

**Leon
Daugherty**
County Commission
8th District, Seat A

MEDIA RELEASE

FROM: Friends of Leon Daugherty for Commission
TO: ALL AREA MEDIA OUTLETS
DATE: October 1, 2008
RE: Campaign Announcement

DAUGHERTY KICKS OFF CAMPAIGN: WILL PUT 8th DISTRICT FIRST

Leon Daugherty kicked off his campaign for the vacant 8th District County Commission seat on Saturday, touring every precinct in the district with volunteers and putting up hundreds of orange and white yard signs. Daugherty, a University of Tennessee graduate, is a 49-year old social studies teacher. He has been teaching in Knox County for 23 years. Daugherty and his high school sweetheart-wife of 29 years, Leesa, who is also a teacher, have three children, Jessie, Jackie, and Jared.

Daugherty, who starred as a high school football player at Knoxville West, has lived in Knox County for 41 years. He is a first-generation college graduate who touts his experience as an educator, community leader, and civic volunteer as qualifications for County Commission. Daugherty's volunteer activities have included organizing voter registration drives, building houses for Habitat for Humanity, and frequently serving as a youth coach and referee with Ace Miller's Golden Gloves Charities. He also served on the Tennessee Education Association PAC, the political arm of the teachers association, which interviews and endorses candidates for local and state offices.

If elected, Daugherty vows to fight to:

- make the education of our children a top priority;
- put the needs of the 8th District and its citizens before any other;
- stop government excess and waste and make county government accountable to the people;
- make sure our senior citizens receive the highest level of care and county services; and

Daugherty points out that the 8th District is the largest district in Knox County, sprawling from Raccoon Valley Road in North Knox County to Thorngrove Pike in Southeast Knox County. Daugherty says "the 8th District rightly deserves to be treated as an equal with the other eight commission districts." "But too often," Daugherty states, "we have seen districts in West Knox County receive extensive funding for schools and road projects, while communities in the 8th District, like Gibbs, are forced to bus their children fifteen miles across the county to Holston, and

while roads and bridges in the 8th District, like several on Emory Road, are in great need of repair and widening.”

Characterizing himself as a fiscal conservative, Daugherty wonders if the county is spending money in an effective manner. He notes that “Knox County spent millions of dollars on new voting machines without paper trails long after the issue of electronic voting machine vulnerabilities were well-known. Now, the eSlate machines must be replaced with new machines to meet federal and state standards for paper trails. Therefore, millions of taxpayer dollars have been poured down the drain.” It's time, Daugherty says, “for a fresh look at how the people's money is spent. I pledge to work hard for the citizens of the 8th District and restore integrity and their trust in Knox County government.”