

KNOX COUNTY COMMISSION

CITY COUNTY BUILDING #603 / 400 MAIN STREET KNOXVILLE, TN 37902 / (865) 215-2534



MEDIA RELEASE

MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2026



JUNIOR COMMISSION CLASS OF 2026 STUDENTS ANNOUNCED

The Class of 2026 Knox County Junior Commissioners have been selected and are ready to begin the youth civics leadership program this month. Class of 2026 Knox County Junior Commissioners include:

- District 1 - **Vanae' Brown** (Senior) Austin East High School
- District 2 - **Jordan Partain** (Junior) West High School
- District 3 - **Taylor Cash** (Junior) Bearden High School
- District 4 - **Henry Casey** (Senior) West High School
- District 5 - **Rebecca Pack** (Senior) Farragut High School
- District 6 - **Willie Martinez** (Junior) L&N STEM Academy
- District 7 - **Brooke Bradley** (Junior) Powell High School
- District 8 - **Oriana Hall** (Junior) Career Magnet Academy
- District 9 - **Camden Browning** (Junior) South Doyle High School
- At-Large, Seat 10 - **Tahj Bowers** (Junior) Webb School of Knoxville
- At-Large, Seat 11 - **Bridget Hoppenrath** (Junior) West High School

Entering its fourth year, the Knox County Commission's Junior Commission youth civics education program welcomes high school juniors and seniors enrolled in a full-time public, private or accredited home school program. Each Knox County Commissioner chose one student from the submitted applications.

About the Program: Knox County Commissioners believe that community engagement and civic education is vitally important to a healthy republic and functioning democracy. In Nov. 2022, the Commission formally established an annual "Junior Commission" program whereby Knox County youth can become a more engaged and informed citizen by participating in a unique youth leadership program. Junior Commission participants will learn the functions of their local government and further develop healthy citizenry habits, while promoting the importance of community engagement and public service. Junior Commissioners will walk alongside their Knox County Commissioners and participate in unique programming over a three-month period, including attending an orientation session, attend work sessions, commission, and zoning meetings, experiential field trips, join their elected representatives at a community public event, and learn hands-on governing in a mock session of the Junior Commission.

Junior Commissioners will begin the program with an orientation session on Monday, January 12th from 4:00 – 8:00p in the City County Building, Small Assembly Room.

For more information, visit: www.knoxcounty.org/juniorcommission
or contact the Knox County Commission office at (865) 215-2534.

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Congratulations to the 2026 Junior Commissioners!

www.knoxcounty.org/juniorcommission

