



**2024**

**TN State House**

**District 65**

**Republican**

**Candidate Survey**

# Lee Reeves



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

I love where we live and want an authentic, principled conservative who is invested in our community to represent District 65 in the State House.

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

Voters are most concerned about how illegal immigration is affecting Tennessee, our budget, and our safety.

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

State governments cannot do the job of the federal government, but we can help make Tennessee the last choice for those illegally crossing our southern border. Similar to laws recently passed by Oklahoma, Texas, Iowa, and Louisiana, my first bill will create the criminal act of unlawful entry, occurring when a person intentionally enters and remains in Tennessee without obtaining legal authorization to enter the United States. A person convicted under the law would be punished by fine and/or jail time and must leave the state within 72 hours following conviction or release from custody, whichever is later.

**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 agree with the resolution that election integrity is critical and foundational to our system of governance and that elections should be conducted accurately and swiftly. Secure paper ballots, with voters able to verify their votes before tabulation, citizens verified by their photo identification, and auditable vote counts—these are all elements of a well-run and accurate election.

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

Many elements of this resolution have already been implemented by the laws in Tennessee. We have paper ballots marked with an assistive device that voters can check to ensure the votes are accurate before tabulation. As I understand it, the printed paper ballots contain anti-counterfeit watermarks. Mandatory audits were passed into law in 2022, starting in 2024, and codified at TCA Title 2, Chapter 20, as the Tennessee Voter Confidence Act.

I would like feedback from experts and voters on certain resolution issues, such as voting outside one's precinct (but within the county) and early voting with constituents. In the March election, 37% of voters voted outside their precinct, which indicates that many prefer the convenience of doing so and perhaps expanding the number of voters who participate in voting. I believe that early voting is too long, and I would prefer two Saturdays and a work week before the election for early voting.

**c. If you do not support the resolution, why not? N/A**

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

Election commissioners must implement Tennessee law and be staunch supporters of election integrity.

**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?**

Absolutely. Tennessee's laws concerning the life of the unborn are a testament to our state's commitment to protecting our most vulnerable. Every innocent life is precious and deserving of protection, and I will stand firm in defending the sanctity of life from conception to natural death.

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

Absolutely – we need to demagnetize Tennessee for illegal immigrants and be the last state on their list in which to settle. There are several ways to approach this with legislation: (1) see #3 above, which describes my first bill on the criminal act of unlawful entry; (2) lower E-Verify requirements (currently employers of 35 or more employees must use E-Verify); and (3) invalidate, within the state, as Florida recently did, any drivers licenses and permits issued by other states to illegal immigrants.

**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, eminent domain, gentrification, and taxes.**

I believe in the political principle of subsidiarity, which states that the government closest to the people generally governs best. Most conservatives would hold that the items in the above question are city and county issues and should be addressed locally, not by the state.

**8. What is your position on mass transportation?**

Per my answer to #7 above, this is partly a local issue. For example, cities may decide to provide bus services for their citizens.

But if this question concerns light rail provided regionally or utilizing state resources, I oppose it. Light rail projects are exceedingly expensive to construct, operate, and maintain, often demanding new permanent revenue streams. They have also been associated with heightened crime rates in areas they serve.

**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 are inherent freedoms that allow parents to make decisions about their children's upbringing, education, and welfare. These rights come from God, not the government. As a father of three minor children, I strongly support parental rights, which are crucial for family independence and social stability. Challenges to these rights threaten the fundamental principles of individual liberty and limited government. I will advocate for laws that empower parents to raise and educate their children as they see fit.

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

I do not generally favor state economic development programs in which specific businesses receive taxpayer-funded incentives. If we continue to be a low-tax state, reduce regulatory burdens, and ensure our children are educated, businesses will continue to stay in and be created in Tennessee.

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

**a. What does “shall not infringe” mean to you?**

I agree with Justice Scalia in the 2008 Heller decision that the Second Amendment of the US Constitution guarantees the right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms, which shall not be unduly restricted or violated by government interference. Section 26 of the Tennessee Constitution agrees with this interpretation of the Second Amendment.

**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?**

Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs, also known as “red flag laws”) are described as an attempt to reduce the probability of a mass shooting or a suicide by removing temporarily removing firearms from a person if they are found to be unstable or a threat to themselves or others. We must address the mental health crisis in this country and this state, but not by violating the US Constitution’s 2nd Amendment or due process under the 14th Amendment and Section 9 of the Tennessee Constitution.

**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?**

I am skeptical of the proposed "ethics and campaign finance reform" bill. The goal of increasing transparency in campaign financing and reducing the influence of "dark money" in politics is a good one. But requiring 501(c)(4) organizations to divulge their donors before an election raises serious concerns about chilling free speech and infringing donors' privacy rights.

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

I believe in transparency and accountability, especially when taxpayer dollars are involved. I am also committed to fostering a business-friendly environment that allows small businesses to thrive and grow and am mindful of the burdens we place on small businesses. Therefore, any measures aimed at increasing transparency should be carefully balanced to ensure they do not unduly burden small businesses or charities or hinder their ability to operate efficiently. One way to do this is to require a nongovernmental entity receiving over a certain threshold of funding to provide information related to the use of those funds, particularly where a legitimate allegation of wrongdoing or waste is made.

**14. Do you believe property taxes should be capped at current levels statewide?**

The current state property tax rate is zero percent. I support passing a Tennessee constitutional amendment prohibiting a state property tax. This has already been introduced and voted on – and if passed again by both the House and the Senate in the next session, it will be placed on the ballot for Tennesseans to decide in 2026. I will vote “yes” to amending the Tennessee constitution to ban a state property 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?**

There are many bad laws and resolutions legislators propose that I would not move or second to bring to the floor for debate.

**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?**

I am interested in passing good laws for the citizens of District 65 and undoing bad laws and regulations (each of which requires a bill). Setting an arbitrary number of bills is less important to me than doing the best job I can for my district and the state, regardless of how many bills are filed.

*Voter registration deadline*

**July 2**

*Early voting*

**July 12-27**

*Primary Election Day*

**Aug. 1**

**Find your polling location [HERE!](#)**