



BIOGRAPHY



Brandon Thomas was born and raised in Rutherford County. He's a long-time activist and advocate, and a proud husband and father. He believes we need to bring the volunteer spirit back to the Tennessee state legislature. Although he's lived outside of Tennessee for brief periods, for school or campaign work, he's always come back to Tennessee. He loves living in Rutherford County and would love the opportunity to represent his neighbors in the legislature. He's proud to be raising his son in the community that brought us Murfreesboro Loves, Boro Pride, and other great examples of Southern hospitality at its best.

The summer after Brandon's freshman year at Middle Tennessee State University, he visited DC with SEIU's Change That Works campaign, to lobby Congress to pass the Affordable Care Act. He was going to school, working, and taking care of his ailing grandmother. He knew even then at the age of 20 how lucky his family was to have access to Medicare for her, and how important it was to make sure that all Americans had access to quality, affordable healthcare. During his time at MTSU, Brandon also served as a senator in student government, where he passed a bill adding gender identity to the student government non-discrimination policy, prompting university president Sidney McPhee to add it to the university-wide policy, a move that became even more impactful once MTSU was no longer covered by the non-discrimination policy of the Tennessee Board of Regents. He also served as



Opinions Editor of the MTSU student newspaper, The Sidelines, pulling together students from a variety of backgrounds to submit opinion pieces.

While at MTSU, Brandon met his husband, Michael. As the two worked to finish their degrees, and in the years immediately following graduation, they supported



themselves by working in retail. Brandon knows first-hand the struggle of having an irregular schedule, low wages, and limited sick time. He continued to stay politically involved, volunteering with organizations like the Tennessee Equality Project and Middle Tennesseans for Religious Freedom, as well as local Democratic campaigns. In 2015, shortly after he and Michael got married, he was offered a job as a Deputy

Field Director on an SEIU issue campaign in Iowa, organizing everyday Iowans to advocate for a family-friendly economy at their local caucuses.

After coming back to Tennessee in February of 2016, inspired by the work he was a part of in Iowa, Brandon chose to run for office. He ran for state house in the 2016 election, garnering 38.8% of the vote against a six-year incumbent, as a first-time candidate. He was still working a full-time job at the time but put in as much time and effort as he could. He's incredibly proud of the work he did, but knows he has learned so much since then, and improved as a candidate.

In March of 2018, Brandon and his husband welcomed their son, Ezra, to the world. Brandon remained politically involved while continuing to work full-time and raise a



child, and had a busy 2018, beginning a job with the Tennessee Equality Project and being elected as the Tennessee Democratic Party state executive committeeman for Senate District 13. He's worked hard to bring about change through these two positions, and he knows it's time to step up and run for state house again in 2020.

Brandon Thomas is running to represent State House District 49 because he wants to model compassion for his son, and ensure that the needs of everyday Tennesseans are no longer placed on the back burner. Brandon has worked in retail customer service, non-profit work, and on campaigns. Through this work, he has honed the skills of building consensus, and working with people from many different backgrounds, while still not being afraid to stand up for what's right and speak truth to power.



Brandon believes we need to expand Medicaid in the state of Tennessee. We have the ability to access federal money that's already been set aside for this purpose, which would help provide healthcare access to over 700,000 of our neighbors and stop the closure of even more rural hospitals. We also need to institute a worker's bill of rights by introducing a slate of bills related to making sure all Tennesseans have access to a living wage, paid family leave, and a proper work/life balance. And we need to reform our criminal justice system, by ending cash bail and making sure that justice is restorative, not punitive.

Brandon knows his neighbors in district 49 want to help take care of one another, and so he's ready to fight for a Tennessee that ensures access to healthcare, a family-friendly economy, and equal treatment under the law. Brandon is ready to bring love and compassion back to our legislature, and get to work solving the problems affecting everyday Tennesseans.