

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

KHADIDAH STONE, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

CHRIS REP. PRINGLE, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No.: 2:21-cv-1531-AMM

EXHIBIT 23

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

KHADIDAH STONE, <i>et al.</i> ,)	
)	
<i>Plaintiffs,</i>)	
)	
v.)	Case No. 2:21-cv-1531-AMM
)	
WES ALLEN, in his official capacity)	
as Secretary of State of Alabama, <i>et al.</i>)	
)	
<i>Defendants.</i>)	

DECLARATION OF REP. CHRIS PRINGLE

1. My name is Chris Pringle. This declaration is based on my personal knowledge.
2. I represent Alabama House District 101 in the Alabama Legislature, where I also am the House Chair of the Legislature's Permanent Legislative Committee on Reapportionment (the "Reapportionment Committee").
3. Despite its name, the primary task of the Reapportionment Committee is redistricting.
4. The Reapportionment Committee is responsible for proposing new statewide redistricting plans for congressional, Alabama House of Representatives, Alabama Senate, and State Board of Education districts. Neither the Reapportionment Committee nor the House of Representatives

is required to accept such proposed plans, each of which can be amended, substituted, or rejected in favor another districting plan.

5. As the House Chair of the Reapportionment Committee, I take a leadership role in the development and design of proposed new districts for the House of Representatives.

6. As House Chair, I have no role in the development or design of Senate districts. My only involvement with passage of the Senate districts that became SB1 was in presenting them to the House of Representatives after they were passed by the Senate, and in voting on them as a member of the Legislature. In 2021, the House made no changes to the Senates districts after they were passed by the Senate.

7. I have reviewed the Prayer for Relief¹ in the Fourth Amended Complaint. I have no power to grant the relief requested, neither as House Chair of the Reapportionment Committee nor as a member of the Legislature.

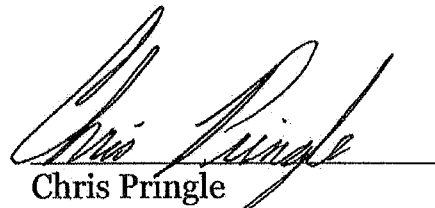
¹ "WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court:

A. Declare the State Senate districting plan adopted in SB 1 a violation of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965;
B. Enjoin the Defendants and their agents from holding elections in the challenged districts adopted in SB 1 and any adjoining districts necessary to remedy the Voting Rights Act violations, 42 U.S.C. § 1983; 52 U.S.C. § 10302(b);
C. Set a reasonable deadline for the State of Alabama to adopt and enact a districting plan for the State Senate that remedies the Voting Rights Act violations;
D. Award Plaintiffs their costs, expenses, disbursements, and reasonable attorneys' fees incurred in bringing this action pursuant to and in accordance with 52 U.S.C. § 10310(e) and 42 U.S.C. § 1988(b);
E. Retain jurisdiction over this matter until all Defendants have complied with all orders and mandates of this Court;
F. Retain jurisdiction over this matter and require all Defendants to subject future State Senate redistricting plans for preclearance review from this court or the U.S. Attorney General under Section 3(c) of the VRA, 52 U.S.C. § 10302(c);
G. Grant such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper." Doc. 126, Prayer for Relief.

8. Specifically, I cannot declare that SB 1 violates the Voting Rights Act; I have no authority to prevent the 2021 Senate districts from being used in elections; I have no authority to cause the adoption and enactment of a new redistricting plan for the Senate; I cannot exercise the Court's judicial power; and I cannot exercise or determine any preclearance requirements.

I declare under penalty of the perjury laws of the United States of America that the forgoing is true and correct.

Date: 12/20/23


Chris Pringle