



James Berrong
Incumbent

ONLINE: Jamesberrong.com
BRIEF BIO: I've been blessed to lead the BCSO over many hills and valleys, guiding our deputies and this community from the front while maintaining the standards we've worked hard to achieve.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR THIS OFFICE? I am running for the Office of Sheriff because I am inspired to continue to enforce the high standards and policies that my deputies and I have worked hard to achieve. We are continually implementing new technology and training concepts that will help keep our citizens safe, and I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that these tools will have on our community.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE THAT WILL ASSIST YOU IN THE DUTIES OF THIS OFFICE? I was raised in Blount County and have seen the monumental growth that this county has experienced, especially since 2020. I've guided the BCSO through a spike in illicit drug-related crimes, including the meth labs in the early to mid-2000s to the current fentanyl crisis our country is experiencing. Through the hard work of the Drug Task Force, which the BCSO leads, we have taken a hard stance on those peddling drugs to our citizens, getting convictions on the majority of drug cases. Before this, I was point on riding the county of illegal massage parlors, clearing the county of people engaged in sex trade. Through partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies, the BCSO is leading the way, keeping Blount County a safe community.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOUR TOP TWO PRIORITIES BE? My top priorities are school safety and our continued stand on keeping drugs/narcotics out of Blount County. Through our strong SRO program since has been in existence since the 1990s, we've worked with the school department, assuring there are SROs in every school in Blount County, with additional SROs in the county's high schools. Our SROs are highly trained and prepared for active threats they may encounter. Our

SROs, who are hand-selected, and continually train on active shooter scenarios and tactical response. Our SROs take the time to get to know the students in their schools, establishing relationships that have helped to thwart situations that could've led to tragedy. Another top priority is interrupting the flow of illicit drug and narcotics into our community. Investigators with the Drug Task Force are a determined group of men and women whose goal is to take down individuals who live to go after those who are trying to poison our community, and that will not let up.

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE BIGGEST ISSUE FOR THIS OFFICE DURING THE UPCOMING TERM? I believe the biggest issue for the Office of Sheriff is addressing the challenges that continued growth will have on Blount County, and the impact of that growth. Though our calls for service have so far not risen dramatically, the nature of the calls are changing, requiring additional deputies and time on some of our calls for service. Maintaining a staffing level to meet the needs of our shifting society will be important as we move forward. We have a wonderful working relationship with the Blount County Commission and they support us when we have needs, and I will work hard to preserve that relationship to insure a staffing level sufficient to maintain law and order.

WHY SHOULD VOTERS ELECT YOU? I believe my track record speaks for itself. Since I was first appointed as Sheriff of Blount County, the crime rate, especially crimes against people, has remained low, and our quality of life is top notch. Through the hard work and efforts of our deputies, we continually maintain our high standards for serving the citizens of Blount County. East Tennessee, and particularly Blount County, has become a top choice for individuals seeking a safe place to live and raise a family and for taking advantage of our conservative values. I know and love this community and our citizens, and I will never take for granted what a blessing it is to lead this agency into the future.

The Office:

TN Code § 38-3-102
(a) The sheriff is the principal conservator of the peace in the sheriff's county.

It is the sheriff's duty to suppress all affrays, riots, routs, unlawful assemblies, insurrections, or other breaches of the peace, to do which the sheriff may summon to such sheriff's aid as many of the inhabitants of the county as such sheriff thinks proper.
(b) It shall be the duty of the sheriffs, in their respective counties, by themselves or deputies, to patrol the roads of the county, to ferret out crimes, to secure evidence of crimes, and to apprehend and arrest criminals.

Incumbent:
James Berrong

On GOP ballot:

James Berrong
Jerry D Burns

Aug. 6: There is not a Democrat or independent candidate on the ballot. The primary winner will be elected to office.

— Marcus Fitzsimmons
The Daily Times



Jerry D Burns
Challenger

ONLINE: burns4sheriff.com

BRIEF BIO: Jerry Burns is a 15-year law enforcement veteran with a criminal justice degree. A business owner, husband and father, Burns has served as a K9 handler, instructor, and field training officer, dedicated to public safety and protecting families.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR THIS OFFICE?

I am running for Blount County Sheriff to make a real difference in our community. My career has been dedicated to serving and protecting others, and I believe that strong leadership, proactive policing, and community engagement are key to making Blount County safer for everyone. As our county grows and changes, our approach to public safety must evolve while always putting citizens first. I will work to rebuild trust, support our deputies, and ensure transparency and accountability.

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

I bring law enforcement experience serving in roles such as patrol deputy, K9 handler, Field Training Officer, Defensive Tactics Instructor, and Evidence Supervisor. I have trained and mentored new deputies, made critical decisions in high stress situations, and worked directly with the community. I also continue to teach police tactics and self defense to current officers. My experience has given me a strong understanding of the challenges deputies face as well as the expectations of the citizens we serve. I believe in leading from the front, supporting our deputies, and building trust through accountability and transparency to keep our community safe.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOUR TOP TWO PRIORITIES BE? My top two priorities as Sheriff will be protecting our children and addressing the drug and mental health crisis in our community. First, protecting children must always come first. That means taking every report of abuse seriously, aggressively investigating crimes against children, and ensuring offenders are held fully accountable. I will also strengthen the

role of School Resource Officers so they are visible, engaged, and trusted leaders in our schools helping prevent issues before they happen. Second, we must confront the drug and mental health crisis from all angles. I will focus on targeting drug dealers and traffickers who are harming our community, while also supporting partnerships that provide treatment and resources for those struggling with addiction and mental health challenges. Public safety depends on strong leadership that is proactive, accountable, and focused on protecting families.

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE BIGGEST ISSUE FOR THIS OFFICE DURING THE UPCOMING TERM? One of the biggest issues facing this office is the need to adapt to a growing and changing county. Blount County is not the same as it was decades ago, and our approach to public safety must evolve with it. After many years under the same leadership there is a growing concern from citizens and deputies that the Sheriff's Office has not kept pace with today's challenges, including serious crimes against children that demand stronger enforcement and accountability. I will address this by bringing proactive leadership, aggressively investigating crimes against children, supporting our deputies, and strengthening efforts to combat the drug and mental health crisis. Public safety requires leadership that is willing to adapt, listen and act.

WHY SHOULD VOTERS ELECT YOU? I am asking for your vote on May 5th because I bring real law enforcement experience, proven leadership, and a willingness to do what is necessary to protect this community. I have served in many roles during my time as a police officer and I understand both the challenges deputies face and the expectations of the citizens we serve. Leadership is not about sitting in an office, it is about being accountable, making tough decisions, and leading from the front. Blount County is growing and our approach to public safety must evolve. We cannot afford to fall behind on issues like crimes against children, drug abuse and mental health challenges. These problems demand action, not complacency. I will aggressively protect our community, hold criminals accountable, and take a firm stance against those bringing drugs into our community with proactive policing. I will support our deputies, restore trust, and ensure transparency. This campaign is about one thing, public safety over politics.

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

VOTE

EARLY VOTING: April 15 to April 30
Pellissippi: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays
Everett 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays
Library: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays
8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 18, April 25

Providence: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays, opens April 22
8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 25

INFO: www.blounttn.gov/447/Election-Commission

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

PAID POLITICAL AD FOR JERRY BURNS FOR BLOUNT COUNTY SHERIFF BY CANDIDATE