



Tennessee Weekly Legislative Update, 3/24 – 3/28, 2025

John Rose Enters Governor's Race

On March 21st, Congressman John Rose announced his candidacy for governor, officially joining the race to succeed Governor Bill Lee. Rose, a Republican currently serving Tennessee's 6th Congressional District, brings both legislative and agricultural experience to the campaign.

Budget Takes Center Stage

The administration's budget amendment was unveiled this week, offering insight into the Governor's revised funding priorities ahead of final budget negotiations. With the budget process now fully underway, the Senate is increasing its pace, having closed key committees including Commerce, Energy, and Transportation. The added Wednesday floor sessions help manage the legislative workload as lawmakers focus on closing out major fiscal decisions in the remaining weeks of session.

Judicial Confirmations Approved

The General Assembly held a joint session to confirm two judicial appointments. Steven W. Sword was confirmed to the Court of Criminal Appeals, Eastern Division, filling the vacancy left by the passing of Judge James C. Witt, Jr. Sword, currently serves as a Criminal Court Judge for the 6th Judicial District and holds degrees from King College and the University of Tennessee School of Law. Valerie L. Smith was confirmed to the Court of Appeals, Western Division, following the retirement of Judge Arnold B. Goldin. Smith serves as a Circuit Court Judge for the 30th Judicial District and earned both her undergraduate and law degrees from The University of Memphis.