

# CITIZENS

By Mike Stealy  
Senior Writer  
stealy@knoxnews.com

On the heels of revised Knoxville Police Use of Force procedures, some local citizens feel those reforms are not enough and left a meeting of PAIRC knee-deep in a loud and verbal confrontation Thursday evening.

Meeting publicly for the first time this year due to COVID-19, the Police Advisory and Review Committee voted to approve Mayor Indya Fincannon's selection of Lareya Middlebrook as executive director. There had been 18 applications for the position and Middlebrook told The Focus she thought "long and hard" before accepting the position.

PAIRC Chair Ross Vail welcomed Middlebrook and a new member, Van St. Germain, to the



Congressman Tim Burchett and Knox County Commissioner John Schoonmaker meet with attendees at the GOP headquarters at 3710 Kingston Pike.

## Knox County GOP celebrates re-opening of headquarters

By Kim Lay

It was not only the first day of summer but it was a day for the Knox County Republican Party

available for purchase thanks to a food truck provided by John Gabrel.

Several elected officials and

drew numbers for door prizes and other Knox County Republicans sold merchandise including hats, t-shirts, bumper stickers

By Mike Stealy  
Senior Writer  
stealy@knoxnews.com

The upcoming August 6 local general election and state and federal primaries may be one of the most trying in recent history not only for voters but especially for the Knox County Election officials and pollworkers.

The new Administrator of Elections, Chris Davis, told the Knox County Election Commission recently about the challenges of this year. Hiring poll workers and training new and existing staff on the new paper ballot system and its equipment would be a challenge on its own without considering the limitations imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic and the huge increase in requests for absentee ballots. Twenty-four boxes are set back for the expected absentee ballots, estimated now at more than 2,500