

THE TENNESSEE CONSERVATIVE'S RINO
Report & Freedom Caucus Awards

RINO REPORT

2025



**A Conservative's Best Guide for Finding
Political Truth in Tennessee**

Brought to you by:



THE LIBERAL MEDIA HIDES THE TRUTH ABOUT RINOS — WE EXPOSE THEM...

Fellow Tennessee Conservatives,

Let me level with you...

RINOs get elected year after year in Tennessee because the liberal media refuses to tell GOP Primary Voters the truth.

Meanwhile, your freedoms, your values, and your tax dollars are trampled under the polished loafers of career politicians who talk like Ronald Reagan on the campaign trail—but govern like Chuck Schumer once elected.

And where's the Tennessee media in all this? Nowhere. Silent. Complicit. Bought and paid for by the same left-leaning corporations and lobbyists that fund the very RINOs they refuse to expose.

While a *tiny* group of Conservative lawmakers stand their ground in the General Assembly, the Establishment does everything in its power to sideline them—and the media runs cover.

Illegal immigration? Crickets.
Failing government schools? Excuses.
Corporate welfare with your money? Applause from the press box.

Tennessee doesn't have a "Grand Ole Party." We've got a Corporately-Owned-Party. And we don't have a free press—we've got corporate propaganda mills, staffed by Democrats posing as journalists.

That's why The Tennessee Conservative exists.
We tell the truth the corporate press refuses to tell.
We name names. We publish receipts. We sound the alarm.

But here's the catch...

We are 100% grassroots funded. No lobbyist money. No special interest cash. No corporate backers whispering in our ear.
That means **if you don't fund us, no one will.**

It's expensive and time-consuming to dig up what the Establishment wants to stay buried. Our *Annual RINO Report* alone takes thousands of hours to research, write, and publish. If you've read it, you know—we're not afraid to pull punches. But we can't keep throwing them in the dark. Help us keep the lights on!

So I'm asking you—if you believe Tennessee deserves real journalism, not leftist spin, please give today.



[Click here to make a contribution](#)

Your gift keeps us fighting. Your support makes sure that Conservative voters in Tennessee aren't flying blind when they enter the voting booth. If you want real Conservative change in our state, this is where it starts.

We stand in the gap. Help us hold the line.



YOUR FRIEND IN FREEDOM,

BRANDON LEWIS,
Founder, The Tennessee Conservative



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 2025 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 on elected legislators in the Republican party. Since Republicans are the super-majority and Conservatives depend on them to live out their campaign promises, we understand that when policies fail, 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 Constitutions guarantee 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.

REAL 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 haven for illegal immigrants.

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.

STATE SOVEREIGNTY

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

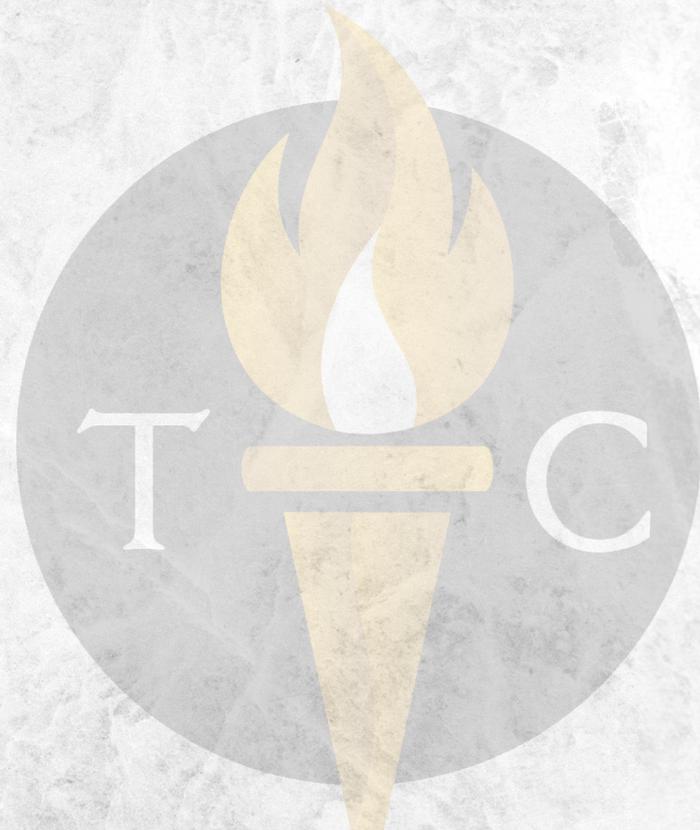
We need strong, verifiable paper-trails to safeguard our elections in Tennessee.

CHRISTIAN VALUES

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

WELFARE REFORM

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



RINOS

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 the 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.



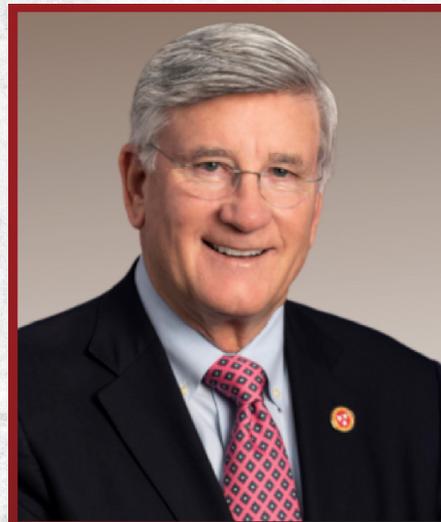
Get the **2024 RINO REPORT**
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RINO LEGISLATORS OF THE YEAR

**DON'T FEED
THE RINOS!**



Donate to TTC Today to
Join the Fight!



**SENATE RINO CONSERVATIVE
LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR**

Sen. Todd Gardenhire
(R-Chattanooga-District 10)



**HOUSE RINO CONSERVATIVE
LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR**

Rep. John Crawford
(R-Bristol/Kingsport-District 1)



TENNESSEE SENATE RINOS

TENNESSEE HOUSE RINOS



TOP 5



**TENNESSEE SENATE
RINOS 2025**



RICHARD BRIGGS
(R-Knoxville-District 7)



TOM HATCHER
(R-Blount, Monroe, Polk and part
of Bradley Counties-District 2)



ED JACKSON
(R-Jackson-District 25)



SHANE REEVES
(R-Bedford, Cannon, Moore and
Rutherford Counties-District 14)



PAGE WALLEY
(R-Savannah-District 26)

Richard Briggs, Tom Hatcher, Ed Jackson,
Shane Reeves, Page Walley



TOP 5



**TENNESSEE HOUSE
RINOS 2025**



JEREMY FAISON
(R-Cosby-District 11)



JOHN GILLESPIE
(R-Memphis-District 97)



TIM HICKS
(R-Gray-District 6)



LEE REEVES
(R-Franklin-District 65)



IRIS RUDDER
(R-Winchester-District 39)

Jeremy Faison, John Gillespie, Tim Hicks,
Lee Reeves, Iris Rudder

EXECUTIVE BRANCH RINOS



GOV. BILL LEE

Governor Lee, who has won our Executive Branch RINO award now for the fourth time, continues to push for less transparency in state government and for corporate welfare. Lee only turned his attention to the #1 concern of Republican primary voters – illegal immigration – after President Donald Trump was re-elected, failing to make the issue a priority his entire time as governor. In addition, last year, Lee partnered with a fake conservative group to push school vouchers and that helped defeat conservative candidates who opposed Lee's [pet project](#). Lee finally got his way after calling for a special legislative session in January to pass his Education Freedom Scholarship Act, lumping it in with disaster relief for Hurricane Helene victims in East Tennessee and public safety measures regarding illegal immigration.



LIZZETTE GONZALEZ REYNOLDS

When Governor Bill Lee appointed Lizzette Gonzalez Reynolds as Tennessee's Education Commissioner, she was statutorily unqualified to hold the post, and remains so. Reynolds does not hold a teacher license despite a 100-plus-year-old state law that requires the commissioner to be qualified to teach in the highest grade over which she has authority, which would be 12th grade. The statute also requires that the commissioner be a "person of literary and scientific attainments and of skill and experience in school administration."

Some lawmakers believe that Lee appointed her to the position in order to push through his private-school voucher initiative. Reynolds' bachelor's degree is in political science. Before coming to Tennessee, Reynolds worked within the U.S. Department of Education and for the Texas Education Agency. She then took a position with ExcelinEd, a pro-charter and pro-private voucher organization.

The Tennessee Conservative

Elephant Ears Awards 2025

GOP LEADERSHIP THAT HAS EARS TO HEAR...

Actually Listened to GOP Primary voters to STOP the practice of funding Illegal Alien education at the expense of taxpayers and native Tennessee kids - despite push back from the GOP establishment, liberal media; lobbyists and protesters that support illegal aliens.



Sen. Bo Watson

(R-Hixson-District 11)



Rep. William
Lamberth

(R-Portland-District 44)

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.

TOUGH TUSK AWARD WINNERS



Get the **2024 RINO REPORT**
Download Here!



**HOUSE TOP CONSERVATIVE
LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR**

Rep. Monty Fritts
(R-Kingston-District 32)



TENNESSEE
Conservative



**SENATE TOP CONSERVATIVE
LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR**

Sen. Janice Bowling
(R-Tullahoma-District 16)



TENNESSEE
Conservative

TENNESSEE SENATE CONSERVATIVES

TENNESSEE HOUSE CONSERVATIVES



TOP 5 

TENNESSEE SENATE CONSERVATIVES 2025



RUSTY CROWE
(R-Johnson City-District 3)



JOEY HENSLEY
(R-Hohenwald-District 28)



MARK PODY
(R-Lebanon-District 17)



BRENT TAYLOR
(R-Memphis-District 31)



THAT'S ALL FOLKS!



TOP 5 

TENNESSEE HOUSE CONSERVATIVES 2025



JODY BARRETT
(R-Dickson-District 69)



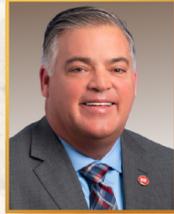
GINO BULSO
(R-Brentwood-District 61)



BUD HULSEY
(R-Kingsport-District 2)



CHRIS TODD
(R-Madison County-District 73)



TODD WARNER
(R-Chapel Hill - District 92)

Rusty Crowe, Joey Hensley, Mark Pody,
Brent Taylor

Jody Barrett, Gino Bulso, Bud Hulsey,
Chris Todd, Todd Warner



The Tennessee Conservative

Flame Awards 2025



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

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

FLAME AWARD WINNERS:



Steve Hickey



Williamson County GOP Chair



Gary Humble



Founder and Executive Director of
Tennessee Stands

HOW TO READ THE RINO REPORT

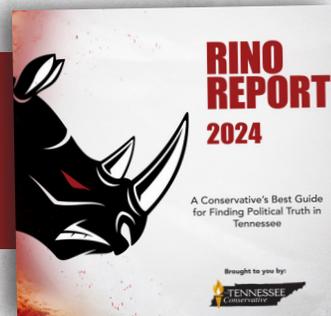
The legislative process in Tennessee's General Assembly is hard to follow. The left-leaning corporate media in Tennessee doesn't want Conservative primary voters to know the truth. As a result, they do not report upon how lawmakers vote on Conservative legislation where it matters – in the committee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

In addition, both chambers continue to use "caption bills" with a bill summary and title that bears little to no resemblance to the actual legislation filed later by amendments only.

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.

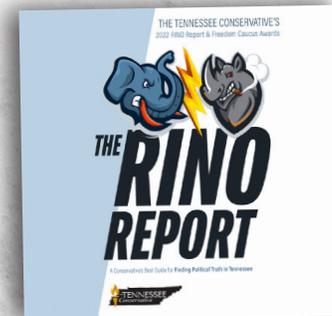
2024



2023



2022



**CHECK OUT OUR OTHER
RINO REPORTS HERE!**

Click the Report to Download!

SIMPLE TERMS

KILLED

Denotes Conservative legislation that was killed by RINOs or Republicans who voted like Democrats.

CONSERVATIVE WIN

This is Conservative legislation that passed.

RINO WIN

This is RINO or Democrat-like legislation that passed.

RINO VOTES

These are votes taken in a subcommittee or committee to kill Conservative legislation.

New For 2025! *The LEMON Awards!*

You may notice a lemon graphic next to certain legislators' photos. This symbol indicates that the legislator was present to vote on a particular bill but chose to pass. In some instances, these decisions contributed to conservative legislation not progressing.

We believe that elected officials should take a clear stance on issues and cast their votes accordingly. Otherwise, one must question why TN taxpayers should continue to fund their presence at the Capitol.

**DON'T FEED
THE RINOS!**



**Donate to TTC Today to
Join the Fight!**



RINO WIN

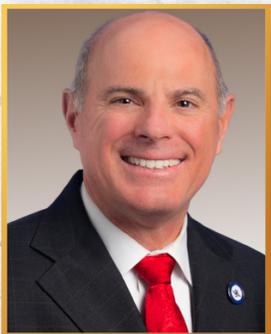
ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION - PREVENTION

KILLED: "TRUMP ACT" Omnibus Illegal Immigration Bill

HB0145 / SB0268, sponsored by *Rep. Gino Bulso* (R-Brentwood-District 61) and *Sen. Joey Hensley* (R-Hohenwald-District 28), required a financial institution to verify the immigration status of a person sending funds electronically outside of the U.S. and its territories; changed the definition of resident or citizen of this state to mean citizens of the United States and aliens lawfully present in this state; required the parent, guardian, or legal custodian of a pupil who is not lawfully residing in this state, but who attends a public school in this state, to pay tuition.

LEGISLATION STATUS: Failed in the House Banking and Consumer Affairs Subcommittee when the vote was split (2 ayes, 2 noes). *Rep. Pat Marsh* (R-Shelbyville-District 62) voted No and 3 other GOP members, *Rep. Kelly Keisling* (R-Byrdstown-District 38), *Rep. Michael Hale* (R-Smithville-District 40) & *Rep. Kevin Vaughan* (R-Collierville-District 95) didn't show up to vote.

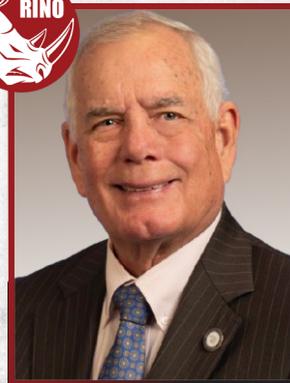
CONSERVATIVE FIGHTERS



House Prime Sponsor
Rep. Gino Bulso



Senate Prime Sponsor
Sen. Joey Hensley



Rep. Pat Marsh



Rep. Michael Hale



Rep. Kelly Keisling



Rep. Kevin Vaughan



RINO WIN

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION -
LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES

KILLED: Preventing Taxpayer-Funded Education for
Illegal Immigrants

HB0746 / SB1044, sponsored by *Rep. Monty Fritts* (R-Kingston-District 32) and *Sen. Janice Bowling* (R-Tullahoma-District 16), required a parent or guardian who wishes to enroll a student into an LEA or public charter school to submit proof of citizenship upon enrollment of the student unless the parent or guardian pays an amount equal to the amount representing the per pupil state and local funds generated and required through the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement formula for the LEA in which the participating student resides.

LEGISLATION STATUS: Failed in the Senate Education Committee with 5 Republicans voting against it - *Senators Ferrell Haile* (R-Gallatin-District 18), *Adam Lowe* (R-Calhoun-District 1), *Mark Pody* (R-Lebanon-District 17), *Bill Powers* (R-Clarksville-District 22), and *Kerry Roberts* (R-Springfield-District 23).

CONSERVATIVE FIGHTERS



House Prime Sponsor
Rep. Monty Fritts



Senate Prime Sponsor
Sen. Janice Bowling

RINO VOTES



**Sen. Ferrell
Halile**



**Sen. Adam
Lowe**



**Sen. Mark
Pody**



**Sen. Bill
Powers**



**Sen. Kerry
Roberts**



RINO WIN

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION -
LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES

KILLED: Allowing Disenrollment Of Illegal Alien Students

HB0793 / SB0836, sponsored by *Rep. William Lamberth* (R-Portland-District 44) and *Sen. Bo Watson* (R-Hixson-District 11), authorized LEAs and public charter schools to refuse to enroll students who are unlawfully present in the United States.

LEGISLATION STATUS: SB0836 passed the Senate 19-13 with Republicans *Todd Gardenhire* (R-Chattanooga-D10), *Ferrell Haile* (R-Gallatin-D18), *Richard Briggs* (R-Knoxville-D7), *Becky Massey* (R-Knoxville-D6), *Mark Pody* (R-Lebanon-D17), *Shane Reeves* (R-Bedford, Cannon, Moore, Rutherford Counties-D14) and *Page Walley* (R-Savannah-D26) voting against. During the committee process in the House, these Republicans voted against **HB0793**: *Charlie Baum* (R-Murfreesboro-D37), *Jeremy Faison* (R-Cosby-D11), *Tim Hicks* (R-Gray-D6) and *Mark White* (R-Memphis-D83). Session closed with **HB0793** not being funded, i.e. "placed behind the budget." *Rep. Lamberth* has stated he will take the bill up again next session.

CONSERVATIVE LEGISLATION SPONSORS



House Prime Sponsor
Rep. William Lamberth



Senate Prime Sponsor
Sen. Bo Watson

RINOS VOTES



Rep. Charlie Baum **Rep. Jeremy Faison** **Sen. Todd Gardenhire** **Sen. Ferrell Haile** **Sen. Becky Massey**



Rep. Tim Hicks **Rep. Mark White** **Sen. Richard Briggs** **Sen. Mark Pody** **Sen. Shane Reeves** **Sen. Page Walley**



RINO WIN

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

KILLED: Transporting Illegal Aliens To Sanctuary Cities

HB0010 / SB0006, sponsored by *Rep. Todd Warner* (R-Chapel Hill-District 92) and *Sen. Joey Hensley* (R-Hohenwald-District 28), originally would have required that any illegal aliens in state or local custody not picked up by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) be transported up to 700 miles away, to the nearest sanctuary city. As amended in subcommittee, any illegal aliens in state or local custody not picked up by ICE within the 48-hour detainer timeframe would have been turned over to the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security. The department would then keep illegal individuals off the streets until ICE picked them up.

LEGISLATION STATUS: Failed in the House Department & Agencies Subcommittee with *Rep. John Crawford* (R-Bristol/Kingsport-District 1) voting against and *Rep. Dennis Powers* (R-Jacksboro-District 36) refusing to vote. Other Republican members *Rick Eldridge* (R-Morristown-District 10) and *Jeff Burkhart* (R-Clarksville-District 75) were not counted as "Person Not Voting" in the official record despite having participated in discussion about the bill prior to the vote.

CONSERVATIVE FIGHTERS



House Prime Sponsor
Rep. Todd Warner

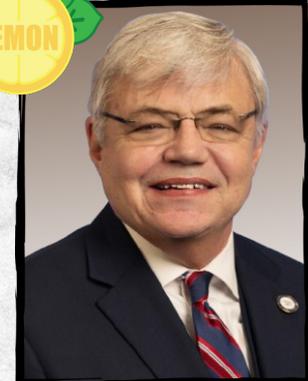


Senate Prime Sponsor
Sen. Joey Hensley



**Rep. John
Crawford**

LEMON AWARD



**Rep. Dennis
Powers**



CONSERVATIVE WIN

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

Special Session Illegal Immigration Omnibus Legislation

HB6001 / SB6002, sponsored by *Rep. William Lamberth* (R-Portland-District 44) and *Sen. Jack Johnson* (R-Franklin-District 27), creates the centralized immigration enforcement division, to be administered by the chief immigration enforcement officer; establishes a grant program to promote the enforcement of federal immigration laws; creates criminal penalties for officials who adopt sanctuary policies and subsequently requires their removal from office upon conviction; requires the department of safety to issue lawful permanent residents a temporary driver license, instead of a standard license, to aid in determining voter eligibility; makes related changes.

LEGISLATION STATUS: **HB6001** passed the House along party lines. **SB6002** passed the Senate mostly along party lines, with *Senator Todd Gardenhire* (R-Chattanooga-District 10) being the only Republican who voted against it. *Governor Lee* signed the bill into law on February 12th, 2025.

CONSERVATIVE LEGISLATION SPONSORS



House Prime Sponsor
Rep. William Lamberth



Senate Prime Sponsor
Sen. Jack Johnson

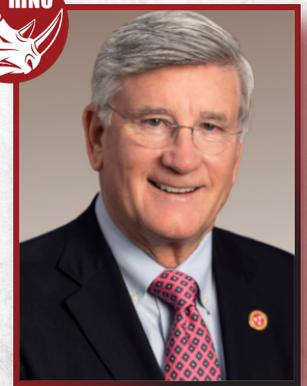
REPUBLICAN BILL CO-SPONSORS:

House: Cochran, Zachary, Todd, Terry, McCalmon, Davis, Warner, Fritts, Littleton, Stevens, Moon, Russell, Howell, Cepicky, Leatherwood, Raper, Martin G, Bulso, Reeves, Grills, Reedy, Moody, Powers

Senate: Watson, Yager, White, Bowling, Pody, Reeves, Rose, Stevens, Taylor



Signed into law
Gov. Bill Lee



Sen. Todd Gardenhire



CONSERVATIVE WIN

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION -
LIABILITY

Legislation Holds Organizations That Provide Certain Services To Illegal Aliens Liable For Their Crimes

HB0811/ SB0227, sponsored by *Rep. Rusty Grills* (R-Newbern-District 77) and *Sen. Brent Taylor* (R-Memphis-District 31), allows a charitable organization that provides housing to a person whom the charitable organization knows is unlawfully present in the U.S. to be held liable for a loss, damages, injury, or death resulting from a criminal offense committed by the person who is unlawfully present while the person is receiving housing services from the charitable organization if the charitable organization's conduct in providing housing constitutes negligence, gross negligence, or willful and wanton misconduct.

LEGISLATION STATUS: **HB0811 / SB0227** passed the House & Senate along party lines with *Senator Todd Gardenhire* (R-Chattanooga-District 10) refusing to vote. *Governor Lee* signed the bill into law on May 2, 2025.

CONSERVATIVE FIGHTERS



Prime House Sponsor
Rep. Rusty Grills



Senate Prime Sponsor
Sen. Brent Taylor

REPUBLICAN BILL CO-SPONSORS:

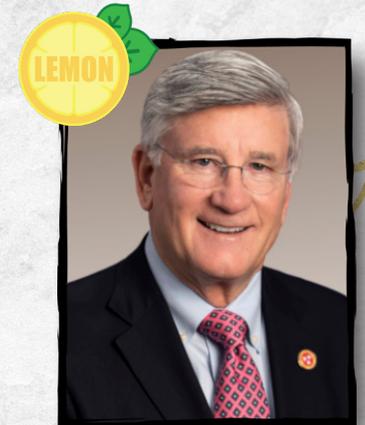
House: Powers, Bulso, Capley, Martin B, Boyd, Burkhart, Todd, Fritts, Martin G, Hawk, Lafferty

Senate: Bowling, Stevens



Signed Bill into law
Gov. Bill Lee

LEMON AWARD



Sen. Todd Gardenhire



CONSERVATIVE WIN

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION -
CRIMINAL OFFENSES

Legislation Combats Illegal Immigration By Creating Crime Of Human Smuggling

HB0322 / SB0392, sponsored by *Rep. Chris Todd* (R-Madison County-District 73) and *Sen. Brent Taylor* (R-Memphis-District 31), creates the offense of human smuggling; creates the offense of harboring or hiding, or assisting another in harboring or hiding, within this state an individual who the person knows or should have known has illegally entered or remained in the United States; authorizes the attorney general to take certain actions against a person or organization who commits or is about to commit a human trafficking offense or an aggravated human trafficking offense.

LEGISLATION STATUS: Only Democrats voted against the legislation in both chambers of the legislature. *Governor Lee* signed the bill into law on May 9, 2025.

CONSERVATIVE FIGHTERS



House Prime Sponsor
Rep. Chris Todd



Senate Prime Sponsor
Sen. Brent Taylor

REPUBLICAN BILL CO-SPONSORS:

House: Lamberth, Leatherwood, Keisling, Doggett, Russell, Atchley, Gant, Hill, Carringer, Martin B, Hulse, Sherrell, Reneau, Stinnett, Moon, McCalmon, Alexander, Powers, Reedy, Zachary, Capley, Burkhart, Maberry, Barrett, Davis, Butler, Bricken, Terry, Fritts, Cepicky

Senate: Johnson, White, Rose, Harshbarger, Lowe, Seal, Southerland, Hatcher, Bailey, Bowling, Hensley, Jackson, Stevens, Walley, Watson



CONSERVATIVE WIN

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION -
ELECTION INTEGRITY

Legislation Prevents Voter Registration For Illegal Aliens, Convicted Felons

HB0069 / SB0133, sponsored by *Rep. William Lamberth* (R-Portland-District 44) and *Sen. Jack Johnson* (R-Franklin-District 27), requires the coordinator of elections, in collaboration with the department of safety and Tennessee bureau of investigation, to create two electronic portals prior to January 1, 2028, for purposes of verifying an applicant's eligibility to vote based upon United States citizenship and conviction of a felony prior to registering the applicant to vote; requires department of safety to issue lawful permanent residents a temporary driver license, instead of a standard license, to aid in determining voter eligibility for someone who presents a Tennessee driver license as identification

LEGISLATION STATUS: HB0069 / SB0133 passed the House & Senate along party lines. *Governor Lee* signed the bill into law on May 21st 2025.

CONSERVATIVE LEGISLATION SPONSORS



House Prime Sponsor
Rep. William Lamberth



Senate Prime Sponsor
Sen. Jack Johnson

REPUBLICAN BILL CO-SPONSORS:

House: Barrett, Doggett, Bulso, Davis, McCalmon, Hicks T, Maberry, Sherrell, Rudd, Reeves, Moody, Eldridge, Terry, Howell, Lafferty, Cepicky, Todd, Bricken, Zachary, White, Hawk, Alexander, Jones R, Powers

Senate: Yager, Lowe, Stevens



Signed into law
Gov. Bill Lee



RINO WIN

CAMPAIGNS AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Funding Weaponization of Government Entities Against Conservative Candidates, Groups

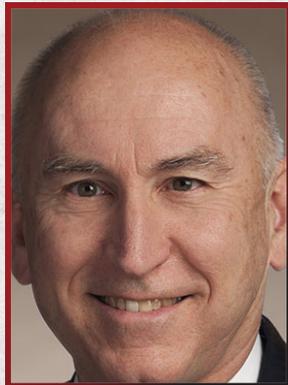
HB0653 / SB0229, sponsored by *Rep. Tim Hicks* (R-Gray-District 6) and *Sen. Richard Briggs* (R-Knoxville-District 7), funneled more money to the Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance, that has a long history of targeting grassroots / conservative political candidates and groups, and allows the Registry of Election Finance to skip audits or investigations of complaints against financial reports and go straight to show cause hearings (among other changes).

LEGISLATION STATUS: The Senate passed the legislation 28-3 with all Republicans voting in favor, while the House passed the bill 78-13 in favor with only Republicans *Jody Barrett*, *Monty Fritts* and *Todd Warner* voting against. *Governor Lee* signed the bill into law on May 9, 2025.

RINOS FOR WEAPONIZING UNELECTED GOVERNMENT GROUPS AGAINST CONSERVATIVES



House Prime Sponsor
Rep. Tim Hicks



Senate Prime Sponsor
Sen. Richard Briggs



Signed Bill into law
Gov. Bill Lee

RINO BILL CO-SPONSORS (REPUBLICANS):

House: Alexander

Senate: Bailey

CONSERVATIVE FIGHTERS



Rep. Jody Barrett



Rep. Monty Fritts



Rep. Todd Warner



RINO WIN

CAMPAIGNS AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE

KILLED: Prohibiting Out-of-State PACs from Influencing Tennessee Republican Primary Elections

HB0868 / SB1040, sponsored by *Rep. Jody Barrett* (R-Dickson-District 69) and *Sen. Janice Bowling* (R-Tullahoma-District 16), sought to put an end to the practice of PACs that are headquartered in other states from making contributions, including in-kind contributions, to candidates in a state primary election, specifically in Republican races.

LEGISLATION STATUS: The legislation was killed in the Senate State and Local Government Committee with all seven Republican senators present either voting No, or choosing to abstain. Republican Senators voting against the bill were Chair *Richard Briggs* (R-Knoxville-District 7), *Todd Gardenhire* (R-Chattanooga-District 10), *Tom Hatcher* (R-Maryville-District 2), *Ed Jackson* (R-Jackson-District 25), *Adam Lowe* (R-Calhoun-District 1), and *Page Walley* (R-Savannah-26). *Senator Kerry Roberts* (R-Springfield-District 23) passed on the vote.

CONSERVATIVE FIGHTERS



House Prime Sponsor
Rep. Jody Barrett



Senate Prime Sponsor
Sen. Janice Bowling

LEMON AWARD



Sen. Kerry Roberts

REPUBLICANS FOR OUT-OF-STATE PACS INFLUENCING GOP PRIMARIES



Sen. Adam Lowe



Sen. Tom Hatcher



Sen. Richard Briggs



Sen. Todd Gardenhire



Sen. Ed Jackson



Sen. Page Walley



RINO WIN

ELECTION LAWS

KILLED: Legislation To Close Tennessee Primary Elections

HB0886 / SB0777, sponsored by *Rep. Chris Todd* (R-Madison County-District 73) and *Sen. Adam Lowe* (R-Calhoun-District 1), aimed to close Tennessee Primary elections by requiring voters to give 90 days notice in writing in order to change one's party affiliation. In addition, the status of voters registered with a minor party, failing to maintain recognition beyond the current election year, would be changed by county election commissions to "unaffiliated" on their permanent voter registration record.

LEGISLATION STATUS: **HB0886** was placed behind the budget but was likely to be brought back for consideration toward the end of the session due to a large number of Republican Representatives signing on in support. However, the Senate version of the bill (**SB0777**) was killed in the Senate State & Local Government Committee when no member offered to second the bill for it to be heard. During the committee process in the House, Republicans *Iris Rudder* (R-Winchester-District 39) and *Dave Wright* (R-Corryton-District 19) voted against **HB0886**.

CONSERVATIVE LEGISLATION SPONSORS:



House Prime Sponsor
Rep. Chris Todd



Senate Prime Sponsor
Sen. Adam Lowe

REPUBLICANS WHO WANT DEMOCRATS CHOOSING GOP CANDIDATES:



Rep. Dave Wright



Rep. Tom Hatcher



Sen. Todd Gardenhire



Rep. Ed Jackson



Rep. Page Walley



Sen. Richard Briggs



Rep. Iris Rudder



RINO WIN

ELECTION LAWS

State Control of Local GOPs

HB0855 / SB0799, sponsored by *Rep. Lee Reeves* (R-Franklin-District 65) and *Sen. Jack Johnson* (R-Franklin-District 27), was a caption bill amended to strip local political parties of their ability to hold caucuses or conventions in place of state-run primary elections when selecting their partisan candidates.

LEGISLATION STATUS: Despite uproar from local GOP groups and grassroots organizations across the state, and a resolution opposing the legislation from the Tennessee GOP State Executive Committee that called the bill a "betrayal of trust," **HB0855** passed the House 60 to 25 with 2 present & not voting. **SB0799** passed the Senate 27 to 3 with 1 present & not voting. *Governor Lee* signed the bill into law on April 24, 2025.

RINOS FOR STRIPPING LOCAL GOPS OF CAUCUS, CONVENTION RIGHTS

RINO BILL CO-SPONSORS:

House: Sexton, McCalmon, Faison, Marsh, T. Hicks, Moon, Atchley, Williams

Senate: Gardenhire, Hatcher



House Prime Sponsor
Rep. Lee Reeves



Senate Prime Sponsor
Sen. Jack Johnson



Signed Bill into law
Gov. Bill Lee



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RINO WIN

AIR POLLUTION

KILLED: Legislation To Enact Consequences For Geoengineering, Weather Modification

HB0868 / SB1040, sponsored by *Rep. Monty Fritts* (R-Kingston-District 32) and *Sen. Janice Bowling* (R-Tullahoma-District 16), would make geoengineering and weather modification a Class A misdemeanor in Tennessee.

LEGISLATION STATUS: **HB0868** passed in the House with no Republicans voting against it throughout the entire legislative process. However, **SB1040** was killed in the Senate Energy, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee with No votes from Senators *Bobby Harshbarger* (R-Hawkins/Sullivan Counties-District 4), *Adam Lowe* (R-Calhoun-District 1), and *Shane Reeves* (R-Bedford/Cannon/Moore/Rutherford Counties-District 14).

CONSERVATIVE FIGHTERS



Prime House Sponsor
Rep. Todd Warner



Senate Prime Sponsor
Sen. Janice Bowling

REPUBLICANS WHO VOTED DOWN THE LEGISLATION



Sen. Bobby
Harshbarger



Sen. Adam
Lowe



Sen. Shane
Reeves



RINO WIN

FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION

KILLED: 2nd Amendment Bill Redefining "Deadly Force" And Its Applications

HB0856 / SB1407, sponsored by *Rep. Kip Capley* (R-Summertown-District 71) and *Sen. Joey Hensley* (R-Hohenwald-District 28), lowered the standard for the use of deadly force to protect property; specified that deadly force does not include the display of a weapon, the brandishing of a weapon, or the use of force in circumstances that do not result in death or serious bodily injury.

LEGISLATION STATUS: Failed in the Senate Judiciary Committee with Republican No votes from *Todd Gardenhire* (R-Chattanooga-District 10) and *Paul Rose* (R-District 32-Lauderdale, Shelby, Tipton Counties).

CONSERVATIVE LEGISLATION SPONSORS:



House Prime Sponsor
Rep. Kip Capley

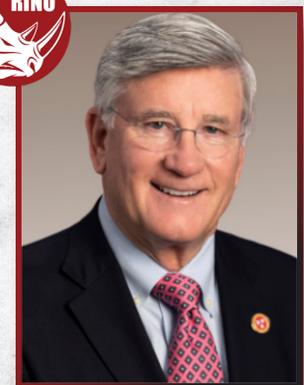


Senate Prime Sponsor
Sen. Joey Hensley

RINO VOTES



**Sen. Paul
Rose**



**Sen. Todd
Gardenhire**



CONSERVATIVE WIN

GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY POWERS

Legislation Protects Constitutional Rights Of Tennesseans

HB0324 / SB0027, sponsored by *Rep. Rusty Grills* (R-Newbern-District 77) and *Sen. Mark Pody* (R-Lebanon-District 17), prohibits orders, proclamations, or rules issued by the governor under the governor's emergency management powers from contravening, suspending, or conflicting with a provision of the Tennessee Constitution; restricts governor's ability under such powers to suspend certain procedural provisions of a law, order, rule, or regulation.

LEGISLATION STATUS: With the exception of *Lt. Gov. Randy McNally* (R-Oak Ridge-District 5) who voted against the legislation in the Senate, all Republicans voted for the legislation. However, *Governor Lee* refused to sign the legislation and returned it to the legislature. Regardless, the law will go into effect without his stamp of approval.

CONSERVATIVE FIGHTERS



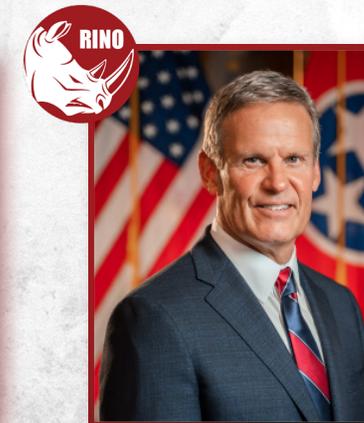
Prime House Sponsor
Rep. Rusty Grills



Prime Senate Sponsor
Sen. Mark Pody



**Lt. Gov. Randy
McNally**



Refused to Sign Legislation
Gov. Bill Lee



RINO WIN

HEALTH CARE

Anti Pro-Life

HB0533 / SB0449, sponsored by *Rep. Iris Rudder* (R-Winchester-District 39) and *Sen. Becky Massey* (R-Knoxville-District 6), the "Fertility Treatment and Contraceptive Protection Act" was presented as a benign act to secure a "right" to seek all fertility treatments in the state, including in vitro fertilization (IVF) and other forms of assisted reproduction, but was deemed dangerous by grassroots conservatives and pro-life advocacy groups for its disregard of both the state and scientific definitions of "unborn child" which say an unborn child is a child from the moment of conception until birth.

LEGISLATION STATUS: **HB0533** passed the House 54 to 37 with 8 present & not voting. **SB0449** passed the Senate 27 to 3. Numerous organizations across the state campaigned against the bill during its process through the legislature and called on *Governor Lee* to veto the bill. 11 Tennessee Lawmakers also called on Governor Lee to veto the bill. However, Lee signed the bill into law on April 4th, 2025.

RINOS FOR WEAKENING PRO-LIFE LAWS



Prime House Sponsor
Rep. Iris Rudder



Prime Senate Sponsor
Sen. Becky Massey



Signed Bill into law
Gov. Bill Lee

RINO BILL CO-SPONSORS:

House: Helton-Haynes, Gillespie, Travis, Faison, Sexton, Raper, Marsh, Burkhardt, Butler, White, Eldridge

Senate: Reeves, Haile, Briggs, Hatcher



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RINO WIN

HOMESCHOOLING

KILLED: Family Right to Educational Emancipation (FREE) Act

HB0552 / SB0494, sponsored by *Rep. Todd Warner* (R-Chapel Hill-District 92) and *Sen. Janice Bowling* (R-Tulahoma-District 16), sought to create a new category of independent home schools that are not subject to the data collection, reporting, or assessment requirements applicable to existing independent home school programs and that exempts such home school students and parents from compulsory school attendance requirements; prohibited the department of safety from conditioning the issuance of a driver’s license or learner’s permit on a school-aged applicant’s attendance record or enrollment status.

LEGISLATION STATUS: HB0552 died in the House Education Administration Subcommittee over concerns that parents might abuse their children without any state oversight. Committee Chair *William Slater* (R-Gallatin-District 35) read a few lines from a letter that he received from the Sumner County Juvenile Court Judge in his district outlining such concerns. Following, Republican members of the subcommittee, Representatives *Scott Cepicky* (R-District 64), *Chris Hurt* (R-District 82), *Jay Reedy* (R-District 74), *Mark White* (R-District 83) and *Slater* all voted against the legislation progressing.

CONSERVATIVE FIGHTERS



House Prime Sponsor
Rep. Todd Warner



Senate Prime Sponsor
Sen. Janice Bowling

REPUBLICANS AGAINST “TRUE EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM”



Rep. William Slater



Rep. Scott Cepicky



Rep. Chris Hurt



Rep. Jay Reedy



Rep. Mark White



RINO WIN

HOUSE SPEAKER CAMERON SEXTON
BANS ALL CONSERVATIVE REPORTERS

Full Legislature Access Denied To Tennessee's Only Conservative Capitol Reporter

In a text screenshot received from a source that wishes to remain anonymous, House Speaker *Cameron Sexton* (R-Crossville-District 25) personally described how he purposefully keeps out Conservative news organizations. While Sexton claims the Tennessee Press Corps determines who has press conference access, the chairman of that organization, *Kimberlee Kruesi*, said that is not true.

The left-leaning Tennessee Press Corps voted unanimously to **REJECT** The Tennessee Conservative's Capitol reporter's press corps membership. Yet, many reporters from left-leaning news publications are granted full access to the General Assembly by GOP leadership, regardless of their membership in the Press Corps.

ALLOWS ONLY LEFT-LEANING NEWS OUTLETS TO REPORT ON A REPUBLICAN SUPERMAJORITY LED GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Representative Cameron Sexton



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CONSERVATIVE WIN

MONTH OF
PRAYER AND FASTING

Resolution Calling For Month Of Prayer And Fasting

HJR0051, sponsored by *Rep. Monty Fritts* (R-Kingston-District 32) designates the period of July 1, 2025, through July 31, 2025, as a time of prayer and fasting in Tennessee and seeks God’s hand of mercy and healing on Tennessee.

LEGISLATION STATUS: Only Democrats voted against the legislation in both chambers of the legislature. *Governor Lee* signed the resolution on May 2, 2025.

CONSERVATIVE FIGHTER



Prime House Sponsor
Rep. Monty Fritts

REPUBLICAN BILL CO-SPONSORS:

House: Cepicky, Barrett, Warner, Moon, Raper, Bulso, Butler, Hurt, Reneau, Keisling, Hale, Eldridge, Hulsey, Todd, Moody, Kumar, Doggett, Davis, Faison, Crawford, Powers, Sparks, Zachary, Rudd, Maberry, Hill, Grills, Darby, Alexander, Reedy, McCalmon, Martin B, Bricken, Hawk, Lamberth, Scarbrough, Burkhart, Capley, Reeves, White, Jones R, Carringer, Lafferty

Senate: Pody, Yager, Stevens, Bailey, Bowling, Crowe, Harshbarger, Hatcher, Hensley, Lowe, Reeves, Rose, Taylor, Walley, White



Signed into law
Gov. Bill Lee



RINO WIN

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

KILLED: Legislation That Could Save County Residents From Footing The Bill For City Developments

HB0365 / SB1404, sponsored by *Rep. Monty Fritts* (R-Kingston-District 32) and *Sen. Joey Hensley* (R-Hohenwald-District 28), prohibits a municipality, or an instrumentality of a municipality, from taking an action that affects or has the potential to affect the tax obligations, fees, or other costs for real property owners whose property is located outside of a municipality’s corporate boundary, unless the action is approved by the county legislative body in which such property is located; etc.

LEGISLATION STATUS: Failed in the House Cities & Counties Subcommittee with Republican NO Votes from Representatives *John Crawford* (R-Bristol/Kingsport-District 1), *Jerome Moon* (R-Maryville-District 8) and *Dave Wright* (R-Corryton-District 19).

CONSERVATIVE FIGHTERS



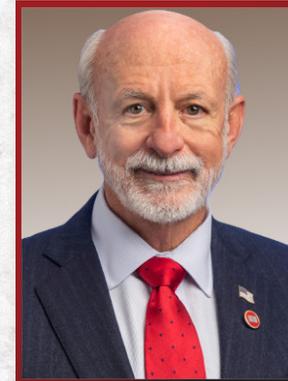
Prime House Sponsor
Rep. Monty Fritts



Prime Senate Sponsor
Sen. Joey Hensley



**Rep. John
Crawford**



**Rep. Jerome
Moon**



**Rep. Dave
Wright**



RINO WIN

OPEN MEETINGS

KILLED: Legislation Expanding Citizen Input At Public Meetings

HB0022 / SB0178, sponsored by Rep. Elaine Davis (R-Knoxville-District 18) and Sen. Adam Lowe (R-Calhoun-District 1), aimed to expand the First Amendment rights of Tennesseans who wish to speak at public meetings.

LEGISLATION STATUS: **HB0022** passed the House regardless of No votes from Republican Representatives *Rebecca Alexander* (R-District 7), *Clark Boyd* (R-District 46), *Mark Cochran* (R-District 23), *John Crawford* (R-District 1), *Rick Eldridge* (R-District 10), *Michael Hale* (R-District 40), *William Lamberth* (R-District 44), *Mary Littleton* (R-District 78), *Iris Rudder* (R-District 39), *Ron Travis* (R-District 31), and *Ryan Williams* (R-District 42). However, **SB0178** was stalled for this session in the Senate State & Local Government Committee when 6 "Pass" votes tied the "Yes" & "No" votes, keeping the bill stuck in committee. Republican Senators *Richard Briggs* (R-District 7), *Tom Hatcher* (R-District 2), *Ed Jackson* (R-District 25) and *Page Walley* (R-District 26) each refused to cast a "Yes" or "No" vote on **SB0178**.

CONSERVATIVE LEGISLATION SPONSORS



House Prime Sponsor
Rep. Elaine Davis



Senate Prime Sponsor
Sen. Adam Lowe

REPUBLICANS FOR SUPPRESSION OF FREE SPEECH



Rep. Rebecca Alexander



Rep. Mark Cochran



Rep. Michael Hale



Rep. Iris Rudder



Rep. John Crawford



Sen. Tom Hatcher



Sen. Richard Briggs



Rep. Clark Boyd



Rep. Rick Eldridge



Rep. Mary Littleton



Rep. Ryan Williams



Rep. Ron Travis



Rep. William Lamberth



Sen. Ed Jackson



Sen. Page Walley



CONSERVATIVE WIN

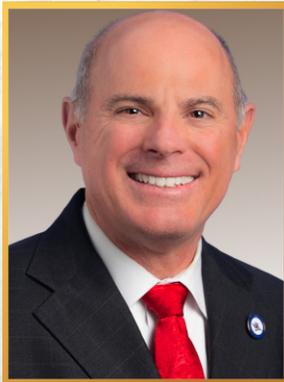
PROTECTING CHILDREN

Bill Segregates School Restrooms, Changing Areas & Showers By Sex

HB0064 / SB0472, sponsored by *Rep. Gino Bulso* (R-Brentwood-District 61) and *Sen. Janice Bowling* (R-Tulahoma-District 16), requires all residential educational programs in this state that allow minors to participate or to access residential facilities, including staying overnight in such facilities, to segregate certain restrooms, changing areas, and showers by immutable biological sex.

LEGISLATION STATUS: Only Democrats voted against the legislation in both chambers of the legislature. *Governor Lee* signed the bill into law on April 3rd, 2025.

CONSERVATIVE FIGHTERS



Prime House Sponsor
Rep. Gino Bulso



Senate Prime Sponsor
Sen. Janice Bowling

REPUBLICAN BILL CO-SPONSORS:

House: Barrett, Maberry, Todd

Senate: Hensley, Stevens



Signed Bill into law
Gov. Bill Lee



CONSERVATIVE WIN

PUBLIC PLANNING

KILLED: Bill Allows Approval For Development Projects Without Public Input

HB0183 / SB0137, sponsored by *Rep. Kelly Keisling* (R-Byrdstown-District 38) and *Sen. Richard Briggs* (R-Knoxville-District 7), sought to require county or local chief legislative bodies to greenlight development projects without public comment so long as the zoning regulations or maps were previously available for public comment or review.

The bill was in direct contradiction to Tennessee’s Sunshine Law, specifically the Open Meetings Act which, “requires governing bodies to provide a period for public comment at every meeting where there is an actionable item on the agenda.”

LEGISLATION STATUS: Legislation Status: After the publication of the Tennessee Conservative’s article on the legislation, the bill was pulled in both the House and Senate.

RINOS FOR BYPASSING SUNSHINE LAW



House Prime Sponsor
Rep. Kelly Keisling



Senate Prime Sponsor
Sen. Richard Briggs



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CONSERVATIVE WIN

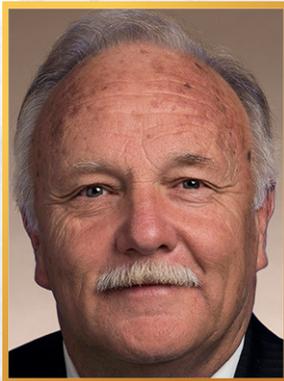
TENNESSEE PROPERTY RIGHTS PROTECTION ACT

Bill Protects Well-Kept Code-Compliant Property From Eminent Domain In Redevelopment Areas

HB0444 / SB0480, sponsored by *Rep. Bud Hulse* (R-Kingsport-District 2) and *Sen. Janice Bowling* (R-Tullahoma-District 16), deletes the definition of “blighted area” and instead specifically defines “blighted property” for the purposes of condemnation by housing authorities to ensure whole areas cannot be blindly taken by authorities under the guise of a “blighted area”.

LEGISLATION STATUS: Only Democrats voted against the legislation in both chambers of the legislature. *Governor Lee* signed the bill into law on April 3rd, 2025.

CONSERVATIVE FIGHTERS



Prime House Sponsor
Rep. Bud Hulse



Senate Prime Sponsor
Sen. Janice Bowling

REPUBLICAN BILL CO-SPONSORS:

House: Davis, Eldridge, Farmer, Capley, Crawford, Powers, Butler, Faison, McCalmon, Warner, Reneau, Baum, Rudd, Moon, Sherrell, Burkhardt, Barrett, Reedy, Terry, Howell, Rudder, Fritts

Senate: Seal, Stevens



Signed Bill into law
Gov. Bill Lee



RINO WIN

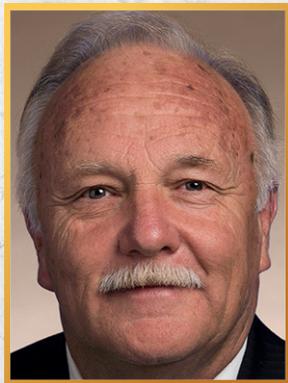
WATER

KILLED: Lowering Fluoride Levels in Public Water Systems

HB0897 / SB1141, sponsored by *Rep. Chris Todd* (R-Madison County-District 73) and *Sen. Rusty Crowe* (R-Johnson City-District 3), decreased from 1.5 milligrams per liter to 0.4 milligrams per liter the threshold for the presence of fluoride in a public water system that required an increase in the frequency of fluoride-level testing from quarterly to monthly; requires public water systems to cease adding fluoride to drinking water supplies by May 1, 2025, and provide written notice of cessation of fluoridation to customers.

LEGISLATION STATUS: Heavily amended but still Failed in the Senate energy, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee with Republican No Votes from Senators *Bobby Harshbarger* (R-Hawkins & Sullivan Counties-District 4), *Shane Reeves* (R-Bedford, Cannon, Moore, Rutherford Counties-District 14), *Jessie Seal* (R-New Tazewell-District 8) and *Page Walley* (R-Savannah-District 26).

CONSERVATIVE FIGHTERS



Prime House Sponsor
Rep. Bud Hulsey



Senate Prime Sponsor
Sen. Janice Bowling

RINO VOTES



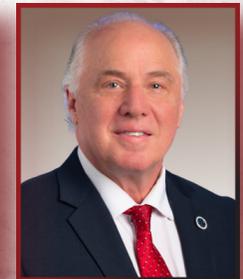
Sen. Bobby Harshbarger



Sen. Shane Reeves



Sen. Jessie Seal



Sen. Page Walley

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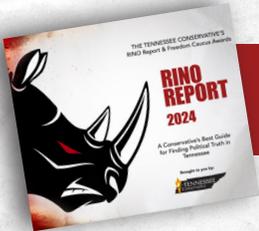
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