

Brentwood Candidate Profiles

By wherald
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Brentwood's 23,656 registered can head to the polls through April 26 to vote early for up to four of eight candidates on the ballot for the May 1 Brentwood Board of Commissioners election.

Four seats are open on the commission in this election because the current five-member commission is being expanded to seven following a referendum last year on the matter.

There are eight candidates in May 1 election: Bob Bell, Richard Boone, Betsy Crossley, Anne Dunn, Frederic E. Kane, Paul Ross, Brian Joe Sweeney and Bill Youree. Dunn and Sweeney are incumbents and the top four vote getters will be elected.

Early voting is happening at three locations: Williamson County Election Commission office, 1320 W. Main St., Suite 140, Franklin; Brentwood Municipal Building, 5211 Maryland Way, Brentwood; and Brentwood Public Library, 8109 Concord Road, Brentwood.

Hours are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and Saturdays, 8 a.m. until noon. Please bring a voter registration card and photo ID to vote.

The Brentwood Woman's Club will hold a City Commissioner Candidate Forum at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 17 at the Brentwood Municipal Center, located on Maryland Way.

This open forum will be moderated by Tom Lawrence of WAKM 950 AM, with four journalists, including Williamson Herald Editor Mindy Tate, directing questions for the candidates.

The debate will be recorded and broadcast on Channel 19.

The candidates:

Richard Boone
9220 Chickasaw Ct.
Brentwood, TN

Age - 46

Occupation - Medical physicist

Family – Wife, Donna, 3 daughters and 1 son

Community activities - Volunteer Coach - Ravenwood and Brentwood High School, Brentwood Middle School, Woodland Middle School, and Sunset Middle School. Brentwood Soccer Club (boys and girls).

Public offices held - None.

Brentwood resident – For 19 years. I took a job at Baptist Hospital after graduating from the University of Kentucky.

Why are you seeking office - I felt it was time to get involved and start to help the evolution of the commission to the next generation of residents.

Qualifications - I believe that I have common sense and problem solving skills. I would use these qualities if elected to better serve our community. As a volunteer coach, I am close to families that are like mine (still raising school age children). Even though we are in the phase of our lives where raising children is paramount, we have our eyes on retirement and the options that will be here for us in Brentwood.

Three campaign issues and plans for a positive impact – Safety - It is important that each road change meets the needs of our community with traffic issues, but is as safe as can be. Commercial development is tied to green space. Commercial development needs to be localized and kept thriving for our community. With the remaining open spaces we need to be flexible and open-minded with ideas that maximize community use as well as lower cost housing for our empty nesters.

How will you combat voter apathy - If everyone that says they "plan to vote for me" does indeed do so . . . I believe we will see some new names on the rolls. I am working to get more people in my age group (the 30 to 50 year olds) to get out and vote! I am younger and trying a more common sense approach in the use of campaign funds. I hope that everyone will recognize the integrity I possess and will get enthused about my campaign.

Main campaign message - "Kids and Common Sense" . . . is one of two slogans I have that says it all. I believe that our children are the future of everything in our community and the world, period. How we raise them and lay the path before them will set them up for success, but only if we keep them firmly in our vision for the future.

Betsy S. Crossley
276 Stratton Court
Brentwood, TN

Age – 51

Occupation – Full time volunteer for the City of Brentwood, retired educator

Family – Spouse, George, and two children, Ben, 23, and rob, 20

Community activities – Planning Commissioner for the City of Brentwood, Historic Commissioner for the City of Brentwood, Leadership Brentwood

Secretary and Steering Committee, Williamson County Schools volunteer, Brentwood Chamber of Commerce, Women in Business, Brentwood Arts Foundation Board of Directors, Advisory Board of the Martin Center of SCI Inc., active member Christ United Methodist Church, Brentwood Citizens' Police Academy, 101st Airborne Welcome Home Parade Volunteer, Williamson County Emergency Preparedness, Docent Owl's Hill Nature Preserve, and Advisory Board Chair of the Brentwood Historic Society.

Public offices held – I am currently a Brentwood Planning Commissioner and a Historic Commissioner. These are appointed offices I have held since 2003.

Brentwood resident – We have lived in Brentwood/Williamson County since the late 1990s. Proximity to Nashville (George's job), great schools and having a naturally beautiful community brought us here.

Three campaign issues and plans for a positive impact –

1. Hillside protection and historic preservation are important to the quality of life by finding ways to honor property owners' rights and still maintain the natural beauty that all citizens appreciate. Land trusts, preservation easements and ordinance amendments can make great progress.
2. Traffic is an increasing problem. We must work with surrounding municipalities and the state to achieve the best balance of traffic flow. Ideas like adding food service within office buildings can decrease traffic during peak hours.
3. Town Center redevelopment would be an addition to the tax base and would give Brentwood a central meeting/shopping place for families. I would suggest the formation of a Town Center Business Association.

How will you combat voter apathy – Citizens of Brentwood voted to elect seven commissioners. There is now a compelling reason to add at least two new commissioners to govern our city. If we are citizens who truly care about Brentwood's future, we will have no trouble making it to polls for this important election!

Main campaign message – Clarity and Commitment, vote Crossley. For the last four years, I have worked with the city staff, boards and commissioners. That experience facilitates my transition into the city commissioner position. We need commissioners with a clear idea of where the city has been and the commitment to move into the future with careful, wise management of all our resources... historical, environmental, and fiscal.

Anne Dunn
1613 Covington
Brentwood, TN

Age - 62

Occupation - Current commissioner and former teacher

Family - Husband, John, and two adult children

Community activities - Americans Serving Americans Board Brentwood Arts Foundation Board, Leadership Brentwood founding committee, Brentwood Woman's Club, Holy Family Church

Public offices held - Brentwood City commission 16 years

Brentwood resident – For 24 years. My husband is from Nashville and his job brought him back here.

Why are you seeking office - I wanted to continue to help shape the future of the city.

Qualifications - I take this job seriously, I listen and am accessible. I feel that I am a problem solver and am willing to look at new ways to get things done.

Three campaign issues and plans for a positive impact –

1. A continuing challenge for all of this area is traffic. We have a 6-year capital improvements program that systematically plans for road widenings. It has to be staggered because even if we could afford to do it all at once, we don't want gridlock on the roads
2. Following through with the town center development. We need to be proactive in working with those who are interested in that redevelopment. To date we have created the zoning, a "pattern" book, built a roadway and done a parking garage study.
3. Trying to balance our green space with our build out. We have 10 percent green space in our city and 5 percent commercial so this has been a priority for 25 years. We need to keep that percentage as a goal and acquire additional green space in the same cost effective manner we have been doing.

How will you combat voter apathy - In past elections we have had some really controversial issues. That does not seem to be the case this time. We have some very important but not divisive issues. However, the number of commissioners will be increased and I think that has generated a lot of excitement. Early voting is also being held at the Brentwood library and that is so terribly convenient I feel we will have a good turn out.

Main campaign message - My main message is the slogan I use that reflects what I feel my purpose in running is "Get the job Dunn."

Frederic E. Kane
1034 Highland Road
Brentwood, TN 37027

Age - 44

Occupation - Commercial Realtor

Family – Wife, Sandra, Daughters, Amanda (age 5) and Olivia (age 3)

Community activities - Co-President of Citizens for Brentwood Green Space, President of Highland View Homeowner's Association, Governmental Affairs Liaison to County and State representatives for Williamson County Association of Realtors, member of Brentwood United Methodist Church

Public offices held - None

Brentwood resident – For three years, since January 2004. My wife grew up in

Virginia and we wanted to be within a short drive to grandparents. We researched and visited several cities looking for the best place to raise our children and belong to a community. We fell in love with the Nashville area and especially Brentwood.

Why are you seeking office - Our city's commissioners and employees have done a wonderful job protecting and enhancing Williamson County. With the addition of two additional commission seats, I felt it was the opportune time to get involved. I feel that with seven commissioners, issues like preserving Brentwood's open space, the revitalization of aging commercial properties, retention of Brentwood businesses and being aggressive toward economic development can become a major focus. My family and I appreciate and enjoy the quality of life in Brentwood and low property taxes. Qualifications - In my profession I spend a good deal of time researching and understanding growth patterns. I am fortunate to meet regularly with city, county and state officials in Middle Tennessee with respect to growth trends and how they relate to relocating businesses here. Many cities throughout our area are experiencing similar growth related challenges. Working on these issues outside of Brentwood gives me a unique perspective in dealing with our city's challenges and opportunities.

Three campaign issues and plans for a positive impact -

1. Collective Vision for the Future. As a commissioner I think it's important to have an "open door policy." I would have neighborhood meetings to hear from residents. I would also be at the bi-monthly commission meetings two hours before each meeting. The community survey, the 2020 Plan, was a great start but a citywide survey nonetheless. I think each part of the city has specific concerns to address.
2. "Smart Growth." I would like to see an Open Space Steering Team made up of citizens, commissioners and city employees with the responsibility of researching, planning and implementing an "undeveloped land use plan" for the estimated 7,000 acres of remaining developable land.
3. Revitalization of Brentwood's Commercial Areas. As commissioner I would propose a Community and Economic Development Team of citizens, commissioners and city employees working with the Chamber of Commerce. This group would also play a part in development of the proposed "Town Center" and other important and timely issues.

How will you combat voter apathy - Preservation of Brentwood's open space is a hot topic. In our community survey, the 20/20 Plan, 81 percent of respondents said this was a mid to high priority. I am a founding member of Citizens for Brentwood Green Space (CBGS), a non-profit group that raised the bond referendum to preserve open space in September 2004. The referendum was narrowly defeated, less than 240 votes, but the idea is to preserve the rural feel of Brentwood by balancing open space and development.

Main campaign message - I love living in Brentwood and God willing I will grow old and die in the house I live in right now. As a city commissioner I will work hard for the people of Brentwood to assure this is a city we can all be proud of for generations to come!

Paul Ross
5101 Cornwall Drive
Brentwood, TN 37027

Age – 60

Occupation – Realtor, small business owner, professional musician

Family – Susan, wife of 35 years, and Vail, adult daughter

Community activities – President of Meadowlake-Iroquois Homeowners Association; current member and past chairman of Brentwood Cool Springs Chamber of Commerce; past member of advisory council for Martin Senior Center; member of task force that created Towne Centre plan; Member of search committee for current Williamson County Superintendent of Schools; Board member and past president of Williamson County Youth Orchestra; member of Board of Trustees for Nashville Chamber Orchestra; member of American Federation of Musicians

Public offices held – While I have served on numerous boards and task forces, I have never held public office before.

Brentwood resident – Since 1983. The music industry brought me to Nashville. The quality of life and quality of our public education brought me to Brentwood.

Why are you seeking office – This is a pivotal point for our community. We have an extremely rare opportunity to determine the face and character of our city. We're fortunate to enjoy a big city economy, small town feel, and a potential economic engine in Towne Centre, to capture these values and secure our quality of life into the future. I hope to engage our citizens to help shape our future through this campaign and my service as city commissioner.

Qualifications – Through my positions within the city, I have been active with the city administration for approximately 12 years. In addition, I have a diverse background with broad experience in many sectors of both the professional and civic environment. As a city commission, I would take the opportunity to build on this experience, get the community engaged and address both the opportunities and issues facing our future.

Three campaign issues and plans for a positive impact – Maintain low property taxes for our entire community by working to grow and strengthen a broad tax base, with continued growth in revenue as our service and infrastructure costs increase. Enhance our cultural amenities and secure the quality of life in our community by working to manage traffic, preserve and protect our open space, stabilize our fire and police departments, and provide viable housing for all of our residents.

How will you combat voter apathy – Less than 18 percent of all Brentwood's registered voters participated in the past two elections. I hope to be the catalyst to get our community engaged in shaping its own future. Our actions today will determine the future we live.

Main campaign message – The most important action we can take today is planning for tomorrow and "Securing the Future of Brentwood."

Brian Joe Sweeney

9011 Hood Place
Brentwood, TN

Age – 79

Occupation – Mayor, City of Brentwood

Family – Wife of 51 years, Maureen, five children, and six grandchildren

Community activities – Church usher, host committee, member of the President’s Council, Aquinas College, Brentwood Chamber, Brentwood Civitan member, library board, and Carondelet Civic Association

Public offices held – City Commissioner for 34 years, Mayor for 12 years

Brentwood resident for 37 years. He moved here when his company transferred.

Why are you seeking office – Way back, to protect our one-acre density and control development (34 years ago).

Qualifications – Experience, resident oriented, love of Brentwood.

Three campaign issues and plans for a positive impact – No issues, but we have to keep working on traffic challenges.

How will you combat voter apathy – Keep pushing the need to vote to elect the “right” people, to properly control our destiny. Request media assistance.

Main campaign message – Stay the course we are now traveling, keep our focus. Stay with Sweeney, a Tradition of Integrity.

Bill Youree
5223 Country Club Drive
Brentwood, TN

Age - 59

Occupation - Retired healthcare executive

Family – Wife, Dr. Cynthia Youree; two adult sons, Greg and Doug; and two dogs

Community activities - Brentwood United Methodist Church; Rotary Club of Brentwood; advisory board Martin Center of Senior Citizens, Inc.; advisory board Middle Tennessee Council of Boy Scouts of America; former trustee of Brentwood Academy; first treasurer of Crockett Elementary PTO; former president Indian Point Homeowners; founder of Faith Family Medical Clinic (a non-profit family medicine clinic for the uninsured workers of Middle Tennessee); led Rotary Club’s development of Deerwood Arboretum and Nature park.

Public offices held - None

Brentwood resident – For 20 years. Bill was born and raised in Nashville. Cynthia went to college in Nashville, where she met and married Bill. Cynthia's medical education took the Yourees to New Orleans and then Bill's work resulted in a move to Pennsylvania. After the birth of their second son, Bill and Cynthia decided they wanted to raise their children in the Nashville area and moved back to Tennessee and to Brentwood in 1987.

Why are you seeking office - Brentwood voters, in August 2006, overwhelmingly asked for new leaders by voting to expand the Commission to seven members. After recently retiring, I wanted to give back to the community where I lived and to continue my record of service. I felt it was time for someone with both a strong business background, and a long record of community service, to step forward and seek the privilege of serving this great city as a Commissioner.

Qualifications - I am a proven business executive and have served as the CEO of a public company with 4,000 employees. I have a 20-year record as a dedicated volunteer that gets things done for the community. I led the devolvement of the Deerwood Arboretum and Nature Park and the Faith Family Medical Clinic. I am also a CPA (inactive) with the knowledge to understand how to manage the city's budget.

Three campaign issues and plans for a positive impact –

1. Managing growth- no commercial rezoning near neighborhoods, careful review of all OSRD projects to insure they have positive community benefits, make traditional R-2 subdivisions the priority for new growth.
2. Preserving green space- identify properties for conservation with a long-range plan; use creative techniques to save green space.
3. Keep tax rates low- carefully manage city spending and seek new revenues from existing commercial areas like Town Center.

How will you combat voter apathy - I offer the voters a new kind of candidate, one with both a strong business management record and a long history of service to the community. I represent a mix of experience, skills, and service that will add a new dimension to the City Commission. This election will definitely add two new leaders, and voters should give careful consideration to their choices. The new leaders may serve for many years.

Main campaign message - Bill Youree is a successful business executive and a dedicated community servant. Bill's mix of service, talent, and community dedication makes him an outstanding candidate to serve the people of Brentwood on the City Commission. Bill will work hard to carefully manage Brentwood's growth and preserve our outstanding quality of life. Remember to "Vote the last name first!"

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