



THE

# Senator SOURCE

NEWSLETTER OF STATE SENATOR CHARLANE OLIVER  
TENNESSEE'S 19<sup>TH</sup> SENATORIAL DISTRICT

May / June / July 2023



## FROM THE DESK OF SENATOR OLIVER

Greetings District 19!

I pray you've been having a wonderful and safe summer. Even though the legislature is out of session, I've been busy out and about in the community and engaging with my constituents. Being out of session also means getting back to work full-time, traveling to conferences, and hosting town halls in the district. As a working mother, balancing three kiddos at home this summer was no easy task, but we found creative ways to enjoy cheap local amenities, such as the splash pad at the Bordeaux/Northwest YMCA, reading at the Downtown Nashville Library, the playground at Frankie Pierce Park, bowling and arcades, and \$2 movies at Regal Cinemas. Metro Schools started the school year yesterday, and I'm prayerful for another safe, healthy and successful year for our children, parents, educators, bus drivers and support staff.

One of the most rewarding experiences I've had so far was attending several high school and college graduations throughout the month of May. I awarded proclamations to every valedictorian and salutatorian top scholar in my district.

In June, I hosted and co-hosted five town halls --- three in the district, one about Fund Tennessee, and one with the TN Black Caucus -- and they were a huge success! We had a combined **386** people turn out for these events, and I want to thank everyone for taking time out to voice their concerns and learn what's happening in state government.

As we prepare for our children to return to classrooms this week, we also brace for sending the legislature back into special session on August 21. We shouldn't be sending our kids back to unsafe schools with the threat of mass shootings looming and must show the political will to act courageously on gun violence. Since the special session was officially called yesterday, we shall see. My thoughts are highlighted below in this newsletter.

Keep scrolling to see what else I've been up to. And, as always, reach out to my office if you need me.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATES



**WATCH: SENATOR OLIVER PASSES THE NORMA JEAN UPSHAW ACT**



I'm excited to share that I passed my first piece of legislation, the **Norma Jean Upshaw Act**. This law is special to me for a few reasons.

First of all, this poor country girl from Arkansas has a law on the books with my name on it! Won't HE do it! From poverty to policymaker, I'm celebrating the journey.

Also, I sponsored this bill with Rep. Bill Beck, who unexpectedly passed away last month. I had the privilege and honor to work with him to pass what would become the last piece of legislation he passed. Rep. Beck and I worked with our constituents at [A.W.A.K.E.](#) to pass this law and meet an urgent need impacting Nashville's aging seniors. I wanted my first bill to have meaning and impact and yep, mission accomplished.

The law is named after my constituent, Norma Jean Upshaw, who faced [displacement from her senior living community in Madison](#) last year.

**As of July 1st, landlords are now mandated to provide a 60-day notice to residential tenants ages 55 or older before evicting them for the purpose of new property development. Prior to becoming law, landlords were only required to give 30-days notice. For those on a fixed income, this crucial protection ensures our beloved seniors have a little more time to secure alternative housing and transition smoothly during challenging times.**

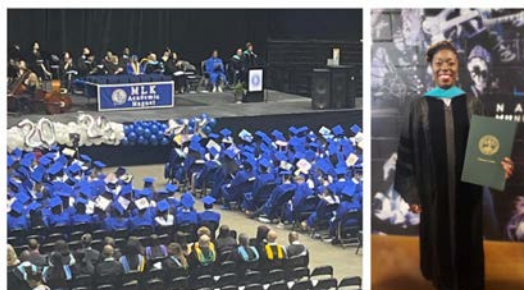
As Nashville faces an affordable housing crisis spurred by unchecked corporate greed, we must use all the tools in our toolbox to ensure our most vulnerable residents do not become unhoused or pushed out.

 **GRADUATIONS, GRADUATION, GRADUATIONS**





From kindergarten to college, I had the pleasure of attending graduation ceremonies at MLK Magnet High School, Tennessee State University, Meharry Medical College, and Columbia State Community College. My predecessor, the late Senator Thelma Harper, always gave framed diplomas to the graduating Kindergarten class at Schrader Lane Child Care Center. In true fashion, I was so happy to keep her tradition going! Additionally, I presented proclamations to each valedictorian and salutatorian that attends a high school in my district, and in several occasions, I hand delivered them in person. Congratulations to all the graduates on your hard-earned accomplishment!



**TOWN HALLS, TOWN HALLS, & TOWN HALLS**

In case you missed it, I hosted a four-part town hall series across the district. I hosted a Small Business Town Hall in partnership with several community organizations on June 6th about small business resources through the new Fund Tennessee program. If you weren't able to attend, you can [download the Fund Tennessee presentation slides here](#).

Instead of doing just one event, my goal was to *meet the people where they are* by making consecutive stops in Madison/East Nashville, North Nashville, and Antioch/Southeast Nashville. We discussed transportation choice lanes, third grade retention law, resources available at the Dept. of Children's Services, and of course, gun legislation in preparation for special session. The resounding answer was NO to armed guards in schools and NO to arming teachers in classrooms! Constituents would like to see measures such as:

- holding gun manufacturers accountable
- bans on assault weapons
- more preventative measures that keeps guns out of the wrong hands (extreme risks laws, universal background checks)
- permits, training and safe storage to promote responsible gun ownership

Thank you to everyone who spoke up and showed up!!





**SLLF EMERGING LEGISLATIVE LEADERS PROGRAM**





I was nominated by Lt. Governor McNally to participate in the State Legislative Leaders Foundation's (SLLF) Emerging Legislative Leaders Program in Charlottesville, Virginia. Per their website, the *Emerging Legislative Leaders Program* is designed specifically for the next generation of leaders in our state legislatures. The program is held every July on the campus of the University of Virginia, in partnership with the distinguished Darden School of Business.

Up to 50 of the best and brightest state legislators from across the nation took part in 4 days of challenging classroom discussions, led by a team of professors at the Darden School. Since 2005, over 600 legislators have benefited from their experience at this program, and a significant number have continued their careers in public service. Many have achieved positions of leadership in their states.

While there, our class took a tour of Monticello (home of President Thomas Jefferson) and many of the legislators of color were disappointed that there were no Indigenous Land Acknowledgments given. As the highlight of our time together, I signed-on to a [joint letter](#) by Rep. Jayme Davis of North Dakota to request actions be taken to rightfully acknowledge the first peoples of the land occupied by the Monticello.

**SPECIAL SESSION HAS OFFICIALLY BEEN CALLED**



Ahead of the special session on Aug. 21, the Covenant School families have convened 40-days of prayer in an effort to center the attention back on the lives lost on March 27 and meaningful legislation. On day 20, the families gathered to pray for specific legislators, including myself. I was incredibly humbled by their merciful prayers for bipartisan action.



# DEMOCRATS LAUNCH BUS TOUR TO BUILD SUPPORT FOR ENDING GUN VIOLENCE

Sen. Charlane Oliver tells WKRN: "The statistics (on gun violence) are not new. What is new is the opportunity to turn tragedy into policy action."



Immediately after the prayer, I joined House Democratic Caucus Chair Rep. John Ray Clemmons in a press conference to announce the "Our Kids Deserve Better" 8-city bus tour. Democratic lawmakers will be traveling the state on a school bus with a clear message for Tennessee families: Our kids deserve better. The bus tour to end gun violence will begin on this Wednesday, Aug. 9 (**today!**) in Memphis at the National Civil Rights Museum. The journey will end in Nashville at the State Capitol on Aug. 21, which is scheduled to be the first day of the special session. The first week of the tour schedule is here:

- **August 9, 6:00 pm, Memphis at the National Civil Rights Museum, 450 Mulberry St.**
- **August 10, 11:00 am, Jackson at the West TN Farmers Market, 91 New Market St.**
- **August 10, 2:30 pm, Dickson at Mulberry Mill, 100 S. Mulberry St.**
- **August 12, 12 pm, Clarksville at Patriots Park, 3176 Fort Campbell Blvd.**

More tour stops will be announced on a rolling basis; follow Rep. Clemmons and #GetOnTheBus for the latest updates.

[TNUnderTheGun.com](https://www.tnunderthegun.com), a new project by the Tennessee Senate Democratic Caucus, is tracking shootings throughout the state and compiling data to show the far-reaching consequences of deadly gun violence. With five months left in 2023, Tennessee has already set a new annual record for the number of people who have been killed in mass shootings: 29. Children accounted for more than a third of these homicides.

**The special session has officially been called for Aug. 21** and there's no mention of "guns" in the proclamation. The TNGOP has been in the supermajority for 13 years and all they've managed to accomplish is lead the nation in gun-related deaths among children. None of what the governor is proposing will lead to more lives saved in Tennessee or less guns in our churches, schools, or grocery stores. Their idea of public safety is locking kids in cages and criminalizing the mentally ill. The People's

demands are what got us here, and the People's will is what needs to be done. We're not accepting crumbs so that the NRA and TFA can eat. Tennesseans want and deserve protection and better leadership.

[Read the official proclamation here.](#)

Leader Akbari and Sen. Yarbrow were appointed to the task force the Governor which has convened to talk through legislation for the special session. Senate Democrats are having conversations about our joint slate of bills with the House caucus. We are aiming for **unity, focus, and strategy** to help make our caucuses successful during the special session.

Here's what I had to say on [Twitter](#):



**Senator Charlane Oliver**



@CharlaneOliver

It's all "let's protect children" until it's time to protect the second amendment. Which one is it @TNGOP? What a joke.

## OUT & ABOUT

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

**National Organization of Black Elected Legislative (NOBEL) Women Conference in Puerto Rico**  
*Sen. Oliver poses with Governor of Puerto Rico Pedro Pierluisi*



**Sen. Oliver featured in *Exit 207* Documentary; attends Premiere Screening at Belmont**





**MLK Magnet High School Graduation Ceremony**



State Sen. Charlane Oliver, D-District 19, recognizes salutatorian Eben Negasi, left, and valedictorian Gregory Gomez, center, during the Martin Luther King Jr. Magnet High School 2023 commencement ceremony at Municipal Auditorium in Nashville, Tenn., Wednesday, May 17, 2023.

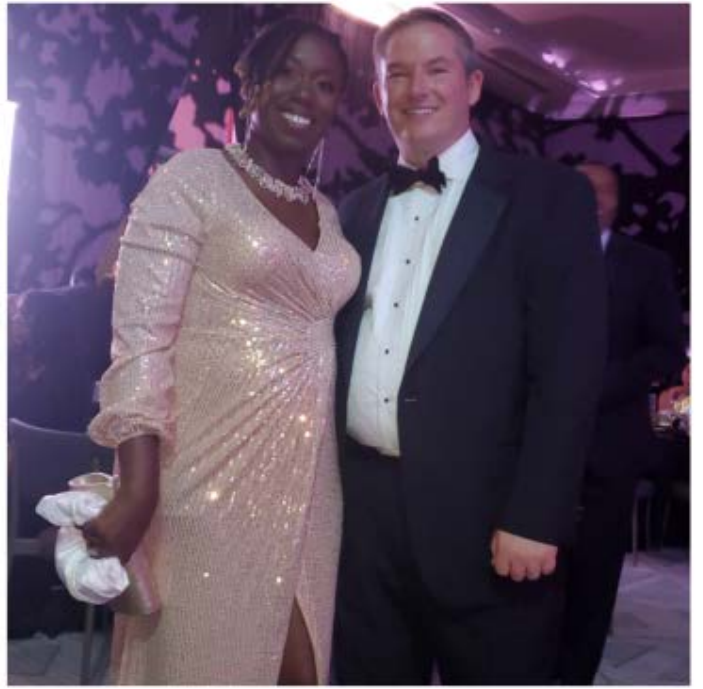
Andrew Nelles / The Tennessean



**Ribbon Cutting of the new Basketball Court at Watkins Park, sponsored by Vanderbilt and Hoop Bus**



**The Legacy Ball by R.H. Boyd Publishing Company**

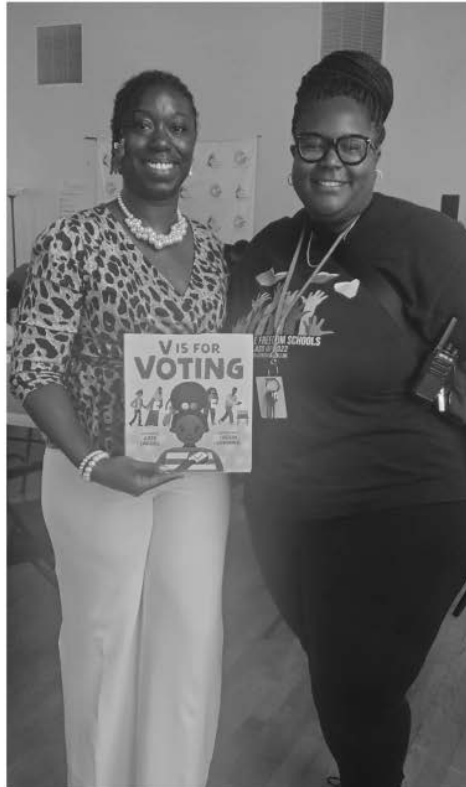
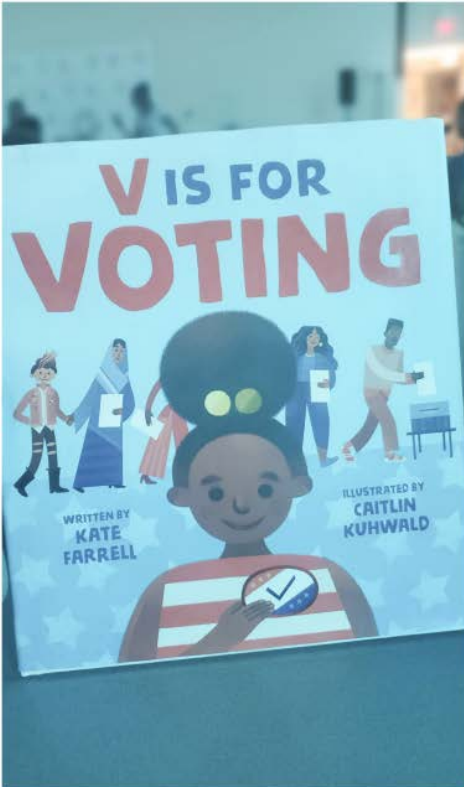


**4th Annual Black Women's Empowerment Weekend, hosted by The Equity Alliance**





**Reading Aloud to Children of Nashville Freedom Schools at Gordon Memorial UMC**



**Sen. Oliver presented with the ATHENA Award for Young Professionals at CABLE Luncheon**

**Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway at Ligon's Barbershop in Madison**





## MEDIA ROUNDUP

[The new civil rights leaders](#) (Tennessee Lookout)

[State committee approves extra housing for TSU and UT-Knoxville](#) (Tennessee Lookout)

[Senator Oliver holding town halls focused on small businesses, recent legislation](#) (Tennessee Tribune)

[What happens when a cash-poor billionaire wants a new sports stadium? Lobbying.](#) (Tennessee Lookout)

[Governor promises to make special session call, sponsor bills amid GOP opposition](#) (Tennessee Lookout)

## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



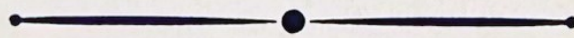


The United States Postal Service  
cordially invites you to attend  
The Designation of

**SENATOR**

**THELMA M. HARPER**

**Post Office**



Tuesday  
August 15th, 2023  
10:00 AM



**Ceremony**

Looby Community Center  
2301 Rosa L. Parks Blvd  
Nashville, TN 37228

**Post Office Unveiling**

Metro Post Office  
2245 Rosa L. Parks Blvd  
Nashville, TN 37228

*Immediately following the Ceremony*

# Trailblazer Community Luncheon

Kingdom Cafe & Grill  
2610 Jefferson Street  
Nashville, TN 37228

*For PO unveiling attendees immediately following the unveiling*

## RUNOFF ELECTIONS IN NASHVILLE

**Mayor of Nashville** Progressive candidate and two-term Metro Councilman Freddie O'Connell and Republican dog whistler Alice Rolli have made it to the runoff for mayor. **Metro Council At-Large** Eight candidates have qualified for the runoff. Must vote for four (4). Highest four vote-getters wins and will join Zulfat Suara as our at-large council members. [Early voting](#) begins **Friday, Aug. 25 through Saturday, Sept. 9 Election Day - Thursday, September 14**

**Mayor of Nashville** Progressive candidate and two-term Metro Councilman Freddie O'Connell and Republican dog whistler Alice Rolli have made it to the runoff for mayor. **Metro Council At-Large** Eight candidates have qualified for the runoff. Must vote for four (4). Highest four vote-getters wins and will join Zulfat Suara as our at-large council members. [Early voting](#) begins **Friday, Aug. 25 through Saturday, Sept. 9 Election Day - Thursday, September 14**

**Mayor of Nashville** Progressive candidate and two-term Metro Councilman Freddie O'Connell and Republican dog whistler Alice Rolli have made it to the runoff for mayor. **Metro Council At-Large** Eight candidates have qualified for the runoff. Must vote for four (4). Highest four vote-getters wins and will join Zulfat Suara as our at-large council members. [Early voting](#) begins **Friday, Aug. 25 through Saturday, Sept. 9 Election Day - Thursday, September 14**

**Mayor of Nashville** Progressive candidate and two-term Metro Councilman Freddie O'Connell and Republican dog whistler Alice Rolli have made it to the runoff for mayor. **Metro Council At-Large** Eight candidates have qualified for the runoff. Must vote for four (4). Highest four vote-getters wins and will join Zulfat Suara as our at-large council members. [Early voting](#) begins **Friday, Aug. 25 through Saturday, Sept. 9 Election Day - Thursday, September 14**

**Mayor of Nashville** Progressive candidate and two-term Metro Councilman Freddie O'Connell and Republican dog whistler Alice Rolli have made it to the runoff for mayor. **Metro Council At-Large** Eight candidates have qualified for the runoff. Must vote for four (4). Highest four vote-getters wins and will join Zulfat Suara as our at-large council members. [Early voting](#) begins **Friday, Aug. 25 through Saturday, Sept. 9 Election Day - Thursday, September 14**

**Mayor of Nashville** Progressive candidate and two-term Metro Councilman Freddie O'Connell and Republican dog whistler Alice Rolli have made it to the runoff for mayor. **Metro Council At-Large** Eight candidates have qualified for the runoff. Must vote for four (4). Highest four vote-getters wins and will join Zulfat Suara as our at-large council members. [Early voting](#) begins **Friday, Aug. 25 through Saturday, Sept. 9 Election Day - Thursday, September 14**

**Mayor of Nashville** Progressive candidate and two-term Metro Councilman Freddie O'Connell and Republican dog whistler Alice Rolli have made it to the runoff for mayor. **Metro Council At-Large** Eight candidates have qualified for the runoff. Must vote for four (4). Highest four vote-getters wins and will join Zulfat Suara as our at-large council members. [Early voting](#) begins **Friday, Aug. 25 through Saturday, Sept. 9 Election Day - Thursday, September 14**

**Mayor of Nashville** Progressive candidate and two-term Metro Councilman Freddie O'Connell and Republican dog whistler Alice Rolli have made it to the runoff for mayor. **Metro Council At-Large** Eight candidates have qualified for the runoff. Must vote for four (4). Highest four vote-getters wins and will join Zulfat Suara as our at-large council members. [Early voting](#) begins **Friday, Aug. 25 through Saturday, Sept. 9 Election Day - Thursday, September 14**

candidates have qualified for the runoff. Must vote for four (4). Highest four vote-getters wins and will join Zulfat Suara as our at-large council members. [Early voting](#) begins **Friday, Aug. 25 through Saturday, Sept. 9** **Election Day - Thursday, September 14**

### **Mayor of Nashville**

Progressive candidate and two-term Metro Councilman Freddie O'Connell and Republican dog whistler Alice Rolli have made it to the runoff for mayor.

### **Metro Council At-Large**

Eight candidates have qualified for the runoff. Must vote for four (4). Highest four vote-getters wins and will join Zulfat Suara as our at-large council members.

[Early voting](#) begins **Friday, Aug. 25 through Saturday, Sept. 9**

**Election Day - Thursday, September 14**

## 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](#).

### **Office of Senator Charlane Oliver**

**19th Senatorial District**

**Cordell Hull Building**

**425 Rep. John Lewis Way North**

**Suite 766**

**Nashville, Tennessee 37243**

**Phone: (615) 741-2453**

**Email: [sen.charlane.oliver@capitol.tn.gov](mailto:sen.charlane.oliver@capitol.tn.gov)**

**Scheduling: [keo.sparks@capitol.tn.gov](mailto:keo.sparks@capitol.tn.gov)**

[Find My Legislator](#)



**#ItsOurTime** 💜💛❤️

**#ThePeoplesSenator**

Paid for by People's Choice to Elect Charlane Oliver. Christiane Buggs, Treasurer.

PO Box 330602

Nashville, TN 37203

United States

(Unsubscribing is not supported in previews)