

2026 Hamilton County Democrat Primary Election

Voter Guide

501(c)(3) - compliant
and nonpartisan

County Commission Dist. 2

County Primary Election | 5/5/2026



www.VoteChattanooga.org

**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. 2

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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. 2 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. 2 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!)

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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. 2 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

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**Hamilton County
2026 Democrat Primary Election
Voter Guide
for County Commission Dist. 2**

**County
Commission**

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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.

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County Commission Dist. 2

(In alphabetical order)



Amanda Sovago-Royal

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Amanda Sovago-Royal

Candidate Information

Email Address:	info@amandafordistrict2.com
Occupation/Vocation:	Graphic Designer, Business Owner
Years as resident of:	34
Campaign Website:	amandafordistrict2.com

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

Our County Commission exists to serve the people of Hamilton County by making responsible decisions about budgets, infrastructure, and policies that impact our daily lives. I see this role as a researcher, decision-maker and a communicator. Commissioners should listen to constituents first, ask field experts thoughtful questions, and continuously ensure residents understand what's happening and why. As a commissioner I will govern in a transparent, fiscally responsible, and grounded way, guided by the community's needs. At the end of the day, the role is simple: represent ALL residents fairly and make decisions that strengthen our county now and for the future.

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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?

I'm a lifelong Chattanooga native who chose to stay and raise my daughter here because I believe in this community. As a small business owner and single parent, I understand how to balance priorities, make tough decisions, and stretch resources wisely. That perspective shapes how I approach budgeting and leadership. Through my work with local nonprofits, I've also seen firsthand the challenges many residents face, and how often people feel overlooked or unheard. As a commissioner, I would focus on infrastructure, strong public schools, and clear communication so residents understand decisions that impact them. My goal is to support thoughtful growth while building trust between local government and the people it serves.

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

My top priorities are:

1. Investing in infrastructure so roads, traffic patterns, and emergency services keep pace with growth, while also reviewing past decisions to avoid repeating costly mistakes.
2. Supporting strong public education by ensuring schools have the resources they need, especially to address overcrowding.
3. Practicing responsible budgeting that respects taxpayer dollars while planning for long-term needs, including exploring thoughtful ways to increase county revenue without raising taxes.

Economic development should be intentional and sustainable. Growth matters, but it must be balanced with the quality of life for current residents. I believe in attracting opportunity while also protecting the communities people already call home.

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 a core government responsibility. I come from a strong military family with service across multiple branches, and I participated in the Army JROTC program throughout high school, where I served as Company Commander. That experience, along with my involvement in SkillsUSA at Chattanooga State, instilled in me a deep respect for our Constitution and the freedoms it protects. These freedoms are foundational to who we are as a country. As a County Commissioner, I will support policies that uphold freedom of speech, peaceful assembly, and religious liberty for all residents, ensuring government remains transparent, accountable, and consistent in protecting these rights equally.

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 vulnerable populations requires both compassion and practical solutions. I believe deeply in supporting victims of trafficking, the homeless, seniors, and families in need. Regarding the lives of the unborn, I believe these are deeply personal medical decisions that a woman should make in consultation with her doctor & spouse, not the government. Simultaneously, we must increase local support for women who want to carry a pregnancy but feel unable to do so. We achieve this by strengthening access to healthcare, childcare, and community resources. At the end of the day, the role of a County Commissioner is to focus on making our community function better, not on political grandstanding about divisive national issues that distract from local needs.

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

I respect the role that faith and personal values play in many people's lives, including my own as a Christian. The Founding Fathers intentionally designed our system of government to serve a diverse community with many different beliefs while protecting people from government overreach. As a County Commissioner, my responsibility is to uphold the Constitution and ensure laws are applied fairly and equally to all residents. I believe our policies should reflect faith principles like integrity, accountability, respect for others, and values widely shared across our community.

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 is important, especially in school zones, but it must be balanced with fairness and transparency. I believe any use of automated speed cameras should include clear oversight, consistent enforcement, and accessible ways for residents to understand and challenge citations if needed. Public trust depends on transparency. If residents feel systems are unclear or unfair, that trust is lost. I would support reviewing current practices to ensure they prioritize safety while respecting due process.

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?

Transparency and accountability are critical for land use decisions. I would support clear disclosure requirements, strong conflict-of-interest policies, and open communication so residents understand how decisions are made. Growth should benefit the entire community, not just a select few. Ensuring that planning and zoning processes are fair, ethical, and transparent is essential to maintaining public trust and protecting the long-term interests of Hamilton County residents. I'm not anti-growth, I'm pro-SMART growth, as it is possible to have the best of both worlds.

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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 has tools like zoning, planning commissions, and infrastructure planning, but it must use them more intentionally. Growth should be paced so that roads, schools, and emergency services can keep up. Unincorporated areas and renters (including many along Mountain Creek Road in my district) are too often overlooked in budgeting and infrastructure decisions. I believe every resident deserves equal consideration, because we all contribute to the system. As a commissioner, I would prioritize better coordination between development and infrastructure, along with greater transparency so residents understand how decisions are made. Thoughtful, inclusive planning ensures growth benefits the entire community, not just select areas.

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.

I believe regional planning, with thoughtful reforms, is the most effective approach—not because it is politically easier, but because transportation, housing, and infrastructure function as interconnected regional systems. Rather than immediately splitting planning bodies, I would support creating a working group around the current regional planning board to evaluate what's working, what isn't, and whether unincorporated areas are being served equitably. If gaps exist, we should identify clear, actionable steps to address them. After a defined period, if residents still feel their needs are unmet, then creating a separate planning structure should be revisited, with a clear plan for how it would function independently and collaborate regionally. We need a measured approach, not a knee-jerk reaction that creates new challenges.

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An advertisement for a training program. It features a 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 a bold, sans-serif font.

The logo for "choices" features a heart icon inside a speech bubble shape, followed by the word "choices" in a lowercase, sans-serif font. Below the logo is a blue banner with the text "Saving and transforming lives since 1985".

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An advertisement for "july 2 life .com". The text "july 2 life .com" is written in a colorful, cursive font. To the right is a small American flag icon. Below the text, it says "3 million letters to end abortion" in a bold, sans-serif font. The background is a photograph of the United States Capitol building.

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