

THE
 *Senator* SOURCE
NEWSLETTER OF STATE SENATOR CHARLANE OLIVER
TENNESSEE'S 19TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

December 2023



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FROM THE DESK OF SENATOR OLIVER

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I pray that you and your family had a wonderful and restful holiday season. I sure did, but sheesh the break never feels long enough. Leshuan and I took the kids to my hometown of Little Rock, Arkansas to spend Christmas with my extended family. We had a grand time baking cookies and drinking hot cocoa, which is a tradition in the Oliver house.

If you were lucky, you may have received a surprise newsletter in the mail from my office, providing a recap of my legislative successes. If not, don't fret, you can [read the mailer here](#). I also made sure to be intentional about turning off my phone notifications to quiet my mind, step away from work, and mentally prepare for the fight ahead.

A new year means new harmful policy proposals put forth by my Republican colleagues and the governor. Whether they want to reject federal education funding or divert public taxpayer money to unregulated private schools or give away more tax cuts to corporations, you can count on me to keep the same bold outspoken energy for the 2024 session. Like I said on [Twitter](#), the level of hoops and loops the governor will do to avoid providing tax relief to taxpayers and families is such an abuse of power. The controlling party with unchecked power can find all kinds of ways to ignore the plight of hardworking Tennesseans.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES



SENATOR CHARLANE OLIVER PRESENTS

SENATE DISTRICT 19

CHARLANE OLIVER
STATE SENATE • DISTRICT 19

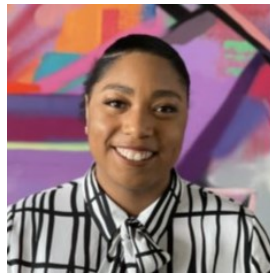
Virtual Town Hall

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 • 5:30 PM

Register: OliverForTNSenate.com/news

So....buckle up! The 2024 legislative session begins on Tuesday, January 9th at noon.

Mark your calendars for my **Senate District 19 Virtual Town Hall** and join me to kickoff the first day of the 2024 legislative session to learn about my legislative agenda, submit your bill ideas, discuss what you need to know and how you can advocate. *This meeting is virtual.* [Register on my website](https://OliverForTNSenate.com/news) to obtain the Zoom Meeting Link. Featured topics and confirmed speakers will include:



Public Education: Understanding the Dangers of Rejecting Federal Funds and School Vouchers

MaKenzie Mosby, MPP
Senior Manager of Government Relations
The Education Trust-Tennessee



Reproductive Justice: Introducing the Tennessee Contraceptive Freedom Act

Kay Cook
Advocate
TN Repro Coalition



Addressing Tennessee's Childcare Crisis

Dr. Cynthia Osborne
Professor of Early Childhood Education and Policy
Executive Director, Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center at Vanderbilt University

 **INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH**

Oliver Fellows Program

I'm so excited to launch the **Oliver Fellows Program** this year to shape the next generation of leaders and changemakers. I'm seeking 2-3 college students or high school seniors who will serve the 19th Senate District during a 4-month paid fellowship. These fellows will gain an up-close-and-personal inside knowledge and experience about serving in public elected office. Fellows must attend a college, university, or high school located within Senate District 19. Know someone who would be great for this learning opportunity?

[Learn more at oliverfortnsenate.com/fellows](https://oliverfortnsenate.com/fellows)

Deadline to apply: Friday, January 19 at 11:59 PM CST

APPLY NOW

Senator Oliver's Movie Night Out

CHARLANE OLIVER
STATE SENATE • DISTRICT 19

Senator Oliver's
MOVIE NIGHT OUT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024

REGAL CINEMAS OPRY MILLS, 570 OPRY MILLS DR, NASHVILLE, TN 37214

DOORS OPEN: 5:30PM | MOVIE BEGINS: 6:30 PM

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS/PROGRAMS:

I.T. CRESWELL MIDDLE PREP SCHOOL OF THE ARTS	GIDEON'S ARMY
NASHVILLE SCHOOL OF THE ARTS	SISTASTYLE PRODUCTIONS
MOVES AND GROOVES	ON THE SET SUMMER FILM CAMP
W.O. SMITH MUSIC SCHOOL	KENNIE PLAYHOUSE THEATRE
CREATIVE GIRLS ROCK	

Senator Oliver's Movie Night Out is shaping up to be an exciting night. Nine schools and community groups are sending 60 students (and their chaperones) to join me at Regal Cinemas Opry Mills this Friday to watch the musical-film *The Color Purple*.

This movie has a phenomenal cast and I'm excited for these youth to *see themselves on the big screen*. These middle and high school students are currently enrolled in a theater, music, film, art or dance program, and I believe you can't be what you can't see. Exposure and representation is so important during our most formative years of life, so I'm hoping that, by seeing this musical film led by a star-studded African-American cast, they will be inspired to continue to advance their love for the performing arts.

A huge thank you to everyone who sponsored the families to attend and make this event possible:

- Tennessee Titans Foundation
- MOJO Marketing+PR
- Keri Kidd Cannon - Fredrich and Clark Realty
- Intentional Schools
- Schmidt Government Solutions, LLC
- B.E. Academy
- Perian Strang
- Brandon Puttbrese

Christy Pruitt Haynes
Doris McMillan
Tyvi Small
Gail Clemons
Todd & Renee Kelly
William & Robin King
Cameo Carlson

Special Thanks
Nashville North Collaborative
Custom T's and More
Team Oliver Volunteers
Ramona Wiggins

NBCSL Youth Congress Day





I had so much fun serving as the Chair Youth Congress Day as part of the 47th Annual Legislative Conference of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL), that took place in Nashville this past November. More than 120 high seniors from my district engaged in being legislators for a day. Check out [my highlight reel on Instagram](#). We elected Speakers of the Senate and House, the kids appointed Bill Sponsors, and debated and passed legislation:

- ✓ Affirmative Action in College Admissions
- ✗ Tik Tok Ban
- ✗ Banned Books in Libraries
- ✗ Armed SROs in Schools
- ✓ Year-Round School

The babies were sharp and spoke boldly for their arguments. We gon be alright, yall, with Gen Z!

At least 17 students registered to vote, thanks to the Secretary of State's office being on hand. At the luncheon, they were inspired by the words and wisdom from NFL Pro-Bowler Eddie George and the founders of Slim & Husky's Pizza.

Thank you to the legendary Rep. Barbara Ballard from Kansas for co-leading this fun initiative and thank you to Superintendent Dr. Adrienne Battle and MNPS principals, legislative staff, and all who participated in this fun-filled day.

DECEMBER TORNADES

On December 9, 2023, deadly tornadoes ripped through Middle Tennessee, including parts of my district in Madison. Families are now grieving and picking up the pieces of their lives as they recover from the storms. We continue to mourn the three Madison residents and three Clarksville residents who were tragically killed in the storms: **Joseph Dalton, 37; Floridema Gabriel Perez, 31; Anthony Elmer Mendez, 2; Arlan Coty, 10; Stephen Kwaah Hayes, 34; Donna Allen, 59.**



My office offered assistance to the victims' families and worked in collaboration with nonprofits and Fire Chief Swann to ensure they had immediate resources. I assessed the storm damage and checked on residents in Madison, and I attended the funeral service of Floridema Perez and her son, Anthony Mendez.

If you or anyone you know was impacted by the storms, disaster assistance is still available.

[FEMA Disaster Assistance](#)

Deadline to apply: February 12, 2024

[TN Disaster Unemployment Assistance](#)

Deadline to apply: January 16, 2024

[Jobs4TN.gov](https://www.tn.gov/jobs4tn) / 1-877-813-0950

[Nashville VOAD Disaster Assistance](#)

Spanish Language Interpretation and Services

[Hispanic Family Foundation](#) - 615-562-2222

[TIRRC](#) - (615)-414-1030

HOLDING STATE DEPARTMENTS ACCOUNTABLE

The Tennessee Department of Children’s Services and Department of Corrections came before the Government Operations Committee in December for their sunset hearings. We continue to get horrific news reports and audits from these departments. Chronic understaffing has plagued both departments. CoreCivic continues to rake in record profits while their inmates are being subjected to unsafe, deplorable housing conditions. Kids are being further subjected to harm under DCS custody and the Democrats are the only ones in committee asking the tough questions! Meanwhile, my Republican colleagues treat these hearings like a rubber stamp. Check out a few clips from my line of questioning in committee.

Click image to watch the video.





OUT & ABOUT

Check out where Senator Oliver has been out and about in District 19 and beyond.

Paragon Mills Elementary School Groundbreaking Ceremony



NBCSL Annual Legislative Conference & Awards Gala



Pearl-Cohn High School Firebirds Win the Class 4A Football State Championship!



Senator Oliver & Family Serves Thanksgiving Meals with Mount Nebo Church & Room In The Inn



EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

USDA 1890 NATIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

USDA is accepting applications for the 2024 USDA 1890 National Scholars Program from December 15 through **March 1, 2024!**

The USDA 1890 National Scholars Program is aimed at bolstering educational and career opportunities for students from rural or underserved communities who study food, agriculture, natural resource and other related sciences. It was established in 1992 as part of the partnership between USDA and the 1890 land-grant universities (*Tennessee State University!!*).

The scholarship provides recipients with full tuition, fees, books, room and board. Scholars attend one of the 1890 land-grant universities and pursue degrees in agriculture, food, natural resource sciences, or related academic disciplines. The scholarship may also include work experience at USDA. The program is a crucial part of USDA's Next Generation efforts.

[Submit your application.](#)

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY RE-UP

On Saturday, January 13, 2024 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, the Nashville North Collaborative will hold its **3rd Annual Nashville North School Supply Re-Up** at Hartman Park Community Center, 2801 Tucker Rd, Nashville, TN 37218. Community members and families are invited!

- The Nashville North School Supply Re-Up is a one-day event to bring community partners together to support elementary and middle school students and teachers in the north Nashville area, by providing them with a resupply of school items needed to thrive in the second semester of the school year. The event is spearheaded by the Nashville North Collaborative, a nonprofit whose membership includes Tennessee State Senator Charlane Oliver, State Representative Harold Love, Jr., State Representative Vincent Dixie, Metro Councilwoman Kyonzte Toombs, Councilwoman Jennifer Gamble, and Councilman Brandon Taylor. Our goal is to provide 500 students, parents and teachers with school supplies needed including backpacks, notebooks, paper, pencils, etc.

- Partnerships and sponsorships are available through Jan. 10, 2024. All contributions are welcome. Send donations to Nashville North Collaborative, P.O. Box 281914, Nashville, TN 37228. For more information, email nashvillenc@att.net.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE

**BACK²SCHOOL
SUPPLY RE-UP 2024**

January 13, 2024

9:00a.m. -12:00 p.m

**Hartman Park
2801 Tucker Rd
Nashville, TN37218**



MLK DAY EVENTS

I'm excited to be participation again in the Martin Luther King Day March and Convocation on January 15 at the TSU Gentry Center. This year's keynote speaker is notable author, poet and Fisk graduate Nikki Giovanni. For a full schedule of events, visit mlkdaynashville.com.



MEDIA ROUNDUP

[State Supreme Court redistricting ruling overturns lower courts again](#) (Tennessee Lookout)

[Tennessee DCS commissioner defends progress as reports of children's mistreatment continue](#)
(Tennessee Lookout)

[State will continue to contract with private company in spite of bad audit](#) (Tennessee Lookout)

[Nashville mayor, advocates: Disaster assistance must be available in more languages](#) (The Tennessean)

[The photos behind the 2023 stories](#) (Tennessee Lookout)

CONTACT MY OFFICE

Contact my office if you have constituent needs, to schedule a meeting, or invite me to your next community event.

To receive my newsletter, please [subscribe here](#).

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#ItsOurTime 💜💛❤️
#ThePeoplesSenator

Paid for by People's Choice to Elect Charlane Oliver. Christiane Buggs, Treasurer.
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(Unsubscribing is not supported in previews)