



February 25, 2022

Candidates Enter Race for 5th Congressional Seat

Beth Harwell, former state Speaker of the House and former gubernatorial candidate, has joined the race for the 5th Congressional district Republican primary. Harwell, who left her House seat in 2018 to run for governor, was the first female speaker in the history of the Tennessee General Assembly.

Other candidates include Robby Starbuck, a music video producer endorsed by U.S. Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and U.S. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.); Morgan Ortagus, a former spokeswoman for the US State Department endorsed by former President Donald Trump; and Kurt Winstead, an attorney and retired general from the Tennessee National Guard.

TISA Education Funding Reform

Governor Bill Lee and Education Commissioner Penny Schwinn introduced legislation this week to begin the process of reforming Tennessee's education funding formula. The Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement formula (TISA) will replace the long-standing and outdated Basic Education Program (BEP).

TISA comes from a months-long engagement process with education stakeholders and members of the public. The new plan shifts to a student-based funding formula, rather than a resource-based formula. The state will provide \$6.3 billion and local governments would contribute \$2.5 billion beginning in 2024.

For more information about the plan, [click here](#).

Legislative Updates

Several House subcommittees and Senate committees are beginning to generate their final calendars for this legislative session, therefore many committees are requiring that bills be put on notice no later than next week. Please let the Harris Frazier team know if you have any questions.