

Tennessee's 2018 gubernatorial election

Details on candidates, campaign spending and more

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Overview of the 2018 Tennessee gubernatorial election

Primary election:

August 2, 2018

General election:

November 7, 2018

Tennessee's lieutenant governor is
elected by the Tennessee General
Assembly



Bill Haslam (R)

- Current Tennessee governor
- Originally elected in 2010, re-elected in 2014
- Previously
- **Cannot run for re-election due to term limits**

The Cook Political Report:

Solid Republican

rating for Tennessee's gubernatorial election

Mae Beavers formally resigns from TN State Senate in order to run for governor



Mae Beavers (R)

- Former Republican member of the Tennessee State Senate, but resigned in September 2017 to run for governor full-time
- Served as a Tennessee delegate to the 2016 Republican National Convention

Key policy issues



Supports **stricter immigration controls**, saying “for too long, [Tennessee’s] communities have been put in harm’s way by liberal immigration policies that have brought unvetted refugees into our communities and made us unsafe”



As senator, Beavers helped pass the Tennessee Firearms Freedom Act and has said she will continue to **push for “constitutional carry”**



Supports **repealing the ACA**, saying that it is “unconstitutional”



Led the effort to end the state income tax, and **supports repealing the gas tax and blocking tax increases**

Realtor and active Republican announces run for election



Kay White (R)

- Currently: Realtor in Johnson City
- Served as a Tennessee delegate to the 2016 Republican National Convention

Key policy issues



Supports **increasing security** by banning “transsexual” bathrooms in state- or school-funded buildings, which she says “invites assaults on the innocent,” banning sanctuary cities, increasing state line security to prevent drugs from entering TN and increasing armed protection at malls, schools, sporting events, concerts and other events



Wants to **reform the educational system** by increasing teachers’ salaries, increasing shop and skills training classes, moving away from the “common core curriculum” and ensuring that tax dollars are not used to educate illegal immigrants



Supports legislation to ensure that **veterans are treated with “respect and dignity”** and receive the “best services ensuring the maintenance of a good quality life”



Supports **repealing the gas tax** and designating a portion of money earned through the sales tax to go towards **infrastructure**

Four other Republicans have so far announced their candidacy for governor of Tennessee



Rep. Diane Black

- Currently: Represents Tennessee's 6th district in the U.S. House of Representatives
- Is a sponsor of the Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution and the No Budget, No Pay Act
- Supports blocking funding to sanctuary cities
- Is pro-life and authored the Defund Planned Parenthood Act



Randy Boyd

- Currently: Small business owner
- Took a year-long leave of absence from his company to serve as Gov. Haslam's unpaid advisor on education
- Is committed to finishing the Drive to 55 initiative
- Hopes to bring good-paying jobs to TN



State Rep. Beth Harwell

- Currently: Serves as the speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives, representing House District 56
- Has led reform initiatives reducing taxes and debt and improving education
- Former chair of the state Republican Party from 2001 to 2004, during which time she helped Republicans in "taking control of the state Senate for the first time in 140 years"



Bill Lee

- Currently: Chairman of Lee Company and a cattle farmer
- Has served as the 7th Congressional District's representative to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, and is on the Board of Trustees at Belmont University

Sources: Ballotpedia, 2017; Facebook; Diane Black for Governor, 2017; Randy Boyd for Governor, 2017; Beth Harwell for Governor, 2017; Bill Lee for Governor, 2017.

Two Democrats and one Independent candidate have also announced they will run for governor



Karl Dean (D)

- Served as the mayor of Nashville from 2008 to 2015
- As mayor, kept taxes low while investing in public infrastructure, prioritized business recruitment and retention and increased teacher pay and funding for schools



State Rep. Craig Fitzhugh (D)

- Currently: Chairman and CEO of the Bank of Ripley
- Worked to create a bank grant program providing more than \$300,000 to supplement classroom resources for local public school teachers
- Has served in the TN House of Representatives since 1994, representing Tennessee's 82nd legislative district



Mark "Coonrippy" Brown (I)

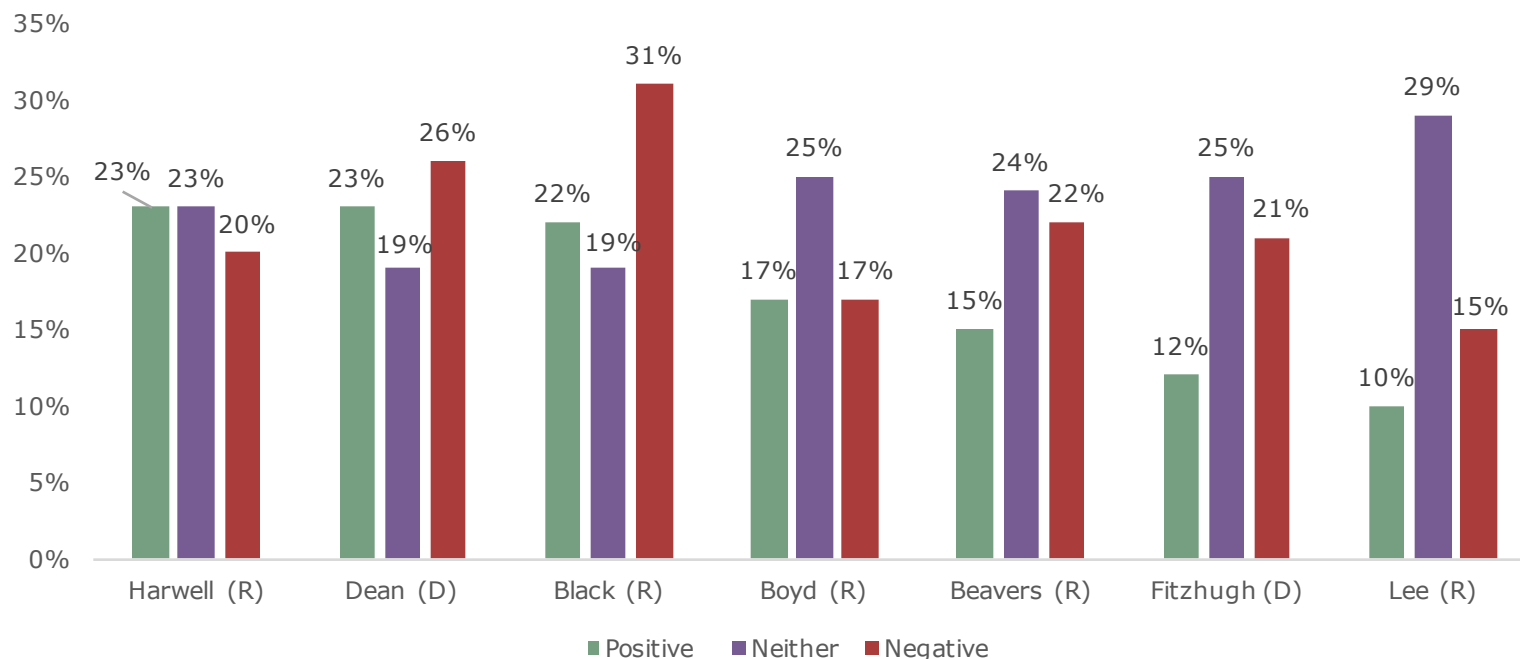
- Currently: "Swampmusic12" on YouTube
- Supports getting rid of the gasoline tax
- Supports Second Amendment Rights

In an early opinion poll, Republican Harwell is the only candidate with a higher positive percentage than negative

Opinion poll of declared and possible candidates in Tennessee's gubernatorial race

OCT. 16-23, 2017, ACCORDING TO AN MTSU POLL OF 600 REGISTERED TENNESSEE VOTERS

■ Positive ■ Neither ■ Negative



Sources: Joel Ebert, "Diane Black, Karl Dean have highest approval ratings in governor's race, new poll says," Tennessean, October 31, 2017.