

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- December 20, 2023

## LASSITER CAMPAIGN FILES OFFICIAL RESIDENCY CHALLENGE FOR GENERAL ELECTION OPPONENT WITH BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Contact: Charles Hellwig (919) 749-4259 or (919) 437-2733

**RALEIGH, NC** - The Lassiter campaign has officially challenged the eligibility of his anticipated general election opponent to run for office. The challenge alleges that Sen. Lisa Grafstein has violated the state's constitutional requirement, which mandates that a candidate for the state senate must reside full-time in the district they aim to represent for at least one year preceding the general election. Lassiter himself has endorsed the challenge.

When questioned about the basis for the challenge, Lassiter remarked, "The challenge form submitted to the Board of Elections speaks for itself. Either Senator Grafstein resides at her North Raleigh home, which she owns and is thus eligible to continue serving in the state senate, or she resides at the location indicated on her voter registration near Willow Springs, making her ineligible for senate service but eligible to run for office. She can't have it both ways."

A cornerstone of Lassiter's campaign is a commitment to transparency in state government. When asked why he personally endorsed the challenge, he explained, "I'm not trying to conceal anything. It's a question the voters should have answered, and I'd hate to see her removed from the ballot at the last minute. I believe it's better to have this matter settled as early as possible by the Board of Elections or another authoritative body to instill trust in a system that many rightly view skeptically."

Lassiter's challenge highlights that Grafstein owns a home outside of the district, and the tax bill for her home lists a mailing address different from the one on her voter registration and candidate filing paperwork. Lassiter expressed, "I genuinely hope Senator Grafstein remains on the ballot. I communicated my intent to file this challenge directly with her before doing so. Frankly, I'm eager for substantive policy debates and to gauge the reception of my common-sense, pragmatic approach to governance in contrast to divisive rhetoric. The representation of southern Wake County in the NC Senate will ultimately be decided by the informed voters here, and this preemptive challenge to a technicality that might be used to obscure the issues will ensure that happens."