

Forrester for Chairman
Tennessee Democratic Party
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November 5, 2008

Dear State Democratic Executive Committee Member:

Yesterday was a bittersweet day for Tennessee Democrats. With the resounding victory of Senator Barack Obama, our President-Elect, we can all take great pride in this historic election in which we participated. Unfortunately, with the apparent loss of the State House and our inability to wrest control of the State Senate from Republicans, we will indeed have trying times ahead as we all work to forge Democratic victories in the future.

Indeed, it is time for a "Change in America" and Democrats nationally, are leading the way in restoring this wonderful country both economically and morally as the "Hope for the world" that Thomas Paine spoke about in *Common Sense* during the uncertain times of 1776.

While we are celebrating yesterday's 2008 national election victory, the Democratic losses we faced here yesterday in Tennessee require that we begin thinking today about tomorrow's 2010 election challenges. As critical as this past election has been to our nation's future, the next election will be equally critical to Tennessee's future.

In just two short years, in November 2010, Tennessee voters will elect a new Governor, nine Members of Congress, seventeen state Senators and ninety-nine state Representatives. The Members of the General Assembly will then elect Tennessee's Constitutional Officers (State Treasurer, and State Comptroller). They will also elect the Members of the State Election Commission whose majority is determined by the party that controls the majority of seats in the General Assembly.

During the next two years, it is imperative that we focus on retaining control of the Democratic offices we have and work to regain our majorities in both the State House and Senate if Democrats are to be the majority party in Tennessee once again. **It is for these reasons that I write to ask for your consideration to be elected Chairman of the Tennessee Democratic Party in January 2009.**

Against extremely difficult odds, Chairman Gray Sasser and his team have done an outstanding job of guiding us through this 2008 election cycle and I salute him and

his team for their tireless work and dedication. I think the best way we can honor his important work is to continue to work as hard as he has to elect Tennessee Democrats at all levels of government.

Chairman Sasser has informed me that it is highly unlikely that he will seek another term.

For almost the past four years, I have served as your Treasurer. Working closely with Chairman Sasser we have raised and managed an annual budget of over \$750,000. Additionally, I have served as your colleague on the State Democratic Executive Committee since 1988 and I have seen the talent and knowledge that you bring to overseeing the workings of the Tennessee Democratic Party.

Find enclosed some biographical information that I feel demonstrates my qualifications to be your next Chair and what my agenda will be for our Party going forward. During the next few weeks I will be traveling the state meeting with you and asking for your ideas on how we can best meet the challenges of the 2010 election cycle and seek your support.

If you need to contact me, I can be reached at 615-429-0840 or at chip@tndp.org.

I look forward to “earning” your vote in January.

Warmest regards,

Chip Forrester
Treasurer
Tennessee Democratic Party