

## Convention Speech

Good evening, everyone, thank you for coming here tonight to be part of this important event.

My name is Christopher Richards and I seek **your vote** to be next Republican representative on the Williamson County Commission.

I met a lot of you between February and April of this year as I went door to door in your neighborhood, meeting you on your doorstep, looking you in the eye and telling you about why I am the best choice for County

Commissioner in District 7. More importantly, I listened.

I spent time hearing about your hopes and concerns.

Your frustration with the County Debt, Brentwood Middle

School which has been 15 years in the making,  
neighborhood flooding issues, and everything in  
between. I share your frustration.

Unfortunately, my campaign was cut short on April 30th  
when my daughter, Bryanna, was in a motorcycle  
accident and had to be rushed to Vanderbilt Medical  
Center for emergency surgery and major trauma. Her  
friend and fellow Brentwood High School senior, the  
young man driving the motorcycle, tragically died the  
night of the accident.

The night of the May 3rd primary I watched the election  
returns from Bryanna's hospital room, thankful that she  
was still alive. And thankful to this beautiful community

of people who prayed, dropped off food, or just gave a kind word. I sincerely thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support.

I lost the May 3rd primary to Bert Chalfant by only 11 votes. 11 votes out of 2200. I petitioned for a recount because the margins were less than 1%. I challenged the election the way I challenge the status quo.

Sadly, Bert Chalfant passed away a few weeks ago, just as he was finishing up his 36<sup>th</sup> year in office. And that is why we are here today – to determine who is the best Republican candidate to move on to the November 8th special election, to represent the people of District 7.

For those of you who may not have been home when I knocked on your door, my platform is simple: the responsibility of a County Commissioner is to be a wise steward of taxpayer dollars. There is no reason for our county to be \$1 billion in debt. Our commissioners have lacked the discipline and responsibility to say no to wasteful spending. To say “no” to shelling out nearly \$3 million for the Renaissance Festival, or \$14 million for a new animal shelter, while our police and fire departments remain under-funded and understaffed.

I have no problem standing up to say no. If it's not a part of our long range plan to make Williamson County fiscally sound, it is not something we should invest your money in.

Once our budget has been reigned in, we need to stay focused on the two most important items: public safety and schools. Ensuring our fire and police departments, and our schools, receive the funds they need to protect our community, our children, and our grandchildren.

I am proud to be endorsed by Mark Green US

Congressman, and he states:

Christopher Richards is a proven conservative who has served his community well on the PTO and in helping

advance our Tennessee values. He will always put Williamson County's families and taxpayers first, and I'm proud to support his candidacy for County Commission.

I am also very proud to have the endorsement of Gino Bulso, Brentwood's own conservative voice and the Republican nominee for the District 61 TN State House.

I am also endorsed by:

Brentwood City Commissioners: Ken Travis & Mark Gorman

Williamson County Commissioners: Lisa Lenox, and Mary Smith

Before I close, I would like to thank my wonderful wife Susan who works so hard behind the scenes, Susannah McMillan, Jennifer Luteran, Garry Latimer, Stuart Anderson, Angela Beaton, Penny Lueckenhoff, and all of the volunteers here today who rallied to support me in the primary, and resoundingly in these past few weeks preparing for tonight's vote.

This County Commission seat is not a possession or a prize! The county commission seat belongs to **YOU**..... and **You**... and **You**.... And every voter in District 7!

I would ask where was my opponent back this spring as I knocked on doors? Where was my opponent as I attended Republican events this year? After being elected to the School Board in 2016, he resigned in 2017 to be appointed to County Commission and stayed only for a short time before moving on to seek higher office in 2018.

County Commissioner is a 4 year term.

I will work diligently every day to represent you. I commit to you that if I am elected, I will serve my full term and not abandon the position when another newer, greater position opens up. I will not seat hop. I am not viewing this as a steppingstone to a bigger political office.



I want to represent **you** District 7, the people of  
Brentwood, and Williamson County. I will never forget  
that this seat is your seat, and I will be Your voice on the  
County Commission!