

LOCAL

Election 101: Process for Tennessee Constitutional Amendments Passage

Two (2) Things are needed for Tennessee Constitutional Amendments to pass:

1.) Amendments get more Yes (Y) than No (N) votes.

2.) A majority of all votes cast in governor's race being yes (Y). All votes for governor are added, divided by 2, and then yes votes must add up to 50 percent plus 1 (50+1).

3.) You must vote in the Governor's race in order for your vote to count on the Constitutional Amendments.

Courtesy of & Submitted by: Unity Group of Chattanooga /Eric Atkins
<https://sos.tn.gov/amendments>

2022 Proposed Constitutional Amendments

Four proposed amendments will appear on the November 8, 2022 ballot directly after the candidates for governor. For information on amendments being considered for the 2026 ballot, click here.

Proposed Constitutional amendments are presented as yes or no questions. A yes vote is a vote to amend the Constitution and adopt the proposed language in the amendment. A no vote is a vote not to amend the Constitution and keep the current language in the Constitution unchanged.

Two things must happen for an amend-

ment to pass and become part of the Constitution. The first is the amendment must get more yes votes than no votes. The second is that the number of yes votes must be a majority of the total votes in the gubernatorial election. This longstanding process Tennessee uses to determine the result for proposed Constitutional amendments was confirmed by a court decision following the 2014 general election.

To determine the number of votes needed to adopt a proposed Constitutional amendment, votes for all candidates for governor are added together and then divided by two. If there are more yes votes than

no votes on the proposed amendment and the number of yes votes exceeds 50%+1 of the total votes for governor, the amendment passes and becomes part of the Constitution. The Constitutional amendment fails if the number of yes votes does not meet or exceed the threshold, or if there are more no votes than yes votes.

The current language of the Tennessee Constitution can be found in the online edition of the Tennessee Blue Book. The Attorney General has provided summaries for each amendment to be placed on the ballot. For questions, please call 1-877-850-4959.

CHATTANOOGA CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS WESTSIDE COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION PLAN

The Chattanooga City Council on Tuesday night adopted the Westside Evolves Plan, which provides a 10-year strategy for change in the city's oldest public housing community. The plan was developed over a two-year period with more than 82 percent of the area's 4,500 residents participating in the process.

"Thanks to deep collaboration between the community, the Chattanooga Housing Authority, the City, and other stakeholders, we now have an accountable and transparent plan to revitalize our beloved Westside, opening up opportunity and quality affordable housing that will uplift the community for years to come," said Councilwoman Raquetta Dotley, whose district includes the Westside neighborhood.

In further support of the plan, City Council also voted to approve an interlocal agreement that will allow the City to provide \$1 million from its affordable housing fund to support the renovation of the historic James A. Henry school. The school will serve as the Westside's new neighborhood hub, anchored by a 100-seat Head Start facility. The funding is in addition to the \$2 million in federal American Rescue Plan funds the City already invested in the renovation, for a total commitment of \$3 million.

"Chattanooga's Westside is one of our most historic neighborhoods, home to over five generations of our residents," said

Chattanooga Mayor Tim Kelly. "The Westside Evolves plan will ensure this critical part of our city is revitalized in a way that will support the growth and prosperity of future generations, all without displacing the existing community. This is exactly the kind of thoughtful planning we need to further our vision for One Chattanooga, and I'm grateful to City Council for supporting this transformative initiative for our city."

Westside Evolves is a collaborative neighborhood planning initiative among the Chattanooga Design Studio, the Chattanooga Housing Authority (CHA) and the City of Chattanooga. In addition to the funding provided by the City, U.S. Rep. Chuck Fleischmann secured a \$3 million federal appropriation for the project, and Hamilton County invested an additional \$2 million in American Rescue Plan funds. The money will be used to leverage additional dollars to fully fund the project, at an estimated total cost of \$1 billion over the next 10 years.

Adoption of the plan launches an official partnership between the City and CHA, in which both will leverage the plan as the official strategy for revitalizing the historic neighborhood. With a one-for-one replacement of housing for the 629 families living in the Westside, the plan includes replacement, work force, and market rate housing during each phase of development.

The plan encompasses the area known as the Westside District, which is bordered

by Martin Luther King Boulevard, Riverfront Parkway, Main Street and I-27. While residents of College Hill Courts may be relocated during future construction, all lease compliant residents will have the right to return to a new unit in the Westside neighborhood. CHA residents will continue to pay 30 percent of their adjusted income towards rent at any redeveloped property.

CHA executive director Betsy McCright said, "Few planning projects begin in the midst of a pandemic and even fewer are successful. Our residents wanted a voice in the future of their community and their diligence is coming to fruition with adoption of the plan by the City of Chattanooga."

Chattanooga Design Center executive director Eric Meyers noted, "Chattanooga Design Studio is grateful for the City Council's support of the efforts of the residents, artists, institutions and planning partners who all worked together to craft a shared vision for the future of the Westside."

Each phase of the project will seek to employ local residents in construction jobs to support the development. Through an agreement with the AGC of East Tennessee, Westside students attending the Howard School have a unique opportunity to obtain professional training through the AGC's Construction Career Academy. As they graduate, the students will be able to obtain jobs to work on the construction projects within the Westside, helping end genera-



Chattanooga City Councilwoman Raquetta Dotley represents District 7, which includes the Westside neighborhood.

tional poverty in the area.

The Chattanooga Design Studio, www.chattanoogastudio.com, is an independent, non-profit community resource that promotes excellence in urban design through education, facilitation and collaboration.

The Chattanooga Housing Authority, chartered in 1938, is a public body that offers affordable housing opportunities through its Low Income Public Housing Program in Chattanooga and the Housing Choice Voucher Program throughout Hamilton County. To learn more about the CHA, visit www.chahousing.org.

Open Call for Artists for EPB 10th Street Mural

EPB and our partners invite local artists to submit proposals for the third side of our EPB community mural project along 10th Street. This year's central theme is "Traditions on MLK" and highlights family traditions throughout the years in Downtown Chattanooga's Martin Luther King Boulevard area. The open call begins November 1, 2022 and ends January 10, 2023.

The works of art featured in last year's murals was produced entirely by local women and minority artists, half of which were first time muralists. This project serves as a platform for local artists to build their skills, launch their careers and share their voice with the community.

"We at EPB know that this community is filled with extraordinary talent and important stories that should be told," said Elizabeth Hammit, EPB director of Environmental Stewardship and Residential Energy Solutions. "We are honored to

provide an opportunity to lift those voices and serve as a steward of artistic expression."

The murals will be painted on panels along the third side of the EPB substation fence on 10th Street. This year the wall facing the alley behind Memo's Grill will be split in up to 11 sections and completed.

"I'm so happy to see this wonderful mural project continuing and I'm thrilled that ArtsBuild continues to be a partner," said James McKissic, president of ArtsBuild. "It's a joy to welcome so many new murals to the MLK Neighborhood. And the EPB 10th Street Mural Project has been a great way for ArtsBuild to connect with new visual artists to tell them about our grants and programs."

Artists must be 18 or older and live or work in the EPB service territory. They are asked to submit at least five images, specifically including samples such as

painting, drawing, printmaking or graffiti art. Past mural experience is not required. Artists are also asked to write a vision statement and create an initial visual sketch of their concept that aligns with the theme.

An outside group of community stakeholders will select the muralists based on their submission's artistic value, clarity of thought, community reflection and relevance to the theme. Artists will be notified of their selection and first-time muralists will receive support from ArtsBuild if needed. They will also be awarded a supply budget as well as a service fee for their work. For more information about the call for submissions that details the proposal and compensation specifics, contact Vanessa Willis with EPB at willisvm@epb.net.

There will be a virtual project information meeting on December 5, 2022, from 12-1 p.m. Contact Vanessa Willis for

more information. Meeting attendance is optional, but artists can learn more about the project and ask any questions in this public forum.

This is the third year of a four-year project. EPB will take submissions to create a public mural on the fourth and final side of the substation wall in late 2023.

EPB engages several community and nonprofit organizations throughout the process from raising awareness about the open call for artists to serving on the judges' panel: ArtsBuild, Urban League of Greater Chattanooga, Bessie Smith Cultural Center, City of Chattanooga-Public Art Chattanooga, Association for the Visual Arts, Hunter Museum of American Art, Stove Works, River City Company, Chatt Foundation (formerly the Community Kitchen), Memos, and numerous MLK district business and stakeholders.

Hamilton County Schools Announces Updates to Choose Hamilton: School Choice

Chattanooga, Tenn. -- Hamilton County Schools (HCS) is increasing the number of school choice options for the 2023-'24 school year!

For the '23-'24 school year, HCS is offering choice seats at 80+ school options to students in grades Kindergarten through 12th grade across Hamilton County.

Choices include Early College/Career Programs, Future Ready Institutes, Magnet Schools, Charter Schools, and Open Enrollment Schools. Continuing again for the second year, every school with open seats will be an Open Enrollment Choice School for the 2023-2024 school year! Increasing the number of choice schools and programs provides students with a diverse range of options outside of their

neighborhood zoned school. Please click here to review 2023-'24

school choice options and see available seats at each school and grade level.

Every student has different interests, hopes, and dreams and deserves access to opportunities that open doors to exciting pathways for their future. Hamilton County Schools is excited to provide educational opportunities in local communities and beyond neighborhood zoned schools to ignite the passion for learning in each child.

Choose Hamilton: Choice Lottery applications will be open from November 14, 2022 - January 31, 2023. The application and admissions timeline is uniform for all choice options to make the process easy for families. Schools with

more applicants than space available will participate in a lottery to select students for available seats. Families are asked to complete a single application for all choice options, which is available in both English and Spanish. Applicants may apply to up to five schools or programs in the application and are not required to apply for more than one choice option. If you are already in a Choice School, you do not need to apply again unless you are making the jump from an elementary to a middle school or a middle school to a high school (K-12 & 6-12 buildings excluded).

Applications to Battle Academy (Kindergarten), CSAS (Kindergarten), CSLA (Kindergarten), Normal Park (Kindergarten and 6th grade), and STEM School (9th grade) will use a balanced

lottery model based on the applicant's school board district. These schools will fill available seats based on the projected student percentage per school board district in Hamilton County. For these schools, your lottery results will reflect a seated or waitlist number for your school board list; you will be seated in the first available seat for your school board district.

Over the next few months, Hamilton County Schools will provide several opportunities for families to learn more about school options. HCS will hold a Choose Hamilton: School Choice Fair at the Convention Center on January 10, 2023, to provide families with the chance to interact with and ask questions of representatives from every HCS school.

Carter: from front

In his time at the University, he taught, conducted choirs, arranged music and mentored and recruited students.

"UTC is a better place because of the impact he's made in the lives of hundreds of students," said Stacy Lightfoot, vice chancellor for diversity and engagement at UTC. "He's so humble and considers himself a teacher first. While he composes and writes music, students have always been his priority."

Carter grew up in Chattanooga and graduated from The Howard School in 1960. After joining the UTC Department of Music, he was head of the department from 1989 until 1995, becoming the first African American to hold the position—which Lightfoot called a "significant and historical" role.

Throughout his career, Carter has been an advocate for the musical traditions of African American heritage. He is most



At the 2022 Juneteenth event on Chamberlain Field, Ruben Studdard (left) and Dr. Roland Carter hold the sign that will be installed during a ceremony Friday, Nov. 4, on Vine Street next to the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Fine Arts Center.

celebrated for his arrangements of "Lift Every Voice and Sing" and the spiritual "In Bright Mansions Above," as well as for his arrangement of the Langston Hughes's poem "Hold Fast to Dreams."

In December 2021, Carter donated 50 years of sheet music, newspaper clippings, national and international awards, recordings and other items to the UTC Library's Special Collections.

"My thinking in donating them to the library was to make sure that they are still accessible, that they will be placed where people can come and research or look up music or study the scores, so they don't get lost," he said at the time.

Carter's influence spreads far beyond UTC, Lightfoot said.

"The world is a better place for his passion and gifts," she said.

While acknowledging his decades of accomplishments, awards and worldwide recognition, Carter insisted he's just another link in a long chain.

"I understand my music skills and my talents and what I've done and all that, but there are people who, again, have done much more than I have. There are people whose shoulders I stand on," he said.

"Maybe it's just false modesty, though," he added with a laugh.