

TENNESSEE AMERICAN LEGION

BOYS STATE

Vol. 74, No. 4, Wednesday, May 29, 2013
Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, Tennessee

GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES SPEAK TO DELEGATES

With elections scheduled Wednesday evening, Jacksonian party chairman Julio Salazar, nominated William Mathis for governor, while Johnsonian party chairman Jonathan Greer nominated Logan Grant Parsons for the office. Gennaro Esposito of Lahiere placed independent candidate Ty Bender into nomination. Hunter Jones of Hammer City placed independent candidate Samuel Blake Robinson into nomination. Each candidate gave a speech to the entire Boys' State assembly.

Mathis told delegates that a leader should be selected for his actions. "See something in me to believe what I tell you. I am no politician. I have no big aspiration. He told the audience about qualities that a leader should exemplify. "Step back to serve, step forward and be in the front. A leader should maintain a sense of brotherhood on a personal level. Be there during the mundane. You should lead by example. Hold yourself to a higher standard. Have honor, integrity, courage and humility.

"I am a man of faith," Parsons began. He talked about conquering fear and shaking knees through his belief in God. "I have your backs," he told delegates whom he referred to as brothers. "I am a man trying to listen to the voice of the people and will labor to get that voice heard. Gentlemen, elect me as your servant." Parsons said he would support extending the time for the dance, add wi-fi access, and ask for no midnight fire drills.

Bendar spoke about the ineffectiveness of political parties. "I think political parties are a hindrance; they have too much influence on the way we think and act," Bender said. Robinson said he would approve any bill with bipartisan support, including any bill for ultimate Frisbee and using personal computers for campaign materials. Candidates were also selected for three other state government races:

Supreme Court: Joseph Atkins (Jo), Vignesh Balasundaram (Jo), Nikhil Basutkar (Ja), Julius Alexander Edwards (Jo), Logan Hale (Ja), Adam Lankford (Ja), Sean Larson (Ja), Seoung H. Nho (Jo), Julio Salazar (Ja), Addison Tucker (Jo)

Court of Appeals:

Jacksonians: William Zachary Clayton, Jared Clark Clements, Mason Dakota Hodge, Sven Jorgensen, Trace Robertson Kimler, Joshua Patrick Mucci, Jacob Santoyo

Johnsonians: Jacob Ellis Berexa, Preston Brown, Drew Christiansen, Charles Lewis, David Lowman Jr., Hunter Morrow-Elder, Nathan Lee Poplin, Justin Tyler Reid, Christopher Robin Smith, Tristan Smith, Seth Stewart, Kenneth Ye

Court of Criminal Appeals:

Jacksonians: James Truett Billings, Sheldon Dakota Brooks, James Carr, Mason Clark Devers, Charles Earles, Anthony Mack Padgett, Joshua Michael Poland, Blake Robbins

Johnsonians: Ashton Cate, Cameron Cates, Aaron Jay Chochrane, Grady Forrester, Matthew Gibson, Kaleb Gonyea, Ian Andrew Pope, Christopher Jordan Scott, Joseph Reed Shaw, Andrew Warren Solomon, Kenneth Austin Stanley, Richard Ross Turner

Gov. Bill Haslam addresses delegates, conducts Q&A

Gov. Bill Haslam gave a short address to delegates yesterday and then interacted with them during a question and answer session.

“Thank you for being willing to do this,” Haslam told delegates. “It’s really easy to be discouraged about how many people really care [about state government]. “I’m amazed at how many people haven’t voted in the last 20 years.”

Haslam encouraged delegates with advice on action and attitude.

“It matters who governs. Get involved in the process. Decide right now to work hard. Folks who decide to make a difference really do work harder.

“Also realize the world does not revolve around you. There are two kinds of people: those who enter a room and say, ‘Here I am,’ and those who say, ‘There you are.’”

Haslam also shared a lesson that he said he wished he had learned as a teenager.

“The ability to listen and learn is way underrated,” he said. “It’s amazing how much you will learn, and it will help you with what you do.”

Q: How do you plan to attract more businesses to Tennessee?

A: The most important thing I do is to make this a place for people to bring in more jobs. We are recruiting to our strengths and our national advantages. We have to realize that 80 percent of the new jobs created come from existing businesses. We have to make certain we are giving businesses enough of the right prepared workers. For example we know that the VW plant in Chattanooga enjoys being here, but we’ve got to be able to provide them with more trained engineers.

Q: What is the most difficult piece of legislation you have faced?

A: The hardest thing we do every year is put together the budget. Budget is policy; we decide what to fund and not to fund, and there are always more valid needs than money.

Q: How do you plan to raise the quality of education in the state?

A: We need to define reality. College has to be for more Tennesseans that it has been in the past. Fifty-five percent of jobs in 10 years will require at least a two-year degree, but only 32 percent of Tennesseans have a 2-year degree. There’s a disconnection. We are doing a lot of things to change expectations, but there is an iron triangle of challenges. We have to raise the number of people who have a degree, make it more affordable and improve the quality. But in state budgets, the biggest chunks of money go to education and healthcare. Medicare primarily has taken a bigger chunk of the budget recently, leaving us with less for education.

