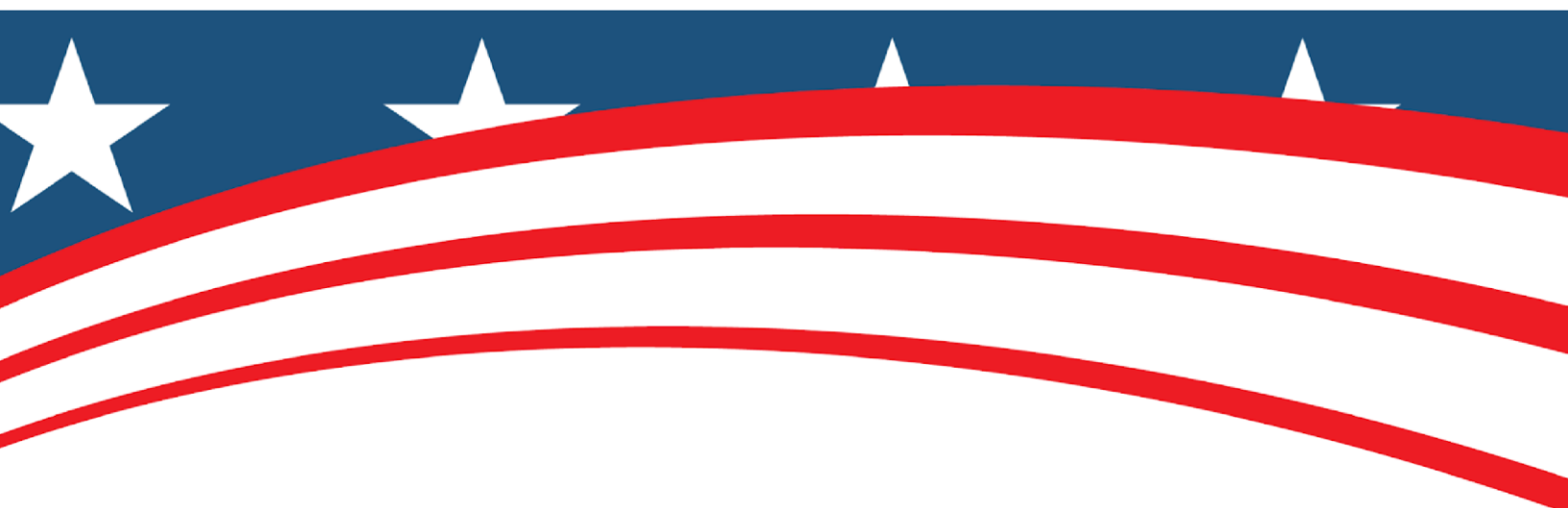


Bradley Voter Guide 2024

Advocates for Bradley County



Bradley Voter Guide 2024

ADVOCATES FOR BRADLEY COUNTY

Bradley Voter Guide 2024

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About the 2024 Bradley Voter Guide

Voter guides are nonpartisan and provide great value to the communities they serve. The goal is to help more citizens become knowledgeable about their local government and the individuals who fill the roles that impact our day-to-day lives. Through Advocates for Bradley County, several non-partisan groups across the county set out on the mission to deliver the first edition of the Bradley Voter Guide, in time for the May 2022 election.

Since the first edition, we have expanded our focus to include all elected positions. During the most recent election cycle the Voter Guide received more than 4,500 views.

We sent candidates a series of survey questions covering both Constitutional concerns and questions directly related to the positions for which they are running. We attempted contact with all candidates by phone, email, and some by postal mail. Of those candidates who we did reach, some failed to reply or complete their profile by the publishing deadline of this voter guide. We made multiple attempts to encourage participation in the guide. Our hope is that future versions will include profiles for all candidates through willful engagement.

The expenses incurred in producing this edition of the voter guide have been paid out of our own pockets and with donations from other concerned citizens who wanted to help with this worthwhile project. No donations or fees were taken from any of the candidates to produce this voter guide.

We hope you find this guide helpful for the upcoming election. If you do appreciate this guide, consider contributing to the Advocates for Bradley County, the group of individual volunteers who are responsible for the work behind this document. We also ask that you help the project by encouraging candidates to participate in future editions of the Bradley Voter Guide.

What we've learned: Our elected officials are often difficult to get in touch with

Advocates for Bradley County conducted research on candidates including gathering candidate contact information, mailing questionnaires to candidates, emailing role-specific surveys to candidates, and soliciting profile completion through direct emailed responses with candidates. While there are a couple of county websites that catalog candidate contact information, many of the phone numbers and email addresses we found were not in service, accurate, or well attended.

From our perspective, as citizens of Bradley County, our elected officials should be required to maintain methods of contact that are accurate and up to date. They should also have an agreement with the people they serve that ensures their approachability and their commitment to a timeframe in which they will respond to all requests. If you feel the same, we encourage you to talk to your officials and make it known that this is expected of them.

About Advocates for Bradley County

Who are We?

We are a grassroots alliance of multiple like-minded Patriotic groups working together to simplify communications and impact change in our county. We are tired of the status-quo of both parties and want to see a return to strong leaders who are Statesmen who will stand for righteousness and fight for our families.

What do we Support?

We support a strict interpretation of the U.S. Constitution, Faith, Family, and Freedom.

Want to learn more? Visit our website at BradleyTNVoterGuide.com.

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Key Voter Dates

February 5 - Voter Registration Ends

The postmark date for all mail-in registrations is February 5th, 2024

February 14-27 - Early Voting Period

Monday-Friday: 9:00am – 6:00pm

Saturday: 9:00am – 4:00pm

Early Voting Locations:

- OCI "The Ramp," at 410 Urbane Rd NE, Cleveland, TN 37312;
- Election Commission Office, at 155 Broad St. NW, Cleveland, TN 37311;
- Northeast Recreation Center, at 264 Berry St. NE, Cleveland, TN 37311; and
- Bradley County Fire-Rescue Training Center, at 3715 Dalton Pike SE, Cleveland, TN 37323.

February 27 - Absentee Ballot Request Deadline

March 5, 2024 - Primary Election

(State and County)

8:00am – 8:00pm

August 1, 2024 - General Election

(State and Federal Primary & State and County)

District Attorney General - 8 years

– District 10



Stephen Hatchett

Candidate Overview

District Attorney General questions

1. **What are your opinions on criminal justice reform, and what would be your top priority in those types of reforms if any?**

Several months ago I put forward specific policy proposals to deal with the unprecedented amount of drugs pouring into our communities across our borders due to the abject failure of the Biden Administration. As District Attorney, I cannot do anything about the southern border but I can and will protect the borders of the 10th Judicial District. It will be the policy of my office that any person convicted of bringing illegal drugs across any of the county lines of the 10th Judicial District be required to serve the maximum amount of time in prison allowed by law. This is my top priority and I have asked our legislators in the General Assembly to pass legislation to codify my plan into law. Not specific to criminal justice reform to government reform in general, as I have said for years now and the overwhelming majority of my fellow citizens agree, we must have term limits.

2. **If elected/reelected as DA, what measures will you put into place to ensure that our constitutional rights and liberties are protected?**

The only measure necessary to protect constitutional rights and liberties is to elect someone who has the backbone to support and defend the Constitution. I have been a vocal critic of actions by the current Governor of Tennessee that I believe violated our rights as free citizens including the Executive Orders in 2020 and the efforts to pass "Red Flag" legislation that violated the 2nd Amendment. I have never shied away from speaking up in support of individual liberty and as District Attorney I will continue to do so.

3. **Many in this community believe the Grand Jury is underused to monitor and correct waste and corruption. What can you as the DA elect do to empower the members of our Grand Juries to**

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Advocates for Bradley County

investigate and explore situations in our local government and community to improve our justice system?

The Grand Jury is an independent body so the District Attorney has no ability to empower them to do anything. As District Attorney I will make it clear to the Grand Jury that they are independent and I will do nothing to attempt to sway their actions one way or the other.

Questions Related to the U.S. Constitution

1. What is your position on federal government overreach when it violates the Tenth Amendment regarding States' Rights? Is overreach acceptable, and when?

Overreach by definition is not acceptable. The Constitution grants to the federal government only the powers enumerated. All other powers are reserved to the states and the people. At the time the Constitution was drafted, there were delegates that did not want the Bill of Rights added because they were concerned that over time focus would be placed on the amendments rather than the clear language of the Constitution and time has proven that to indeed be the case.

2. What are your ideas on how to correct or prevent federal overreach?

Only one: TERM LIMITS.

3. Describe your opinion on Critical Race Theory aka Social Emotional Learning.

Critical Race Theory and any variation of it has no place in government in a free society. It is the creed of those who are unhappy with their world and will burn it down but will never build a better one. Identity politics has ruined many nations, it has never built a strong one from the ground up.

4. Share your stance on the federal government's involvement in our personal medical decisions.

Thomas Jefferson once said, "Under the law of nature, all men are born free, every one comes into the world with a right to his own person, which includes the liberty of moving and using it at his own will." The federal government has no role in our personal medical decisions provided we do not do anything to violate another person's rights with our actions. Every issue in modern times surrounding governmental involvement in personal medical decisions can be disposed of quickly with that question. If it doesn't effect the life, liberty, or property of another, it is none of the government's business.

5. Should the Constitution be viewed from the perspective of original intent, or do you believe it is a living document?

The Constitution is not a living document. The men who wrote the Constitution had just won a war. When people have fought and bleed for something, they tend to say what they mean and mean what they say.

District Attorney General - 8 years

– District 10

Sharie Tayloe

Photo
Not
Provided

Candidate Overview

Shari has served 25 years prosecuting criminals within the District Attorney's office. District Attorney Tayloe has prosecuted over 125+ jury trials, with 27 homicide convictions, which includes 15 first degree murder convictions. Her unmatched experience is precisely what our community needs at this moment.

District Attorney General questions

1. **What are your opinions on criminal justice reform, and what would be your top priority in those types of reforms if any?**

I believe we need more truth in sentencing so criminals serve the full time allowed by the legislature for their crimes. We also need bond reform. This would come during pre-trial requiring the accused wearing a GPS monitor to ensure the accused will show up and to protect the community. I do not believe we pick and choose which laws we enforce. I swore an oath to enforce all laws, and that is exactly what I have done in my 25 years prosecuting criminals and what I will continue to do as District Attorney.

2. **If elected/reelected as DA, what measures will you put into place to insure that our constitutional rights and liberties are protected?**

In 1994, I swore an oath to support and protect the Constitution. That is exactly what I have done and will continue to do as your District Attorney. I am a strong supporter of the 2nd Amendment, and I will protect that right against any unlawful executive order.

3. **Many in this community believe the Grand Jury is underused to monitor and correct waste and corruption. What can you as the DA elect do to empower the members of our Grand Juries to investigate and explore situations in our local government and community to improve our justice system?**

The way to empower the Grand Jury is to use the grand jury's investigative subpoena power working with law enforcement to be the feet of their investigation. The job of the District Attorney's office is

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to provide legal advice. I continue to work with Grand Juries to prosecute corruption in local government.

Questions Related to the U.S. Constitution

- 1. What is your position on federal government overreach when it violates the Tenth Amendment regarding States' Rights? Is overreach acceptable, and when?**

I am completely against federal government overreach.

- 2. What are your ideas on how to correct or prevent federal overreach?**

I would work with the legislature to give advice or support in crafting legislation protecting Tennesseans from federal overreach. This responsibility lies with the Legislative Branch.

- 3. Describe your opinion on Critical Race Theory aka Social Emotional Learning.**

It is very simple: Critical Race Theory has no place in our schools on any level.

- 4. Share your stance on the federal government's involvement in our personal medical decisions.**

I believe that personal medical decisions are just that, personal. The Government on ANY level has no right to dictate to its citizens any medical decision. That is why as Deputy DA, I supported our office refusing to enforce unconstitutional executive orders for mask mandates.

- 5. Should the Constitution be viewed from the perspective of original intent, or do you believe it is a living document?**

The Constitution must be viewed from the perspective of original intent. It is not a living document. Our Founding Fathers wrote specific ways in which the Constitution could be amended. It was NOT the Founders intent for unelected Judges to legislate from the bench. I first took an oath in 1994 to support and defend the Constitution and I have done so my entire career and I will never waiver from that.

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District Attorney General - 8 years

– District 10

Jeff Miller

Candidate failed to participate in this edition of the Bradley Voter Guide.

Constable - 8 years

– District 1



Daren Brantley

Candidate Overview

Constable questions

1. Why are you seeking the position of constable?

I want to serve my community in District 1, using my background and experience in law enforcement and public service. I would like to protect and serve the people in my community. I would also like to connect people with resources that could assist them.

2. What is your understanding of the responsibilities and duties of constables in the state of TN

Constables perform duties defined by state and local governments, such as assisting local law enforcement in any way possible. Constables also assist the courts with civil process.

3. What do you consider to be the importance of the 4th and 5th amendments of the US Constitution, as they apply to your lawful constabulary interactions with citizens while executing your duties as Constable?

It is important that a constable knows the 4th amendment so citizens are protected from illegal search and seizures. The 5th amendment gives a person the right to remain silent.

Questions Related to the U.S. Constitution

1. What rights are protected by the 1st Amendment to the US Constitution?

The 1st amendment protects freedoms of religion, speech, assembly, and the right to petition.

2. Should the Constitution be viewed from the perspective of original intent, or do you believe it is a living document?

The constitution should be viewed from the perspective of its original intent.

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Constable - 8 years

– District 1 **Shawn Fairbanks**

Candidate failed to participate in this edition of the Bradley Voter Guide.

Constable - 8 years

– District 1 **Shane Hayes**

Candidate failed to participate in this edition of the Bradley Voter Guide.

Constable - 8 years

– District 6 **Richard G. Burnette**

Candidate failed to participate in this edition of the Bradley Voter Guide.

Assessor of Property - 4 years

Stanley M. Thompson

Photo
Not
provided

Candidate Overview

The top priority as Assessor of Property is and has always been to treat all property owners fair and equitable. Bradley County has approximately 54000 parcels and uses a Mass Appraisal system. So, the goal is to determine values based on sales, cost and income, which is not an easy task. As we all know one price does not fit all and the office must follow guidelines set by the State of Tennessee.

Assessor of Property questions

1. **What is your top priority as Assessor of Property**

The top priority as Assessor of Property is and has always been to treat all property owners fair and equitable. Bradley County has approximately 54000 parcels and uses a Mass Appraisal system. So, the goal is to determine values based on sales, cost and income, which is not an easy task. As we all know one price does not fit all and the office must follow guidelines set by the State of Tennessee.

2. **From your perspective as Assessor of Property, what do you think will be the biggest challenges for Bradley County in the foreseeable future?**

The biggest challenge facing the Assessor's Office will be the next county wide reappraisal in 2025. And then determining as to which Reappraisal cycle Bradley County will choose. The new choices as set by Statute are 2,3- or 4-year cycles.

3. **How do you think growth will affect property taxes in Bradley County?**

With growth comes new property tax income, but it also increases the need for larger schools, more crime and increased staffing for law enforcement and teachers. The increased needs could cause a tax increase, but that is determined by the County Commission.

4. **In your opinion, do you believe increasing debt for Bradley County would force a property tax increase?**

Again, increased debt could cause a tax increase, but that is determined by the County Commission. I will add that the Bradley County Commission has done well and have not had a significant tax increase in many years.

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Advocates for Bradley County

County School Board - 4 years

– District 1 Nancy Casson

Candidate failed to participate in this edition of the Bradley Voter Guide.

– District 3 Ted Bryson

Candidate failed to participate in this edition of the Bradley Voter Guide.

County School Board - 4 years

– District 5

Rachel Ivey Goins



Candidate Overview

My name is Rachel Ivey Goins, I was nominated, appointed by county commissioners and elected in 2022.. As an elected official it is my heart desire to serve the students of Bradley County. I'm a product of our county school system, I believe it is important to pour into the next generation. It's our duty to make sure our students are educated on all things including safety and their well being, whether that is at home or school. I want students to know that knowledge is power the more the know the more they can make the right choices in any given situation including the peer pressure of substance use. Teaching them to dream big and never give up. The kids of Bradley County are my reason WHY! To make a difference you have to be involved, that's why I'm running for re-election for the 5th District School Board!

School Board Member questions

1. Describe your opinion on Critical Race Theory AKA Social Emotional Learning.

Critical Race theory -is just that a theory that was designed to cause division among races

2. Share your stance on the federal government's involvement in our personal and our children's medical decisions.

The government has no authority or business in individuals medical decisions.

3. What are the biggest challenges facing our education system in Bradley County?

Teacher shortage! Growth with all the inflation of people moving to the area.

4. What are the state and federal yearly expenditures per student in Bradley County?

Total expenditure federal, state and local per student is roughly \$9300, according to the

5. What do you consider to be the biggest threat to our educational system?

Government overreach

Questions Related to the U.S. Constitution

1. Should the Constitution be viewed from the perspective of original intent, or do you believe it is a living document?

The constitution should be viewed as a living document because it was created with the intent to be amended with the changing times.

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County School Board - 4 years

– District 5

Tracy L. Forgey

Candidate failed to participate in this edition of the Bradley Voter Guide.

– District 7

Jeff Lovingood

Candidate failed to participate in this edition of the Bradley Voter Guide.

Cleveland School At-Large

Nathaniel Tucker

Candidate failed to participate in this edition of the Bradley Voter Guide.

Cleveland School

– District 1

Carolyn H. Ingram

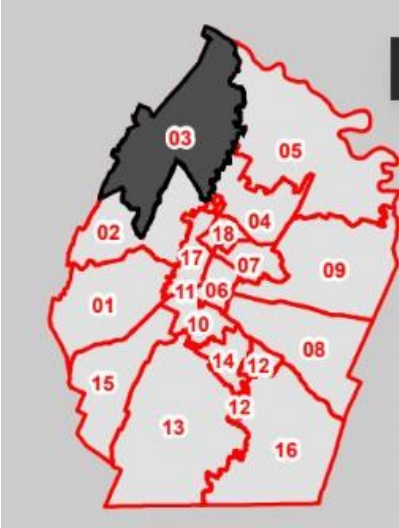
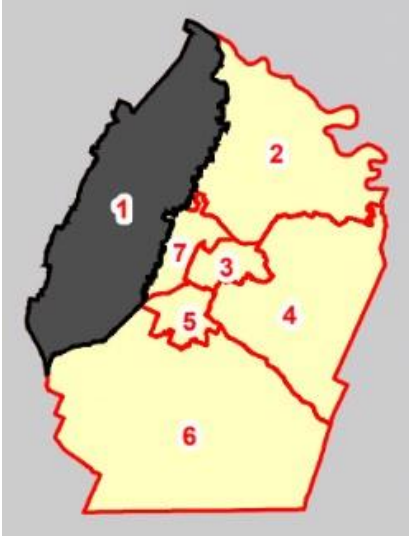
Candidate failed to participate in this edition of the Bradley Voter Guide.

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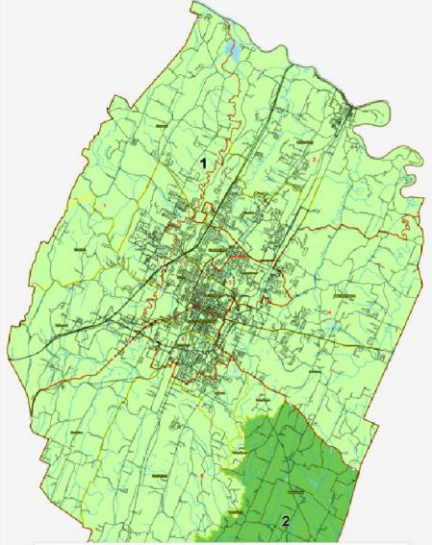
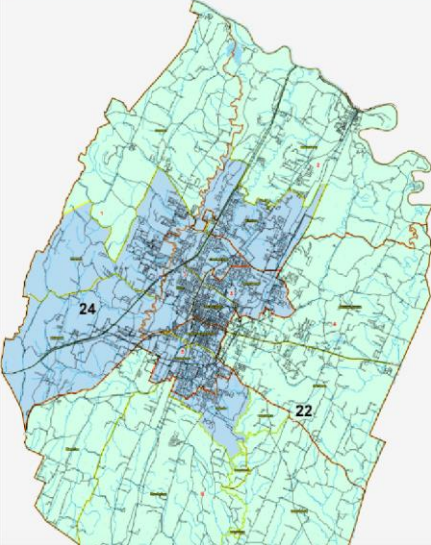
Advocates for Bradley County

Where is my Voting District or Precinct?

Precincts and Commissioner Districts

The 18 Bradley County Precincts	The 7 Commissioner Districts
	

The New 2022 Senate and House Districts

Tennessee Senate District 1 and 2	Tennessee House Districts 22 and 24
<p data-bbox="240 1184 669 1213">Bradley County 2022 County Commission Districts, Voting Precincts, and Tennessee Senate Districts</p> 	<p data-bbox="958 1184 1386 1213">Bradley County 2022 County Commission Districts, Voting Precincts, and Tennessee House Districts</p> 

Map Resources: [Enter Your Address](#) to see your New Voting Districts • [Bradley County GIS Maps](#) • [Voting Maps](#)

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Advocates for Bradley County

Closing Remarks

When you consider the lengths the Advocates for Bradley County went to (see page 4) to provide every candidate an opportunity to participate in the Voter Guide, we encourage you to ask the following questions of your candidates:

- 1) Given this opportunity to represent themselves to their constituents, the people they seek to represent, why did some candidates fail to respond to the survey and participate in the Voter Guide?
- 2) Why didn't all the candidates have valid phone numbers and email addresses in their contact information? How are *we the people* supposed to communicate with our elected officials under these circumstances?