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Friday, August 07, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Tennessee Voters Set November Matchups in State and Local Elections

Tennessee voters headed to the polls Thursday to decide party nominees and several local races, setting the stage for the November General Election.

The Republican gubernatorial primary was won by U.S. Senator **Marsha Blackburn**, who captured **43%** of the statewide vote. Blackburn will face Democrat **Jerri Green**, a Memphis attorney and native, who secured **69%** of the Democratic vote. The contest will mark the **first Tennessee governor's race featuring two female major-party nominees**.

In the race for the U.S. Senate, **Republican Incumbent Bill Hagerty** advanced to the General Election without opposition. He will face **Democrat Marquita Bradshaw** in November.

In Tennessee's **3rd Congressional District**, **Republican Incumbent Chuck Fleischmann** easily won renomination with virtually no opposition. He will face **Democrat Anna Golladay** in the November election.

Tennessee State Senate – District 1 (Republican Primary) Republican voters returned **J. Adam Lowe** to the ballot with **65%** of the vote. Challengers **Teresa Congiolo** received **19%**, while **Dennis Beavers** earned **16%**. No Democratic candidate qualified for the General Election.

Tennessee State House – District 23 (Republican Primary) **Mark Cochran** won the Republican nomination with **63%** of the vote, defeating **Will Bolton**, who received **37%**. No Democratic candidate qualified, assuring Cochran of re-election in November.

McMinn County Republican Candidates for Sheriff, County Mayor, Circuit Court Clerk, County Clerk, Register of Deeds, and Highway Commissioner all secured victory in the General Election after facing no Democratic opposition. Among the new officeholders, **Charles Slack** will begin his first term as Highway Commissioner, while **Amanda Carr Howard** will take office as Circuit Court Clerk later this month.

Meigs County Mayor: Republican **Joe Lawson** was elected, defeating Democratic incumbent **Eddie Jewell** by a margin of **63% to 37%**.

With the primary elections complete, attention now turns to the November General Election, where voters across Tennessee will decide several key federal, state, and local offices.

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EVERY WEEK

Friday, August 07, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Church News & Events

- **Redemption to the Nations Church** will give out free food boxes on Aug. 14 from 6:30–7:30 p.m. at their church located at 2329 Clearwater Road, Athens.
- **Celebrate Recovery** meets every **Tuesday** at 6:00pm at Woodward Ave. Church of God in Athens. They also meet every **Thursday** at 6:00pm at Watts Bar Community Church in Decatur and Thursdays at 6:30pm at **Spirit City Church North Etowah**.
- **St. Mary's Legacy Clinic** offers free mobile medical care for the uninsured. Anyone who is medically uninsured is eligible to receive care. *St. Mary's Catholic Church (1291 E Madson Ave, Athens) is the McMinn County location and accepts patients every 3rd Thursday of the month.*

Community News You Can Use

- **Friday Night Dance** returns this week at the McMinn County Senior Activity Center with an evening of **80s & 90s country favorites, current hits, and a live DJ**. The event runs **Friday, Aug. 7, from 7–9 p.m.**, and is open to ages **50 and up**. Admission is **\$5 per person**, offering a fun night of dancing, socializing, and a chance for singles to mingle.
- **Athens City Board of Education** meets **Monday, Aug. 10 at Athens City Middle School's Auditorium at 5:30 p.m.** with an agenda including public comments, consent items (minutes, financials, policies, disciplinary authority), recognition of new hires across ACMS, ACIS, ACPS, and system-wide roles, plus updates on personnel, enrollment, and finances before concluding with communications, unfinished and new business. Full Draft agenda is viewable at the Athens City Schools website.
- **Athens Parks and Recreation** reminds residents to place **Veterans Brick orders by Friday, Aug. 7 at 2 p.m.** to be included in the **November Brick Dedication Ceremony**. Orders can be made by calling **423-744-2704** or in person at the Athens Regional Park office, 122 Regional Park Drive.

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Friday, August 07, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Nissan Frontier Crashes on County Road 660; Driver Uninjured



A 2024 Nissan Frontier traveling along County Road 660 in Athens around 11:30 a.m. Wednesday swerved to avoid an oncoming vehicle, striking a driveway and culvert.

The driver escaped injury in the crash. Etowah Rural Fire responded to the scene, and McMinn County Sheriff's Deputy Brian Greenlaw conducted the investigation.

Photo by Etowah Rural FD

Ford Focus Crashes on Hwy 39E; Driver Injured



A 2003 Ford Focus crashed Wednesday on Highway 39 East at the intersection of County Road 479

after the driver lost control, struck a culvert, and went airborne.

Emergency crews from Englewood Rural Fire extricated the driver from the wreckage before she was transported to Starr Regional Athens by AMR.

Responding agencies included Etowah Rural Fire, the McMinn County Sheriff's Department, and THP Trooper DJ Taylor, who investigated the accident.

Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD

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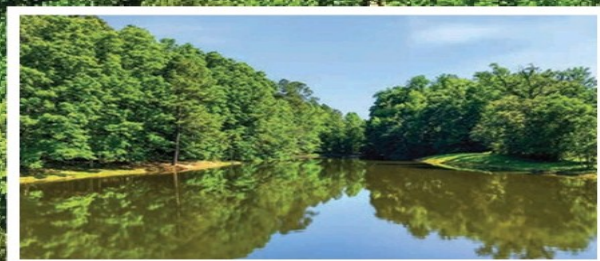
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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

August 05, 2026

Matthew Ledford, 48, of Athens, charged with failure to have insurance, drug paraphernalia, open container law, and disregarding traffic signal. Bond \$1,500.

Susan Fry, 42, of Madisonville, charged with public intoxication, and public indecency. Bond \$6,000.

Karina Nicolescu, 20, of British Columbia, charged with being a fugitive from justice. Bond \$500,000.

Keith Roberts, 47, of Athens, charged with possession of schedule 2 meth. Bond \$6,000.

Carl Bryan, 65, of Englewood, charged with simple possession casual exchange of schedule 2 fentanyl, and driving on a suspended license. Bond \$7,000.

Kayla Harris, 33, of Athens, charged with drug paraphernalia, and simple possession of schedule 6. Bond \$2,000.

Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.
Information gathered using public sources.

Man Found Dead at Madisonville Walmart

Madisonville police responded Tuesday to a report of an unresponsive person at the Walmart on Highway 411, where they discovered 44-year-old Daniel Wozniak III deceased.

Wozniak's body was transported to the Knox County Regional Forensic Center for autopsy. Police said there is no indication of foul play at this time, though the investigation remains ongoing.

Authorities noted that Wozniak had recently relocated from Michigan to Tennessee. In a statement, the Madisonville Police Department extended condolences to his family and loved ones, saying their "thoughts and prayers are with his family during this very difficult time."

We encourage you to e-mail us community events, church news, or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax.

Any items you would like us to consider, e-mail: wyxiradio@gmail.com

Obituaries

Stephanie Dawn Simpson Jackson, 51, of Athens, TN, went to her Heavenly Home peacefully, surrounded by loved ones, on Tuesday, August 4th, 2026. She was born in LaFollette, TN. She had a true servant's heart and was always looking for a way to help anyone in need. She was a faithful and proud member of Valley Road Baptist Church where she held many roles through the years. She loved her family and friends unconditionally and was an inspiration to many. She loved and was loved by so many. She is my sunshine. Visitation and celebration of a life well lived will be from 3:00-5:00 PM on Sunday, August 9th, 2026, at Valley Road Baptist Church, 860 County Road 187, Athens, TN with the memorial service to follow at 5:00 PM with Rev. Jimmy Jackson, Rev. David Coffman and Rev. Gus Fine officiating. In lieu of flowers, please spend the money to help someone in need. [Good Samaritan Funeral Home](#) of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

Kendall Hicks Adams, 80, of Delano, TN passed away on Wednesday, August 5, 2026. A memorial service will be held on Monday, August 10, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home with son-in-law, Rev. Arnold Hambricht officiating. The family will receive friends from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday prior to the service. The interment will be held at a later date. [Bordwine Funeral Home](#) of Etowah s in charge of arrangements.



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