



Last night was a night to be remembered in Tennessee. Tennessee held the state-wide primary election yesterday on Thursday, August 5, 2010. More than 543,000 Tennesseans voted early for the primary between July 16 and July 31, a record in the state. With all 95 counties reporting, Secretary of State Tre Hargett said Monday the number exceeds the 447,910 who voted early for the August 2006 elections, the last contested statewide Republican primary.

Hargett attributed the high turnout to three open congressional seats and a highly contested gubernatorial primary, which features three major Republican candidates and one Democratic candidate.

Governor's Race

Probably the most highly discussed election this primary was the bid for the Republican candidate for Governor. Ron Ramsey, the current Lieutenant Governor; Zach Wamp, former US Congressman; and Bill Haslam; mayor of Knoxville were competing for the Republican nomination.

Bill Haslam was declared the winner with 47% of the vote. Wamp received the second highest vote with 29% and Ramsey followed with 22% of the vote. The two opposing Republican candidates attribute Haslam's win to amount of funds he was able to raise. Haslam contributes his win to 19 months of hard-work. He will face Democratic candidate, Mike McWherter in November's general election. McWherter ran uncontested in the Democratic primary.

United States House Races

District 1: Incumbent Phil Roe received the Republican nomination for the seat with 96% of the vote. He will face Democrat Michael Clark in November.

District 2: John Duncan ran uncontested in the Republican primary and is expected to defeat Democrat David Hancock in November. John Duncan has held the seat for twenty-three years.

District 3: Chuck Fleischmann won the Republican nomination and will face opponent Democrat John Wolfe in November's election. Fleschmann beat the former chair of the Tennessee Republican party, Robin Smith, by 2% of the vote.

Wolfe was declared the Democratic primary winner with 39% of the vote. This seat was vacated after fifteen years by Congressman Zach Wamp.

District 4: Incumbent Lincoln Davis was uncontested in the Democratic primary and will face Republican Scott DesJarlais in November. DesJarlais took the Republican nomination with 37% of the vote.

District 5: Incumbent Democrat Jim Cooper won the Democratic nomination with 89% of the vote. He will face Republican primary winner, David Hall in November.

District 6: State Senator Diane Black won the GOP congressional primary in the 6th District with an 800-vote margin. Black had 23,940 votes, or 31%. Former Rutherford County GOP chairwoman Lou Ann Zelenik and state Senator Jim Tracy each finished with 30% of the vote. Zelenik had 23,127 votes and Tracy had 23,112.

This race was marked by many negative ads and even a lawsuit against Lou Anne Zelenick.

Iraq war veteran and lawyer Brett Carter won the Democratic primary, and will face black in the November general election. This seat was vacated by long-serving Democrat Bart Gordan. After twenty-five years, he decided not to seek reelection.

District 7: Incumbent Republican Marsha Blackburn ran uncontested in the Republican primary. She will face Democrat Greg Rabidoux in November's election. Rabidoux was uncontested in the Democratic primary.

District 8: One of the most talked about races of the primary, Democrat Roy Herron will face Republican primary winner Stephen Fincher. Fincher won the Republican nomination with 48% of the vote. Herron won the Democratic nomination with 68% of the vote. Incumbent Democrat John Tanner decided not to seek re-election after 21 years.

District 9: Democrat Steve Cohen, with endorsements by Harold Ford, Jr. and President Obama, won the Democratic primary nomination and defeated Memphis' ex-mayor Willie Herenton. Herenton was the first African-American elected to mayor and the city's longest serving mayor.

Cohen will face Republican primary winner Charlotte Bergmann in November. This seat is likely to go to incumbent Steve Cohen who has held the seat for the last three years.

Local Races of Interest

State Senate Races

State Senate District 9: State Rep. Mike Bell led from start to finish with a strong early vote and never looked back in his race for the Tennessee 9th Senatorial District seat against Cleveland businessman and former State Senator Lou Patten. Bell, who was elected to the 23rd Legislative

District in 2006, announced his intentions to run for the office after incumbent State Senator Dewayne Bunch announced in 2009 he would not seek a second term. Bell won the Republican nomination.

State Senate District 21: The Democratic primary between the state legislature's longest-serving member and a political newcomer is still undecided. 84-year-old state senator Doug Henry faced stiff opposition from attorney Jeff Yarbro, who is less than half his age.

Yarbro narrowly led the race until the very last precinct, when Henry pulled ahead by two votes. An ecstatic Henry burst into song. Despite Henry's happiness, the results are not final. The race now depends on 2 provisional ballots. The Davidson County election commission will determine today if the ballots were cast by voters actually registered in the district. The winner will face Republican primary winner Steven Dickerson.

State Senate District 17: After weeks of ads attacking one another, Republican incumbent Mae Beavers has won the Republican primary. Sen. Mae Beavers beat rival Rep. Susan Lynn by about 1,800 votes Thursday night in the bitterly fought State Senate District 17 Republican primary, a 7% margin. Susan Lynn declared early on she planned to run for the Senate seat after Beavers confirmed she planned to run for county mayor. Beavers decided her calling was to remain in the Senate. Beavers will face Democratic primary winner George McDonald in November.

State House Races

State House District 3: House Speaker aide Scotty Campbell of Mountain City won the Republican primary for the 3rd District Tennessee House seat and advances to the November election, when voters will decide who will fill the seat being vacated by outgoing House Majority Leader Jason Mumpower. Campbell had overwhelming support in Johnson County. The 26-year-old candidate, who received 36 percent of the vote, won over runner-up Timothy Hill of Blountville, who had 25 percent of the vote. Timothy Hill is the brother of current State Representative Matthew Hill.

State House District 4: Former Rep. Jerome Cochran has won the Republican nomination in House District 4, pitting him against House Speaker Kent Williams, who will be running as an independent in November. It will be the third matchup between Cochran and Williams, who won both previous races in the Republican primary.

State House District 8: Former state Rep. Art Swan has won the Republican nomination to the House District 8 seat, vacated by Rep. Joe McCord, R-Maryville. With no Democrat on the ballot in November, he is assured of election.

State House District 25: In House District 25 on the Cumberland Plateau, Cameron Sexton, a marketing representative, had 8,798 votes, or 63 percent, to state Rep. Eric Swafford's 5,219 votes, or 37 percent. Eric Swafford was the incumbent Republican candidate.

State House District 34: Donna Rowland, long-time Republican incumbent, declined to seek re-election this year. Democrat primary winner Bill Shacklett received 60% of the vote to Democrat Mike Williams 40%.

State House District 40: Democratic primary winner James Hale beat opponent Jamie Winkler by less than sixty votes. He will face incumbent Republican Terri Lynn Weaver in November.

State House District 42: Ryan Williams won the Republican primary nomination with 71% of the vote. He will face incumbent Democrat Henry Fincher in November.

State House District 44: Incumbent Democrat Mike McDonald will face Republican primary winner Matt Wynne in November's election.

State House District 57: Linda Elam was named the Republican primary winner with 38% of the vote. This seat was vacated by incumbent Susan Lynn in her bid for the State Senate.

State House District 60: Sam Coleman was declared the winner of the Democratic primary with 36% of the vote. District 60 seat was held by incumbent Ben West who decided not to seek re-election this year.

State House District 62: Democratic primary winner Jenny Hunt will face incumbent Republican Pat Marsh in November's general election.

The general election will take place November 2nd. We will keep you posted on any developments as they occur.