



## AMERICAN MUSLIM ADVISORY COUNCIL

*Enhancing security for all Tennesseans*

### PRESS RELEASE

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### **AMAC Statement on Coffee County DA Craig Northcott**

**Nashville, TN** – The American Muslim Advisory Council (AMAC) is not surprised by Coffee County DA Craig Northcott’s latest Islamophobic remarks. He has long held these views prior to his election in 2014. As the district attorney, he is required to fulfill his duties in a just and fair manner. His statement implying anyone who does not belong to the same belief system as he does is not guaranteed constitutional rights, directly compromises his ability to execute his duties in a fair and just manner. Islamophobia is just another form of white supremacy. Therefore, we question whether D.A. Northcott can honorably oversee the case against House Speaker Glen Casada’s Chief of Staff, Cade Cothren, who is accused of trying to frame African-American civil rights activist Justin Jones and has sent deeply racist texts in the past, without his prejudicial views affecting his decisions.

“When you perpetuate stereotypes and vilify another group of people, that’s not legitimate criticism, it is hate speech,” said AMAC Middle Tennessee Program Manager Sabina Mohyuddin. “It is exactly this kind of hate speech against Muslims by elected officials that leads to bullying in schools, discrimination, and hate crimes. What is especially troubling is Craig Northcott has been appointed as the special prosecutor for the case against House Speaker Glen Casada’s Chief of Staff. This case has racist overtones and I believe it cannot be fairly presided over by someone who is willing to openly and unapologetically vilify any group of people.”

*The American Muslim Advisory Council’s mission mission is to foster mutual trust and respect among all people through civic engagement, community building and media relations in order to protect all Tennesseans from prejudice and targeted violence.*

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