

2026 Hamilton County Republican Primary Election

Voter Guide

501(c)(3) - compliant
and nonpartisan

Criminal Court Clerk

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 Republican Primary Election Voter Guide for Criminal Court Clerk

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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 Criminal Court Clerk 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 Criminal Court Clerk 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 Criminal Court Clerk 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 Republican Primary Election
Voter Guide
for Criminal Court Clerk**

**Criminal Court
Clerk**

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Criminal Court Clerk | Survey Questions Index

- 1) **Purpose:** What is the purpose and role of the Criminal Court Clerk, and what values and expertise should the candidate possess?
- 2) **Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives:** What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as Criminal Court Clerk?
- 3) **Moral Values:** Should government laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why, or why not?
- 4) **Community Impact:** Describe why this position should be taken seriously by voters, how it meaningfully impacts the integrity and effectiveness of the criminal justice system, and what you believe voters may misunderstand or overlook about its importance.
- 5) **Fiscal Responsibility:** How can the management of the Criminal Court Clerk's office save taxpayer dollars or, if mismanaged, result in unnecessary costs?
- 6) **Balancing Transparency and Justice:** Do you agree with public posting of those arrested in local news sites or publications as a deterrent to criminal activity? Explain the pros and cons of such a policy.
- 7) **Interstate Probation Tracking:** How should probation records be shared between states and jurisdictions to ensure individuals on probation are effectively monitored if they relocate?
- 8) **Addressing Delinquent Fines:** Should asset confiscation or other measures be considered for individuals delinquent in paying criminal fines? Please explain your reasoning.
- 9) **Efficiency through Technology:** How can technology be used to reduce costs and improve efficiency in managing records and documentation for criminal proceedings?

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Criminal Court Clerk

(In alphabetical order)



Archie Scott Currence



Vince Dean

Independent Survey by





Archie Scott Currence

Candidate Information

Email Address:	none
Occupation/Vocation:	Career Court Staff
Years as resident of:	Hamilton County for 35 years (Lived 21 years in Atlanta).
Campaign Website:	votecurrence.com

1) Purpose: What is the purpose and role of the Criminal Court Clerk, and what values and expertise should the candidate possess?

The Criminal Court Clerk serves as the official record keeper of the court and is responsible for ensuring the accurate documentation, processing, and preservation of criminal case records. The office supports judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, law enforcement, and the public by maintaining reliable records and managing court costs, filings, and case documentation. A candidate for this role should possess strong organizational skills, attention to detail, and a deep understanding of court procedures. Equally important are values such as integrity, professionalism, accountability, and a commitment to public service. Experience within the court system and the ability to lead an office that supports the administration of justice are essential to maintaining accuracy, efficiency, and public trust.

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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 Criminal Court Clerk?

For over 20 years, my areas of expertise included court cost calculation, procedural documentation, and operational workflow within various court environments. I have written manuals for court procedures ranging from receipt processing to appellate filings and employee training which helped standardize processes and improve efficiency. My professional focus has consistently been on improving court operations through technology and process design. I would continue to identify opportunities to refine automated processes. As Criminal Court Clerk, I would focus on restoring automated court cost calculations to ensure accuracy and real-time reporting of account receivables. I would also prioritize documenting all operational procedures to strengthen training, consistency, and continuity within the office.

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

I agree. The principles reflected in the Ten Commandments such as honesty, respect for life, and personal responsibility have shaped moral and ethical traditions in Western society. Conservative philosophy believes human beings are governed by an enduring moral order that reveals both moral limits and the need for restraint. However, the commandments' ultimate purpose is not to make us good, because none of us is inherently good, nor can we make ourselves good. As Psalm 14:3 states, "There is none who does good, not even one." Rather, the commandments reveal our sinful nature in contrast to God's holiness. Yet, as Romans 5:8 declares, God demonstrates His love in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

4) Community Impact: Describe why this position should be taken seriously by voters, how it meaningfully impacts the integrity and effectiveness of the criminal justice system, and what you believe voters may misunderstand or overlook about its importance.

The Criminal Court Clerk's office plays a critical role in maintaining the integrity and reliability of the criminal justice system. Accurate court records ensure that judges, attorneys, law enforcement, and the public can rely on the documentation of criminal proceedings. When records are managed properly, cases move efficiently and legal decisions are supported by accurate information. If the office is mismanaged, errors or delays can disrupt court operations and undermine confidence in the system. Voters may sometimes overlook this position because it operates largely behind the scenes. The effectiveness of the entire criminal justice process depends heavily on the clerk's office.

5) Fiscal Responsibility: How can the management of the Criminal Court Clerk's office save taxpayer dollars or, if mismanaged, result in unnecessary costs?

Effective management of the Criminal Court Clerk's office can save taxpayer dollars by improving efficiency and reducing costly errors. Accurate calculation and collection of court costs and fees ensures that funds owed to the county and state are properly accounted for and collected. Clear procedures and well-trained staff reduce mistakes that can require time-consuming corrections or legal review. Technology and automation can also streamline record management and reporting, minimizing manual work and duplication of effort. Conversely, poor management can lead to inefficient processes and increased administrative costs that ultimately fall on taxpayers.

6) Balancing Transparency and Justice: Do you agree with public posting of those arrested in local news sites or publications as a deterrent to criminal activity? Explain the pros and cons of such a policy.

Yes, but with some reservations. Public reporting of arrests can promote transparency and keep communities informed about law enforcement activity. However, the legal presumption is that a defendant is innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law, and an arrest does not equal a conviction. Publicizing arrests can result in reputational harm to individuals who are not convicted and can create a lasting digital footprint, with mugshots and news coverage lingering online. A balanced approach should recognize the public's right to information while also respecting the presumption of innocence. The deterrent effect on future criminal activity may be negligible. A related concern is the cost to taxpayers of providing data to for-profit websites.

7) Interstate Probation Tracking: How should probation records be shared between states and jurisdictions to ensure individuals on probation are effectively monitored if they relocate?

Typically, most jurisdictions have probation offices separate from the court clerk's office. Probation supervision across state lines is governed by the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision, which Tennessee and all other states follow. This system establishes standardized procedures for transferring supervision and ensures that probation conditions remain enforceable when an individual relocates.

8) Addressing Delinquent Fines: Should asset confiscation or other measures be considered for individuals delinquent in paying criminal fines? Please explain your reasoning.

Tennessee law already provides a structured and balanced approach for addressing unpaid fines, costs, and litigation taxes. Under Tennessee Code Annotated § 40-24-105, unpaid fines may be enforced in the same manner as a civil judgment, and the court may use contempt proceedings if it determines a defendant can pay but willfully refuses. Assets in Tennessee can only be confiscated when they are connected to criminal activity either as proceeds of a crime or tools used to commit a crime and the state successfully proves this through a criminal forfeiture or civil forfeiture process. The key difference is that asset forfeiture is tied to criminal activity, while the collection of fines, costs, and litigation taxes is treated as debt collection.

9) Efficiency through Technology: How can technology be used to reduce costs and improve efficiency in managing records and documentation for criminal proceedings?

In 1995, I researched the laws and resolutions governing court cost calculations, developed a comprehensive written summary, and served as the subject matter expert to IT staff who reprogrammed the software to automatically calculate costs based upon my summary and court dispositions. This improved collections and audits. Technology can significantly improve the efficiency and accuracy of court record management. Automated systems can calculate court costs, generate reports, and track accounts receivable. By investing in reliable technology and well-documented procedures, the Criminal Court Clerk's office can reduce administrative costs, improve transparency, and ensure long-term preservation and accessibility of court records.

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Vince Dean

Candidate Information

Email Address:	votevinedean@gmail.com
Occupation/Vocation:	Criminal Court Clerk
Years as resident of:	67 years
Military Background:	27 yrs Law enforcement and 9 years in the Legislature
Campaign Website:	Vote Vince Dean on Facebook

1) Purpose: What is the purpose and role of the Criminal Court Clerk, and what values and expertise should the candidate possess?

The role of the Criminal Court Clerk is multi-faceted. The clerk is charged as the keeper of the records for all criminal court cases, both at the Session's level and the State Criminal Courts. He or she is also charged with collecting the fees and fines, as ordered by the court. The clerk oversees as well as manages the \$5 Million annual budget, as well as the 60 Deputy Clerks. It is essential that the Criminal Court Clerk shows competent leadership skills and also has the ability to manage a budget.

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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 Criminal Court Clerk?

Since taking office, I have used my leadership skills to assemble a team of some of the best deputy clerks this county has ever seen. In rare occurrences we have found it necessary to sever ties with deputy clerks that did not adhere to our standards. We have done that without apology, as we recognize that we serve the public. We have managed our budget and stayed within the confines of our "letter of agreement" with the Mayor's office each year since taking office. We created a payment center making it easier and more convenient for citizens that owed court fines in both the Session's and State Criminal Offices. We did the same thing with our expungement center.

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

Absolutely! the Ten Commandments were given to Moses at Mount Sinai and should be the foundation for all laws and ordinances. More than anything I am a firm believer that this would be a wonderful world if all citizens would adopt the Ten Commandments as guide for their lives.

4) Community Impact: Describe why this position should be taken seriously by voters, how it meaningfully impacts the integrity and effectiveness of the criminal justice system, and what you believe voters may misunderstand or overlook about its importance.

While the majority of voters will never set foot in any of our offices or even in any of our courts, their tax dollars certainly can. It is imperative that the Criminal Court Clerk has a history of being able to manage funds both personally and professionally. It is also vital to have a good leader that can discern good employees from bad. An effective leader must be able to separate the wheat from the chaff. Then they must be able to rise above the criticism of those whose employment is terminated. I must be able to lay my head down each night and I certainly can.

5) Fiscal Responsibility: How can the management of the Criminal Court Clerk's office save taxpayer dollars or, if mismanaged, result in unnecessary costs?

Poor fiscal responsibility can lead to funds being diverted from the general fund (taxpayer dollars) to the budget of this office. Very simply, if the Clerk cannot manage the budget, the taxpayers are left to make up the difference. It is also vital that the clerk choose the right employees and be able to recognize their talents and place them in the most productive positions. There are many different jobs to be performed in this office and not everyone is suited for every job. Strong leadership skills ensure strong job performances by the appropriate deputy clerks.

6) Balancing Transparency and Justice: Do you agree with public posting of those arrested in local news sites or publications as a deterrent to criminal activity? Explain the pros and cons of such a policy.

While I may have my own personal opinion about this, that is exactly what it is: my personal opinion. My office does not provide or own any mugshots. Those are property of the Sheriff's Office. We do maintain the arrest records, which are public record. Whether I believe the publication of such is a deterrent is irrelevant. The law says that such information can be published and local media outlets make the determination as to whether or not they are published. Again any change to such would need to be done by the Tennessee General Assembly. We are charged with following the law.

7) Interstate Probation Tracking: How should probation records be shared between states and jurisdictions to ensure individuals on probation are effectively monitored if they relocate?

My office does not handle probation issues. They are handled by The State office of Probation for the State Court cases and by Hamilton County probation office for Session's court cases.

8) Addressing Delinquent Fines: Should asset confiscation or other measures be considered for individuals delinquent in paying criminal fines? Please explain your reasoning.

There are many schools of thought on this. In some smaller counties, asset confiscation has been used. However, in a county our size it would be almost impossible to utilize this measure. When I first took office we tried to garnish employment pay. We quickly found that when a defendant was garnished at Wendy's they would quit and go work at McDonalds. We have had good success with our collection agency. We also work closely with defendants to be on a payment plan and retain their drivers license. A large number of our customers are indigent, as determined by the court. They frankly don't have any money. We deposit around \$6 million per year. More than our budget.

9) Efficiency through Technology: How can technology be used to reduce costs and improve efficiency in managing records and documentation for criminal proceedings?

Our office has been on the cutting edge of this issue. We developed an APP for the judicial system in Hamilton County. Citizens can find court dates, dispositions and most of our records that are public. We partnered with V.I.N.E. (Victim Notification Everyday) where defendants and interested parties are notified of upcoming court appearances. V.I.N.E. has helped reduce our FTA (Failure to Appear) drastically, thus reducing the number of defendants arrested and incarcerated until court. We have developed a QR code to allow defendants with cases dismissed to apply for expungement without coming into our office. Electronic submission of court requirements ordered by a judge is now available. More than 120 words don't permit.

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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 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 right.

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 background image of the U.S. Capitol building.

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