

HATS IN THE RING

Republican candidates for: COUNTY COMMISSION SEAT 7-A

PRIMARY: MAY 5  
GENERAL: AUG. 6

Precincts:  
Big Springs  
Carpenter's Middle  
Friendsville  
Lanier

Incumbent:  
Quentin Caldwell

On GOP ballot:  
Quentin Caldwell  
Shannon Effler  
Donald K McConnell

Aug. 6: There is not a Democrat or independent candidate on the ballot. The primary winner takes seat.

Hats in the Ring  
The Daily Times emailed all candidates qualified in a contested primary with an opportunity to complete a free profile form for Hats in the Ring. Responses to each question were character count limited to provide equal opportunity for space to each candidate.

More Online  
View the profiles for any contested county primary by visiting [bit.ly/HatsinRing526](https://bit.ly/HatsinRing526)

— Marcus Fitzsimmons  
The Daily Times



Quentin Caldwell  
Incumbent

ONLINE: na  
BRIEF BIO: I was raised in Blount County and I love this community and I still think it is the best place in the country to live. My family and I would love to serve you for another term in this seat.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR THIS OFFICE?  
I want to serve the people of District 7 and the people of Blount County as a whole. I truly believe that as public servants we are here to serve the people. I enjoy problem solving and working with others to find the best solution to any problem that we face as a community.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE THAT WILL ASSIST YOU IN THE DUTIES OF THIS OFFICE?

I have a servant's heart and I enjoy helping people. Public service is one of the most fulfilling things that a person can do. I have been working with people from all different backgrounds for half of my life and I look forward to continuing this as a Blount County Commissioner.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOUR TOP TWO PRIORITIES BE?  
Infrastructure and Responsible Growth

IN WHAT COMMITTEE DO YOU FEEL YOU COULD DO THE MOST GOOD? Public Services

WHY SHOULD VOTERS ELECT YOU? I feel that I have the qualities that will help the people of Blount County and the determination to help solve the problems that face our community. I want to keep Blount County a place that people can be proud to call home.



Shannon Effler  
Challenger

ONLINE: [www.shannoneffler.com](http://www.shannoneffler.com)  
BRIEF BIO: I'm a 7th generation Blount County resident whose work in our community has long centered on dignity, compassion, and second chances. Professionally, Shannon is a learning consultant who designs meaningful, human-centered learning experiences.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR THIS OFFICE?  
I am running because service has always been at the center of my life, and I believe our community deserves leadership rooted in compassion, accountability, and real human connection. Every person carries a story, and that meaningful change happens when we listen first and lead with dignity.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE THAT WILL ASSIST YOU IN THE DUTIES OF THIS OFFICE?

Professionally, as a learning consultant, I help small businesses and large corporations educate their employees and customers through various learning tools that improve communication, strengthen teams, and support long-term growth. I know how to bring people together, build consensus, and create processes that actually work. My experience has always centered on serving people with dignity, compassion, and accountability, and those values directly shape how I approach the responsibilities of this office.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOUR TOP TWO PRIORITIES BE?  
If elected, my first priority would be promoting and supporting responsible growth initiatives that strengthen our community without losing what makes it special. Thoughtful planning, clear communication, and collaboration can help our community grow in ways that support people rather than overwhelm them.

My second priority would be supporting strong, safe, and connected families. When we invest in resources that help people get back on their feet, when we strengthen partnerships with local organizations, and when we make sure every resident feels seen and supported, we build a healthier community for everyone.

Both priorities reflect what has guided me: compassion, accountability, and a commitment to serving people with dignity.

IN WHAT COMMITTEE DO YOU FEEL YOU COULD DO THE MOST GOOD? Veterans Affairs

WHY SHOULD VOTERS ELECT YOU? Voters should elect me because my entire career has been rooted in service, compassion, and responsible leadership. I've spent years working directly with people in some of the most challenging moments of their lives. Those experiences taught me to listen deeply, act with integrity, and make decisions that put people first.

Professionally, I've helped organizations of all sizes grow in thoughtful, sustainable ways. As a learning consultant, I know how to bring people together, build consensus, and create systems that actually work. I understand how to navigate complex issues, communicate clearly, and keep projects moving forward with accountability and transparency.

I'm not running to make noise; I'm running to make a difference. I show up, I do the work, and I follow through. Voters deserve someone who leads with both heart and practicality and someone who listens, collaborates, and serves with purpose. That's the kind of leadership I bring to this office.



Donald K McConnell  
Challenger

ONLINE: na  
BRIEF BIO: I reside on a farm in District 7 that has been in my family for over 200 years. I am a lifetime Republican conservative and fiscal conservative with strong Christian values. I recently retired from a professional career as a healthcare provider.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR THIS OFFICE?  
I am running for this office because I love Blount County and want to see it preserved for future generations by applying checks and balances and not become just another county filled with asphalt and rooftops.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE THAT WILL ASSIST YOU IN THE DUTIES OF THIS OFFICE?

I have a proven track record in leadership as a past Secretary and President of my national professional organization. I served as the Director of Government Affairs for my national organization where I spearheaded legislative advocacy on the federal and state levels. I was vice chairman of the National Certification Board. I also have experience in Agriculture and Education, as well as operating a successful small business. I feel that my life and work experiences will be beneficial.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOUR TOP TWO PRIORITIES BE?  
If elected, I will make public funds a priority by being a responsible steward ensuring that spending is fiscally responsible, transparent and absolutely necessary and bring fiscal accountability and cut unnecessary waste. I will also will be an advocate for property rights to protect farmers large and small, as well as homeowners and businesses from government intrusion and preserve our land by using checks and balances towards over development that is overloading our infrastructure.

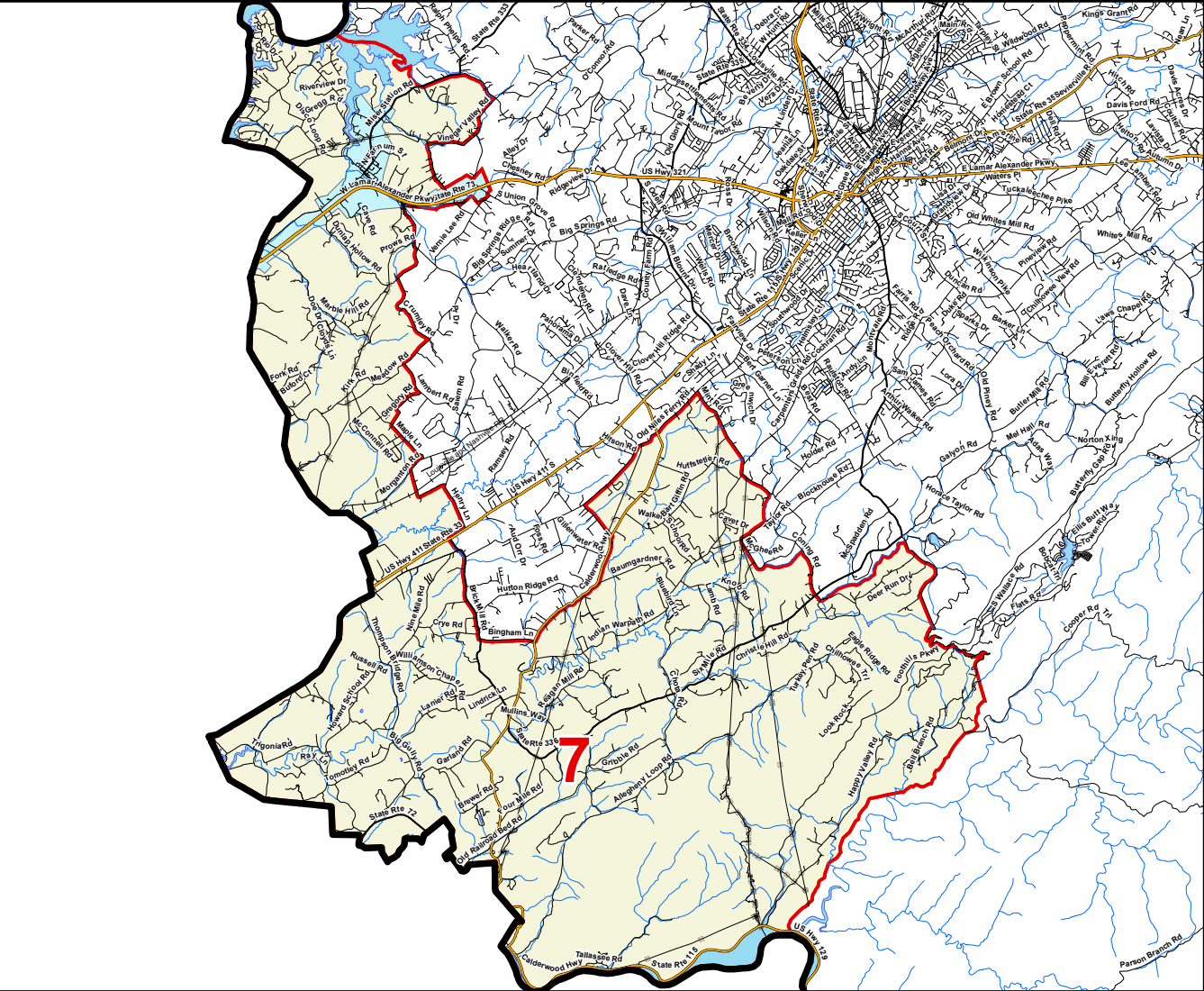
IN WHAT COMMITTEE DO YOU FEEL YOU COULD DO THE MOST GOOD? Planning

WHY SHOULD VOTERS ELECT YOU? I am not a career politician. I am a neighbor, parent and taxpayer just like you. We all have the same concerns about the future of our district and county. I want to be our voice and messenger to local government to ensure that our concerns and issues are heard, discussed and acted upon. I will never take for granted that I know what is best for you. If elected, I want to ensure that all are informed and have a full understanding of any items that impact our daily lives. Having retired from my professional career, I have the time and dedication to devote myself to the role of commissioner full-time. I will be accessible and eager to meet, listen and talk with you. I pledge to demonstrate mindfulness, honesty, transparency and accountability as your commissioner. I also will work with all other departments and leaders in government to reciprocate or exchange ideas and discuss issues and concerns that impact our daily lives. We are in this together.

**Tanner Jones**  
County Commission District 3  
Seat A. Trusted conservative leadership that works for YOU!  
PAID FOR THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT TANNER JONES, MARK D. BENNETT, TREASURER

**MISTY DAVIS**  
Blount County Commissioner  
District 6, Seat B  
WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM ME  
• Stand Up for Taxpayers  
• Believe in Conservative Values  
• Not Controlled by Political Groups  
• Listen to My Community  
Paid for by the committee to elect Misty Davis, Treasurer Darla Laney.

**Vote JERRY BURNS**  
FOR BLOUNT COUNTY SHERIFF  
PUBLIC SAFETY OVER POLITICS  
As Sheriff, I will:  
• Strengthen public safety  
• Recruit and retain top deputies  
• Combat the drug and mental health crisis  
• Protect our children  
[www.burns4sheriff.com](http://www.burns4sheriff.com)  
PAID POLITICAL AD FOR JERRY BURNS FOR BLOUNT COUNTY SHERIFF BY CANDIDATE



**Blount County**  
County Commission District 7

|                     |        |
|---------------------|--------|
| # OF COMMISSIONERS  | 2      |
| TOTAL POPULATION    | 12,811 |
| DEVIATION           | -73    |
| % DEVIATION         | -0.6%  |
| WHITE POPULATION    | 11,888 |
| % WHITE             | 92.8%  |
| BLACK POPULATION    | 52     |
| % BLACK             | 0.4%   |
| OTHER POPULATION    | 871    |
| % OTHER             | 6.8%   |
| HISPANIC POPULATION | 305    |
| % HISPANIC          | 2.4%   |

**Tennessee**  
COMPTROLLER OF THE TREASURY  
Created On: 12/16/2021