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Kari Bates
Finance Director
City of Oak Ridge

Kari serves as the Finance Director for the City of Oak Ridge, where she also resides. She is honored to serve her community and help shape Oak Ridge's future through sound financial management and strategic decision-making that supports the city's continued growth and development.

Prior to joining the City of Oak Ridge, Kari served as a Municipal Finance Training Specialist with the University of Tennessee's Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS), where she oversaw the Certified Municipal Finance Officer (CMFO) program and provided statewide training in partnership with the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury. Before joining MTAS, she gained experience in the nonprofit, county, and municipal finance sectors.

A double alumna of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Kari holds a bachelor's and master's degree from UTK. She also holds the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM), Certified Municipal Finance Officer (CMFO), and Certified Public Manager (CPM) credentials. Passionate about local government and the government finance profession, Kari is committed to supporting and strengthening finance professionals across Tennessee.

Outside of her professional life, Kari and her husband, Matt, have too many children ranging in age from 8 to 28. She enjoys spending time outside with her family and serving her community.



Lillian Blackshear
Member
Bass, Berry & Sims PLC

Lillian is a member of the law firm, Bass, Berry & Sims PLC, and is based in its Nashville office. Since 2010, Lillian has represented clients in public finance transactions totaling more than \$10 billion. Governments and banks look to Lillian as counsel to secure the financing necessary to green-light a wide range of development projects and debt refundings. Exclusively focused on public finance, Lillian represents an array of governmental entities, investment banks and commercial banks on debt issuances throughout Tennessee. Her practice involves:

- Serving as bond counsel to counties, cities and various districts, authorities and nonprofit entities in the issuance of general obligation and revenue bonds and notes.

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- Serving as underwriter's counsel and bank counsel to financial institutions in the issuance of state, county, city and nonprofit debt.
- Serving as disclosure counsel to local governments in the issuance of municipal bonds and notes.

Lillian is a valuable resource to the firm's Public Finance Practice Group on municipal securities disclosure issues and frequently works with issuers regarding their continuing disclosure obligations.



Courtney Boynton

Deputy Commissioner and Chief Operating Officer
Tennessee Department of Revenue

Courtney is the deputy commissioner and chief operating officer at the Department of Revenue. In this role, Courtney oversees the department's customer-facing operations, including Audit, Collection Services, Taxpayer Services, and Vehicle Services. She also oversees the department's Human Resources, Legislation, Research, and Tax Policy divisions.

Boynton joined the department in 2017 and has held roles of increasing responsibility, including assistant general counsel, legislative director, and, most recently, chief of staff.

A native of Kentucky, Courtney received her bachelor's degree in business administration from Belmont University in Nashville and her J.D. from Northern Kentucky University.



Kristine Brock

Assistant City Administrator/Chief Financial Officer
City of Franklin

Kristine has served as Assistant City Administrator/Chief Financial Officer for the City of Franklin, Tennessee since January 2017. Formerly, she was Director of Management and Budget for the City of Maryville, Tennessee and Budget Director for Gwinnett County, Georgia. Kristine began her career as a financial advisor with a national independent municipal advisory firm. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Maryville College (TN) and a Master of Science in Public Policy and Management with a concentration in Public Finance from Carnegie Mellon University (PA). Kristine has been serving in the public finance sector since 1999.

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Kristine has been a member of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) since 2003, became a Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO) in 2012 and currently serves on GASB's Governmental Accounting Standards Advisory Council (GASAC). She has also been involved in various capacities in the State of Tennessee Government Finance Officers Association (TGFOA) and was the organization's President in 2019. She also served six years on GFOA's Debt Committee. A native of Seymour, Tennessee, Kristine and husband Jesse reside in Franklin.



Caryn Burkholder
Director of Data Strategy
Tennessee Department of Education

Caryn serves as the Director of Data Strategy at the Tennessee Department of Education, where she manages Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA) implementation, data governance, and other strategic data initiatives. She brings experience in education data systems, funding policy, and cross-functional project management.

Prior to joining TDOE, Caryn served as a data director at a charter network. In addition, she has worked as a middle school math teacher, grounding her work in a practical understanding of schools and students.



Jeremy Cain
Administrative Services Assistant
Tennessee Department of Revenue

Jeremy began his career with the Tennessee Department of Revenue in 2021 as a Taxpayer Services Representative. Two years later, he was promoted to Supervisor, where he gained experience leading staff and supporting taxpayer service operations. In 2026, Jeremy joined Taxpayer Education as an Administrative Services Assistant.

In this role, he helps coordinate and facilitate webinars, clerk meetings, speaking engagements, and other outreach efforts across the state. Jeremy supports the Department's mission through tax education.

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Chris Caldwell

Chief Financial Officer / Co-Chief of Staff
Knox County

Currently, Chris is the Chief Financial Officer / Co-Chief of Staff for Knox County Government, overseeing a budget of \$1.1 billion. He was appointed to the position in 2012. Before becoming Director, Chris served as the Accounting and Budget Director for the Finance Department, overseeing the accounting staff and supporting the Director. He graduated with honors from Lincoln Memorial University with a degree in Accounting, Magna Cum Laude (2000-2002), and from Bellevue University with a Master of Business Administration (2008-2009). He was a member of Alpha Chi and Phi Theta Kappa. Chris is a member of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and the Tennessee Government Finance Officers Association (TGFOA). He serves on five additional boards: the Knoxville Chamber, CAC, Zoo Knoxville, the Knox County Retirement & Pension Board, and the Knox County Investment Committee.

He is a graduate of Leadership Knoxville Class of 2015 and was recognized by the Greater Knoxville Business Journal as a "40 Under Forty" Class of 2014. In 2012, he was awarded the "R. Martin Peters Young Alumnus of the Year" by LMU. The American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) recognized him as the 2016 "Public Administrator of the Year."



Mike Cannata

Senior Consultant
Merchant Cost Consulting

Mike Cannata is a Senior Consultant with Merchant Cost Consulting, specializing in helping municipalities and businesses identify and reduce unnecessary operating expenses, with credit card processing being one key area. With a background in Account Management and Finance, Mike brings a practical, results-driven approach to cost reduction, keeping everything the exact same, just at better rates.

Before joining MCC, Mike worked for a large corporation where employees were incentivized to increase client costs to drive company profits, a tactic commonly used in payment processing. That experience gave him a different perspective on the traditional vendor-client relationship and ultimately led him to MCC, where the business model is built around saving clients money.

Today, Mike helps organizations uncover hidden costs, negotiate better pricing, and reduce expenses without disrupting their existing systems, vendor

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agreements, or day-to-day operations. Mike has always taken pride in helping others. With costs rising every day, there's never been a better time to identify where unnecessary expenses are quietly eating into your budget.



Scott Catlett
Managing Director
Eide Bailly

Scott is as a Managing Director based in Nashville and oversees Eide Bailly's state and local government financial management service offerings throughout the United States, including engagements focusing on budgeting, long-term financial planning, organizational assessments, grant administration, and financial policy development. Scott has 26 years of diverse experience in public sector financial management and accounting, with 17 of those years spent working as a Budget Manager and later Finance Director for three cities with budgets ranging from \$100 million to over \$1 billion. Scott obtained a bachelor's degree in finance from Tulane University in New Orleans and later a master's degree in public administration from California State University.

In more recent years, he has frequently served as a speaker and course instructor for GFOA and its state affiliates, including Colorado GFOA, GFOA of Texas, and the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers. His passion for education has extended to serving as an adjunct professor, where he has taught public financial management and budgeting courses at the graduate level.



Debbie Clabo
Tax Director
Tennessee Department of Economic Development

Debbie graduated from Austin Peay State University with a bachelor's degree in business administration, a major in Accounting, and an Associate's degree of Applied Sciences with a focus on Computer Accounting.

Ms. Clabo has worked for the State of Tennessee for 30 years with the majority of the time spent with the Tennessee Department of Revenue in various positions. Ms. Clabo left to work for four years with a local CPA firm in the Nashville Area, specializing in State and Local taxes and economic development incentives. Since coming back to State Government, she has filled the position of Tax Director within Tennessee Department of Economic Development and Liaison with the Tennessee Department of Revenue.



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In this role, Ms. Clabo works extensively with both existing industries and new business coming to the State of Tennessee by assisting with tax questions, registration, and both general and unique tax issues that arise over the course of doing business.



Marisa Combs Smith J.D.

Area Executive Vice President
Public Sector Tennessee and Georgia
Gallagher Benefit Services

Marisa Combs Smith is a licensed attorney and Area Executive Vice President with Gallagher who helps public employers navigate the complex legal, human resources, financial, and operational issues surrounding employee benefits and workforce management. She leads Gallagher's public sector employee benefits practice across Tennessee, including counties, municipalities, and schools, on healthcare cost containment, procurement strategy, workforce compliance, leave management, and legislative developments.

Drawing on experience in both the legal and consulting arenas, Marisa is known for helping organizations develop practical, defensible solutions that support employees while protecting public resources. Her expertise spans employee benefits, employment law compliance, workforce strategy, and public-sector governance, allowing her to help organizations balance financial stewardship, employee wellbeing, and regulatory obligations. A frequent speaker for public-sector associations and leadership groups, Marisa is recognized for translating complex legal, human resources, and benefits issues into clear, actionable guidance that organizations can confidently implement. Her latest interest is AI and its impacts on public entity administrative processes.



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Christopher Coviello
Vice President / Senior Analyst
US Public Finance Group
Moody's Ratings

Chris covers credits primarily in Alabama and Tennessee. He has authored numerous reports on his most high-profile credits including Nashville and Knoxville, Tennessee and Jefferson County, Birmingham and Huntsville, Alabama, and other topics.

Prior to joining Moody's, Chris was a Mutual Fund Portfolio Manager with William R. Hough and Company and Fund Information Supervisor with Franklin Templeton.

Chris holds an MBA in Finance from the University of Tampa and a BA in Economics from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida.



Jessica Crosby
Outreach Director
Benefits Administration
State of Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration

Jessica Crosby is the outreach director for Benefits Administration, a division of the State of Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration. Benefits Administration administers the state of Tennessee-sponsored Partners for Health insurance benefits for over 290,000 state, higher education, local education and local government employees, dependents and retirees. Jessica partners with local government agencies to transition them onto the state plans for medical, dental and vision benefits for their employees.



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Wes Dozier
Area Vice President
Tennessee Public Sector
Gallagher Benefit Services

Wes Dozier helps public sector employers navigate one of their most complex responsibilities: providing competitive employee benefits while remaining accountable to taxpayers, governing boards, and budget realities. He works exclusively with school districts, counties, and municipalities across Tennessee, advising on medical, pharmacy, and ancillary benefit strategies, healthcare funding alternatives, and procurement initiatives.

With more than 22 years of experience spanning insurance operations and employee benefits consulting, Wes brings a practical perspective grounded in real-world implementation. He has overseen hundreds of renewals and open enrollments and played a leadership role in launching Tennessee's first statewide, privately organized public sector healthcare risk pool. Known for translating complex benefit challenges into actionable solutions, Wes helps public employers make informed decisions that support both their workforce and financial goals. He is equally comfortable communicating those strategies to administrative leadership, employees, elected officials, and funding bodies, breaking down complex topics into practical, understandable terms that drive informed decision-making.



Jerry Durham
Assistant Director, Retired
Division of Local Government Audit
Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury

Jerry was an Assistant Director for the State of Tennessee, Comptroller of the Treasury, Division of Local Government Audit until his retirement in 2022. The division has statutory responsibility for audits of approximately 1800 local governments and related organizations in Tennessee. Many of these governments are subject to the Single Audit Act and OMB's Uniform Guidance.

A 38-year veteran of the division, Jerry served as an auditor, audit supervisor, training instructor, technical manager, and assistant director. In his role as assistant director, he was responsible for developing professional compliance procedures and monitoring the division's quality performance under GASB, AICPA, OMB, and GAO accounting and auditing standards. Jerry was also responsible for supervising the contract review process within the division. During his

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employment, he also served on several working committees of professional organizations including GFOA national.

In addition, Jerry taught the Yellow Book and Audit Findings training classes for the Tennessee Department of Audit. Jerry was selected as Department of Audit Instructor of the Year four times. Jerry was also selected for the AGA National Educator award for 2019.

Jerry made various presentations for TGFOA from 2009 through 2022. In addition, Jerry has made training presentations for numerous other professional organizations, states, and local governments.

Jerry lives in Spring Hill and is married (50 years) and has three children and five grandchildren.



Maryanne Durski
Chief Financial Officer
Tennessee Department of Education

Maryanne Durski is a native of Cleveland, Ohio. She holds a bachelor's degree in French from Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts and a master's in business administration with a concentration in finance from Boston College in Boston, Massachusetts. Maryanne worked for Bank of Boston in the Trust and Estate Division for ten years. In 1991 her family relocated to Tennessee where she began her career in education finance. She worked in various school and district level positions for Sumner County Schools, including school bookkeeper, internal auditor and assistant director of schools for finance, a position she held from 1997 to 2011. In 2011 Maryanne joined the Tennessee Department of Education as the Executive Director of the Office of Local Finance. In this position she led a team responsible for the allocations of state and federal funds to districts. She also supervised six regional finance consultants who provide financial technical assistance and support to Tennessee's 147 districts and state special schools. In April she was appointed Chief Financial Officer for the Tennessee Department of Education.

A member of the Tennessee Association of School Business Officials (TASBO) since 1997, Maryanne has served on the board since 2000. She was president in 2007 and since 2011 serves as the executive secretary to the board. In 2011 she received the James D. McCullough Distinguished Service award from TASBO and was named Tennessee's Outstanding Business Official by the Southeastern Association of School Business Officials (SASBO). Maryanne recently received the Governor's Excellence in Service Award.

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Maryanne has been married to her husband, Zyg, for 45 years. They live in Hendersonville, Tennessee as do their two children, daughter-in-law and two grandsons, who are the lights of her life.



Marianna Edinger, CGFM, CCFO
Director of Accounts & Budgets
Coffee County, Tennessee

Serving as Coffee County's Director of Accounts & Budgets since 2006, Marianna's responsibilities include all accounting operations which include the Highway Department and county-owned Ambulance Service. In addition to risk management Marianna manages all debt including continuing disclosure as well as leading the annual budget process along with the annual audit.

Marianna also supports newly elected officials by facilitating their understanding of internal control compliance and other related accounting and auditing standards.

A graduate of Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), Marianna began her career in government in 1988 with the City of Tullahoma, TN as a Payroll Accountant. A member of Women in Public Finance (WPF) Marianna is also a Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) and a Certified County Finance Officer (CCFO).



Lori Emrey, CPA
Controller
Hixson Utility District

Lori serves as Controller of Hixson Utility District in Chattanooga, Tennessee. She has been with the utility for six years and brings extensive experience in public accounting and banking to her role. Lori began her career as an auditor with Arthur Andersen, where she gained experience in both audit and tax.

She is a graduate of Tennessee Technological University, a Certified Public Accountant, and a member of the Tennessee Society of CPAs. In her free time, Lori enjoys spending time with her family and traveling.



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William F. Fox

Special Advisor to the UTK Chancellor
Boyd Distinguished Professor Emeritus
University of Tennessee

Bill Fox is Special Advisor to the Chancellor and Boyd Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of Tennessee. He is former Director of the Boyd Center and Head of the Economics Department. He was the 2013-14 University of Tennessee Macebearer. He is a past President and recipient of the Steven D. Gold Award from the National Tax Association.

He has held visiting appointments as Professor at the University of Hawaii, scholar at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, and Distinguished Fulbright Chair at the University of Frankfurt, Germany. Fox has served as a consultant to both the private and public sectors on a wide range of public policy issues in over 40 countries and 15 U.S. states.



Leah Frazier

Training and Development Consultant
University of Tennessee

Leah is a Training & Development Consultant with the University of Tennessee's Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS), where she designs and delivers professional development programs for municipal leaders and public servants across Tennessee. She holds a master's degree in industrial-organizational psychology from Austin Peay State University and brings experience in training, leadership development, and performance improvement.

Prior to joining MTAS, she served as the Organizational Development & Engagement Coordinator for the City of Clarksville, and earlier in her career conducted affective neuroscience research at Vanderbilt University.



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Drew Freeman

Senior Director of Financial Empowerment
Tennessee Treasury Department

Drew Freeman serves as the Senior Director of Financial Empowerment for the Tennessee Treasury Department. In this role, he leads the statewide Outreach team, which educates participating employers on Treasury programs, including RetireReadyTN—Treasury's retirement initiative that unites the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS) and the Deferred Compensation Program (401(k)/457) with comprehensive retirement education.

Drew oversees Treasury's efforts to equip agency leaders with information about available retirement benefits, onboard new local government employers into the retirement programs, and support participating employers in their monthly reporting to TCRS. He also promotes and coordinates the delivery of retirement readiness education to TCRS members and Deferred Compensation participants. In addition to these responsibilities, Drew provides strategic leadership for the TN Financial Literacy Commission. His work supports the Commission's mission to improve the financial well-being of Tennesseans by providing innovative financial education resources to schools and families across the state.

Drew has served the Tennessee Treasury Department since 2013. Prior to joining Treasury, he worked on the Outreach team at the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation, the agency responsible for administering the lottery-funded HOPE Scholarship. He earned his master's degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and his undergraduate degree from Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City.



Amber Haston

Senior Manager
Government Advisory Services
Eide Bailly

Amber is a Senior Manager on Eide Bailly's Government Advisory Services team with nearly 15 years of public sector and consulting experience, including more than a decade working directly in local government finance. Prior to joining Eide Bailly, she held leadership roles in two full-service urban municipalities with annual budgets of approximately \$172 million and \$340 million, where she led budget and procurement functions, long-term financial forecasting, capital planning, cost allocation and cost recovery initiatives, and organizational improvement efforts. Amber now advises organizations nationwide on budgeting, financial policy development, organizational effectiveness, and strategic planning.

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Her experience spans the full spectrum of governmental finance, allowing her to combine practical operational knowledge with strategic advisory expertise to help organizations strengthen financial resilience and better align resources with community priorities. Amber holds a bachelor's degree in Business Management with a specialization in Public and Nonprofit Management and is a graduate of the GFOA's Leadership Academy.



Drew Hawkins

Assistant Director of Fiscal Services
Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury

Drew is the Assistant Director of Fiscal Services for the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury, a role he has held for 14 years. He oversees the Comptroller's Financial and Customer Care teams and is responsible for the Office's budget, risk assessment process, and a variety of other fiscal and administrative functions.

Drew began his career with the Comptroller's Division of State Audit, serving for eight and a half years in roles of increasing responsibility. He later joined the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration as Assistant Director of Internal Audit, where he served for six years and gained extensive experience conducting and overseeing internal audits and fraud investigations.

A graduate of Bethel College, Drew double majored in Accounting and Business Administration. He is a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) and Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM). He has also served the Middle Tennessee Association of Certified Fraud Examiners in several leadership positions, including At-Large Board Member, Treasurer, Vice President, and President.

Drew and his wife, Denise, have been married for 26 years and have two children, Cam and Carlie.



Anik Hoque

Analyst
US Public Finance Group
Moody's Ratings

Anik Hoque covers credits primarily in Alabama, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

Prior to joining Moody's, Anik was an intern for Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley. Anik holds a BA in Economics and a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Rochester.

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Janet Jennings, CPA, CPFO, CMFO

Finance Director
Town of Jonesborough

Janet currently serves as Finance Director for the Town of Jonesborough. She has a bachelor's degree in Accounting from East Tennessee State University and a master's degree in Business Administration from Western Governors University. She is a CPA, CPFO (through GFOA) and a CMFO.

She spent the majority of her local government career, 21 years, serving as the Finance Director for the City of Johnson City. She then briefly served as the CFO for the City of Bristol, Virginia, before going to the Town of Jonesborough, where she has served for the past three (3) years. Prior experience includes Public Accounting, as well as a Plant Controller in a manufacturing environment.

Janet's involvement with the TGFOA includes serving as 2nd Vice President, Vice President, President, Past President (2 times), as well as Program Chair. She was also involved with the Tennessee Chapter of Women in Public Finance.

On a personal note, she has been a church pianist since she was 13 and thoroughly enjoys serving in her church. Her biggest joy is spending time with her 2 daughters and 3 grandchildren.



Ben Johnson

Financial and Utility Manager
Local Government Finance
Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury

Ben serves as a Financial and Utility Manager in the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury's Division of Local Government Finance. In this role, he leads the division's support of the Tennessee Board of Utility Regulation and serves as the division's primary liaison for utility matters. He coordinates the board's work and oversees efforts to provide assistance to utility systems and training for local officials on sound financial and operational practices.

Ben joined the Comptroller's Office in 2016 and has supported utilities and local governments throughout his tenure with the Division of Local Government Finance. He has also served on the Comptroller's Legislative Team and assisted with research for members of the Tennessee General Assembly.

Before joining Local Government Finance, Ben worked as an auditor in the Comptroller's Division of State Audit. He also has private sector experience as a forensic auditor with Deloitte.

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Ben earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from the University of Kentucky in 2009 and a bachelor's degree in accounting from Western Kentucky University in 2016.

Ben and his wife, Amie, live in Middle Tennessee with their son and goldendoodle. He enjoys spending time with his family and finding new weekend experiences for them to enjoy together. In his spare time, Ben enjoys golfing, exercising, gardening, and walking local greenways.



Betsy Knotts
Counsel
Bass, Berry & Sims PLC

Betsy Knotts is an attorney at the law firm, Bass, Berry & Sims PLC, and is based in its Nashville office. Drawing on her experience working within various government departments, Betsy Knotts represents clients primarily in the areas of public finance and economic development incentives. In this role she counsels local governments and other governmental entities on matters related to various financing transactions. Her practice includes:

- Public Finance – Advising on a variety of public finance matters such as general obligation bonds for cities and counties, and various revenue bond issues for municipal utilities and utility districts.
- Economic Incentives – Counseling government entities and private entities to create and negotiate incentives to spur growth in communities across the state.

Prior to joining Bass, Berry & Sims, Betsy had an extensive career in government. She most recently served as director at the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury, Division of Local Government Finance where she assisted local governments in all areas of municipal finance and drafted legislation on issues related to local government debt issuance. Prior to that, Betsy was the executive secretary at the Tennessee State Board of Equalization, Comptroller of the Treasury. In this role, she reviewed and approved certain tax incentive transactions and acted as administrative judge for the Tennessee Assessment Appeals Commission. Betsy also served in positions at the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury, Office of General Counsel; the Office of the Tennessee Attorney General, Financial Division; and the Office of the Texas Attorney General, Public Finance Division.



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Douglas D. Lukonen, MAcc, CCFO

Finance Director and Chief Financial Officer
Office of Financial Management
Maury County Government and Maury County Public Schools

Doug serves as Finance Director and CFO for the Maury County Office of Financial Management, where he leads the financial operations of Maury County Government and Maury County Public Schools. He has served in this role since 2017.

During his tenure, Doug helped implement the 2018 Maury County Financial Management Act and lead the transformation of the County and School System's financial operations. Those efforts contributed to a substantial reduction in audit findings and helped Maury County Public Schools achieve their first clean audit in eight years. The transition also eliminated the need for contracted school financial-management services, generating approximately \$1 million in recurring annual savings. Doug and his team also successfully abated more than \$2.6 million in IRS penalties for Maury County Government and Schools.

Doug's broader career includes governmental, corporate, audit, and tax accounting experience. He also owned and operated an accounting business for nearly four years, scaling the business fivefold before successfully selling it.

Doug is the Second Vice President for TGFOA, and he remains involved with Middle Tennessee State University through accounting alumni service and student mentorship. He holds both a BBA in Accounting and Master of Accountancy from MTSU and is a Certified County Finance Officer.

Doug is passionate about government finance, leadership, developing people, and sharing practical lessons learned from both successes and failures. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Abby, and daughter, Darcie, making music, staying active, and golfing.



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Shane McFarland
Mayor
City of Murfreesboro

Shane is the Mayor of Murfreesboro, one of the fastest-growing cities in the nation. During his tenure, the City has advanced over \$250 million in downtown development, opened a new \$40 million Police Headquarters, launched the Better Boro health initiative, and led major projects including West Park and Town Creek Daylighting.

He also owns Shane McFarland Construction, a nationally recognized building firm, and remains active in the community as a youth coach and avid runner and cyclist.



David Moore
Police Management Consultant
UT Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS)

David Moore is a Police Management Consultant with the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS), an agency within the UT Institute of Public Service. Since 2019, David has supported municipalities across Tennessee on a wide range of policing and public safety issues. In addition to MTAS duties, David is assigned as Interim Director of UT LEIC in September 2026.

Before joining UT MTAS, David built a career with the City of Martin Police Department in Martin, Tennessee. He began as a dispatcher while attending the University of Tennessee at Martin and later retired from the department in 2015 as Chief of Police.

From 2015 to 2017, David served as Vice President of the Law Enforcement Training Division at Virtual Academy (Savant Learning Systems). In this role, he helped lead product design and implementation, marketing and sales, and the development of training resources by identifying and coordinating subject matter experts to meet the needs of law enforcement nationwide.

In 2017, David joined the faculty at UT Martin as a lecturer in Criminal Justice within the Department of Behavioral Sciences. He continued in that role until beginning his work with UT MTAS in January 2019.

David holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin and a Master of Science degree from Bethel University. He is also a Certified Public Manager and a graduate of the 195th Session of the FBI National Academy. David previously served on the Executive Board of the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police (TACP) for a decade and is a Past President. In 2026, he received the

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University of Tennessee's highest honor – the President's Bold and Impactful Award.

Today, in addition to providing technical assistance to Tennessee cities on police management and policy matters, David teaches courses for police leaders, managers, and municipal officials. His instruction includes topics such as Drug Fund Management, Sensitive Property and Evidence, Policy Development, Mission-Based Policing, FLSA Applied for Public Safety, and multiple areas within law enforcement management and administration. He has also developed curriculum and college-level courses in criminal justice.

David lives in Martin with his wife, Lisa. He has two children, two sons-in-law, and three grandchildren, all in Martin.



Jason E. Mumpower
Comptroller of the Treasury
State of Tennessee

Jason was elected Tennessee's 35th Comptroller of the Treasury on January 13, 2021. He is responsible for leading the Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury, which comprises 13 divisions and more than 600 employees, and ensuring the Office fulfills its mission to make government work better. He is currently serving his third term.

Prior to his service with the Comptroller's Office, Comptroller Mumpower served in the Tennessee General Assembly as the State Representative for Sullivan and Johnson counties. He was first elected to office at age 23 and during his 14-year tenure, he held the positions of House Minority Leader and House Majority Leader. He joined the Comptroller's Office in December 2010, serving as former Comptroller Justin P. Wilson's Deputy Comptroller and Chief of Staff.

Comptroller Mumpower has received numerous awards and recognitions during his career. In 2025, he was awarded USA Today's Top Workplaces Leadership Award, recognizing him as the nation's Top Leader for similarly sized organizations.

In 2023, and 2025, he was named the Top Leader among large Middle Tennessee businesses as part of The Tennessean's Top Workplaces competition. He has also been named Legislator of the Year on multiple occasions by several organizations. Additionally, he has received the National Federation of Independent Business' Guardian of Small Business Award and the Future Farmers of America's Lifetime Alumni Award.

Comptroller Mumpower is a graduate of King University (née King College) with a B.A. in Economics and a minor in Political Science. Notably, in June 2013, he

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graduated from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government Senior Executives in State and Local Government program.

Comptroller Mumpower is an Eagle Scout and active in many community organizations and projects, including the Rotary Club of Bristol, TN/VA and the chambers of commerce in Kingsport, Bristol, and Johnson County, Tennessee. He currently serves as a member of King University's Board of Trustees, and he is on the National State Auditors Association Executive Committee.

Comptroller Mumpower resides in Bristol, Tennessee with his wife, Alicia, and son, Max.



Matt Napolitano

Assistant General Counsel
Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury

Matt serves as Assistant General Counsel within the Tennessee Comptroller's Office. He joined the office in the fall of 2025. Previously, he worked for the Office of Chief Counsel, representing the Internal Revenue Service in tax court.

Matt graduated in 2023 from the University of Tennessee College of Law. He has been married to his wife, Kayla, for a little over two years, and they live in the Nashville area with their golden retriever, Ollie.



Donald Pannell

Fire Management Consultant
Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS)

Donald entered the fire service in August of 1994 as a firefighter/EMT for the Memphis Fire Department where he rose through the ranks to become a Division Chief in 2014 and served as the Assistant Fire Marshal for the department. Donald retired from Memphis in November of 2021 when he began serving as a Fire Management Consultant for the University of Tennessee's Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS).

Donald has bachelor's degrees in political science and journalism from the University of Mississippi and a master's degree in operations management from the University of Arkansas. He is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program and is one of 12 individuals in Tennessee designated as a Fire Marshal from the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

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David Santucci
Town Manager
Town of Smyrna

David Santucci was appointed as the Town Manager effective October 14, 2024. He previously served as the City Manager for Deerfield Beach, Florida, in roles ranging from Purchasing Manager (2011) to Assistant City Manager/Purchasing Director (2014) and City Manager (2019). He is responsible for executing the day-to-day operations of the Town, implementing Council policies, and coordinating municipal services.

Santucci began his public service career in 2004 in Lee County, Florida, in public procurement, then with Coconut Creek, Florida. He joined Deerfield Beach in June 2011 and advanced to City Manager in 2019, leading the city through the COVID-19 pandemic and enabling significant growth and economic revitalization.

A former U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant and Combat Veteran, he holds a Bachelor of Public Management from Florida Atlantic University and an Associate of Arts from Broward College. He and his family are excited to join our community.



Clint Shrum
Criminal Justice Consultant
UT County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS)

Clint joined CTAS in January 2023. Clint served 30 years in law enforcement including two terms as sheriff of Grundy County. During his tenure as sheriff, Clint served on the board of directors for the Tennessee Sheriffs' Association and the technical advisory panel for the International Association of Chiefs of Police drug evaluation classification program.

In 2017, Clint received the J. Stannard Baker Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Sheriffs' Association for his work in highway traffic safety. He was also named the Tennessee Sheriff of the Year in 2020. Before being elected, Clint served as a police officer in the City of Winchester and as a law enforcement liaison for the Tennessee Highway Safety Office.

He holds a bachelor of science in criminal justice administration from Columbia Southern University. Clint is a certified jail manager through the American Jail Association and a graduate of the 109th session of the National Sheriffs' Institute.

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Chief Jeff Stewart

Fire Chief
Bradley County

Chief Jeff Stewart began his fire service career as a volunteer with the Bradley County Fire Rescue at the age of 22. In 2007, he was hired as a career firefighter with Bradley County Fire Rescue, where he steadily advanced through the ranks to roles such as Company Officer, Training Captain, Battalion Commander, and Deputy Chief. His dedication and expertise earned him the appointment as Fire Chief by Mayor D. Gary Davis in December 2023. Chief Stewart brings a wealth of technical skills to his role, including expertise in Incident Command, Tri State Mutual Aid Assistant Coordinator, IMT team, EMR instructor, TN Taskforce 4 Technical Rescue, Fire Suppression, HazMat Tech, Health & Safety, Swiftwater Rescue, Fire Training Academy, Officer Training, and Labor Relations.

Chief Stewart holds a Bachelor's Degree in Fire Administration from Columbia Southern University and an Advanced EMT certification from Cleveland State Community College.



Jamie Stitt

Assistant Commissioner
Business and Workforce Development
Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development

Jamie Stitt serves as Assistant Commissioner of Business and Workforce Development. She assists Deputy Commissioner Allen Borden in overseeing all expansions of existing companies and the recruitment of new companies to Tennessee. Additionally, she leads the FastTrack incentive team, vetting each company and project as it moves through the pipeline.

Since Jamie joined the business development team, the department has had record-breaking job commitments, shattering previous records with over 200,000 jobs committed at a close rate of 70 percent. Jamie continuously channels the department's focus of creating net new jobs in Tennessee's key clusters with a focus of those being high-quality paying jobs.

Prior to her current role, Jamie served as TNECD Regional Director for Southern Middle Tennessee where she led her team in assisting companies in the creation of more than 6,200 jobs and nearly \$700 million in capital investment. She has also fulfilled the role of ThreeStar Program Director and Regional Economic Development Specialist where she assisted communities in implementing economic preparedness best practices.

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Prior to joining TNECD in 2007, Jamie was the Director of Joint Economic and Community Development for Marshall County where she focused her efforts on new business creation. Jamie earned her master's degree at Illinois State University and her bachelor's degree at University of Illinois at Springfield.

Jamie resides in Nolensville, Tennessee with her husband Jimmy, their two kids, Jayden and Jaycie, and their dog, Wrigley.



Mary Stoutenburgh
Operational Data Manager
Tennessee Department of Education

Mary serves as an Operational Data Manager at the Tennessee Department of Education, where she has worked for the past four years. A former middle school math and science teacher, she combines her educational experience with a strong passion for data-driven decision-making.

In her current role, Mary calculates the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA) formula, analyzes the underlying data, and supports districts and charter schools in maintaining accurate, reliable data.



SFC (ret) Gregory Allen Stube
US Army Special Forces
Green Beret

- 23 years of service in the United States Army
- 19 years as a U.S. Army Special Forces Green Beret
- Special Forces Medical Sergeant (18D) with advanced training in trauma care, surgery, and emergency medicine
- Combat veteran of the Global War on Terror, with extensive deployments in Bosnia, and Kosovo
- Wounded in action during combat operations in Afghanistan (Operation Medusa, Battle of Sperwan Ghar)
- Instructor at the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School
- Contributor to Special Forces Advanced Urban Combat training development
- Presenter for the FBI, FBI National Academy, DEA, Texas Rangers law enforcement agency, and departments nationwide
- Host of Coming Home with Greg Stube, aired on NBC Sports and the Sportsman Channel, focused on real-world military experience and life after service
- Featured in Walk in My Combat Boots by James Patterson
- Author of Conquer Anything: A Green Beret's Guide to Building Your A-Team

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- Defense Language Institute graduate (Russian language)
- Dive Medical Technician, Special Forces Underwater Operations
- SERE qualified (Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape)
- Master Parachutist and Jumpmaster



Jeff Taylor

Chief Financial Officer
Clarksville Montgomery County School System

Jeff began his career with Montgomery County Government in the Office of the County Trustee, where he served as the Trustee's Office Staff Accountant from November 2009 through February 2014. He was then promoted to Finance Director for the County, a role he held from March 2014 through June 2024. Jeff began working for the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System in July 2024, where he currently serves as Chief Financial Officer.

Jeff is a graduate of Austin Peay State University.



Ben Webster

Deputy Finance Director
Maury County

Ben serves as Deputy Finance Director for Maury County, leading financial operations and performance across the county government and its school district. A University of Tennessee graduate and CFA charterholder, he brings over 15 years of experience in technical accounting and corporate finance spanning the Fortune 250, startup, international, non-profit, and public accounting sectors. Ben is passionate about stewarding people and public resources while solving complex challenges.

Beyond his professional efforts, you can find Ben reading, running, or spending time with his wife, Melody, their two middle schoolers, and three-month-old twin girls.



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Lee Ann West, CPA, CGFM
Principal of Audit Operations
Local Government Audit
Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury

Lee Ann serves as Principal of Audit Operations for the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury's Division of Local Government Audit. She was named to this role in April 2026 after serving for 10 years as Audit Manager for West Tennessee. In her current role, Lee Ann supervises staff across the state with a focus on the timely completion of audit reports. She also has the privilege of working alongside the division's IS audit staff and contract review team. Lee Ann has served with the Comptroller's Office for 28 years, beginning her career as a field auditor.

Lee Ann holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Freed-Hardeman University and is a graduate of LEAD Tennessee and the Tennessee Government Management Institute. She and her husband, Richard, live in Henderson, Tennessee, and are the parents of two children, Brent and Anslee. She is also eagerly looking forward to a new role – grandmother – as she awaits the arrival of her first grandchild, Westley.



Cassie Wheeler
Finance Director
Montgomery County Government

Cassie Wheeler serves as Finance Director of Montgomery County Government. She joined Montgomery County in July 2024 and oversees the county's financial operations, including budgeting, accounting, disbursements, debt management, grant administration, and financial reporting.

With over 19 years of governmental accounting experience, Cassie previously served as a finance & accounting consultant with the University of Tennessee, Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS), internal auditor for the City of Clarksville, and senior accountant at Clarksville Gas & Water.

Cassie is a graduate of Austin Peay State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting. She holds multiple professional certifications, including Certified Government Financial Manager, Certified Fraud Examiner, Certified Municipal Finance Officer, and Certified County Finance Officer.

Cassie resides in Clarksville with her husband, Mike, and their two children.



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