

It is regretful that the Ruth/Bird Administration is deciding to run a negative campaign rather than on their own record.

But Mr. Ruth doesn't have a good record. I am really not surprised by the attacks from the Bird/Ruth campaign. I expect it to get worse as we move closer to the primary. The attacks are just a way to divert attention away from issues like our high crime rate and low solvability rate in Bradley County.

For my part, our campaign will focus on my productive ideas and plans to improve the overall service and operation of the Bradley County Sheriff's Office.

I do not want to waste everyone's time and feed confusion by responding every time the Bird/Ruth Administration runs an untruthful and misleading campaign ad.

I am not going to engage into negative campaigning like the Bird/Ruth Administration has chosen to do. I promise to stay on the high road.

I am honored to represent the great folks of Bradley County. I have been elected to do the people's business in our state's capitol and I am busy doing just that.

Raising money and gaining support is usually a reflection of your record and effectiveness. I am receiving a great deal of support in this race to serve as Bradley County Sheriff. I am very aware and fully compliant with all election and fundraising laws.

Drew Rawlins, executive director of the Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance, has fully vindicated me in an email to the Chattanooga Times Free Press in which he said it is legal to transfer money raised for one campaign to a later, separate campaign.

I am proud of our campaign for "A New Spirit and A New Direction" in the Bradley County Sheriff's Office and I am thankful to the good folks of Bradley County for their support, encouragement and prayers.