

KELLY

FOR MAYOR

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Jay Bell and Jim Johnson Jointly Endorse Tim Kelly for Chattanooga Mayor

Despite their differences, Jay Bell and Jim Johnson cite Tim's ability to work across party lines to deliver the best result for Chattanooga

Chattanooga, Tenn. (Feb. 16, 2021) — Jay Bell is a well-known developer and homebuilder. Jim Johnson started a local watchdog group to hold developers and builders accountable. Yet despite their differences, Bell and Johnson do often find common ground.

“One reason Jim and I have worked so well together is our commitment to collaboration, and we see that same commitment in Tim Kelly,” Bell said in a joint statement with Johnson. “Tim has proven he’s able to bring people from divergent and even opposing positions together. He helps people realize that most of us want the same outcome: a better city with more equity for all. That’s why we’re endorsing Tim Kelly for mayor of Chattanooga.”

In the most recent public poll, Tim Kelly extended his lead as the frontrunner in Chattanooga’s mayoral race, and is the only candidate to publish a full 100-day plan that will allow voters to measure his progress and hold him accountable during his term.

“Chattanooga needs a proven leader who can build bridges to bring our community together,” Bell and Johnson said in their statement. “Like most Chattanoogaans, we’re ready to roll up our sleeves and work to build a city that works for everyone.”

As momentum continues to build around Tim Kelly’s platform of creating good-paying jobs, building great neighborhoods and expanding educational opportunities, Bell encouraged his fellow citizens to cast their vote for Tim Kelly.

“I’ve always known Tim to be a skilled leader with a heart for Chattanooga who wants our city to succeed and thrive,” Bell said. “From workforce development to access to housing, I’m confident in Tim’s ability to strengthen our economy and keep us safe. Tim is the only leading candidate who is not beholden to any special interests, and I know that he will always rise above partisanship to do what’s right by Chattanooga.”

Johnson, who founded the group Chattanoogaans for Responsible Development, joined Bell in praising Tim Kelly’s independent candidacy.

“Tim is an extremely successful businessman. He has nothing to gain by becoming mayor,” Johnson said. “He simply wants to build the foundation for Chattanooga’s next chapter: one with good-paying jobs, great neighborhoods and better educational opportunities.

“As a small business owner, I’ve respected and admired Tim for years,” Johnson continued. “He knows how to lead and how to get things done: by pulling together the right people, by asking the tough questions, and sometimes by refereeing the conversations that follow. One of my favorite sayings is ‘It’s better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.’ It’s easy to complain about what’s wrong with our city. Tim is ready to take action to make it better.”

Tim Kelly continues to knock on the doors of thousands of residents across Chattanooga, and he plans to campaign hard until the last vote is counted, he said Tuesday. Thanks to the endorsements of hardworking Chattanoogaans like Bell and Johnson, Tim Kelly’s campaign continues to gain local support.

“I’m proud to have friends and supporters across the spectrum on almost every issue, and as a localist I’m heartened to see our community unite to lift up our city,” Tim Kelly said. “Jay and Jim, like many Chattanoogaans, don’t always agree. But they both want our city to fulfill the promise of its potential. I’m humbled to have earned their support and can’t wait to roll up my sleeves and get to work.”

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About Tim Kelly

Tim Kelly is a Chattanooga area entrepreneur with a passion for education and community. He grew up working in the family car business, and after college, returned to Chattanooga to run the family dealerships. Currently, Tim owns Southern Honda Powersports, the world’s largest volume Honda Powersports dealership, as well as co-owning SocialBot, an ad-tech agency in automotive advertising, and the Chattanooga Brewing Company.

Tim is the current Chairman and co-founder of the Chattanooga Football Club and an investor in several other local businesses.

He has taught as an adjunct professor of marketing and entrepreneurship at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Extremely active in the community, he currently serves on several civic and charitable boards including Finley Stadium Corporation, the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Tivoli (Theatre) Foundation. He has served as a Director or Trustee for the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Chattanooga, Benwood Foundation, Allied Arts (now Arts Build), and the Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga (past Chairman), as well as Bright School and Baylor School. Tim is also an active member of the Downtown Chattanooga Rotary Club.

Tim earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Columbia University where he was a John Jay Scholar. He graduated from NADA’s Dealer Candidate School in 1991 and holds a Master’s Degree from Emory University’s Goizueta Business School where he graduated with honors in 2012 and was awarded the Al Bows Executive MBA Achievement Award the same year. Tim is also a graduate of Leadership Chattanooga (1991) and Leadership Tennessee (2018).

Self-described as a “Chattanoogaan, first and foremost,” Tim is always scratching his philanthropic brain, and workshopping ways to serve the community. In his spare time, he enjoys playing soccer, running with his wife Ginny, and hunting and fishing with his two sons, Jack and Cannon.

To learn more about Tim and the campaign, visit: www.KellyforChattanooga.com, follow the campaign on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).