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Honorable Jim Kyle  
6421 Old Orchard Cove  
Memphis, TN 38119

RE: *21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District of Tennessee*

Dear Honorable Jim Kyle:

I have just learned that you were on the Judicial Redistricting Commission. The counties of Hickman, Lewis, and Perry have been trying to get away from Williamson County for years. We are precluded by the population from electing someone from the three above counties. I enclose a copy of a good article written by our local editor that explains it very well.

With the help of our elected representatives, Justice Bivens and many others, we almost pulled it off in the last legislature. Other legislators wanted to wait on your commission. We did get a fifth judge that mostly stays in our three rural counties. However, in the next election, Williamson County will get to vote for the fifth judge. What we have now are four judges from Williamson County that mostly practice in Nashville or Brentwood. They have very little knowledge of rural people.

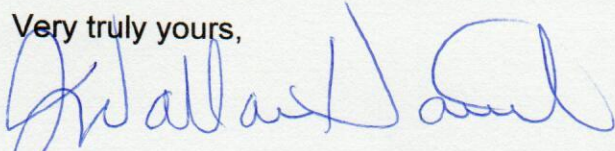
So, if a Nashville Republican lawyer living in Williamson County runs, they will surely be elected. I understand that one of our current judges told that in the last election he was willing to spend \$300,000.00.

I also know that Kim Helper has been vocal in opposition to this. So, she apparently will not support the splitting off even if feasible. I am told that most of the 21<sup>st</sup> judicial district task force drug money comes from I-40 stops in Hickman County. She may even want to run for judge of which I have no direct knowledge.

The bottom line is we need a rural judge to judge rural people. On the Administrative Office of the Court's website the numbers 2, 3, and 4 would apply to us. I will furnish other information if you would like to have it.

I appreciate your consideration. Please feel free to call me on my cell phone at (615) 476-1818 email me at [wallace@harvill-law.com](mailto:wallace@harvill-law.com).

Very truly yours,



J. Wallace Harvill

JWH/lb

Enclosures (1)

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In time for 2020 ballot?

# 32nd Judicial Dist. could be OK'd in Jan., Curcio says

By BRADLEY A. MARTIN  
State Rep. Michael Curcio says a three-county 32nd Judicial District could be created in time for the 2020 election cycle, with Tennessee House approval in January.

If it's not, then the four-county 21st Judicial District will continue, and the large electorate of Williamson County will most likely pick one of its own to fill the judgeship now held by Michael Spitzer of Hohenwald — the only non-Williamson resident to hold a district judgeship in more than 30 years. He was appointed by the governor last year.

The Senate already has passed the legislation, which would place Hickman, Lewis and Perry counties into a new 32nd Judicial District, with elected positions for judge, district attorney and public defender, plus staff.

Williamson County -- with a population five times larger than the other three counties combined -- would remain in the 21st, with no other county.

In early May, the change sought by Curcio's legislation failed in the House, where 16 members abstained in a 35-42 vote. Curcio expects it to be considered further in January.

"I decided to take the summer to work with interested parties to make sure we properly resource the bill from the perspective of the Public Defender and District Attorney's offices," he told the Times in an e-mail. "We want to get it right."

Adequate staffing for those offices was one point of concern, raised by 21st Judicial District Atty. Kim Helper. There was also reluctance by some House members to redistrict when a statewide task force is expected to propose realign-

ment to the entire system in January.

Curcio says with passage in January, "we would still be making the change in time for the 2020 election."

The three newly created 32nd District positions would be on the August, 2020 ballot for two year terms. In 2022, all elected judicial district positions are up for election to eight-year terms.

Despite Curcio's belief, it's not clear whether enough time will exist to allow a bill passed in January to put the new district on the ballot.

According to the Hickman County Election Commission, candidates for public office in 2020 may begin picking up papers on October 15, 2019, with a qualifying deadline of April 2, 2020.

It's unclear whether districts can be reshaped after qualifying has started. Curcio did not respond to an e-mail query from the Times on this point.

Complicating the matter may be another factor: Will there be a judicial district primary? Local parties must notify their election commissions of their desires by June 17 of this year, said Hickman County Elections Administrator Marty Davis.

Williamson County traditionally holds a Republican primary.

That primary would be held March 13, 2020, at the same time as the presidential preference primary -- and before the regular qualifying deadline on April 2.

So what is a Hickman, Lewis or Perry candidate for judge to do? Meet the 21st Judicial District deadline, then switch over to the 32nd once new legislation passes in January or after?

Answers were not clear last week.