

# TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT *Update*

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## **Tennessee Government Update Friday, August 8, 2008**

Tennessee's primary election results were marked by close margins. Winchester businessman Eric Stewart defeated Steve Roller by 131 votes (38.6% of total vote) to become the Democratic nominee for the seat vacated by long-time state Senator Jerry Cooper last year. Roller had been elected by the Warren County Commission to fill the vacant seat temporarily.

State Representative Delores Gresham defeated two male candidates by 54 votes (38.6% of total vote) to become the Republican nominee in the state Senate seat vacated by the retirement of former Lieutenant Governor John Wilder. She will face Randy Camp who was unopposed in the Democratic primary. Camp is former commissioner of personnel for Governor Bredesen.

Democratic incumbent Senator Rosalind Kurita defeated trial lawyer Tim Barnes by 19 votes to retain her seat. Kurita garnered a Democratic primary opponent by virtue of her vote for Republican Ron Ramsey who was elected Speaker of the Senate thereby.

In the congressional primaries, first term Republican Representative David Davis in Congressional District 1 (upper-east Tennessee) was defeated by Johnson City Mayor Phil Roe by 460 votes (0.9% of total vote). In a nationally-notorious race, in the 9th Congressional District (Memphis), first term incumbent Steve Cohen defeated Nikki Tinker by 38,470 votes (79.4% of the total vote). Cohen thereby retains his representation of Tennessee's only majority black congressional district. Marsha Blackburn won re-election in Tennessee's 7th Congressional District by defeating former state senator and Shelby County trustee Tom Leatherwood handily. Her margin was 11,971 votes (62% of the total vote).

### **TN State Senate**

<b>Race</b>	<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Articles/Polling Info. Of Interest</b>	<b>Tidbits</b>
State Senate District 8 (Blount & Sevier counties)	Doug Overbey (R)	Finney Asking for Recount... <a href="http://www.blounttoday.com/news/2008/aug/07/unofficial-results/">http://www.blounttoday.com/news/2008/aug/07/unofficial-results/</a>	Defeated incumbent by 139 votes.
State State Senate 22 (Clarksville)	Rosalind Kurita (D) (Incumbent)	Kurita Opponent Considers Challenging 19 Vote Loss... <a href="http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080807/NEWS0206/80807162/1009/NEWS02">http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080807/NEWS0206/80807162/1009/NEWS02</a>	Retained seat by 19 votes.

State Senate District 4 (Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock, Hawkins, Jefferson, and Union counties)	Micheal R. Williams (I) (Incumbent)	State Senator Mike Williams Files for Reelection as Independent... <a href="http://www.wate.com/Global/story.asp?s=8112519">http://www.wate.com/Global/story.asp?s=8112519</a>	-Former republican; -Became Independent after leadership dispute; -Supported by Democrats Senators.
	Mike Faulk (R)		-Plaintiffs' lawyer; -Supported by senate speaker.
State Senate District 12 (Campbell, Fentress, Morgan, Rhea, Roane and Scott counties) Non-Incumbent Race	Becky Ruppe (D)	An internal poll shows Ruppe leading 44% to 39%.	- <u>Endorsed by:</u> AFL-CIO;
	Ken Yager (R)	An internal poll shows Yager leading 35% to 21%.	- <u>Endorsed by:</u> TN Right to Life;
State Senate District 14 (Franklin, Bledsoe, Coffee, Grundy, Sequatchie, Van Buren, and Warren counties)	Eric Stewart (D)	Stewart Soars... <a href="http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080808/NEWS0206/808080410">http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080808/NEWS0206/808080410</a>	- <u>Endorsed by:</u> AFL-CIO; -Defeated incumbent by 131 votes.
	Mike Niederhauser (R)		
State Senate District 16 (Bedford, Moore and part of Rutherford counties)	Jim Tracy (R) (Incumbent)		- <u>Endorsed by:</u> TN Right to Life;
	Jeanne Anne Rogers (D)		-Optometrist; -Board Member, TN State Board of Education
State Senate District 18 (Robertson and part of Sumner counties)	Diane Black (R) (Incumbent)	<a href="http://www.dianeblack.com/">http://www.dianeblack.com/</a>	- <u>Endorsed by:</u> TN Right to Life;
	Jim Hawkins (D)	<a href="http://www.jimhawkins.org/">http://www.jimhawkins.org/</a>	-Endorsed by: AFL-CIO;
State Senate District 26 (Chester, Crockett, Fayette, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, McNairy, and Wayne counties) Non-Incumbent Race	Randy Camp (D)		-Former Bredesen cabinet member.
	Delores Gresham (R)	Gresham Wins GOP Primary for Wilder Seat by 80 Votes... <a href="http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2008/aug/08/west-tennessee-legislators-gresham-waiting-for/">http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2008/aug/08/west-tennessee-legislators-gresham-waiting-for/</a>	- <u>Endorsed by:</u> TN Right to Life; -Won by 54 votes in three person race.

TN State House

Race	Candidate	Articles/Polling Info. Of Interest	Tidbits
State House District 2 (Part of Sullivan County)	Nathan Vaughn (D) (Incumbent)		- <u>Endorsed by:</u> AFL-CIO;
	Tony Shipley (R)		

State House District 4 (Carter County )	Kent Williams (R) (Incumbent)		
	Priscilla Steele (I)		
State House District 11 (Cocke and part of Greene counties)	Eddie Yokley (D) (Incumbent)		- <u>Endorsed by:</u> AFL-CIO;
	Dan Ford (R)		
State House District 14 Non-Incumbent Race (Part of Knox County)	Ryan Haynes (R)	Haynes Among House's Youngest... <a href="http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2008/aug/08/haynes-among-houses-youngest/">http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2008/aug/08/haynes-among-houses-youngest/</a>	-State House District 14 was decided during the August 7 <sup>th</sup> primary.
State House District 20 Non-Incumbent Race (Part of Blount county)	Bob Ramsey (R)		-State House District 20 was decided during the August 7 <sup>th</sup> primary. -Ramsey is a dentist; -Won seat by 1,386 votes in a four person race.
State House District 31 (North Hamilton and Rhea Counties)	Jim Cobb (R) (Incumbent)	Rep. Jim Cobb Retains House Seat... <a href="http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2008/aug/07/hamilton-county-rep-jim-cobb-retains-tate-house-di/">http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2008/aug/07/hamilton-county-rep-jim-cobb-retains-tate-house-di/</a>	-Beat former representative by 1,062 votes.
State House District 36 Non-incumbent seat (Campbell and Union County)	Roger Byre (D)		
	Chad Faulkner (R)		
State House District 40 Non-Incumbent Race (DeKalb, Smith, and Macon counties)	Cleveland D. Bain (D)	Bain and Weaver Win Primary Nominations in State Representative Race... <a href="http://www.wjle.com/node/5340">http://www.wjle.com/node/5340</a>	
	Terri Lynn Weaver (R)		- <u>Endorsed by:</u> TN Right to Life; -Ran for this seat in 2006;
State House District 46 (Cannon, Trousdale and part of Wilson counties)	Stratton Bone (D) (Incumbent)		- <u>Endorsed by:</u> AFL-CIO;
	Albert McCall (R)		- <u>Endorsed by:</u> TN Right to Life;
State House District 47 (Coffee and part of Warren counties)	John Greeter (D)		
	Judd Matheny (R) (Incumbent)		- <u>Endorsed by:</u> TN Right to Life;
State House District 48 Non-Incumbent Race (Part of Rutherford County)	Tim Tipps (D)	Carr, Tipps to Vie for House Seat... <a href="http://www.dnj.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080808/NEWS01/808080331">http://www.dnj.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080808/NEWS01/808080331</a>	
	Joe Carr (R)		- <u>Endorsed by:</u> TN Right to Life; -Previously ran unsuccessfully

			for this seat.
State House District 64 (Part of Maury County)	Ty Cobb (D)		- County Commissioner
	Tom DuBois (R) (Incumbent)		- <u>Endorsed by</u> : TN Right to Life;
State House District 66 (Robertson county)	Bob Bibb (D) (Incumbent)		- <u>Endorsed by</u> : AFL-CIO;
	Joshua Evans (R)		- <u>Endorsed by</u> : TN Right to Life.
State House District 71 Non-Incumbent Race (Hardin, McNairy and part of Decatur counties)	Stan Wheeler (D)	Wheeler, Dennis to face Childers... <a href="http://www.jacksonsun.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008808080324">http://www.jacksonsun.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008808080324</a>	
	Vance Dennis (R)		
	Stephen Childers (I)		
State House District 79 Non-Incumbent Race (Gibson and part of Carroll counties)	James Ryal (D)		- <u>Endorsed by</u> : AFL-CIO
	Curtis Halford (R)		- <u>Endorsed by</u> : TN Right to Life

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