

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COLE COUNTY, MISSOURI

MERRIE SUZANNE LUTHER, et. al.,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

DENNY HOSKINS,

Defendant.

Case No: 25AC-CC06964

PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO SHORTEN TIME UNDER RULE 81.045

Pursuant to Rule 81.045, Plaintiffs respectfully request this Court shorten the 30-day period within which this Court has control over the final judgment in this matter. *See* Rule 75.01. Plaintiffs have good cause to request such relief— this matter involves the districts in which members of Congress will be elected and candidate filing opens on February 24, 2026. Plaintiffs have a right to understand within which congressional districts they will reside and which candidates will be filing in their congressional district before candidate filing opens. There is also a strong public interest.

Without an order shortening the time this court has control over its judgment, an appeal and briefing in the Missouri Supreme Court may not be able to be completed prior to February 24, 2026. This prejudices Plaintiffs and the public and creates uncertainty for candidate filing more generally. In support of their motion, Plaintiffs state as follows:

1. On September 12, 2025, the General Assembly truly agreed and finally passed House Bill 1, purporting to draw new congressional district boundaries for the 2026 general election.

2. On that same day, Plaintiffs filed their lawsuit challenging House Bill 1 as unconstitutional under Article III, Section 45 of the Missouri Constitution.
3. On November 12, 2025, this Court held a bench trial on stipulated facts where Plaintiffs, Defendant, and Intervenor presented legal arguments to the Court on the claim in Plaintiffs' Petition.
4. After considering the Parties' briefs, arguments, and stipulations, this Court entered its final judgment on December 9, 2025 denying Plaintiffs' claim.
5. Thereafter, on December 15, 2025 Plaintiffs filed a notice of appeal with the Missouri Supreme Court.
6. In the normal course, "the trial court retains control over judgments during the 30-day period after entry of judgment[.]" Rule 75.01.
7. Once a judgment becomes final, a party has ten days to file a notice of appeal. Rule 81.04(a).
8. Prior to the judgment becoming final, any notice of appeal filed is premature and the appellate court may not expedite the briefing or argument schedule.
9. Here, the judgment will not become final until January 8, 2026. Thereafter, the Missouri Supreme Court's regular briefing scheduling would be activated unless and until Plaintiffs' request or the Court, on its own motion, expedites such schedule.

10. Plaintiffs have good cause to request this Court's order shortening the time for its judgment to be made final and will be prejudiced absent such order.

Rule 81.045.

11. The final outcome of this litigation may determine which congressional map is used in the 2026 elections.

12. Candidate filing for those elections opens on February 24, 2026.

13. Plaintiffs, as discussed in their Petition, have been moved from one congressional district to another by House Bill 1.

14. Without finality to this litigation, it may very well be that Plaintiffs will be in a different congressional district than they are currently in, depending on whether House Bill 1 is deemed unconstitutional.

15. Plaintiffs have a right to understand which congressional district they will be in and which candidates will be filing to run to represent their district of residence.

16. There is a strong public interest in bringing certainty to the issue of Congressional redistricting as quickly as possible.

17. Having to wait until this judgment is final (January 8, 2026) will make it difficult for this litigation to be fully and finally resolved on appeal before candidate filing commences. This prejudices Plaintiffs.

18. No other party will be prejudiced by granting Plaintiffs' motion. In fact, it is in the best interest of all parties involved to resolve this litigation expeditiously.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request this Court's order shortening the time its judgment in this case becomes final, deeming the judgment final as of the day this motion is granted, and for any such other relief the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 19th day of December, 2025, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court via the Court's electronic filing system which sent notification to all counsel of record.

/s/ Alixandra S. Cossette

