

# TENNESSEE BLUE BOOK 2011-2012

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**TRE HARGETT**  
Secretary of State



# State of Tennessee



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My Fellow Tennesseans,

It is an honor to dedicate this year's Tennessee Blue Book to two outstanding Tennessee leaders, Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey and Speaker of the House Beth Harwell.

Now in his third term, Lt. Governor Ramsey is distinguished as being Tennessee's longest serving Republican Lt. Governor. Speaker Harwell, also a Republican, made history in her own right in 2011 by becoming Tennessee's first female Speaker of the House.

Their current roles represent a noteworthy and historic shift in Tennessee politics for which both of them have provided significant leadership (please see more about each of them and the leadership they continue to provide in the following two pages). Most importantly, this dedication is in recognition of their exemplary commitment to public service. Having served in the legislature with both of them, I know first-hand of their great love for our state and its people and their common desire for all Tennesseans to achieve their full potential.

Additionally, in spite of the heavy demands of public service, I admire them both for the priority they have placed on their families. Lt. Governor Ramsey and his wife, Sindy, have raised three beautiful daughters: Tiffany, Sheena, and Madison, and they are now proud grandparents to Parker. Speaker Harwell and her husband, Sam, are raising three fantastic children: Allie, Sam, and Tucker.

As a Tennessean, I know I am joined by millions of others in heartfelt appreciation to not only these great leaders, but also for their spouses and children who have shared both of them so generously with the rest of us. With all of this in mind, it is my distinct privilege to devote the 2011-2012 Tennessee Blue Book to Lt. Governor Ronald L. Ramsey and Speaker of the House Beth Harwell.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tre Hargett".

Tre Hargett

# Senate

## Lieutenant Governor and Speaker Ronald L. Ramsey

The Honorable Ron Ramsey, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Tennessee, has built a reputation as the leading voice for economic growth in the General Assembly.

Ramsey, the first Republican Senate Speaker in 140 years, has been named “The Best Lawmaker for Business in Tennessee” by Business Tennessee magazine for his success in passing pro-growth policy to improve the state’s business climate.

A small business owner himself, Ramsey believes job growth must be the top priority for state government. Ramsey started his own surveying company just three years after graduating from East Tennessee State University in 1978. His business has since grown to a real estate and auction company – Ron Ramsey and Associates, a well-respected land company in Upper East Tennessee.

Ramsey was elected by the First District of Sullivan County to serve two terms in the Tennessee House of Representatives and, in 1996, won election to the State Senate, representing Tennessee Senate District 2, which encompasses Johnson and Sullivan counties. As the Senate’s leading Republican, Ramsey engineered an historic GOP takeover of the chamber and was elected Speaker of the Senate and Lieutenant Governor in 2007.

He is the first GOP Senate Speaker in Tennessee in 140 years and the first from Sullivan County in over 100 years. In the 2008 elections, which saw Republicans suffer major losses across the country, Ramsey led Tennessee’s Republicans to a gain of three Senate seats and a solid five seat majority. Lt. Governor Ramsey became the longest-serving Republican Senate Speaker in Tennessee history in 2009. Under Ramsey’s leadership in 2010, Republicans both increased their majority in the Senate and took control of the House of Representatives, marking the first time both chambers had been in GOP hands since 1869. In 2011, Lt. Governor Ramsey was honored by his fellow senators with a third term as Speaker of the Senate.

In August 2008, Lt. Governor Ramsey was elected Chairman of the Tennessee delegation to the Republican National Convention and in January 2009, the Republican Lt. Governor’s Association named Speaker Ramsey their national Chairman. Prior to becoming Speaker, Lt. Governor Ramsey served as Majority Leader and Caucus Chairman of the Senate Republican Caucus and is also a former Chairman of the Senate Environment Committee.

Active in his profession and community, Ramsey served as president of the Bristol Association of Realtors and as president of the Blountville Business Association. He was a member of the first “40 Under Forty” class recognized by The Business Journal of Tri-Cities Tennessee/Virginia and is active in several local chambers of commerce.

Ramsey worships at Elizabeth Chapel United Methodist Church where he also serves as a Sunday School teacher. Ramsey resides in Blountville with his wife, Sindy. The Ramsey’s have three daughters: Tiffany, Sheena and Madison and one grandson, Parker.

*\* Information provided by the Lieutenant Governor and Senate Speaker’s office.*

# House of Representatives

## Speaker Beth Harwell

Beth Harwell currently serves as Speaker of the House, a position to which she was elected by her House colleagues. She is the first female Speaker in both Tennessee and the entire Southeast. Harwell is currently serving her twelfth term in the Tennessee House of Representatives from State House District 56, which includes a part of Davidson County.

Beth has been a strong advocate for tougher sexual abuse laws, victims' rights, welfare reform, children's issues and most notably, education.

A friend of small business, Beth was awarded the coveted Guardian of Small Business Award from the National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB).

In addition to her legislative career, Beth served as chair of the state Republican Party from 2001 to 2004. During that time she was instrumental in the Republicans taking control of the State Senate for the first time in 140 years. While serving as chair, she also contributed immensely to George W. Bush's presidential campaign, and served as a Bush Pioneer.

Representative Harwell has won numerous awards over her career, including the Harold Bradley Legislative Leadership Award, the American Cancer Society Legislative Leadership Award, Champion for Children Award, and the Junior League Legislator of the Year Award.

Harwell received her Bachelor of Arts degree from David Lipscomb University, and a Ph.D. from Vanderbilt. She has been an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Belmont University. She and her husband, Sam, have three children—Allie, Sam, and Tucker.

### **Business and Community Service Accomplishments:**

Agape – Board of Directors 1992-1998; Child Abuse Prevention – Board of Directors – 1989-1994; Economic Council on Women Nashville Women Careerist – 1983; American Heart Association, Tennessee Chapter – Board of Directors – 1995; Centennial Medical Center – Board of Trustees – 1995; David Lipscomb University – Business Advisory Council – 1995; Senior Citizens Center – Board of Directors – 1995; Nashville Vanderbilt Club – Board of Directors – 1996-1998; Women's NETWORK – Advisory Board – 1998; Economic Council on Women – 1999; Exchange Club; Leadership Nashville; Families First Advisory Council; National Order of Women Legislators – International Resolutions Committee Director; Montgomery Bell Academy – Advisory Board; Tennessee State Museum – Board of Directors; Nashville Children's Theatre – Board of Directors; Middle Tennessee Mental Health Center – Board of Directors.

### **Career in Higher Education:**

Belmont College, Faculty; David Lipscomb, Faculty; State Board of Regents; University of Tennessee Center for Government Training, Faculty; HCA, Private Seminar Consultant; The Center for Labor-Management Relations, Labor Education Specialist Consultant.

*\* Information provided by the Speaker of the House's office.*



# Tennessee Blue Book 2011-2012

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The *Tennessee Blue Book* is produced by the Department of State's Publications Division with assistance from individuals in the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of state government. Publications staff include: Richard Arnold, Jannie Davis, Melissa Fisher, Robert A. Greene, Kersta Lin Mello, Arleen Patton, Mardee Roberts, Tara Schonhoff, Billie Sue Shields, Martin "Jay" Victor and Cody Ryan York.

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# PREFACE

The *Tennessee Blue Book* serves as a manual of useful information on our state and government, both past and present. It contains information on the makeup of Tennessee state government, state history, national and state constitutions, most recent election results and census data.

The Blue Book is divided into seven sections. The first three sections are devoted to the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government. They appear in the order set forth by the state constitution. The book's organization is based on the organizational chart of state government which appears on the following page.

**Section I** focuses on the 107th General Assembly, listing the membership of the House and Senate and their committees. The General Assembly examines issues affecting Tennesseans and gives guidance necessary for the smooth operation of state government. The General Assembly elects three constitutional officers: the secretary of state, comptroller of the treasury and the treasurer. These officials and their departments are featured in this section.

**Section II** is devoted to the executive branch of government and explains the function of the departments administered by the governor through his appointed commissioners. This section also describes the governor's responsibilities and explores the history and duties of the agencies under his authority.

**Section III** examines the judicial branch of state government and provides information on the judicial system, courts and those involved in interpreting state law. The attorney general and reporter is a constitutional officer appointed by the Tennessee Supreme Court.

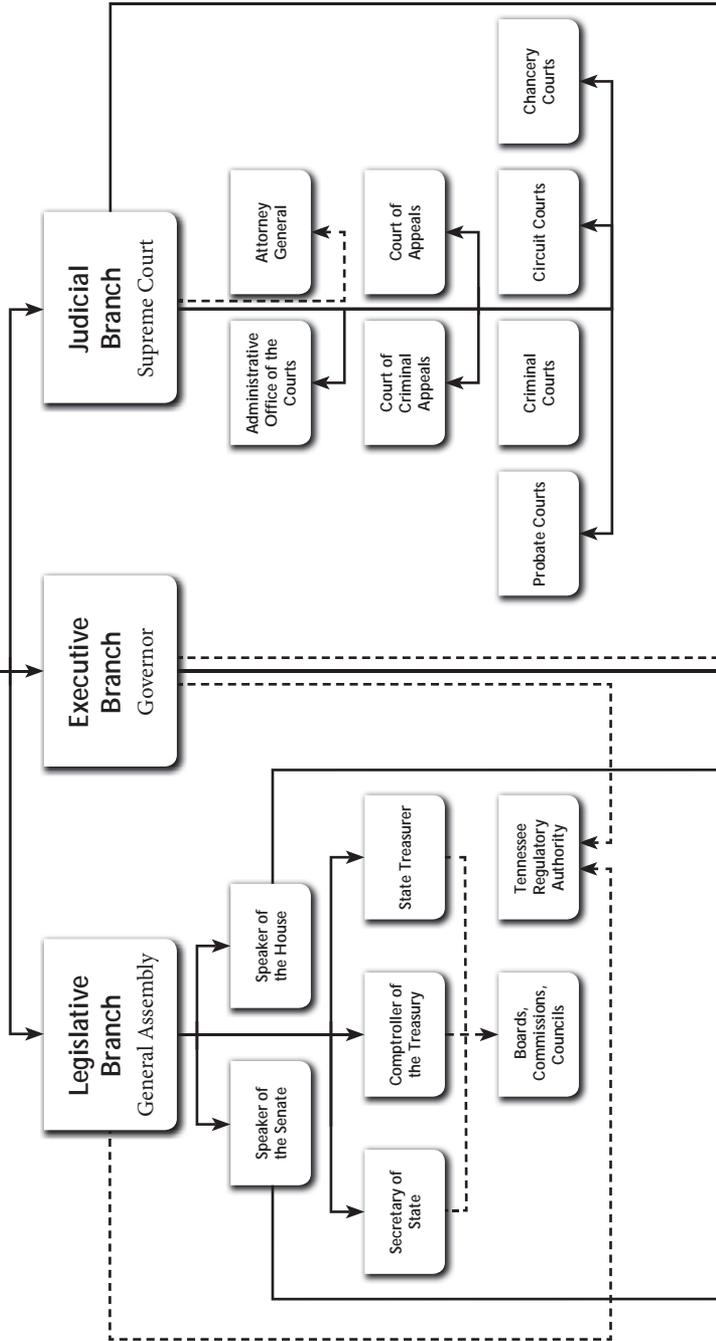
**Section IV** features the Tennessee Regulatory Authority and explains its role in advancing the public interest through telecommunications and utilities throughout the state.

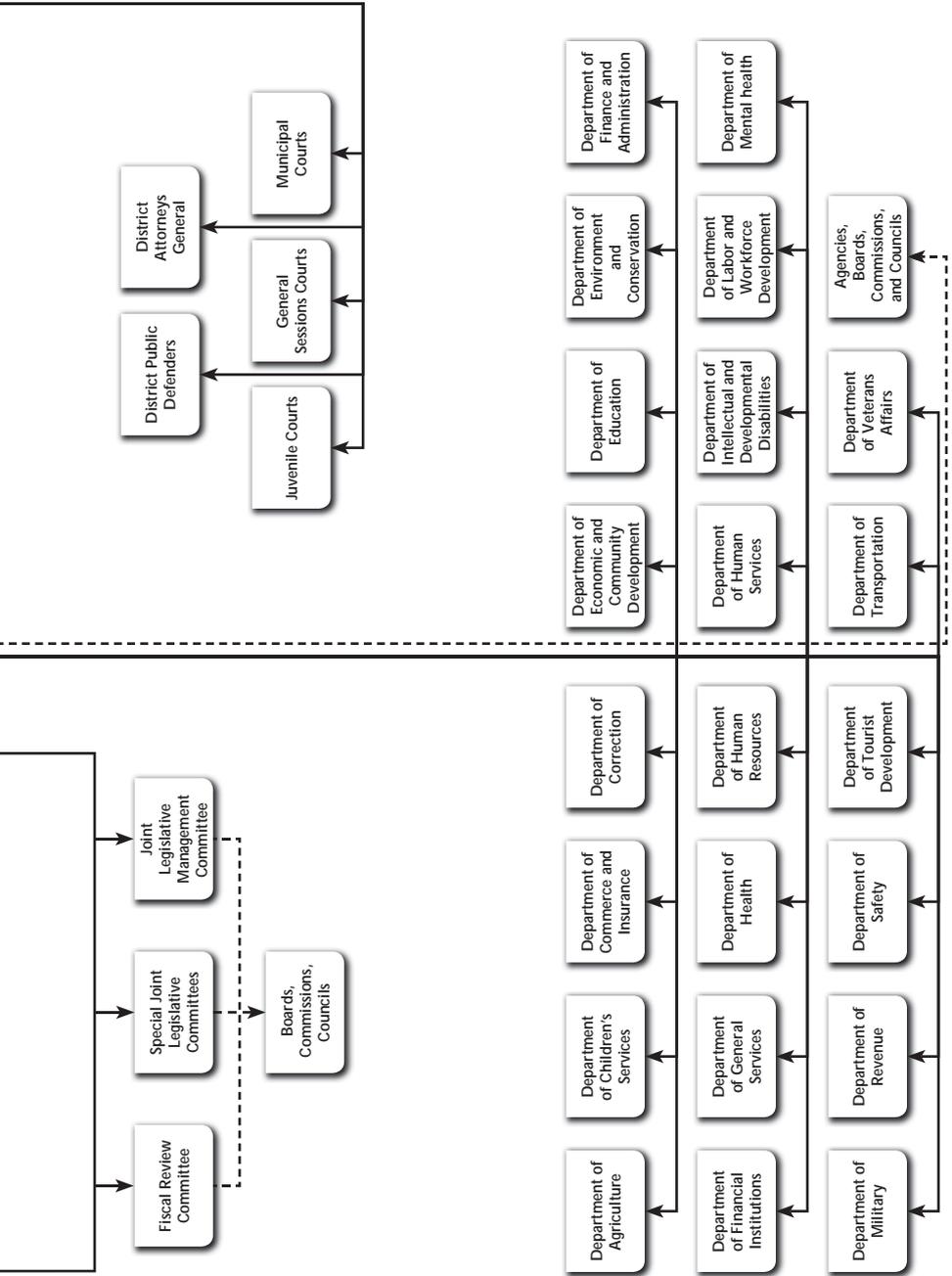
**Section V** presents the Tennessee congressional delegation in the federal government and the United States Constitution.

**Section VI** contains a cumulative state history, biographies of Tennessee's former governors, state historic sites, state symbols and honors and the Tennessee Constitution.

**Section VII** details the results of elections held across the state in 2009 through 2011 and provides statistical information regarding Tennessee cities and counties.

The term "blue book" dates from the 15th century when the English Parliament began keeping its records in large volumes covered with blue velvet. Since that time the name "Blue Book" has been used to describe many forms of government manuals. The *Tennessee Blue Book and Official Directory* was first published in 1929. Its predecessor, *The Official and Political Manual of the State of Tennessee*, was first published by the Office of the Secretary of State in 1890.







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