

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
TENNESSEE, GREENEVILLE DIVISION

Billy Gibson v. Commissioner of Social Security

Gibson · No. 2:25-CV-58 · Decided March 6, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee reviews a Social Security disability determination under 42 U.S.C. § 405(g). The court concludes that substantial evidence supported the ALJ’s formulation of the claimant’s residual functional capacity and finding that he could perform medium work, and it denies relief and affirms the ALJ’s decision.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee, Greeneville Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Cynthia Richardson Wyrick
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee, Greeneville Division
DECIDED	March 6, 2026
DOCKET	2:25-CV-58
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff sought judicial review under 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) of the Commissioner's final decision denying Social Security disability benefits. The parties consented to magistrate-judge jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 636(c).
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court reviewed whether the ALJ applied the correct legal standards and whether substantial evidence supported the factual findings and residual functional capacity determination. Under the substantial-evidence standard, the ALJ's decision falls within a permissible zone of choice even if the record could also support a contrary conclusion.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished, nonprecedential district-court opinion
PARTIES	Billy Gibson v. Commissioner of Social Security

TOPICS

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PRACTICE AREAS

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether substantial evidence supported the ALJ's residual functional capacity determination that Gibson could perform medium-exertion work.
2. Whether the ALJ improperly evaluated Gibson's subjective symptom reports under Social Security Ruling 16-3p.
3. Whether the ALJ adequately explained the evidentiary basis for the residual functional capacity determination and built a logical bridge between the evidence and the conclusion.

HOLDINGS

1. The ALJ had sufficient evidence in the record to formulate Gibson's residual functional capacity and make the disability determination.
2. Substantial evidence supported the ALJ's determination that Gibson retained the ability to perform medium-exertion work.
3. The ALJ properly evaluated Gibson's reported symptoms under Social Security Ruling 16-3p and reasonably found that the symptoms were less limiting than alleged because Gibson's statements were inconsistent with the overall record.
4. The ALJ adequately acknowledged evidence that could support a more restrictive exertional limitation and explained why other evidence supported the conclusion that Gibson could perform medium work.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“He does still feel pretty tired, especially after working all day.” (Tr. 426)

“does report he works outside- mowing lawns....” (Tr. 435)

“During that appointment, Claimant also denied headaches, visual changes, dizziness, shortness of breath and extremity numbness and weakness.” (Tr. 434)

“does find [the gabapentin] to be effective for his pain.” (Tr. 348)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Gibson alleged that physical and mental impairments limited his ability to work, including his ability to bend, stand, and perform activities without dizziness or shortness of breath. The ALJ found that Gibson retained the capacity for medium-exertion work. The district court relied on medical records showing that Gibson reported working all day, mowing lawns outdoors, denied several symptoms, and found gabapentin effective in controlling his pain without significant side effects.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Gibson filed this action on April 9, 2025, challenging the ALJ's residual functional capacity determination and finding that he could perform medium-exertion work. After briefing, a video hearing was held on March 5, 2026. The court denied the requested relief and affirmed the ALJ's decision.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Blakely v. Comm'r of Soc. Sec., 581 F.3d 399, 405 (6th Cir. 2009)
- Wright-Hines v. Comm'r of Soc. Sec., 597 F.3d 392, 395 (6th Cir. 2010)

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