

TENNESSEE BLUE BOOK 2017-2018



TRE HARGETT
Secretary of State



State of Tennessee



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My Fellow Tennesseans,

It has been my pleasure to work alongside Governor Bill Haslam in my role as secretary of state. Over the course of his tenure as governor, I have come to know Governor Haslam as an inquisitive, authentic, and thoughtful leader who has consistently sought to reshape how government functions to best serve the people of Tennessee.

On several occasions, I have had the privilege of observing “behind the scenes” Governor Haslam’s work ethic and priorities, both of which were highlighted as he told national credit ratings analysts about the financial strength of Tennessee. On other occasions, such as when the governor worked to increase the number of Tennesseans who achieve a postsecondary education, I, along with our entire state, witnessed his strong passion for serving future generations. Regardless of which perspective I observed, I have found Governor Haslam to be a man of integrity who is honest and kind to others—a decent man who seeks to do right even at personal political risk.

I have come to know Governor Haslam as a devoted family man with a genuine Christian faith that has served him well as a foundation for his public service. In decades to come, Governor Bill Haslam and his tenure as a public servant in Tennessee will be marked for noteworthy progress in the areas of education, fiscal management, and infrastructure improvement. These successes have been made possible, not only by the support of the Tennessee General Assembly and a strong cabinet, but also because of his heartfelt love for our state and his efforts seeking the well-being of her people. It is for these reasons and more that the *2017–2018 Tennessee Blue Book* is dedicated to Governor Bill Haslam.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tre Hargett".

Tre Hargett

GOVERNOR BILL HASLAM



William (Bill) Edward Haslam (b. August 23, 1958) was elected as Tennessee's 49th governor in 2010 and reelected in 2014 with the largest victory in modern Tennessee history. A native Knoxvillean, Gov. Haslam had been a successful businessman and mayor of Knoxville before running for governor.

The hallmark of Gov. Haslam's two terms has been the tremendous strides Tennessee has made in education and economic development. During his tenure, Tennessee has prospered and continued to be one of our country's best places to live, work, and raise a family.

Gov. Haslam's achievements in education have been lauded nationally. As a result of his initiatives, all Tennesseans have access to higher education tuition-free through the Tennessee Promise and Reconnect programs, making Tennessee the first state in the

country to provide community or technical college tuition at no cost to its citizens. Since 2011, Tennessee students are the fastest improving in the country in K–12 academic achievement, and school graduation rates are at an all-time high.

Tennessee scores in the top eleven states in percentage increases for K–12 state education expenditures since 2011 with more than \$1 billion in new investments. The state has also outpaced the nation in teacher salary increases—all without a tax increase.

Leveraging the advantages of working with a conservative General Assembly, the improvements in Tennessee's economy during the Haslam administration are equally impressive. More Tennesseans have a job than at any point in state history, and the state's unemployment rate is at an all-time low. Tennessee's median household income growth rate is second in the nation and first in the Southeast. With tax incentives to attract employers, our state ranks second in the Southeast for net new manufacturing jobs. Tennessee now has the lowest taxes in the nation as a percentage of personal income.

Gov. Haslam's conservative fiscal strategy and pro-growth policies have yielded demonstrable results: with the active support of the General Assembly, he and his cabinet have cut more than \$500 million in recurring spending and shrunk state government by 10 percent. The last two balanced budgets created no new debt and helped to achieve the lowest interest rates in recorded state history. Tennessee's Rainy Day Fund has more than doubled since 2011, bringing it to \$800 million.

For the first time since 2000 and only the second time in state history, Tennessee has a triple-A bond rating from the three major credit rating agencies. In concert with Republican super-majorities in the General Assembly, Gov. Haslam reduced the sales tax on food by nearly 30 percent,

cut business taxes on manufacturing, and phased out the inheritance tax. Together, the governor and legislature achieved passage of the IMPROVE Act, which combines the largest tax cut in Tennessee history with a plan to deliver nearly 1,000 road and bridge projects across the state.

Combined with other measures such as tort reform and an overhaul of workers' compensation to give businesses more predictability, the years of Gov. Haslam's administration represent an era of tremendous economic expansion following the Great Recession, prudently managed growth, and unprecedented success.

Gov. Haslam and his wife, Crissy, a native of Memphis, have been married for thirty-six years and are blessed with three children and seven grandchildren. For more than three decades, they have been members of Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church (EPC) in Knoxville where the governor serves as an elder.



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Preface

The *Tennessee Blue Book* serves as a manual of useful information on our state and government, both past and present. It contains information on the makeup of Tennessee state government, state history, national and state constitutions, most recent election results, and census data.

The *Blue Book* is divided into eight sections. The first three sections are devoted to the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government, also referred to as departments in the Tennessee Constitution. They appear in the order set forth by the state constitution. The book's organization is based on the organizational chart of state government, which appears on the following pages.

Section I focuses on the 110th General Assembly, listing the membership of the Senate and House of Representatives and their committees. The General Assembly examines issues affecting Tennesseans and gives guidance necessary for the smooth operation of state government. The General Assembly elects three constitutional officers: the secretary of state, the comptroller of the treasury, and the treasurer. These officials and their departments are featured in this section.

Section II is devoted to the executive branch of government and explains the function of the departments administered by the governor through his appointed commissioners. This section also describes the governor's responsibilities and explores the history and duties of the agencies under his authority.

Section III examines the judicial branch of state government and provides information on the judicial system, courts, and those involved in interpreting state law. The attorney general and reporter is a constitutional officer appointed by the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Section IV features the Tennessee Public Utility Commission and explains its role in advancing the public interest through telecommunications and utilities throughout the state.

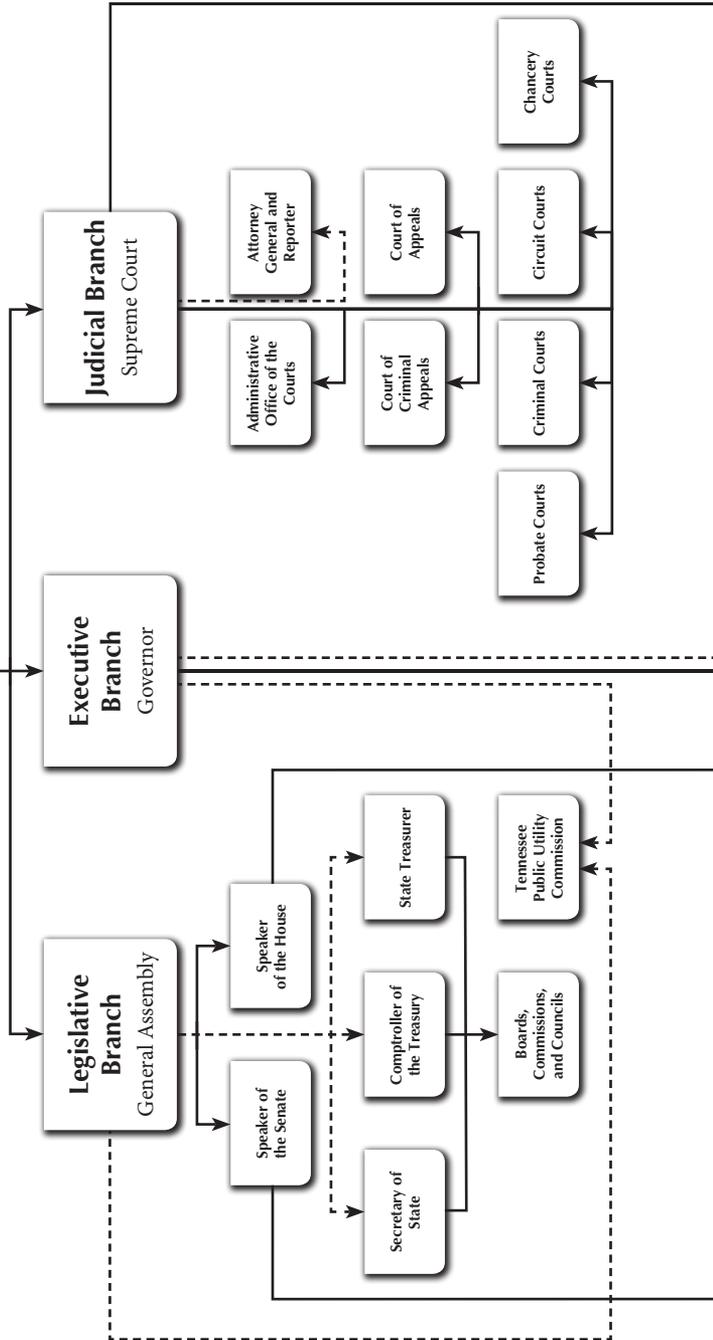
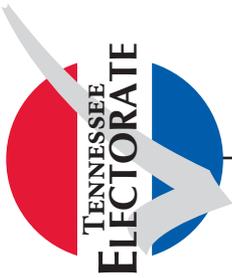
Section V presents the Tennessee congressional delegation in the federal government and the United States Constitution.

Section VI contains a cumulative state history, biographies of Tennessee's former governors, state historic sites, state symbols and honors, and the Tennessee Constitution.

Section VII details the results of elections held across the state in 2016 and provides statistical information regarding Tennessee cities and counties.

Section VIII consists of a topical index and a listing of key illustrations, along with credit and/or source.

The term "blue book" dates from the 15th century, when the English Parliament began keeping its records in large volumes covered with blue velvet. Since that time, the name "Blue Book" has been used to describe many forms of government manuals. The *Tennessee Blue Book and Official Directory* was first published in 1929. Its predecessor, *The Official and Political Manual of the State of Tennessee*, was first published by the Office of the Secretary of State in 1890.



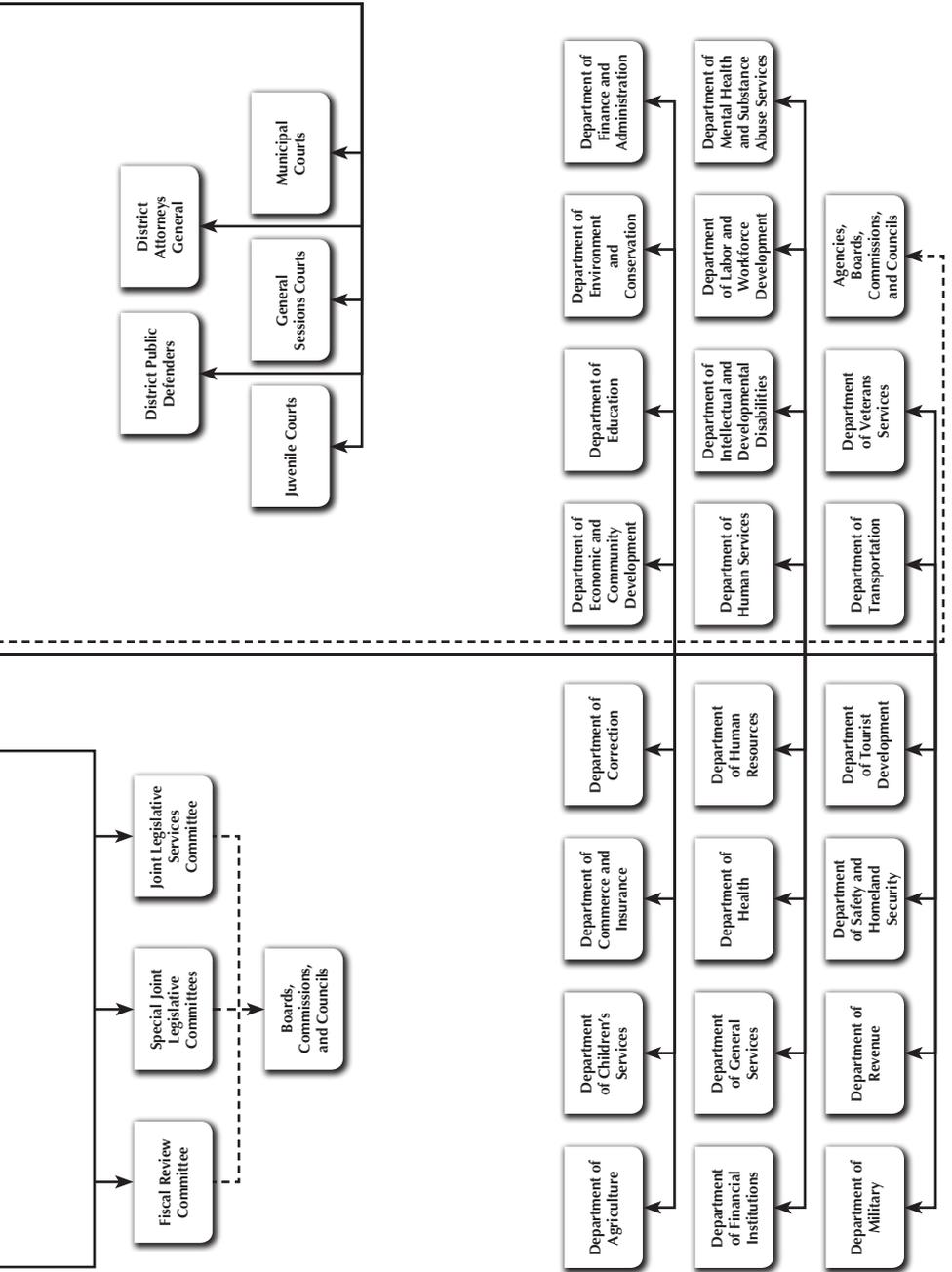


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