

July 12, 2024

Hey all,

Here's this week's report.

Blessings and keep the faith.

Bill

Williamson County School Board

There were no meetings this week; the next school board meetings are August. Policy committee August 5th, Work Session August 15th, full Board meeting August 19th.

I mentioned earlier that I had emailed **Superintendent Golden** to clarify the district's position on Title IX. We went back and forth and finally had a phone conversation. We both agreed that the injunction against the new rules is now the law. I was concerned that WCS would follow the new rules if the injunction that includes Tennessee was overturned.

Superintendent Golden was very clear about WCS position on the new Title IX regulations and I am quoting directly from his last email to me. *Bill, thanks for the conversation yesterday. To give a short synopsis of our discussion, you asked me for a legal interpretation of the new regulations to reconcile what you pasted below from the website's summary. The most concise and clear answer I can give you is what I've already said in my July 1 email: **we have never had plans to open girls' locker rooms and bathrooms to boys, and we still don't.***

He also made it clear, during our phone call, that he supports the lawsuit against the DOE that is currently protecting Tennessee from the new Title IX rules.

Williamson County Election Commission

The Commission met On Wednesday. There are no meetings scheduled for next week.

The Williamson County Election Commission (WCEC) met Wednesday, July 10th. Here are the highpoints.

- MIA Commissioner Doug Grindstaff attended the meeting.
- The absentee counting board members were approved and Chad indicated there will be about 300 absentee ballots to count.
- Jonathan Duda discussed a couple of new procedures that will be implemented at the August 1 election and again for the November 5 election.
 - First, at the close of the election in each vote center, in addition to returning the USB stick from each scanner/tabulator (which contains the tally of all votes from that particular tabulator) to the Election Office for county-wide tabulation, along

with the poll official documentation, the poll workers will open the ballot box area of the two vote center tabulators, pull out the blue ballot box in each where the voter's ballots are collected, ensure that any ballot that didn't fall into the ballot box is collected and placed in the ballot box and then the ballot box will be closed and sealed. Poll watchers will be able to watch the process and notate the seal number of the ballot box for chain of custody purposes. A backup USB stick remains with the tabulator in the vote center.

- Second, the WCEC will conduct a traditional tabulation audit of the machines (specifics of this to come).
- Third, the WCEC will volunteer to also conduct a Performance audit, which will be done election night to document that all procedures that should be done by the WCEC during the election are/were done.
- Following the meeting, the WCEC held an open house for candidates to see and better understand how the machines work. Unfortunately, the candidates are not given the opportunity to inspect inside the machines.
- As an aside, the WCEC has given notice to county citizens that the election to fill the vacancy in District 10 of Commissioner David Landrum (which right now is temporarily being filled by Cheryl Brown), will be held on November 5th, along with the presidential election.
 - Qualifying deadline is Thursday, August 15, 2024 at 12 noon.

Tennessee State Election Commission

On Monday, July 8th, the Tennessee State Election Commission (SEC) held its quarterly meeting in Nashville. Highpoints:

- A Williamson County citizen spoke to SEC commissioners concerning last year's discussion by the WCEC before the Williamson County Commission to secure the funds and approval to purchase the ES&S voting machines.
 - Several citizens had presented concerns previously to the SEC about inaccurately cited sources and misrepresentations of data the WCEC used to convince WC Commissioners to approve the purchase. But the SEC concluded that despite the evidence presented by citizens, the SEC did not address any of the WCEC's problematic statements and, surprisingly, the WCEC did not violate their oath of office.
 - The citizen was attempting to learn if the decision has been made by one SEC commissioner or if all the information was shared with all SEC commissioners and all commissioners participated in the decision.
 - The SEC has yet to respond back to the citizen.
- A discussion was held involving a Memphis-area candidate for US House of Representative who wanted to use a nickname on the ballots. It was approved with modifications.
- The Coordinator of Elections did NOT mention anything about his and the Secretary of State's recent letter to 14,000 individuals who are on various county voter rolls across the state asking for documentation that would better identify them as citizens. Elections Coordinator Mark Goins only reminded commissioners that early voting starts in Tennessee on Friday.
- The next quarterly meeting of the SEC in Nashville is October 14, 2024.

Williamson County Commission

There were two important meetings this week. On Monday was the monthly **full commission meeting** [agenda video](#). I am copying commissioner **Mary Smith's** newsletter about that meeting and adding a few comments of my own. On Thursday, the **Planning Commission** met [agenda Video](#).



Message from the COMMISH

IMPORTANT REIMINDER!!! Early voting starts this Friday. Please get out and vote and make sure you let others know to do the same!!

Update from Monday Night's Meeting:

Despite efforts to delay the vote on the District 10 Commissioner vacancy until after hearing from the voters, a new County Commissioner, Mrs. Cheryl Brown, nominated by fellow D10 Commissioner Meghan Guffee, was appointed to replace David Landrum. Mrs. Brown has commenced her term, which will continue until the November 2024 general election, when District 10 voters will elect their commissioner for the remaining 4-year term.

Similarly, the decision regarding the District 3 school board vacancy has been deferred until after the August 1st election. Commissioner Greg Sanford recommended postponing the decision until August 12th. Subsequently, the winner of the August 1st election will be nominated to join the school board during their meeting on August 19th.

The last big item in front of the commission was regarding an intent to fund capital projects totaling more than \$34 million which included \$22.5 million for a library and rec center in Bethesda. While it is way past due to get a new facility for the citizens in the southern part of the county, we are also dealing with the imminent need for a new jail, juvenile justice center and alternative learning center with a current price tag of \$325 million. While I did attempt to amend the request to focus

solely on public safety capital requests, this ultimately failed. The additional bond debt being requested in the next few months will increase our debt by more than \$12 million. And, as a reminder, we have still not seen an intent to fund for the jail project.

With a county-wide property reappraisal looming, the commission may seek to raise property taxes to fund upcoming projects. It's our responsibility as the county's fiduciary arm to make tough fiscal decisions. I take this duty seriously. Despite encountering limited enthusiasm for any creative funding proposals, I remain committed to exploring alternative avenues beyond property tax hikes. My goal is to deliver top-notch services without overburdening our residents.

I understand we all have busy lives, but your input and support are crucial to maintaining the quality of life we cherish in our community. Please take a moment to share your concerns and inform others about important developments in our county.

Encourage others to [subscribe](#) to my newsletter to stay informed.

Yours In Service,
Mary
#ActaNonVerba

FINANCIAL STATE OF THE COUNTY(as of 5/31/2024)	
Total Current Debt	\$1,117,150,000
Original FY24 Budget	\$853,207,687
Revised FY24 Budget	\$894,773,524
Expenses to Date	\$724,294,048
Revenue to Date	\$763,717,094
General Fund Balance	\$152,132,941

Resolutions for July 2024

JULY AGENDA/RESOLUTIONS

JULY MEETING

NOMINATIONS (Mayor):

- Budget Committee - 21 - Y, 0 - N
 - Judy Herbert, Chair
Meghan Guffee
David O'Neil
Mary Smith
Rogers Anderson
- Purchasing & Insurance - 21 - Y, 0 -N
 - Jennifer Mason
Pete Stresser
Tom Tunnicliffe
Paul Webb
Rogers Anderson
- Convention & Visitors Bureau - 21 - Y, 0 - N
 - Expiring - Judy Hayes
Nomination - Sharon Hatcher
- Emergency Communications Board of Directors - 20 - Y, 1 - N(Sanford)
 - Vacant
Nomination - Bill Jorgensen
- Public Safety Director
 - Retiring - Bill Jorgenson
New Director - Connor Scott

NOMINATIONS (County Commission):

- Board of Education 3rd District
 - Motion to Defer until August 12th - 21 - Y, 0 - N
- County Commissioner 10th District
 - Nomination by Meghan Guffee
Motion to Defer until September - 8 - Y (Lawrence, M Smith, Sturgeon, Hayes, Graves, Stresser, Torres, Richards), 13 - N - FAILED
Nomination to confirm - 14 - Y, 4 - N (Hayes(C), M Smith, Sturgeon, Richards), 3 - A (Lawrence, Stresser, Torres)

- Judicial Commissioner - Tahirih Amato - 20 - Y, 1 - A (Mason)
- Resolution No. 7-24-1, Resolution Accepting a Donation on Behalf of Williamson County animal Center and Appropriating and Amending the 2024-25 Animal Center Budget by \$6,103-Revenues to Come from Donations — Commissioner Morton 22 - Y, 0 - N
- Resolution No. 7-24-2, Resolution Appropriating and Amending the 2024-25 Capital Projects Budget by \$460,000 — Revenue to Come from Unappropriated Solid Waste/Sanitation Fund Balance – Commissioner Morton 22 - Y, 0 - N
- Resolution No, 7-24-3, Resolution Authorizing the Williamson County Mayor to Enter into a Grant Contract with the State of Tennessee, Department of Agriculture on Behalf of the Williamson County Animal Center and Appropriating and Amending the 2024-25 animal Center Budget by \$1,300 — Revenues to Come from Grant Funds --- Commissioner Morton 22 - Y, 0 - N
- Resolution No. 7-24-4, Resolution Authorizing the Williamson County Mayor to Enter into an Interlocal Agreement with Middle Tennessee State University Concerning Opioid Abatement Grantee Data Tracking and Evaluation and Amending and Appropriating the 2024-25 Budget by \$61,860 for These Services — Revenues to Come From Opioid Settlement Funds — Commissioner Morton 22 - Y, 0 - N
- Resolution No. 7-24-5, Resolution Appropriating and Amending the 2024-25 Capital Projects Budget by \$6,438,685 — Revenues to Come From County General Fund Balance — - Commissioner Morton 22 - Y, 0 - N
- Resolution No. 7-24-6, Resolution of the Intent to Fund Certain County General Projects Totaling \$34,711,427 in a 2024-25 Bond or Note Issue --- Commissioner Morton
 - Amend to \$12,211,427 - 7 - Y (Lawrence, M Smith, Sturgeon, Stresser, Torres, Richards, Brown), 14 - N, 1 - A (Graves) FAILED
Final Vote - 19 - Y, 1 - N (M Smith), 2 - A (Graves, Richards)
- Resolution No. 7-24-7, Resolution Requesting an Intent to Fund for \$13,155,596 for the Williamson County Board of Education 2024-25 Capital Needs - Commissioner Morton 21 - Y, 1 - A(Graves)
- Resolution No. 7-24-8, Resolution Appropriating And Amending the 2024-25 Capital Projects Budget by \$351,651 for the Purchase of Fire Equipment — Revenues to Come from Fire Protection Privilege Tax Funds — Commissioner Morton 22 - Y, 0 - N
- Resolution No. 7-24-9, Resolution Appropriating \$4,500 Education Privilege Tax and \$700,000 Adequate School Facilities Privilege Tax Funds and approving the Related Operating Transfers for the 2024-25 Rural Debt Service Expenditures - Commissioner Morton 22 - Y, 0 - N

- Resolution No. 7-24-10, Resolution Appropriating \$3,800,000 Adequate School Facilities Privilege Tax Funds and Approving the Related Operating Transfers for 2024-25 General Debt Service Expenditures — Commissioner Morton 22 - Y, 0 - N
- Resolution No. 7-24-11, Resolution amending the 2024-25 Capital Projects Budget and Appropriating up to \$2,700,000 for Major Corridor Study Projects and the Purchase of New Equipment — Revenues to Come from Unappropriated Highway Fund Balance - Commissioner Morton 22 - Y, 0 - N
- Resolution No. 7-24-12, Resolution Authorizing the Williamson County Mayor to Enter into a Grant Contract with the State of Tennessee, Department of Economic and Community Development and Appropriating and Amending the 2024-25 Capital Projects Budget by \$312,454.21 — Commissioner Morton 22 - Y, 0 - N
- Resolution No. 7-24-13, Resolution Authorizing the Williamson County Mayor to Enter into a Grant Contract with the State of Tennessee, Department of Economic and Community Development and Appropriating and Amending the 2024-25 Parks and Recreation Budget by \$100,000 — Commissioner Morton 22 - Y, 0 - N
- Resolution No. 7-24-14, Resolution Appropriating and Amending the 2024-25 Register of Deeds' Budget by \$158,448 — Revenues to Come from Document Recording Fees - Commissioner Morton 22 - Y, 0 - N
- Resolution No. 7-24-15, Resolution Appropriating and Amending the 2024-25 Capital Projects Budget by \$4,500,000 for the Purchase of Various Parks and Recreation Equipment — Revenues to Come from Recreation Privilege Tax Funds — Commissioner Morton 22 - Y, 0 - N
- Resolution No. 7-24-16, Resolution Amending the 2024-25 Juvenile Services Budget in the Amount of \$192,000 — Revenues to Come from State Grant Funds — Commissioner Sanford 22 - Y, 0 - N
- Resolution No. 7-24-17, Resolution Amending the 2024-25 Sheriff's Office Budget by \$1,368,796 for the Second Year Annual Lease Purchase with Axon, Inc. — Revenues to Come from General Fund Balance — Commissioner Sanford 22 - Y, 0 - N
- Resolution No. 7-24-18, Resolution Appropriating and Amending the 2024-25 Circuit Court Clerk's Budget by \$25,000 — Revenues to Come from Reserve Account — Commissioner Morton 22 - Y, 0 - N
- LATE FILED Resolution No. 7-24-31, Resolution Appropriating and Amending the 2024-25 Health Department Budget by \$5,500 — Revenues to Come from Donations - Commissioner Webb 22 - Y, 0 - N
- LATE FILED Resolution No. 7-24-32, Resolution Appropriating and Amending the 2024-25

County Clerk's Budget by \$50,000 for Equipment and Maintenance Costs — Revenues to Come from Filing Fees — Commissioner Webb 22 - Y, 0 - N

- LATE FILED Resolution No. 7-24-33, Resolution Appropriating and Amending the 2024-25 Parks and Capital Improvement Program by \$120,000 — Revenues to Come from Reserves — Commissioner Webb 22 - Y, 0 - N

OTHER

- Resolution No. 7-24-19, Resolution Authorizing the Williamson County Mayor to Execute Memorandums of Understanding Concerning the Provisions of School Resource Officers - Commissioner Morton 22 - Y, 0 - N
- Resolution No. 7-24-20, Resolution Amending the Rules, Regulations and Procedures of the Williamson County Board of Commissioners Concerning the Recording and Archiving of all Budget Committee Meetings — Commissioners Richards and Morton 22 - Y, 0 - N
- Resolution No. 7-24-21, Resolution Authorizing the Williamson County Mayor to Enter into an Interlocal Agreement with the Participating Counties Through Their Chief Local Officials for Joint Participation in the Norther Middle Tennessee Local Workforce Board ~ Commissioner Morton 22 - Y, 0 - N
- Resolution No. 7-24-22, Resolution Authorizing the Williamson County Mayor to Enter into an Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Thompson's Station Concerning Law Enforcement Coverage — Commissioner Sanford 22 - Y, 0 - N
- Resolution No. 7-24-23, Resolution to Surplus and Approve the Conveyance of a Black Labrador K-9 Officer from the Williamson County Sheriff's Office to his Law Enforcement Handler --- Commissioner Sanford 22 - Y, 0 - N
- Resolution No. 7-24-24, Resolution Accepting the Donation of Law Enforcement Equipment from the 21* Judicial District Drug Task Force on Behalf of the Williamson County Sheriff's Office - Commissioner Sanford 22 - Y, 0 - N
- Resolution No. 7-24-25, Resolution Authorizing the Williamson County Mayor to Enter into an Interlocal Agreement with the 21 Judicial District Drug Task Force - Commissioner Sanford 22 - Y, 1 - A(Mason)
- Resolution No. 7-24-26, Resolution Authorizing the Williamson County Mayor to Sign a Contract with the State of Tennessee Department of Children's Services for the Provision and Reimbursement of Juvenile Detention Services — Commissioner Sanford 22 - Y, 0 - N
- Resolution No. 7-24-27, Resolution Authorizing the Williamson County Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Maury County, Tennessee on Behalf of the Juvenile Court of Williamson County, to House Juveniles in the Williamson County Juvenile Detention Center ---

Commissioner Sanford 22 - Y, 0 - N

- Resolution No. 7-24-28, Resolution Authorizing the Williamson County Mayor to Enter into an Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Nolensville for the Provision of Periodic Road Work and Maintenance to Municipal Roads — Commissioner Morton 22 - Y, 0 - N
- Resolution No. 7-24-29, Resolution Authorizing the Williamson County Mayor to Enter into an Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Thompson's Station or the Provision of Periodic Road Work and Maintenance to Municipal Roads — Commissioner Morton 22 - Y, 0 - N
- Resolution No. 7-24-30, Resolution to Authorize the Williamson County Clerk's Office to Write Off the Attached List of Checks - Commissioner Morton 22 - Y, 0 - N
- LATE FILED Resolution No. 7-24-34, Resolution Authorizing Williamson County to Join the State of Tennessee and Other Local Governments in Amending the Tennessee State-Subdivision Opioid Abatement Agreement and Approving the Related Settlement Agreements — Commissioner Webb 22 - Y, 0 - N

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

REDUCE-REUSE-RECYCLE...There is a new way to recycle mattresses in Williamson County and to save them from going into the landfill. Click [here](#) for more details.

- Of particular note is Resolution **No. 7-24-20**, Resolution Amending the Rules, Regulations and Procedures of the Williamson County Board of Commissioners Concerning the **Recording and Archiving of all Budget Committee Meetings** — Commissioners Richards and Morton **22 - Y, 0 - N**

This has been long in coming and improves transparency significantly.

The **Planning Commission** met on Thursday [agenda video](#) Item 25.Site Plan Review for the Fernvale Springs Non-Traditional Wastewater Treatment and Disposal System, on 223.08 acres, located off Caney Fork Road, in the 1st Voting District (5-2024-006) took up most of the meeting. It was very interesting to watch the two sides make their case for and against. It made me think of Proverb 18:17. It takes a good hour to watch this, but I think it is worth it. After all was said, the Plan Review passed unanimously. All of the rest of the items on the agenda also passed without comment from the commission.

[Here](#) is the schedule for next week's meetings.

Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BOMA)

There were seven meetings this past week. Go [here](#) to look at them all. In particular, both the BOMA work session [agenda video](#) and full meeting [agenda video](#) were held on Tuesday. There is a lot going on in these meetings and I am not doing a very good job keeping up with everything, but we need to pay attention to what they are voting on week by week.

The Williamson County GOP

Both parties must hold a caucus in order to choose a **candidate for D10 County Commissioner**. WCGOP will be meeting on Monday the 22nd at 6:30 pm to finalize details of the **Republican caucus**. The public is welcome. Here are the details:

Monday, July 22nd

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Brentwood Driver Training

4149 Mallory Ln

Franklin, TN 37067

[View Location](#)

School Board and D 65 Elections

Early voting started yesterday and runs until the 27th. I am hearing that the Dems are coming out to vote early. We need to get out the vote. The future of our schools and our county at stake. We have an unprecedented opportunity to change the composition of the school board and put a strong conservative in the Tennessee House of Representatives.

All of our candidates need people at the polling locations to show support for the conservative values we believe in.

Contact their campaigns and volunteer to help in the final push towards August 1. Let's not leave anything on the field. The importance of the next two weeks cannot be overstated.



We need to be out there too.

School board election

All six republican candidates could use some help.

The election is on August 1st. and early voting runs from July 12-27. We need folks who are willing to do the following:

Knock on doors for the candidates. Face to face, person to person is very powerful. It lets people know that the election is important and why. It also allows the homeowner to ask questions and get clarification on the issues. As we get schedules from the candidates, we will be sending out a **signup genius for each candidate.**

Put up yard signs. First, you can put a yard sign at your home (if you live in an odd district). Secondly, we may have a need for a few of us to put out signs for some of the candidates and finally, you can encourage friends and neighbors who live in an odd district to take a sign.

Hold signs at voting places. During early voting and on election day, we need people to hold signs at voting locations. It may be hard to believe, but many people who come to vote don't know much about any of the candidates. At the last election, I was holding a sign for a candidate and several people stopped to ask about her and some of them were very favorable after talking with us.

Attend and encourage others to attend any event put on by the candidate(s). Meet and greets, campaign kickoffs, debates and forums are great places for potential voters to size up the candidates. The more we get people out to see our candidates the better.

Talk to people at your church, service organization, Bible study, bridge club etc. We all need to be talking about the candidates and recruiting everyone we know to get informed and get involved. This is a group effort, and we all need to pitch in to ensure that our candidates become school board members and not also rans.

Write them a check. Campaigns aren't free. Flyers, yard signs, text messages, videos all cost money.

Here are the candidates:

District 1

Republican Tony Bostic. [website](#)

District 3

Republican Dr. Dennis Driggers [website](#)

District 5

Republican Dr. Margie Johnson. [website](#)

District 7

Republican Angela Beaton [website](#)

District 9
Republican Claire Reeves [website](#)

District 11
Republican Tonja Hibma [website](#)

District 65 Election

I am supporting Michelle Foreman, and this is her [website](#)

**If not me, who?
If not now, when?**

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Heb. 11:1)