



PRIME-ARY PERSPECTIVE: TENNESSEE

PRIME-ARY Perspectives is a series that will give you an overview of the most noteworthy results from each state's primary election, focusing on congressional districts that are likely to be most competitive in November, as well as those that will have new representation in 2019 because of retirements.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to us with questions!

TENNESSEE



Due to term limits, retirements and officials seeking higher office, Tennessee will have a number of new government officials at the state level, as well as in both the House and Senate. Though there are three open House seats, an open Senate seat, and an opening in the governor's office, it seems likely that many of those races will not be competitive. However, the Senate race has - so far - been one of the more interesting races this summer.

GUBERNATORIAL



As the state has a two-consecutive term limit for governors, Gov. Bill Haslam is prevented from running again this term. However, the race is considered to be "Solid Republican" by Cook Political Report.

Bill Lee (R)

Bill Lee won the Republican primary for governor after beating current Rep. Diane Black and businessman Randy Boyd by a surprisingly large margin Thursday night. Black, who gave up her House seat to run and was long considered the favorite to win, finished in a disappointing third place.

Lee, a 7th generation Tennessean, ran on his business acumen and won 36.6% of the primary vote - easily sending him to the general election in November.



Karl Dean (D)



Karl Dean, the former mayor of Nashville, won the Democratic primary with an impressive 75% of the vote and will face Republican Bill Lee in the general election. Dean ran primarily on Medicaid expansion for Tennessee, and as a social progressive. This is in stark contrast to Lee whose primary forced him further to the political right. While Dean is unlikely to win, this will be an interesting race to watch in an election cycle that some are predicting to heavily favor Democrats.

SENATE



When Sen. Bob Corker (R) announced that he would not seek reelection, many considered this race to be relatively safe for whichever Republican won the primary. However, the calculus changed significantly when former Governor Phil Bredesen announced that he would seek the Democratic nomination. Bredesen is the last Democrat to win statewide and has proven to be effective - he has not trailed in a public poll since his announcement.

Marsha Blackburn (R)

Marsha Blackburn won her primary with an overwhelming 84.5% of the vote, and, to nobody's surprise, will face Democrat Phil Bredesen in the general election in November. Blackburn, who vacated her seat in Tennessee's 7th Congressional District after serving 8 terms, is running on a pro-Trump agenda in what would be normally be considered a safe race for a Republican. If she wins, she would become the first female ever elected to the U.S. Senate from Tennessee.



Phil Bredesen (D)

Phil Bredesen won the Democratic primary with 91.5% of the vote, potentially making for a competitive race with Blackburn this November. Bredesen is a unique candidate - he served several terms as Governor of Tennessee, which has led to him maintaining unusually high name recognition and popularity for a Democrat. While Blackburn is still the favorite to win, a large enough blue wave could lead to a Bredesen upset making this a race to watch in November.

TN-02



Tennessee's 2nd Congressional District will be open this year as incumbent Jimmy Duncan will not seek reelection. This district is located in the mountainous portion of Northeast Tennessee and consist of Blount, Claiborne, Grainger, Knox, and Loudon counties. This district has overwhelmingly voted Republican in recent years, as Jimmy Duncan won reelection with 72.5% and 75.6% of the vote in the last two election cycles.

Tim Burchett (R)

Tim Burchett won his primary with 48.2% of the vote Thursday night, easily beating his Republican opponents. Burchett has served as the Mayor of Knox County since 1988, after replacing his father for the seat. He is running on a platform "to fight for the families, the factory workers, and the small business owners who make this country great."



Renee Hoyos (D)

Renee Hoyos, executive director of the Tennessee Clean Water Network, won 72.4% of the Democratic primary vote and will face Tim Burchett in an uphill battle for Rep. Duncan's seat. She is running on platform that includes increasing access to healthcare, better funding for public secondary schools, and to provide financial support to agricultural communities.

TN-o6



Tennessee's 6th Congressional District will be open this November after Diane Black vacated her seat in an unsuccessful run for Governor. This rural district has typically voted Republican - Rep. Black won her last election with 71% of the vote - and is expected to do so again in November.

John Rose (R)

John Rose won 41.3% in a crowded Republican field, beating out 4 opponents for the nomination. Rose won the primary after promising voters that he would "have President Trump's back and fight the Washington liberals and elites, while putting Tennesseans first every single day." He is running on a platform to repeal the Affordable Care Act, build a southern border wall, and to strongly protect the 2nd Amendment.



Dawn Barlow (D)

Dawn Barlow won the Democratic nomination after winning 54.5 of the primary vote. Barlow, who formally worked as the Chief Resident in the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine, is running on a platform that promises to combat opiate addiction, increase access to medical care for Tennesseans, and raise the minimum wage while

TN-07



This district will be open in November, as incumbent Marsha Blackburn has chosen to vacate her seat to run for Senate. This district is located in mid-east Tennessee and includes several rural areas such as Chester, Lewis, Perry, and Williamson counties. It has voted Republican in every House race since 1983, and one should expect it do so again this year as Blackburn won the district nearly 50 points in 2016.

Mark Green (R)

Mark Green is the prohibitive favorite to win Blackburn's seat after winning the Republican primary after running unopposed. Green is a Tennessee state senator that was thrown in the national spotlight last year when Trump nominated him to be Army Secretary, but was ultimately was forced to withdraw his name for consideration after past statements about the [LGBT community, Islam, and evolution surfaced](#). Despite his controversial statements, Green is a strong candidate for his heavily Republican district and is running as a "physician, businessman, veteran, and family man."



Justin Kanew (D)

Justin Kanew will represent the Democratic party in this election after winning 62% of the primary vote Thursday night. Kanew gained fame from his two appearances as a contestant on the CBS hit show The Amazing Race. According to his website, "being on the race taught him that no matter where you go - whether it be Cambodia or Austria or Brazil - we're all human beings who want the same things deep down." While he never intended a career in politics, he was "driven to jump into the race by a deep belief that the people of the 7th District deserve a representative that stands for honesty and accountability." Unlike his time on The Amazing Race, Kanew is a heavy underdog and is a longshot to win this race come November.

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