



2024

TN State House

District 65

Republican

Candidate Survey

Michelle Foreman



1. Why are you running for TN State House District 65?

I'm running because District 65 deserves a true conservative representing us in Nashville. I will fight for our values in the Tennessee House—keeping our taxes low, a quality education for every child, parental rights, protecting families and the unborn, and our 2nd Amendment rights.

2. What have you found to be the most pressing issue for voters in TN State House District 65?

As I'm talking to voters, concern about illegal immigration continues to be an issue. Because of the Biden Administration's complete mishandling of the border, every state is a border state, and every town is a border town. States must step up, work with local law enforcement and take action to stop illegal immigration since the federal government refuses to take responsibility for it.

3. If elected, what will be the first bill that you would like to bring forward for legislation?

I would like to bring a bill to end federal funding of education in the state of Tennessee.

4. The RNC recently issued a resolution on Election Integrity which encourages the use of secure, hand-marked paper ballots.

a. Where do you stand on this resolution?

I support this resolution. While serving on the TNGOP State Executive Committee I was elected to serve as the chair of the Permanent Elections subcommittee. I worked very hard with my team to pass resolutions and work with the legislature to pass election integrity laws. Many passed but others, including hand marked paper ballots. I am committed to bring back hand marked paper ballots for all Tennessee elections.

b. If you support the resolution and are elected, how will you ensure that it is enacted?

I will bring bills and always support proposed legislation that works to secure our elections through paper ballots.

c. If you do not support the resolution, why not? n/a

d. Would you advocate for appointing election commissioners who support this resolution? Yes

5. The state of Tennessee has strong laws concerning the life of the unborn. If elected, will you uphold the restrictions that are currently in place?

Yes. I am 100% pro-life and believe that women and families should be supported, and life clearly begins at conception.

6. Would you support additional legislation to demagnetize Tennessee for illegals? If so, what would that legislation look like?

Yes. As I mentioned before, illegal immigration is one of the issues that is top of mind for Williamson County voters, and I will support any measure that serves to demagnetize Tennessee. I would support any legislation that bans sanctuary cities, increases penalties for illegal aliens who are arrested for other crimes, or mandates that law enforcement work with ICE or other federal agencies to deport illegal aliens (like the new law scheduled to take effect July 1, 2024).

7. Williamson County is over \$1.2 billion in debt. Would you be willing to pass legislation that mandates feasibility studies prior to zoning changes of more than 5 acres? These studies might include -- but are not limited to -- studies on infrastructure, environmental impact, imminent domain, gentrification, and taxes.

Yes. The county government can only exercise power that is given to it by the state, and the state can redefine the role and authority of local government as it deems appropriate. Due to the explosive growth in Williamson County and the incredible debt burden amassed, it would seem that the state now has an obligation to step in and begin to intervene.

8. What is your position on mass transportation?

I know traffic is a growing concern, but we need to ensure the Tennessee Department of Transportation is funded properly to keep up with the needs of our communities experiencing explosive growth, not hand our tax dollars to failed and costly concepts of mass transit.

9. What are parental rights? If your interpretation of these rights were challenged, how would you defend them? More specifically, what is the source of these rights, or from where are they derived?

Parental rights refers to many things, and I am absolutely supportive of them. Parents should be permitted to raise their children as they see fit—whether that is sending them to the school of their choice, disclosure of and control over school issues, books they are exposed to in school and other activities, and being informed of their activity while in the care of others.

Parents know their children best, and the government may not interfere as long as those children are safe and healthy under their parents' care. When parental rights are challenged, legislators need to be ready to intervene swiftly, knowledgeably, and confidently within the bounds of the law, and defend parental rights accordingly.

According to one of our founding documents, the Declaration of Independence, we are endowed by our Creator (God) with certain unalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Government is to secure these rights, and its power to secure these rights comes from the consenting people. I fully believe and support this position and believe it is my obligation to defend it.

10. Is it good for government to appropriate taxpayer dollars to incentivize corporations to move here?

I don't believe it is. Tennessee is a low-tax, no income tax state and can attract businesses based on that and our business-friendly environment. Giving large sums of taxpayer dollars to private companies, especially without accountability, is not fair to taxpayers.

11. Regarding the 2nd Amendment to the US Constitution:

a. What does "shall not infringe " mean to you?

It means the 2nd Amendment is clear: Americans have the individual right to own and carry firearms for lawful purposes and the government may not interfere with that right.

b. Since the Covenant shooting there has been a lot of discussion about red flag laws and ERPO. At what point do these types of legislation infringe on 2nd Amendment rights?

The shooting at The Covenant School was a tragedy, and as a mother and citizen, my heart goes out to the affected families and community. Red Flag Laws/ERPO's (extreme risk protective orders) empower family members and law enforcement to temporarily restrict gun access for individuals with an elevated risk of harming themselves or others. While we don't want dangerous people to have access to firearms, we cannot guarantee that these measures will not infringe on someone's constitutional rights. We cannot propose/pass legislation that can be easily abused and effectively remove firearms from law-abiding citizens. I have not yet seen any legislative language that assuages these concerns and so at this time, I do not support what has been proposed.

12. There is an “ethics and campaign finance reform” bill that seeks to force 501(C)4’s to divulge a list of their donors before an election. In your estimation, is this a legitimate effort to stop “dark money”, or is it an attempt to stifle opposition and suppress previously protected free speech?

501(c)4’s are legal organizations recognized and regulated by the Internal Revenue Service, and must already follow stringent federal requirements to be recognized this way. Donors often give to organizations like this, which are already limited by law with regards to campaign activity, to shield themselves from retaliation by woke employers or being targeted for their beliefs. I believe these efforts stifle opposition and suppress protected speech.

13. Would you support making non-government agencies that receive government funding subject to public records requests? Why or why not?

Yes. When you receive taxpayer dollars, you should be held to a higher standard of both accountability and transparency. Taxpayers should always know where their money is going.

14. Do you believe property taxes should be capped at current levels statewide? Why, or why not?

Yes. The state should cap the property taxes, as we have seen recently, certain local government entities have passed unconscionably high property tax increases, the most recent was during the Covid-19 pandemic, when many citizens were even prohibited from working and could not pay their bills. In order to help address abusive taxation, and as taxpayers already have enough of a tax burden, the state should cap the tax.

15. As a legislator serving on a committee, would you ensure that every bill gets a hearing, whether by bringing it forward or providing a second to a motion to bring the bill forward?

Yes.

16. In the interest of supporting small government, would you support a house rule to reduce the number of bills brought forward in the house from 15 to 10? Why, or why not?

Yes. Bills become laws, and more laws mean more regulation and mandates on Tennesseans. We should do our best to limit the number of new laws each year, and prioritize those things the taxpayers are asking of us. Shorter legislative sessions also save taxpayer money.