

# TENNESSEE AMERICAN LEGION

# BOYS STATE

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Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, Tennessee

## DANIEL GATES ELECTED GOVERNOR

Daniel Gates, a Johnsonian from Roberts City, won the governor's seat in the general election held Wednesday at Boys State.

## STATE ELECTION RESULTS

### Supreme Court

Ben Austin, Jake DiChiacchio, Will Hong, Hayden Keller, John Kerrigan

### Court of Appeals

Seth Bucy, Aubrey Caster, Carl Conte, Will Engle, Matthew Frazier, Alexander Hagerman, Cody Hodge, Sam Killebrew, Adam LaLance, Ben Mills, Hunter Storey, Andrew Taylor

### Court of Criminal Appeals

Will Brackett, Hasadiah Coleman, Clay Durham, Andrew Fish, John Herberman, Seth Jones, Jordan Lowrance, Mykal Manfred, Jacob Marsteller, Peyton Myers, Jacob Pettinger, Jon White

## GETTING TO KNOW YOUR GOVERNOR

Know your audience. Daniel Gates of Roberts City placed that core communication principle above all others as he campaigned his way to his election as Tennessee American Legion Boys State Governor-elect for 2018.

His message, "Strong Body, Strong Mind," resonated with more than 500 young men.

Gates embodies physical strength. He even ended his speech with two-arm, one-arm and acrobatic pushups. At Dyersburg City School, he excels in six sports. He is a captain of the soccer team and a member of the baseball, boxing, tennis, track and football teams.

But he champions the value of strong thinking just as much as athletic prowess.

"When I came here my school counselor told me, "You are going to be great. You are going to enjoy yourself. And you are probably going to be governor," he said.

Gates plans to major in business management, but is willing to see where that degree takes him in terms of a career. He says he would consider getting into politics if it promises a path to his ultimate goal.

"My goal is to impact lives, however the opportunity presents itself."

He emphasizes his life with God is the main reason he's able to approach life successfully, and he points to the encouragement that's lifted his expectations of himself.

"At an early age I had guidance and people in my life who cared," Gates said. "No one ever told me I couldn't. Everyone always told me I could."

## **TBI Director Jason Locke Speaks to Delegates**

Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Deputy Director Jason Locke shared information, stories and advice with Boys State delegates on Wednesday evening. After a brief introduction, he took questions from dozens of delegates who wanted to know more about the TBI.

He told delegates that good TBI agents can't make ethical or moral mistakes and must be able to put job and position first.

"We say that TBI also stands for Truth, Bravery and Integrity. We can never deviate from that. That's what we look for when we hire, someone who is not easily compromised and does not bend. That's what leaders are called to do. Anybody can make easy decisions."

Q: What path would you recommend for joining the TBI?

A: There's a demand for strong candidates. Last year, 1,000 people applied for 13 positions. Set yourself apart, and make sure you stay on a straight path. Grades are important and you must have a four-year degree. We don't demand a specific type of degree. We seek diversity, such as Spanish and accounting degrees and military backgrounds. Get some experience at a local level.

Q: What kind of quality career positions are in the TBI?

A: We have field agents, drug agents, Medicaid fraud unit personnel, forensic scientists, computer/tech services, aviation unit personnel, and computer support persons.

Q: How vigorous is the background check for TBI agents?

A: Our criminal division agents do the very extensive checks. If you are commissioned with a weapon, you undergo a Level 1 check. That means we interview people you lived with, roommates, next door neighbors, we go to where you grew up, give a polygraph test, do a criminal background check and a psychological and medical evaluation.

Q: What about the accusations of nepotism at the TBI?

A: The TBI has never violated any state law or policy in hiring practices to my knowledge. News reports can be one sided; the first thing we did was call the State Department of Human Resources and ask them to look at our processes. They took a look and said we were right in line. We do not have the final say; HR signs off on hires. We will always do the right thing, abide by state law, abide by state policy.

Q: What is the TBI's best strategy for battling drugs?

A: We concentrate on the mid- to upper-level activities, not a lot of street buys. We do a lot of high profile work with imports. There's a lot of meth coming into this state. We've done a great job shutting meth labs, but we are still at an all-time high because so much is coming from Mexico.

Q: How do you feel about the TBI being given funds for every DUI?

A: A court case has brought that scenario to us. It's now at the State Supreme Court on appeal, and there's no evidence that tests are being manipulated to increase the fees. We worked with the legislature to pass a law to take the fees straight to the general fund to remedy that problem. Then the legislature will set the fixed TBI budget.

**Jacksonians won the Wednesday night All-Star Basketball game.**