



Newsletter and Notice for May 4, 2026,  
meeting, Noon, at the AFL-CIO Labor  
Council Building, 1522 Bill Williams, 37917  
(Across the street from WBIR-TV)  
(Meet: First Monday of each month except Sept.  
which is Tuesday following Labor Day)

Mail address: PO BOX 3432, Knoxville, TN 37927

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/dwkdues>

Link above to pay \$25 dues for 2026 – Males or Out of County Associate Member \$10 dues.

Website: [KnoxvilleDemocrats.org/DWK](http://KnoxvilleDemocrats.org/DWK)

---

Bring your purses to donate to Mobile Means – Bring medicine bottles for Animal Shelter

-----

AGENDA FOR Monday, May 4, 2026

12:00 Welcome

12:05 Knox County Candidate: Brandon Huckaby for Co. Commission D3

12:15 Minutes Approval for April – emailed.

12:20 Treasurer's Report

Committee Reports

12:25 Membership Committee -Sara

And Campaign Post Cards.

12:35 President's Report: \*TFDW Convention in Oak Ridge. (Dana and Cary elected to Board)

\* Febb Burn Banquet Table (Lucy Stone) **"We ask only for justice and equal rights—the right to vote, the right to our own earnings, equality before the law."** Dinner is August 18 at Bridgewater Center, Tickets \$150. Each for a table of 10. The sooner we sell our tickets, the closer to the front we will be.

**\*We will be going to lunch at El Chico on 116 Cedar Lane at 1:30 pm.** Please join us even if you cannot get to the meeting. Just let me know how many seats to set aside for us.

\*In your newsletter there are several assignments. Need to email or call your TN House member about redistricting; Need to contact your city council member about stop smoking in restaurants

Special Committees

12:50 Outreach: Parades and Tabeling - Janice

12:55 Suffrage – Events August 18<sup>th</sup>, Museum Update, Suffs Movie, etc.

1:00 Unfinished Business and new Business

1:05 Adjourn

Knox County Early Primary Voting: Republicans 28,459, Democrats 5,753, Total \$34,212.

**\*Vote Tuesday, May 5, 2-25 Choose a Democratic Ballot. We have lots of candidates who expect your support.**

**\*Governor Lee has called the TN House and Senate back in Session Tuesday, May 5, for the purpose of REDISTRICTING TN to draw lines that will make it almost impossible to elect our only US Congress person. This will affect many of our other districts as well even though we are in the middle of campaigns. Contact your TN Representative and Senator. US SUPREME COURT ROLLED BACK THE 1965 VOTER RIGHTS DEALING WITH HOW CONGRESSIONAL MAPS ARE DRAWN.**

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Democratic Congressional Candidate Michaela Barnett's Statement on Gov. Lee's Election Day Special Session**

I reject Governor Lee's call to redraw Tennessee's congressional districts at the behest of Donald Trump and Marsha Blackburn, and I will organize and fight to prevent it.

While Tennessee Democrats are talking to voters, fighting for workers, striving to lower costs and raise wages, and fix our broken healthcare system, **Governor Lee has called a special session at the request of Donald Trump and Marsha Blackburn – not Tennessee voters – to redraw our congressional maps just six months before the election.**

This administration knows that they are unpopular. Donald Trump promised lower prices, no more forever wars, and to drain the swamp of corruption. What he and his enablers in Congress have given us is another costly war in the Middle East, prices that go up every single day, and the most corrupt administration in history.

But rather than change their policies, they are trying to rig the game – and Governor Lee is happy to help. **I urge our Republican lawmakers in the Tennessee Assembly to demonstrate courage in the face of pressure and reject this blatant, chaotic power grab.**

Tennesseans are no strangers to our state assembly carving up our communities to disenfranchise us and weaken the power of our vote. Republican lawmakers used their supermajority in 2012 to redraw the state maps to entrench their power. They split Nashville in 2022 and erased a Democratic seat. Now they are coming for Memphis, targeting Tennessee's only majority-Black district to silence Black voters before they can be heard at the polls.

They can redraw the maps to try to weaken our voice – but we will keep showing up. If they spread us out across even more districts, thereby weakening their own margins, Tennessee voters *regardless of party* will make them regret this choice at the ballot box on November 3rd.

**On Tuesday, I will be driving to Nashville to protest this special session and redrawing of the maps.** I urge my neighbors in East Tennessee who are able to do the same.

To voters in TN-02: if the lines get redrawn and you are no longer in my district, I want you to know that I am still fighting for you and we are still in this together, regardless of what any map says. Voters are supposed to choose their representatives, not the other way around. The cavalry isn't coming from somewhere else to fix this – *we are*. **I'll fight tirelessly to end partisan gerrymandering when I'm in Congress, and I will fight tirelessly against it now.**

Hey Smokefree Knoxville and friends!

Quick reminder to please send in emails to the city council. [Email addresses, districts, and templates](#) can be found here (but as always please personalize, as counselors ignore messages when they are identical).

I was recently featured in a great [WBIR article and TV segment](#) - check it out and share! The Knox News article is paywall locked, so lots of people are getting misinformation about our ordinance because they can only read the headline. For example, a lot of people think this ordinance will close Cigar Bars. Not at all true - that's preempted at the state level. So here are the FAQs:

## What the Smokefree Knoxville Ordinance DOES

- **Eliminates smoking inside most 21+ establishments** to protect workers and patrons from secondhand smoke indoors in workplaces open to the public.
- **Closes the longstanding exemption affecting musicians, hospitality workers, and certain city employees** who are currently among the only employees not guaranteed a smokefree workplace in Knoxville.
- **Supports public health without restricting personal choice**, since smoking remains permitted outdoors and in private settings.
- **Includes electronic cigarettes and vaping products**, reflecting current nicotine use trends, best practices, and protecting indoor air quality.
- **Aligns Knoxville with most peer and neighboring cities** that already maintain comprehensive smokefree indoor air protections.
- **Reduces confusion for residents and visitors** by standardizing expectations about indoor environments.
- **Reflects longstanding best practice public health policy** adopted successfully across thousands of communities nationwide.
- **Protects businesses from complaints and disputes** by making expectations clear and consistent across the city.

## What the Smokefree Knoxville Ordinance DOES NOT

- **Does NOT apply to outdoor spaces** such as sidewalks, patios, or open-air areas.
- **Does NOT apply to cigar bars, retail vapor shops, or retail tobacco shops** where the purpose of their business is based on the sale of these products.
- **Does NOT harm restaurant/bar revenue**, based on decades of evidence from comparable cities.
- **Does NOT prohibit adults from smoking.** It simply sets where indoor smoking can occur.
- **Does NOT penalize individual smokers.** Enforcement focuses on business compliance, not personal punishment.
- **Does NOT eliminate designated outdoor smoking areas.**
- **Does NOT require people to quit smoking.**
- **Does NOT change existing rights around legal tobacco sales.**

Many of you have spoken to me about how playing in, working in, or attending shows at smoking bars have made you feel awful, made your clothes and gear and merch stink, wrecked your voice, or made you sick. I've also heard the phrase "never again!" a lot, meaning that people are limiting their gig opportunities because of their health and wellbeing. This is the 2020s - musicians already face too many challenges; secondhand smoke shouldn't be part of it!

Again, we expect the ordinance to be read at the **May 12th city council meeting at 6pm**. I'll be there early with Smokefree Knoxville shirts. Please let me know if you're coming by responding to this [advocate RSVP here!](#)

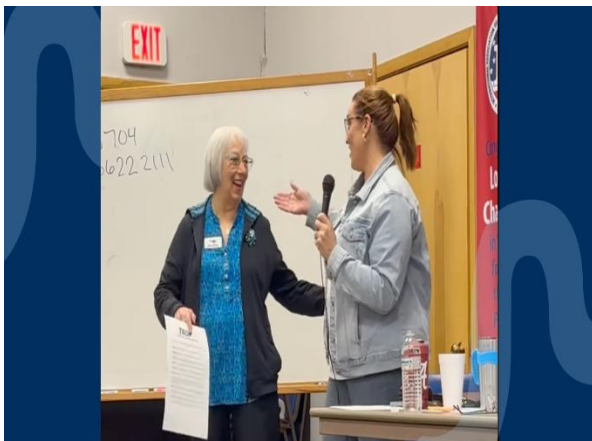
For those that can't make it, we still need you to **email the council now!** We have a winning argument: this protects our rights as workers, is good for public health, is good for business (even Scott West admitted that!), and it helps keep the Knoxville music scene thriving. Again, over 1,300 other cities - including Asheville, Atlanta, Nashville and New Orleans - have all gone smokefree. We should too!

I love all y'all for showing your support for this cause. Together we can make Knoxville smokefree!

Sincerely, Jeremy C. Kourvelas, MPH, CPM , Chair, Musicians for a Smokefree Knoxville  
\*\*\*

**Women's March: A few hours ago, a federal appeals court ripped away access to the abortion pill by mail.**

**Mifepristone has been used safely for over 25 years.** It's safer than Viagra. It's how the majority of safe abortions in our country happen. And **three Republican-appointed men just cut off access for millions of us.**  
.....



**Tennessee Democrat Party recognizes Sylvia Woods for her Service and Legacy and names her the Godmother of TN Democrats.**

**5/4 DWK Meeting, noon at the AFL-CIO Labor Council Building, Bill Williams Avenue, 37917**  
**Following the meeting, about 1:30, we will gather at El Chico's, 116 Cedar Lane, 37912, in honor of Cinco de Mayo. 865-687-4242. Join us even if you cannot attend the noon meeting.**

**5/5 Election Day Democratic vote watch will be at Hi-Wire Brewery in South Knoxville. Across the street from S. Knox Elem. 7:30 - 10 pm.**

**Candidate Kick Offs:**

5/11 Eliza Boles for TN HD16, Pizza Hoss Emory, 1301 E. Emory ,37928

5/13 Bryan Goldberg TN HD18, Lake Shore Pavilion, 6-8.PM

5/20 Lindsay Young Honaker, TN HD 14 Admiral Pub in Farragut, 5:30 - 7 pm. 37934

6/2 Jenny Fowler for TN HD19, 5:30-8. New Harvest Park Community Bldg.

5/9 Holleroo: to help man a booth contact [Shannon.Webb@Knoxvilledemocrats.org](mailto:Shannon.Webb@Knoxvilledemocrats.org)

**GET CONTACTS TO ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES ATTACHED TO COVER PAGE.**