Name of the Candidate *
Karen Reynolds

Tell us the office for which you are running. For example, Anderson County Commission or Goodlettsville City Commission or Mayor of Jackson. *
Clarksville

List your city and county of residence. For example: Martin, Weakley County. *
TN

List the contact email you would like our members to use if they have questions about your campaign. *
karenreynoldsvote@gmail.com

National estimates suggest that up to 40% of homeless youth are members of the LGBTQ community. If elected, what role do you see for local government in addressing the problem of youth homelessness or homelessness in general in your city or county?
Our community lacks an organized outreach system for our vulnerable residents, including those that are homeless and/or suffer from mental health illnesses. As your Ward 9 City Councilwoman, I will lead the creation of a pathway for our families, advocacy groups, places of worship, and public servants to support our residents who require assistance. This pathway must: · be inclusive, · provide a conduit for our residents who require mental health or other community services, and · include organizations that provide meals, housing, and other types of assistance. Many of us love someone who needs assistance. I recently served as the manager of a project that incorporated the integration of behavior health consultants into a holistic model of healthcare and removed barriers to referring patients for mental and behavioral health services. Our project won the highly coveted Army Medicine Wolf Pack Award, and I plan to use the same skills to create a community outreach program for Clarksville.

Some local governments in Tennessee such as Metro Nashville, Knoxville, Chattanooga, Memphis, and Knox County have passed ordinances protecting their own local government employees from job discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Would you support advancing such an ordinance for your city or county?
I would support all ordinances protecting employees and residents from discrimination. Our country suffers from a patchwork of Anit-Discrimination laws that don't truly protect our LGBTQ community and other vulnerable citizens. Local laws matter and and we must work together to build an inclusive nation from the bottom up.

In some parts of Tennessee, LGBTQ people may believe that they are not welcome to access local government programs and services. Would you support an addition to your city or county's policy prohibiting discrimination in the provision of municipal services based on sexual orientation and gender identity?

In what ways have you supported the LGBTQ community prior to the 2020 campaign?

I have been a member of the TEP since 2017. I worked with Chris Sanders to defend the rights of our LGBTQ community. I was the original organizer for the founder Clarksville Indivisible and worked in our community to promote equity and equality for our residents. Below are links to a few letters t the editor I wrote and a newspaper article where we stood against then Senator Mark Green's Slate of Hate. As Shirley Chisolm said, "'If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair." I am running to get a seat at the table to promote equity and equality in our community.
https://www.theleafchronicle.com/story/opinion/readers/2019/03/29/powers-should-stand-up-lgbtq-muslim-constituents-district-22/3310558002/
https://www.theleafchronicle.com/story/news/local/clarksville/2017/03/21/slate-hate-speakers-voice-concern-over-bathroom-bill/99446972/
https://www.theleafchronicle.com/story/opinion/readers/2017/03/08/letter-sen-greens-bill-discriminates-against-lgbtq-women-veterans/98808366/

What else would you like for us to know about you and your campaign?
I am a retired Army MSG, I served in the military for 21 years. I am married to Billy Burgett and together we have 3 sons. I am a certified project manager and I work at Blanchfield Army Community Hospital as a Business Process Manager. I have two sons from my first marriage, they are Hispanic and my oldest sign is Gay. I want to use my skills as a project manager empowered by my Army values of Courage, Candor, and Commitment to promote equality and equity and to protect my family value of unconditional love for my sons.