

Jeremy Hayes drops out of House race after TBI investigates his Wilson County residency

By: Andy Humbles, Tennessean



A candidate for state representative in Wilson County's District 57 who has been investigated for voter fraud is no longer running for the seat.

Jeremy Hayes has been accused of voting in 2017 in Wilson County while actually living at a home in Davidson County, where a search warrant was executed in January by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

Hayes' attorney David Raybin called it an "honest mistake."

District Attorney General Tommy Thompson will not prosecute the case further with the condition that Hayes drop out of the House race and remove his name as a voter in Wilson County.

Hayes has requested to be removed as a registered voter in Wilson County, according to Administrator of Elections Phillip Warren.

"I thought we had a pretty good case," Thompson said. "I didn't think anything would be gained with further litigation."

"The laws regarding residency can occasionally be complex," Raybin said. "Mr. Hayes made an honest mistake. He believes his self-removal as a voter in Wilson County and withdrawal as a candidate rectifies his error."

The TBI searched a home on Noel Cove Circle in Hermitage Jan. 23, as part of its investigation on Hayes, according to the agency. The TBI completed its investigation and provided its case file to the district attorney, TBI spokeswoman Susan Niland said.

Hayes previously stated on social media that "we own" the Davidson County home that was searched, but that he actually lives in Wilson County at a home his grandmother also lives at.

Shortly after the TBI search, Hayes stated he believed the investigation was politically motivated and stated on social media the "TBI was weaponized for political purposes."

Hayes has accused District 57 State Rep. incumbent Susan Lynn of spearheading the investigation.

Lynn did contact the state's Division of Elections with questions about Hayes residency, the state representative said.

The Division of Elections assessed the complaint forwarded it to the district attorney and Thompson requested the TBI investigation.

Hayes obtained a petition needed to qualify as a candidate for the District 57 House seat on Jan. 25, according to Wilson County Election Commission records. The petition has not been turned back in with the required 25 signatures from registered voters who are eligible to vote for the candidate that is required to qualify.