

TENNESSEE AMERICAN LEGION

BOYS STATE

Vol. 77, No. 4, Wednesday, May 25, 2016
Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, Tennessee

GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES SPEAK TO DELEGATES

With elections scheduled Wednesday afternoon, the Jacksonian party chairman nominated Musa Subramaniam of Cain City for governor, while Johnsonian party chairman nominated Anighya Crocker of Hammer City for the office. Independent candidate Trevor Good of Maddux City also was nominated. Each candidate gave a speech to the entire Boys State assembly.

Crocker spoke to the spirit of camaraderie he sees at Boys State. "That is the heart of my ideology. Great successes take many men working in tandem," he said. Crocker asked that delegates examine themselves, realizing that men by themselves are inherently weak and unable to embrace change. Together we can move mountains, he said. He asked delegates to see the difference between fluff and substance. "Gentlemen, I need your trust. March with me."

Subramaniam polled the audience to see who was hungry. He said his desire was to be democratic and efficient. He asked if the audience wanted a short speech, and then gave delegates two words: Vote Subramaniam.

Good, who gathered 323 signatures to make the race, said he based his campaign on his favorite Bible verse, Philippians 4:13. He said he did not want to take the easy road, and his effort proves his dedication to self and delegates. A business owner of Good Landscaping, he talked about plans if elected: better communication, adding sunglasses to the uniform, and more time for band members to be involved in the activities and elections. Make the "Good" choice.

Candidates also were announced for three other state government races:

Supreme Court: (Jacksonians) Jared Eddy, Keaton Forewright, Houston Phillips, Connor Wilson, Dexter Woods (Johnsonians) Benjamin Ball, Curtis Colvett, Xander Miller, Ty Myers, Jake Walkup

Court of Appeals: (Jacksonians) Aaron Beverly, Matthew Fearing, Spencer Flint, Nate Rohen, Ethan Slate, William Taylor, Andrew Waldrep, Terry Wheeler (Johnsonians) Jonathan Dean, Trenton DuBose, Peyton Hickman, Todd Merryman, Ben Purdue, Cainan Phillips, Parker Rice, Coleman Self, Nate Sherwood, Tommy Wilmore

Court of Criminal Appeals: (Jacksonians) Benjamin Daigre, Micah Darlington, Eric Davis, Knox Davis Jr., Beau Fisher, Jacob Forbes, Sudeep Ghanatasala, Fletcher Norrod, Lazzarus Scribner, Dalton Shell, Devon Williford, Matthew Wright (Johnsonians) Austin Egger, James Gilley, Christian Hamrick, Colin Harris, Thomas Jones, Kouki Kubo, Keaton Pendergrast, Tyler Redmon, Jake Schneider

Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam addresses delegates, conducts Q&A

The Honorable Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, addressed Boys Staters on Tuesday afternoon and opened by sharing a question he had about the future. He wondered are enough people going to care and be a part of the process of government in the next 30 years.

“It’s important that good people run for office,” Haslam said. “And it’s incredibly important who you elect. The decisions that are made in government impact you in a big way.”

Gov. Haslam explained that of all Tennesseans above age 25, only 37 percent have a degree past high school. He said in just nine years, 55 percent of the jobs available to Tennesseans will require a degree or certificate.

“What is that going to mean if we those percentages don’t match up?” Haslam asked. “We will have a lot of people who want a job who can’t get a job and a lot of companies that are looking at Tennessee going somewhere else.”

Do you think restrictions of firearms will bring increased criminal activity?

I believe strongly in Second Amendment rights. I think the decision should be up to whoever owns and controls that property. In your house or your business, you should decide who gets to bear arms.

Why was the Bible Bill not signed into law?

The bill was to make the Bible the official state book. The legislature passed it. As governor, I have three options: sign, veto, don’t sign and it becomes law anyway. I vetoed the bill because I considered it unconstitutional. I also think that making the Bible the state book would trivialize it.

Why did TN Ready fail?

We had PARCC testing, but the legislature voted against it, so we scrambled for a new vendor. There are a lot of laws in place on how we can purchase as a state. Our process measured the quality of test and price, but didn’t do a really good job on measuring if this firm had the capacity and ability to develop it online. It was too important to have gone that badly and we are looking at the process.

In your plan for economic development, what do you plan for rural communities?

It’s a challenge. In Tennessee, our job growth is incredible, and unemployment is below the national rate at 4.3 percent. But growth is not equal; we are struggling in rural areas. There are a couple of reasons: too often our rural areas don’t have workers with degrees and often one large employer has gone out of businesses and we are trying to replace all those jobs. We have someone who is solely focused on rural areas, and we have a fund to help with ideas to increase jobs.

What is the best advice you have ever received?

Find some people to do life with. As you get older, your circle of people gets smaller and smaller. Most of the people I know who became a train wreck had no community and no really good friends.

Tug of War Results

Levi City took the 2016 Tug of War championship. Cain City finished second, Maddux City came in third, while McCullum finished fourth.