

David Hatley for Governor

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE · TENNESSEE · 2026

"Politicians Promise. Hatley Delivers."

BUILT NOT BOUGHT. · NO PARTY. NO DONORS. JUST TENNESSEE.

PRESS CONTACT

press@hatleyforgovernor.com

WEBSITE

hatleyforgovernor.com

AMERICA'S BASH

americasbash.com

TN BUILD DAYS

tnbulddays.com

AFFILIATION

Independent — No Party

FUNDING

Self-Funded · No Donors

9

COMPANIES BUILT

11

PATENTS

750+

TN JOBS

#1

HOT TUB MFR. US

740K

SQ FT TN MFG.

\$87K

AVG. SALARY

30+

YEARS IN TN

0

JOBS OVERSEAS

— OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHY

Who Is David Hatley

SHORT BIO — FOR PRESS USE

David Hatley grew up in Elizabethton, Tennessee — Carter County — with nothing handed to him. No degree, no investors, no inherited wealth. He started his first business at twelve and opened his first retail store at eighteen. Over thirty years he built nine companies, holds eleven patents, created more than 750 Tennessee jobs, and built 740,000 square feet of manufacturing on American soil — never moving a single job overseas. His company is the #1 hot tub manufacturer in the United States. He founded Whisper, the largest electric golf cart manufacturer in Northeast Tennessee. He established an ESOP so his employees share in the company's success, with an average salary of \$87,000 including profit-sharing. For ten consecutive years he has hosted America's Bash, the largest free Fourth of July event in upper East Tennessee, honoring veterans at no charge with no strings attached. He is running for Governor of Tennessee as an independent candidate in 2026 — self-funded, with no party affiliation and no donor obligations. He is married to Deborah and is the father of Storm, Hudson, Branson, and Channing. He lives a few miles from where he grew up.

ONE PARAGRAPH — TIGHT VERSION

David Hatley is an independent candidate for Governor of Tennessee in 2026. He is the founder of nine Tennessee companies including Whisper, the largest electric golf cart manufacturer in Northeast Tennessee, and LPI, the #1 hot tub manufacturer in America. He has created more than 750 Tennessee jobs across 740,000 square feet of American manufacturing — none of it moved overseas. He is self-funding this campaign and accepts no donations. His primary tagline: *"Politicians Promise. Hatley Delivers."*

THE RECORD

Verified Proof Points

9 COMPANIES FOUNDED Including Whisper (golf carts) and LPI (hot tubs) — all built in Tennessee.	11 PATENTS GRANTED / PENDING Across manufacturing, product design, and technology.
750+ TENNESSEE JOBS CREATED Across all companies. Not one position moved overseas.	#1 HOT TUB MANUFACTURER IN AMERICA LPI — manufactured on US soil.
740K SQ FT OF TENNESSEE MANUFACTURING All domestic. All in Tennessee.	\$87K AVERAGE EMPLOYEE SALARY Including ESOP profit-sharing. Employees build real wealth.
10 CONSECUTIVE YEARS HONORING VETERANS America's Bash — free, no strings, no ask.	\$0 DONOR MONEY ACCEPTED Self-funded campaign. No donors. No party. No obligations.

How to Refer to the Campaign

"Politicians Promise. Hatley Delivers."

PRIMARY CAMPAIGN TAGLINE · FINALIZED · USE IN ALL REFERENCES

ALWAYS ACCURATE

- ✓ David Hatley is an independent candidate — not a "conservative alternative," "Republican outsider," or any party framing.
- ✓ The campaign tagline is "Politicians Promise. Hatley Delivers." —use this when referencing his campaign message.
- ✓ The identity mark is "Built Not Bought." — period is non-negotiable.
- ✓ He is self-funding this campaign. He accepts no donations from individuals or PACs.
- ✓ America's Bash is a community event — not a campaign fundraiser or rally.
- ✓ Tennessee Build Days are free community events honoring first responders and teachers — not political rallies or fundraisers.
- ✓ He has no party affiliation of any kind.
- ✓ All figures listed here are verified. Contact press for sourcing on any stat.

NEVER ACCURATE

- ✗ Describing David as a Republican, Democrat, conservative, liberal, or any party label.
- ✗ Framing him as a "protest candidate" or "spoiler." He is running to win.
- ✗ Citing unverified figures or superlatives. Contact press before publishing any stat not listed here.
- ✗ Framing America's Bash as a campaign event, fundraiser, or political rally.
- ✗ Framing Tennessee Build Days as a campaign rally, fundraiser, or political event. They are free community events honoring first responders and teachers.
- ✗ Stating he has accepted any donations. He has not and will not.
- ✗ Characterizing policy positions not yet formally released by the campaign.
- ✗ Using "Elevate Tennessee," "The Rise and Run," or any prior campaign language. These are retired.

— PLATFORM

Five Passions

A full formal platform will be released formally very soon. These five areas reflect what David cares most deeply about — grounded in his life, his record, and thirty years of watching what Tennessee needs.

01 Affordable Housing	02 Education	03 Crime & Public Safety	04 Health Care	05 Infrastructure
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— SIGNATURE INITIATIVE

Tennessee Build Days

"Same spirit as America's Bash — community first, no strings attached — brought to every corner of Tennessee, focused on the people who show up every day for everyone else."

— BUILD DAYS MISSION

WHAT ARE TENNESSEE BUILD DAYS

Tennessee Build Days are community events held across the state as part of the Built in Tennessee Tour — David Hatley's statewide campaign tour visiting manufacturers, small businesses, and communities in every region of Tennessee. Build Days carry the same DNA as America's Bash: free, community-centered, no political ask, and built around honoring the people who hold Tennessee together. The difference is the focus — Build Days are specifically dedicated to first responders and teachers. The people who run toward danger and the people who show up every day to build the next generation of Tennesseans deserve a day that honors what they do. David is giving them one.

FORMAT Free community events — no admission, no political ask, no strings attached. Same model as America's Bash.	FOCUS First Responders and Teachers — the people who show up every day for every Tennessee family.	TIED TO The Built in Tennessee Tour — David's statewide tour of manufacturers and communities ahead of America's Bash.
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FOR PRESS — WHAT BUILD DAYS ARE

- ✓ Free community events — no admission charged, no political ask made.
- ✓ Focused on honoring first responders and teachers in the host community.
- ✓ Part of the Built in Tennessee Tour — David visiting manufacturers and communities statewide.
- ✓ Same spirit and format as America's Bash — community celebration, not a political rally.

FOR PRESS — WHAT BUILD DAYS ARE NOT

- ✗ Not a campaign fundraiser or donor event.
- ✗ Not a political rally — David attends as host, not as a stump speaker.
- ✗ Not ticketed or paid admission of any kind.
- ✗ Not exclusive to supporters — open to the entire community.

— KEY STANCES

Where He Stands

ABORTION

Considers himself pro-life — shaped by a premature son who fought for his life and years on an adoption waiting list. Supports provisions for cases of rape or incest and when a woman's health is at high risk. Does not support criminally punishing women for crossing state borders.

SECOND AMENDMENT

Firm believer in the right to bear arms. Supports the current Constitutional Carry law for handguns. Does not support carrying long guns in public places. Supports thorough background checks to keep guns out of documented threats.

WOMEN'S SPORTS

Supports defending Tennessee's existing law protecting women's sports. Supports extending protections to college athletics, private leagues, and school facilities. No Tennessee taxpayer dollars to non-compliant programs.

PROTECTING CHILDREN ONLINE

Supports strict limits on what platforms can do with children's data and content. Parents have the final say over what their children see online. Any convicted child molester belongs behind bars for life.

Ten Coalitions

The Build Tennessee Movement is the volunteer coalition structure behind the campaign — organized around the people who actually make Tennessee work.

— Women Build Tennessee	— Veterans Build Tennessee
— Teachers Build Tennessee	— Farmers Build Tennessee
— Builders Build Tennessee	— Makers Build Tennessee
— Youth Builds Tennessee	— First Responders Build Tennessee
— Faith Builds Tennessee	— Healthcare Builds Tennessee

Family & Background

FAMILY Married to Deborah Hatley. Father of Storm, Hudson, Branson, and Channing. Lives in the Tri-Cities area of Northeast Tennessee — a few miles from where he grew up in Elizabethton.	ORIGIN Born and raised in Elizabethton, Carter County, Tennessee. No college degree. No family wealth. No political connections. Built everything from the ground up over thirty years — in Tennessee.
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Media Inquiries

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TN BUILD DAYS tnbulddays.com		

For interview requests, photo access, fact verification, or sourcing on any statistic listed in this press kit, please contact the press email above. All figures are verified. Please do not publish any figures not listed here without confirmation from the campaign.