

## Candidates on infrastructure

Continued from page 8A

### DEMOCRATS

#### Karl Dean

Karl knows that the right investments in infrastructure are key to economic growth. Access to roads, water lines, broadband service and other infrastructure are essential for businesses looking to grow and create jobs.

During his time as Mayor of Nashville, Karl made improving the city's infrastructure a priority, working with the Metro Council to invest \$2.3 billion in capital projects in all parts of Davidson County. He also worked with the Metro Council to create a funding stream for new water, sewer and storm water infrastructure projects. When Karl first took office, the city's water department had essentially no bonding capacity. Now, Nashville has the water infrastructure it needs to support years of economic growth.

As governor, Karl will bring the same commitment to finding pragmatic solutions to our communities' problems. He will work with the Tennessee General Assembly and our state's leaders in Washington D.C. to ensure all available state and federal resources are put toward our state's most pressing infrastructure needs



IMPROVE Act that was passed in the legislature last year will begin to remedy some of the backlog of projects, and our state has made a real effort to improve our crumbling bridges. The unique makeup of our state in the urban-suburban-rural mix requires different solutions in each type of locale. Local governments must maintain their ability to make decisions in concert with their citizens for the best interests of their communities.

While infrastructure is usually thought of as roads and bridges, we must make sure that our water systems are also brought up to standard. No one really thinks of pipes beneath our roads and buildings until they burst. We must make those investments not only for their physical integrity but also for their health aspects—making sure that lead and other contaminants are not entering our schools, businesses and homes. New materials and technologies will allow for more durable and streamlined infrastructure and we must not push off these projects. Doing nothing puts our communities and our citizens in danger—much like the danger our legislature put Tennessee in by not expanding Medicaid. The refusal of these funds has made Tennessee the per capita leader in hospital closures. Expanding Medicaid would give life to these hospitals, making our communities safer, healthier and more economically viable.



### U.S. SENATE CANDIDATES

#### REPUBLICAN

#### Marsha Blackburn

Tennessee's economy is directly linked to our transportation and infrastructure system, and to maintain our economic competi-

tiveness, we must think strategically about improving our connectivity.

While traditionally infrastructure refers to our highway system, broadband is an increasingly important component of connectivity. Internet access is critical to our 21st century economy. Lack of reliable internet access is not just an inconvenience; it holds Tennesseans back. Without access to reliable internet, children are unable to complete their homework assignments and our small businesses are unable to compete on a larger scale. As the Chair of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee, making broadband accessible is a top priority for me, and I am working with members of both parties to advance legislation to this end. One such piece of legislation would require new federal highway projects to lay broadband infrastructure at the same time, conserving tax dollars while constructing critical infrastructure.



Last month, President Trump unveiled his transportation and infrastructure initiative to improve our nation's economy. I agree with the President that our current system of federal funding is inefficient, and I know simply throwing more money at the problem will not solve it. We must restructure the way federal highway projects are selected, maintained, and regulated. With the President's leadership, we will be more judicious in spending federal tax dollars, streamline the permitting process, and encourage public-private partnerships. I will work with President Trump every step of the way to advocate for Tennessee's roadways.

I am committed to growing our economy and making life easier for Tennessee families. In the U.S. Senate, I will work to increase Tennesseans' access to broadband and work with the President to restructure the federal government's infrastructure program.

### DEMOCRATS

#### Philip Bredesen

Every doctor learns the rule—reflected in the Hippocratic Oath—to “first of all do no harm.” When you're faced with a decision, it may be better to take the conservative path, rather than risk causing more harm through your intervention.

This is too good a rule to just leave to physicians. There are plenty of other areas where it applies as well. One of these is the much-discussed area of public infrastructure, and we have a good example right here in Tennessee.

In his recent budget, President Trump proposed selling off a part of the Tennessee Valley Authority, TVA. His idea was to sell off the transmission assets—the power lines and the substations—that Washington would then use for other expenses. This is not entirely new with Trump, President Obama proposed something similar at one point.

But we Tennesseans have a lot of common sense and know that there is no such thing as a free lunch. Tennessee electric ratepayers have been paying to build this electrical infrastructure for three-quarters of a century. We've paid for it and it works well. When I worked as Governor recruiting jobs, one of our competitive advantages was the availability of efficient, reliable power here in Tennessee, thanks to TVA.

If politicians sell parts of TVA to a private corporation, here's what happens: those politicians will take the proceeds and spend it somewhere quickly. But any private purchaser is going to have to get its investment back, plus interest and a profit. There's only one place that is going to come from—TVA's electrical customers. That is, you and me. We have to start back at the beginning, buying that infrastructure a second time, and will be doing so in our electric bills for decades to come. Politicians play, electrical customers pay.



Good luck, Mary!

Miss America's Outstanding Teen 2018  
MISS TENNESSEE

The Southern Standard joins the community in cheering for Mary, daughter of Dale and Gloria Humphrey, as she represents Tennessee at Miss America's Outstanding Teen event in Orlando, Fla. July 24-28.

**HOSPITALS IN TENNESSEE**

EMPLOY ROUGHLY 100,000 FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

PROVIDE \$6 BILLION IN INCOME REVENUE TO THE STATE

TOUCH COUNTLESS LIVES

THA  
TENNESSEE HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

Building a Healthier State, One Community at a Time.