. We are literally borrowing more money to pay our present debt. This has been going on since 2001, and we have doubled our debt in that time frame. Our debt is literally sucking the vitality out of our schools and teachers, endangering our sheriff's department with low pay and inadequate infrastructure, and requiring that we have a road paving plan of 65 years. This is unacceptable.

Priority number two is insure our teachers and our schools are adequately funded. It is our lifeblood for the future. Priority number three is safety, safety, and safety.

The status quo cannot continue. We have four choices. Cut what little fat that remains, keep on borrowing until the county is broke, do without, or raise taxes. The era of free money is over.

Q: 3. Taxes are the way citizen's support and invest in their community. What circumstances would you consider sufficiently important to necessitate a raise in taxes?

Tori Griffin: 1. Paying our educators a competitive wage.
2. fixing our infrastructure
3. increasing pay for those who keep us safe
4. quality and efficient services

Larsen Jay: I am a firm believer that our low tax rate is a positive factor in the quality of life in Knox County and an attraction to people / businesses looking to relocate to our community. No one wants to pay more taxes, including me, and I believe raising taxes a last-choice option. However, the current financial state of Knox County does not allow for significant investment and improvements going forward. If our new Mayor and the citizens of Knox County determine it a priority to further invest in our school system, infrastructure, roads / transportation and other major, long-term initiatives, then a tax increase will be necessary to properly fund them without increasing the County debt.

Ronnie Rochelle: Our debt load is off the planet. With our present debt service payments of \$75,000,000 annually which we do not adhere to... we just borrow more to cover it, Knox County could probably build a school per year, increase our teacher's pay to mirror surrounding counties, enhance our school curriculum, increase deputy pay and infrastructure, and, finally, get our road plan to its proper cycle of 18 years, not 65 years that it is now. The city's plan is 18 years by the way. They pave more miles of roads than Knox County. Knox County is 400 square miles larger than the city of Knoxville.

Now there may be an inordinate amount of taxpayer money wasted in Knox County. If so, I can assure you that I will find it, clean the mess up, and move on to the next challenge. When I am done, if I do not have enough funds to operate the county in a financially responsible manner, I will advocate for a tax increase. I will not jeopardize the safety and well being of students, teachers, police, or you.

Race: County Commission District 11 At-Large

Candidates:

Name: **Justin Biggs**

Party: Rep

Address: 3329 Bridlebrooke Dr. Knoxville, TN 37938

Campaign Phone: (865) 705-1727

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

Email: Biggsforcommission@gmail.com

Name: **Daniel Gerke**

Party: Dem

Address: 12615 Sandburg Lane Knoxville, TN 37922

Campaign Phone: (423) 598-9107

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

Email: gerke@electdanielgerke.com

Name: **R. Larry Smith**

Party: Rep

Address: 3109 Tee Lane Knoxville , Tn 37918

Campaign Phone: (865) 679-4106

Email: rlsmithins@yahoo.com

Questions:

Q: 1. Knox County is projected to grow by more than 100,000 people by the year 2040. Many factors will have to be balanced to manage this growth. What land use policies would you adopt to accommodate this growth while retaining Knox County's quality of life?

Justin Biggs: With an increase of that capacity the first point of focus will have to be on our 29 year old road system. Traffic will be an issue and is currently an issue. Whether it is potholes or pinch points in the overflow of traffic. We have to focus on making Knox County attractive for travel as well. In doing so my belief is that other companies will relocate here and will bring better jobs to our community. We will need to make sure we preserve our bike paths for alternate means of transportation as well as more access and availability to electric car charging stations. We need to preserve our rivers, streams, and greenways and protect them and keep them as beautiful as possible.

Daniel Gerke: Infrastructure is critical for supporting the growth of Knox County over the next 20 plus years. As County Commissioner I would work to ensure that we create a city that is walkable with access to businesses within our community. My experience as a professional project manager has shown me that companies bring good paying jobs to communities that are easy to get around, have great park systems, and have affordable living. Enhancing the quality of life for Knox County is one of the main reasons why I'm running for Knox County Commission, At Large Seat 11. With thoughtful planning that is diverse and inclusive of our population we can ensure that we are creating a community that is happy and provides opportunities for all of our citizens. A great infrastructure leads to a great economy.

R. Larry Smith: I have three thoughts on this matter. First of all , make sure we have the infrastructure in place to accommodate with roads, sidewalks, bike lanes, greenways and parks.

Second, Look at our existing brown fields inside the city then look outward into the county for more growth needed for business and homes.

Thirdly, any new growth with home and condos units should be allowed in area that the zoned school districts could handle an increase from projected number of students, as a former MPC Commissioner and County Commissioner, I have that Knowledge.

Q: 2. What will your top three priorities be if you are elected county commissioner? Describe the initiatives you would pursue to achieve your priorities.

Justin Biggs: Economic Growth - We need better paying jobs for the citizens of Knox County. This is something I will be very active in. I will personally help recruit companies or small businesses to call Knox County home. With our tax rate we are very competitive on a large scale and with the freeway systems intersecting here, anyone would love to call Knox County home from a travel standpoint. I will also offer any help to the chamber that i can to assist in anyway they may see fit. Safer Neighborhoods - Neighborhood watch groups need to be reinstated in a lot of areas. In return a better wage for our boots on the ground officers will also be something i seek and will result in more people answering the call to become an officer and a larger police force. Schools - More money back into our classrooms and more after school programs for students as well as reimplement a Dare like program for our younger students to teach them drug awareness and other safety measures.

Daniel Gerke: My number one priority is our public schools. I will advocate for our public schools to ensure they are getting the funding they need to maintain the buildings, provide teachers and staff with a wage that will ensure we keep the good teachers and staff in our schools. I will also work to ensure our schools are getting the funding they need to protect our students, teachers, and staff.

My Second Priority is to focus on how we develop and build within our community. I am pro-business and want businesses to be successful but we also need to ensure that we do not negatively impact our community with inappropriate development.

Safety is my third priority and I will work with the Sheriff to ensure they are getting the resources they need to keep our community safe and to appropriately deal with the drug problem that plagues our criminal justice system. Drug addition is an illness and our Sheriff department needs to have the appropriate resources to deal with this epidemic.

R. Larry Smith: First,I will be a voice for ALL of Knox County, not just one area. I will do this by staying active throughout ALL of Knox County as I have been for over 35 years.

I will return your phone calls, emails, in a timely matter and be at ALL commission meetings. Second,I plan to work hard to increase pay for our teachers, officers, and county employees that fits within our budget, while looking for areas in the budget we can cut out. We can do this without a tax increase .

Thirdly,I plan to establish our Employee Incentive Program where we reward cost saving ideas from our employees for their ideas where we can save money to the tax payer while rewarding their ideas.

Q: 3. Taxes are the way citizen's support and invest in their community. What circumstances would you consider sufficiently important to necessitate a raise in taxes?

Justin Biggs: Only Emergency or catastrophic events would call for a tax increase. I do not support a tax increase. We are in great financial times where new business and new homes are adding to our tax base and with natural growth we will not need a tax increase.

Daniel Gerke: Life has taught me that if you want something you need to work for it and that there are costs associated with ensuring your quality of life. Raising taxes is not the most popular thing, but in order to ensure we are doing the right thing for our community, and investing in our community, we need to look at all options. If needed, which I believe there is a current need, we should be looking to raise our taxes to pay for the cost of developing a thriving and successful community. If we won't invest in our own community then we as a community will struggle to provide the quality of life that we want for our family, friends, and our neighbors. I don't believe raising taxes is the only thing we can do to increase revenue, there are fees that our county has to pay the state and we should be looking at reducing fees we pay to the state as well as looking for efficiencies in our government to reduce cost so that we are spending our money wisely.

R. Larry Smith: I could only see raising taxes under a natural disaster ONLY for the things not covered under insurance.

Many of us as homeowners and commercial property owners saw a tax increase in Oct 2017 because our properties increased in value, thus raising Knox County tax base.

Second, economic times are good in our location. We are seeing more home and commercial construction taking place, thus increasing our tax base. Thirdly, we are not spending our full budget by 20 million a year in Knox County. We need to pay down more of our debt as much as we can.