



TENNESSEE CHAMBER of Commerce & Industry

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Special Report

Tennessee 2020 General Election Results

Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry's Morning after Report: 2020 General Election Results

NOTE: All results are unofficial due to increased turnout and mail-in voting.

Republicans Win Resounding Victories with Substantial Margins in Presidential, U.S. Senate, U.S. House and State House and State Senate Victories.

President Donald Trump Wins Tennessee Decisively- Tennessee was one of the first states that news networks called as a win for President Donald Trump. Overall, President Trump's performance in the Volunteer State compared to 2016 was at a similar margin at 61%. In 2016, President Trump won Tennessee with approximately 61% of the total vote compared to 35% for Hillary Clinton. For many, this was largely predicted, as rural areas countered increased urban turnout to give President Trump a strong victory. Democrat Presidential candidate Joe Biden carried resoundingly the urban counties of Davidson, Shelby and rural Haywood County by margins of up to 65%. President Trump carried all other 92 counties with a substantial margin of victory in most counties exceeding 70%, the highest in Wayne County where he received almost 87% of the vote.

Voting Comparisons: In record setting fashion and similar to a number of other states, overall 2020 voter turnout in Tennessee was higher than any other. Dating back to 2008, when Barack Obama first ran for President, Tennessee's total general election turnout was 2,601,987. In 2012, turnout dropped slightly to 2,458,577. In 2016, when President Donald Trump first ran for office, overall turnout was 2,508,027. For 2020, initial reports show a record turnout with approximately 3,032,841 voters casting ballots in the November 3, 2020 general election. The Tennessee Secretary of State is estimating so far that President Trump is garnering approximately 61% of all votes whereas former Vice President Joe Biden is gaining 37%. Compared to 2016, overall increased voter turnout seems to be contributing more to the Trump/Pence ticket compared to the Biden/Harris ticket by 321,478 and 261,279 respectively. For Tennessee and so many other states, this election cycle has been anything but normal due to the COVID-19 pandemic, social unrest, the economy, and a number of other factors that have influenced the state of United States politics; possibly forever.


Within the state, first-term governor, **Bill Lee** isn't on the ballot, and overall federal election politics is remaining front and center throughout Tennessee House and Senate districts and drastically impacting their outcome. The state's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and Tennessee's economic response have been topics of discussion in constituent townhall meetings throughout the fall. Another theme of the 2020 election cycle, especially for state candidates, is the inability to campaign in person as well as assemble large groups of constituents and otherwise connect with them as they normally would while campaigning. Restrictions stemming from pandemic related protocols have forced many lawmakers into virtual townhall meetings, drive-through fundraisers, and upped the

urgency of placing digital campaign advertising. 2020 elections could perhaps be classified as the most memorable of our lifetime. *Let's take a look at the election results.*

Republican Performance in Tennessee Holds Strong: Win U.S. Senate Seat, Open U.S. House Seats, and Maintain Supermajorities in State Senate and State House

U.S. Senate: Bill Hagerty Handily Wins U.S. Senate Race

In one of the most predictable U.S. Senate races across the country, former U.S. Ambassador to Japan, Republican **Bill Hagerty**, posted a significant win over Democrat **Marquita Bradshaw**. Hagerty's primary race versus physician, **Manny Sethi** and others proved to be the most significant challenge he would face in the 2020 election. After a major upset victory in the primary versus Democrat challenger **James Mackler**, Bradshaw was unable to garner momentum and mount a serious race versus the well-funded Hagerty. Hagerty used "endorsed by Trump" messaging very strongly early in the race and especially during the primary election. As the campaign aged, that rhetoric slowed, then transitioned to more traditional economic as well as "law-and-order" dialogue. The Tennessee Chamber congratulates both candidates on a hard-fought race and looks forward to working with Senator-Elect Hagerty. **Senator-Elect Hagerty will join the Chamber at Thursday's Public Affairs Conference in what will be some of his first remarks after being elected United States Senator.**

U.S. SENATE RACE 2020 RESULTS			
Party	Candidates	%Vote	Votes
R	Bill Hagerty 	62.3%	1,832,291
D	Marquita Bradshaw	35.0%	1,030,263

U.S. House: Republicans Maintain Resounding 7-2 Delegation Advantage in Tennessee, Adds Harshbarger

Of Tennessee's nine congressional seats, only one was vacant this year, providing very few open seat opportunities. Rep. **Phil Roe** decided he would not seek reelection to the Tennessee House District 1 congressional seat. He is being replaced by fellow Republican and Kingsport native **Diana Harshbarger**. The Kingsport pharmacist made her largest splash when she outlasted a dozen fellow Republicans to cruise to a comfortable victory in the August primary. It is no surprise the historically red district will continue to be represented by a Republican, however Harshbarger becomes the first female to represent the district. **Representative-Elect Harshbarger will join the Chamber at Thursday's Public Affairs Conference in what will be some of her first remarks after being elected to United States Congress.**

District	U.S. Representative	% Votes
01	Diana Harshbarger	76%
02	Tim Burchett (R-Knoxville)	67%
03	Chuck Fleischmann (R-Chattanooga)	64%

04	Scott DesJarlais (R-Murfreesboro)	66%
05	Jim Cooper (D-Nashville)	100%
06	John Rose (R- Cookeville)	75%
07	Mark Green (R-Clarksville)	71%
08	David Kustoff (R- Memphis)	68%
09	Steve Cohen (D- Memphis)	77%

Tennessee Legislature: Republicans Maintain Supermajorities in State Senate and State House

State House Results: Republicans maintain significant control of the Tennessee state House of Representatives after seeing no change in the make-up of the chamber on election night. For the 112th Tennessee General Assembly, Republicans will hold 73 seats and Democrats 26 in the 99 member body. After much speculation about what may happen in a number of suburban House districts across the state, House Republicans were able to maintain their majority and hold off any losses heading into 2021 redistricting. Democrats in the House will be sending two new representatives to Nashville while House Republicans will see eight new members occupy desks in the Capitol. A total of 10 new House members will begin their terms tomorrow, a stark difference from the 25 member turnover that resulted from 2018 elections. The only sitting House member to be defeated on election night was District 93 Independent (formerly Democrat) **John Deberry** whose seat will be filled by Democrat **Torrey C. Harris**.

Incumbent representatives defeated in the primary and general election this cycle include **Rep. Micah Van Huss**, **Rep. Mathew Hill**, **Rep. Rick Tillis** and **Rep. Rick Staples**. See chart below for unofficial general election results.

State Senate Results: This year 17 of 33 State Senate districts were up for reelection. Of 17, 16 districts were defended by Republicans. The lone Democratic Senate district up for reelection was District 30 in Shelby County where **Senator Sara Kyle** ran uncontested. Prior to the election, Republicans held 28 seats to Democrats 5 seats in the upper chamber. Preliminary results from the general election will change that number slightly, with Republicans losing only one seat resulting in a 27 to 6 seat advantage. Tennessee District 20, a Nashville suburban district, represents the lone Democrat switch where incumbent Republican **Senator Steven Dickerson** lost to Democrat challenger **Heidi Campbell** respectively by a margin of 48.3% to 51.7%. Another closely watched seat was in the Chattanooga area of District 10 where incumbent Republican **Senator Todd Gardenhire** held on to defeat challenger **Glenn Scruggs** by a margin of 53.2% to 46.8%. Of the remaining Senate districts, three were uncontested and include District 2, **Senator Art Swann**, District 8, **Senator Frank Niceley**, and District 12, **Senator Ken Yager**. For the remaining contested Senate districts, Republicans cruised to reelection with some garnering as much as 87.8% of the vote (Senate District 24 Senator John Stevens) with overwhelming victories. The only open seat in West Tennessee was District 26 where retiring **Senator Dolores Gresham** was replaced by **Page Walley**, a Republican who garnered 75.84% of the vote. In the two most contested races, Republican Senate leadership contributed heavily to both Senator Steve Dickerson and Senator Todd Gardenhire totaling almost a million dollars to defend both seats.

Elections are Over, Now What?

With elections behind them, Tennessee lawmakers can now turn their focus to the 2021 legislative session and who they will select to lead them through the 112th General Assembly. On November 24th, House Republicans return to Nashville to decide on a variety of leadership posts, including Speaker, Leader, and Caucus Chairman -Positions currently held by Representative Cameron Sexton, Representative William Lamberth, and Representative Jeremy Faison respectively. Democrats will do the same when they return to the Capitol for the 112th General Assembly. House Republican leadership elections will, by nature, be of slightly more consequence since their choice for Speaker is overwhelmingly likely to be confirmed when the legislature reconvenes in January.

Speaker Sexton has remained silent on whether he plans to restructure House legislative committees for the 2021 session. Regardless, he will have some vacancies to fill as a result of natural attrition from retiring House members. In the Senate, all eyes will be on who Lieutenant Governor Randy McNally will select to replace Senator Delores Gresham as chairman of the Senate Education Committee. There is speculation that Lieutenant Governor McNally will select a current committee member.

Background: Previous Election Year Outcomes

Similar to a number of southern states, Tennessee state and federal election results have almost entirely trended Republican since 1994. Democrats predicted a better performance in 2020, touting an energized base, strong and unified campaign message, and increased candidate recruitment in a number of races.

Recent political party performance in Tennessee.

Election	U.S. Senate	U.S. House	Governor	St. Senate	St. House
1994	2 R	5 R / 4 D	R	Dem control	Dem control
2002	2 R	4 R / 5 D	D	Dem control	Dem control
2006	2 R	4 R / 5 D	D	Rep control	Dem control
2010	2 R	7 R / 2 D	R	Rep control	Rep control
2018	2 R	7 R / 2 D	R	Rep control	Rep control
2020	2 R	7 R / 2 D	R	Rep control	Rep control

Below we have made our best effort to capture all of the state election results. Please note that these are unofficial results compiled from the best sources available. Tennessee does not have run-offs in state and federal elections, a plurality (not a majority) is all that is required to decide the winner of each contest.

TN SENATE 2020 GENERAL RESULTS					
Status	District	REPUBLICAN		DEMOCRAT	
	02	Art Swann	100.00%	No candidate filed	
	04	Jon Lundberg	79.04%	Amber Riddle	20.96%
	06	Becky Massey	60.67%	Jane George	39.33%
	08	Frank Niceley	100.00%	No candidate filed	
	10	Todd Gardenhire	51.62%	Glenn Scruggs	48.38%
	12	Ken Yager	100.00%	No Candidate Filed	
	14	Shane Reeves	71.84%	Chase Clemmons	28.16%
	16	Janice Bowling	76.70%	Shelia Younglove	23.30%

	18	Ferrell Haile	70.81%	No candidate Filed	
	20	Steve Dickerson	47.84%	Heidi Campbell	52.16%
	22	Bill Powers	61.14%	Robbie Glynn	38.86%
	24	John Stevens	87.73%	Yahweh Yahweh	12.21%
Open	26	Page Walley	75.84%	Civil Miller-Watkins	24.16%
	28	Joey Hensley	78.18%	No candidate filed	
	30	No candidate filed		Sara Kyle	100.00%
	32	Paul Rose	68.98%	Julie Byrd Ashworth	30.02%

TN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 2020 GENERAL RESULTS

Status	District	REPUBLICAN		DEMOCRAT	
	01	John Crawford	100.00%	No candidate filed	
	02	Bud Hulse	77.13%	Arvil Love, Jr.	22.87%
Open	03	Scotty Campbell	100.00%	No candidate filed	
	04	John B. Holsclaw, Jr.	80.24%	Bobby Patrick Harrell	19.76%
	05	David B. Hawk	100.00%	No candidate filed	
Open	06	Tim Hicks		Brad Batt	
Open	07	Rebecca Alexander	100.00%	No candidate filed	
	08	Jerome Moon	74.94%	Jay Clark	25.06%
	09	Gary W. Hicks, Jr.	100.00%	No candidate filed	
	10	Rick Eldridge	100.00%	No candidate filed	
	11	Jeremy Faison	100.00%	No candidate filed	
	12	Dale Carr	81.29%	Bennett Lapidés	18.71%
	13	Elanie Davis	44.08%	Gloria Johnson	55.92%
	14	Jason Zachary	62.13%	Justin Davis	37.87%
	15	No candidate filed		Sam McKenzie	75.72%
Open	16	Michelle Carringer	67.80%	Elizabeth Rowland	32.20%
	17	Andrew E. Farmer	81.43%	Delynn McCash	18.57%
Open	18	Eddie Mannis	52.62%	Virginia Couch	47.38%
	19	Dave Wright	100.00%	No candidate filed	
	20	Bob Ramsey	72.88%	Susan Sneed	27.12%
	21	Lowell Russel	100.00%	No candidate filed	
	22	Dan Howell	100.00%	No candidate filed	
	23	Mark Cochran	86.06%	No candidate filed	
	24	Mark Hall	76.35%	Daniel Jones	23.65%
	25	Cameron Sexton	81.72%	Robyn Deck	18.28%
	26	Robin Smith	62.12%	Joan Ferrell	37.88%
	27	Patsy Hazlewood	100.00%	No candidate filed	
	28	No candidate filed		Yusuf A. Hakeem	100.00%
	29	Mike Carter	100.00%	No candidate filed	

	30	Ester Helton	55.70%	Joseph Udeaja	44.30%
	31	Ron Travis	82.99%	Dean M. Sparks	17.01%
	32	Kent Calfee	100.00%	No candidate filed	
	33	John D. Ragan	100.00%	No candidate filed	
	34	Tim Rudd	61.63%	Mary Vaughan	38.37%
	35	Jerry Sexton	100.00%	No candidate filed	
	36	Dennis H. Powers	82.45%	CJ Mitchell	17.55%
	37	Charlie Baum	58.17%	Mariah Phillips	41.83%
	38	Kelly T. Keisling	85.46%	Carol Venea' Abney	14.54%
	39	Iris Rudder	100.00%	No candidate filed	
	40	Terri Lynn Weaver	78.26%	Paddy Sizemore	21.74%
	41	No candidate filed		John Mark Windle	100.00%
	42	Ryan Williams	100.00%	No candidate filed	
	43	Paul Sherrell	80.39%	Luke Camron	19.61%
	44	William Lamberth	100.00%	No candidate filed	
	45	Johnny C. Garrett	100.00%	No candidate filed	
	46	Clark Boyd	100.00%	No candidate filed	
	47	Rush Bricken	100.00%	No candidate filed	
	48	Bryan Terry	61.72%	Matt Ferry	38.28%
	49	Mike Sparks	53.91%	Brandon Thomas	46.09%
	50	No candidate filed		Bo Mitchell	100.00%
	51	No candidate filed		Bill Beck	100.00%
	52	Donna Tees	27.32%	Michael Stewart	72.68%
	53	No candidate filed		Jason Powell	100.00%
	54	No candidate filed		Vincent Dixie	100.00%
	55	No candidate filed		John Ray Clemmons	100.00%
	56	Diana Canada	45.14%	Bob Freeman	54.00%
	57	Susan M. Lynn	69.46%	No candidate filed	
	58	No candidate filed		Harold M. Love	100.00%
	59	No candidate filed		Jason Potts	100.00%
	60	No candidate filed		Darren Jernigan	100.00%
	61	Brandon Ogles	66.87%	Same Bledsoe	33.13%
	62	Pat Marsh	100.00%	No candidate filed	
	63	Glen Casada	60.08%	Elizabeth Maderia	32.20%
	64	Scott E. Cepicky	70.83%	James Campbell	29.17%
	65	Sam Whitson	69.20%	Jennifer Foley	30.80%
	66	Sabi "Doc" Kumar	77.60%	Jarvus Turnley	22.40%
	67	John Dawson	41.55%	Jason Hodges	58.45%
	68	Curtis Johnson	100.00%	No candidate filed	
	69	Michael G. Curcio	70.43%	Eddie Johnson	29.57%
	70	Clay Doggett	100.00%	No candidate filed	
	71	David "Coach" Byrd	100.00%	No candidate filed	
	72	Kirk Haston	100.00%	No candidate filed	

	73	Chris Todd	100.00%	No candidate filed	
	74	Jay D. Reedy	100.00%	No candidate filed	
	75	Bruce I. Griffey	80.62%	No candidate filed	19.38%
Open	76	Tandy Darby	75.70%	Jeffery Washburn	24.30%
	77	Rusty Grills	100.00%	No candidate filed	
	78	Mary Littleton	72.97%	Holly Spann	27.03%
	79	Curtis Halford	100.00%	No candidate filed	
	80	No candidate filed		Johnny W. Shaw	100.00%
	81	Debra Moody	100.00%	No candidate filed	
	82	Chris Hurt	58.90%	Andrea Bond-Johnson	41.10%
	83	Mark White	54.51%	Jerri Green	45.49%
	84	No candidate filed		Joe Towns, Jr.	100.00%
	85	No candidate filed		Jesse Chism	100.00%
	86	Rob White	28.06%	Barbara Cooper	71.94%
	87	No candidate filed		Karen Camper	100.00%
	88	No candidate filed		Larry J. Miller	100.00%
	89	Justin Lafferty	70.04%	Greg Mills	29.96%
	90	John J. Deberry, Jr. (I)	22.45%	Torrey Harris	77.55%
	91	No candidate filed		London P. Lamar	100.00%
Open	92	Todd Warner	100.00%	No candidate filed	
	93	No candidate filed		G.A. Hardaway, Sr.	100.00%
	94	Ron M. Gant	100.00%	No candidate filed	
	95	Kevin Vaughan	71.26%	Lynnette Williams	28.74%
	96	Patti Possel	41.02%	Dwayne Thompson	58.98%
Open	97	John Gillespie	51.01%	Gabby Salinas	48.99%
	98	No candidate filed		Antonio Parkinson	100.00%
	99	Tom Leatherwood	100.00%	No candidate filed	

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