



# TENNESSEE CHAMBER of Commerce & Industry

TENNESSEE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

## Special Report

### Tennessee 2018 Midterm General Election Results

#### Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry’s Morning after Report: 2018 General Election Results

For the 2018 election cycle, Tennessee was front and center on the national stage with observers pondering whether a tumultuous political environment would impact a southern state United States Senate race that many pundits noted could help decide control of the upper chamber. In addition, an open Gubernatorial race, three open U.S. House seats and record number of retirements in the state legislature further stoked record midterm voter turnout and spending. Final spending tabulations for all elections this cycle are estimated to total \$120 million with approximately \$65 million spent on the U.S. Senate race alone. Tennesseans cast over 2.1 million votes this cycle compared to 1.3 million in the 2014 midterm elections.

For Tennessee’s business community, the 2018 election ushers in a new era of leadership in Tennessee in the Governor’s office, the Tennessee General Assembly, a U.S. Senator and three freshman U.S. Representatives. We are proud of the effort we put in this cycle to encourage business engagement and educate candidates about business issues and look forward to working with our new leaders to ensure a smooth transition. It is crucially important that our new leaders work to maintain and enhance both Tennessee’s and our nation’s business climate with a deeper focus on workforce development and strong business policies creating climate for economic growth. *Let’s take a look at the election results.*

#### Republicans Hold Tennessee: Win U.S. Senate Seat, Governor’s Office, Open U.S. House Seats and Maintain Supermajorities in State Senate and State House

##### U.S. Senate: Marsha Blackburn Handily Wins U.S. Senate Race

In one of the more engaging races in recent Tennessee memory, polls consistently predicted a close race. It turned out not to be the case, as Republican **Marsha Blackburn** posted a significant win over Democrat **Phil Bredesen**. Despite Bredesen’s emphasis on his pro-business track record and moderate credentials, Republican voter crossover for did not materialize for him, due to Blackburn’s efforts in nationalizing the election against the former two term Governor. Carrying a strong pro-Trump message, Blackburn leveraged multiple visits to the Volunteer state from President Trump that certainly helped. In the 2016 Presidential election, 61% of Tennesseans supported President Trump, who received 1.5 million votes in the Volunteer State. The Tennessee Chamber congratulates both candidates on a hard fought effort and looks forward to working with Senator Blackburn.

U.S. SENATE RACE 2018 RESULTS			
Party	Candidates	%Vote	Votes
R	Marsha Blackburn <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	54.7%	1,225,352
D	Phil Bredesen	43.9%	982,638
I	(6 independents)	1.4%	30,708
Total Ballots Cast – US Sen.			2,238,698

### Governor: Voters Choose Outsider to Lead

As expected, **Bill Lee** (R-Franklin) cruised to victory with a significant margin of victory Tuesday night. Running as a conservative, political outsider who had the “right kind” of experience from his years in business, Lee began the general election with a significant lead that increased over the course of the race. Democrat **Karl Dean**, worked unsuccessfully toward a detailed policy race around Medicaid expansion, gun control and education policy but found there was little interest from an electorate that was consumed by national issues and a U.S. Senate race that dominated the airwaves. Lee maintained a consistent theme during his campaign with his direct-to-camera advertisements sharing his values and invited viewers to join him in improving the standing of our State. Overall both candidates are to be commended for a refreshingly positive race that avoided mudslinging and attacks.

**On Policy:** Throughout the election and even in his victory remarks last night Bill Lee’s policy message remained consistent on working to make sure all Tennesseans have a safe community, a great school and a good job. Lee has consistently messaged his focus on enhancing our business climate and improving education by emphasizing school options and technical and career skill training to ensure a viable workforce. Insiders believe that Lee will make a number of staff changes within Tennessee’s executive branch. Lee also maintains a number of seasoned political staff that will guide his transition. Stay tuned, the Tennessee Chamber will distribute information about upcoming opportunities to meet Bill Lee as our next Governor.

GOVERNOR'S RACE 2018 RESULTS			
Party	Candidates	%Vote	Votes
R	Bill Lee ✓	59.6%	1,333,811
D	Karl Dean	38.5%	862,324
I	(26 independents)	1.9%	42,162
Total Ballots Cast - Gov.			2,238,297

### U.S. House: Three New Republican Freshman Members

Of Tennessee’s nine congressional seats three were vacated this year, providing a number of open seat opportunities. Republicans **Tim Burchett** (TN-02, R-Knoxville), **John Rose** (TN-06, R-Cookeville) and **Mark Green** (TN-07, R- Clarksville) were victorious in their campaigns to fill these positions. They replace **Rep. Jimmy Duncan** (TN-02, R-Knoxville), **Rep. Diane Black** (TN-06, R-Gallatin) and **Rep. Marsha Blackburn** (TN-07, R-Brentwood).

Status	District	U.S. Representative		% Votes
Open Seats	02	Tim Burchett (R-Knoxville)	✓	65.9%
	06	John Rose (R- Cookeville)	✓	69.5%
	07	Mark Green (R-Clarksville)	✓	66.8%

### Tennessee Legislature: Republicans Maintain Supermajorities in State Senate and State House

**State House Results:** Republicans maintain significant control of the Tennessee State House with Democrats gaining a net of 1 seat this cycle. For the 111<sup>th</sup> Tennessee General Assembly Republicans will hold 73 seats and Democrats 26 in the 99 member body. Overall Democrats converted two seats but lost another. The first is Knoxville’s District 13 dubbed the carousel district, where after failed attempts in the last 2 cycles **Gloria Johnson** won back the seat she was first elected to in 2012. The other democrat pick-up was Nashville area District 56 formerly held by retiring House Speaker **Beth Harwell** where Democrat **Bob Freeman** defeated **Brent Moody** in a

closely contested race. The lone Republican gain was from **Chris Hurt**, who won House District 82 formerly held by Democrat House leader **Craig Fitzhugh** who retired to run for Governor. In 2019 during the 111<sup>th</sup> Tennessee General Assembly, there will be more than 35 new legislators (we count members appointed in the 110<sup>th</sup> General Assembly) sworn into office in next January. The next major hurdle for the House is party caucus elections. Scheduled for late November and these elections will decide respective nominees for major leadership positions including House Speaker, Majority and Minority leaders and caucus chairs. The chart below indicates the new members of the 111<sup>th</sup> Tennessee General Assembly.

**State Senate Results:** The State Senate will maintain a Republican supermajority with 28 seats of the 33 member body. The only race that was closely contested was Senator **Brian Kelsey** (R-Germantown), who won reelection. Newly elected members of the State Senate are **Dawn White** (R-Murfreesboro), **Raumesh Akbari** (D-Memphis), and **Katrina Robinson** (D-Memphis).

Incumbent legislators defeated in the primary and general election this cycle include **Rep. Eddie Smith, Rep. Barry Doss, Rep. Tim Wirgau** and **Senator Reginald Tate**. See chart below for unofficial general election results.

**A Tale of Two Tennessees?**

Results for all races varied greatly for rural, suburban and urban areas. In rural areas, smaller regional cities and the suburbs both Blackburn and Lee did very well, capturing between 67% to 79% of the vote. Meanwhile, Bredesen and Dean were strongest in the two urban areas of Nashville and Memphis garnering between 60% to 70% of the vote. One interesting note is that high growth Rutherford county showed tighter margins in all races including area house races, where incumbent **Mike Sparks** held on to his reelection bid with 52% of the vote. All other state senate and state house race results, except for a limited few, showed Republicans performing strong with most easily exceeding 60% of vote tallies in their respective districts.

**Upcoming Special Elections Are Likely, Dates Unknown**

In the weeks ahead, State Senate Majority Leader **Mark Norris** is expected to resign position and be sworn in as federal Judge for the Western District of Tennessee. Norris was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in early October. The same is true for State Senator **Mark Green** who was elected to Congress in TN-07. The exact timing of these events is difficult to predict, but once resignations are official state law requires the sitting Governor to set a special election. This will result in these elections occurring while the Legislature is in session in the Winter/Spring of 2019. Wild Card: Some have speculated the next Governor may select sitting legislators to serve in the executive branch creating a raft of additional elections. Time will tell.

**Background: Previous Election Year Outcomes**

Similar to a number of Southern states, Tennessee state and federal election results have almost entirely trended Republican since 1994. Democrats predicted a better performance in 2018, touting an energized base, strong and unified campaign message, and increased candidate recruitment in a number of races.

Recent political party performance in Tennessee.

Election	U.S. Senate	U.S. House	Governor	St. Senate	St. House
1994	2 R	5 R / 4 D	R	Dem control	Dem control
2002	2 R	4 R / 5 D	D	Dem control	Dem control
2006	2 R	4 R / 5 D	D	Rep control	Dem control
2010	2 R	7 R / 2 D	R	Rep control	Rep control
2018	2 R	7 R / 2 D	R	Rep control	Rep control

Below we have made our best effort to capture all of the state election results. Please note that these are unofficial results compiled from the best sources available. Tennessee does not have run-offs in state and federal elections, a plurality (not a majority) is all that is required to decide the winner of each contest.

TENNESSEE SENATE 2018 PRIMARY RESULTS					
Status	District	REPUBLICAN		DEMOCRAT	
	01	Steve Southerland	✓	no candidate filed	
	02	Art Swann	✓	no candidate filed	
	03	Rusty Crowe	✓	no candidate filed	
	05	Randy McNally	✓	Stuart Starr	
	07	Richard Briggs	✓	Jamie Ballinger	
	09	Mike Bell	✓	Carl Lansden	
	11	Bo Watson	✓	Randy Price	
Open	13	Dawn White	✓	Kelly Northcutt	
	15	Paul Bailey	✓	Angela Hedgecough	
	17	Mark Pody	✓	Mary Alice Carfi	
Open	19	no Republican candidate filed		Brenda Gilmore	✓
	21	no candidate filed		Jeff Yarbrow	✓
	23	Jack Johnson	✓	Kristen Grimm	
	25	Kerry Roberts		Wade Munday	
	27	Ed Jackson	✓	Savannah Williamson	
Open	29	Tom Stephens		Raumesh Akbari	✓
	31	Brian Kelsey	✓	Gabby Salinas	
Open	33	no candidate filed		Katrina Robinson	✓

TN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 2018 PRIMARY RESULTS					
Status	District	REPUBLICAN		DEMOCRAT	
	01	John Crawford	✓	no candidate filed	
	02	Bud Hulse	✓	Arvil Love, Jr.	
	03	Timothy Hill	✓	no candidate filed	
	04	John B. Holsclaw, Jr.	✓	no candidate filed	
	05	David B. Hawk	✓	Park Overall	
	06	Micah Van Huss	✓	no Democrat candidate filed	
	07	Matthew Hill	✓	Nathan Farnor	
	08	Jerome Moon	✓	Jay Clark	
	09	Gary W. Hicks, Jr.	✓	Derek Winkle	
Open	10	Rick Eldridge	✓	Barbara Simmons	
	11	Jeremy Faison	✓	Vincyl Fitzgerald, II	
	12	Dale Carr	✓	Robert G. Williams	
	13	Eddie Smith		Gloria Johnson	✓
	14	Jason Zachary	✓	Justin Davis	
	15	no candidate filed		Rick Staples	✓

	16	<b>Bill Dunn</b>	✓		Kate Trudell	
	17	<b>Andrew E. Farmer</b>	✓		Delynn McCash	
	18	<b>Martin Daniel</b>	✓		Greg Mackay	
Open	19	Dave Wright	✓		Edward Nelson, Knoxville	
	20	<b>Bob Ramsey</b>	✓		Susan Sneed	
Open	21	Lowell Russel	✓		Laura Miller	
	22	<b>Dan Howell</b>	✓		<i>no candidate filed</i>	
Open	23	Mark Cochran	✓		Brad W. Hartley	
Open	24	Mark Hall	✓		Mallory Pickert	
	25	<b>Cameron Sexton</b>	✓		Anne F. Quillen	
Open	26	Robin Smith*	✓		Jean-Marie Lawrence	
	27	<b>Patsy Hazlewood</b>	✓		Brent S. Morris	
Open	28	Lemon C. Williams, Jr			Yusuf A. Hakeem	✓
	29	<b>Mike Carter</b>	✓		Tammy Magouirk	
Open	30	Ester Helton	✓		Joda Thongnopnua	
	31	<b>Ron Travis</b>	✓		Dean M. Sparks	
	32	<b>Kent Calfee</b>	✓		Mary Ellen Blencoe	
	33	<b>John D. Ragan</b>	✓		Richard Dawson	
	34	<b>Tim Rudd</b>	✓		Jennifer Vannoy	
	35	<b>Jerry Sexton</b>	✓		<i>no candidate filed</i>	
	36	<b>Dennis H. Powers</b>	✓		Cassandra Mitchell	
Open	37	Charlie Baum	✓		Deanna D. Osborne	
	38	<b>Kelly T. Keisling</b>	✓		Carol Venea' Abney	
Open	39	Iris Rudder	✓		Sharon "Layne" Adams	
	40	<b>Terri Lynn Weaver</b>	✓		<i>no candidate filed</i>	
	41	Ed Butler			<b>John Mark Windle</b>	✓
	42	<b>Ryan Williams</b>	✓		Terry Scott	
	43	<b>Paul Sherrell</b>	✓		Les Trotman	
	44	<b>William Lamberth</b>	✓		Rachel Mackey	
Open	45	Johnny C. Garrett	✓		Hana Ali	
	46	<b>Clark Boyd</b>	✓		Mark Cagle	
Open	47	Rush Bricken	✓		Mike Winton	
	48	<b>Bryan Terry</b>	✓		Matt Ferry	
	49	<b>Mike Sparks</b>	✓		Chris Mayor	
	50	Judd Cowan			<b>Bo Mitchell</b>	✓
	51	<i>no candidate filed</i>			<b>Bill Beck</b>	✓
	52	<i>no candidate filed</i>			<b>Michael Stewart</b>	✓
	53	Amberlee' Brooks			<b>Jason Powell</b>	✓
Open	54	<i>no Republican candidate filed</i>			Vincent Dixie	✓
	55	<i>no Republican candidate filed</i>			<b>John Ray Clemmons</b>	✓
Open	56	Brent Moody			Bob Freeman	✓
	57	<b>Susan M. Lynn</b>	✓		Jordan Cole	
	58	<i>no candidate filed</i>			<b>Harold M. Love</b>	✓

Open	59	David R. Birdsong		Jason Potts	✓
<input type="checkbox"/>	60	<i>no candidate filed</i>		<b>Darren Jernigan</b>	✓
Open	61	Brandon Ogles	✓	Rebecca Purington	
<input type="checkbox"/>	62	<b>Pat Marsh</b>	✓	Marty Davis	
<input type="checkbox"/>	63	<b>Glen Casada</b>	✓	Bill Peach	
Open	64	Scott E. Cepicky	✓	A.J. Holmes	
<input type="checkbox"/>	65	<b>Sam Whitson</b>	✓	Toby Shaffer	
<input type="checkbox"/>	66	<b>Sabi "Doc" Kumar</b>	✓	Larry Proffitt	
Open	67	Tommy J. Vallejos		Jason Hodges	✓
<input type="checkbox"/>	68	<b>Curtis Johnson</b>	✓	Dennis Potvin	
<input type="checkbox"/>	69	<b>Michael G. Curcio</b>	✓	Eddie Johnson	
Open	70	Clay Doggett	✓	Jessica B. Yokley	
	71	<b>David "Coach" Byrd</b>	✓	Frankie G. Floied	
Open	72	Kirk Haston	✓	James T. Haynes	
Open	73	Chris Todd	✓	James A. Baxter	
	74	<b>Jay D. Reedy</b>	✓	Billy Borchert	
Open	75	Bruce I. Griffey	✓	Richard Carl	
	76	<b>Andy Holt</b>	✓	Deane Arganbright	
<input type="checkbox"/>	77	<b>Bill Sanderson</b>	✓	<i>no candidate filed</i>	
	78	<b>Mary Littleton</b>	✓	John E. Patrick	
	79	<b>Curtis Halford</b>	✓	Gregory Frye	
<input type="checkbox"/>	80	<i>no candidate filed</i>		<b>Johnny W. Shaw</b>	✓
<input type="checkbox"/>	81	<b>Debra Moody</b>	✓	<i>no candidate filed</i>	
Open	82	Chris Hurt	✓	Andrea Bond-Johnson	
	83	<b>Mark White</b>	✓	Danielle Schonbaum	
	84	<i>no candidate filed</i>		<b>Joe Towns, Jr.</b>	✓
Open	85	<i>no candidate filed</i>		Jesse Chism	✓
	86	<i>no candidate filed</i>		<b>Barbara Cooper</b>	✓
<input type="checkbox"/>	87	<i>no candidate filed</i>		<b>Karen Camper</b>	✓
<input type="checkbox"/>	88	<i>no candidate filed</i>		<b>Larry J. Miller</b>	✓
Open	89	Justin Lafferty	✓	Coleen Martinez	
	90	<i>no candidate filed</i>		<b>John J. Deberry, Jr.</b>	✓
Open	91	<i>no candidate filed</i>		London P. Lamar,	✓
	92	<b>Rick Tillis</b>	✓	C.S. "Scott" Coffey	
	93	<i>no candidate filed</i>		<b>G.A. Hardaway, Sr.</b>	✓
	94	<b>Ron M. Gant</b>	✓	Terry S. Saine	
	95	<b>Kevin Vaughan</b>	✓	Sanjeev Memula	
	96	Scott McCormick		<b>Dwayne Thompson</b>	✓
	97	<b>Jim Coley</b>	✓	Allan Creasy	
	98	<i>no candidate filed</i>		<b>Antonio Parkinson</b>	✓
Open	99	Tom Leatherwood*	✓	David Cambron	

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