

TENNESSEE AMERICAN LEGION

BOYS STATE

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GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES SPEAK TO DELEGATES

With elections scheduled Wednesday afternoon, the Jacksonian party chairman nominated Eshan Patel of Lahiere City for governor, while the Johnsonian party chairman nominated Marzell Norris of Reel City for the office. Four independent candidates were placed into nomination: Bronson Burdick of Hammer City, Tate Kinney of Reel City, Tyler Raper of Summitt City and Will Ryan of Cain City. Each candidate gave a speech to the assembly.

Patel asked delegates to “Stand with Me,” as he described the type of unity he desired. He encouraged the audience to take off their lanyards and think about standing together as simply delegates trying to reach a unified goal. He talked about well-known leaders who attended Boys State, including Michael Jordan, Neil Armstrong and Mark Wahlberg. “I invite you to stand with me; I will listen and appreciate other’s ideas.”

Norris described himself as someone who delegates “could find a little bit yourselves when you look at me.” He emphasized his ability to anticipate each person’s reaction and needs. “I feel like your governor should be able to look at you as an individual. Your governor should be someone who can relate to you off the bat. I will be honored to walk out of here as your governor, or as your friend.”

Burdick spoke about the intangible qualities needed in a governor and stepped to center stage to describe himself as the key piece to the puzzle. Kinney advocated for unity, common goals, and complete synergy paired with effort. Raper said he believed in bipartisanship and said “Rely on Tyler to take Boys State Higher.” Ryan described all candidates as equally qualified and asked delegates to vote on the values of honesty, integrity and morality.

Candidates also were announced for three other state government races:

Supreme Court: (Jacksonians) Jayson Blackburn, Haden Blair, Wyatt Broome, Evan Bushart, Eli Fuller, Davis George, A.J. McGugin, Carson McRae, Luke Porter, Grayson Rogers, Nicholas Smythia, Andrew Vosburgh, Austin Wattenbarger, Bruce Wilson, Luke Worsham (Johnsonians) Michael Boyd, Benji Headrick, Connor Meadows, Michael Myers, Warren Sims

Court of Appeals: (Jacksonians) Nolan Bledsoe, Chapman Finn, Tyler Hoffman, Hunter Jaynes, Dillon Philips, Will Ring, Matthew Sanders, Tyler Sills, Cole Stivers, Joseph Sykes, Nathan Wachtel, Clay Williams (Johnsonians) Jake Barnes, Elijah Brock, Wren Campbell, Michael Cornett, Avery Frank, Jaden Hicks, Mitchell Lencioni, Kyle Lennon, Dakota McKnight, Cameron Morgan, Nick Simmons, Mark Woody

Court of Criminal Appeals: (Jacksonians) Logan Alfano-Webb, Joey Burd, Brandon Cooper, Lincoln Dillman, Nathan Hutchings, Will Jenkins, Cody Levi, Justin McGarrity, Aidan Newton, Matthew Nicholson, Jaeden Pyburn, Collin Renegar (Johnsonians) Dalton Bennett, Grayson Blount, Jay Frantz, Powell Lowe, Laramie Plott, Asa Ruiz, Kaleb Thurman, Jayson West, Colton Woodson

Lt. Gov. Randy McNally addresses delegates, conducts Q&A

Randy McNally, the 50th Lt. Governor of the State of Tennessee, addressed Boys Staters on Tuesday afternoon. McNally chose the occasion to give delegates a unique view into the process of passing a bill by signing the only bill that must be passed by the state legislature each year.

He signed the bill calling for \$37.1 billion in spending and explained that the passage of a balanced budget is the only requirement given to the Tennessee General Assembly. After signing, the bill moves on to Gov. Bill Haslam for approval.

McNally called on Boys Staters to be servant leaders. "Being a good citizen is important for you, your state and your nation. In Tennessee, we pride ourselves on creating good citizens."

He said the legislature mandated a Tennessee history course be taught in every school in order to perpetuate the state's story. "History and civics are the most important subjects for the health of our society," McNally said.

"Democracy is not a passive endeavor," he continued. "Democracy depends on people being active, engaged and informed."

McNally encouraged delegates to let go of the notion that slick and dishonest politicians are the ones who are successful. "They may seem successful at first, but it catches up with them."

He shared his advice on what qualities a leader needs in order to serve. He said decisiveness is a desirable trait because if you wring your hands and take a long time to act, people begin to doubt even good decisions.

"People need to know your word is your bond. Build a team around you that you can trust, with people who have good judgment and who will tell you that you are headed in the wrong direction.

"Be gracious. Be good to one another."

POINTS OF TECH PRIDE

- 1 of only 2 nationally ranked public universities in the state (ranked #125 nationally)
- 47% of our students graduate **debt free**
- 10,000+ students enrolled
- \$53,800 starting average graduate salary (payscale.com)
- Voted **Top Public** University in Tennessee for best value (smartasset)
- Highest return on investment for an public university in Tennessee

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Tug of War Results

Maddux City took the 2017 Tug of War championship. Kreider City finished second, Reel City came in third, while Hammer finished fourth.