

THE TENNESSEE
CONSERVATIVE'S
**RINO Report &
Freedom Caucus Awards**



2023

RINO REPORT

A CONSERVATIVE'S BEST GUIDE FOR FINDING **POLITICAL TRUTH** IN TENNESSEE



A Conservative's Definitive Guide For Finding The Truth – Not Spin!

In the following pages, you will find the personal opinions of the Tennessee Conservative editorial staff based upon votes taken and policies administered by the legislative and executive branches of Tennessee's government during the most recent 2023 legislative session and calendar year. This is Constitutionally protected free speech. As a for-profit business and news publication, we offer this report to our subscribers as a service.

If you find any value in this report, please consider contributing by visiting www.TennesseeConservativeNews.com/support. Compiling this report is labor-intensive and we cannot do it without the continued financial support of Conservatives like you.

This report specifically focuses upon elected representatives in the Republican party. Since Republicans are in the super-majority and Conservatives depend upon them to live out their campaign promises, we understand when policies fail that it's not the fault of Democrats.

The Issues We Focus Upon

While there are many issues we could track here at the Tennessee Conservative, this report focuses upon the following areas of concern:

INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM Above all else, our national and state constitution guarantees the rights of the individual above those of the government or business entities.

GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY If taxpayer dollars go toward it, it should be publicly known, easily accessible and produce an excellent return on investment for Tennesseans.

LIMITED GOVERNMENT If an individual, private organization or business can do it, the government should stay out of it.

2ND AMENDMENT The right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

SCHOOL CHOICE Tennessee government schools are failing students and parents at historic levels and we need non-government alternatives to break the decades-long cycle of disaster.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION We believe in turning off the magnets that make our state a welcome haven for illegal immigrants from across the nation.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH The First Amendment is the bedrock upon which Conservatives make their case for individual liberty.

MEDICAL FREEDOM When government takes away your liberties over personal health decisions, it has overstepped its bounds and presents a real threat to the future freedom of all Tennesseans.

CORPORATE WELFARE It is unethical and morally wrong to discriminate against taxpayers and small businesses for corporate millionaires and billionaires in the name of Economic Development.

SMALL BUSINESS We believe government should limit the paperwork, taxes and restrictions that keep small businesses from reaching their full potential.

SANCTITY OF LIFE Thou shall not kill. It's that simple.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION The Constitution expressly prohibits a state-run and sponsored religion, not religious expression in life, government, business or school.

SAFETY Individual liberties and property rights must be protected by law enforcement and from government overreach or abuses.

STATES' RIGHTS As the federal government increasingly moves away from the founders' vision of federalism as outlined in the Constitution, states must reassert their rights and fight against overreach.

MODERN-DAY RACISM Racism should be rooted out in all its forms, not repackaged and used on various groups to meet political or cultural objectives.

ELECTION INTEGRITY We need strong, verifiable paper-trails to safeguard our elections in Tennessee.

CHRISTIAN VALUES Our nation and state were founded on Christian values and they are necessary to preserve our national and state Constitution.

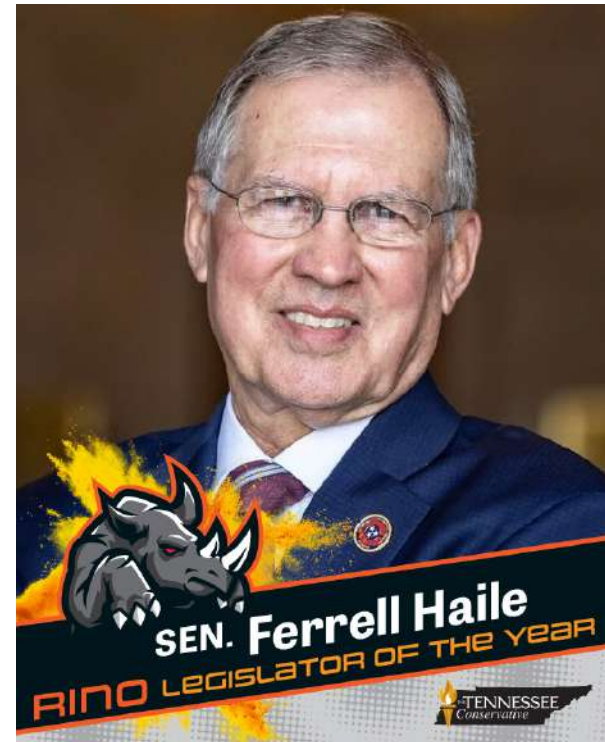
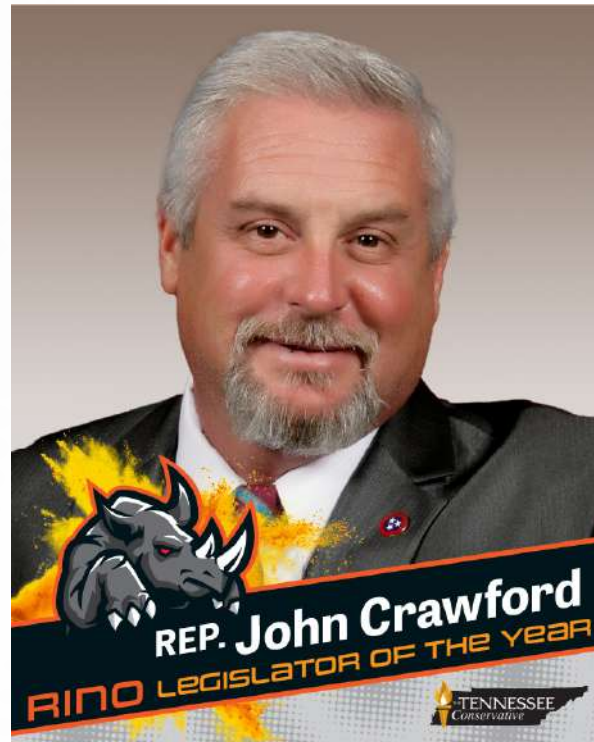
WELFARE REFORM Generational welfare is holding down an entire class of Tennesseans who would be better served by the dignity of work and self-reliance.

R.I.N.O.S

Republicans In Name Only

These are Republicans who actively worked with left-leaning corporations and interest groups to kill Conservative legislation for their own political benefit, voting with and governing like Democrats when it mattered most in the last legislative session. They are beholden to special interest money, which puts them at odds with the political will of Republican primary voters they claim to represent. These lawmakers and public servants may occasionally vote with Conservatives, but on the whole, they display a pattern of behavior that is contrary to the will of Conservative primary voters.

RINO Legislators of the Year



Rep. John Crawford and Sen. Ferrell Haile.



Get the **2022**
RINO Report
[Download Here!](#)

Tennessee House RINOS



Cameron Sexton, Sam Whitson, John Gillespie, Esther Helton-Haynes, Gary Hicks

Tennessee Senate RINOS



Randy McNally, John Stevens, Richard Briggs, Becky Duncan Massey, Ken Yager

Executive Branch RINO

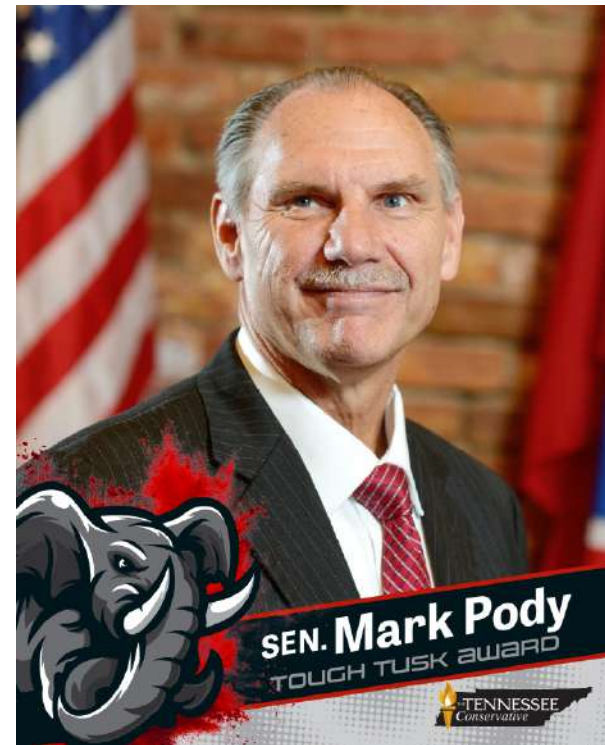


Conservative Legislators Tough Tusk Awards

These are Republicans with deep, principled moorings in Conservatism who do not shy away from difficult legislative fights – even if it means losing establishment patronage or left-leaning, corporate campaign contributions. They have lived out their campaign promises in the recent legislative session.

No legislator is perfect and we may not agree with each and every vote they take. However, during this session, these individuals took bold steps to solve problems that Conservative primary voters really care about.

Conservative Legislators of the Year



Tough Tusk Award

Rep. Bryan Richey and Sen. Mark Pody

House Freedom Caucus Top 5 Conservatives



TOP 5 Conservatives
HOUSE FREEDOM CAUCUS



Bud Hulesy **Dennis Powers** **Clay Doggett**

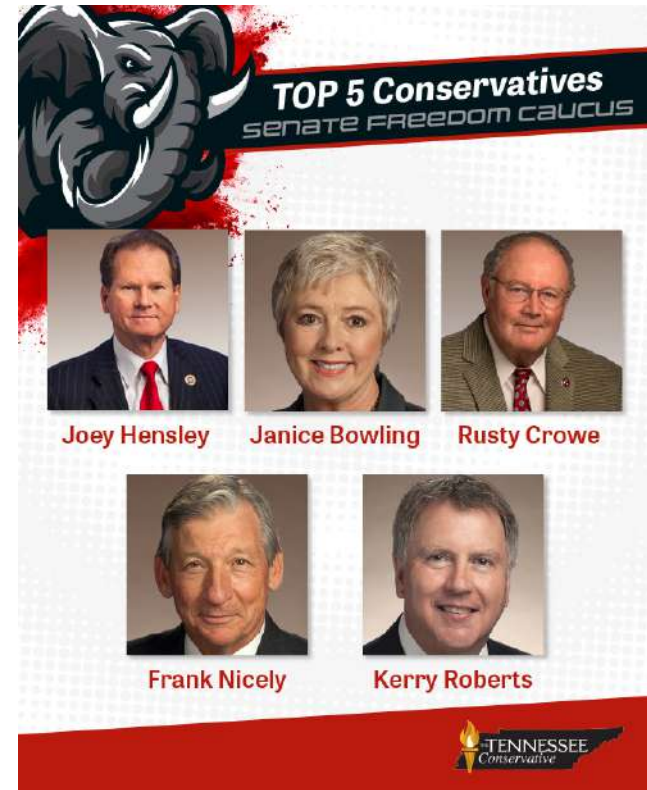


Chris Todd **Monty Fritts**




TENNESSEE
Conservative

Bud Hulesy, Dennis Powers, Clay Doggett,
Chris Todd, Monty Fritts


Senate Freedom Caucus Top 5 Conservatives



TOP 5 Conservatives
SENATE FREEDOM CAUCUS



Joey Hensley **Janice Bowling** **Rusty Crowe**



Frank Nicely **Kerry Roberts**

TENNESSEE
Conservative

Joey Hensley, Janice Bowling, Rusty Crowe,
Frank Niceley, Kerry Roberts



Get the **2022**
RINO Report
[Download Here!](#)



Tennessee Conservative Flame Awards

These are individuals who have fought for Conservative policy through their efforts as grassroots organizational leaders, often taking the initiative to solve tough problems our leadership in the Republican party has ignored—or caused.

Conservative government requires an engaged citizenry and these individuals have worked hard to keep our state free.

Flame Award Winners:

Will Brewer

Tennessee Right to Life

Kurt Riley

Sumner County Constitutional Republicans

John Harris

Tennessee Firearms Association



How to read the RINO Report

The legislative process in Tennessee's General Assembly is hard to follow. The left-leaning corporate media in Tennessee doesn't want Conservative primary voters to know the truth. As a result, they do not report upon how lawmakers vote on Conservative legislation where it matters—in the committee and subcommittee structures.

While bills can be killed through actual votes in these committees, they can also be killed when a bill does not receive a "2nd" or a motion to be discussed. Further, the House uses deceptive "voice votes" that do not record the individual votes of state representatives so they can keep constituents in the dark. When "voice votes" are used, the committee chair essentially makes the decision himself – regardless of the official vote count.

Conservatives may argue over specific pieces of legislation as to whether they are or are not truly Conservative in their view. At our publication, we have tried to identify legislation we know our subscribers, on the whole, support.

Simple Terms

KILLED BY RINOS This appears before a bill name when RINOs have killed Conservative legislation.

KILLED BY CONSERVATIVES This appears before a bill name when Conservatives have killed RINO legislation.

CONSERVATIVE WIN This is Conservative legislation that passed.

RINO WIN This is RINO or Democrat-Like legislation that passed.

RINOS VOTING AGAINST These are votes taken in a subcommittee or committee to kill Conservative legislation. Also applies to instances when subcommittee or committee chair uses the position's power to kill Conservative legislation using deceptive "voice votes."

RINO'S WOULD NOT 2ND BILL FOR DISCUSSION This means no one on a particular committee would second the motion to actually consider the bill. When this happens, the bill is not discussed or voted upon and it is often synonymous with voting against legislation or taking action to kill it.

RINO BILL POSTPONED This is a RINO bill that was postponed during this session, but may appear again in the future.



Get the **2022**
RINO Report
[Download Here!](#)



RIGHT TO LIFE

PROHIBITING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FROM FUNDING ABORTIONS

HB0090 / SB0600 Legislation prohibits local governments from using taxpayer dollars to fund abortions.

Republican legislation sponsored by Rep. Debra Moody in the House and Sen. Joey Hensley in the Senate.

Status: Passed in the Senate and House along party lines. Governor Lee signed the legislation on April 17, 2023 and it became law on April 25, 2023.



Rep. Debra Moody
Prime Sponsor



Sen. Joey Hensley
Prime Sponsor



Gov. Bill Lee
Signed Into Law





**PROTECTING
CHILDREN**

PROHIBITING MEDICAL PROCEDURES ENABLING MINORS TO PRESENT AS OPPOSITE SEX

HB0001 / SB0001 Legislation prohibits a healthcare provider from performing or administering a medical procedure on a minor if the purpose is to enable the minor to identify with, or live as, a purported identity inconsistent with the minor's biological sex.

Republican legislation sponsored by Rep. William Lamberth in the House and Sen. Jack Johnson in the Senate.

Status: Passed in the Senate and House with unanimous votes from Republicans in both chambers. Governor Lee signed the legislation on March 2, 2023 and it became law on March 22, 2023.



Rep. William Lamberth
Prime Sponsor



Sen. Jack Johnson
Prime Sponsor



Gov. Bill Lee
Signed Into Law





**PROTECTING
CHILDREN**

PROHIBITING DRAG SHOWS / ADULT CABARET PERFORMANCES FOR MINORS

HB0009 / SB0003 Legislation creates an offense for a person who engages in an adult cabaret performance on public property or in a location where the performance could be viewed by minors.

Republican legislation sponsored by Rep. Chris Todd in the House and Sen. Jack Johnson in the Senate.

Status: Passed in the Senate and House with unanimous votes from Republicans in both chambers. Governor Lee signed the legislation on March 2, 2023 and it became law on March 22, 2023.



Rep. Chris Todd
Prime Sponsor



Sen. Jack Johnson
Prime Sponsor



Gov. Bill Lee
Signed Into Law



Get the **2022
RINO Report**
[Download Here!](#)





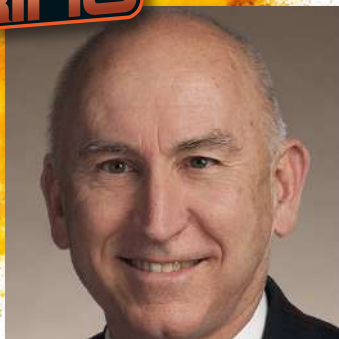
**PROTECTING
CHILDREN**

LAW ELIMINATING EDUCATION EXCEPTION FOR OBSCENE MATERIALS

HB0841 / SB1059 Legislation eliminates an exception for obscene materials for educational purposes. Law makes it illegal to possess obscene material in a school building, bus, school grounds, recreational area, athletic field and all other property owned, used or operated by an LEA. Law also makes it a Class E felony for book publishers, distributors, or sellers to “knowingly sell or distribute obscene matter to a public school serving any of the grades K-12.” also requires that local school boards and public charter school governing bodies adopt policies for the review of books to make sure they are suitable for, and consistent with, the educational mission of the school.

Republican legislation sponsored by Rep. Susan Lynn in the House and Sen. Joey Hensley in the Senate.

Status: Passed in the Senate and House along party lines, with Senator Richard Briggs declining to vote. Governor Lee signed the legislation on April 28, 2023 and the law went into effect on July 1, 2023.



Sen. Richard Briggs
DECLINED TO VOTE



Rep. Susan Lynn
Prime Sponsor



Sen. Joey Hensley
Prime Sponsor



Gov. Bill Lee
Signed Into Law



**PROTECTING
CHILDREN &
PARENTAL
CONSENT**

LAW REQUIRING PARENTAL CONSENT FOR SOME SEX EDUCATION CURRICULUM, CLUB PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HB0727 / SB1443 Legislation requires a student's parent or legal guardian, or the student if the student has reached the age of majority, to provide a written, informed, and voluntarily signed consent to the student's local education agency before the student may receive instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity, participate in a survey, analysis, or evaluation, or receive health services provided through a coordinated school health program.

Republican legislation sponsored by Rep. Monty Fritts in the House and Sen. Kerry Roberts in the Senate.

Status: Passed in the Senate and House along party lines. Governor Lee signed the legislation on May 5, 2023. The law went into effect on July 1, 2023.



Rep. Monty Fritts
Prime Sponsor



Sen. Kerry Roberts
Prime Sponsor



Gov. Bill Lee
Signed Into Law



Get the **2022
RINO Report**
[Download Here!](#)





**PROTECTING
CHILDREN
& PARENTAL
CONSENT**

LEGISLATION COUNTERACTS TENNESSEE'S "MATURE MINOR DOCTRINE"

HB1380 / SB1111 Legislation requires written consent of a parent or legal guardian before a healthcare professional can provide a vaccination to a minor.

Republican legislation sponsored by Rep. John Ragan in the House and Sen. Janice Bowling in the Senate.

Status: Passed in the Senate and House mostly along party lines. Governor Lee signed the bill on May 17th, 2023. The Act takes effect upon becoming law. The Republican lawmakers pictured here voted with the Democrats, against the legislation.



Rep. John Gillespie
VOTED AGAINST



Rep. Sam Whitson
VOTED AGAINST



Sen. Richard Briggs
VOTED AGAINST



Sen. Becky Massey
REFUSED TO VOTE





**KEEPING
TENNESSEE IN
THE HANDS OF
AMERICANS**

LAW LIMITING FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF TENNESSEE PROPERTY

HB0040 / SB0122 Legislation upholds state sovereignty and adheres to U.S. foreign policy by prohibiting a sanctioned nonresident alien, foreign business, foreign government or agents thereof from purchasing real property in Tennessee. Although the legislation will not apply retroactively, all sanctioned parties owning real property will be kept on file by the TN Secretary of State.

Republican legislation sponsored by Rep. Jay Reedy in the House and Sen. Frank Niceley in the Senate.

Status: Passed in the Senate and House along party lines. In the Senate, Speaker Randy McNally refused to vote. Governor Lee signed the legislation on May 11, 2023. The act will take effect on July 1st, 2023



Sen. Randy McNally
DECLINED TO VOTE



Rep. Jay Reedy
Prime Sponsor



Sen. Frank Niceley
Prime Sponsor



Gov. Bill Lee
Signed Into Law



**FREEDOM OF
SPEECH**

LAW REQUIRING PUBLIC COMMENT ALLOWANCE AT GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

HB0448 / SB0551 Legislation requires state and local governments to allow time for public comment at publicly-held meetings.

Republican legislation sponsored by Rep. Elaine Davis in the House and Sen. Adam Lowe in the Senate.

Status: Passed in the Senate and House along party lines. Governor Lee signed the legislation on April 28, 2023 and it became law on May 3rd, 2023 with an effective date of July 1, 2023.



Rep. Elaine Davis
Prime Sponsor



Sen. Adam Lowe
Prime Sponsor



Gov. Bill Lee
Signed Into Law





PROTECTING TEACHERS, SCHOOL EMPLOYEES FROM WOKE TRAININGS

LEGISLATION ELIMINATES MANDATORY IMPLICIT BIAS TRAINING FOR TEACHERS, STAFF

HB0158 / SB0102 Legislation prohibits a local education agency (LEA), public charter school, public institution of higher education, the state board of education, and the department of education from requiring an educator, employee of an LEA or charter school, faculty member, or employee of a public institution of higher education to complete or participate in implicit bias training. The bill also prohibits educators or other employees from having adverse actions taken against them for refusing to participate in such training.

Republican legislation sponsored by Rep. Jason Zachary in the House and Sen. Todd Gardenhire in the Senate.

Status: Passed in the Senate and House along party lines. Gov. Lee signed the bill on May 17th, 2023. The Act takes effect upon becoming law.



Rep. Jason Zachary
Prime Sponsor



Sen. Todd Gardenhire
Prime Sponsor



Gov. Bill Lee
Signed Into Law



Get the **2022
RINO Report**
[Download Here!](#)





**PROTECTING
TEACHERS, SCHOOL
EMPLOYEES FROM
WOKE PRESSURES**

LEGISLATION PROTECTS TEACHER'S RIGHTS TO REFUSE TO USE STUDENT'S 'PREFERRED PRONOUNS'

HB1269 / SB0466 Legislation states that public school teachers, principals, and employees will not be required to refer to students by their preferred pronouns if those pronouns are not consistent with the student's biological sex. The bill also insulates a teacher or other employee of a public school or LEA from civil liability and adverse employment action for referring to a student using the pronoun that is consistent with the student's biological sex.

Republican legislation sponsored by Rep. Mark Cochran in the House and Sen. Paul Rose in the Senate.

Status: Passed in the Senate and House mostly along party lines. Gov. Lee signed the bill on May 17th, 2023. The Act takes effect upon becoming law. The Republicans who voted against the legislation are pictured here.



Rep. John Gillespie
VOTED AGAINST



Sen. Randy McNally
VOTED AGAINST



Sen. Art Swann
DECLINED TO VOTE



SCHOOL CHOICE

LAW EXPANDS EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT PROGRAM TO HAMILTON COUNTY

HB0433 / SB0012 Legislation expands Tennessee’s Education Savings Account Program to Hamilton County (Chattanooga area).

Republican legislation sponsored by Rep. Mark White in the House and Sen. Todd Gardenhire in the Senate.

Status: Passed in the Senate and House mostly along party lines. Governor Lee signed the legislation on May 5, 2023 and it became law with his signature.

HOUSE GOP VOTING NO



Dale Carr



David Hawk



Todd Warner

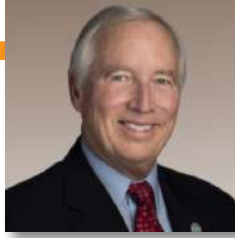


Sam Whitson



Cameron Sexton

HOUSE GOP REFUSING TO VOTE



Rush Bricken



John Crawford



Tandy Darby



Jerome Moon



Kevin Raper

SENATE GOP REFUSING TO VOTE



Richard Briggs



Becky Massey



Page Walley



Ken Yager





**CONSERVATIVE
PUSHBACK WORKED!**

WITHDRAWN: BILL TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR EMPLOYERS TO REPLACE TENNESSEE WORKERS WITH FOREIGN LABOR

HB0004 / SB0151 & HB0260 / SB0310 Legislation would have allowed state and local government entities to forgo verification of a nonresident alien's status, so long as the nonresident alien either holds a valid J-1 visa, a valid H-2B visa, or holds a valid visa for participation in an international culinary internship program. This would have defeated the point of established verification measures like the systematic alien verification for entitlements (SAVE) program or the student and exchange visitor information system (SEVIS).

Republican legislation sponsored by Rep. Dale Carr in the House and Sen. Frank Niceley in the Senate.

Status: After significant pushback from conservative Tennessee voters, Rep. Carr withdrew the bill from consideration

**OUT OF
TOUCH**
WITH VOTER BASE



Rep. Dale Carr
Prime Sponsor



Rep. Frank Niceley
Prime Sponsor





**CONSERVATIVE
PUSHBACK WORKED!**

WITHDRAWN: BILL WOULD HAVE ALLOWED FOREIGN NATIONALS TO BECOME TENNESSEE POLICE OFFICERS

HB0056 Legislation sought to remove the requirement for military service and allowed all permanent residents, including non-citizens, to apply for and be considered for positions in any local law enforcement agency throughout the state of Tennessee.

Legislation sponsored by Republican Rep. William Lamberth in the House but was withdrawn before a Senate sponsor was acquired.

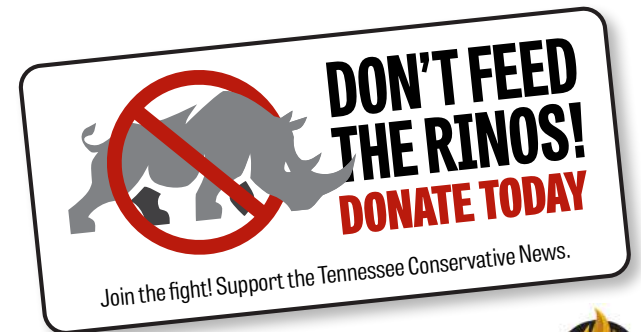
Status: After significant pushback from conservative Tennessee voters, Rep. Lamberth withdrew the bill from consideration.



Rep. William Lamberth
Prime Sponsor



Get the **2022
RINO Report**
[Download Here!](#)





**CONSERVATIVE
PUSHBACK WORKED!**

AMENDED: BILL WITH ORIGINAL INTENT OF CENSORING FREE SPEECH OF NEWS OUTLETS & ADVOCACY GROUPS

HB0183 / SB0160 Legislation could have been used to force news outlets, advocacy groups, clubs to register as Political Action Committees (PACs) and be subject to the same regulations, etc. thereof.

Republican legislation sponsored by Rep. Sam Whitson in the House and Sen. Richard Briggs in the Senate. The Tennessee Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance Ethics worked with Rep. Whitson to create the legislation. Executive Director Bill Young lobbied for its passage.

Status: After significant pushback from conservative Tennessee voters, the legislation was amended to remove all “controversial language” and was rewritten almost in its entirety.



Rep. Sam Whitson
Prime Sponsor



Rep. Richard Briggs
Prime Sponsor



Bill Young
TN BECF Executive Director



FAILED: BILL WOULD HAVE ELIMINATED MAXIMUM CLASS SIZES IN TENNESSEE SCHOOLS

HB0809 / SB0197 Legislation sought to enable individual public school districts to set their own maximum class sizes.

Republican legislation sponsored by Rep. Debra Moody in the House and Sen. Jon Lundberg in the Senate.

Status: Legislation passed in the Senate with only Democrats voting against but was Voted Down in the House K-12 Subcommittee of Education Administration by Voice Vote with Nays prevailing.



Rep. Debra Moody
Prime Sponsor



Rep. Jon Lundberg
Prime Sponsor





**LINKING STATE WITH
PRIVATE INTERESTS**

FAILED: BILL SENATE RESOLUTION AIMED TO AMEND TN CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW STATE TO OWN BANKS

SJR0034 Resolution sought to give power to Tennessee's Treasurer and Comptroller to use taxpayer dollars to purchase a portion of a company or a bank.

Republican resolution was sponsored by Senator Ferrell Haile. Senator Ken Yager served as the prime co-sponsor.

Status: Resolution failed to pass in the Senate on a 17-16 vote in favor. Due to the fact this legislation is a resolution which would result in a constitutional amendment, 22 votes were required for passage.



Rep. Ferrell Haile
Prime Sponsor



Sen. Ken Yager
Prime Co-Sponsor





**ENDANGERING
HOMESCHOOLING**

PUSHED: BILL WOULD HAVE “BLURRED LINES” BETWEEN HOMESCHOOLING AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HB1214 / SB1194 Legislation sought to regulate homeschooling by recategorizing some homeschooling as students participating in part-time public school charters funded by the Tennessee’s public education funding formula (TISA). Concerns were raised that this third homeschooling option could potentially bleed over into the existing legal ways to homeschool in the state.

Republican legislation sponsored by Rep. Cameron Sexton in the House and Sen. Randy McNally in the Senate.

Status: Legislation was taken off notice in the House Education Administration Committee and was assigned to the General subcommittee of the Senate Education Committee.



Rep. Cameron Sexton
Prime Sponsor



Sen. Randy McNally
Prime Co-Sponsor





PARENTS RIGHTS

PUSHED: BILL WOULD LIMIT PARENT'S RIGHTS TO WITHDRAW STUDENTS FROM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HB0455 / SB0417 Current law allows parents to withdraw students from public schools without stipulation. This legislation sought to add stipulations that a student may only be withdrawn if the student's place of residence changes; the student is seeking to withdraw to transfer to another school in the LEA or another LEA pursuant to a local board of education's open enrollment policy or out-of-district transfer policy; or the student enrolls in a non-public school.

Republican legislation sponsored by Rep. Mark White in the House and Sen. Todd Gardenhire in the Senate.

Status: Legislation was assigned to the General subcommittee of the Senate Education Committee. The House version is still a caption bill.



Rep. Mark White
Prime Sponsor



Sen. Todd Gardenhire
Prime Co-Sponsor





PARENTS COULD BE CRIMINALIZED BASED ON ANONYMOUS ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT

HB1109 / SB1319 Legislation makes it a criminal offense for families to hide children outside of the state when that child is in custody of the Department of Children's Services. Since DCS is not required to verify the credibility of anonymous sources making accusations of child abuse or neglect, this legislation could possibly make it easier to criminalize parents who have not committed such an offense. Not only will this legislation allow parents to be charged with a felony offense for failure to turn their child over to the state, it also looks to relieve DCS of having to properly notify parents about removal orders with the bill text stating that it is not a defense that "the person harboring or hiding the child has not been served with an actual copy of a protective custody order or emergency custody order." The primary concern is that the bill seems to do away with basic due process, which gives a person the right to know about accusations made against them and allows them the ability to defend themselves in court.

Republican legislation was sponsored by Rep. Ron Travis in the House and Sen. Paul Bailey in the Senate.

Status: Legislation passed mostly along party lines with Republican Reps voting against including Jody Barrett, Clay Doggett, Rusty Grills, Bud Hulse and Bryan Richey. The only Republican Senator voting against was Brent Taylor.

Signed by Governor Bill Lee on April 28, 2023 and became law on July 1, 2023.



Rep. Ron Travis
Prime Sponsor



Sen. Paul Bailey
Prime Sponsor



Gov. Bill Lee
Signed Into Law





LAW PAVES THE WAY FOR GLOBAL CURRENCY IN TENNESSEE

HB0316 / SB0268 Legislation known as “The Money Transmission Modernization Act,” legally redefines what the law currently recognizes as “money” in the state of Tennessee, laying the groundwork for a global currency. This legislation appears to set Tennessee up to allow foreign governmental entities the opportunity to produce, house, and exchange a currency that is not currently recognized by banks owned and operated within the state.

Republican legislation was sponsored by Rep. William Lamberth in the House and Sen. Jack Johnson in the Senate.

Status: Legislation passed by majority in both chambers with Republican reps voting against including Jody Barrett, Gino Bulso, Ed Butler, Kip Capley, Scott Cepicky, Clay Doggett, Monty Fritts, Bryan Richey and Todd Warner. Rep. Justin Lafferty was present but did not vote. Legislation passed unanimously in the Senate.

Governor Bill Lee signed the legislation on April 4, 2023 and it became law on April 18, 2023 with an effective date of January 1, 2024.



Rep. William Lamberth
Prime Sponsor



Sen. Jack Johnson
Prime Sponsor



Gov. Bill Lee
Signed Into Law





FAILED: BILL WOULD HAVE REQUIRED IMMIGRATION STATUS CHECK OF POTENTIAL VOTERS

HB0835 / SB0137 Legislation sought to aid in voter integrity by cleaning up voter lists. The Coordinator of Elections would have been required to compare the statewide voter registration database with other relevant databases to purge voters who had moved. Coordinator of Elections would have also been required to compare the statewide voter registration database with the Department of Safety database to ensure non-U.S. citizens are not registered to vote in Tennessee.

Republican legislation was sponsored by Rep. Bryan Richey in the House and Sen. Joey Hensley in the Senate.

Status: Legislation was “hijacked” by the chairman of the House Finance, Ways & Means Subcommittee, Rep. Gary Hicks, without the bill sponsor’s consent and taken off notice for the remainder of the session.



Rep. Bryan Richey
Prime Sponsor



Sen. Joey Hensley
Prime Sponsor



Rep. Gary Hicks
Hijacked Bill,
Took It Off Notice



FAILED: BILL WOULD HAVE CLOSED TENNESSEE'S PRIMARY ELECTIONS

HB0405 / SB0452 Legislation sought to prescribe a process by which a person must declare a statewide political party or recognized minor party affiliation before voting in a primary election; designates unaffiliated registered voters as independents.

Republican legislation was sponsored by Rep. Bryan Richey in the House and Sen. Adam Lowe in the Senate.

Status: Legislation was killed by Voice Vote in the House Local Government Committee when Chairman John Crawford counted that the No votes outnumbered the Ayes. However, according to Rep. Richey, the Ayes actually outnumbered the Noes. Republican Reps Clay Doggett, Greg Martin, Jerome Moon, Jay Reedy, Tim Rudd and Robert Stevens requested to be recorded as voting Aye. Additionally, Rep. Richey tells us that Republican Reps Kevin Raper, Rebecca Alexander and Jeff Burkhart also voted Aye making the Aye vote the majority. Rep. William Slater was present at the meeting but did not vote.



Rep. Bryan Richey
Prime Sponsor



Sen. Adam Lowe
Prime Sponsor



Rep. John Crawford
Likely Miscalculated
Voice Votes



FAILED: BILL WOULD HAVE COMBATED CROSSOVER VOTING IN TENNESSEE'S PRIMARY ELECTIONS

HB1045 / SB1144 Legislation sought to require all voters to declare party affiliation the next time they voted in a primary. After doing so, voters would be ineligible to receive a primary election ballot for the opposite party. An amendment to the bill would have allowed voters registered as Independent to vote in primaries, something that is technically illegal under current law, although unenforced. The bill only made it harder, not impossible, to crossover vote. Anyone could have registered as the opposite party 30 days before a primary to vote in that primary election.

Republican legislation was sponsored by Rep. Kelly Keisling in the House and Sen. Joey Hensley in the Senate.

Status: Legislation was killed by Voice Vote in the House Local Government Committee when Chairman John Crawford counted that the No votes outnumbered the Ayes. Republican Representatives Jeff Burkhart, Clay Doggett, Jerome Moon, Jay Reedy, Tim Rudd and Robert Stevens requested to be recorded as voting Aye. Reps. Kevin Raper, William Slater, and Greg Martin told us they voted Aye. Rep Slater told us that he believes that the Aye votes were in the majority.



Sen. Kelly Keisling
Prime Sponsor



Sen. Joey Hensley
Prime Sponsor



Rep. John Crawford
Likely Miscalculated
Voice Votes





**ELECTION INTEGRITY
BLOCKED**

FAILED: BILL WOULD HAVE IMPROVED REPORTING OF DEATH RECORDS IN RELATION TO VOTER ROLLS

HB0246 / SB0136 Legislation would have provided parameters around a timeframe of when the Coordinator of Elections must obtain information regarding the deceased, making the practice standard across all state election commissions. State law does not currently specify when the Coordinator of Elections must obtain this information.

Republican legislation was sponsored by Rep. Jody Barrett in the House and Sen. Joey Hensley in the Senate.

Status: Legislation was killed by Voice Vote in the House Elections & Campaign Finance Subcommittee. Rep. Clay Doggett was the only member that requested that his Aye vote be recorded. Upon reaching out to the members for their votes, Chairman Tim Rudd was the only one that replied, stating he voted “No.”



Rep. Jody Barrett
Prime Sponsor



Sen. Joey Hensley
Prime Sponsor



Rep. Tim Rudd
Voted No

**OTHER
“NO”
VOTES?**





FAILED: BILL WOULD HAVE LET PUBLIC VOTE ON WHETHER ELECTED, APPOINTED OFFICIALS SHOULD BE TERM LIMITED

HB0118 / SB0580 Legislation sought to establish a referendum process by which the electorate of a local government in this state may vote to establish 16-year term limits for the public officials of the local government, specifically city council & county commission members.

Republican legislation was sponsored by Rep. Bryan Richey in the House and Sen. Mark Pody in the Senate.

Status: Legislation was killed in the House Elections & Campaign Finance Subcommittee with the lone vote of support coming from Rep. Clay Doggett. Republican Reps Jeff Burkhart, John Crawford, Esther Helton-Haynes, Jerome Moon and Tim Rudd voted against the bill (pictured here).



Jeff Burkhart



John Crawford



Jerome Moon



Esther Helton-Haynes



Tim Rudd



FAILED: BILL AIMED TO LIMIT OUT-OF-STATE FUNDING FOR TENNESSEE POLITICAL CANDIDATES

HB0388 / SB0100 Legislation sought to prohibit a candidate or political campaign committee from accepting contributions that exceed 30 percent of the total contributions received by a candidate or political campaign committee from persons who are not residents of this state at the time the contribution is made.

Republican legislation was sponsored by Rep. Dave Wright in the House and Sen. Frank Niceley in the Senate.

Status: Legislation was killed in the House Elections & Campaign Finance Subcommittee by Voice Vote. No members of the subcommittee requested to have their vote recorded, so we reached out to all the members.

Only chairman Tim Rudd responded, stating that he voted No.



Rep. Dave Wright
Prime Sponsor



Sen. Frank Niceley
Prime Sponsor



Rep. Tim Rudd
Voted No

OTHER
"NO"
VOTES?



WIN

SOCIAL MEDIA
CENSORSHIP

FAILED: BILL WOULD HAVE INCREASED SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM TRANSPARENCY; PROHIBITED CENSORSHIP

HB1504 / SB1299 Legislation sought to require social media platforms to provide certain information about its content and data management, business practices, and acceptable use policy; prohibit social media platforms from censoring the expression of a user who resides in this state based on viewpoint or geographic location; and impose other related requirements and prohibitions.

Republican legislation was sponsored by Rep. Monty Fritts in the House and Sen. Paul Bailey in the Senate.

Status: Legislation was killed in the House Banking & Consumer Affairs Subcommittee by majority vote from 4 Republicans and 1 Democrat. Republicans who voted No are pictured.



Rush Bricken



Jeremy Faison



Johnny Garrett



Kevin Vaughan



WIN

RELIGIOUS/MEDICAL
FREEDOM

FAILED: BILL WOULD ENSURE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS REGARDING IMMUNIZATIONS

HB0264 / SB1090 Legislation would have guaranteed religious and medical freedoms of anyone who submits a religious exemption to avoid a vaccine being forced on them as a contingency for participation in society, attending school, or keeping their job.

Republican legislation was sponsored by Rep. Bryan Richey in the House and Sen. Janice Bowling in the Senate.

Status: In the House Population Health Subcommittee, Rep. Bryan Terry made a motion for the bill to be heard but the legislation was killed when no member offered a second. Members pictured here could have seconded the bill, but chose not to.



Michele Carringer



Iris Rudder



Esther Helton-Haynes



Sabi 'Doc' Kumar



FAILED: BILL WOULD HAVE WORKED TO PROTECT TENNESSEE'S SOVEREIGNTY

HB0726 / SB1092 The “Restoring State Sovereignty Through Nullification Act” sought to establish an orderly process by which the General Assembly could nullify any unconstitutional federal statute, regulation, agency order or executive order.

Republican legislation was sponsored by Rep. Bud Hulseley in the House and Sen. Janice Bowling in the Senate.

Status: In the Senate State and Local Government Committee, Sen. Mark Pody made a motion for the bill to be heard but the legislation was killed when no member offered a second. Members pictured here could have seconded the bill but chose not to.



Richard Briggs



Page Walley



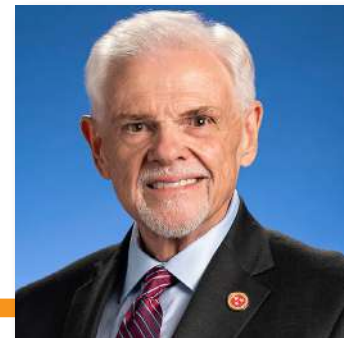
Ed Jackson



Adam Lowe



John Stevens



Ken Yager



Can You Help Me Keep Fighting for Conservatism in Tennessee?

Dear Fellow Conservative,

As you can see by reading the 2023 RINO Report & Freedom Caucus Awards, Tennessee is not nearly as Conservative as Republican leadership would have you believe.

Since founding the Tennessee Conservative in October of 2020, it has been an eye-opening experience.

What I have discovered is this: There is a huge disconnect between the desires of Conservative primary voters and the left-leaning corporations that fund the campaigns of Republican party leadership. In fact, TNGOP leadership gets the vast majority of the campaign contributions from corporate special-interests from outside their districts – and very little money from individuals back the districts they represent.

These same left-leaning corporations spend roughly \$450,000 per legislative member in Tennessee on lobbying alone... not to mention special interest contributions or wining-and-dining legislators in the capitol.

When push comes to shove, Republican leadership is more aligned with Corporatism than Conservatism on the issues of illegal immigration, school choice, medical freedom, corporate welfare, transparency in government and other topics near the hearts of GOP primary voters.

That's why the work of our publication is so essential.

The Tennessee Conservative is the ONLY right-leaning news source focused exclusively on the Volunteer State.

Yep, the ONLY one.

If you find our work to be valuable for protecting your freedoms and liberties in Tennessee, please consider supporting our publication by making a donation.

PLEASE GIVE:

<https://TennesseeConservativeNews.com/Support/>

I can't win this fight without you! Don't wait for someone else... you MUST be the change you hope to see in Tennessee. Will you stand with me?



Yours in Freedom,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brandon Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Brandon Lewis
Founder,
The Tennessee Conservative

