

State Senate  
State of Tennessee



**Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey re-elected as State  
Senate convenes business of 107<sup>th</sup> General  
Assembly**

I want to thank you for the faith you have again put in me to be Speaker. It is an honor and I am grateful for your support.

There are many others who deserve special recognition. First and foremost, I want to give thanks to God, to whom we are all indebted and without whom nothing is possible.

I want to say a special word of thanks to my wife Cindy and our family, who have always provided unwavering love and support.

I want to express my appreciation to the people of Sullivan County and Johnson County, who have placed their confidence in me to serve them in the Senate.

To the members of the Senate Republican Caucus: I am proud to have your trust and I want to thank you for the opportunity to lead.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the people we all serve – the citizens of our great state.

We have four new senators in the room. I want to welcome you and thank you for your service. Today is a special day for you. Don't ever lose the feeling you have right now. Keep it with you every time you walk into this chamber. Out of over 6 million people in our great state, the voters chose you to be here. This great honor comes with great responsibility and I know you will carry it well.

This is an exciting and challenging time for our state and our nation. We stand at the beginning of a new decade and a new era in Tennessee.

We come together today just 2 months after Tennessee voters gave a mandate to those who pledged a new focus:

Reduce the size of state government and push back against an overreaching federal government;

Cut taxes and let the private sector create good, high paying jobs;

Give parents a choice in how their children are educated and reform public education to prepare students to enter the workforce;

Ensure that Tennessee does not turn into Washington with out of control spending and taxing;

Stand shoulder to shoulder with sister states to make the federal government protect our jobs and borders.

That is my vision for Tennessee and together we can keep that pledge and make Tennessee an oasis in a nation that has lost its way. We can be the example that brings this country back from the brink.

We will face many challenges in the next 2 years:

The budget shortfall will require that we implement cuts identified by a bipartisan consensus in the last General Assembly;

We will take on the once-in-a-decade task of redrawing political boundaries. In this General Assembly, it will be done in a fair manner.

There is a new Governor and new leadership in the House of Representatives. Therefore, it is the individuals in this chamber who will provide the experienced, successful leadership to guide our state. I know you will succeed.

Tennessee has a bright future ahead of her as long as we remain dedicated to job creation and Tennessee's traditions of faith and family. Together we can make that future a reality.

May God bless you and the state of Tennessee.