



April 8, 2022

Judges Block Senate Redistricting Plan

In a 2-1 decision this week, a three-judge panel issued an injunction against Tennessee's newly redistricted state Senate maps. The original lawsuit states the plan failed to meet the constitutional requirement that multiple districts within single counties must be consecutively numbered, which was not the case for Davidson County. The state's argument was that the numbering is only an administrative issue. However, the specific number of a Senate district is important in terms of when that seat is up for election ie odd or even numbers run certain years.

If lawmakers do not fix issues with the maps within 15 days, the court will come up with its own interim plan. As a result of the decision, the filing deadline for Senate candidates is extended from April 7 to May 5. The Attorney General's Office has filed a challenge to the panel's order, stating:

"The trial court's decision to extend the qualifying deadline to May 5, 2022 throws this process into disarray. Now the withdrawal and disqualification deadlines are May 12, 2022, and the appeal deadline and state executive committee review deadline are May 19, 2022. The injunction leaves only 21 business days for the county election administrators to do everything that is necessary to have ballots ready to mail to military and overseas voters by the federal deadline."

The redistricted state House plan was allowed to stand.

Reps Jason Hodges and Eddie Mannis Announce Retirement

Rep Jason Hodges (D-District 67) and Rep Eddie Mannis (R-District 18) announced this week that they will not seek re-election for their House seats. This leaves 10 House seats open and at least 2 Senate seats open for the upcoming November election.

The deadline to file to run for election to a state legislative seat was yesterday. We will report soon about those who are unopposed.