

2026 Hamilton County Democrat Primary Election

Voter Guide

501(c)(3) - compliant
and nonpartisan

County Commission Dist. 1

County Primary Election | 5/5/2026



**YOUR VOTE
MATTERS**

5/5/2026

Online Voter Registration/Record Updating available until 4/6/2026 at: <https://sos.tn.gov/elections>

Contact Church Voter Guides at: Info@VoteChattanooga.org | Updated 4/6/2026

For other Voter Guides and more information, please go to our website: www.VoteChattanooga.org

Church Voter Guides does not endorse or oppose any candidates for public office or any political party.

The Voter Guide Information contained in this document is provided for informational purposes only. It was obtained directly from candidates and other sources, and we have done our best to convey it to you accurately, but nothing herein has been "fact checked". Utilize this Voter Guide at your own discretion. We take no responsibility for the factual nature of the content, or for publishing errors, etc. To the best of our knowledge, this Voter Guide is 501(c) (3) – and officially nonpartisan, and thereby it does not support or oppose any candidate.

Hamilton County 2026 Democrat Primary Election Voter Guide for County Commission Dist. 1

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction to the Voter Guide	2
County Commission	4
County Commission Dist. 1	6
Mona Petro	7
Voter Guide Sponsors & Partners	12

Independent Survey by





Introduction to the Voter Guide

Church Voter Guides is an independent 501(c)(3) faith-based nonprofit organization. We serve the public by providing objective research and education on matters specifically of interest to Christians, primarily through the production and distribution of 501 (c)(3)-compliant, nonpartisan voter guides.

Church Voter Guides does not endorse or oppose any candidates for public office or any political party.

Church Voter Guides, a Chattanooga nonprofit, initially started in Colorado Springs in April of 2021. This new Voter Guide for the 2026 Democrat Primary is being distributed electronically only, both through our interactive website and by downloadable and printable PDF files. We have produced one Voter Guide for each seat that is: (1) conducting an election this year, and (2) for which at least one candidate in that election answered our Questionnaire. Our Voter Guides are being promoted through a wide-ranging network of area churches, faith-based non-profit organizations, mainstream and social media, and other means.

The purpose of our Voter Guides is to educate and inform voters of each candidate's positions on a variety of policy issues that they are likely to address if elected. As a Voter Guide designed to be distributed through Churches, we ask the candidates questions on topics that are of utmost interest to the Christian voter

How to Get the Most Benefit from this Voter Guide

The core information in this Voter Guide comes directly from the County Primary Elections candidates themselves. We asked them questions, they answered (with a 120 word limit), and we have published their responses here. In order to understand and utilize this information to the fullest, so that you may vote in the most informed way, we suggest the following:

1. Pray and ask the Almighty for discernment. The Kingdom of God is all about truth, while politics is a system fraught with compromise. Make sure you consider the candidates' answers with a Heavenly mindset.
2. Ask yourself, "Did the candidate actually answer the question, or rather side-step it, or give a fluff, wishy-washy, and/or 'political' type answer that leaves you not really knowing where he/she truly stands on the issue?"
3. Learn more about the candidates running for County Commission Dist. 1 including their positions on issues we did not cover in our questionnaire, by visiting their official campaign websites (if they have one.) The website URL for each candidate is listed in the Voter Guide.
4. Educate yourself more about the Christian/Biblical perspective regarding many of the subjects covered in our Voter Guide by reading topical articles on our website: www.VoteChattanooga.org
5. Use search engines to find additional information about each candidate, including written articles and videos, other voter guides, and even voting records for those who have served in public office before. You may even want to watch online recordings of the local County Commission Dist. 1 meetings to see how incumbents conduct themselves and vote.
6. Reach out to the candidates themselves through the provided email addresses and other means, in order to ask them questions of personal importance to you. Please make sure to show great respect toward each candidate and his/her time, especially to those with whom you disagree. Running for office is hard, stressful, time consuming work, and these are your fellow citizens who have lives, families, jobs...and feelings (just like you!)

Independent Survey by



What makes a Voter Guide 501 (c)(3) - Compliant and Nonpartisan?

Federal tax law permits nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations to develop and distribute materials about political candidates' positions on issues, in order to educate voters impartially and on a nonpartisan basis; meaning that it is free from party affiliation, bias, or designation. The IRS states that 501 (c)(3) organizations may conduct any range of activities to promote voter participation and educate voters so long as it is nonpartisan. But, 501(c)(3) organizations are explicitly prohibited from supporting or opposing candidates for public office.

Some of the activities 501(c)(3) nonprofits *MAY* perform: Conduct or promote voter registration; educate voters on the voting process; distribute nonpartisan sample ballots, candidate questionnaires, and **voter guides**; organize "get-out-the-vote" activities; encourage and help people to vote; educate the candidates on issues important to their organization; and continue to do issue advocacy during an election.

So, first and foremost: **Church Voter Guides** does **NOT** endorse or oppose any candidates for public office or any political party.

Second, all of our staff and volunteers are required to act in a nonpartisan manner when working for or representing the organization and the creation of the Voter Guide.

Third, we do not edit, revise, or editorialize candidate responses to our Questionnaire. We do not even correct typos. **Candidate answers are published verbatim**, ensuring that their responses accurately represent their positions and perspectives on these issues. We then simply share this information through the Voter Guide, and you decide whom you believe to be the best candidate.

To be fair and impartial, we reached out by email, text, and phone when determined necessary, to all registered candidates running for County Commission Dist. 1 throughout Hamilton County for their 2026 elections, inviting them to answer our questionnaire. Candidate information is presented in alphabetical order by **last name**. If a Candidate did not respond at all, or did not choose to participate, or did not choose to respond to certain answers in the questionnaire, then it is noted where applicable. If there were not enough candidates running, then we did not produce a Voter Guide for that seat.

Join Our Growing Grassroots Coalition of Citizens, Churches/Nonprofit Organizations, and Media Partners Committed to Promoting the Voter Guide throughout Our Region

Let's get the word out!

It's simple. Just share our website URL all around the Hamilton County region:

www.VoteChattanooga.org

Tell your friends and neighbors, post on social media, and ask your Pastors to promote it to your congregation (we'll even provide you /them with the announcement info and the slide deck.)

Please contact us for any reason, we'd love to collaborate with you: Info@VoteChattanooga.org

The "Small Print": The information contained in this document is being provided for informational purposes only. It was obtained directly from candidates and other sources, and we have done our best to convey it to you accurately, but nothing herein has been "fact checked". Utilize this Voter Guide at your own discretion. We take no responsibility for the factual nature of the content, or for publishing errors, etc. To the best of our knowledge, this Voter Guide is 501(c)(3)-compliant and officially nonpartisan, and thereby it does not support or oppose any candidate

Independent Survey by



**Hamilton County
2026 Democrat Primary Election
Voter Guide
for County Commission Dist. 1**

**County
Commission**

Independent Survey by



County Commission | Survey Questions Index

- 1) **Purpose:** What do you view as the purpose and role of the County Commission?
- 2) **Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives:** What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as County Commissioner?
- 3) **Budget:** What would be your top three spending, savings, and economic development priorities?
- 4) **Constitutional Liberties:** As County Commissioner, what measures will you champion to protect the individual Constitutional liberties of all Hamilton County residents, such as freedom of speech, peaceable assembly and exercise of religion?
- 5) **Protecting Life:** What legal means, if any, would you support to protect the most vulnerable in our county, including the lives of the unborn, the trafficked, the poor and homeless, and the elderly?
- 6) **Moral Values:** Should government laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why, or why not?
- 7) **Speed cameras:** How would you address the use of automated speed cameras within the county (including those in school zones)? What oversight and transparency measures should be required to maintain public trust? Do speed cameras contradict constitutional protections within drivers' rights such as due process and the right to confront one's accuser?
- 8) **Zoning/Planning:** What policies would you support to prevent and disclose potential conflicts of interest between developers and members of Hamilton County's zoning and planning committees, and how would you ensure that land-use decisions are made transparently, ethically, and in the best interest of residents rather than private interests?
- 9) **Managing County Growth and Infrastructure:** What strategies and/or resources does the county currently have to better pace growth in Hamilton County so infrastructure, roads and emergency services can keep up with development? How would you use these tools to address this issue?
- 10) **Planning for Unincorporated Areas:** Do you support having a separate planning commission for the unincorporated areas? Please explain your reasoning, and if applicable, what steps you would take.

Independent Survey by



County Commission Dist. 1

(In alphabetical order)



Mona Petro

Independent Survey by





Mona Petro

Candidate Information

Email Address:	Votemonapetro@gmail.com
Occupation/Vocation:	Retired
Years as resident of:	Hamilton Co. 8 years
Campaign Website:	VotePetro.com

Independent Survey by



1) Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the County Commission?

The role of the County Commission is to serve the people through responsible, transparent governance. This includes setting priorities for taxpayer dollars, supporting public safety, public schools, infrastructure, and strong communities.

It is equally important that the Commission operates as a unified body, grounded in clear values and a shared mission. Each decision should begin with a simple question: how does this serve the best interests of our residents?

Our priorities remain clear—protecting strong family values, preserving the beauty of our environment, and maintaining the character of our community. We are accountable first and foremost to the people we serve, not outside interests.

2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as County Commissioner?

My focus is on responsible growth, strong infrastructure, and being a committed advocate for public education. A strong school system provides the foundation for young people to become capable, contributing members of our community.

Investing early—especially in underserved areas—creates opportunity, guidance, and long-term stability. When students have support and mentorship, they are more likely to pursue meaningful, productive paths.

I also see a strategic opportunity in leveraging our position as Gig City to attract employers with a strong WORK FROM HOME workforce. This allows graduates to remain in Hamilton County while accessing broader career opportunities. To support this growth, we must ensure affordable housing, transportation, and infrastructure are in place.

3) Budget: What would be your top three spending, savings, and economic development priorities?

My top priorities are:

1. Infrastructure investment: Roads, water systems, and emergency services must be funded first, with growth tied to capacity so we avoid costly repairs and delays later.
2. Responsible budgeting: Careful stewardship of taxpayer dollars, focusing on long-term savings, reducing waste, and prioritizing essential services while maintaining strong reserves.
3. Strong schools: Supporting education as a long-term investment in our workforce and community, helping develop responsible, capable citizens prepared for the future.

Growth can be expensive, and that burden should never fall on existing residents. Developers must take responsibility for the true cost of new growth. Decisions should reflect long-term fiscal responsibility—not short-term gain.

Independent Survey by



4) Constitutional Liberties: As County Commissioner, what measures will you champion to protect the individual Constitutional liberties of all Hamilton County residents, such as freedom of speech, peaceable assembly and exercise of religion?

Protecting Constitutional liberties is essential to a just and inclusive community. I will support policies that uphold freedom of speech, peaceful assembly, and religious expression, while also ensuring equal protection under the law for all residents. These rights must be applied consistently—not selectively—and the Constitution should always serve as our guiding framework.

Good governance requires transparency, accountability, and fairness so every voice can be heard. People should feel both protected and empowered to exercise their rights. My role is to help foster a community rooted in respect, dignity, and a shared commitment to upholding these freedoms for everyone.

5) Protecting Life: What legal means, if any, would you support to protect the most vulnerable in our county, including the lives of the unborn, the trafficked, the poor and homeless, and the elderly?

Protecting the most vulnerable is both a moral responsibility and a reflection of our shared values. I believe every life has inherent worth and dignity. At the county level, that means strengthening families, supporting those in crisis, and ensuring the elderly, homeless, and vulnerable are treated with compassion and care.

We must also remain vigilant in addressing human trafficking through strong partnerships with law enforcement and community organizations. From a faith perspective, we are called to care for one another—especially those most in need. My focus will be on practical support, safety, and restoring hope so individuals can move toward stability and a better future.

6) Moral Values: Should government laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why, or why not?

Moral principles have long helped shape both our laws and our understanding of right and wrong. The values reflected in the Ten Commandments—honesty, respect for life, personal responsibility, and treating others with fairness—offer a meaningful moral foundation, including respect for all people.

In my experience attending churches across Hamilton County, I've seen these values truly lived out. When they are modeled by churches, families, teachers, and community leaders, they become far more impactful—especially for young people—than simply being displayed in writing.

Because people come from different backgrounds and beliefs, I believe it is more meaningful to live these values with integrity than to require their display.

7) Speed cameras: How would you address the use of automated speed cameras within the county (including those in school zones)? What oversight and transparency measures should be required to maintain public trust? Do speed cameras contradict constitutional protections within drivers' rights such as due process and the right to confront one's accuser?

Public safety, especially in school zones, is essential—but it must be balanced with fairness, transparency, and constitutional protections. When we are in school zones and areas where children are present, the priority is simple—we slow down and protect our students.

Strict oversight should include clearly marked signage, routine accuracy testing and calibration of equipment, public reporting on how many citations are issued and how revenue is used, and a simple, fair process for residents to challenge tickets.

Any enforcement must fully respect due process. The goal should always be safety—not revenue—and policies should reflect that clearly.

8) Zoning/Planning: What policies would you support to prevent and disclose potential conflicts of interest between developers and members of Hamilton County's zoning and planning committees, and how would you ensure that land-use decisions are made transparently, ethically, and in the best interest of residents rather than private interests?

Zoning and planning decisions should reflect why people choose to live here—the natural beauty, the sense of community, and the quality of life. We have a responsibility to be good stewards of our environment, protecting our land, water, and wildlife as we grow.

I believe planning committees should include knowledgeable representatives from each district who understand their communities and work alongside county commissioners—not developers—to ensure current residents are always the priority.

Responsible growth means thoughtful, transparent decisions that protect both our communities and the environment we are entrusted to care for.

9) Managing County Growth and Infrastructure: What strategies and/or resources does the county currently have to better pace growth in Hamilton County so infrastructure, roads and emergency services can keep up with development? How would you use these tools to address this issue?

Hamilton County already has important tools—zoning regulations, planning reviews, and infrastructure assessments—but the key is using them proactively, not reactively. Growth should be tied to capacity, meaning development moves forward only when roads, emergency services, and utilities can support it.

I would support better coordination between planning and infrastructure timelines, along with evaluating traffic, emergency response times, and service availability before approving major developments. Growth should also include family-focused amenities, support for small businesses, and thoughtfully planned communities that consider quality of life.

Responsible, well-paced growth ensures our county remains a place where families and businesses can thrive together.

10) Planning for Unincorporated Areas: Do you support having a separate planning commission for the unincorporated areas? Please explain your reasoning, and if applicable, what steps you would take.

Creating a separate planning commission for unincorporated areas may sound helpful, but it also brings challenges—we are one Hamilton County, and our planning should reflect that unity.

My preference is to maintain a single countywide planning commission while expanding its structure to ensure strong local representation. Members should be assigned by district, with a responsibility to truly know their area—visiting communities, listening to residents, and understanding local needs.

This way, when a project is presented, the assigned member can speak with real insight and firsthand knowledge of the area, rather than relying solely on information provided by developers. That leads to more balanced, informed decisions that reflect the community.

Church Voter Guides Sponsors

*Thank You to All of Our Volunteers, Sponsors, and Media Partners
who Helped Produce and Promote this Voter Guide!*



Activate Hamilton Supports True Conservative Candidates.

Are you are fed up with Republicans who vote like Democrats? You know, the ones that are more worried about offending than leading.

Then go to activatehamilton.com and see who we are endorsing!

Follow us:   [activate.hamilton](https://www.instagram.com/activate.hamilton) ·  [Activ8Hamilton](https://twitter.com/Activ8Hamilton)

activatehamilton.com



Call today for a free 15 minute consultation



www.XferWorx.com

423-417-9240

The views and opinions of our sponsors do not necessarily reflect the views of Church Voter Guides

Independent Survey by



Church Voter Guides Sponsors

*Thank You to All of Our Volunteers, Sponsors, and Media Partners
who Helped Produce and Promote this Voter Guide!*



An advertisement for a training program. It features a blue checkmark icon with a red and white striped banner above it. The text reads: "HOW TO RUN FOR OFFICE AS A CHRISTIAN CONSERVATIVE". Below this, it says "Comprehensive Campaign Training with a Biblical Worldview" and lists the target audience: "For Current and Prospective Candidates, Campaign Consultants and Managers, Candidate Families, Pastors, Campaign Volunteers, and All Citizens who Wish to Serve Our Nation by Glorifying God through Government". A photo of Pastor Bill Redmond is shown with the text "Instructed by Pastor and Former U.S. Congressman Bill Redmond". The slogan "Winning Back America ... One Candidate at a Time!" is written in a script font. At the bottom, the website "www.RunForOffice.training" is displayed in red and blue.

An advertisement for the "choices" organization. It features the logo "choices" with a heart icon inside a speech bubble. Below the logo, it says "Saving and transforming lives since 1985". There are three bullet points: "VISIT TEAM.CHOICESCHATTANOOGA.ORG", "FOLLOW TEAM.CHOICESCHATT" with Facebook and Instagram icons, and "GET INVOLVED!". A photo of two young children sitting back-to-back is shown at the bottom.

An advertisement for "july 2 life .com". It features the website name in a colorful, cursive font. To the right is a small American flag icon. Below the name, it says "3 million letters to end abortion" with a photo of the U.S. Capitol building in the background.

The views and opinions of our sponsors do not necessarily reflect the views of Church Voter Guides

Independent Survey by



Church Voter Guides Media Partners

*Thank You to All of Our Volunteers, Sponsors, and Media Partners
who Helped Produce and Promote this Voter Guide!*



Independent Survey by

