

# HATS IN THE RING

# Republican candidates for: COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: SEAT 3-B

PRIMARY: MAY 5  
GENERAL: AUG. 6



**Jeremy Graham**  
Challenger

**ONLINE:** [Graham4CountyCommissioner.com](http://Graham4CountyCommissioner.com)  
**BRIEF BIO:** Jeremy Graham is a local pastor and founder of two nonprofits, True Purpose Ministries and TNJCAP. A conservative Republican, he is committed to preserving Blount County's values and is a devoted husband and father of six.

**WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR THIS OFFICE?** To faithfully serve God and the people of Blount County with integrity, honesty, and transparency, guided by conservative values. I seek no personal gain, but to represent District 3 with humility and ensure every citizen's voice is heard in our county.

**WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE THAT WILL ASSIST YOU IN THE DUTIES OF THIS OFFICE?** With over 23 years of ministry and nonprofit leadership experience, I bring expertise in social services, economic development, business, and organizational leadership. As a former Army National Guard member and son of a career Army officer, I value discipline, accountability, faith, and country. As a local taxpayer and father of a large family, I understand our community's challenges and the need for experienced, principled county leadership.

**IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOUR TOP TWO PRIORITIES BE?** My top priorities are ensuring affordable taxation and housing while preserving a safe, conservative community. As a city and county

taxpayer, I understand the financial and housing pressures facing families in today's economy. Too many hardworking residents struggle to find affordable housing, and I will support responsible, sustainable solutions that expand access and strengthen our local economy.

As a pastor and father, I am deeply committed to protecting our families, schools, and community values. Every child deserves a safe environment in which to grow, learn, and thrive. By promoting public safety, strong families, and principled leadership, we can preserve the character of our community and ensure the next generation has the opportunity to succeed.

**IN WHAT COMMITTEE DO YOU FEEL YOU COULD DO THE MOST GOOD? Public Services**  
**WHY SHOULD VOTERS ELECT YOU?** I

respectfully ask for your consideration and vote. I bring over 23 years of proven leadership in ministry and nonprofit service, with a strong record of serving individuals and families across East Tennessee. As the founder of two impactful organizations, I have demonstrated leadership grounded in integrity, accountability, and results. My background in social services, economic development, and organizational leadership equips me to address real community needs.

As a former military service member, I value discipline, service, and love of country. As a husband, father of six, and local taxpayer, I understand firsthand the challenges families face, including rising costs and housing concerns. I am committed to supporting affordable taxation, expanding housing opportunities, and maintaining a safe, conservative community.

I am not seeking personal gain, but the opportunity to faithfully serve District 3 with honesty, transparency, and a commitment to ensuring every voice is heard.

## Precincts:

- \*Eagleton Middle Cafeteria
  - \*Maryville Schools Central Office
- (John Sevier precinct has moved to MCS Office)

## Incumbent:

**Mike Caylor**  
(Not running)

## On GOP ballot:

**Jeremy Graham**  
**Neal Porter**

**Aug. 6: There is not a Democratic or independent candidate on the ballot. The primary winner takes the 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. Direct questions to [elections@thedailytimes.com](mailto:elections@thedailytimes.com)

— Marcus Fitzsimmons  
The Daily Times



**Neal Porter**  
Challenger

**ONLINE:** [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61585804716986](http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61585804716986)

**BRIEF BIO:** I have proudly called Blount Co (District 3) home for more than 25yrs. I am a Christian, Conservative and a lifelong public servant (retired BCSO). I have been married to my wife, Susan for 32 years. We have two sons, Chance & Collin.

## WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR THIS OFFICE?

To be able to make a tangible difference, have opportunity to help shape policies, improve services and address problems. I want to advocate for local values, and priorities ensuring decisions are made with fairness and long-term impact in mind.

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

I recently retired after a 32-year career in law enforcement right here in Blount County. During those years of service, I had the privilege of working closely with the citizens of this county and gained valuable experience in problem-solving, communication, and leadership. Law enforcement taught me the importance of looking at every situation from all angles, listening carefully, and working toward solutions that are fair, practical, and in the best interest of our community.

**IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOUR TOP TWO PRIORITIES BE?** Responsible growth and

fiscal accountability. I would promote smart, controlled development while protecting the character of the community and make sure taxpayer dollars are spent wisely, transparently with long-term sustainability in mind.

Strengthening public safety and emergency response. Ensure law enforcement, fire and emergency communications are fully supported with the staffing, training and technology they need to keep our community safe.

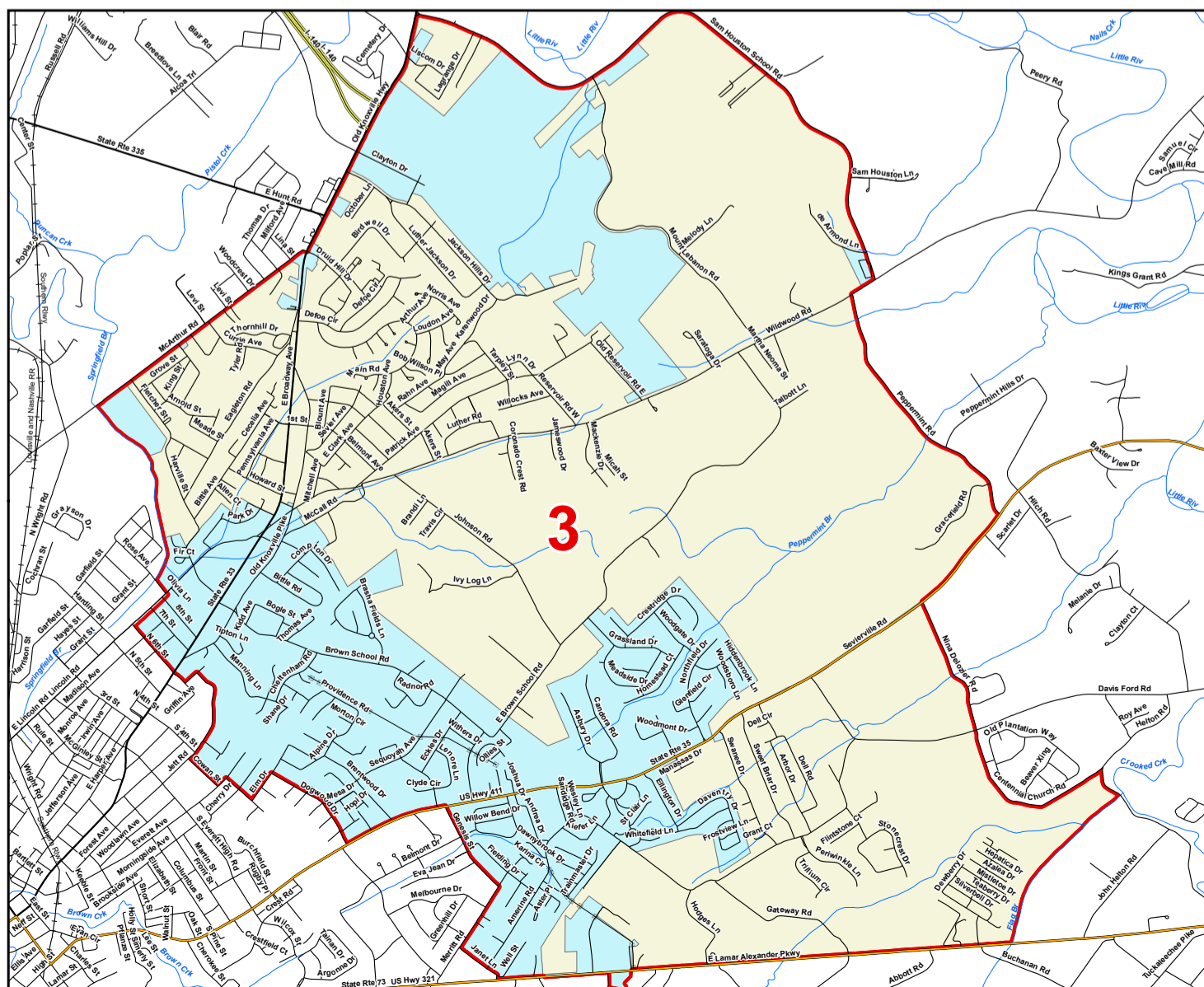
## IN WHAT COMMITTEE DO YOU FEEL YOU COULD DO THE MOST GOOD? Veterans Affairs

**WHY SHOULD VOTERS ELECT YOU?** Because I'm one of you. I've lived here, worked here, and served this community for years. I care deeply about our future and I'll always put people before politics while making decisions that reflect our core values. I bring decades of hands-on experience to listen, lead, make tough but wise decisions and deliver results. As a Christian conservative, I offer a foundation of faith, responsibility, and transparency. I believe in doing what is right, even when it's not easy. Beyond ideology, my faith calls me to serve others with integrity, compassion and accountability. I will listen to constituents, treat people with respect and make decisions that strengthen the community as a whole - not just for today, but for future generations. I offer steady leadership rooted in faith, guided by common sense and focused on community first. I humbly appreciate your support and your vote for Blount County Commission, District 3 - Seat B.

**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

**AUSTIN PENTON**  
BLOUNT COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT 6 SEAT B  
**CONSERVATIVE**  
Paid for by committee to elect Austin Penton | Treasurer-LaRhonda Hannah

**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 3

# OF COMMISSIONERS	2
TOTAL POPULATION	12,958
DEVIATION	74
% DEVIATION	0.6%
WHITE POPULATION	11,222
% WHITE	86.6%
BLACK POPULATION	291
% BLACK	2.2%
OTHER POPULATION	1,445
% OTHER	11.2%
HISPANIC POPULATION	920
% HISPANIC	7.1%

- County Commission District
- Interstates
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- Local Roads
- Railroads
- Powerline (Incomplete)
- Stream
- Lakes / Rivers
- City, Town

