

THOMAS, J., concurring

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

Nos. 98-405 and 98-406

JANET RENO, ATTORNEY GENERAL, APPELLANT
98-405 v.
BOSSIER PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

GEORGE PRICE, ET AL., APPELLANTS
98-406 v.
BOSSIER PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

ON APPEALS FROM THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

[January 24, 2000]

JUSTICE THOMAS, concurring.

The Bossier Parish School Board first sought preclearance of the redistricting plan at issue in this case almost seven years ago. The Justice Department and private appellants opposed that effort, arguing throughout this litigation that a “safe” majority-minority district is necessary to ensure the election of a black school board member. Ironically, while this litigation was pending, three blacks were elected from majority-white districts to serve on the Bossier Parish School Board. Although these election results are not part of the record, they vividly illustrate the fact that the federal intervention that spawned this litigation was unnecessary.