

From: "Michael Steve Phillips" [REDACTED]
To: <judicialdistricttaskforce@tncourts.gov>
Date: 8/26/2019 11:45 PM
Subject: TN Courts: Submit Comments to Advisory Task Force on Composition of Judicial Districts

Submitted on Monday, August 26, 2019 - 11:45pm

Submitted by anonymous user: [74.230.151.85]

Submitted values are:

Title/Organization: Hickman County Commission, 5th District

Name: Michael Steve Phillips

Email: [REDACTED]

Please add your comment here if 100 words or less. For lengthier comments see below.:

Please Attach Lengthier Comments Here.:

http://www.tsc.state.tn.us/sites/default/files/webform/21st_judicial_district_reorganization.docx

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<http://www.tsc.state.tn.us/node/5499732/submission/26395>

COMMENTS REGARDING POTENTIAL REORGANIZATION OF 21ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

1. I am not familiar with any weighted caseload studies so I cannot comment.
2. Until the last twelve months, all of the 21st Judicial District judges, the District Attorney, and the Public Defender were all residents of Williamson County and maintained their offices in Franklin. At legal speeds, it takes approximately one hour to drive from Franklin to Centerville, an additional twenty-five minutes from Centerville to Hohenwald, or an additional thirty-five minutes from Centerville to Linden. Any of those public officials who have business the three western county seats must spend two to three hours of their day in the round trip.
3. Williamson County has greatly eclipsed the other three counties in population over the past thirty years. According to the 2010 federal census, Williamson had 183,182 residents; Hickman had 24,698 residents; Lewis had 12,161 residents; and Perry had 7,915 residents. In other words, of the total population of the 21st Judicial District in 2010, Williamson had 80.36% of the population while all three of the other counties had only 19.64%. The situation has worsened in the nine years from 2010 to today.
4. The legal community and litigants will benefit from allowing the Williamson County resident public officials to devote time spent in commuting to serving Williamson County to their jobs. The same benefits will accrue to residents of the other three counties.
5. I am not sure.
6. I see no compelling reason to preserve the status quo.
7. Subject to the caseloads in the four counties, allocate judges by percentage with the probable necessity of adding a judge to cover unreasonable disparities resulting from making Williamson County a separate judicial district.
8. The answer to question 7 is the same regarding the staffs and resources of the offices of the District Attorney and the Public Defender.