



# How to Advocate in the time of COVID

*TRAINING SESSION*

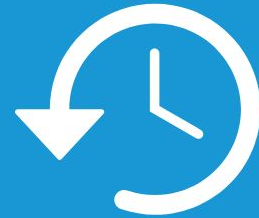


## How to Advocate in the Time of COVID **AGENDA**

- 1 The Coalition's History**
- 2 The Coalition's Policy, Programs, & Grant**
- 3 How a Bill Becomes a Law**
- 4 Meeting with Legislators Virtually**
- 5 Participating in Legislative Session and Committee Action**
- 6 Activism on Social Media**
- 7 Learning From Thought Leaders and Political Pundits**

**1989** First Grant Funding  
**1990** Carol!  
**1991** Family Support Act  
**2020** 30 Years

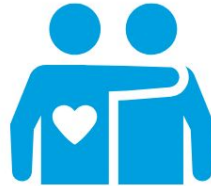
# The Coalition's History



POLICY



PROGRAMS



GRANT





# How a Bill Becomes a Law in Tennessee



**1** A bill is introduced

**2** Numbered and passed on consideration

**3** Referred to committee

**4** Heard in committee - intro and debate, recalled or recommended for passage by consent

**5** Referred to calendar

**6** Passed on third consideration

**7** Engrossed

**8** Companion bills are reconciled (if necessary)

**9** Enrolled, signed, assigned PC number and incorporated into code



# Meeting with Legislators Virtually

*JASON*

# Know your legislator

- Senator Bo Watson- Hamilton County
- Physical Therapist
- Bow ties
- Chair: Finance, Ways and Means
- Chair: Rules Committee
- Member: Commerce & Labor
- Member: Health & Welfare
- Member: Joint Fiscal Review Committee



# Be Prepared

- Write down key points
- Practice what you are going to say
- Respect the 5 – 15 minute time limit
- Focus on a single issue or bill
- Be concise and use time wisely



# Share YOUR Personal Story

- Briefly tell them about yourself so they get to know you
- Don't be intimidated – they work for you
- You are the expert on your needs
- Spend most of your time on the issue you want to discuss

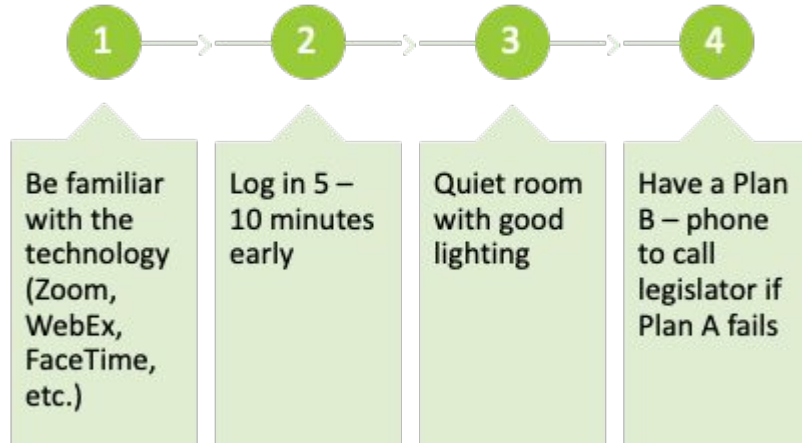






# Meeting virtually vs. Meeting Face to Face

## What's Different?



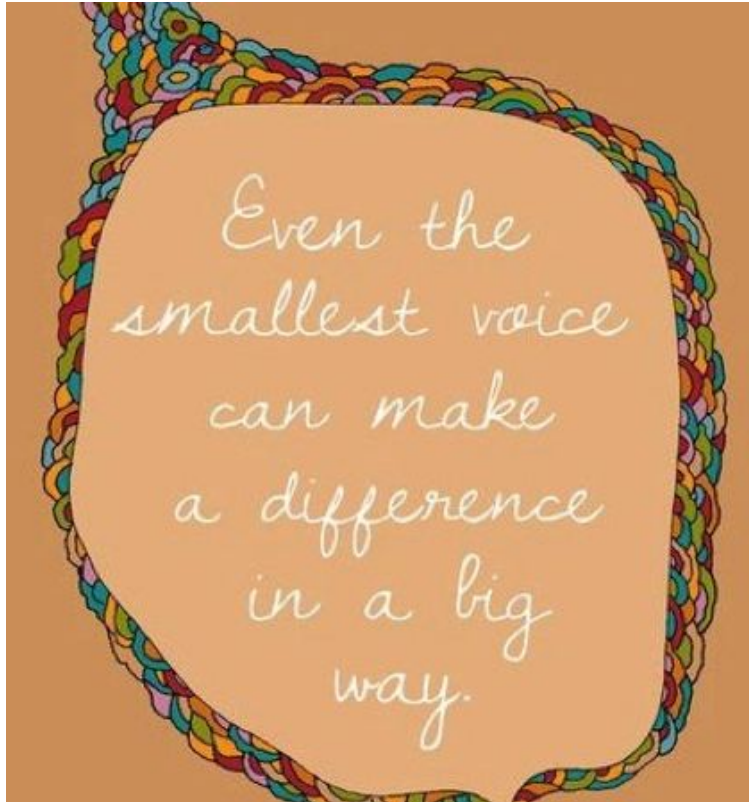


Meeting virtually  
vs.  
Meeting face  
to face.

**What's the same?**

- Dress appropriately
- Be courteous
- Introduce yourself – who you are, the issue you want to discuss and that you are from their district.
- Don't forget to listen
- It's ok to disagree
- Thank them!

# Together We Can Make a Difference



<http://www.volunteerweekly.org/your-story/even-the-smallest-voice-can-make-a-difference-in-a-big-way-2/>

# Participating in Legislative Session and Committee Action

*AMANDA*



# How Legislators Talk About Issues that Matter

- TN State Legislators meet in committees
- Committees focus on a specific issue like “Education”
- It’s important to pay attention to committee work because they talk about issues that will affect us

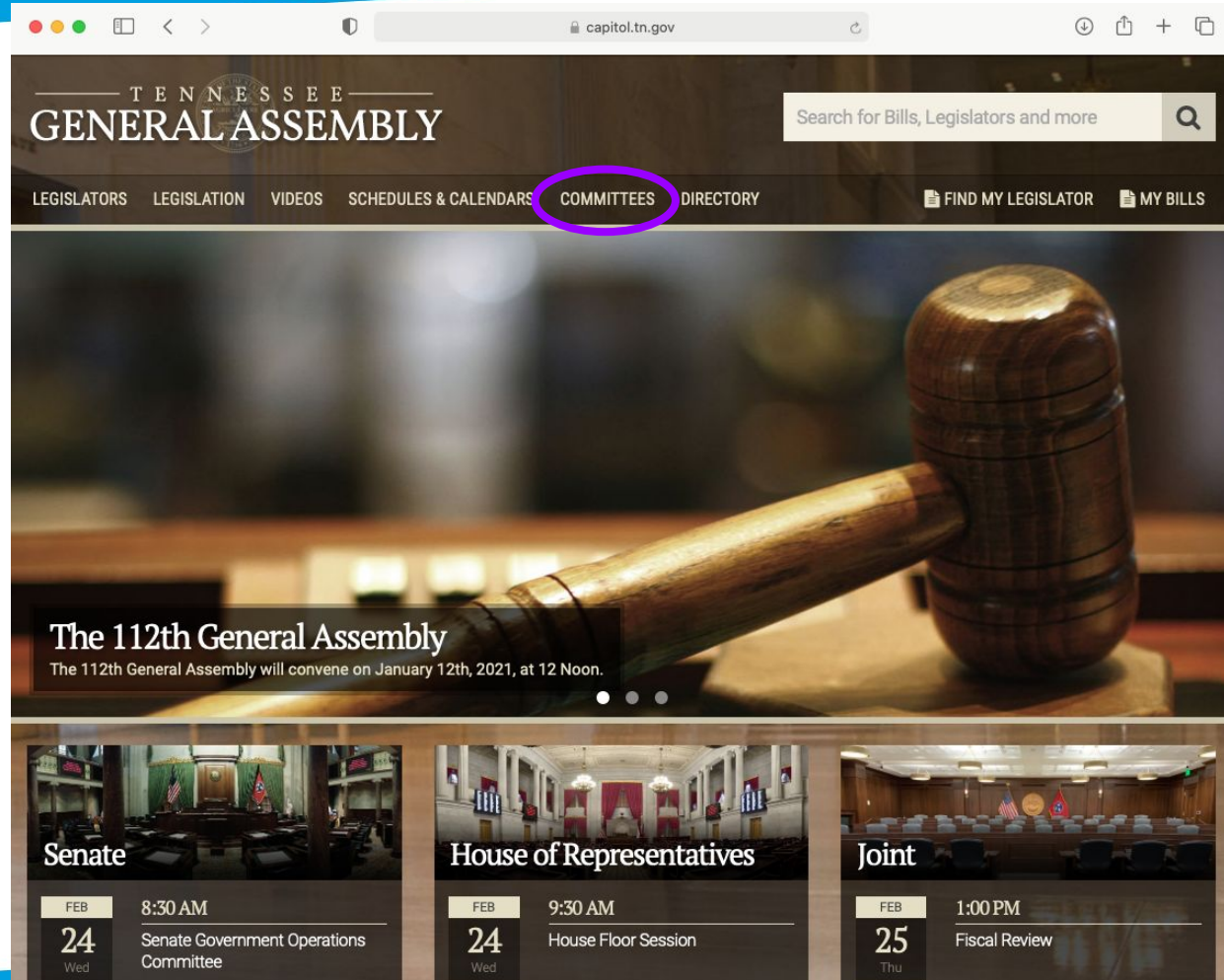


The TN General Assembly Website is:

[www.capitol.tn.gov](http://www.capitol.tn.gov)

Follow the issues that matter to you by following those legislative committees

There is a House and Senate version of most committees







# Senate Committees

## Standing Committees

### Commerce and Labor

Responsible for legislation concerning commerce and insurance.

### Education

Responsible for legislation concerning schools and secondary education.

### Energy, Agriculture and Natural Resources

Responsible for legislation concerning energy; forestry; natural resources; conservation, game and fish, mines and minerals.

### Health and Welfare

Responsible for public or private hospitals; health offices and their administration; institutions and services.

### Judiciary

Responsible for civil laws; criminal laws; judicial proceedings; apportionment of elected officials and governing bodies.

### State & Local Government

Responsible for forms of local government; utility districts; assistance to local and municipal governments; matters dealing with revenue and taxation levied by local governments.



**Weekly**  
Committee Calendars

## Senate Links

[Senate Members](#)

[Senate Leadership](#)

[Senate Committees](#)

[Senate Weekly Schedule](#)

[Senate Video](#)

[Senate Staff](#)

[Senate Archives](#)

[Senate Publications](#)

[Senate Caucuses](#)

Committee Membership - legislators who meet as part of this committee

Committee Officers have been chosen to lead this committee

You can reach out to these legislators to talk about the issues that the committee is meeting on

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Search for Bills, Legislators and more

LEGISLATORS LEGISLATION VIDEOS SCHEDULES & CALENDARS COMMITTEES DIRECTORY

FIND MY LEGISLATOR MY BILLS

### Senate Standing Committee Education

Responsible for legislation concerning schools and secondary education; school employees, administrators, teachers and bus drivers; school employees' and teachers' pay and retirement, except where an appropriation of state funds is required; colleges and universities; employees of colleges and universities, including pay and retirement, except where an appropriation of state funds is required; vocational technical education; employees of vocational education -- schools, including pay and retirement, except where an appropriation of state funds is required; college of university agricultural extension service; school lunch program; education and schools for exceptional children; cultural affairs; museums; and state and public libraries.

**Current Committee Calendar**  
**Current Weekly Schedule**  
**Video**

**Contact Information**  
Colleen Ellis, Executive Secretary  
744 Cordell Hull Bldg.  
Phone: (615) 741-3036  
Michael Maren, Research Analyst  
Phone: (615) 741-3038

**Committee Membership** **Committee Reports**

#### Committee Officers

Portrait	Name	Title
	Brian Kelsey	Chair
	Jon Lundberg	1st Vice-Chair
	Raumesh Akbari	2nd Vice-Chair

#### Committee Members

	Mike Bell		Rusty Crowe		Ferrell Haile		Joey Hensley
	Bill Powers		Dawn White				

#### Senate Links

- Senate Members
- Senate Leadership
- Senate Committees
- Senate Weekly Schedule
- Senate Video
- Senate Staff
- Senate Archives
- Senate Publications
- Senate Caucuses
- Senate District Maps
- Senate Members by Seniority
- Find My Senator

1. From the main Committee page:  
click on Current Committee  
Calendar

2. Calendar for this week's  
committee meeting with a list of  
bills they plan to talk about

3. Click on a bill # to learn more

Senate Standing Committee  
**Education**

Responsible for legislation concerning schools and employees, administrators, teachers and bus drivers pay and retirement, except where an appropriation and universities; employees of colleges and universities except where an appropriation of state funds is required; employees of vocational education -- school except where an appropriation of state funds is required; agricultural extension service; school lunch program exceptional children; cultural affairs; museums; and

**Current Committee Calendar**

**Schedule**

**Video**

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**Committee Membership**

**Committee Officers**

— TENNESSEE —  
**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Search for Bills, Legislators and more

LEGISLATORS LEGISLATION VIDEOS SCHEDULES & CALENDARS COMMITTEES DIRECTORY

FIND MY LEGISLATOR MY BILLS

**Senate Education Committee**

2/24/2021 2:30:00 PM

1. **\*SB0009 by Yager, \*White, \*Bell, \*Haile, \*Yarbro. (HB0542 by Powers, \*Calfee.)**  
Education Higher - Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9. As introduced, increases from \$1,000 to \$1,250 the amount awarded each semester to a full-time student receiving the middle college scholarship.  
**The Abstract summarizes SB0009 as introduced.**

2. **\*SB0124 by Haile. (HB0475 by White.)**  
Child Abuse - Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 16. As introduced, permits school child abuse coordinators, school teachers, school officials, and other school personnel to provide information relevant to suspected child abuse or child sexual abuse to the child's parents when required by federal law or regulation.  
**Summary for \*SB0124**

3. **\*SB0228 by Hensley. (\*HB0003 by Cepicky, \*Griffey, \*Gant, \*Weaver, \*Moody, \*Lamberth, \*Haston, \*Rudd, \*Smith, \*Ragan, \*Zachary, \*Doggett, \*Eldridge, \*Sexton J, \*Reedy, \*Howell, \*Williams, \*Casada, \*Todd, \*Calfee, \*Bricken, \*Moon, \*Crawford, \*Hulse, \*Darby, \*Hicks T, \*Garrett, \*Helton, \*Lynn, \*Hawk, \*Travis, \*White, \*Russell, \*Rudder, \*Grills.)**  
Local Education Agencies - Amends TCA Title 49. As introduced, requires that a student's gender for purposes of participation in a public middle school or high school interscholastic athletic activity or event be determined by the student's sex at the time of the student's birth, as indicated on the student's original birth certificate.  
**Summary for SB0228**



4. This will open a new page that has information about the bill sponsors, bill text and the path the bill has taken through the state legislature up to today

If you care about this issue, you can contact the bill sponsors

The screenshot displays the Tennessee General Assembly website. The header includes the text "TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY" and a search bar. The navigation menu contains links for LEGISLATORS, LEGISLATION, VIDEOS, SCHEDULES & CALENDARS, COMMITTEES, and DIRECTORY. Below the navigation menu, there are links for "FIND MY LEGISLATOR" and "MY BILLS".

The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column displays details for SB 0009 by \*Yager, including a link to "Show Co-Prime Sponsors" and a link to "Show Caption Text". The right column displays details for HB 0542 by \*Powers, including a link to "Show Co-Prime Sponsors".

Below the bill details, there is a section for "SB0009 ACTIONS" and "HB0542 ACTIONS". The "SB0009 ACTIONS" table shows the following actions:

ACTIONS	DATE
Placed on Senate Education Committee calendar for 2/24/2021	02/17/2021
Passed on Second Consideration, refer to Senate Education Committee	01/13/2021
Introduced, Passed on First Consideration	01/12/2021
Filed for introduction	11/23/2020

The "HB0542 ACTIONS" table shows the following actions:

ACTIONS	DATE
Assigned to s/c Higher Education Subcommittee	02/10/2021
P2C, ref. to Education Administration	02/10/2021
Intro., P1C.	02/08/2021
Filed for introduction	02/04/2021

At the bottom of the page, there is a section for "Education, Higher - As introduced, increases from \$1,000 to \$1,250 the amount awarded each semester to a full-time student receiving the middle college scholarship. - Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9."

1. From the main Committee page:  
click on Current Weekly Schedule

Senate Standing Committee  
**Education**

Current Committee  
**Calendar**

Current Weekly  
**Schedule**

Video

**Contact Information**

Colleen Ellis, Executive Secretary  
744 Cordell Hull Bldg.  
Phone: (615) 741-3036

Michael Maren, Research Analyst  
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Responsible for legislation concerning schools and students, employees, administrators, teachers and bus drivers pay and retirement, except where an appropriation is required; and universities; employees of colleges and universities except where an appropriation of state funds is required; education; employees of vocational education -- school except where an appropriation of state funds is required; agricultural extension service; school lunch program for exceptional children; cultural affairs; museums; and

Committee Membership

**Committee Officers**

2. Find out when the committee is  
meeting this week or next week

— T E N N E S S E E —  
**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Search for Bills, Legislators and more

LEGISLATORS LEGISLATION VIDEOS SCHEDULES & CALENDARS COMMITTEES DIRECTORY

FIND MY LEGISLATOR MY BILLS

## Senate Schedules and Calendars

Monday, March 1, 2021 – Sunday, March 7, 2021

« Previous Week Current Next Week »

View: Daily Schedule Type: Senate

Print Schedule

Senate Weekly Calendars

Subscribe to Senate Weekly Calendars by email

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021**

Time	Type	Event or Committee	Calendar/Agenda	Location	View Video
8:30 AM	Senate	Senate Government Operations Committee		Senate Hearing Room I	
10:30 AM	Senate	Senate Transportation and Safety Committee		Senate Hearing Room I	
11:30 AM	Senate	Senate Energy, Ag., and Nat. Resources Committee		Senate Hearing Room I	
1:00 PM	Senate	Senate Health and Welfare Committee		Senate Hearing Room I	
3:00 PM	Senate	Senate Education Committee		Senate Hearing Room I	

1. From the main Committee page:  
click on Video

Senate Standing Committee  
**Education**

Responsible for legislation concerning schools and students; employees, administrators, teachers and bus drivers pay and retirement, except where an appropriation is required; and universities; employees of colleges and universities except where an appropriation of state funds is required; education; employees of vocational education -- school except where an appropriation of state funds is required; agricultural extension service; school lunch program; exceptional children; cultural affairs; museums; and

**Current Committee Calendar**

**Current Weekly Schedule**

**Video**

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**Committee Membership**

**Committee Officers**

2. You can watch the recording of past committee meetings.

3. If want to watch a live committee meeting, you can click the icon “In Progress” or “View Event”

## Streaming Video Senate Education Committee

### On Demand Videos

- 112th General Assembly (2021-2022)
- 111th General Assembly (2019-2020)
- 110th General Assembly (2017-2018)
- 109th General Assembly (2015-2016)
- 108th General Assembly (2013-2014)
- 107th General Assembly (2011-2012)
- 106th General Assembly (2009-2010)
- 105th General Assembly (2007-2008)
- 104th General Assembly (2005-2006)

### Upcoming Events

Name	Date		
Senate Education Committee	In Progress	Agenda	View Event
Senate Education Committee	March 03, 2021 - 03:00 PM	Agenda	

### Search On Demand Videos:

Enter Keywords here

### On Demand Videos

#### 2022

Name	Date	Start Time	Duration		
Currently there are no archived 2022 videos. Please check back at a later date.					

#### 2021

NAME	DATE	START TIME	DURATION	AGENDA	VIDEO
Senate Education Committee	Feb 10, 2021	3:05 PM	00h 35m	Agenda	Video
Senate Education Committee	Jan 20, 2021	9:32 AM	02h 18m	Agenda	Video
Senate Education Committee	Jan 20, 2021	1:59 PM	00h 39m	Agenda	Video
Senate Education Committee	Jan 19, 2021	2:30 PM	01h 48m	Agenda	Video

3. This will open a new window with the live streaming video of the committee meeting.

On the bottom of the screen, the bill they are currently talking about is listed

On the right-hand side is the committee calendar for this meeting



SENATE		
EDUCATION		
COMMITTEE CALENDAR		
<u>WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021</u>		
<u>2:30 PM - CORDELL HULL BUILDING</u>		
<u>SENATE HEARING ROOM I</u>		
MEMBERS		
KELSEY (R) CHAIRMAN	BELL (R)	HENSLEY (R)
LUNDBERG (R) 1 <sup>ST</sup> VICE CHAIRMAN	CROWE (R)	POWERS (R)
AKBARI (D) 2 <sup>ND</sup> VICE CHAIRMAN	HAILE (R)	WHITE (R)
AGENDA		
1. <u>SB 0009</u> *Vager, Bell, White, Haile, Varbro (HB 0542 by *Powers, Calfee)		
Education, Higher- As introduced, increases from \$1,000 to \$1,250 the amount awarded each semester to a full-time student receiving the middle college scholarship. - Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9.		
2. <u>SB 0124</u> *Haile (HB 0475 by *White)		
Child Abuse- As introduced, permits school child abuse coordinators, school teachers, school officials, and other school personnel to provide information relevant to suspected child abuse or child sexual abuse to the child's parents when required by federal law or regulation. - Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 16.		
3. <u>SB 0228</u> *Hensley (HB 0003 by *Cepicky, Griffey, Giant, Weaver, Moody, Haston, Lamberth, Ruoff, Smith, Ragan, Zachary, Doggett, Eldridge, Sexton J, Reedy, Howell, Williams, Casada, Todd, Calfee, Bricken, Moon, Crawford, Hulsey, Darby, Hicks T, Garrett, Helton, Lynn, Hawk, Travis, White, Russell)		
Local Education Agencies- As introduced, requires that a student's gender for purposes of participation in a public middle school or high school interscholastic athletic activity or event be determined by the student's sex at the time of the student's birth, as indicated on the student's original birth certificate. - Amends TCA Title 49.		



# Summary: What's Available on the Committee Page

List of Committee Members  
(who meets to talk about this  
issue)

Current Committee Calendar  
(what they'll be talking about in  
their meeting)

Current weekly schedule (when  
they'll be meeting)

Video - watch live or past  
meetings

The screenshot shows the official website of the Tennessee General Assembly's Education Committee. The header includes the text "TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY" and a search bar. A navigation menu lists "LEGISLATORS", "LEGISLATION", "VIDEOS", "SCHEDULES & CALENDARS", "COMMITTEES", and "DIRECTORY". Below the navigation, the page title is "Senate Standing Committee Education". A sidebar on the left contains links for "Current Committee Calendar", "Current Weekly Schedule", and "Video". The main content area describes the committee's responsibilities and lists its officers: Brian Kelsey (Chair), Jon Lundberg (1st Vice-Chair), and Raumesh Akbari (2nd Vice-Chair). Below this, a section titled "Committee Members" displays portraits of Mike Bell, Rusty Crowe, Ferrell Haile, Joey Hensley, Bill Powers, and Dawn White. A "Senate Links" sidebar on the right provides additional resources like "Senate Members", "Senate Leadership", and "Senate Committees".

TENNESSEE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Search for Bills, Legislators and more

LEGISLATORS LEGISLATION VIDEOS SCHEDULES & CALENDARS COMMITTEES DIRECTORY

FIND MY LEGISLATOR MY BILLS

Senate Standing Committee  
Education

Current Committee Calendar

Current Weekly Schedule

Video

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Committee Membership Committee Reports

Committee Officers

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Chair

Jon Lundberg  
1st Vice-Chair

Raumesh Akbari  
2nd Vice-Chair

Committee Members

Mike Bell Rusty Crowe Ferrell Haile Joey Hensley

Bill Powers Dawn White

Senate Links

- Senate Members
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- Senate Archives
- Senate Publications
- Senate Caucuses
- Senate District Maps
- Senate Members by Seniority
- Find My Senator

# Bocce & Policymaking are Team Sports



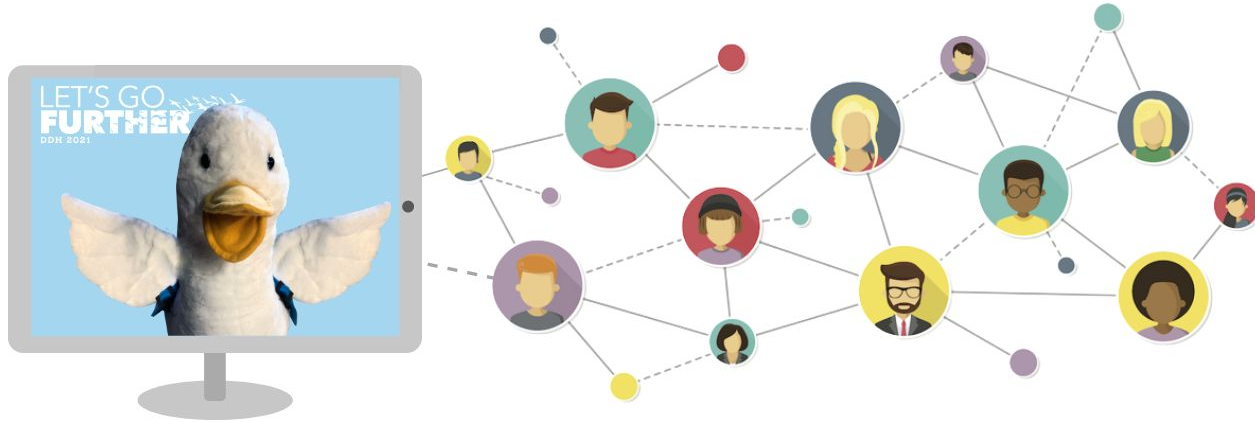


# Activism on Social Media

*CHYNA*



## Social Media Takes Us *FURTHER*



The easiest way to show your support for people with disabilities and to get your legislator's attention is to participate on social media.





## SPREAD AWARENESS

by sharing content from disability thought leaders.



## TAKE ACTION ON DISABILITY ISSUES

by commenting, tagging and direct messaging your local government and elected officials.



## SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES

by creating original posts about challenges (accessibility issues, confusing informational materials, etc) and tagging your representatives.



## STAY ALERT

by following local disability groups that notify you to policy changes.



## SPEAK UP!

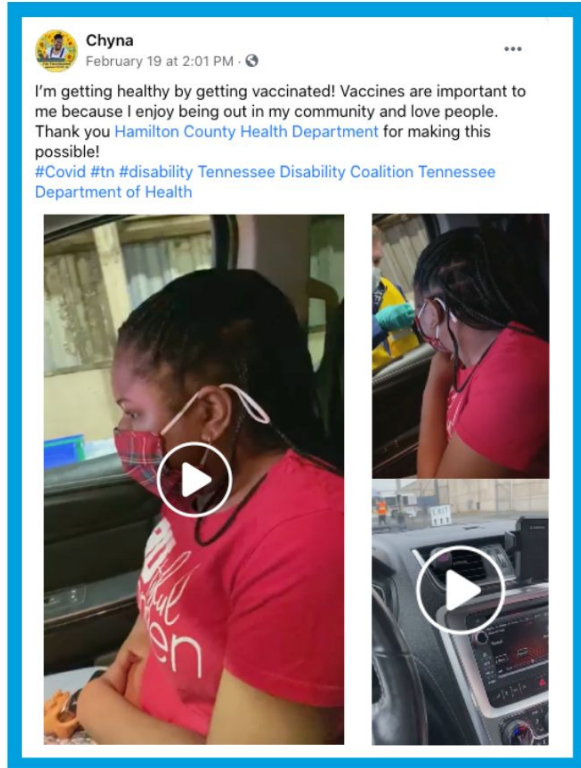
by signing and sharing digital petitions in opposition or support of a piece of legislation.



## PLUS

tag us [@tndisability](#) and we will share your posts!

## What Makes a Good ***SOCIAL POST?***



- Short, clear, and personal message
- Eye-catching video & photos
- Hashtags that are relevant to the conversation
- She tagged the Coalition and the Dept of Health to increase the chance that the post will get shared further.

# The Basics on **HASHTAGS**



Including hashtags in your posts means that you are taking part in a conversation happening on social media. They make your posts visible to non-followers.



Do NOT use spaces, punctuation or symbols.



Do NOT string too many words together.  
The best hashtags are short and memorable.



Use relevant and popular hashtags.  
If it is too obscure, it will be hard to find.



Limit the number of hashtags you use.  
More isn't better.



Make sure your accounts are public.  
Otherwise only your followers see your posts.

## **TOP DISABILITY HASHTAGS**

#disability	#inclusion
#disabilityrights	#disabilitypride
#disabilityawareness	#disabilityjustice
#invisibledisability	#disabilitybenefits

## **TOP POLITICAL HASHTAGS**

#TNleg	#TNpol
#TN	#TNpolitics
#cripthevote	#TNsenate
#tenncare	#COVID19
#medicare	#systemic

## Leaders in State Government to **FOLLOW & TAG**



Your **LOCAL** representatives work for you!

look them up and stay connected:

<https://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/Apps/fmlv3/lookup.aspx>

# Advocacy Areas to **FOLLOW & TAG**

## EDUCATION



**PENNY SCHWINN**

COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

🐦 @TNedu

📘 @TennesseeEducation

✉️ Commissioner.Schwinn@tn.gov

## ELECTIONS & VOTING



**TREY HARGETT**

SECRETARY OF STATE

🐦 @sectrehargett

📘 @TennesseeSecretaryofState

📺 @tnsecofstate

✉️ Tre.Hargett@tn.gov

## EMPLOYMENT



**JEFF McCORD**

COMMISSIONER, LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

🐦 @JeffMcCordTN

## INTELLECTUAL & DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY SERVICES



**BRAD TURNER**

COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF DIDD

🐦 @BradTurnerDIDD

📘 @tndidd

✉️ Brad.Turner@tn.gov

## VOCATIONAL REHAB SERVICES



**CLARENCE H. CARTER**

COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

🐦 @TNHumanServices

📘 @tennesseedepartmentofhumanservices

## TRANSPORTATION



**CLAY BRIGHT**

COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

🐦 @TDOTCommish

✉️ @clay.bright@tn.gov

## HOUSING



**RALPH PERREY**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TENNESSEE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

🐦 @TN\_Housing\_Dev

📘 @TNHousing

## MEDICAID SUPPORTS & SERVICES



**BUREAU OF TENNCARE**

🐦 📺 @tennicarerep

📘 @TennCare

✉️ Tenn.Care@tn.gov

## HEALTH CARE



**TN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

🐦 📺 📘 @TNDeptofHealth

✉️ tn.health@tn.gov



# Disability Day on the Hill **GRAPHIC POST**

My name is Mark

**DISABILITY DAY  
ON THE HILL  
2021**

☒ I have a disability.  
☐ I care for someone with a disability.  
☐ I advocate for people with disabilities.

I live in east Tennessee.

I "go further" by...

Volunteering

**LET'S GO FURTHER**  
TENNESSEE DISABILITY COALITION

**DISABILITY DAY  
ON THE HILL  
2021**

My name is Angie

☐ I have a disability.  
☐ I care for someone with a disability.  
☒ I advocate for people with disabilities.

I live in middle Tennessee.

I "go further" by...

Voting in local elections!

**LET'S GO FURTHER**  
TENNESSEE DISABILITY COALITION

My name is Kelli

**DISABILITY DAY  
ON THE HILL  
2021**

☐ I have a disability.  
☐ I care for someone with a disability.  
☒ I advocate for people with disabilities.

I live in east Tennessee.

I "go further" by...

Sharing policy issues that are important to me  
on Twitter, and tagging my local representative.

**LET'S GO FURTHER**  
TENNESSEE DISABILITY COALITION

Fill out this form (link in Social Media Toolkit):

[www.tfaforms.com/4875746](http://www.tfaforms.com/4875746)

We will send you a complete graphic!



Chyna Crockett

February 23 at 12:55 PM · 🌐

...

I'm speaking at [Tennessee Disability Coalition's](#) Disability Day on the Hill this THURSDAY! My legislators Senator Bo Watson (TN-11) and [State Representative Mike Carter](#) are invited to come hear me speak about a topic that is important to me! [#Tn](#) [#CovidVaccine](#) [#disability](#) [Tennessee Department of Health](#) [@tndisability](#)

My name is Chyna

DISABILITY DAY  
ON THE HILL  
2021



- ☒ I have a disability.
- ☐ I care for someone with a disability.
- ☐ I advocate for people with disabilities.

I live in east Tennessee.

I "go further" by...

speaking out for my friends!

LET'S GO   
**FURTHER**  
TENNESSEE DISABILITY COALITION



18

7 Comments 19 Shares

LISTENING



LIKING



SHARING





# Learning From Thought-Leaders and Political Pundits

*COURTNEY*

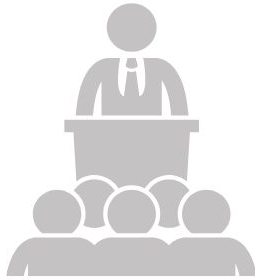


# What is a "Thought-Leader"?



**An individual or organization that is recognized as an authority in a specialized field and whose expertise is sought.**

# **What is a "Political Pundit?"**



**A person who offers to mass media their opinion or commentary on political analysis for which they are knowledgeable and/or considered a scholar.**

**In other words – an expert.**



## **1. MEDIA**

- State Government Reporters
- Opinion Editors



## **2. DISABILITY ADVOCATES**

- Disability Advocacy Organizations
- Individual Disability Advocates



## **3. HASHTAG CAMPAIGNS & OTHER RELEVANT INFLUENCE**

# MEDIA



*STATE LEGISLATIVE  
REPORTERS*





## *WHY FOLLOW* STATE GOVERNMENT REPORTERS



They help us  
understand complex  
policy issues



They raise awareness of  
Tennesseans  
impacted by those  
complex policy issues  
through their stories.



They keep us up-to-date  
on general  
information and  
updates about the  
General Assembly

## WHO TO FOLLOW STATE GOVERNMENT REPORTERS

**Tennessean.**

**AP** ASSOCIATED PRESS



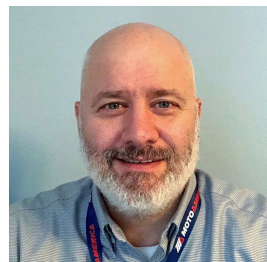
TENNESSEE | **LOOKOUT**



Natalie Allison  
*Tennessean*  
[@natalie\\_allison](#)



Kimberlee  
Kruesi  
*Associated Press*  
[@kkruesi](#)



Erik Schelzig  
*Tennessee Journal*  
[@schelzig](#)



Sam Stockard  
*Tennessee Lookout*  
[@stockardsam](#)

# MEDIA



*LOCAL STATEHOUSE  
REPORTERS*



## *WHY FOLLOW* LOCAL STATEHOUSE REPORTERS



They help us understand how a state policy will impact us on a local level.



They often reach out to followers on social media for a local-person to provide commentary on an issue and/or share their story.



They cover local representatives more closely.

## WHO TO FOLLOW LOCAL STATEHOUSE REPORTERS

**Chattanooga Times Free Press**



Andy Sher  
Chattanooga Times Free Press  
[@AndySher1](#)

**Daily  
Memphian**  
TRUTH IN PLACE.



Ian Round  
Daily Memphian  
[@raniound](#)

**[NASHVILLEPOST]**



Stephen Elliott  
Nashville Post  
[@elliottstephenB](#)

**News  
Channel**  
in your corner.



Slater Teague  
WJHL Johnson City  
[@sl8rt](#)



# MEDIA

## OPINION & EDITORIAL OR "OPED"

David Briley minimized affordable housing

**RESEARCH** *How to make a good impression*

It's not just the way you look that counts when you're in a meeting. The way you speak and the way you think can also make a difference. A new study from the University of California, Berkeley, suggests that people who are more confident and assertive in their speech are more likely to be perceived as competent and trustworthy. The researchers found that people who spoke more assertively were also more likely to be perceived as more competent and trustworthy. This suggests that people who are more confident and assertive in their speech are more likely to be perceived as competent and trustworthy.

## Rules of engagement for d

THE TENNESSEAN

## OPINION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2010 • 15A

## Fallen soldiers deserve our praise, prayers



Dwight Lewis

The soldiers were assigned to Troop C, 1/28th Air Cavalry in Louisville in East Tennessee, according to a release from Guard officials, who added that the accident is under investigation.

"It's a sad situation," Dell Ray said. "He was a very good young man. He was family-oriented and loved his two kids. He also loved his mom and dad."

"Last fall, before he left for Iraq,

"I know the risk of war," Dell Ray told me. "As a soldier, you have a job to do, and that is what you're supposed to do. You do it the best you can and don't ask questions."

War, as the singer Edwin Searcy "What is it good for?" It

person in his  
told Capt.  
Anderson  
Jefferson  
a positive affi-  
davit last

But thank heavens for soldiers such as these who put their lives on the line for this country and others without asking why they are doing it.

# Tennessean.

<b>Sports</b>	<b>Counties</b>	<b>Business</b>	<b>Music</b>	<b>USA TODAY</b>	<b>Obituaries</b>	<b>E-Edition</b>	<b>Legals</b>
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## Deaths of disabled children are no less tragic | Opinion

*Disability is so feared and stigmatized in our society that we see it as a fate worse than death.*

**Courtney Johnson** Guest columnist

Published 4:00 a.m. CT Mar. 18, 2020

[View Comments](#)

### Story Highlights

- Courtney Johnson is an autistic adult and college student at East Tennessee State University. She is president of the Neurodiversity Club and Delta Alpha Pi and founder of Tri-Cities Autism Social Club.

Created in 2012 in response to the death of George Hodgins, an autistic man, the [Disability Day of Mourning](#) candlelight vigil is held each year worldwide on March 1 to commemorate the lives of people with disabilities who have been murdered by their families and caregivers. Within the past five years alone, over 600 people with disabilities have died in this way. The [Autistic Self Advocacy Network](#) tracks these cases of filicide and provides a list of names. Each year, the names and ages of the dead are read out loud.

I first became a site coordinator here in East Tennessee back in March 2018. With a small group of self-advocates, we



# What is an "OpEd?"



**Short for "opinions and editorials page", is a written piece published by a newspaper which expresses the opinion of an author usually not affiliated with the outlet.**

**In other words - by a reader.**

## WHY WRITE AN OPED?



They provide an opportunity to voice your opinion on a public way.



They help raise awareness of issues that impact us.



They are often shared/retweeted by like-minded followers.

# Meet Self-Advocate & Columnist **COURTNEY JOHNSON**



**Tennessean.**

Sports Counties Business Music USA TODAY Obituaries E-Edition Legals

## Deaths of disabled children are no less tragic | Opinion

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I first became a site coordinator here in East Tennessee back in March 2018. With a small group of self-advocates, we



see it as a fate worse than death. We must think about why disability is seen as a tragedy.

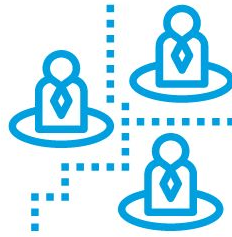
### Mourning

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family now,  
ead anyway."



Courtney Johnson Submitted

## **WHY FOLLOW** OPINION & EDITORIAL



Local and community outlets in  
your legislators' district.



Legislators pay special attention  
to the news outlets within their  
districts because their  
constituents read them.



## WHO TO FOLLOW STATE OPINION & EDITORIAL

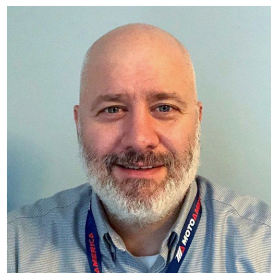
### Tennessean.



David Plazas  
*The Tennessean*  
[@davidplazas](#)



Alex Hubbard  
*The Tennessean*  
[@alexhubbard7](#)



Erik Schelzig  
*Tennessee Journal*  
[@schelzig](#)

### TENNESSEE | LOOKOUT

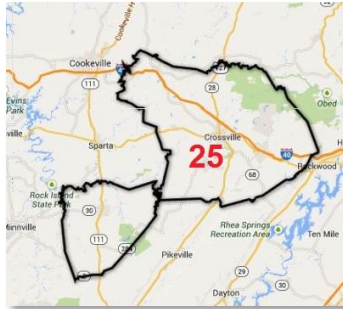


Holly McCall  
*Tennessee Lookout*  
[@jhollymc](#)

## WHY FOLLOW LOCAL OPINION & EDITORIAL



Rep. Cameron Sexton, Speaker  
*House District 25*  
*Crossville*



Crossville  
**Chronicle**  
Herald-Citizen

## WHY FOLLOW LOCAL OPINION & EDITORIAL



Sen. Rusty Crowe  
*Senate District 3*  
*Johnson City*



Johnson City Press

Herald & Tribune  
JONESBOROUGH, TENNESSEE

Elizabethton Star  
YOUR STORIES • YOUR COMMUNITY • YOUR STAR

# Meet Assistant Opinion Editor for *The Tennessean*

## **ALEX HUBBARD**







# Disability Advocates:

*INDIVIDUALS  
& ORGANIZATIONS*



## *WHO TO FOLLOW* DISABILITY/ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS



Tennessee Disability Coalition  
[@tndisabilty](#)



Disability Rights TN  
[@tnrights](#)



Tennessee Justice Center  
[@tnjusticcenter](#)

# WHO TO FOLLOW DISABILITY ADVOCATES



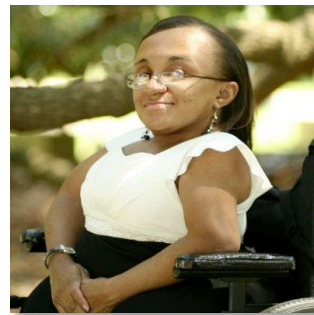
Judy Huemann  
*Disability Rights Icon  
& Author*  
[@judithheumann](#)



Andrew Pulrang  
*Advocate & Forbes  
Contributor*  
[@andrewpulrang](#)



Maria Rabaino  
*BeBoundless, &  
Rollettes*  
[@mariarabaino](#)



Vilissa Thompson  
*RampYourVoice.co  
m*  
[@vilissathompson](#)



Alice Wong  
*Disability Visibility  
Project*  
[@sfdirewolf](#) [@disvisibility](#)

## WHO TO FOLLOW DIAGNOSIS/INDEPENDENT LIVING ORGANIZATIONS



AutismTN  
@Autism\_TN



American Liver  
Foundation  
@liverUSA



JDRF Middle  
Tennessee  
@JDRFMidTN



EmpowerTN  
@Empower\_TN

# #Hashtags





## ***HASHTAGS TO FOLLOW*** DISABILITY ADVOCACY & CAMPAIGNS

#CripTheVote

#TheBarriersWeFace

#ServiceDog

#highriskCOVID19

#AbleismExists

#Spoonie

#LetsGoFurtherTN

#ActuallyAutistic

#InvisibleIllness

#DDH2021

#DeafTalent

#DisaBodyPosi

## WHO TO FOLLOW DIAGNOSIS/INDEPENDENT LIVING ORGANIZATIONS



Autistic  
Self-Advocacy  
Network  
@autselfadvocacy



National Council on  
Independent Living  
@NCILAdvocacy



Rooted in Rights  
@RootedInRights



Self-Advocates Becoming  
Empowered  
@SARTACenter

## *HASHTAGS TO FOLLOW* DISABILITY ADVOCACY & CAMPAIGNS



#ActuallyAutistic



## SPREAD AWARENESS

by sharing content from disability thought leaders.



## TAKE ACTION ON DISABILITY ISSUES

by commenting, tagging and direct messaging your local government and elected officials.



## SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES

by creating original posts about challenges (accessibility issues, confusing informational materials, etc) and tagging your representatives.



## STAY ALERT

by following local disability groups that notify you to policy changes.



## SPEAK UP!

by signing and sharing digital petitions in opposition or support of a piece of legislation.



## PLUS

tag us [@tndisability](#) and we will share your posts!

LET'S GO  
**FURTHER.**  
DDH 2021





# LET'S GO **FURTHER** NEXT STEPS



Advocacy Toolkit  
Overview



Register for Town Hall  
on 3/11 at Noon CT



Not too late to  
schedule a virtual  
meeting with  
legislators



Text "FURTHER"  
to 72690

# Anniversary of the signing of the ADA

**72690 = July 26, 1990**



LET'S GO  
**FURTHER**





[www.tndisability.org](http://www.tndisability.org)