

Focusing on Republican Primaries



That government being instituted for the common benefit, the doctrine of nonresistance against arbitrary power and oppression is absurd, slavish, and destructive of the good and happiness of mankind.

- Tennessee Constitution Article I, § 2

The General Assembly shall have power to enact laws requiring voters to vote in the election precincts in which they may reside, and laws to **secure the freedom of elections and the purity of the ballot box**.

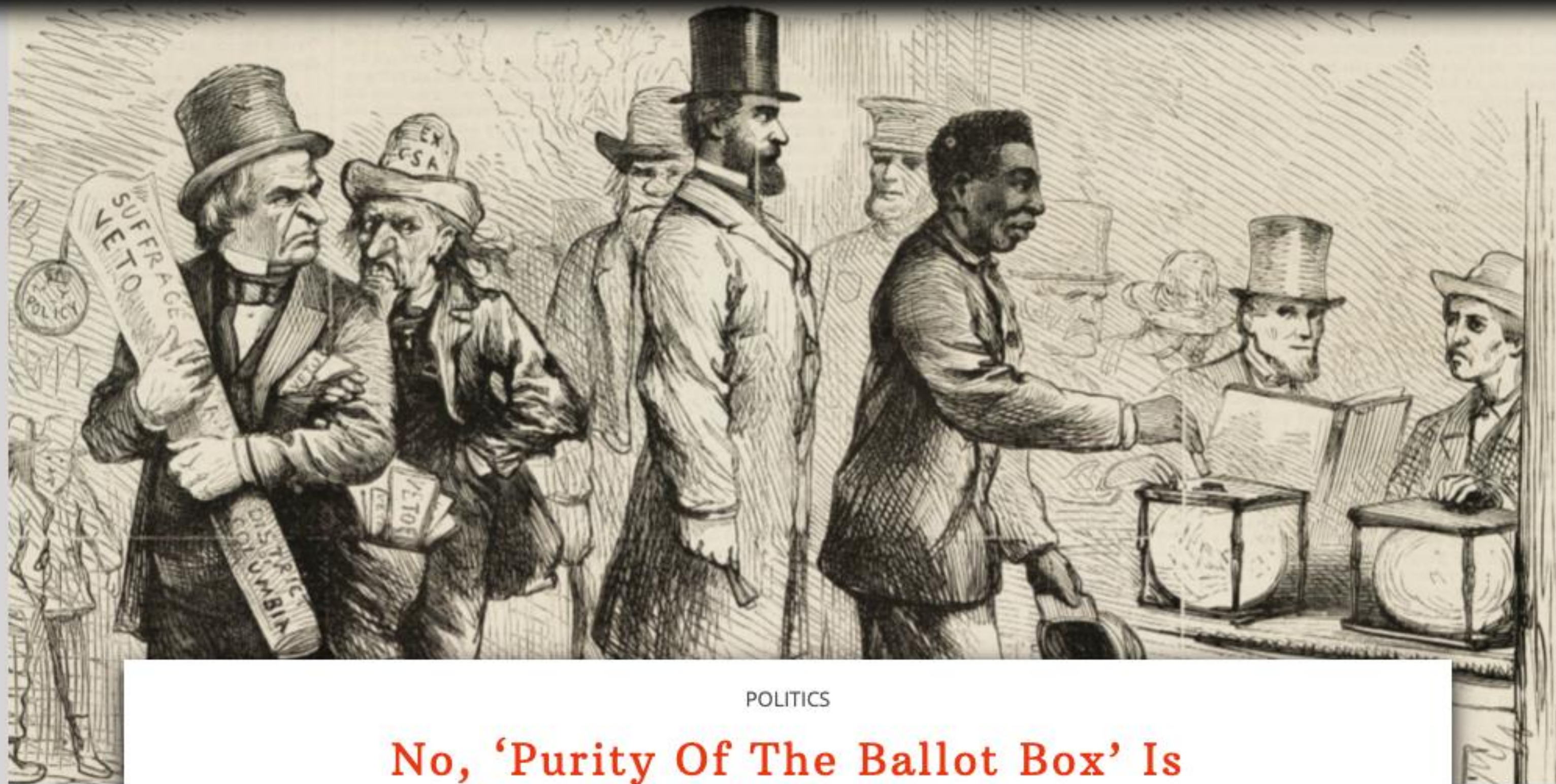
- Tennessee Constitution Article IV, § 1

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POLITICS

No, 'Purity Of The Ballot Box' Is
Not Racist Election Law
Terminology. It's Historically
Accurate

“repeatedly uses the phrase ‘**purity of the ballot box**’ to justify its aim of emboldening partisan watchers. Comparable language regarding the ‘purity of the ballot box’ that is found in the Texas Constitution has *deep ties to calls by white legislators*’ in the state to ensure the ‘**purity of the Anglo-Saxon race**’ by, among other tactics, **disenfranchising Black Texans.**”

- NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (“LDF”)

“A republican government that cannot preserve the *purity of the ballot* (emphasis added) is a failure; one which will not is a fraud, and is already resolved into anarchy.”

- Select Committee on Alleged New York Election Frauds, 1869

1838

Noting voters from outside a district, non-citizens voting, voters voting multiple times at different polling locations to the “disgrace of the state and to the manifest wrong of the whole country.”

1844

Citing “great frauds in the presidential election of 1844”
in New York.

1857

A New York State Assembly committee declared that the ballot, “Still fails to be a true reflection of the will of the people.”

1858

Gov. King of New York in his first annual message in reference to the “elective franchise” declares that, “All know that in the city of New York, and measurably in other large cities, it is not pure and often is not free.”

1865 - 1866

“The legislature of New York finally enacted” election reforms, but they “have failed to secure the purity of the ballot box.”



“The impurities feared, variously called 'dual voting' and 'colonization,' all involve voting by nonresidents, either singly or in groups. The main concern is that nonresidents will temporarily invade the State or county, *falsely swear that they are residents to become eligible to vote*, and, by voting, allow a candidate to win by fraud. Surely the prevention of such fraud is a legitimate and compelling government goal.”

- Dunn v. Blumstein, 405 U.S. 330, 92 S. Ct. 995, 31 L. Ed. 2d 274 (1972).

We will constantly fight against our own depravity for security and we must always remain vigilant in that task.

TCA § 2-13-202

Statewide political parties shall nominate their candidates for the following offices by vote of the members of the party in primary elections at the regular August election:

- (1) Governor;
- (2) Members of the general assembly;
- (3) United States senator; and
- (4) Members of the United States house of representatives.

GOP Bylaws, Nomination by Mass Convention, Rule G

CEC may vote to opt for nominating candidates by convention.

Meeting must be held more than 15 days before the candidate qualifying deadline as provided in TCA § 2-5-101.

GOP Bylaws, Nomination by Mass Convention, Rule G

Nominating convention must be scheduled before the first Thursday in May before the August election.

Must be held according to the rules for Mass Convention under Rule D, Part III of GOP Bylaws.

What might be some of the benefits
Of selecting candidates by
Nominating convention?

1. This method of election would significantly reduce, or almost eradicate, the possibility of Democrats or non-Republican voters meddling in a local primary elections.
2. Significantly reduces the barrier to entry for candidates wishing to run for office in terms of campaigning and fundraising.

3. As such, this reduces the influence of special interests and Chambers of Commerce in county elections.
4. Seemingly would increase the likelihood of conservative candidates getting elected in conservative counties and reduce the influence of low-information voters.

We need challengers in EVERY single
Republican primary election, every time, all the
time.

No person is entitled to public office.

Number of primary elections Over last (3) cycles

Tennessee Senate

62

Races since 2010

Tennessee House

175

Races since 2016

Races with no primary opponents

(In candidate's last 3 primaries)

Tennessee Senate

42 / 62

Ran uncontested

68%

Tennessee House

111 / 175

Ran uncontested

63%

Contested primaries with NO incumbent

(In candidate's last 3 primaries)

Tennessee Senate

11 / 19

No incumbent

58%

Tennessee House

26 / 64

No incumbent

41%

Contested primaries with incumbent

(In candidate's last 3 primaries)

Tennessee Senate

2 / 8

Challenger beat incumbent

25%

Tennessee House

6 / 37

Challenger beat incumbent

16%

With an average 20% success rate

43

Incumbent seats

may have exchanged hands
since 2010.

What might the benefits be of
consistently bringing a challenger
in a primary?

Power structures are consistently disrupted.

PEOPLE > PARTY

Party leaders vie for power through positional leadership (i.e. caucus chair, majority leader, whip, speaker, etc). This gives way to party interests and self-interests and does not motivate one to represent the interests of their constituents.

We should consistently send our best people and our best ideas to office.

Lobbyists and special interests would not garner as much influence over policy.

Without term limits, the best protection we can offer ourselves is a consistent challenge to those in office.

School boards and Superintendents

We can further reign in the authority of a superintendent and ensure that...

school boards are required to vote on certain policy and curriculum decisions, and

school boards are not allowed to delegate away their statutory responsibilities to the superintendent.

I would support a bill like HB 463 (Reedy) which would...

1. Limit all school board terms to 2 years.
2. Family members cannot serve together on school boards.

Superintendent's contract renewal should receive a simple up or down vote in the general election every 2 years.

County GOP's must get involved in supporting conservative candidates for school board with public endorsements.

**We must make municipal elections partisan. Amend
TCA §2-13-208 by requiring the elections to be
partisan by state law.**



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