



CIRCUIT COURT

STATE OF TENNESSEE

NINETEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

JILL BARTEE AYERS
JUDGE, DIVISION IV

TO: Chancellor Telford Forgety and Members of the Judicial Redistricting Task Force
FROM: Judges and Chancellor of the 19th Judicial District, Jill Bartee Ayers Presiding Judge
DATE: July 17, 2019

First and foremost, thank each of you for your work on the Judicial Redistricting Task Force. The Circuit Court Judges and Chancellor of the 19th Judicial District wish to make known our position regarding the discussion of redistricting of the 19th Judicial District and specifically address the focus questions the Committee seeks to answer. By way of background, the 19th Judicial District is comprised of Montgomery and Robertson Counties and has been so comprised since 1984. With the addition of two new circuit court positions in 2015 and 2018, we now have five (5) circuit court judges and one (1) chancellor in this district. We are also fortunate to have one (1) child support magistrate who in addition to serving the 19th Judicial District, also serves Sumner County, the 18th Judicial District. In evaluating the questions the task force has been charged to consider, the Judges and Chancellor of the 19th Judicial District would ask the Committee not to make any changes to the current district.

To address the specific focus questions, the weighted caseload studies do not indicate a need for change in the district lines for the 19th Judicial District. For many years, the 19th was the district with the greatest need for additional judicial resources. After the new Part IV position was approved and funded in 2015, the 19th remained the district with the greatest need. Following the enactment of Public Chapter 974 which created this Task Force and the new Part V position, according to the weighted caseload study, we still operate at a deficit of 1.23 judges, tied with the 22nd Judicial District and behind the need of the 23rd for 1.52 judges. While we still operate at a deficit, the two newly created positions over the last four (4) years have allowed us to begin serving the needs of our judicial district with great efficiency. We have a good allocation of work among the judges and a rotation of all judges between the two counties we serve to ensure access to justice fairly in both counties. After working so diligently to get these new positions created and funded over the last decade, any redistricting would result in a


disruption to the efficiency we have finally been able to achieve. The need for additional judges in any district can be addressed by allocating new judicial resources to those districts.

There are no geographic or contiguity concerns between the two (2) counties in our district. The drive time between the counties is reasonable for all the judges with regard to travel time.


Both counties in our district have experienced, and are predicted to experience continued growth in the foreseeable future. Montgomery County has a population of just over 200,000 and is home to Tennessee's fifth largest city, Clarksville. Robertson County has a population of just over 70,000. Both counties continue to grow consistent with the entire middle Tennessee region, but there are no trends that would support a need for redistricting. Again, this growth can be addressed by adding judicial resources as needed. As we do not suggest any changes to our district, there would be no communities of interest impacted. Likewise, there would be no significant detrimental impact to collateral resources in our district if there are no changes made as we advocate.

There simply are no reasons to make changes to the 19th Judicial District. However, there are compelling reasons to leave the district intact. Again, with the addition of two new positions, we are in the best posture since 1990 to serve the needs of both counties in the district. We have worked and will continue to work well together to allocate the case load to meet the needs of both counties. We have the resources and structure in place to ensure continued access to the courts. A redistricting would likely create a detrimental result in both counties unless it came with additional increased judicial resources, as well as additional resources to both the district attorney general's staff and the district public defender's staff.


If the Advisory Task Force has any further questions or needs additional information from us, please do not hesitate to contact us. We appreciate the time and work of this committee.



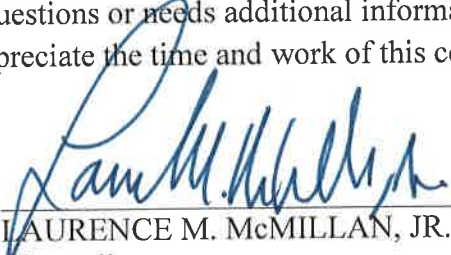
JILL BARTEE AYERS, Presiding Judge
Circuit Court Judge, Part IV




ROSS H. HICKS
Circuit Court Judge, Part I



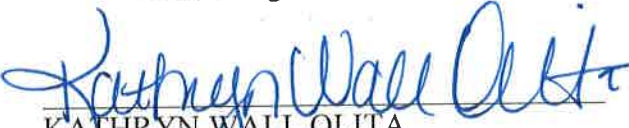
TED A. CROZIER, JR.
Circuit Court Judge, Part III



LAURENCE M. McMILLAN, JR.
Chancellor



WILLIAM R. GOODMAN, III
Circuit Court Judge, Part II



KATHRYN WALL OLITA
Circuit Court Judge, Part V