

# TENNESSEE AMERICAN LEGION

# BOYS STATE

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## GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES SPEAK TO DELEGATES

With elections scheduled Wednesday afternoon, Jacksonian party chairman Drew Taylor of Roberts City nominated Zavior Phillips of Lahiere City for governor, while Johnsonian party chairman Woody Wilson nominated Brad Sells of Kreider City for the office. Independent candidates Samuel Allender of Lahiere City and Greyson Lampley of Summitt City also were nominated. Each candidate gave a speech to the entire Boys State assembly.

Phillips, from Mufreesboro's Central Magnet School, opened and closed his remarks by impersonating President Obama. "Leaders should refuse to be cocooned in their own affairs," he said. "The best leaders are servants." He spoke of changes he would support, including adding soccer and dodge ball. He also called for better distribution of information about campaign rules and room inspections. He suggested a better use of bulletin boards to improve communication and decrease demerits. "Our cities, counties and state are all fictitious. Boys State is real. Let us leave this thing better than we found it," he said.

Sells, from Livingston Academy, opened with his story of perseverance, telling how he overcame being confined to a wheelchair for two years. "I spent 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade in a wheelchair and wondered when I would be able to walk again," he said. "As a 10-year-old, I watched my brother march in the Boys State parade, and I never thought I'd be able to do that." He encouraged delegates to make the impossible become achievable. "Babe Ruth said, 'You just can't beat a guy who won't give up.' I won't quit. I will stand and walk as your governor."

Allender shared his accomplishments, including fulfilling all Eagle Scout requirements, then listed the changes he promised to lead based on what he had heard from delegates. He said he would like to add soccer, baseball and track, as well as change to flag football. Lampley spoke of the regret he had over a half-hearted campaign in high school and promised to learn from that experience by making an impact. "This is a chance to change and be changed," he said.

Candidates were also selected for three other state government races:

**Supreme Court:** Jacob Beckman, Nash Binkley, Will Cain, A'sean Cotter, Jackson Griffey, Nathan Longfellow, Mathew Saunders, Daniel Suarez, Joseph Wandass IV, Isaac Westmoreland

**Court of Appeals:** Blake Conwell, Clay Copass, Owen Flomberg, Gabe Furhman, Andrew Harwell, Rex Jarvis, Jonathan Killebrew, Kameron Mehling, Nate Schwindt, Drew Taylor, Ben Tollett

**Court of Criminal Appeals:** Addison Bond, Donnie Bonee, Ethan Boyd, Joseph Dalton Emmert, Michael Fox, Quintin Jordan, Brannen Kerbo, Jayson McClendon, Tristan Miranda, Aidan Pace, Nickolas Patterson, Hayden Profitt, Pete Ramsey, Matthew Yarbrough

## **Tennessee Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey addresses delegates, conducts Q&A**

The Honorable Ron Ramsey, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Tennessee, has built a reputation as the leading voice for economic growth in the General Assembly. Ramsey, the first Republican Senate Speaker in 140 years, has been named “The Best Lawmaker for Business in Tennessee” by Business Tennessee magazine for his success in passing pro-growth policy to improve the state’s business climate. Ramsey told delegates he is an auctioneer and demonstrated those skills for them. He covered several topics, including his start in politics, his role in the Senate, his relationship with the governor, and his personal faith.

### **Q: What is the best way to get a foot in the door for politics?**

A: You need to work in a campaign. Campaigns are always looking for young people to volunteer and they will give you something to do.

### **Q: How much of a role does wealth play in state elections?**

A: The bigger the stage, the more expensive it gets. If you are running in your local community, there’s no excuse for not knocking on every door. A state representative can manage to meet people pretty well. At the Senate level it gets harder. When I ran for governor, I was outspent \$18 million to \$3 million by Gov. Haslam. I don’t know the answer to regulate this.

### **Q: When have your leadership abilities been tested as lieutenant governor?**

A: I am challenged when I believe something that I’m not sure the majority of my members believe. I’m truly tested when I have to convince 17 of 33 Senators that I am right.

### **Q: How do you deal with partisanship?**

A: I’d like to think that even with a 28 to 5 Republican advantage in the Senate that people would say I am fair. I think the other party would say, “He doesn’t try to run over us.” On a national level, it’s a different story. We are not like that at the state level. Leadership is the answer. I meet regularly with other leaders, and there’s no reason at the end of the day that we can’t be friends.

### **Q: What bills have you presented?**

A: As speaker, I do not carry bills. I’ll find a senator who will carry bills for me. I have to preside, so I can’t be on the floor. Before I became speaker, I carried many bills. For example, I supported a DNA database bill. My favorites are ones with tangible results that make life better for people.

### **Q: What is your relationship with Gov. Haslam?**

A: Gov. Haslam is one of the best people I’ve ever met in my life. After I ran against him, we became better friends than we were in the beginning. I truly believe I am where I’m supposed to be. I had a ball running for office for 17 months. I’d never do it again. We talk once a week and we text all the time.

### **Q: Do you put more of a value on constituents’ wishes or party stances?**

A: I will always go with what I think is good for the state and good for the people of the state. For instance, I thought the lottery was a terrible idea. I don’t think the state needs to be in the gambling business. Many of my constituents were for it.

## **Tug of War Results**

Supreme Champion: Cain; Worthy Adversary: Roberts, Maybe Next Time: Loring; 4<sup>th</sup> place: Hammer; 5<sup>th</sup> place tie: Maddux, Levi; 7<sup>th</sup> place tie: Summit, Lahiere; 9<sup>th</sup> place tie: Young, Kreider, Reel, McCollum



