

# How to Vote for Your Sierra Club State Chapter and Group Leaders

This issue contains ballots for the election of Sierra Club Tennessee’s state and group leaders. Please note that **ONLY a paper mail-in ballot is available for this year’s ballot** — no electronic ballot is available. Each winner will have a two-year term beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2026. Successful candidates will join other Executive Committee (ExCom) state or group members in managing fiscal, legislative, and environmental matters, the outings program, and governance responsibilities of the Chapter or their group.

- Mail both ballots to the address provided. Ballots must be received no later than **December 13, 2024**. Please allow for holiday mail delays.
- Only current members as of November 1, 2024, may vote.
- Joint members must use the same ballot.
- Ballots list candidates in randomized order.

**1. Vote for Tennessee State Chapter ExCom candidates on the bottom of this page.**

**2. Complete a ballot for your group on page 8, 9, 10, or 11. Which group you are in depends on which county you live in:**

- **Chickasaw Group Ballot on Page 8:** You are in the Chickasaw Group if you live in one of these counties: Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, Madison, McNairy, Obion, Shelby, Tipton, Weakley.
- **Harvey Broome Group Ballot on Page 9:** Choose this ballot if you live in one of these counties: Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Carter, Claiborne, Cocke, Cumberland, Fentress, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, Loudon, Morgan, Pickett, Roane, Scott, Sevier, Sullivan, Unicoi, Union, Washington.
- **Middle Tennessee Group Ballot on Page 10:** You are in this group if you live in one of these counties: Bedford, Cannon, Cheatham, Clay, Davidson, DeKalb, Dickson, Giles, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Macon, Marshall, Maury, Montgomery, Moore, Perry, Robertson, Rutherford, Smith, Stewart, Sumner, Trousdale, Wayne, Williamson, Wilson.
- **Cherokee Group Ballot on Page 11:** Choose this ballot if you live in one of these counties: Bledsoe, Bradley, Coffee, Franklin, Grundy, Jackson, Hamilton, Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Monroe, Overton, Polk, Putnam, Rhea, Sequatchie, Van Buren, Warren, White.

## Election Ballot for At-Large Delegates to the Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee 2025-2026 Term

**VOTE HERE FOR CHAPTER AT-LARGE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CANDIDATES:**

<u>At-Large Chapter Candidates</u>	<u>Single Member or First Joint Member</u> - Max 3 votes -	<u>Second Joint Member</u> - Max 3 votes -
Yolonda Spinks	_____	_____
Bill Moll	_____	_____
Kent Minault	_____	_____

**HOW TO SUBMIT BALLOTS:**

Paper ballots must be properly submitted to be counted.

1. Place both your Group and At-Large ballot in the same envelope.
2. Seal and write “Ballot” plus your county on that envelope.
3. Place that “Ballot” envelope in a second envelope for mailing.
4. Write your name, address, and Sierra Club membership number in the upper left hand corner of the mailing envelope. Your membership number is located to the left of your name on the mailing label of this Tennes-Sierran, and is also available at [myaccount.sierraclub.org](http://myaccount.sierraclub.org). Envelopes *must* include name, address, and membership number to be counted.
5. Ballots must be received no later than December 13, 2024. To avoid holiday delays, please mail ballot promptly to:

**Sierra Club Tennessee Chapter  
1722 Sweetbriar Ave.  
Nashville, TN 37212-5527    Attn: Elections**

**Yolonda Spinks** is a seasoned marketing and communications professional who leverages her expertise to advocate for an environmentally safe and equitable world for residents of South Memphis. As a community organizer and the former Director of Communications for Memphis Community Against Pollution (MCAP), she led the fight against a toxic release facility emitting ethylene oxide (EtO) into a predominantly Black community and co-led a community campaign that resulted in the Memphis Light Gas & Water (MLGW) Board of Commissioners voting against a lifetime contract (valued at \$1 billion yearly) with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) that would have helped fund its gas buildout. Spinks is currently enrolled in the EPA’s 2024-2025 Environmental Justice Academy in partnership with Tuskegee University so that she can continue doing the work to ensure that everyone has access to clean air, water, and soil regardless of their zip code. Yolonda is also a member of the Chickasaw Group ExCom.

**Bill Moll** has been a Sierra Club member for over fifty years and has been on the Cherokee Group and Chapter ExComs in the past. For the past six years, he has been the Chapter Conservation Committee Chair/Co-Chair. He has also coordinated Conservation Education Day for six years. Professionally, Bill was a consultant in operations from manufacturing, distribution, transportation and logistics to services and systems, both domestically and internationally. He has the background to assist in most of the Chapter’s campaigns. Moll has served on the Board of both national and local non-profit organizations, been the Treasurer of several and has Chaired a variety of symposiums and conventions. Bill understands how volunteer organizations function. As an At-Large member of the Tennessee Chapter ExCom, a primary objective would be to increase the involvement of members in the Chapter’s activities, utilizing the added resources of a Chapter Director. With his experience and skills, Moll can work with the ExCom to build on the current Chapter strengths, increase member involvement in Chapter campaigns, and have a greater impact on preserving and improving the environment across Tennessee.

**Kent Minault** acted and toured with the award-winning San Francisco Mime Troupe in the ‘60’s. He joined the Diggers, organizing street rallies and serving daily free food in the park. They organized the first Haight Ashbury Free Medical Clinic, a version of which is still active. In the 70’s, he worked for the SF Art Commission. His acting career moved him to the top theaters in San Francisco and then to Los Angeles in 1987. He expanded into television and film, and taught English for the School District. He and his adult students worked to preserve adult education, and also worked with his union to defeat anti-union ballot measures. In 2010, he joined the Beyond Coal campaign. After getting Los Angeles off coal, he joined the LA County Electric Bus Coalition and got LA Metro to transition to electric buses by 2030. He organized three EV events in Watts and helped found the Watts Clean Air Committee, installing rooftop solar and helping residents enter union apprenticeship programs. He organized an EV event in East Knoxville with SEED. He’s on the Harvey Broome Group ExComm and serves as the Group’s Political Chair. He works regularly with the Beyond Coal Team and the Chapter Energy Team as well as with the Bull Run Neighbors. He currently chairs the Chapter’s Transportation Team.

# Election Ballots for Middle Tennessee Group Executive Committee

## 2025-2026 Term

Middle Tennessee Group Candidates	Single Member or First Joint Member - Max 5 votes -	Second Joint Member - Max 5 votes -
Gary Bowers	_____	_____
Tim Weeks	_____	_____
Rebecca Newton	_____	_____
Dr. Robert C. Wingfield, Jr.	_____	_____
Paula Lennon	_____	_____

### HOW TO SUBMIT BALLOTS:

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**Gary Bowers** is committed to ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to experience Nature and the natural wonders of the Earth. He has lived that commitment for the past 30-plus years, working diligently to protect our planet. He has been a member of the Sierra Club since 1984 and actively engaged in conservation work since the late 1980s. He strives to be well-informed about current threats to our environment. He strongly believes that we are at a critical crossroads in the areas of energy conservation/alternative energy generation and local/organic (non-GMO) food production. He seeks the opportunity to support the efforts of the MTG ExCom in conservation initiatives, recruiting new members and engaging and activating them using the Ladder of Engagement. Fifteen years as the former Tennessee Chapter Conservation Chair provided an extensive knowledge of and the ability to apply those principles to these areas. Chapter level experience includes: revising Chapter conservation committees, aligning Chapter conservation committees with National Club priorities, establishing conservation committee goals and mission statements, helping bring Sierra National's Beyond Coal Campaign to Tennessee, obtaining Sierra's first End Commercial Logging on Federal Public Lands Campaign in the country for the Tennessee Chapter, and drafting forest protection legislation. Gary is currently the Chapter's Communication Chair.

**Tim Weeks** is currently serving as Acting Chair of the Middle Tennessee Group ExCom. He previously served as Vice Chair and Co-Chair of the Conservation Committee. Weeks is also an at-large member of the Chapter ExCom and Acting Chair of the Chapter Energy Subcommittee. A long-time Nashville resident, he has invested many years in community organizing and volunteering. Ten of those years, he served as President of the Donelson Hermitage Neighborhood Alliance, a regional organization that sponsors educational forums and represents the area to Metro government on neighborhood issues. Through DHNA, Weeks also became involved with the Coalition of Nashville Neighborhoods, a countywide group that opposed short-term rentals in residential neighborhoods. More recently, he served as vice president of the steering committee of Friends of Cook Recreation Area, a grassroots organization formed to oppose the Corps of Engineers' plan to commercially develop 200 acres of pristine land on Percy Priest Lake. He consulted with the Tennessee Chapter and Middle Tennessee Group during the campaign, which ultimately was successful when the Corps withdrew its plans in February 2022. Tim is familiar with local and state government. As a television and video producer, he covered the Tennessee General Assembly for statewide public television from 2014-19. Professionally, he has produced, directed, or written a wide variety of programming, including almost seven years of the Grand Ole Opry's show when it was on cable television. Tim and his wife Teresa are residents of Hermitage.

**Rebecca Newton** became active with the Middle Tennessee Group of the Sierra Club in 2023 and soon volunteered to serve on the executive committee and chair the group's programs and activities committee. In 2024, she organized and led the group's monthly program meetings at Radnor Lake State Park, as well as coordinated the club's annual Earth Day presence and seasonal social events. She was instrumental in planning an Ex-Com retreat and member survey to help shape the year's activities. She helped lead the revival of the Sierra & Suds monthly gathering now meeting at Fat Bottom Brewery in Nashville every first Wednesday. Previous to her engagement with Sierra, Rebecca's volunteer environmental work focused on outdoor education and gardening with children at Westmeade Elementary School; working with TennGreen on preserving the Belle Forest Cave Property; serving on the board of the Cumberland Center for Justice and Peace; and contributing to the Sustainability Stewardship Advisory Committee working to implement sustainable practices in Metro Davidson County Schools. She has lived in the Nashville and Sewanee areas most of her adult life and is an avid hiker and gardener. She has two adult daughters. Her hopes for another stint on the ExCom are to work on boosting membership, to engage and "activate" new volunteers, and to complete the Sierra outings leader training so she can contribute to the club's hiking offerings.

**Dr. Robert C. Wingfield Jr.** is currently serving as an Associate Professor of Chemistry at Fisk University. He is the Co-Director of the Fisk Community Environmental Toxics Awareness and Sustainability Program, which is funded by NIEHS through the Midwest Consortium. He has had industrial experience in chemical process and product development. He served as External Process Leader and Co-Chair of a Steering Committee to develop an Environmental Justice Strategic Plan for TDEC (1998-2000). In 2009, he was appointed by the Governor of State of Tennessee to the Compliance Advisory Panel to provide support to the TDEC Small Business Environmental Assistance Program. He has served as a member of the Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County Wastewater Hearing Authority since 1999. During 2021 he served as Chair of the Nashville Section, American Chemical Society, and currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Chapter's Middle Tennessee Group. He served as co-chair of the Family and Youth Sustainability Education Workgroup of the Mayor of Nashville's Sustainability Advisory Committee for the development of a Nashville Climate Action Plan. He was selected to the 2024 class of Fellows of the American Chemical Society.

**Paula Lennon** moved to Tennessee over 28 years ago after spending most of her life in California. She is proud to call Tennessee her home. She truly loves the outdoors and is passionate that we leave our environment in better condition than we found it. That's quite a goal and we have a lot of work to do. She has worked in the background for Sierra for a long time. She currently serves on the MTG Executive & Membership Committees. In the past, she has served as Chapter & Group Secretary, Membership Chair, Chapter Election Committee Chair, and was on the Chapter ExCom as delegate for the MTG Group. Tennessee is an amazing state, and she hopes to help more members become more active. and to share her love of nature and environmental awareness with school-age children. She has been to many places in this great state that she wouldn't have seen without the Sierra Club itself and with longtime relationships built through the Club. This organization has made it possible for her to make some amazing friends all over the state. Thank you for your participation in the Sierra Club and Paula would appreciate your vote!