

The Office:

The county mayor is the accounting officer and chief financial officer of the county; charged with the care and custody of county property (unless the law specifically places the care and custody on another official). The county mayor appoints members of county boards and commissions and appoints department heads unless the law specifically provides otherwise. -CTAS

Incumbent:

Ed Mitchell
(Not running)

On GOP ballot:

Jared Anderson
Brad Bowers
Shawn Carter Sr.
Brett Coulter
Jerome Moon

Aug. 6: Winner faces Brian Thomson (D).

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.

NOTE: Shawn Carter Sr. and Jerome Moon did not return a profile submission.

More Online

View the profiles for any contested county primary by visiting bit.ly/HatsinRing526

— Marcus Fitzsimmons
The Daily Times



Jared Anderson
Challenger

ONLINE: andersonforblount.com
BRIEF BIO: 9th Generation Blount Countian, married to Ashley, father to Lizzie and Julia. Small business owner and attorney who attends Coram Deo Baptist Church. Lifelong Conservative Republican. Graduated from Vanderbilt University & Emory School of Law.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR THIS OFFICE? Blount County is too important to get wrong. I am running to provide steady, conservative leadership that makes responsible financial decisions, addresses growth and traffic challenges, and keeps local government accountable to the people it serves.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE THAT WILL ASSIST YOU IN THE DUTIES OF THIS OFFICE? As a County Commissioner and Budget Committee member since 2018 and Chairman since 2022, I have helped prepare balanced county budgets, chaired key committees, and worked with other leaders to solve problems. My professional experience running a small business requires making difficult decisions, hiring and managing people, and balancing finances. This combination of public service and real-world leadership prepares me to serve effectively as mayor.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOUR TOP TWO PRIORITIES BE? My top priority would be to work to address the rapid growth in this county by addressing our infrastructure and traffic challenges. We need a county-wide roadway needs study. We need to do this while also protecting taxpayers from higher taxes and high debt. We are going to have opportunities this next term to establish a capital plan for county infrastructure and traffic alleviation, and because we have paid off so much county debt over the last few years, we can address our infrastructure challenges within our current revenue without higher taxes or issuing new debt.

We also need to ensure our county school buildings are safe, clean, and properly maintained. We cannot allow facilities to fall behind on basic maintenance or become outdated as our population grows. That means a clear, prioritized maintenance plan, accountability for how funds are spent, and long range planning for capacity needs. Our students and teachers deserve facilities that support academics.

AS MAYOR, WHAT CAPITAL PROJECTS WOULD YOU PRIORITIZE AND WOULD YOU CONTINUE THE COUNTY'S PAY-AS-YOU-GO APPROACH? The opposite of pay-as-you-go is issuing debt, often with a tax increase to support the debt service payments. I don't support that given our financial status. I strongly support continuing a disciplined pay-as-you-go approach instead. Blount County is in a strong financial position today due to fiscally conservative management, and we should build on that foundation.

Priority capital projects should focus on road improvements, school maintenance, and public safety facilities. Traffic congestion is one of the most immediate concerns, so investments that improve connectivity and relieve bottlenecks should come first.

From the point that I began on the budget committee through the end of this fiscal year in June, we will have paid off 47% of our debt. We are also going to have \$8 million in debt service payments free up during this next term that can be applied to these infrastructure needs, all without a tax increase or the issuance of new debt.

WHY SHOULD VOTERS ELECT YOU? Voters should elect me because I have a proven record of making responsible decisions and the experience to lead on day one. I have worked through complex budgets, asked tough questions, and taken positions that put taxpayers and Blount County citizens first, even when those decisions were not the easiest.

Blount County is too important for inexperienced or uncertain leadership. It requires someone who understands how government works, how to manage growth, and how to keep finances under control. I bring that experience along with a commitment to transparency, honesty, and accountability. I am also committed to continuing an open door policy in county government and making it more accessible.

My promise to you is that I will wake up every day and fight to make Blount County a better place to live and to protect our quality of life, and I think I have the experience and conservative credibility to do that successfully.



Brad Bowers
Challenger

ONLINE: na
BRIEF BIO: I was born and raised in Blount County. My parents are Tommy (deceased) and Charlotte Bowers. I attended Porter Elementary and graduated from Heritage High in 1982, UTK with a B.S degree in Agriculture in 1988. Married to my wife Missy for 32 years.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR THIS OFFICE? To help Blount County stay on an open, honest, straightforward path going forward. Help the County Commission direct/control growth, elevate all departments to the best that we're financially able to as a county, without putting a financial burden on the citizens. Preserve farmland and rural beauty.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE THAT WILL ASSIST YOU IN THE DUTIES OF THIS OFFICE? I have been a full time farmer (work) for most of my life, working alongside my father after graduating from college. When he retired in early 2000 I took a job with Blount County environmental health department for 8.5 years. I then transferred to the Property Assessor's office for 1.5 years but left after being elected to the county commission where I've served for 12 years. I've got a real estate license and did that for a brief period. I have a good perspective on many aspects of government.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOUR TOP TWO PRIORITIES BE?

Preserving farmland and Blount County's rural beauty. Our state legislature has passed the Farmland Preservation Act in 2025 and the kinks are being worked out for a launch this summer. I would like to see Blount County participate and build on this program. Maybe we give people incentives to not sell the family farm when it is passed down. Such as, no taxes for 5 years or maybe the County buys the land and creates a park or green space. We need discussion and ideas thrown on the wall to see what sticks. I'm not saying we absolutely do this but there has to be incentives for people to not sell their land. I would be open to all ideas and possibilities. Doing things like this would also help cut down on overcrowding and congestion, I would think. Land is a valuable asset and folks can make a LOT of money by just selling it when it is inherited or passed down. God is not making any more of it. Let's preserve it if we can as a county.

AS MAYOR, WHAT CAPITAL PROJECTS WOULD YOU PRIORITIZE AND WOULD YOU CONTINUE THE COUNTY'S PAY-AS-YOU-GO APPROACH? Probably renovations of our county buildings and school buildings, as prioritized. When I ran the 1st time for commissioner, it was about reducing debt, which we have greatly accomplished. Roads are another thing to consider, but with that comes eminent domain which is terrible and I'm not a fan of. Whether it's new ones or widening of existing ones there will probably be contentions discussion but hopefully productive ones. I will definitely work with Commission to realize the best outcome. I love pay as you go and want to keep our debt low, whatever we do.

WHY SHOULD VOTERS ELECT YOU? I believe my diverse work history in government and private sector, along with my time on County Commission more than qualifies me to be an effective mayor and I think people will see that. I'm honest and pragmatic and have a deep love for Blount County. Also, I think I have an ability to bring people to the table to accomplish goals. I believe the good Lord above wanted me to run and give the great people of Blount County another choice. If I don't win I will continue to serve Blount County in whatever way God leads me.



Brett Coulter
Challenger

ONLINE: <https://Brett4Blount.com>
BRIEF BIO: Lifelong Blount Countian with family roots spanning over 200 years. Maryville High and UT graduate with two postgraduate degrees in Administration and Supervision. 40+ years as an educator and administrator with proven executive experience.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR THIS OFFICE? The County Mayor's job is to lead and manage, not debate and vote. I'm running to serve this community with experienced, hands-on leadership, bringing all Blount Countians together to solve problems and preserve what makes our county such a great place to live.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE THAT WILL ASSIST YOU IN THE DUTIES OF THIS OFFICE? My experience is in running organizations and being accountable for results. I have spent over 40 years managing people, budgets, and daily operations in education, including helping manage a \$55 million capital project. I also come from a small family business where meeting payroll and staying within budget was non-negotiable. I have brought people together to produce positive outcomes. This role requires execution, not theory.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOUR TOP TWO PRIORITIES BE? My top priority is responsible, planned growth. Blount County is growing, and the difference between planning ahead and reacting late is the difference between stability and rising costs.

As County Mayor, I will lead a coordinated effort that brings together municipalities, school systems, and county departments to align infrastructure, school capacity, and development decisions. Growth must be guided with intention, not approved one project at a time without a larger plan.

This requires disciplined budgeting, long-range capital planning, and clear communication so taxpayers understand both the need and the impact of major decisions. My focus will be on execution and follow-through, ensuring we are prepared before problems arise, not after.

AS MAYOR, WHAT CAPITAL PROJECTS WOULD YOU PRIORITIZE AND WOULD YOU CONTINUE THE COUNTY'S PAY-AS-YOU-GO APPROACH? Pay-as-you-go has protected taxpayers and should remain our primary approach. It reflects discipline and a commitment to living within our means.

But leadership also requires the ability to make timely decisions. When critical needs arise, especially in schools, infrastructure, or public safety, we cannot afford to delay action simply to avoid hard choices. In those cases, limited, well-structured financing may be appropriate, with full transparency and a clear repayment plan.

My approach is straightforward: protect taxpayers, plan ahead, and act when necessary. Fiscal responsibility is not just avoiding debt, it is making smart, timely investments that prevent bigger costs later.

WHY SHOULD VOTERS ELECT YOU? This election comes down to the kind of leadership this office requires.

The County Mayor's role is not to debate policy. It is to manage people, oversee budgets, and make sure county government delivers results every day. That requires executive experience.

I have spent my career doing that work. I have led teams, managed large budgets, and delivered major projects. I understand the difference between discussing ideas and being responsible for outcomes.

If elected, I will represent all members of our community in Blount County. I have spent my career loving and caring for the people of this community through my service to our school system.

I will keep taxes low, plan responsibly for growth, and work collaboratively with our municipalities, school systems, and elected officials. I am prepared to serve and deliver results.

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

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 24
Providence: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays, opens April 22
8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 24

INFO: www.blounttn.gov/447/Election-Commission
The state also offers a smartphone app, GoVoteTN, that allows users to enter their address and look up a sample ballot specific to them, their polling location, elected officials, and other useful voter information.

WHAT TO BRING: Tennesseans voting early or on Election Day must bring valid photo identification with them to the polls. A driver's license or photo ID issued by the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security, by Tennessee state government or by the federal government are acceptable even if they are expired. College IDs are not acceptable.

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.

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