

# 2026 Hamilton County Republican Primary Election

# Voter Guide

501(c)(3) - compliant  
and nonpartisan

## County Commission Dist. 3

County Primary Election | 5/5/2026



[www.VoteChattanooga.org](http://www.VoteChattanooga.org)

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MATTERS**

**5/5/2026**

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Contact Church Voter Guides at: [Info@VoteChattanooga.org](mailto:Info@VoteChattanooga.org) | Updated 4/6/2026

For other Voter Guides and more information, please go to our website: [www.VoteChattanooga.org](http://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 Republican Primary Election Voter Guide for County Commission Dist. 3

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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 Republican 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. 3 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](http://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. 3 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. 3 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](http://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](mailto:Info@VoteChattanooga.org)

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**Hamilton County  
2026 Republican Primary Election  
Voter Guide  
for County Commission Dist. 3**

**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. 3

(In alphabetical order)



Ken Smith

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## Ken Smith

### Candidate Information

<b>Email Address:</b>	commissionerkensmith@gmail.com
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	Technology Executive
<b>Years as resident of:</b>	36
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	electkensmith.com

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

The County Commission is responsible for representing residents, setting the county budget, approving zoning and land use decisions, and ensuring taxpayer dollars are used responsibly. Commissioners also provide oversight of county departments and make policy decisions that affect infrastructure, public safety, and county services. In short, the role is to balance responsible growth, fiscal discipline, and quality of life for the people we represent.

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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?**

My professional background is in engineering and technology leadership, so I bring a strong focus on data driven decision making, transparency, and accountability. My initiatives focus on infrastructure improvements, responsible growth in the unincorporated areas, and making sure county investments, particularly in roads and schools, keep pace with our growing population.

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

First, infrastructure investments, especially roads and public safety, to keep up with growth. Second, responsible budgeting that avoids unnecessary tax increases while protecting core services. Third, supporting economic development that brings quality jobs to Hamilton County while maintaining the character of our communities.

**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 begins with respecting the limits of local government authority. The County Commission should ensure its policies respect the First Amendment rights of speech, assembly, and religious exercise. My focus is making sure county government operates transparently, treats residents fairly, and avoids unnecessary regulation that interferes with those rights.

**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?**

Many of these issues are addressed primarily at the state and federal level, but counties can support programs that protect vulnerable populations. That includes partnering with law enforcement and nonprofits to combat human trafficking, supporting services for seniors, and working with community organizations that assist those experiencing poverty or homelessness. Local government should focus on practical support and coordination with agencies that provide these services.

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

Our laws are grounded in the Constitution and the rule of law. Many moral principles reflected in religious traditions, including the Ten Commandments, also appear in the broader ethical foundations of our legal system, such as prohibitions on theft or violence. However, government must operate within the framework of the Constitution and respect religious freedom for all citizens.

**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 important, but enforcement must also respect due process and maintain public trust. Any use of automated enforcement should include clear signage, transparency about how citations are issued, and oversight to ensure it is focused on safety rather than revenue generation. These systems should be reviewed regularly to ensure they are fair and effective.

**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 disclosure are essential. Members of planning or zoning bodies should clearly disclose financial or personal interests related to development proposals and recuse themselves when appropriate. Public meetings, open records, and clear review processes help ensure land use decisions are made based on the interests of residents rather than private influence.

**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?**

The county uses tools such as zoning authority, infrastructure planning, and coordination with the planning commission to help manage growth. The key is ensuring that development decisions consider road capacity, public safety access, and school infrastructure. Responsible growth requires aligning development approvals with the ability of infrastructure to support it.

**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.**

Yes. The priorities and challenges in unincorporated Hamilton County are often different from those inside the City of Chattanooga. A planning structure that better reflects those differences can help ensure residents in the unincorporated areas have a stronger voice in how growth and development are managed in their communities.

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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 and Former U.S. Congressman 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.

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

- ♥ VISIT [TEAM.CHOICESCHATTANOOGA.ORG](http://TEAM.CHOICESCHATTANOOGA.ORG)
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- ♥ GET INVOLVED!



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 U.S. Capitol building.

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