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Deadline: Feb. 15th To Run In Knox County May 1st Primary Election

By Focus Staff

2018 is, as everybody knows, an election year and the qualifying deadline for candidates wishing to seek office in Knox County is fast approaching. The qualifying deadline is February 15, 2018. Early voting starts April 11 and the earliest date to seek an absentee ballot is April 24. The primary election is May 1 with the general election in August.

Courthouse incumbents Criminal Court Clerk Mike Hammond and Knox County Trustee Ed Shouse have no opposition as of yet inside the Republican primary. Nick McBride, Chief Deputy to term-limited Register of Deeds Sherry Witt, is the only candidate to pick up a petition to run for Register of Deeds. Charlie Susano, Scott Smith, Don Ridings and Tim Wheeler will face off in the Republican primary to succeed retiring Circuit Court Clerk Cathy Shanks. Sheri Ridgeway is the only Democrat to pick up a petition so far to run for Circuit Court Clerk.

Perhaps the two most anticipated races are those for Knox County Mayor and Sheriff. The mayor's race pits Glen Jacobs against County Commissioners Bob Thomas and Brad Anders. The most heated race may be that for Knox County Sheriff where Chief Deputy Lee Tramel is challenged by longtime law enforcement veteran Tom Spangler. No Democrats have picked up petitions to run for either mayor or sheriff.

Outgoing State Representative Roger Kane will face term-limited current Register of Deeds Sherry Witt in the Republican

Petition Pick-up List for Knox County Primary Election 5-1-2018 As of 1-19-2018

Candidates Name	Office	Party	Picked-Up	Returned
Brad Anders	County Mayor	Republican	11/22/2017	12/11/2017
Glenn Jacobs	County Mayor	Republican	11/17/2017	1/10/2018
Bob Thomas	County Mayor	Republican	11/22/2017	
Randy Smith	Co. Comm. Dist 3	Republican	11/17/2017	12/4/2017
Cody Biggs	Co. Comm. Dist 3	Democratic	11/17/2017	
Charles Busler	Co. Comm. Dist 7	Republican	11/17/2017	11/29/2017
Steve Hart	Co. Comm. Dist 7	Democratic	1/5/2018	
Larsen Jay	CC Seat 10 At-Large	Republican	11/17/2017	11/17/2017
Ronnie W. Rochelle	CC Seat 10 At-Large	Republican	11/22/2017	12/5/2017
Tori Griffin	CC Seat 10 At-Large	Democratic	12/4/2017	12/11/2017
William P. Stone	CC Seat 10 At-Large	Democratic	11/17/2017	
Justin Biggs	CC Seat 11 At-Large	Republican	11/21/2017	
R. Larry Smith	CC Seat 11 At-Large	Republican	11/17/2017	12/4/2017
Vivian Underwood Shipe	CC Seat 11 At-Large	Democratic	11/21/2017	
Ed Shouse	Trustee	Republican	11/17/2017	1/3/2018
Tom Spangler	Sheriff	Republican	11/17/2017	12/29/2017
Lee Tramel	Sheriff	Republican	12/6/2017	
Don Ridings	Circuit Court Clerk	Republican	11/17/2017	11/22/2017
Scott Smith	Circuit Court Clerk	Republican	11/21/2017	12/21/2017
Charlie Susano	Circuit Court Clerk	Republican	1/3/2018	1/8/2018
Tim Wheeler	Circuit Court Clerk	Republican	11/17/2017	
Sheri Ridgeway	Circuit Court Clerk	Democratic	1/11/2018	
Mike Hammond	Criminal Court Clerk	Republican	11/17/2017	11/17/2017
Roger Kane	County Clerk	Republican	11/17/2017	1/5/2018
Sherry Witt	County Clerk	Republican	11/17/2017	
Nick McBride	Register of Deeds	Republican	11/17/2017	1/12/2018
Andre Canty	Bd. Of Educ., Dist. 1	Nonpartisan	11/17/2017	
Dametraus Jagers	Bd. Of Educ., Dist. 1	Nonpartisan	11/17/2017	11/21/2017
Evett Satterfield	Bd. Of Educ., Dist. 1	Nonpartisan	11/17/2017	11/27/2017
Virginia Babb	Bd. Of Educ., Dist. 4	Nonpartisan	11/21/2017	1/5/2018
Terry Hill	Bd. Of Educ., Dist. 6	Nonpartisan	11/17/2017	12/11/2017
Patti Lou Bounds	Bd. Of Educ., Dist. 7	Nonpartisan	11/17/2017	11/21/2017
Kristi Kristy	Bd. Of Educ., Dist. 9	Nonpartisan	1/11/2018	
Amber Rountree	Bd. Of Educ., Dist. 9	Nonpartisan	1/18/2018	

primary to succeed outgoing County Clerk Foster Arnett.

In the races for the Knox County Board of Education as of this writing, Patti Bounds and Terry Hill have no opponents. Amber Rountree will face Kristi Kristy in South Knoxville, while Virginia Babb is unopposed to succeed the retiring Lynne Fugate in the Fourth District. Three candidates are vying to succeed the retiring Gloria Deatridge in the First District. Dametraus Jagers, Evett Satterfield, and Andre Canty.

Both At-Large seats on the County Commission are up for grabs with Bob Thomas opting to run for mayor and Ed Brantley retiring. Republicans Larsen Jay and Ronnie Rochelle will face one another in the GOP primary, while William P. Stone and Tori Griffin will battle it out for the Democratic nomination for County Commission Seat 10. Justin Biggs and R. Larry Smith will seek the At-Large Seat 11 on the County Commission in the Republican primary. Democrat Vivian Underwood Shipe has announced she cannot be a candidate for the County Commission, as it would be a violation of the Hatch Act. Shipe is a postal employee.

Republican Randy Smith, Chairman of the Knox County Commission, has no opposition so far and if things remain the same, will face Democrat Cody Biggs in the August general election. Current Commission Vice Chair Charles Busler is likewise unopposed inside the Republican primary, but may face opposition in the general election from Democrat Steve Hart.

South Knox Sitting Pretty



Plans for the Kern's complex on Chapman Highway are seen in this sketch of how the building may appear when completed.

South Knoxville riding a wave

By Mike Steely
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"You guys are riding a wave. You couldn't be in a better place," said the developer of the former Kern's Bakery on Chapman Highway. He was speaking to the South Knoxville Alliance last week in their monthly meeting being held at Dogwood Elementary School.

Oliver Smith told the

gathering that the development of the historic building and the acreage around it will have several restaurants, apartments, and 500 parking spaces. He said that the construction going on at the former Baptist Hospital site near the former bakery has seen the Conley Building there in progress of becoming an Embassy Suites. The Regal move to the hospital site,

and the development along Sevier Avenue is luring people and businesses to South Knoxville.

He said the Kern's complex will have five restaurants, one retail store, and multi-family housing in the back.

"We're up to 80% pre-leased," he said.

"People are gravitating to this area. Students and hipsters are coming across

the river," he said.

Smith said that multi-family developments, mom and pop stores and eventually "big box store" will be located in South Knoxville. He said that the Kern's property will link up to walking and biking trails being planned and that plans for historic Fort Stanley, just behind the Kern's building,

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City Beer Board moves easily through agenda

By Mike Steely
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For the past several years former City Councilwoman Brenda Palmer chaired the Beer Board. Now Councilman George Wallace steers the meetings. He slipped up once Tuesday evening when he called on Councilwoman Lauren Rider as "Mrs. Palmer."

He caught his mistake, apologized and then said, "I wish she was here." Palmer had such

"You're on a roll in South Knoxville."
Councilman George Wallace

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SoKno town hall set for Feb. 3

Officials who represent South Knoxville at the state and local levels will hold a town hall meeting Saturday, Feb. 3, at South-Doyle Middle School, 3900 Decatur Drive.

The event will take place 9-11 a.m. in the school library. State Sen. Becky Massey, state Reps. Rick Staples, Eddie Smith and Harry Brooks, First District City Council member Stephanie Welch, Ninth

District County Commissioner Carson Dailey and Ninth District Board of Education representative Amber Rountree will present updates on SoKno projects and participate in a question-and-answer session.

Topics are expected to include the BMX track at South-Doyle Middle, parks projects and real-estate development in SoKno.



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