



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATEMENT ON COURT RULING AFFECTING STATE SENATE DISTRICTS

Columbia, Tenn. – James Dallas, a Democrat seeking his party’s nomination for State Senate in District 28, released the following statement today:

“On Wednesday, a three-judge chancery panel in Davidson County issued its rulings in *Wygant v. Lee*. The plaintiffs in this case challenged the district lines drawn by the Tennessee General Assembly last year. The panel agreed with one of the plaintiffs, Ms. Francie Hunt, that the General Assembly improperly numbered State Senate districts. District numbering determines whether a state senator is on the ballot during presidential (2024) years or gubernatorial (2026) years, and the state constitution requires sequential numbering.

“First, I want to congratulate Ms. Hunt, on her legal victory. Ms. Hunt is an acquaintance of mine, and she is entitled to fair representation in the legislature. It took courage and determination to fight for her rights and the rights of her neighbors in Nashville.

“Secondly, I will be watching future redistricting efforts closely. Although the districts challenged by Ms. Hunt (17,19,20, and 21) are mostly in Davidson County, the chancery court has ordered the General Assembly to draw new district maps no later than January 31, 2024. These new maps could potentially affect every district in the entire state, though I suspect there will be only minor changes, if any, outside of Nashville. Because of this, my plan is to continue to campaign as I have been, unless and until we learn of any changes to the 28th District that would fundamentally alter this race.

“Finally, we must remember that a partisan General Assembly drew these maps to maximize the electoral strength of the Republican Party. The legislature went too far, violated the state constitution, and now they are going to have to start all over again. This sort of partisan gerrymandering creates distrust in the political system as well as legal uncertainty. It is unfair to all voters, not to just to candidates.”

For more information, please visit dallas4tn.com.

The chancery court opinions in *Wygant v. Lee* is available online at:
<https://www.democracydocket.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Opinion.pdf>

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