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GOP candidates contend for Trump supporters' votes



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NASHVILLE (AP) — Loyalty to President Donald Trump tops the Republican checklist in the governor's race in Tennessee, right up there with championing gun rights and low taxes and decrying abortion.

In TV ads and debates, the four leading GOP candidates are lauding Trump and his wall-building immigration crackdown while blasting each other as insufficiently supportive of the president.

It's been a pricey message: The four have added \$33 million in combined personal wealth to their campaigns and spent about that much, setting records and more than doubling what they've raised through donations.

And their strategy continues ahead of the Aug. 2 primary despite scandals swirling around the White House, because even though

Trump's approval ratings are low overall, he remains highly popular among Republican voters in national polls.

Republican Gov. Bill Haslam warned the GOP candidates in a letter, saying: "No offense intended, but a lot of what was talked about during the campaign will not be the issues that end up on your desk as governor."

The biggest spenders say they're simply addressing voter concerns.

"One of the first questions people will ask me is, 'What is your position on supporting the president? What is your position on immigration?'" said Randy Boyd, a former state economic development commissioner. "Once we can answer that for them, then we can talk to them about education, about jobs, about helping our rural communities, about getting broadband, about health-care."

reluctance to acknowledge Russian interference in his election. Republican leaders in Congress distanced themselves from Trump's invitation for Putin to visit Washington, saying he's not welcome on Capitol Hill.

But Black and her rivals are showing no hint of disloyalty.

The "left wing just wants to find something to jump all over our president," Black told Fox Business Network after sitting next to Trump as he tried to clarify his comments on Russian interference. "He was strong when he was there in Europe and also with Putin and I'm very proud of him and his strength."

Former Nashville Mayor Karl Dean, who has outspen former House Minority Leader Craig Fitzhugh on the Democratic side, said the governor's race "is not a referendum on President Trump."

U.S. Rep. Diane Black agreed, pointing to TV ads promoting her work on Trump's tax law and her proximity to the president.

"We'll have plenty of time after we get out of this primary to talk again more about what we're going to do for the state of Tennessee, when I'm talking about things and opposing myself with a Democrat candidate," she said.

In other ads, Boyd and Bill Lee cast themselves as Trump-style businessmen, while House Speaker Beth Harwell, the field's only medical marijuana supporter, replays Trump's 2015 comments that "medical should happen."

A growing number of Republicans have criticized Trump for his appearance with Russian President Vladimir Putin and his

"Clearly, on the Republican side, you see that in the ads, and the candidates must have made a determination that they think appealing or tying themselves to President Trump is a positive thing. But I think about what Gov. Haslam said ... he said those really aren't the issues that a governor deals with here," Dean said.

Polls suggest a close 3-way race between Black, Boyd and Lee, with Harwell not out of it. Lee's campaign grew more competitive as he talked about his farm, his business and his relationship with Jesus Christ, and now Black and Boyd are hitting at him.

"I figured I'd better tell you why," a Lee ad says. "We're winning, and they're scared."

AS YOU TAKE THE TIME TO GO VOTE, I WOULD LIKE FOR YOU TO CONSIDER ME AND SOME OF MY BASIC PRINCIPLES I LIVE BY. MY BELIEF IS TO BE FAIR AND HONEST. THE OLD SAYING APPLIES TO TREAT PEOPLE THE WAY YOU WOULD WANT TO BE TREATED. SO MANY TIMES, PUBLIC SERVANTS OR POLITICIANS GET ELECTED AND THEY THINK THEY OWN THE OFFICE, FORGETTING ABOUT YOU THE HARD-WORKING TAXPAYER WHO ELECTED THEM. IN 16 YEARS AS A COUNTY COMMISSIONER, I HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN WHO MY BOSS IS; IT IS YOU, THE WARREN COUNTY TAXPAYERS. I TREAT YOUR TAX DOLLARS WISELY AND I KNOW WE MUST INVEST IN WARREN COUNTY TO MAKE IT GROW FOR THE FUTURE. NOBODY KNOWS THAT BETTER THAN A FARMER, LIKE ME, WHO INVEST THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN CROPS HOPING FOR A BOUNTIFUL HARVEST. OUR COUNTY IS THE SAME WAY. JUST LOOK AT THE INVESTMENT IN THE LAND FOR OUR NEW NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY THAT WAS MADE IN 2011, BUT WILL SOON PAY OFF WITH A NEW FACILITY. WE MUST DO MORE INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE. I COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND THAT!

HERE ARE JUST A FEW THINGS THAT YOUR COUNTY COMMISSION HAS ACCOMPLISHED IN THE LAST 16 YEARS:

- **WE HAVE INVESTED 33 MILLION DOLLARS IN YOUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE BY BUILDINGS OR RENOVATING SCHOOL BUILDINGS SO OUR TEACHERS WILL HAVE A BETTER ENVIRONMENT TO TEACH AND STUDENTS TO LEARN IN.**
- **ALSO THE COUNTY FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS HAS INCREASED SINCE 2015-2016 BUDGET YEAR \$695,888.00 YEARLY FOR A TOTAL OF \$2,087,664.00, JUST IN THE LAST 3 YEARS!**

AS COUNTY EXECUTIVE, I WILL HAVE AN OPEN-DOOR POLICY TO LISTEN TO ANY IDEAS OR IMPROVEMENTS THAT CAN BE DONE TO BENEFIT OUR CITY OR COUNTY. WITH MY BASIC PRINCIPLES AND BUDGETING KNOWLEDGE WE CAN MAKE WARREN COUNTY GROW! YOUR VOTE AND SUPORT WILL BE APPRECIATED.

THANKS

Let's Make Warren County Grow!

Terry L. Bell



VOTE TERRY BELL COUNTY EXECUTIVE

PAID FOR BY TERRY BELL, CANDIDATE

VETERANS CORNER
Southern Standard

AMERICAN LEGION POST 173
Our MONTHLY MEETINGS are held the first Thursday of each month at Billy's Restaurant (2822 Nashville Highway in McMinnville). Members will meet at 5:00 pm for dinner with the meeting to follow at 6:00 pm. All members are encouraged to attend. Prospective members are also welcome to attend. Everyone is invited to visit our Facebook page @post173 to stay up to date on all American Legion activities.
New Post address is: American Legion Post 173, P.O. Box 173, McMinnville, TN 37111. The Ladies Auxiliary meets at the same time.

THE BOBBY RAY DETACHMENT OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
Our MONTHLY MEETINGS are held the first Thursday of each month at the Warren County Administrative Building (201 Locust Street) in the Magnolia Room. Doors open at 1800 and the meeting starts at 1830. All honorable discharged Marines, Navy FMF Corpsman and Navy Chaplains who served with the marines are invited to attend. For more information call 931-934-5619.

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER (POST 173)
Our MONTHLY MEETINGS are held the third Saturday each month at Gondola Restaurant (305 Mullican St. in McMinnville). Members will meet at 9:00am for breakfast and the meeting will follow at 10:00am. We will ride after the meeting. We are looking for new members. Everyone is invited to visit our Facebook page @ American Legion Riders Chapter Post 173 McMinnville. For information please contact Director John A. Davis at American Legion Rider Chapter Post 173, PO Box 173, McMinnville, TN 37111.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, ROYCE DAVENPORT CHAPTER 1112
Monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at Billy's restaurant (2822 Nashville Hwy. in McMinnville). Members will meet at 5:00 p.m. for dinner, with meeting starting at 6:00 p.m. All members are encouraged to attend. Prospective members will need to bring copy of DD Form 214 to verify service and join. Everyone is invited to visit our Facebook page @ VVA1112 to stay up to date on all VVA and AVVA activities.

Associate Vietnam Veterans of America, Royce Davenport Chapter 1112
Meeting is the same time and place as the VVA (see above). Anyone can be a member. There is no requirement to be related to a Veteran in anyway, however Veterans can also join. Please come and join our organization. Royce Davenport Chapter 1112 will again be collecting non-perishable items for the Warren County Emergency Food Bank during the Main Street Live Concert Series on Friday nights starting June 9, 2017 and continuing through the series. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 5064
Our MONTHLY MEETINGS are typically held on the third Thursday of each month at the VFW Post Home (3340 Sparta Highway) at 7:00 pm. Prospective members are encouraged to attend. Call 931-668-8392 for more information. The VFW Auxiliary meets at the same time.



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