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A Voteless People is a Hopeless People - L.E. Austin



JIM HILL



CLAYTON JONES

Clayton Jones Versus Jim Hill: Durham District Court

By Cash Michaels
Contributing writer
CashWorks Media

Editor's note: With the all-important Nov. 6th general election just weeks away, *The Carolina Times* reminds it's readers about the importance of voting in our community.

By casting your ballot, YOU will be choosing public servants to represent your interests at various levels of government, and also to dispense justice in our legal system. This election, you will also be deciding on six proposed state constitutional amendments.

Study the issues and the candidates, make your choices, and then make the time, and take the time to vote.

One-Stop Early Voting/Same - Day Registration continues now thru Nov. 3rd. Go to <https://www.dconnc.gov/home/showdocument?id=26112> for the schedule and location of early voting sites in Durham County.

Unless you are registering for the first time, no photo ID is required. However, you should have an official government document that displays your current address, like a utility bill, with you if you are registering to vote for the first time, or have had a change of address since you last voted, during this early voting period.

Tuesday, Nov. 6th is Election Day. Polls countywide open at 6:30 a.m., and close at 7:30 p.m.

District courts hear cases involving civil, criminal, juvenile, and magistrate matters. District courts are divided into 43 districts across the state and sit in the county seat of each county.

JAMES T. HILL

James "Jim" T. Hill has been a Durham District Court judge since 2002, and the Chief District Court judge of Durham County since April 2017. Prior to taking the bench, Hill was a practicing attorney in Durham for 25 years.

Born in Roxboro, but raised in Durham County for most of his life, Judge Hill has distinguished himself not only for his fairness in the courtroom, his supporters say, but for knowing the law, and deciding cases by the law.

So much so that even though Judge Hill is a registered Republican, many Democrats have no problem endorsing his candidacy for reelection.

"This is the only time in my life I can not only urge you, but beg you, to vote for this man," says family law Attorney Cheri

Patrick, Democrat, and a member of the LBGTQ community, says in a campaign video.

Marlon West, director of 100 men in Black All-male chorus, says Judge Hill has been a member for over five years, and loves mentoring young men, doing community service, and "has a big passion" for prison ministry. "I would strongly encourage everyone to vote for him," West says in a campaign video.

Judge Hill has been endorsed by *The Weekly Independent* and the N.C. Association of Women Attorneys Judicial Endorsements Committee.

However, Judge Hill's record on the bench isn't without a blemish.

On Nov. 6, 2015, that state Supreme Court reprimanded Judge Hill for his behavior during an August 7, 2014 custody hearing where Hill threatened two parents of a three-year-old boy - RiShawna and Colin Morrison, with contempt of court.

On a widely seen court video, Judge Hill is seen and heard calling the Morrisons "idiots" at least three times, chastising them for their alleged actions in front of their son.

When Mrs. Morrison verbally objected to Judge Hill's allegation that she kept her son away from his father, Hill threatened her with what ended up being a 30 day sentence to the Durham County jail - what Judge Hill sarcastically called the "Durham Bed and Breakfast."

The scene eventually got out of hand, with Mrs. Morrison defiantly protesting her treatment as balliffs rushed to restrain her.

She did not respond to a request for comment left on her voice mail from *The Carolina Times* by press time.

The Judicial Standards Commission reviewed Judge Hill's actions, and ruled that he did not follow the law on handling disruptive courtroom behavior, and should not have referred to the Morrisons as "idiots" in the courtroom, nor call the Durham County jail a "bed and breakfast." He was also procedurally wrong in not only sentencing her to jail for contempt, but factually wrong in telling Mrs. Morrison that she would stay until he decided she could be released.

Judge Hill admitted to, and accepted the findings of the Commission. The state Supreme Court found that this was an isolated incident in Hill's otherwise good record on the bench. The High Court added that he had "a good reputation in the community."

"I know voters will look closely at the record and issues," Judge Hill says. "I know by the end of this process we will have informed Durham County voter

s about the issues. They can then make the best decision through this voting process, which will continue through the Nov. 6 General Election."

CLAYTON JONES

For the past two years, Clayton Jones has served as an assistant Durham County District Attorney, prosecuting violent crimes, managing a caseload of more than 200 cases of robbery and homicide.

Prior to that, Jones worked as an assistant public defender, working in criminal, family an juvenile courts, protecting the legal rights of indigent defendants on everything from drug charges to homicides.

"In my fifteen years as an attorney, I have served on both sides of the bar," Jones says. "I understand the need for a balance between keeping the public safe while ensuring equal justice for all."

If elected, Jones promises to show compassion to citizens in his courtroom; accountability to the laws and constitution of North Carolina; respect for everyone in his courtroom; and bring efficiency to the Durham County court system.

By following those guidelines, Jones says he will ensure "equal justice for all" in his courtroom, if elected to the Durham District Court.

Clayton Jones is endorsed by the Democratic Party; People's Alliance PAC; and Durham For All.

Jones is a member of Phi Beta Kappa; Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.; Prince Hall Mason Doric Lodge 28; Zafa Temple 176; and the 14th Judicial District Bar.

"My background, experience and temperament will make me an effective judge for Durham County," Clayton Jones adds.

GO TO THE POLLS AND VOTE!

Raudsep Versus Hawkins Versus Webson For NC House District 31



ZACK HAWKINS



ERIK RAUSEP



By Cash Michaels
Contributing writer
CashWorks Media

The North Carolina House of Representatives is a 120-member elected representative body who each serve two-year terms. The House and the Senate comprise the state legislature, otherwise known as the NC General Assembly.

Eric Raudsep, Torian Webson and Zack Hawkins are vying for the District 31 seat that former longtime Rep. H.M. "Mickey" Michaux Jr. just retired from.

ZACK HAWKINS

After twenty terms, veteran state lawmaker Rep. H. M. "Mickey" Michaux Jr. is stepping down at the end of this year from representing Durham District 31 (normally we could say he's stepped down already, but there is so much certainty that Republicans are going to call yet another special session after the elections, it is safer to assume that Michaux will be there until December).

But making sure there's no confusion on where he stands, or whom he stands with when it comes to who he feels should succeed him in office, Michaux has endorsed Zach Forde-Hawkins for the District 31 seat.

"Zack is the future and I believe in his ability to fight for our progressive values towards building a better North Carolina for everyone," Michaux said earlier this year. "He will be a great member of the NC General Assembly and will represent Durham County well. He has my full support and endorsement for my seat in the NC House."

A native of Beaufort County, Hawkins, 39, has a long history with the Democratic Party. He's

served as chair of the North Carolina Young Democrats in 2008, attended two Democratic National Conventions as a delegate, and is currently First Vice Chair of the NC Democratic Party.

Having attended both Elizabeth City State University and North Carolina Central University, Hawkins once taught at Southern High School in Durham, and currently works in student affairs at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Education is Hawkins' primary issue, he says, and if elected, he would seek to sponsor legislation to:

- Create a plan to begin paying teachers at levels comparable to top 10 states in the country (by population and teacher pay scale)
- Increase per pupil spending to levels comparable to top 10 states in the country
- Students that graduate in the top 10 percent of their class should be guaranteed admission into any UNC system school, with competitive state-sponsored scholarship to pay for their education, based on need.

He also favors common sense gun restrictions, and opposes tax breaks for the rich.

"Everyone deserves a shot to contribute to our state, receive a well funded and affordable education, access to affordable healthcare, have the opportunity to raise a family with a job that pays a living wage, and have a state government they can trust and that serves their best interest," he says.

Hawkins is endorsed by the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People

NAACP Monthly Meeting

The NAACP monthly meeting will be held Oct. 28, 4 p.m., at st. John's Missionary Baptist Church, 917 Onslow St.

The public is invited to attend,

ERIK RAUSEP

Small businessman Erik Rausep moved to Durham from Long Island, NY ten years ago, and says, "I moved here for a better life, and I found it." A home inspector by trade, Rausep says he "was driven" to run for office now "...because he sees such inequity and indifference from many leaders, especially when finding communities like McDougald Terrace, where Erik has been active in making a difference with organizations like Bull City United, McDougald Moms, and Men of Vision," according to his campaign bio.

As a libertarian, Rausep firmly believes that "government needs to get off of the back of small business and foster their development." He adds that big corporations normally benefit the most because they "...it is the big projects that grab the attention and the headlines."

Thus, Rausep is a strong proponent of small business.

He is also a member of the LBGTQ community, would like to adopt a child with his partner, and "...does not want anyone to lose the privilege that any community or individual has, however, he wants everyone to have the same privilege to be shared by all individuals."

Being the son of a Russian immigrant who escaped his homeland for freedom, Rausep "...firmly believes in the necessity of opening up North Carolina to be protective

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