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## **Statement on the Selection of Knox GOP's New Chair**

**3/6/2021, Knoxville, TN** — The Knox County GOP decided today to double-down on Trumpism, right-wing rhetoric, and losing policies. The new Chair won't be much different than the last. The local party and its leaders have pushed to recklessly ignore science during a pandemic, lost GOP seats, had such abysmal fundraising they had to close their office, and pushed the "Big Lie" which attacked the core of our Constitutional Democracy. It seems that the Knox GOP is going the way of the national party—a personality cult based on a former reality TV star. The Knox County Democratic Party looks forward to expanding our seats and growing our electorate.

In the last 8 years, Democrats have gained 14 points county-wide over Republicans. We have flipped a State House seat and County Commission seat, elected two Mayors affiliated with the Democratic Party along with a majority of City Council, and have seen record breaking fundraising and volunteer hours. We now hear they want to take their pro-Trump, anti-mask, anti-Board of Health, pro-Covid approach on the road to City politics.

**We are a big tent party focused on competent, effective, honest, and fair government.** We've had numerous former-Republicans join KCDP because they had enough, including prominent leaders like Cliff Rodgers. I imagine now we will have even more. Cliff is right when he says the Republican Party has become the "Party of Trump."

We welcome any and all voters who wish to support competent government, honest dialogue, and people-centered solutions. While the local GOP has decided to continue down the path of misinformation, inflammatory rhetoric, Q-anon conspiracy theories, and pro-Covid policies, we are focused on making Knox County a better place for all.

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