

Newly Elected Members of the 110th General Assembly

Tennessee State Senate



Jon Lundberg (R-Bristol)—Representing the 4th Senate District will be former state Representative Jon Lundberg, a Captain in the U.S. Navy Reserve and President of a media and public relations firm. Lundberg replaces retiring Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey in representing this district. He was first elected to the House of Representatives in 2006, and previously served as Chairman of the House Civil Justice Committee. He is a graduate of the University of Southern Colorado (now Colorado State University-Pueblo).

Tennessee State House of Representatives



John Crawford (R-Kingsport)

John Crawford will replace outgoing Rep. Lundberg for House District 1 which is part of Sullivan County. Crawford currently serves as a Sullivan County Commissioner; a post he has served in from 2002-2006 and since 2010. He is Captain of the Kingsport Police Reserve Department and owns a plaque, trophy, and custom engraving business. He attended Draughons Junior College and East Tennessee State University where he studied business administration and psychology.



Rick Staples (D-Knoxville)— Knoxville native Rick Staples will replace former Rep. Joe Armstrong in representing Tennessee's 15th House District located in Knox County. Staples, a community organizer, currently serves as Vice President of 100 Black Men of Greater Knoxville. He attended the University of Tennessee at Knoxville where he studied Religious Studies and Sociology and now works for a real estate and development company. He had no republican challenger for the General Election.



Tim Rudd (R-Murfreesboro)

Tim Rudd will represent House District 64, which was vacated voluntarily by Rep. Rick Womick. District 34 is located in Rutherford County and includes portions of Smyrna and Murfreesboro. Rudd, a long-time resident of Rutherford County, is an affiliate broker with Coldwell Banker in Murfreesboro. He has been very active in the Rutherford County Republican Party, serving on the State Executive Committee, and as campaign manager for several current and former legislators. He currently holds a seat on the Correctional Workhouse Board and the Equalization Board.



Paul Sherrell (R-Sparta)

Paul Sherrell will represent House District 43 after defeating Democrat incumbent Kevin Dunlap. District 43 spans portions of Warren, White, and Grundy Counties. Sherrell and wife, Miranda, live in Sparta where he was born and raised. A former police officer with ten years of experience, Sherrell also has been a small business owner and real estate broker in White County.



Sam Whitson (R-Franklin)

Sam Whitson will replace expelled former legislator Jeremy Durham. District 65 is located in the southwestern portions of Williamson County and includes the City of Fairview and parts of Franklin. Whitson, a native of Nashville, now lives in Franklin after retiring from the military. A decorated veteran, Whitson retired from the Army as a Colonel having served in multiple combat theaters throughout Europe and the Middle East. Upon retirement, he worked as a consultant for a defense contractor and also spent considerable time as the managing supervisor over the administrative and recruiting staff at many of the nation's ROTC programs. Whitson is married to his wife of 42 years, Pam, and has children and grandchildren that still live in the area. His educational background includes a Bachelor of Science degree from Middle Tennessee State University, a Master's degree from the University of Oklahoma, as well as additional studies at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College.



Michael Curcio (R-Dickson)

Michael Curcio will replace retiring Democrat David Shepard to represent House District 69, which covers Hickman County and parts of Maury and Dickson Counties. Curcio's victory represents a picked up seat for the Republicans, moving the GOP supermajority to 74 Republicans in the House of Representatives. Curcio was born and raised in Dickson County where continues to reside with his wife, Mary Katherine, and their three children. Curcio is a business entrepreneur and Mary Katherine is a school teacher in Dickson County schools.



Rick Tillis (R-Lewisburg)

Rick Tillis will replace Republican Billy Spivey, who did not run for re-election, to represent House District 92 (Marshall and parts of Franklin, Lincoln, and Marion Counties). Tillis spent several years in the Fire Service for Columbia and Franklin and is now a small business owner in Marshall County with his wife, Terry.



Ron Gant (R-Rossville)

Ron Gant will replace Rep. Jamie Jenkins, an appointed interim representative who served out the remaining term for former legislator Leigh Wilburn. Gant will represent House District 94, which includes Fayette, McNairy and part of Hardeman Counties. Gant, a Fayette County native, is currently the President of the Insurance Associates of Tennessee, Inc. He resides in the Rossville-area with his wife Karen and their two children. Gant is a member of the 2016 graduating class of the UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program.



Mark Lovell (R-Memphis)

Mark Lovell defeated incumbent Rep. Curry Todd during the 2016 primary election and faced no subsequent opponent during the general election. Lovell will represent House District 95, part of Shelby County. A Memphis-area native, Lovell continues to live and work in the area with his wife, Linda, and their three children. Lovell owns several businesses in the Memphis area including the Stonebridge Golf Course, Delta Fair & Music Festival, and a real estate development company.



Dwayne Thompson (D-Cordova)

Dwayne Thompson defeated incumbent Republican Rep. Steve McManus. Thompson will represent House District 96, located in Shelby County. Thompson's victory over McManus represents the only new seat for the Democrats going into the 2017 legislative session. Thompson, a native of Memphis and graduate of the University of Memphis, served for six years in the U.S. Army Reserves and has, for the past thirty years, worked as a professional human resources manager. He continues to live in Cordova with his wife, Jennifer, and they have two adult children. As a cancer survivor, Thompson has volunteered extensively as a counselor to other cancer patients and volunteer for the MS Society and Open Arms. He has previously served as the Shelby County Executive Committee representative to the Tennessee Democratic Party.