

TENNESSEE BLUE BOOK 2007-2008



RILEY C. DARNELL
Secretary of State



JOHN SHELTON WILDER



State of Tennessee
The Secretary of State
Nashville
37243-0305

Riley C. Darnell

February, 2008

My Fellow Tennesseans,

The people of Tennessee had John Wilder of Mason as their Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the Senate for thirty-six years, including the 87th—104th General Assemblies. This is the longest continuous service by any head of a legislative body in the nation.

Senator Wilder's political career began in 1958 when he served as secretary to the Board of Supervisors of the Fayette County Soil Conservation Service (he served as national president of that organization in 1971). Also in 1958, he first was elected to the state Senate where (since 1966) he has served for 41 consecutive years and where he continues to serve, now in his 44th year. During his years as Lieutenant Governor, Senator Wilder became known as the pilot of "Jay Bird," the airplane he flew across the state while carrying out his official duties. His legacy of fairness, honesty, and compassion will continue to enhance the lives of his fellow Tennesseans for many years.

His wife, Marcelle, was his steadfast companion until her death in 2004. The Wilder family consists of sons David (wife, Patti) and Shelton (wife, Judy) Wilder; grandchildren Jarod, Whitney, John III, and Joseph (wife, Heather) Wilder; and great grandchildren Suzie, Jess, Russell, Ansel, and Marcelle Wilder.

It is my pleasure to dedicate the 2007-2008 *Tennessee Blue Book* to John Shelton Wilder.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Riley C. Darnell".

Riley C. Darnell



Tennessee Blue Book

2007-2008

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PREFACE

The *Tennessee Blue Book* is a publication which serves as a manual of useful information on our state and its government, both past and present. This edition contains information on the makeup of Tennessee state government. It also contains an expansive history section, the constitutions of the United States and Tennessee, the state's symbols and honors, the most recent election returns, and census information.

The Blue Book is divided into seven sections. The first three sections are devoted to the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government. These sections appear in the order set forth by the state constitution.

The organization of the aforementioned sections is based upon the organizational chart of state government which appears on the following page. Section I is dedicated to the 105th General Assembly. It also lists the membership of the various House and Senate committees for the 105th General Assembly. These committees examine issues pertinent to Tennesseans and give guidance necessary for the smooth operation of state government.

The three constitutional officers elected by majority vote of the General Assembly—secretary of state, comptroller of the treasury, and treasurer—as well as descriptions of their duties, also are featured in this section.

Section II is devoted to the executive branch of government and explains the function of the numerous 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 details concerning the state's judicial system and the people who interpret state law.

Included in the section is an explanation of the duties of the state's attorney general and reporter. The attorney general and reporter is a constitutional officer appointed by the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Section IV features the Tennessee Regulatory Authority and explains its role in promoting the public interest with regard to telecommunications and utilities in the state.

Section V is devoted to the people who have been elected to represent Tennessee at the federal level of government. Also included are the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and the United States Constitution.

Section VI contains a cumulative history which examines the development of the state from a wilderness to the present era, portraits and biographies of Tennessee's former governors, various historic sites in Tennessee, symbols the state Legislature has selected as representative of Tennessee at its best, and the Tennessee Constitution.

Section VII details the results of elections held across the state in 2005, 2006, and 2007 and provides statistical information regarding the cities and counties of Tennessee.

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.

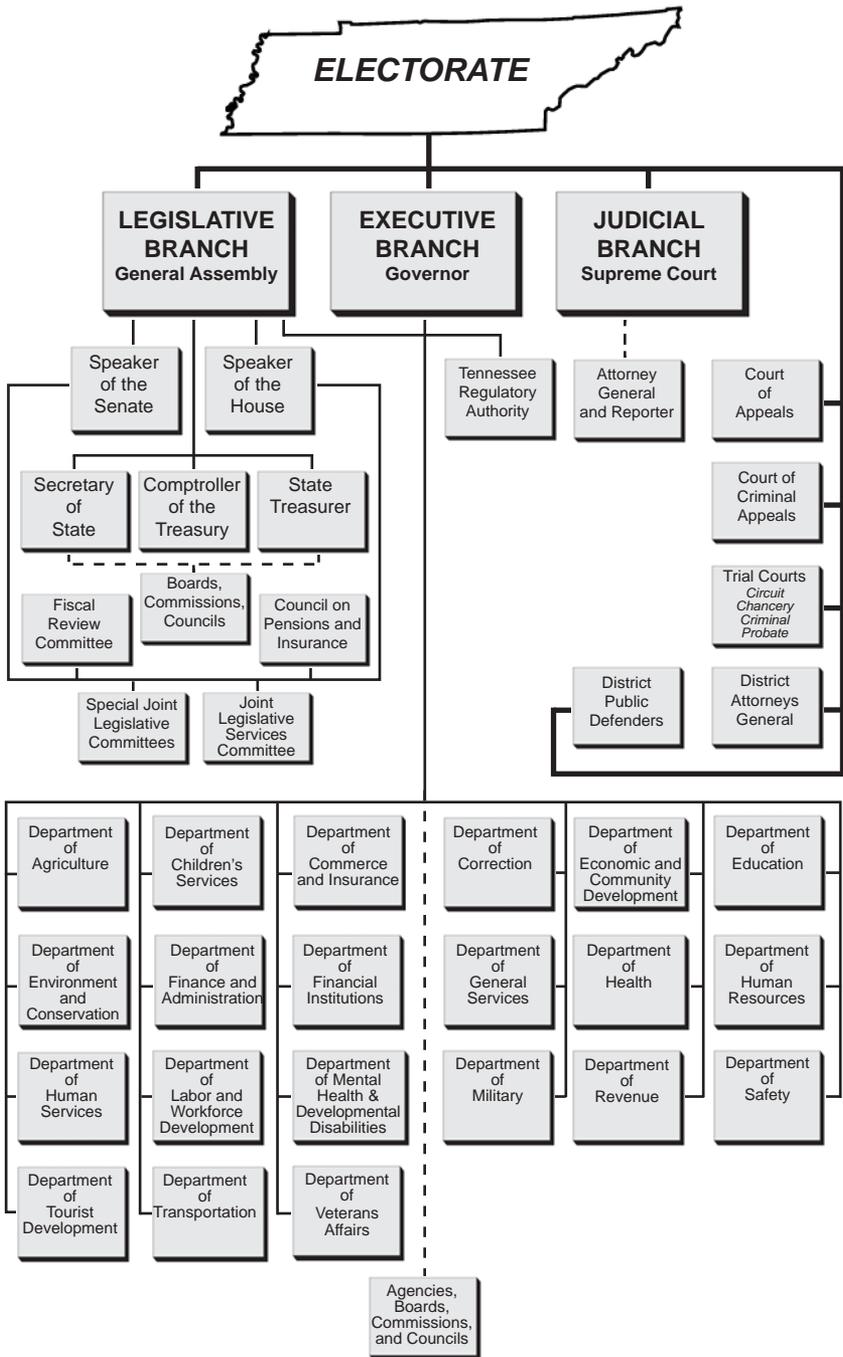


TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF KEY ILLUSTRATIONS	xi
SECTION I – LEGISLATIVE BRANCH	1
Introduction	3
Senate	7
House of Representatives	33
Joint Committees, Commissions and Councils of the General Assembly.....	82
Department of State.....	87
Comptroller of the Treasury	95
Treasury.....	103
SECTION II – EXECUTIVE BRANCH	107
Introduction	109
Office of the Governor	111
Agriculture.....	131
Children’s Services.....	139
Commerce and Insurance	145
Correction	151
Economic and Community Development.....	157
Education.....	165
Higher Education.....	171
Environment and Conservation	191
Finance and Administration.....	199
Financial Institutions	203
General Services.....	207
Health	211
Human Resources	217
Human Services	223
Labor and Workforce Development.....	229
Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities.....	235
Military	239
Revenue	247
Safety	251
Tourist Development.....	257
Transportation	263
Veterans Affairs	267
Agencies, Boards, and Commissions	270
SECTION III – JUDICIAL BRANCH	281
Introduction	283
Supreme Court	284
Intermediate Appellate Courts.....	286
Administrative Office of the Courts	294
Trial Courts	295
Office of the Attorney General and Reporter.....	301

District Attorneys General Conference.....	307
District Public Defenders Conference	309
SECTION IV – TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY	311
SECTION V – TENNESSEANS IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT	317
Introduction	319
United States Senate	320
United States House of Representatives	322
Tennessee Valley Authority.....	331
Constitution of the United States	335
SECTION VI – TENNESSEE	353
A History of Tennessee	355
The Land and Native People	355
Struggle for the Frontier	359
From Territory to Statehood	366
Tennessee’s Coming of Age	370
The Age of Jackson	379
The Time of Troubles	394
Reconstruction and Rebuilding	411
Early Twentieth Century	426
Modern Tennessee	439
Acknowledgements	454
Historic Sites	456
Acknowledgements	455
Past Governors of Tennessee.....	489
Acknowledgements	455
Historical Listings of Constitutional Officers.....	506
Origins of County Names.....	509
Tennessee Symbols and Honors	516
Tennessee Constitution	536
SECTION VII – STATISTICAL INFORMATION	561
Election Returns.....	562
State, County and Municipal Data	640
Legal Holidays.....	657
INDEX.....	659

LIST OF KEY ILLUSTRATIONS

Senator John Shelton Wilder	iv
Organizational Chart of State Government	viii
Organizational Chart of Legislative Branch of State Government.....	2
The Story of a Bill	5
State Senate Chamber	6
Speaker of the Senate and Lieutenant Governor.....	8
Map of Senatorial Districts (105th General Assembly)	30
Tennessee Highway Patrol.....	31
State House of Representatives Chamber.....	32
Speaker of the House of Representatives	34
Statue of Andrew Jackson at the State Capitol	79
Map of House Districts (105th General Assembly).....	80-81
Secretary of State.....	86
Comptroller of the Treasury.....	94
Treasurer	102
Organizational Chart of Executive Branch of State Government	108
Governor Phil Bredesen.....	110
First Lady Andrea Conte.....	114
The Tennessee Residence	116
Tennessee Produce.....	130
Children at the Bicentennial Mall in Nashville.....	138
Cherokee National Forest View Near Flag Pond, Unicoi County	143
Mule Day in Columbia.....	144
Cattails	150
Department of Correction Facilities	153
Nanoparticle Research at Vanderbilt, <i>Photo courtesy of Daniel Dubois</i>	156
Dickens Christmas in Franklin.....	164
Renaissance Center in Dickson, <i>Photo courtesy of Renaissance Center</i>	189
Washington College Academy	189
Scarlet Trillium at Big South Fork, <i>Photo by Richard McKinney</i>	190
Oakes Daylilies in Corryton, Knox County	197
Golden Sunset	198
Cove Lake in Caryville	202
Winter Scene	206
Dogwood.....	210
Artisan at the Rugby Spring Festival.....	216
Scene from Historic Carnton Plantation in Franklin, Williamson County	221
Deer in the Smoky Mountains	222
Staircase at Oaklands Historic House in Murfreesboro, Rutherford County	227
Manufacturing Plant	228
Wildflowers Along the Interstate.....	234
Military Artillery, <i>Photo by Randy Harris</i>	238
Football Fan	246
Revenue Collections	249
Ocoee River.....	250
Bristol Raceway	256
Welcome Centers.....	260

I-40/I-840 near Dickson	262
Alvin York Monument at the State Capitol	266
Newly Reopened Demombreun Street Viaduct in Nashville, Davidson County	279
Supreme Court Building in Nashville	280
Organizational Chart of Judicial Branch of State Government	282
Supreme Court	284
Court of Appeals, <i>Photo by Ed Rode</i>	287
Court of Criminal Appeals.....	290
Attorney General and Reporter.....	300
Choctaw Powwow.....	306
Electric Power	312
U.S. Capitol	316
War Memorial in Nashville	318
Map of Congressional Districts	323
1917 Historic Market Street Bridge in Chattanooga, Hamilton County.....	330
Towers at Sunset.....	332
Map of TVA Power Service Area	333
Hydrangea, <i>Photo by Marlon Crow</i>	352
Historic Photographs and Paintings	354-453
Map of Tennessee Historic Sites	456
Photographs of Tennessee Historic Sites.....	457-488
Past Governors of Tennessee.....	489-505
Map of Tennessee Counties	515
Original State Seal.....	516
Official State Seal	516
Flag of Tennessee.....	517
Flag of the General Assembly	518
Flag of the Governor	519
State Historian.....	520
State Wildflower	521
State Flower	521
State Fruit	521
State Tree	522
State Bird	522
State Game Bird	523
State Sport Fish	523
State Wild Animal.....	524
State Horse.....	524
State Insects.....	525
State Agricultural Insect, <i>Photo by Ken Greene</i>	525
State Butterfly, <i>Photo by Terry Livingstone</i>	525
State Amphibian, <i>Photo by Todd Stailey</i>	526
State Reptile, <i>Photo by Terry Livingstone</i>	526
State Gem.....	526
State Rocks.....	527
State Fossil, <i>Photo courtesy of the UT Frank H. McClung Museum</i>	527
State Tartan, <i>Photo by Loveless Photography</i>	533
Official State Paintings, <i>by Michael Sloan</i>	534
Governor Phil Bredesen Votes	560
Pastural Scene from Montgomery County	658