

# TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT

## Update

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### **Election Day, Wednesday, November 8, 2006**

#### **Governor**

Incumbent Democratic Governor Phil Bredesen easily defeated state Senator Jim Bryson by over 700,000 votes (69%-30%). Bredesen carried every county in the state and defeated Bryson in his suburban Nashville home county by 20,000 votes.

#### **Tennessee General Assembly – House**

The numerical composition of the Tennessee House of Representatives will remain exactly the same as it was in the 2005-2006 General Assembly. Of course, several personalities in each party will be different. Democrats will control the House by a seven-vote margin, 53-46. Speaker Jimmy Naifeh is likely to be re-elected to his position. A contested election in the Democratic Caucus for majority leader is brewing. Those known to be interested are West Tennessee Representative Mark Maddox and Nashville Representative Gary Odom.

#### **Tennessee General Assembly – Senate**

Political newcomer Lowe Finney defeated incumbent Republican Senator Don McLeary by 921 votes out of 53,125 cast. McLeary had switched parties this year to make the race for re-election as a Republican.

The state Senate is now 17-16 Republican. The 17th Republican vote, Senator Mike Williams of Maynardville, voted for Speaker John Wilder in 2005 and is widely expected to support Wilder again. This may not mean that Wilder will be elected to his 19th consecutive term as speaker and lieutenant governor, but it is a step closer than had McLeary won re-election. Wilder has been lieutenant governor since 1971.

#### **Federal Races – Senate**

Former Chattanooga Mayor Bob Corker defeated Congressman Harold Ford, Jr. by approximately 50,000 votes (of 1,700,000 cast) to retain outgoing Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist's seat for the Republicans.

### **Federal Races – House of Representatives**

All of Tennessee's incumbent members of Congress, except Congressman Ford, won re-election. Ford will be replaced in Congress by Democrat Steve Cohen, a veteran state senator from Memphis.

Tennessee's incumbent Democratic members, now in the majority, are:

1. Bart Gordon of Murfreesboro who is the ranking member of the Committee on Science and serves on the Health and Telecommunications and Internet Subcommittees of the House Energy and Commerce Committee;
2. John Tanner of Union City who serves on the Trade and Oversight Subcommittees of the House Ways and Means Committee;
3. Jim Cooper of Nashville who serves on the House Armed Services and Budget Committees; and
4. Lincoln Davis of Pall Mall who serves on the House Science, Agriculture and Transportation Committees.

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