

## Legislative Continued

There will be a special legislative session on January 19, 2021 to address urgent issues facing Tennessee students and schools in the 2021-22 school year.

<b>Sen Dr. Richard Briggs</b> 9125 Cross Park Dr, 37922	<b>Dist 7</b>	<b>615-741-1766</b>	<a href="mailto:sen.richard.briggs@capitol.tn.gov"><u>s en.richard.briggs@capitol.tn.gov</u></a>
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<b>Lt Gov Randy McNally</b>	<b>Dist 6</b>	<b>615-741-6806</b>	<a href="mailto:lt.gov.randy.mcnally@capitol.tn.gov"><u>lt.gov.randy.mcnally@capitol.tn.gov</u></a>
<b>Rep Eddie Mannis</b> 7346 Bellingham Dr 37	<b>Dist 18</b>	<b>615-741 2287</b>	<a href="mailto:rep.eddie.mannis@capitol.tn.gov"><u>rep.eddie.mannis@capitol.tn.gov</u></a>
<b>Rep Michele Carringer</b> 5329 Beverly Oaks Dr 37918	<b>Dist 16</b>	<b>615-741-1721</b>	<a href="mailto:rep.michele.carringer@capitol.tn.gov"><u>rep.michele.carringer@capitol.tn.gov</u></a>
<b>Rep Gloria Johnson</b> 2506 Brice St 37917	<b>Dist 13</b>	<b>615 741 2031</b>	<a href="mailto:rep.gloria.johnson@capitol.tn.gov"><u>rep.gloria.johnson@capitol.tn.gov</u></a>
<b>Rep Sam McKenzie</b> 411 Carta Rd 37914	<b>Dist 15</b>	<b>615-741-0768</b>	<a href="mailto:rep.sam.mckenzie@capitol.tn.gov"><u>rep.sam.mckenzie@capitol.tn.gov</u></a>
<b>Rep Dave Wright</b> 6930 Boruff Rd 37721	<b>Dist 19</b>	<b>615-741-6879</b>	<a href="mailto:rep.dave.wright@capitol.tn.gov"><u>rep.dave.wright@capitol.tn.gov</u></a>
<b>Rep Jason Zachary</b> 11329 Gates Mill Dr 37934	<b>Dist 14</b>	<b>615-741-2264</b>	<a href="mailto:rep.jason.zachary@capitol.tn.gov"><u>rep.jason.zachary@capitol.tn.gov</u></a>
<b>Rep Justin Lafferty</b> 1509 Meeting House Rd 37931	<b>Dist 89</b>	<b>615 741 4110</b>	<a href="mailto:rep.justin.lafferty@capitol.tn.gov"><u>rep.justin.lafferty@capitol.tn.gov</u></a>

I would love to share a summary of each of the legislators with you, they were all so interesting. For now, I will limit those summaries to Rep Michele Carringer, Rep Eddie Mannis, and Rep Sam McKenzie who are newly elected to their position.

Rep Sam McKenzie is married to Gwen, who is the Vice Mayor of the Knoxville City Council. He graduated in 1983 from Austin-East HS, Fisk University, B.S. in physics; University of Memphis, M.S. in solid state physics. He has been a physicist at Oak Ridge National Laboratory for over 30 years. He served on the Knoxville County Commission (8 years) and he has a list of community affiliations as long as your arm. Sam and his wife have a blended family of 6 children.

He talked about the influence his math and science teachers had on him—their role in getting him excited about learning more and exploring career opportunities in science. He believes that education is not about what is learned in the classroom but the sparks that are ignited in interests to pursue further.

He believes strongly that community engagement in schools is essential and he is involved with a girls STEM group and another which builds a drone at the MS level. He does a presentation “Science with Sam Days” to get students excited about science. He wants to be a part of the “village”.

Additionally, he is Against vouchers and in Favor of better school funding. He talked about raising property tax in order to better fund our schools. He also mentioned the “rainy day” fund and says we should be using it to pay teachers more and to get them needed help, because we are in a “deluge”.

Rep Michele Carringer was eager to share her story with us. Both her husband and daughter are internists at UT medical center and are dealing with this COVID and both have recently received the vaccine. She and her husband were born and raised in Fountain city and graduated from Central HS. They have been married 40 years and have a son and daughter who were 4th generation Central HS graduates. Michele graduated in 1980 and went to UT as a Communications major. She LOVES being a grandmom!

She talked about her opposition to outsourcing of the custodians in our schools, as her younger brother is a custodian. She has served on the county commission Seat 7A from Jan 2009 to Aug 2010, wants to give back to the community, and is passionate about helping and serving people. She is concerned with mental health, the opiate issues, homeless people and Vietnam veterans. She sees a need for more technical schools. She “LOVES people” and it really comes out when you talk to her.

Rep Eddie Mannis ran for city mayor this past year, then people surprised him and asked him to run for this position when Martin Daniel decided not to run. His family did not put importance on education, so he does not have a college degree and claims to have been a “C- student.” He comes from a “blue-collar” family with his father receiving a 6th grade education and his Mom an 8th grade.

He has always had a business mind and by his accounts, “horrible in math but was good at business math, accounting”. He has worked in Florida as the only English-speaking person cutting ferns, for JFK coffee, for an exterminating company and he has done pickup and delivery. He always wanted to start his own company and in 1985 at the age of 24 (37 years ago, he is 61) he did just that. He started with used dry cleaning equipment and 3 employees. Today he owns the very successful Prestige dry cleaning company with several locations in Knoxville." All of his family has worked for him at one time or another. The most memorable was his mother, who quit on a regular basis, until one day he offered to pay her to stay home and she agreed.

From an economic standpoint he says education is important and people make decisions based upon the schools in the area. He is the founder of Art in Public Places and has worked for Dogwood Arts festival, trying to change the “Scruffy City” image. He recommends reading “Who Moved my Cheese” and he views himself as a change agent and believes change is important.