

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
NO. 1:13-CV-00949**

DAVID HARRIS and CHRISTINE
BOWSER,

Plaintiffs,

v.

PATRICK MCCRORY, in his capacity as
Governor of North Carolina; NORTH
CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF
ELECTIONS; and JOSHUA HOWARD, in
his capacity as the Chairmand of the North
Carolina State Board of Elections,

Defendants,

**DECLARATION OF KEVIN J.
HAMILTON IN SUPPORT OF
PLAINTIFFS' MEMORANDUM
REGARDING REMEDIAL
REDISTRICTING PLAN**

I, Kevin J. Hamilton, being duly sworn according to law, upon my oath, declare and say as follows:

1. I am an attorney representing the plaintiffs in this case. I am over the age of 21 years and competent to testify herein. I have personal knowledge of the matters stated herein and would so testify if called to do so.

2. Attached as Exhibit 1 is a true and correct copy of excerpts of the transcript of a public hearing held by the North Carolina General Assembly Joint Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting on February 15, 2016.

3. Attached as Exhibit 2 is a true and correct copy of written public comments submitted to the North Carolina General Assembly Joint Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting, dated February 15, 2016, and available at

<http://www.ncleg.net/documentsites/committees/JointSelectCommitteeonCongressionalRedistricting/2-15-2016%20Public%20Comments%20Submissions.pdf>.

4. Attached as Exhibit 3 is a true and correct copy of excerpts of the transcript of a public hearing held by the North Carolina General Assembly Joint Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting on February 16, 2016.

5. Attached as Exhibit 4 is a true and correct copy of “2016 Contingent Congressional Plan Committee Adopted Criteria,” adopted by vote of the North Carolina General Assembly Joint Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting on February 16, 2016, and available at

<http://www.ncleg.net/documentsites/committees/JointSelectCommitteeonCongressionalRedistricting/2016%20Contingent%20Congressional%20Plan%20Committee%20Adopted%20Criteria%202%2016%2016.pdf>.

6. Attached as Exhibit 5 is a true and correct copy of excerpts of the transcript of a public hearing held by the North Carolina General Assembly Joint Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting on February 17, 2016.

7. Attached as Exhibit 6 is a true and correct copy of excerpts of the transcript of a floor debate held by the North Carolina General Assembly House of Representatives on February 19, 2016.

8. Attached as Exhibit 7 is a true and correct copy of a letter from Representative G.K. Butterfield to Senator Phil Berger and Representative Tim Moore, dated February 17, 2016, and available at <https://butterfield.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/republican-redistricting-criteria-violates-voting-rights-act>.

9. Attached as Exhibit 8 is a true and correct copy of a report titled “Communities of Interest—Census Place” generated using data files for the 2016 Contingent Congressional Corrected plan, available on the North Carolina General Assembly redistricting website, <http://www.ncleg.net/representation/redistricting.aspx>.

10. Attached as Exhibit 9 is a true and accurate copy of a map entitled “2016 Contingent Congressional--Corrected (13th Congressional District) Black Percentage by VTD.”

11. Attached as Exhibit 10 is a true and accurate copy of excerpts of the transcript of a floor debate held by the North Carolina General Assembly Senate on February 18, 2016.

12. Attached as Exhibit 11 is a true and correct copy of excerpts of the transcript of a committee meeting held by the House Redistricting Committee of the North Carolina General Assembly House of Representatives on February 19, 2016.

13. Attached as Exhibit 12 is a true and accurate copy of excerpts of the transcript of a floor debate held by the North Carolina General Assembly House of Representatives on February 18, 2016.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

EXECUTED at Seattle, Washington, on February 29, 2016.

/s/ Kevin J. Hamilton
KEVIN J. HAMILTON

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

On February 29, 2016, I will electronically file the foregoing with the Clerk of Court using the CM/ECF system, which will then send a notification of such filing (NEF) to the following:

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*Co-counsel for Defendants North
Carolina State Board of Elections and
Joshua Howard, in his capacity as
Chairman of the North Carolina State
Board of Elections*

/s/ Edwin M. Speas, Jr.

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North Carolina General Assembly
Joint Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting (2015)
Public Hearing
February 15, 2016

TRANSCRIBED BY: Reed Jackson Watkins, LLC
Court-Certified Transcription
206.624.3005

1 to have more people present to address you.

2 You've known for more than a week that you were going to
3 have to do something, and yet we find out on Sunday that
4 there is a meeting here on Monday. You have produced no
5 maps for alternatives that we would have the opportunity to
6 see, so how do we know that you won't come back with
7 something just as crazy as what you have done already? How
8 can citizens make intelligent comments on something that we
9 have not seen? How do we know that you won't produce the
10 same kind of crazy maps again?

11 I've been trying to figure out what rural eastern North
12 Carolina has in common with the urban areas of Dorrough
13 other than the fact that we are majority black. And as we
14 signed in today, we were asked what was our race, and I'm
15 wondering if that will have some impact on how our comments
16 are viewed that this hearing was predominantly spoken to by
17 black people here in the 1st Congressional District.

18 What you are doing is not legislative leader ship, among
19 other things that you've been doing for many of the years
20 that you've been here. I consider the hearings a joke, and
21 they make no sense, and that we will still be in the dark
22 when the hearings are over. The voters here will not know
23 anything any more than what they've already seen.

24 Many citizens spoke against this district when it was
25 drawn in the first place. We traveled all across the

1 something had occurred.

2 I also want to identify with the man who spoke from
3 Asheville and the lady who has left who came from the
4 Midwest and spoke about how voting is organized and how
5 you -- who you are and what you are is available to the
6 Democrats and to the Republicans.

7 I also want to say that when I went online to sign in it
8 said "Organization," and I put "Citizen." But I also put
9 the faith community that I belong to, and I also put the
10 political organization that I work with. But the most
11 important thing is that I am a citizen, as you are. And I
12 noticed here when I signed in behind the person who I came
13 here with, who will also speak, that "Race" was on this
14 form. And just as he had drawn a line, I drew a line that
15 race is not an issue in this. I am a citizen.

16 And I hold here right now the tombstone picture of my
17 great grandfather, who lies in the cemetery up in Warren
18 Country, and he was born in 1843 before slavery was end ed.
19 And I grew up in Washington DC. But my father went there to
20 get a better job, and that's where I went to school during
21 segregation, and had a good school. But they sent us home
22 to North Carolina every summer to be with our grandparents.
23 So we worked in tobacco. And I always wanted to live here.
24 This was a place I always wanted to be. When it was time to
25 go home at Labor Day -- I'm going to use my whole five

1 majority and minority parties.

2 It's also worth noting that organizations on both the
3 conservative and liberal sides of the spectrum have espoused
4 overhauling the State's process for redistricting.

5 Other speakers have explained that the best practices for
6 drawing boundaries have been identified, and that their
7 district should be designed for compactness, contiguity,
8 keeping counties whole, when possible, and, of course,
9 complying with the Voting Rights Act.

10 The turnout for these hearings on short notice is a
11 testament to public interest in the redistricting issue.
12 The process, therefore, should allow for substantial citizen
13 input with numerous locations, numerous times of day, and
14 many opportunities for involvement.

15 Another thing about me. I'm a few weeks shy of my 43rd
16 birthday. That puts me at older than the median age in
17 North Carolina. Older than the median age in Buncombe
18 County. In other words, half of North Carolina, half of
19 this county, are younger than I am.

20 I was asked to list my race when I signed in, but not my
21 age. Maybe it's not okay to ask, and it's probably not okay
22 for me to ask for a show of hands in this room, although
23 that would have been more helpful earlier today, to ask how
24 many folks are younger than I am in this room, or how many
25 folks were younger at the beginning of this meeting.

1 rights.

2 Our democratic government at the federal, state, and local
3 level should be taking legislative action to encourage
4 voting and sending a message barriers to voting must be
5 removed.

6 Before 1920, for many of us in this room, our grandmothers
7 by law could not vote. Their gender was an absolutely bar
8 to voting. In 1920, a constitutional amendment gave the
9 right to vote to women.

10 In the 1970s and earlier, men who were sent to Vietnam
11 conscripted and drafted and killed could not vote. A
12 constitutional amendment in 1972 gave the right to vote to
13 those 18 to 21.

14 Extending and supporting voting privileges is our proudest
15 best history, not diluting voting rights to minorities. The
16 right thing for the General Assembly is to tell your
17 attorney -- you're their client -- tell your attorney that
18 you're going to abide by the three-judge decision and get on
19 with it.

20 In concluding, I'm extremely upset that at least at
21 several of the public hearing sites, folks signing in were
22 required to write in their race at the sign in. The chair
23 of this committee should immediately write to each person
24 listing their race and apologize for this invidious request.
25 This is not unimportant at a hearing that concerns race

1 discrimination. Do not allow future public government
2 hearings to include a racial ethnic identity. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Thank you.

4 Moving to Central Piedmont Community College,
5 Representative Brawley.

6 REPRESENTATIVE BRAWLEY: Thank you, Senator.

7 Our next speaker is Justin Conley.

8 Mr. Conley, you are recognized for five minutes. You have
9 the floor.

10 MR. CONLEY: Thank you.

11 Our (inaudible) say good morning, but good afternoon. I'd
12 first like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to
13 speak on congressional redistricting.

14 Our country was founded on the ideal of the government of,
15 by, and for the people. Our great state deserves qualified
16 leaders fairly elected to represent their interest in
17 Raleigh and in Washington, but that's not happening.

18 I'm a new Mecklenburg County resident, but a North
19 Carolina native. I currently serve as the president of the
20 Young Democrats of North Carolina. We work to provide a
21 mechanism for registered Democrats, ages 18 to 35, to have
22 an active role in our communities in the spirit of the
23 Democratic Party.

24 My organization represents the changing face of the
25 seventh most rapidly diversifying states in our country.

1 which includes the protection of citizens so that they can
2 elect representatives that reflect sensible and fairly drawn
3 constitutionally sound districts.

4 This is a partisan issue, but it has been said today,
5 Let's stop beating each other with the partisan stick.

6 The inconvenience of the logistics of the upcoming
7 election should not be used to permit the Republican
8 legislature to use that as a manipulation.

9 I have recommendations: (1) several people have said it.
10 I believe you need to delete the question about race in
11 today's hearing. I saw that on the entry forms. It
12 should -- that is not relevant.

13 Can you hear me?

14 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Yes, sir. Keep speaking.

15 MR. CLARK: Okay. I request that the legislature comply
16 promptly with the three panel judges' ruling to do the
17 redistricting map.

18 I request that well-publicized public hearings be set for
19 next week with a particular emphasis on the districts that
20 have been discussed so much today.

21 I also ask that you clarify guidelines of how we submit
22 our written documents. Many people have scribbled
23 documents, and some of them handed them in. I think you
24 would like them typed, and when do you want them.

25 I also ask that it be a priority in the next session to

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STATE OF WASHINGTON)
)
COUNTY OF KING)

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing court proceedings were transcribed under my direction as a certified court reporter; and that the transcript is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and ability, including any changes made by the trial judge reviewing the transcript; that I received the audio and/or video files in the court format; that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto, nor financially interested in its outcome.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 22nd day of February, 2016.

Shelby Kay K. Fukushima, CCR#2028

Joint Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting Public Comments - 02/15/2016 - Complete Report

Category	Name	Address	Comments
Joint Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting	Robin Withrow	Apex, NC	The legislature, knowing that the districts they drew up were unconstitutional at the time of their creation, needs to redraw these and surrounding districts in a fair, constitutional and more non-partisan manner. When the Democrats were in power I am sure the GOP members did not like gerrymandered districts. The GOP came into power saying they would be different. Well, in a sense they have been. They've been a hundred times worse. It is time to end once and for all partisan redistricting and put the responsibility for redrawing districts in the hands of a non-partisan group that will be charged with drawing up logical, fair and constitutional districts that allow the people of North Carolina to elect whomever they choose in a way that is not stacked against minorities or one party or the other.
	Lisa Ross	Greensboro , NC	Districts should be drawn by an independent nonpartisan body in a regular geometric shape.
	Lisa Jordy	Hillsborough, NC	Dear Lawmaker, When three federal judges ruled two of North Carolina's 13 congressional districts are racial gerrymanders -- unlawfully packing African-Americans within their boundaries and whitening the surrounding areas, all for political gain -- U.S. District Judge Max Cogburn, wrote an important message to you: "Elections should be decided through a contest of issues, not skillful mapmaking." I agree. These cynical, partisan maps continue to aggressively segregate voters even as North Carolinians like me prepare to head to the polls in March 2016. That's why the courts ordered you to redraw them immediately. And that's why this isn't a time for more legal appeals. I'm calling on you to to stop making excuses, follow the order, and redraw the maps. After all, fair elections require fair maps. Can I count on you to draw fair maps now? Thank you, Lisa Jordy
	Noah Grolnick	Durham, NC	It is vital that the redrawing of North Carolina's congressional maps assures that every citizen has an equal voice in our democracy; that politicians do not chose their voters in a way that makes it easier to get reelected but that voters are able to chose the the politicians to represent them. The new redistricting process must not return to the status quo and simply do the

		bear minimum to satisfy judicial review. The issue of our democracy should be bipartisan. The people of North Carolina deserve a true representative democracy.
Marilyn Harris	Roanoke rapids, NC	<p>It is my belief that the 1st Congressional District was redistricted to discriminate against African American voters and to lessen their voting power. The 1st Congressional District and all districts affected by the Redistricting done by the Republican Congress of the State of North Carolina should be reversed to their former state prior to being gutted and creating a state of gerrymandering among the voters in the 1st Congressional District (in which I reside)and other voting districts.</p> <p>The citizens of the 1st Congressional District and all citizens in the State of North Carolina deserve a fair and equal opportunity to cast votes without being lumped in voting clusters that dilute their voting power and produce an inequity in representation.</p>
Wilton Strickland	Goldsboro, NC	<p>In an article re. drawing Congressional districts published in The News & Observer 13 Feb 2016, Dallas Woodhouse, NC Republican Party executive director, said, "We will advocate a complete colorblind drawing of the map where no racial considerations are made whatsoever."</p> <p>If that really be the case, why can't the districts be simply composed of contiguous municipal units (cities, towns, counties), based on population numbers alone, as necessary to make up the population apportionment and let race and politics fall where they may.</p>
James Johnson	Wade, NC	The maps should NOT have to be redrawn. "Gerrymandering" of districts has been the privilege of the majority party in NC for years and now you have some political activist judge saying they're "unconstitutional". Well, I say...screw him.
Timothy O'Brien	Chapel Hill, NC	Please end gerrymandering. Please extend an olive branch by allowing a non-partisan group determine these congressional districts. Please turn over redistricting to an independent commission for all current and future redistricting decisions.
Mary Ann McCarthy	Southport, NC	I implore you to return NC7 to its pre-2011 District area. Brunswick & New Hanover Counties are coastal communities whose needs are very distinct from interior counties. This District was redrawn to include Johnston County for one reason, to give David Rouzer a seat in the House. The needs of the Coast are not being served by a Congressman whose primary interests and campaign funding is solely focused on the farming industry. We have no Representation or a voice in the U.S. House of Representatives. Setting House a Districts to suit the needs of your cronies is bad politics and we are fed up with the status quo.
Betsy Lowman	Boone, NC	With the death of Supreme Court Judge Scalia the ruling of the lower court regarding redistricting holds. You now HAVE to redistrict within 2 weeks. Take political allegiance out of the equation by using a computer algorithm to do the job. California Silicon Valley companies surely have such programs available. Letting any member of the NC legislature participate in redrawing the maps would be fishy and smelly. So would calling on local company SAS since Goodnight is such an outspoken member of the ruling oligarchy.
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		<p>regarding redistricting holds. You now HAVE to redistrict within 2 weeks. Take political allegiance out of the equation by using a computer algorithm to do the job. California Silicon Valley companies surely have such programs available. Letting any member of the NC legislature participate in redrawing the maps would be fishy and smelly. So would calling on local company SAS since Goodnight is such an outspoken member of the ruling oligarchy.</p>
Dwight Grissom	Greensboro , NC	<p>Our state is rigged By the wealthy and Republicans. I want the lines drawn fairly!</p>
Joe Lowman	Boone, NC	<p>Gerrymanded congressional districts are very undemocratic and should be changed and avoided when new ones are drawn. The temptation of legislators, Democratic as well as Republican, to cheat when redistricting NC's districts is so great a truly independent group using computer methods to redrawing them is needed. Several states which also have to redraw their districts are looking at neutral methods drawn without political input from either party. NC should also lead in this important reform in our congressional elections. Maybe the public with respect the House of Representatives again if districts are formed fairly.</p>
Nancy Wilkinson	Elon, NC	<p>Please make sure that all districts are drawn up fairly in a non-partisan manner. By doing this, you'll make sure that all citizens have an equal voice. Thank you!</p>
Kenneth Dalsheimer	Durham, NC	<p>Dear Joint Committee on Congressional Redistricting,</p> <p>I am writing to strongly urge you to strengthen our democracy here in NC and ensure that citizens of the state have fair districts for fair elections. Our Federal judges have ruled that two of North Carolina's 13 congressional districts are racial gerrymanders, unlawfully packing African-Americans within their boundaries and whitening the surrounding areas -- all for political gain. The judges have ruled that these unconstitutional districts must be redrawn immediately. This is especially urgent as our March elections approach.</p> <p>Please abide by this judicial request and redraw the maps.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Kenneth Dalsheimer Durham, NC</p>
Jonathan Markle	Raleigh, NC	<p>I agree with the Federal Court's decision. The voting districts, as now set up in North Carolina, seem to me to be stilted against any logical, reasonable division of the State into districts which allow for everyone to have their vote count in elections. It would seem to me that the Republican legislature has devised the current districts to make it nearly impossible for the votes of minorities, Blacks and disenfranchised people to have a say in the Government of this State and representation at the Federal level.</p>

		Further, it does not seem possible, given the uneven distribution of the current State legislature which weights heavily in the favor of Republicans, that honest redistricting can ever be had in this State.
Helen Compton	Durham, NC	Please return Durham to one congressional district. The voice of our community has been broken up among 5 districts. When people go to vote, across the street neighbors can be voting for different congresspeople. The issues these neighbors address are often the same. Because our community is broken into parts, we can offer no unified voice in the needs of our county. Keep communities whole!
Gregory Kennington	Durham, NC	Please bring democracy back to North Carolina--End political gerrymandering by implementing a non-partisan redistricting process.
Lynda Bennett	MAggie Valley, NC	I am completely satisfied with the district boundaries for US House of Representatives and believe it UnConstitutional to try to change our elections that are already underway. We accept 'NO DELAY' in our state elections! That would constitute DISENFRANCHISEMENT - if allowed to interrupt our 2016 election. The worst case of gerrymandering was created under the DEMOCRATS and continued under the recent redistricting.
Gail Bromley	Leland, NC	We cannot be present for the public hearings being held on how to deal with designating Congressional districts in NC. We do know, however, that both major political parties have done what they can to influence the process to the advantage of the party in power. That is not good, does not help our democracy work well, and means strange and unwieldy districts without a logical reason other than trying to gain a political advantage. We strongly request that district boundaries be drawn by an independent group that does NOT represent political parties. Partisan politics should not be how these lines are drawn. In states where an independent group has drawn the boundaries, the process is much more acceptable to all the citizens. This process takes a lot of pressure off the political party in power and the resulting districts look more reasonable, understandable, and the process seems much more open to the public at large. Thank you. Gail F. Bromley Voter Services Chair League of Women Voters of the Lower Cape Fear
John Wells	Edenton, NC	Please redraw the boundry lines for District 1 and 12 Tha reflects the states racial composition so that all citizens can participate in our government. Thank you.
William Miller	Edenton, NC	The present makeup of congressional districts favors incumbents and has contributed to the polarization of North Carolina politics. I am a resident of the 1st District, one of the two districts which have been the basis of the Federal Panel ruling; it is apparent that gerrymandering has been done on a racial basis here...to preserve a Democratic representation in this district and to preserve a Republican seat in the 3rd district. Neither situation is fair to voters in either party; I believe that this practice is referred to as

		<p>"Packing" a district. In any event, it has served to concentrate political power within a district, but not allow a natural expansion of party representation and influence beyond the district. I urge you to deliberate carefully, consider wisely and propose fairly in these deliberations. We, the citizens of North Carolina, expect no less than your best efforts to remedy the disservice being done to our voters.</p>
Roy Smith Jr	New Bern, NC	<p>I am a lifelong citizen of North Carolina.</p> <p>It's time to end the Gerrymandering of North Carolina's Voting Districts. The Taxpayers deserve a fair process in elections and a non-partisan way to draw districts. Please stop wasting our tax dollars and do the right thing!</p>
Melanie Goff Bradley	Rocky Mount, NC	<p>Thank you for holding public hearings, although I wish you had planned and announced them earlier for more advance notice, and later in the day at a more convenient time for the working public. Thank you for your tardy addition of a location in District 1.</p> <p>I believe the maps should be drawn by an independent, non-partisan panel charged with basic standard instructions. Included are that the continuity and contiguousness of the district shapes should be compact, should follow geopolitical boundaries as much as possible, and not divide counties and/or cities if at all possible. The locations of the boundaries should approximate traditional districts except in these recent egregious maps. Very importantly, more attention needs to be paid to the rights of every citizen to be counted and represented, in a 'one person, one vote' manner, and less to the race or economic condition of the citizen.</p> <p>My hope is that the primary will be held as planned on March 15, unaffected except for the Congressional races, which should be postponed to May or June. My expectation is that the people who commissioned and supported the current unconstitutional maps should realize the unnecessary expense they are subjecting our citizens to. And my signal to both parties in the Legislature is that the citizens will not allow this type of unconstitutional voter suppression to stand. Thank you.</p>
James Bennett	MAggie Valley, NC	<p>It is a disregard of our RIGHT to VOTE to have the courts Delay the Congressional Election.</p> <p>I am satisfied with the Congressional Districts.</p>
Larry King	Raleigh, NC	<p>Gerrymandering (along with money in politics) is one of the greatest threats to democracy because it makes a mockery of the principle of "one person, one vote". Redraw Congressional districts 1 and 12 such that they support this basic principle.</p>
Laurin Kier	Elon, NC	<p>I am a NC native and have lived most of my 60 years in this state. I believe all registered citizens deserve for their vote to count as much as anyone else's vote. I do NOT believe that either the Republicans or the Democrats can be trusted to draw fair, non-partisan Congressional voting districts. I urge you to use my hard earned tax dollars to hire a non-partisan agency to redraw the district lines as ordered by the Federal court system.</p>
Terr Schmidt	Pitsboro, NC	<p>If we have to redistrict, ANY redistricting must be color-blind! Stop the gerrymandering. Keep precincts and counties together.</p>

Edith Knight	Stoneville, NC	Please stop gerrymandered districts in North Carolina, allowing each vote to count. Now, in general elections in my district the outcome is decided before I enter the voting booth. I am for nonpartisan redistricting in all districts in North Carolina.
Robert Heltman	Hendersonville, NC	This intervention attempting to redistrict what has already been legally done, AT THE LAST Minute which disrupts plans, ballot printing, etc. for the March 15 election, is outrageous, and mindless as to the expenses (time, effort, confusion, money) such nonsense entails. Those "judicial" entities ought to be charged individually with those expenses and have their pictures and names prominently shown in public so voters can boot them out of office for such silly behavior.
John Adams	Star , NC	As a life long Republican voter I believe that the existing districts are lawful and should stay the way that the were drawn up. The Democracts are trying what the learn from our President and go around the law as it is written. We live in a country that is governed by the people for the people. If your side losses the election pull yourself up by your boot straps and try harder the next time to get in office and pass the laws to change ones they don't agree with.
Greg Hausler	Greensboro, NC	The current districts are drawn unfairly and are confusing. They are not in the best interest of the state and do not represent the citizens accurately. They should be redrawn. Delaying the redistricting only serves the interests of those who intentionally gerrymandered them in the first place.
Donna Newman	Raleigh, NC	Redraw the two districts FAIRLY. If we the People cannot trust that our Legislators are being selected based on the demographics of NC as a whole, and that we are being represented fairly even when in the minority across the State, the whole house of cards will tumble down. Trust, lost in the process, cannot easily be regained. You must start now to regain it.
Elaine Hewitt	Cleveland, NC	I am strongly opposed to disruption of the NC Primary. To disrupt the primary after absentee voting has begun would result in extreme confusion to voters, thus suppressing voting, huge unnecessary costs at the state and county levels, and put an undue burden on candidates. If the lines must be redrawn, I recommend that the gerrymandered 12th and 1st districts be eliminated and replace with districts with logical boundaries. I recommend that counties not be split between different districts unless absolutely necessary. I hope to attend a hearing in person, but with the predicted weather do not expect to be able to attend.
Cornelia Cree	Waynesville, NC	Gentlemen and Ladies, I've lived in Haywood County 25 years and we have never had adequate representation. We see ourselves as the most gerrymandered county in the state. Our representatives are not malicious, but they have concerns of their own. Haywood meanwhile has a very large, very prosperous cattle industry. It is no small feat moving around 1,200 pound beasts. The cattlemen privately have put a great deal of time and energy into their business as a joint effort. Our representatives should be able to promote this in the General Assembly. I am aware that your present job is to straighten out possible inequities in our Congressional group, although we are quite happy with our Congressman but for the future please consider Haywood needing its own

		<p>single legislator so we can improve on our progress as a cattle-raising area. Thank you.</p>
Robert Doss	Marshall, NC	<p>Clearly my input doesn't matter, given the short time frame between soliciting constituent input and actually redrawing the districts.</p> <p>Bernie Sanders has come to prominence in large part because voters feel that politicians behave unfairly. No where is this more obvious than in the gerrymandering of districts. The republican-controlled assembly can do if they like now, but that will drive voters to replace Republicans with Democrats who will redraw the districts yet again.</p> <p>If fairness and statesmanship were actually to prevail, I would recommend that a Geographic Information System (GIS) such that each district contains roughly the same number of people and had roughly the same average distance to a population center suitable for congressmen to establish their offices.</p> <p>But fairness is a naive notion in today's government (especially the NC General Assembly) and true statesman are no longer willing to run for office.</p> <p>I'm sure you will redraw the districts according to the maps you already have drawn, with no regard to input from me or any other constituent.</p> <p>Thanks for putting on the show though.</p>
Grant Millin	Asheville, NC	<p>My trust in the NC GOP is nonexistent.</p> <p>Splitting Asheville into NC 10 and 11 was a political move to maintain GOP control. I want legislation enacting the North Carolina independent redistricting commission.</p> <p>The inability for the NC GOP to produce draft redistricting maps reflecting their response to judicial mandates as of today (2/14/16) shows a dangerous, anti-democratic lack of transparency. Citizens have no legitimate basis to form a response.</p> <p>It was only today that written comments sent directly to the 2016 Joint Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting was possible.</p>
Dan and Eva Steward	Skyland, NC	<p>The timing on this is absurd! It's hard enough to get people to vote and now you want to throw a monkey wrench in this NOW? I'm all for fairness, but this seems contrived. Wait until 2017 to deal with this matter please!</p>
A.W. Myers	Cleveland, NC	<p>To start with I believe any district should not be determined by color of skin, ever effort should be made to keep a county in tack not split up. As for redistricting presently being considered it should not be implemented until after the coming election. If a redistricting is needed based on population it should be done after the coming election due to the controversy/representation that may arise in changing district lines at such a late date prior to a major general election. The best time may be after the election in early 2017 or mid 2017</p>
Todd Patton	Durham, NC	<p>Please redraw NC's Congressional Districts in as compact a manner as possible, splitting the fewest number of counties and precincts as possible.</p>

		You should completely ignore the location of homes of incumbents, political parties of voters and races of voters. NC deserves sensible, compact districts - not districts designed to protect a political party or certain powerful legislators.
Jennie Betton	Greensboro, NC	Districts should be created by an independent commission without regard to party affiliation or politics. No one likes to play in a game whose outcome is rigged in favor of the rule makers. So much more so for the process of electing our representatives, which is vastly more important than any game. No matter how this process has been handled in the past, it is time for it to be fair. All citizens deserve this.
Carolyn Sexton	Raleigh, NC	Now that NC has received the ruling of the Federal judges that two of North Carolina's 13 congressional districts are gerrymandered racially, unlawfully packing African-Americans within their boundaries and whitening the surrounding areas, I hope that you will seriously work to preserve the integrity of our voting system by redrawing district lines to assure that everyone's vote truly counts and that the districts reflect their true multi-racial character. Even if the primary must be postponed, this is too important not to address.
Jody Och	Weaverville, NC	The NC GOP has eroded all trust. The gerrymandering of Asheville into NC 10 and 11 was obviously an unabashed political move to maintain GOP control. We want legislation enacting an independent redistricting commission for NC. With only 5 days left before the deadline, the fact that the NC GOP have yet to produce a draft of new redistricting maps responding to court ruling is an anti-democratic lack of transparency.
Cinnamon Frame	USA, NC	I want my representative to be a person who represents the interest of my area, not some corridor. Boundaries should be drawn along county lines and should represent areas who have common interests. For example, I live in Johnston County. I do not want my representative to be standing for us and the cities of Raleigh and Garner. I also don't think Johnston County should be split along the middle. We should have legislators from communities, just like we have community schools. In addition, to be fair, I feel a non-partisan committee should draw the lines - neither party can be trusted to do this fairly and not butcher our representation to suit their own ends.
Orlando Miller	Cary, NC	Simple fairness and common sense, not to mention the Court, and principles of democracy, require the redistricting of districts 1 and 12 without delay.
Julia Bryan	Raleigh, NC	If the United States wishes to maintain the democratic principles the country was founded on, voting districts must be drawn to give each voter one full vote. A good place to start to reclaim this founding principle is with redrawing North Carolina districts 1 and 12.
Carroll Heins	Raleigh, NC	Gerrymandering, whether by Democrats or Republicans- which by definition is for partisan purposes - is counter to, and undermines and weakens, a democratic society. I hope our legislators will give serious thought to that,

		and to their responsibilities as leaders. I'm aware that this will sound naive and idealistic in this age of cynicism, but I note that there are some statesmen remaining in both parties who advocate for a non partisan solution to this obvious absurdity. (If you don't think it is absurd, check out the map.). I hope they prevail.
Martha Benton	Asheville, NC	As usual the Democrats are trying to screw up an election they are afraid of losing. They are guilty of voter fraud already in New Hampshire, and they now want to bring it to North Carolina. I would think our courts/Judges would have better sense than to fall for their underhanded tactics.
Bennett Cotten	Raleigh, NC	The legislative districts as they now stand are a perversion of the concept of 'district.' Please allow the legislative staff to revise the current redistricting plan so that it is not race-based, protects rural/urban differences, assures minority voice/balance/representation, protects incumbents from residing in the same districts as other incumbents, and is blind to past voting patterns and party registrations. Let the chips fall where they may. I urge you to follow the best interests of all North Carolina and make this the first step towards eliminating gerrymandering. If more time is needed in order to accomplish this, I would prefer that the primary date be delayed. Thank you for soliciting my input.
Roger Lytle	Zebulon, NC	First I am against taking any action as the primary process has already begun (absentee voting) and at this point it would be unfair to the voters, the elected officials as well as any candidates from all NC parties, not to mention the tax payers dollars it would cost as this late time. I actually think all the districts are Unconstitutional as well as the Voting Rights Act and should be challenged. We talk about stopping racism and this is the worst form, trying to arrange Representation for a particular group, at this point in history they are many different races in North Carolina/America. We don't make special districts for American Indians or Hispanics or Asians or anyone else. We are all Americans and we should be divided into equal populated districts, located in the same geographic area. The NC Constitution states that Counties should not be divided for the General Assembly but almost every County is. We have 13 Congressional Districts, 100 Counties and approximately 10 million people. So it should be approximately 770,000 people in each district and then distribute the 100 Counties to achieve this distribution. An alternative would be a mathematical grid pattern (based upon square miles) for the entire state based upon 13 Districts as the state population grows the grids are equally divided based upon the number of Districts. In the future as our population grows then only a reduction in the grid size would be required. Thank You for the opportunity to comment.
Steven Odom	Robbinsville, NC	I believe the current Congressional maps in North Carolina are both legal and fair. They have been upheld by our states highest court and have already weathered two election cycles. Changing the Congressional Districts at this point, the the middle of the election process, would be unfair and just plain wrong. The tax payers of North Carolina would be forced to bare the expense of separate elections and votes already cast via the absentee voting process would be declared void, the voters time and efforts wasted, not to mention their Constitutional rights violated.
Deborah Odom	Robbinsville, NC	I believe the current Congressional maps in North Carolina are both legal and fair. They have been upheld by our states highest court and have already weathered two election cycles. Changing the Congressional Districts

		<p>at this point, the the middle of the election process, would be unfair and just plain wrong. The tax payers of North Carolina would be forced to bare the expense of separate elections and votes already cast via the absentee voting process would be declared void, the voters time and efforts wasted, not to mention their Constitutional rights violated. I disagree with the Federal courts ruling.</p>
Mary Engle	Robbinsville, NC	<p>I believe the current Congressional maps in North Carolina are both legal and fair. They have been upheld by our states highest court and have already weathered two election cycles. Changing the Congressional Districts at this point, the the middle of the election process, would be unfair and just plain wrong. The tax payers of North Carolina would be forced to bare the expense of separate elections and votes already cast via the absentee voting process would be declared void, the voters time and efforts wasted, not to mention their Constitutional rights violated. I disagree with the Federal courts ruling.</p>
Judith Lotas	Duck, NC	<p>We need fair maps of voting districts for fair elections. Please make this your #1 priority.</p>
Rollin Kibbe	Raleigh, NC	<p>I'm so happy that the party of the self-righteous has once again been caught behaving badly. So much for believing in an omnipotent God--a God that needs their devious tactics to ensure a victory. Shame, shame on the NCGOP. Do the right thing and get a non-partisan group to simply divide the state into geographically contiguous districts, and the the quality of the candidates determine the outcome. Isn't that what America is supposed to be about? Or do the NCGA and the NCGOP think they're better than America?</p>
Jim Roberts	Pilot Mountain, NC	<p>February 14, 2016</p> <p>3 Federal Judges recently ordered the North Carolina Legislature to redraw the 1st and 12th Congressional Districts of North Carolina currently held by Representatives G.K. Butterfield and Alma Adams because the districts were racially gerrymandered. The 100 page decision places blame on both the Democratic and Republican parties. The ruling states that the 12 Congressional District "is so contorted and contrived that the United States Courthouse in Charlotte, where this concurrence was written, is five blocks within its boundary, and the United States Courthouse in Greensboro, where the trial was held, is five blocks outside the same district, despite being more than 90 miles apart and located in separate federal judicial districts. How a voter can know who their Representative is or how a Representative can meet with their pocketed voters is beyond comprehension." The decision goes on to say that "While redistricting to protect the political party that controls the legislature is constitutionally permitted and lawful, it is in disharmony with the fundamental values upon which this country was founded".</p> <p>Political gerrymandering became so abusive in the state of Arizona that the people formed an independent redistricting commission and took the responsibility away from the legislature. The Arizona Legislature promptly sued the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission and that case went all the way to the Supreme Court. Arizona State Legislature v. Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission. The Supreme Court found for the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission 5-4.</p>

		<p>This recent decision is an excellent opportunity for the people of North Carolina to exert their influence over an unrelenting Legislative agenda that has overwhelmingly reflected the interests of the Corporations over those of the people. One of the most egregious examples occurred after the 6th Congressional District's Stokes County Board of Commissioners unanimously passed a law banning Fracking in Stokes County over concern about the pollution of Stokes resident's drinking water through the contamination of their wells. The Republican controlled North Carolina Legislature overrode the people of Stokes County before the week was out. Not only did they outlaw any City or County action in North Carolina against Fracking but they made it retroactive to declare illegal the Stokes County Board action. In an additional "slap in the face" to the people of North Carolina the Legislature made it a FELONY for anyone to expose any of the ingredients of the chemical mixture that is pumped into the ground during the Fracking procedure.</p> <p>As a Representative candidate for the 6th Congressional District of North Carolina I hereby call on the people of North Carolina, the Democratic and Republican Parties and the North Carolina Legislature to step forward and establish an Independent Redistricting Commission composed of 1 Democrat and 1 Independent selected by the Democratic Party, 1 Republican, and 1 Independent selected by the Republican party. And a 5th person that is a career employee of the state government and that is selected by the other 4. All those selected should have a well rounded familiarity with North Carolina's geography, agriculture, aquaculture, population and business. Their job should be to as evenly as possible divide North Carolina into the established number of Congressional Districts by adjoining counties that have a like number of people, a regional commonality without any partial counties in any district and no district composed of less than 3 counties.</p> <p>Jim Roberts</p>
Charlene Shaver	Statesville, NC	<p>It is time for a fair election. Districts must be redrawn to be more geographical not to suit partisan agenda and discrimination, the primary needs to be postponed.</p> <p>Thank You Charlene Shaver</p>
Margaret Leinbach	Winston Salem, NC	<p>I urge you to make the districts more geographically compact without dividing cities. Drawing "safe" Republican or Democratic districts is not a valid concern. Voters should pick their representatives, rather than politicians picking their voters.</p>
Tara Romano	Raleigh, NC	<p>With a federal court ruling that 2 of North Carolina's latest redistricts are racial gerrymanders, I urge the NCGA to immediately take up the work of redrawing the districts. Since this redistricting was done in 2011 - once again, without the benefit of an independent redistricting committee - there has been a lack of voter confidence in our election process. Taking the</p>

		federal court ruling seriously and making an immediate effort to redraw these districts will go a long way towards boosting voter confidence that our elections in 2016 will be free and fair.
Steve Coleman	Murphy, NC	We do not need re districting every time the Democratic Party loses an election!! The districts are fine the democrats need to look at their national platform if they want change!!!!?????????????
Thomas Hohman	Waxhaw, NC	I advocate the passage of HB 92 to establish a nonpartisan redistricting commission.
Jane Wallace	Arden, NC	<p>Please share that online written comments to the Joint Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting are finally possible. Unfortunately you'll have to Internet search "North Carolina Joint Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting" to learn why you should comment.</p> <p>I suggest asking your legislators to hold a joint GOP-Dem press conference to help us all</p> <p>"My trust in the NC GOP is nonexistent.</p> <p>Splitting Asheville into NC 10 and 11 was a political move to maintain GOP control. I want legislation enacting the North Carolina independent redistricting commission.</p> <p>The inability for the NC GOP to produce draft redistricting maps reflecting their response to judicial mandates as of today (2/14/16) shows a dangerous, anti-democratic lack of transparency. Citizens have no legitimate basis to form a response.</p> <p>It was only today that written comments sent directly to the 2016 Joint Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting was possible."</p> <p>http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/DocumentSites/browseDocSite.asp?nID=292</p>
Carol Rist	Durham, NC	When I first learned that I was now in the 1st Congressional District, I downloaded the map to see how my Congressman lived in Wilson. The first thought that came to my mind was "Gerrymander." I believe that I and my fellow North Carolinians have a right to congressional districts which are as compact as possible and follow municipal and county boundaries as much as possible while creating districts which have as equal representation as possible. While I believe that minority populations have a right to have districts where they have the possibility of having one of their own elected to public office, I believe that crowding as many minorities as possible in one district so as to minimize their influence overall, is unconstitutional.
Ashlyn Bauer	Dudley , NC	My district is beyond gerrymandered to just, come out and say it, cater to the black community, I have emailed my district leader BUNCHES of times about great concerns I had. That a lot of people had that just was scared or didn't know how to say. So I'm speaking on behalf of a lot of people in my town. My first time emailing my leader I got the basic automated response so I sent another and almost got an instant reply!! Whether it was him or his staff.... I was literally emailing back and forth. I stressed my concerns about the automated reply. What I got as my second reply was nasty!! It was beyond rude and I've shown it to EVERYONE in leadership positions in my county. They kept getting more rude as the messages went on.sadly

		<p>he's a major incumbent who's gotten too comfortable in his seat and keeps his district drawn to where it's mostly illegals who cannot vote, or the black community. I am not racist I am telling the truth. No one will run AgAinst this man because he's such a horrible person to talk to!</p> <p>I'm in George Butterfields district, but I'd rather keep him "out of trouble"</p>
Cheryl Stallings	Apex, NC	<p>I support redistricting reform for districts 1 and 12 and ALL of NC districts for federal, state, and local elections. Have the courage to map all districts so they are fair to both parties. I support having a third, neutral party map election districts throughout our state. Let's have the courage to live into being a true democracy with fair elections that make it easy and accessible for all North Carolinians to vote. Campaign finance reform is also sorely needed b/c elections continue to be sold to the highest bidders/donors/contributors. This is NOT democracy.</p>
Gail Stroud	Greensboro , NC	<p>Finally, a chance to end this madness of gerrymandering of the Democrats and the Republicans and appoint a non-partisan committee to make sensible districts. The "ballot-box mayhem " is evident on the ballot! The major disruption is that my vote has been diluted and that the gerrymandering has been self serving to an elite few.</p>
margaret mrstik	greensboro, NC	<p>I believe that the congressional districts should be drawn by an independent commission. All districts should be as compact and uniform as possible without political party considerations. Such districts would more adequately represent those populations. Please leave politics out of district consideration and go by population alone.</p>
Linda Jarrett	Pinehurst, NC	<p>TWIMC:</p> <p>In view of the findings of FIVE prior reviews all being positive, this single finding is at least suspect.</p> <p>It should be noted that one of the five reviews was by the US DOJ!</p> <p>In any case, to put such an unrealistic deadline - and, so close to the Primary date - is totally unfair to the voters of North Carolina.</p> <p>While the efforts of the GA to comply are laudable, i fervently believe their position is untenable.</p> <p>Sincerely, L. B. Jarrett</p>
gay dillard	greensboro, NC	<p>After 100 years of Democrats controlling NC, I find it ironic that "new" redistricting is a problem. People need to be honest about what their motivations are. I've yet to read a newspaper here in Greensboro (news and record)</p>
gay dillard	greensboro, NC	<p>Con't...that got all the facts straight. Let the legislature do their job.</p>
Stephanie Beaumont	Rutherfordton, NC	<p>North Carolina should implement an independent redistricting process that is fair and representative of the will of the electorate. No matter how strongly</p>

		GOP members of the legislature wish to rig the system to maintain control, we live in a democracy and all votes should count. An independent, unbiased process should be applied to federal, state, and local elections in all North Carolina races. Every minute wasted rigging the system is a burden to taxpayers and should be considered shameful to the controlling party of self-proclaimed "fiscal conservatives."
Suzannah Thomas	Durham, NC	I am not in favor of changing our voting districts period. Stop trying to manipulate the process please.
Henrietta Howell	Charlotte, NC	Redistricting in order to steal, or suppress votes should be considered illegal, and unconstitutional. Please take this opinion as representative of many who prefer to remain quiet, but are angry about the matter!
Sharon Came	Black Mountain, NC	This state should not be forced to redraw its congressional districts in the middle of an election cycle causing tremendous chaos. This action will cost our counties and state untold thousands. Let order reign in our state and the elections go forward as planned.
Pamela Ransohoff	Chapel Hill, NC	I believe this is very inappropriate so close to the actual voting date. It would leave no time to redistrict without chaos. Since this has been known for three years why this particular time to choose to ask for a redistricting? It appears to me that this could be "reverse gerrymandering."
Laura Macklem	Cary, NC	Please leave the districts as they are for this election. This issue can be revisited before the next election. This is going to cause so much confusion, feelings of being disenfranchised, and anger if the districts are redrawn while people already sent in their early ballots.
Robert Ward	Raleigh, NC	I oppose re districting!
William Rierson	Winston-Salem, NC	Redrawing congressional district lines would confuse the electorate and lower voter turnout in 2016. The people cannot trust representatives to adequately serve them if neither party trusts they are bound to each other.
Larry Schug	zebulon, NC	We do not need to change lines. Leave alone
cheryl hardman	Chapel Hill , NC	<p>Opposed to any change of the Federal Districts at this time. I believe that the work that has already been done, the ballots that have already been printed and the people signed up to run, need to stay as approved by the US Justice Department and the NC Supreme Court.</p> <p>This act to delay these elections would be a travesty of justice. Please know that the people have spoken by voting in the NC Legislature and NC Supreme Court.</p> <p>If this wants to be evaluated let it be done before the next election cycle, not now, and it is a huge waste of money for NC taxpayers as well.</p>
Patsy Bartlett	Swannanoa, NC	While I don't truly understand the reasoning for how and where the district lines are drawn. I know from experience it is not only unfair but very confusing for voters to be upended this close to a primary/election. If you feel the need to redraw the lines to do so now would disrupt the entire process.
Gail Hughes	Hurdle Mills, NC	Please leave our districts as they are, so our primary election is not

		compromised and our vote is counted! This is ridiculous! Voting has already begun!
Stephen Hughes	Hurdle Mills, NC	Please leave our districts as they are so our voting isn't compromised! Voting has already begun with absentee ballots! Enough of the politics! Let our votes count!
Alice wilson	Raleigh, NC	I support efforts to pass legislation establishing a non-partisan redistricting process so Congressional Districts like 1 & 12 doesn't happen in the future. Thank you for doing the right thing...we all have the right to vote. Alice Wilson
Richard Searce	Hillsborough , NC	Please keep our districts as they are! Now is not the time to play politics! The voting has begun and our votes should be counted!
Rosemary Stein	Burlington, NC	As a concerned citizen and advocate for families and children, I am outraged at the lack of regard for the Rule of Law. I demand to have the three Judges that were tasked with this ruling made accountable for making this decision at this inopportune time.
David Stein	Burlington, NC	As a former Army Officer and Physician, I am troubled by the decision made by three judges at an inappropriatae time. I request that these judges give an answer directly to the Constituents of the areas they serve. None of us is above the law.
Rod Chaney	Hillsborough, NC	Attorney General Eric Holder's Department of Justice precleared the plans, more than once, when counties were still subjected to the Voting Rights Act. Why are they now being questioned?
David Stein	Burlington, NC	None of us is above the Rule of Law. I request that the Judges that have ruled on this matter address the Constituents of the District that they serve directly to ascertain the reasons for such decisions and the timing of such.
Patricia Croisetiere	Littleton, NC	As a chief poll judge, I firmly believe that changing the district at this time will cause mass confusion in the precincts. Postponing the Primary would possibly result in electorate frustration and voters NOT exercising their right to vote. It would be extremely costly to the taxpayers of our county and throughout NC.
Jonathan Spoon	Sanford, NC	This is an easy task to do fairly. Use computer mapping algorithms to draw the maps purely based on population numbers and geographic efficiency. Stop trying to guess how many people will vote or how they will vote. Don't use anything but raw population numbers and an unbiased computer program. There should be another declaration period for candidates once the new district maps are in place.
Rebecca Veazey	Cary, NC	I support an independent commission performing the re-redistricting for the state. The current system eliminates any true competition and protects incumbents. It is not a reflection of democracy but rather a power grab. The people of NC deserve better. Failure to make this change is a failure in serving constituents.
Beth Evans	Jamestown, NC	To Whom it May Concern: It is my understanding that the current NC federal districts have been approved by the US Justice Dept. and we have held 2 election cycles using the current disputed districts. Our current election has already started with absentee voting. To redraw the districts now would throw the NC elections

		<p>on March 15, 2015 into confusion. It would be very expensive to reprint ballots and reorganize everything at this point. I feel strongly that the current districts should be allowed to stand as they are and the elections continue on March 15th without disruption. Sincerely, Beth Evans</p>
Rachel Kubie	Charlotte, NC	<p>North Carolina has 3 of the 10 most seriously rigged congressional maps in the United States. This does not only affect us in NC, of course, since it also affects our presidential elections and it determines who we send to congress, which affects the whole country, and honestly, our actions around the world. Our most basic right as citizens has been made a cynical game, with the consequence that the people of North Carolina are left without a political voice. We need fair maps now, maps that anyone can look at and identify as reasonable, compact, and representing equal numbers of citizens. We have a right to vote. These maps have Gerrymandered made headlines across the country. These maps have been an embarrassment to us. These maps show the backwards South, once again, rigging the system against real democracy with obvious and underhanded tricks. Now the courts have stated in no uncertain terms that North Carolina's maps must be drawn so that the people of North Carolina can choose their representatives, and not the other way around. The world is watching. Please show that the legislature of North Carolina believes in and respects our constitution enough to protect the most basic right that any of us have. Please draw fair and compact districts for us for the current election. We can't wait for our most fundamental rights.</p>
Patricia Kleinmaier	Pfafftown, NC	<p>I think this is very bad timing. The primary is less than 30 days away. Staff has been hired and money spent on training and absentee ballots. The candidates have spent money to promote the election date. If this plan was so bad why was it ok when the democrats were in charge. If it must be changed then do away with any special district. No county should be split into 2 or 3 representatives</p>
Mary Carter	Hillsborough , NC	<p>The cost alone should be reason alone to wait until the next election.</p>
David Wils	Greensboro, NC	<p>Gerrymandering, while legal, represents the worst of politics. To quote many people on this topic, voters should choose their representatives, not the other way around. But when considering the 1st District and the 12th District, where I live, the Federal panel was correct in striking down these racially influenced maps. Any notion that they are drawn this way in order to help African-Americans have representation is disingenuous, because African-American Democrats have consistently been winning there for some time. Instead, these maps were drawn specifically to consolidate the majority of the African-American and Democratic vote into two Congressional Districts, making surrounding districts far less competitive to the point that the Republicans in those districts merely have to survive a challenge from their right during a primary in order to stay in office. The Federal panel has correctly struck down these districts, finding that race was the determining factor in deciding the boundaries, and it is right that we do not delay in re-drawing them.</p> <p>Yes, it is supremely inconvenient timing that we are required to re-draw these now, with exactly one month before the primary, a candidate filing process already closed, and absentee ballots already coming in. But let's not forget that, following the irresponsible drawing of these districts, Republican leadership in Raleigh took the extra step of moving our primary</p>

			<p>to an historic early date, which is why we find ourselves in this situation now. Had our primary remained in May, candidate filing wouldn't even be closed yet. No, the inconvenience of the timing of this ruling pales in comparison to the injustice of electing representatives for a third straight election under these unconstitutional districts which decrease the power of the African-American vote and establish a lopsided representation in DC, with Democrats receiving only 23% of the representation, even though we make up nearly half of all voters in the state. This is not democracy. This is political opportunism run amok. Re-draw these districts now, and ensure a more fair representation, especially for our African-American brothers and sisters.</p> <p>An outside political operative drew these maps at Republican Headquarters in Raleigh. This is not openness and this is not transparency. These very hearings (ours was cancelled due to weather) don't promote openness as they were announced after 5pm on the 12th, a Friday, to be held at 10am on the 15th, a Monday. It is time to restore faith in our government, and we can do so by having an independent, or bi-partisan, commission redraw these maps using state computers at the General Assembly in order to make the process a matter of public record. Any consultant involved in the drawing of maps should be made available in Committee meetings so that the public can have a full understanding of his or her role and intent in creating the maps. Furthermore, Republican leadership should disclose today every cent of taxpayer money that has been spent on consultants to draw maps and outside attorneys to advice on updated plans.</p> <p>North Carolina deserves better, and under Republican leadership, and frankly Democratic leadership before that, the voice of the people has taken a back seat to the desires of those in power. Return the power back to the people and re-draw these maps in a timely, open and fair-handed way, allowing for equal representation, and allowing our citizens to be the ones who choose their representatives, not the other way around.</p>
Sue Googe	Cary, NC		<p>Redraw congressional district less than 30 days from primary will cause extreme confusions among voters, especially some of the absentee ballots already came in. This disruption from federal government will undermine our democracy, many voters will be confused and not able to vote on time or the right candidate they have been followed or rooted since announcement of the candidacy. redistrict in such short time span, the message likely not able to communicate to all voters being affected, it will defeat the purpose of redrawing for more fair representation.</p>
West Bryant	Charlotte, NC		<p>Stop wasting taxpayer money on this litigation and make at least a moderately fair-looking map. NC is a national disgrace thanks to shenanigans like this one. Understand that you are currently causing problems, not solving them by resisting reasonable redistricting. Pretend to be adults for a little bit and do your job. I am talking to the GOP members here, obviously.</p>
Brad Hessel	Raleigh, NC		<p>The US Circuit Court decision invalidating two NC Congressional Districts is a modest step in the right direction, but much, much more remains to be done. The design of the NC House and Senate district boundaries is so partisan-focused that in 54 of them—nearly one-third of the districts in</p>

North Carolina—only one of the three state-recognized parties could find candidates to run in 2016. It's hard to persuade folks to devote time and effort to studying public policy issues, fund-raising, and campaigning when everyone knows from the start that no matter how smart and talented and committed they may be, the chance they will be elected is effectively 0%. And so in November, the voters in those 54 districts will have no alternative to the one name on their ballots...other than to stay home, which many of them will undoubtedly do.

Districts drawn to maximize partisan advantage and benefit incumbents have a corrosive effect on democracy, because many voters are effectively disenfranchised and have little incentive to participate. And because in a district drawn so that only one candidate has a chance to win, there is little accountability and diminished opportunity for public policy debate.

People are right to be frustrated. In 2014, Democratic US House candidates won 44% of all the votes cast for US House races...and came away with only three out of thirteen seats (23%). The lines are drawn so that only one or two districts are reasonably competitive. In 11 or 12 of our 13 districts, if you don't belong to the dominant party, your vote effectively means nothing. In fact, even if you belong to the party whose candidate can't lose, there is little point in voting!

And that's not all. Unreasonably partisan boundaries engender lawsuits from those whose interests are hurt. Taxpayer dollars are burned up defending against these suits, and more money is potentially at risk if ballots have to be reprinted or elections delayed or even re-run. And our leaders waste time and energy they should be devoting to the people's interests scheming and bickering about what ought to be merely a straightforward math problem.

And it's not just the 2010 census. Elections in North Carolina were delayed in 1998 and then again in 2002 due to court rulings against the 1990 and 2000 cycle redistricting. Over the last 30 years, legislators of both parties have persistently demonstrated that they are not capable of performing redistricting in a way that serves the best interests of the citizens of North Carolina. This is why we need to do far more than tinker with two of the worst districts. We need to completely overhaul the dysfunctional redistricting process currently in use and replace it with something like the Iowa system.

There is a bill which has been introduced in the General Assembly—House Bill 92—modeled on the Iowa system. It would empower expert non-partisan legislative staff to develop maps for the North Carolina House and Senate, as well as U.S. House districts. They would aim for compact districts that respect existing governmental boundaries without taking into account any political or election data (including the addresses of incumbents). The NCGA would then have the option of approving the plan—with no changes allowed—or rejecting it, in which case the staff would create and submit another plan.

I urge the swift enactment of House Bill 92. Eliminating partisanship from the redistricting process would go a long way towards strengthening democracy in North Carolina, and ensuring that government is more

		accountable and responsive to the will of the people.
Marshall Bennett	Greensboro, NC	<p>Thank you for this opportunity to submit public comment. I believe it is beyond time we create an independent committee to oversee how maps are drawn in our State. People should choose their representatives, not the other way around. There is no question our districts are gerrymandered, congressionally, State Senate, State House, and even locally, all one has to do is look at a map and see the interesting serpents and dragons carved out of our beautiful State. You have even tried and succeeded in forcing local government redistricting in cities and counties where the resistance to such changes is astounding (ask Sen. Wade, she'll know what I'm talking about). In fact, I have very little faith that this committee will take these public comments into consideration after seeing how you treated the citizens of the City of Greensboro last year by attempt to force redistricting on us for our City Council. I hope you prove me wrong this time. Yes, the Democrats did it when they held control before the Republicans, but that doesn't make it the right thing to do. I am encouraged by the efforts of Senators and Representatives to create such an independent board, such as Democrat Senator Jeff Jackson and Republican Representative Jon Hardister.</p> <p>As the issue at hand stands, the maps will likely have to be redrawn by you, a body that is controlled by one party, and which drew our current maps. I hope you find within yourselves the courage to be fair, to allow elections to run their course instead of building defenses against the threat of losing power. In the 2014 US House elections in North Carolina, Democrats received about 44% of the total votes, yet they only won 3 out of our 13 Congressional districts. In this system of rigged elections, it is no longer a democratic Republic we live in, it is an oligarchy. We are the example when it comes to gerrymandered districts today. Let's be a beacon of hope in our country by being the example of a State with fairly drawn districts. I suggest you use the already existing county lines as much as possible. I like compact districts, not sprawling ones with arms reaching in to steal a community's voters. I don't like that currently, my city is split in two, between the 6th and 12th Congressional districts. My friend that lives down the street from me is in another district. I was born and raised in North Carolina in the 3rd Congressional district. I currently reside in the 6th Congressional district. This state will always be my home, and I am optimistic we can find a solution to this problem. I hope you choose the right path and lead us into a new era of fairness and cooperation, because North Carolina deserves better.</p>
kim hardman	Chapel Hill, NC	<p>I believe that the voting process is too far along to try to change anything at this point. I have already requested an absentee ballot and am concerned that my vote could be stolen.</p> <p>The judges had 5 years to try to do this and waited till the last minute when the election process had already started. If they want to take this up, they can revisit this at the Supreme Court after the 2016 elections.</p> <p>We need fair elections and we don't need to waste money that all tax payers pay the burden.</p> <p>This is foolish and hopefully the Supreme Court will see it the same way.</p>

	Sean McNeal	Asheville, NC	<p>It is time that the people choose their politicians instead of the other way around. Redistricting encourages manipulation of our elections by allowing incumbent politicians to help partisan allies, hurt political enemies and choose their voters before the voters choose them. The current process is used as a means to further political goals by drawing boundaries to protect incumbents and reduce competition, rather than to ensure equal voting power and fair representation. Enough with the finger pointing. BOTH parties have taken advantage of the system to the detriment of the citizens of North Carolina. It is time for our representatives to GROW UP and do the right thing instead of the politically expedient thing. You can say whatever you want to the media, to your constituents, to yourselves. But the choice to continue down the current path shows the world who, and what, you really are.</p> <p>If you truly believe in this country and the constitution then you will choose non-partisan redistricting. Plain & simple.</p>
	Walter Salinger	Greensboro, NC	<p>Had weather permitted, I would have delivered my comments to the committee in person at GTCC in Jamestown and here is what I intended to say:</p> <p>Thanks so much for holding this hearing and for allowing me to participate!</p> <p>I speak as a member of the League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad which is a nonpartisan political organization composed of women and men who are dedicated to making democracy work. After extensive study, we adopt policy positions and support them vigorously, regardless of the political climate and which political party may be in the majority at the time. But we are nonpartisan: We never support or oppose any political party or candidate.</p> <p>The League of Women Voters adopted its current policy on redistricting in 1966. We believe that redistricting should produce fair and equitable representation for everyone in all voting districts at every level of government. By this we mean that each person should have a vote and that each person's vote should be as powerful as any other person's vote in determining the outcome of elections for each public office. The League is certain that when we deviate from this ideal, we endanger the exceptionalism of America and its democracy.</p> <p>The League believes that gerrymandering, the drawing of voting district boundaries to insure the reelection of incumbents by making elections less competitive, systematically violates the ideal that the value of every person's vote should be equal to that of others. And so we consistently oppose gerrymandering.</p> <p>Here's how gerrymandering works to lower the power of some people's votes. When a pair of candidates goes into an election in a virtual tie because their race is competitive, the power of single voters in that election is very high. However, when the race is not competitive so that the winner</p>

		<p>will achieve a huge majority, the power and importance of an individual vote proves to be small. Gerrymandering intentionally makes elections less competitive, thereby stealing the power of some people's vote.</p> <p>Thus, in North Carolina's last congressional elections in 2014, due to gerrymandering, no North Carolinian's vote was very powerful but some votes were much less powerful than others, by design. As a result of gerrymandering, no congressional candidate won by less than 14.5% of the vote, seven won by ~30% or more and one even won with more than 92% of the vote. With majorities so large in every race, no election for North Carolina Representative in the US Congress was competitive in 2014 and hence individual votes were not very powerful. But gerrymandering weakened the power of some votes much more than others: votes cast in District 9 had by far the least power because the winner, running unopposed, received 92.5% of the votes and so no single vote for either candidate had much power.</p> <p>And it will be even worse in 2016's elections for seats in the North Carolina General Assembly. In those elections, 40 % of the representatives will have no opponents because gerrymandering made it impossible for opposing candidates to be competitive. In those districts, the votes of North Carolina citizens will have zero power unless an amazing write-in candidate bursts on the scene. The same is true for 13 of the election contests for seats in the North Carolina Senate.</p> <p>What happened to our foundational American ideal that any person's vote should be as powerful as any other person's vote?</p> <p>If you believe as we do that it is our fundamental obligation to make America's democracy work by assuring that all voters have equally powerful votes, then you share with us the conviction that we must put an end to gerrymandering. Take this occasion to adopt an ungerrymandered voting district map and while you're at it, to adopt a bill like HB 92 which our Representative Jon Hardister has co-sponsored, a bill that would create a truly nonpartisan redistricting process.</p> <p>We thank Representative Hardister for his strong, consistent advocacy for nonpartisan redistricting reform over the opposition of the powerful leadership in the General Assembly. The reforms he supports are virtually identical to the ideal reforms envisioned by the League. To his legislative colleagues I say: Please do your duty to America's democracy and to North Carolina's citizens: vote to end gerrymandering in North Carolina.</p>
Linda Dahl	Green Mountain, NC	<p>As a voter who has always voted in the State I've lived in. Because of that fact it's incomprehensible to think that any Judge or judges should be able to over rule the will of the voters.</p> <p>North Carolina should not be forced to redraw its congressional districts in the middle of an election cycle, where people have already begun voting. - Delaying the congressional primaries for a court ordered redraw of the maps will cause massive voter confusion and disenfranchise thousands of voters who may not vote in a likely mid summer, stand alone congressional</p>

		<p>primary. (1998 Primary Elections: May 5th Primary for US Senate: 799,371 ballots cast and September 15th Primaries for US House: 161,596 ballots cast)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Republicans are largely satisfied with their current representation and the constituent services we have. <p>I am a member of the North Carolina Republican Party and opposes the redrawing of the congressional maps. However, should the Courts require the maps be redrawn, the North Carolina Republican Party believes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The current 10-3 partisan split is a fair result of Republican election victories, which allows legislators to take partisan voting behavior into account when drawing districts. - A new congressional map should keep precincts and counties whole as much as possible. - Due to the declining influence of North Carolina's rural communities, it is imperative that our state's smallest counties not be split. - Finally, as Chief Justice Roberts said in the opinion for <i>Parents Involved in Community Schools v. Seattle School District No. 1</i>, "the way to stop discrimination on the basis of race is to stop discriminating on the basis of race." Any new districts should be drawn in a completely "color blind" fashion, with no regard to race or demographic regions.
Gail Stroud	Greensboro , NC	<p>Finally, a chance to end this madness of gerrymandering of the Democrats and the Republicans and appoint a non-partisan committee to make sensible districts. The "ballot-box mayhem " is evident on the ballot!</p> <p>The major disruption is that my vote has been diluted and that the gerrymandering has been self serving to an elite few.</p>
Julia Wright	High Point, NC	<p>These districts have already had all there materials prepared and have been signed off on by those in authority. There is not time to do diligence to redraw the lines. My concern is that the short amount of time would make it extremely difficult to do it justice.</p>
Julia Wright	High Point, NC	<p>These districts have already had all there materials prepared and have been signed off on by those in authority. There is not time to do diligence to redraw the lines. My concern is that the short amount of time would make it extremely difficult to do it justice. It could cause some legitimate votes to be discounted. sincerely, Julia A. Wright</p>
Sharon Pearce	Raleigh, NC	<p>In this ruling the federal judicial system is striking at the very root of our identity as a nation - our election process. I am in NO AGREEMENT with this attempt to use federal courts to disrupt North Carolina's Voice in the election process.</p> <p>The credibility of the whole federal judicial system is undermined. This is a terrible legacy for the 4th circuit.</p> <p>To the General Assembly and the people of North Carolina, I am so sorry for the confusion, waste of resources, and disruption this has produced.</p>

		<p>Not long ago I was in the Campbell University Law School. This is written on the wall: "He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8.</p> <p>May we all revisit this Eternal Wisdom - especially in the courts of America.</p>
Carol Ellis	Wendell, NC	<p>This issue is, once again, another attempt to push something through at a last minute timeframe which makes for poor management and oversight for things that really need more scrutiny or consideration. The expense alone for our state at this late date should be reason for a stay so that we can implement a clean plan for redistricting NC. Confusion cannot be the atmosphere of our elections at this crucial time for NC and our nation. We cannot be pushed into quick movements to satisfy unnamed agendas. Keep our process in place and then come to the table for intentional and deliberate considerations of things that concern the voting process of our state.</p>
Donica Hudson	Matthews, NC	<p>Dear Legislators: I urge you strongly NOT to go forward with redistricting at this moment as this will cost our state millions of dollars to redo ballots & rescind absentee ballots that have already been mailed, not to mention untold hours of unnecessary work for governmental leaders & local officials. This could also cause major headaches & lawsuits against the state if citizens who are redistricted decide to run in their new districts. Moreover, as a lifetime citizen of this state, I question why this court case which has been filed with the court since 2013 would suddenly be pushed through at election time in 2016! This breeds distrust towards our government & judiciary system. Are you trying to derail an election? This defies common sense. Do the right thing for the citizens of North Carolina and redistrict after the elections.</p>
Greg Mills	Apex, NC	<p>I am a lifelong resident of North Carolina. I am urging the senate and house to put aside the differences between the leadership and vote on to allow an independent commission of citizens to draw legislative districts. I support the Iowa model proposed by the group, End Gerrymandering Now.</p> <p>Section 2 of the North Carolina Constitution states that, "All political power is vested in and derived from the people; all government of right originates from the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole."</p> <p>Neither current nor past districting plans have lived up to this provision of the State Constitution. Districts must be fairly drawn, so that people elect their representatives, rather than allowing the politicians to elect their voters.</p>
Marilyn Biddix	Candler, NC	<p>We are strictly opposed to the federal government's tampering with the elections and changing our districts!!! Thank you and please listen to the will of the people in this matter to let our states handle our own government. respectfully, Marilyn</p>
Randy Biddix	Candler, NC	<p>I am NOT in favor of redistricting our state!!! This appears to be a ploy prior to the election process and should be a conversation for the individual states after the election. Thank you considering my comments....Randy</p>

Deana Gasperson	Arden, NC	I feel the call for redistricting before the March elections should be stayed until after the elections. Ballots have been printed, absentee ballots have been sent out. The expense to do this now is not responsible use of our states resources. Thank you for your service for our state!
Vickie Partlow	Greensboro, NC	Members of the Joint Select Committee, I am deeply concerned over the current situation regarding the last minute redistricting mandate handed down by the court. I have already received my 2016 Primary Election Voter Guide from the N.C.State Board of Elections outlining Key Election Dates as well as important information regarding the NC Voter ID. Now it appears the districts may need to be re-drawn just weeks before the Primary Elections are to be held. As a taxpayer and voter, I can imagine the huge expense involved with calling the NC Legislature back for emergency session to address this issue, the expenses and confusion involved with changing districts, as well as the impact on every detail of the election process that IS ALREADY in place all across North Carolina. North Carolina has already held elections with the current districts in place, so why the urgency of NOW? I would suggest that the 2016 elections could go forward as scheduled to avoid the confusion and expense involved with redistricting at this late date. Issues of concern could then be addressed without adverse impact of voting this year. Thank you for the opportunity to express my views. Vickie Partlow
Chris Kaman	Pittsboro, NC	Any redrawing of congressional districts should be done with the following criteria: - districts should be compact, not spread across large sections of the state, - communities of interest should be kept in one district; the cities and counties should not be split among different districts, - districts should not be formed to benefit one political party or another, - districts should not be formed based on previous election results. Please draw the new districts with these criteria in mind. Thank you!
Karen Brooks	Candler, NC	I pray for wisdom and divine guidance through this process. North Carolina is important regionally and nationally. I do believe it will be in the best interest of all North Carolina citizens to only have one primary voting period as opposed to possibly having to split congressional vs presidential. Thank you for your willingness to serve this great state and it's people.
Rosemarie Wenzel	Chapel Hill, NC	This is an inappropriate ruling by the Justice Department. They have had at least 3 years to rule on this redistricting law. The Court did not take into consideration the cost and pain to the citizens of the state of NC that their ruling would create. This is reverse gerrymandering!
Brian Eldredge	Raleigh, NC	It is well past the time for "game playing" with our votes. Put political party agendas aside and do what's right. Your responsibility is to the public.
Jackie Wieland	Greensboro , NC	Not withstanding the illegitimacy of attempting to change the districts in an election year - let's put politics aside. The potential cost to taxpayers is

		unnecessary and borders on unethical. More importantly, this kind of radical change will create confusion to voters. On a sidebar - this is a very important election for both democrats and republicans. These changes will negatively affect voter turnout.
David Wickersham	Arapahoe, NC	FIRST, LET ME SAY THAT THE PLAINTIFFS CONTINUING EFFORTS TO OVERTURN THE ACTIONS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA IS AN ABJECT DEMONSTRATION OF A SMALL MINORITY'S REFUSAL TO ACCEPT THE RULE OF LAW. THIS IS A CLEAR STATEMENT FROM THEM OF THEIR CONTEMPT FOR THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE AND THEIR DESPERATE, AND LARGELY UNSUCCESSFUL, ATTEMPTS TO USE THE COURTS TO SUBVERT OR SUBORDINATE THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE. THIS LATEST EXAMPLE OF THEIR ARROGANCE EXPOSES THE PLAINTIFFS TRUE AGENDA WHICH CANNOT IN GOOD CONSCIENCE, BE CONSTRUED AS ANYTHING BUT AN BLATANT EXAMPLE OF VOTER DISENFRANCHISEMENT. UNDER THE CURRENT LAW, ALL VOTERS WHO ARE QUALIFIED WILL BE ABLE TO EXERCISE THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT UNDER OUR EXISTING LAW AND CONGRESSIONAL BOUNDARIES AND VOTE. THE FEDERAL COURT'S DECISION WILL THROW THE VOTERS INTO TURMOIL AND CHAOS AND COST THE TAXPAYERS MILLIONS OF DOLLARS. THIS DISENFRANCHISEMENT WILL AFFECT THOUSANDS OF VOTERS ACROSS THE STATE AND MUST BE OVERTURNED OR THE LEGISLATURE MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE EMERGENCE ACTIONS TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF ALL NORTH CAROLINA VOTERS.
Glen Engram	Hendersonville, NC	<p>With a statewide election right around the corner, and primary races from the top to the bottom of the ballot, there already is plenty of anxiety baked into the current election season.</p> <p>To take an apportionment question that was settled back in 2011, that served us through the last 2 general election cycles, but now needs attention in our courts has the smell of mischief.</p> <p>Of course, NO ONE should be disenfranchised. So who's vote hasn't been counted? Whose ability to vote has been met with greater hardship & difficulty? What is the right outcome from a partisan point of view? Even if you can't produce a photo ID (and who can't?) you're able to express your sentiments in the voting booth. So why THIS issue, and why this issue NOW?</p> <p>Our election system continues to be under siege by those who seek to overlay outcome-based results on We The People. Voters are increasingly wary of both politicians and political processes, and this is just one more example of why that's the case.</p> <p>Hopefully Justice Roberts will stay this matter, and allow voters in North Carolina to cast their votes by March 15th. And that afterwards we'll get to the bottom of who is attempting to bring further disruption to election processes in North Carolina.</p>
JUDITH WICKERSHAM	Arapahoe, NC	THE DEMOCRATS ARE ACTING LIKE PETULANT, SPOILED CHILDREN BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT GETTING THEIR OWN WAY AND WE, THE TAX PAYERS, ARE FOOTING THE BILL. THOSE JUDGES SHOULD BE IMPEACHED!

	G.K. Butterfield	Wilson, NC	<p>Statement by Congressman G. K. Butterfield United States House of Representatives – First District of North Carolina Joint Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting February 15, 2016</p> <p>I am Congressman G. K. Butterfield. For the past 11 years, I have been a Democratic representative for the First Congressional District which is the district that the federal district court unanimously determined is unconstitutional because it was drawn using race as the predominate factor.</p> <p>It is disappointing that you have elected to proceed with this hearing this morning despite warnings from law enforcement that motorists refrain from travelling the streets and highways because of snow and ice. There are numerous reported accidents in Raleigh and I simply cannot attend.</p> <p>It is also disappointing that you have convened this public hearing today before releasing draft maps for the public to see. This is not a good way to start this process. The Court announced its decision on February 5th, ten days ago, and you could have prepared some proposed maps for the public to see. You have 'state of the art' technology; maps can be prepared on demand. Without having draft maps, there is really nothing for the public to respond to or have input. I ask that you engage in this process in good faith.</p> <p>In drawing Rucho-Lewis Congress 3 in 2011, not only did you decide to use race as the predominant factor in drawing Districts 1 & 12, but you knowingly and incorrectly interpreted the law by insisting that each of these district contain African American populations exceeding 50%.</p> <p>It is my opinion that you were fully aware that you were incorrectly applying the law. In a disingenuous way, you used a flawed interpretation of the Voting Rights Act for your own partisan political advantage. As a result of your overreach in drawing these maps, you have devised a system that guarantees the election of 10 Republican Congressmen out of 13.</p> <p>North Carolina's voter registration (between Democrats and Republicans) is 4.6 million voters. Democrats are two million of the 4.6 million voters or 43%, yet Democrats only get the opportunity to elect a Democratic Congressman in three districts (23%) out of thirteen districts. A fair plan should result in Democrats having the ability to elect at least five or six of the thirteen Congressmen.</p> <p>Your strategy worked. It worked in Virginia and Alabama and elsewhere. The United States Supreme Court has made it clear in identical cases that race CANNOT be the predominate factor in drawing districts. Legislatures are required to protect minority communities from racially polarized voting practices by not submerging them into districts where they have no opportunity to elect a representative of their choice.</p> <p>In some districts it may require 47% to protect the African American community from voter discrimination. In other districts, it may require less than 47% because of "coalition politics" where white voters are likely to form coalitions with the African American community.</p>
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Robin Buchanan	Spruce Pine, NC		Just divide based on total population, trying to stick to full county lines as much as possible. There are numerous examples of this that I have seen.
Jeffrey Phillips	Huntersville, NC		<p>I live in the little sliver of the 12th district which cuts through Cabarrus County. I tell everyone I live in the most gerrymandered congressional district in America, and so far I have not found anyone who has challenged me that their district deserves that title more than mine does.</p> <p>I hope you will add our section of Cabarrus County to either to district 9 or district 8. Most of my neighbors work in Charlotte and feel a strong connection to that city and the region. We don't have much connection to Winston-Salem/Greensboro region. That is why putting us in the 9th would make sense. Alternatively, the rest of Cabarrus County is part of the 8th, so it would also make sense to add us to the 8th. With either option I feel we would have a better opportunity for true representation in Congress. Right now we are basically ignored because we only serve as the geographic connection between the two major population centers of the current 12th district.</p>
Ted Frazer	Durham, NC		<p>I am a Durham independent voter.</p> <p>I am asking for redistricting reform legislation ASAP.</p> <p>As an independent voter I am completely locked out of the political process in NC.</p> <p>Both parties have lost my trust by the abuse of power. We need Republicans and Democrats sitting down and respectively wrestling with the</p>

		<p>many issues that face North Carolinians. This is possible if districts are drawn by an independent body, without direct influence of political parties or being drawn along party lines. We need an independent commission like 20 other states have already created. Please pass redistricting reform this session. Respectively, Ted Frazer</p>
Tina Forsberg	Greensboro, NC	<p>As a grandmother who was very concerned about the debt and civil-ethic we were leaving to the next generations, I became active in politics less than 10 years ago to create change. I was never active in politics before that, but I have become a committed volunteer worker in this arena ever since. And I was not alone, which is why we have been able to win the last elections of 2014, 2012, 2010. We have sent to Raleigh, a legislature more dedicated to the national and state constitutions to address the totality of its duties, including congressional districting.</p> <p>In addition to rolling back profligate spending, the legislature has used legal rules and means to do their duty of drawing new districts. Not surprisingly, and in keeping with the trend of all other elections since 2010, the districts show a partisan shift away from the Democrats and toward the Republican party. These districts were PRE-CLEARED through the Obama Justice Department and were found to be in compliance with the Voting Rights Act to which our state is bound — due to elections shenanigans under 100 years of Democrat rule!</p> <p>This re-districting has all been done legally, but since the Democrats - out of power for three election cycles now - crave power more than they respect the will of the people exercised at the ballot box. They are seeking to undo the results of these repeated elections through the style liberal-dominated courts system. Think of that - three elections undone with the stroke of a judge's pen. It's offensive to the republic and to the sense of fair play inherent in the democratic process. And it must not be allowed to happen.</p> <p>The good residents of the Districts may, indeed, be unhappy with their representation - I know I would be! But their remedy is to exercise their ideas and to convince their fellow citizens they are right - just like we had to do for 100 years. The courts are unreliable as to political ideology and are the wrong arbiter of the free and fair elections of the state of North Carolina in 2016.</p>
Tina Forsberg	Greensboro, NC	<p>As a grandmother who was very concerned about the debt and civil-ethic we were leaving to the next generations, I became active in politics less than 10 years ago to create change. I was never active in politics before that, but I have become a committed volunteer worker in this arena ever since. And I was not alone, which is why we have been able to win the last elections of 2014, 2012, 2010. We have sent to Raleigh, a legislature more dedicated to the national and state constitutions to address the totality of its duties, including congressional districting.</p> <p>In addition to rolling back profligate spending, the legislature has used legal</p>

		<p>rules and means to do their duty of drawing new districts. Not surprisingly, and in keeping with the trend of all other elections since 2010, the districts show a partisan shift away from the Democrats and toward the Republican party. These districts were PRE-CLEARED through the Obama Justice Department and were found to be in compliance with the Voting Rights Act to which our state is bound — due to elections shenanigans under 100 years of Democrat rule!</p> <p>This re-districting has all been done legally, but since the Democrats - out of power for three election cycles now - crave power more than they respect the will of the people exercised at the ballot box. They are seeking to undo the results of these repeated elections through the style liberal-dominated courts system. Think of that - three elections undone with the stroke of a judge's pen. It's offensive to the republic and to the sense of fair play inherent in the democratic process. And it must not be allowed to happen.</p> <p>The good residents of the Districts may, indeed, be unhappy with their representation - I know I would be! But their remedy is to exercise their ideas and to convince their fellow citizens they are right - just like we had to do for 100 years. The courts are unreliable as to political ideology and are the wrong arbiter of the free and fair elections of the state of North Carolina in 2016.</p>
Joyce Ventimiglia	Durham , NC	Please, see to it that redistricting is done in a fair and equitable manner; preferably by an independent entity.
Richard Shaw	Hot springs, NC	No to redistricting! If necessary to redistricting it must be after the primary! You
Sarah Leone	Kernersville, NC	<p>I am not in favor of redrawing the congressional districts. We are currently in the middle of an election cycle where people have already begun voting. To do this now is not fair to the voters. This will only cause massive voter confusion and disenfranchise thousands of voters who may not vote at a later stand a lone congressional primary. I believe all districts are fair and legal. The NC Supreme Court has upheld the current map many times and did so again recently. Please do not make voting harder than it has to be. Many people do not vote as it is and launching a massive redrawing of districts is only a strike against the voter.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Mrs. Sarah M Leone Kernersville, North Carolina</p>
Daniel Forsberg	Greensboro, NC	As a small business person who creates jobs in this state and in others, I am appalled to learn of the Democrat dirty tricks to undo the elections of the last three cycles. The changes made by the duly-elected legislature enable us to continue growing (and paying taxes). It should be obvious that the people of NC - having repeated themselves three times now - agree with the direction this state is going, but the Democrats cannot stand being out of power, so they are seeking the overthrow of THREE elections in the courts. It's shameful. As I understand it, these redistricting changes, before they were rolled out, were even pre-cleared by Obama's own Department of Justice!

		<p>But, given the courts are stacked with liberals, they may see victory, upsetting the will of the people and throwing our entire 2016 elections into chaos. If the Supreme Court fails to stay the lower court decision or, in its current state, rules in their favor, it is imperative that new districts be re-drawn to reflect the obvious will of the people of NC. All counties and precincts - especially the rural ones - needs to kept together instead of split to give the Democrats greater, artificial power. Let them earn that power back in the marketplace of ideas just like the Republicans had to do! They had 100 years to exercise their power, the Republicans, having won all these elections, deserve more than six!</p> <p>Additionally, any new districts need to be drawn without reference or preference to racial identity. It's 2016, for heaven's sake, and it's time for NC to stop living in the past.</p>
Michael Thurlow	Asheboro, NC	<p>A federal court panel ruled two of our congressional districts to be unconstitutional. I disagree, and, furthermore, believe these districts are fair and legal. The panel's ruling has put our states current congressional primary elections in a state of great uncertainty.</p> <p>Despite the fact that voting has already begun and thousands of people have already requested and received absentee ballots, the lower court has upended the current congressional election and ordered the legislature to redraw the districts by the end of next week. I believe this is an outrageous demand, not consistent with Federal and State constitutions. I hope for a stay to be granted by the United States Supreme Court. Meanwhile, our Republican legislators are making efforts to comply with the law pending the Supreme Court's review. Sadly, those whose candidates and ideas cannot prevail at the ballot box are destroying our liberties through the courts.</p>
Catherine Thurlow	Asheboro, NC	<p>A federal court panel ruled two of our congressional districts to be unconstitutional. I disagree, and, furthermore, believe these districts are fair and legal. The panel's ruling has put our states current congressional primary elections in a state of great uncertainty.</p> <p>Despite the fact that voting has already begun and thousands of people have already requested and received absentee ballots, the lower court has upended the current congressional election and ordered the legislature to redraw the districts by the end of next week. I believe this is an outrageous demand, not consistent with Federal and State constitutions. I hope for a stay to be granted by the United States Supreme Court. Meanwhile, our Republican legislators are making efforts to comply with the law pending the Supreme Court's review. Sadly, those whose candidates and ideas cannot prevail at the ballot box are destroying our liberties through the courts.</p>
Donald Taylor	Durham, NC	<p>The heart of redistricting is the same today as when the Dems ran the state. The winners pick districts to help them remain winners. The BIG difference is the Dem party had ideological diversity when they ran the state. The Dem hold seemed impossible to break but it broke. Your hold will also someday break. Use this ruling to not only come up with a short term solution to hold and election this year (which you must do of course), but to find a route to a 2020 plan that is a bit more bipartisan and reasonable. You guys wont' hold the reins as long as the Dems did, BECAUSE they had far more ideological diversity than you do, and so better represented the state.You need to come up with a way that charts a new approach, and in doing so</p>

		<p>you will deserve credit for doing something high minded and for the best interests of the state. You will also make it better for your party when do you go back to the minority, which of course will inevitably happen some day.</p> <p>I am unsure of the best way to draw lines. There are models. I do know that my mother in Goldsboro being in the 1st, and someone who lives less than a mile from me also being in the 1st (I am barely in the 4th) makes no sense.</p> <p>Respectfully, but clearly submitted because I know you are all busy. Don Taylor Durham, NC</p>
Harold Garrison	Winston-Salem, NC	<p>I hope that the Committee will take this as an opportunity to eliminate partisan redistricting in favor of one of the proposed methods that rely on census data and automated map generation tools. Regardless of which party is in power, any perception that redistricting is accomplished only for the benefit of that part feeds the increasingly common view that government is corrupt.</p>
Dana Thalheimer	Cary, NC	<p>Folks, I think in redistricting we should strive for geographic compactness as the primary criteria. Please see this article and associated links for a good explanation. You will also find a map of NC showing geographically compact NC districts.</p> <p>https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2014/06/03/this-computer-programmer-solved-gerrymandering-in-his-spare-time/</p> <p>You should strive for: Across all districts and all people, the best district map is the one where people have the lowest average distance to the center of their district.</p> <p>thanks and regards,</p> <p>Dana Thalheimer</p>
Alma Thomas	Garner, NC	<p>Clearly district lines as drawn are gerrymandered. North Carolina has become a national joke except that is not funny. Passing laws that are racist, damaging to the environment, disenfranchising, stating the ocean will not rise... How do y'all sleep at night? You should be ashamed. I am Caucasian and a registered Republican. And I can't wait to vote everyone of you out of office.</p>
Sam Shumate	Fayetteville , NC	<p>I have been following this issue for the past few months and do not find it to be a major issue. The liberal democrats in North Carolina gerrymandered several districts in the 90's and early 2000's. There was little outcry about it and the only reason it's gaining traction now is because Republicans are in power. I fully support the moves made on behalf of the NCGA. God Bless, Sam.</p>
Rodney Wiggins	Mt. Olive, NC	<p>Do not make cha2</p>

	Louise Romanow	Cary, NC	<p>North Carolina is in the timely position right now to establish an independent redistricting commission. I have watched both Democrat and Republican controlled legislatures protect themselves by gerrymandering districts. It's time to look out for the interests of all North Carolinians, regardless of who is in power, by instituting an independent, nonpartisan redistricting commission. Six states -- Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, and Washington -- have all draw both state and federal districts using an independent commission. Let us join them in improving representational government in North Carolina.</p>
	Barbara Murray	Sophia, NC	<p>Dear Sirs,</p> <p>I was scheduled to speak today but I am assuming this meeting was cancelled due to the ice storm we are currently having. Notice of this meeting was given on Saturday, Feb. 13 for a meeting to be held on Feb. 15 at 10 am – a weekday morning, hardly a convenient time for most people. No provision was made for rescheduling this meeting in case of cancellation due to weather. A reasonable conclusion is that you don't want to have to defend your districting decisions. Either you're ashamed of your actions (you should be) or you are arrogant enough to regard political power as a personal possession to be shared only with friends and other useful legal entities. This kind of thuggish behavior is repulsive and dysfunctional. North Carolina's state government is currently investing a lot of effort to attract business to our state. Stunts like this sabotage the effort. Many southern states (North Carolina included) suffer from the perception that they are backward, pandering to racial and religious hatred. Many companies, both foreign and domestic would prefer to not invest in such a place. So – do the right thing. Let the voters chose their politicians, not politicians their voters. If your policies are good, you will be re-elected. If not, you deserve to lose. This concept is a very conservative one – in fact it is the bedrock of our political system. Both intelligent self-interest and common decency should motivate you to correct your districting errors.</p> <p>Sincerely Barbara Murray</p>
	Dennis Burns	Raleigh, NC	<p>Common Cause has been fighting to fix the broken redistricting system in NC for over 20 years</p> <p>This will be the 3rd or 4th election that has been disrupted by legal wrangling over the antiquated and unfair method that designs our districts. And in the recent years of pushing for a professional non-partisan system like Iowa and AR already have, the General Assembly has almost adopted a better method several times...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2011, led by Speaker Tillis, an impartial reform bill passed the House but was never was taken up by the Senate • Last year, we had 61 bipartisan sponsors in the House for HB 92 but it was never heard in Committee. • And HB 92 is supported by a dozen organizations besides us from the AARP to the Sierra Club to the John Locke Foundation • Now is the time to fix the redistricting problem before another election is interrupted <p>We live in a growing state with a great future but we cling to a 1880's method of redistricting by our own politicians. Because of this old system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we have 13 Congressional seats with virtually no competition and

		<p>therefore, no need for our elected officials to listen whether they are Democrats or Republicans.</p> <p>So please make fairer, more compact districts to address the court directives for now</p> <p>But let's adopt a fair 21st century non-partisan system this coming session before we are back in this same position in another few years.</p> <p>Fix Gerrymandering now!</p> <p>Thank you for your attention</p>
Mary Weber	Asheville, NC	<p>I am writing to express my concern about the redistricting process. While I know we are in a tight timeline for redrawing the maps, I hope that you will pass a bill soon which establishes a non-partisan redistricting agency, similar to what has been successfully done in Iowa. I am an Asheville resident who got shifted to District 10 which now extends to Gastonia, which has little in common with the mountain region. I object to Asheville being split in half and having a representative who has little interest in Asheville. I know both parties have practiced gerrymandering which is why it is time to end the practice of the party in power drawing the boundaries.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
James McKenzie	Bahama, NC	<p>I agree that Districts 1 and 12 are a mess in terms of their current drawn lines. However, with the primaries only 29 days from now it is ridiculous to try to redraw them at this time. The cost and total confusion that would ensure are beyond the pale. The court should allow them to stay as they currently are drawn and then after the primaries redraw them before July 31st. The court will remember that it was the democrats that created District 12 in its current configuration in order to ensure a black representative would be the outcome.</p>
Stephen Trubilla	Youngsville, NC	<p>I oppose redrawing the Districts because I feel well funds opportunist seek advantage for their political and racist agenda. I have spent many years trying to meet my civic duty. Over 30 of those years were in the Marine Corps. Elections are held, there is a contest, the people speak. Then their votes are subverted by people advancing their agenda with the manipulation of the process via courts. To me this is yet another face of voter fraud. A lesson learned it no bully will ever be satisfied by submitting to them. They will just suppress and bully more. Respectfully, Steve Trubilla</p>
Nancy Bradley	Raleigh, NC	<p>I believe it is time to stop gerrymandering voting districts for desired outcomes. I believe it is time to draw up districts based solely on equal population distribution (say an equal number of persons in each district regardless of race, political leanings for Democrats or Republicans, etc.) or based on county boundaries. Then let the true campaigning begin and let voters decide who they truly want to represent them. It is time for true representation of the people.</p>
Sandee Smith	Norwood, NC	<p>To be fair to both parties, all district lines should be drawn by population not political parties. Balancing the lines so that each district is evenly balanced, giving each district a fair chance.</p>
Ann McKenzie	Bahama, NC	<p>I agree that Districts 1 and 12 are a mess in terms of their current drawn lines. However, with the primaries only 29 days from now it is ridiculous to try to redraw them at this time. The cost and total confusion that would ensure are beyond the pale. The court should allow them to stay as they</p>

		currently are drawn and then after the primaries redraw them before July 31st. I find it ironic that the democrats would file a motion to redraw the lines when it was the democrats that drew up the District in its current configuration in order to ensure a black representative would be elected.
Walt Dietrich	Fayetteville, NC	This state needs a non-partisan committee to draw election districts. This continuation of the far left and the far right pushing to be elected is bad for this state and this country. Any problem is not solved without a compromise of ideas which will be supported by both sides. Otherwise, it festers like a sore into a irreversible infection. Please consider a bill to establish an independent non-partisan committee to establish redistricting for all future elections. This is the right thing to do!
Kent Ridge	Thomasville, NC	<p>Committee Members,</p> <p>Thank you for allowing the public to have input on the redistricting process. With the public forum being canceled due to weather in Guilford County, I shall keep this email short, as I can appreciate brevity in text as much as the next person.</p> <p>As a resident of the 12th congressional district for the majority of my voting life, I have seen first hand how gerrymandering can affect equal representation amongst the voting public. I have lived as far north as Davidson County and as far south as Mecklenburg County, all remaining in the 12th district. The needs of each place are different and require a representative whom can maintain objectivity without having to compete against other geographic territory which falls into the same district.</p> <p>Under the current procedures for drawing congressional district lines, the party in the majority has an advantage when new districts are to be added, or when existing districts are to be reformed. While this in no way means that any nefarious action has ever taken place, it does open the door to the possibility of impropriety and improper influence to the redistricting officials. Looking at the 1st and 12th districts, an argument can be made that in 2000, such influence more likely than not was present, and as a result we have two districts that in no way represent the community as a whole upon which they purport to represent.</p> <p>Without going into the equal protection arguments, I'll skip to my recommendation. I feel as though our State would be better served by an independent commission more akin to that of Arizona when it comes to mapping out congressional districts. This independent group of people would have the opportunity to remain neutral and detached and draw much more fair districts given simple census data. The details of such a process I'll leave to the legislature, but I would recommend that any independent commission for congressional redistricting be given only the most basic of census data; data such as eligible voting population, and not data such as individual party registrations within a geographic area.</p> <p>I understand that it is very unlikely, if not impossible, for a political entity to abdicate a power such as this; but I simply ask that a honest, good faith consideration be put forth on the feasibility of such a change in the redistricting procedures.</p> <p>I am open to any comments or questions that may further such a dialogue</p>

		<p>and I look forward to more equitable districts in the future.</p> <p>With Respect, Kent C. Ridge</p>
Gerry Cohen	Raleigh, NC	<p>If the stay is not granted, there are some difficult choices in making a new election schedule work. There are a number of different problems and solutions, which I discuss based on having been through planning for six or seven different delayed primaries.</p> <p>1) Make the rescheduled congressional primary based on plurality, no runoff (this was done in 2002 and may have been done in 1998 or other times.</p> <p>2) Put the rescheduled congressional primary at the same time as the second primary. This was done in 1984 for state house and state Senate primaries in 7 or 8 counties. The election administration system is far different now, and there may be practical difficulties in putting them together, though delaying the second primary until early June could allow enough time. See #3 below.</p> <p>3) Currently voter registration is not processed between February 19 and a second primary, which would cause difficulties whether the rescheduled congressional primaries are on that second primary date or later. This registration moratorium dates back to the first primary act in 1915 when registration books were only open for two 30 day period a year, and when registration became year-round sometime between 1940 and 1960, the actual reason for this moratorium vanished. (though there might be a reason to not allow party affiliation changes to be processed during this period)</p> <p>4) The statutory mandate for the amount of early voting in a congressional separate primary might need to be re-examined. While having early voting at the county board office or an alternate site nearby during the 10-day period might have minimal cost, pegging additional sites based on the number of registered voters eligible might be workable (eg just a D primary or just an R primary, or when a district primary is only conducted in a part of the county.)</p>
Henry Jarrett	Raleigh, NC	<p>It is time to move to a nonpartisan redistricting commission for Congressional Districts and state legislature. And if you want to avoid litigation stop interfering with school board districts and county commission and municipal districts.</p>
Matthew Arnold	Chapel Hill, NC	<p>As a resident of the 4th district, I am shocked that a Federal court is interfering with a state responsibility when all laws, rules, and regulatory obligations have been met. This included pre-clearance through President Obama's Justice Department. If this stands, how is a state legislature ever to draw reliable district lines?</p> <p>If our legislature is mandated to redraw lines to comply with the Federal court's ruling, we must move as quickly as possible and assure that as precinct disruptions are kept to an absolute minimum.</p> <p>The districts that we have are generally more competitive than those developed by Democrat controlled legislatures of the past 100+ years.</p>

		<p>Republicans have worked hard to be fair and follow all of the applicable laws and regulations. We should hold to these principles going forward.</p>
Crayton Bedford	Asheville, NC	<p>The redistricting done by the Republican Party in 2010 was successful in overcoming decades of Democratic Party gerrymandering. The trouble is that the 2010 gerrymandering went way beyond the bounds of decency or reason. It was successful because the Legislature is currently so heavily balanced in favor of Republicans, nowhere near the actual party distribution in the state. On the face of it, that ought to annul the latest district lines. Unfortunately for those of us who live in Asheville, the division of the city into three separate legislative districts, pooling pockets of Democrats with heavier Republican areas, has eliminate fair representation of our voices and needs. However, the only criteria that the courts can use is racial gerrymandering. That appears to have been accomplished only in the two districts recently thrown out by the courts. Since minorities tend to vote for Democrats, racial and political gerrymandering go hand in hand. There is a very simple and fair solution to this problem. District lines should be drawn by an independent commission, not a political party. The only criteria should be equal representation and conformity with natural and economic boundaries. In the meantime, the legislature should admit to political gerrymandering and redo the districts we are currently saddled with.</p>
Blake Tedder	Hillsborough, NC	<p>The right to vote and the notion of one-person-one-vote is absolutely critical for our Democracy to work as intended. We also must have fair representation, and actual representation of our populations. The state and federal districts in North Carolina are out of control, both parties are at fault. Particularly egregious are Congressional Districts 1, 12, and 4. These squirmy districts look like nothing we have seen before. The grouping of African Americans, a particularly Democratic voting contingent, is clear. Not to mention, how can a Congressional member adequately pursue constituent services when his or her district is barely contiguous and spread across minute sections of multiple counties. Please redraw the lines fairly, and do not wait for the Supreme Court to stay. This is a waste of taxpayer money and energy. The next step is an independent and nonpartisan redistricting committee.</p>
William Rogers	Edenton, NC	<p>To allow people to easily identify who represents them, it would be best to have district boundaries conform to large jurisdictions such as counties. The state should adapt a districting rule such as "The number of counties with multiple districts shall not exceed the number of representatives to Congress". This would allow the state to subdivide large counties as needed and divide a few others to balance population but stop the practice of creating odd-shaped districts that cross half the state.</p>
Carol Thompson	Greensboro, NC	<p>The existing maps continue to aggressively segregate voters even as North Carolinians like me prepare to head to the polls in March 2016.</p> <p>That's why the courts ordered you to redraw them immediately.</p> <p>And that's why this isn't a time for more legal appeals.</p> <p>I'm calling on you to to stop making excuses, follow the order, and redraw the maps. After all, fair elections require fair maps. For years we have been</p>

		<p>misrepresented because of the blatant gerrymandering in NC. Please redraw the districts immediately so that our next election will be fair.</p> <p>As a voter living in District 12 I would know that my vote counts. Please draw fair maps now.</p>
Melanie Lane	Apex, NC	<p>"All things are subject to interpretation. Whichever interpretation prevails at a given time is a function of power and not truth." ? Friedrich Nietzsche</p> <p>today you start the process of seeking a way to make people perceive that we are all working together to protect the very center of our democracy, the ability to choose our own representatives. there is a lot of emotion and difficulty that has happened on this subject over the last decade that has left everyone with the perception that the other side is trying to cheat and harm the process. Today you can work to find a way to heal that harm, to find the compromise that shows the people that the goal is to make everyone believe in our Democracy. I hope you take this moment to change the perception that the purpose was to suppress votes.</p>
Tyler Johnson	Goldsboro, NC	<p>As a Goldsboro native and a long-time resident of District 1, I am glad these maps are finally being studied. Nothing except gerrymandering for the sake of stacking districts can explain the finger-like extensions of District 1, which reach into each urban populace in the area, thereby limiting the number of minority voters in certain districts. It's a violation of the spirit of the Voting Rights Act and should be remedied by the DOJ.</p>
William Wilkes	Hendersonville, NC	<p>More than once, I have seen legislatures controlled by both Democrats and Republicans gerrymander legislative districts to attempt to ensure their own dominance in the polls. This ill serves the citizens of North Carolina and disrupts the electoral process, as is the case today. Now is the time for our legislators to rise above partisan interests and institute an independent, non-partisan redistricting commission. This has been done in six states in which both federal and state districts are drawn by an independent commission. Please lend your effort to improving representational government in North Carolina.</p>
Donna Beckmann	Durham, NC	<p>Durham County has been divided up into four Congressional districts. I reside in eastern Durham County and along with about 1% of the rest of Durham County residents, I am assigned to the 13th Congressional District. Although I would like to believe that our elected officials represent the best interests of all his or her constituents, I find it hard to believe that any Representative of the 13th Congressional District is going to make the interests of Durham County a priority. Although not designated as unconstitutional, the 13th Congressional District's formation is just as convoluted and the 1st and 12th.</p> <p>As quoted from WRAL.com: "Because there was no direct curative language in the opinion, we're hoping input from the public will shed light on what they want us to do," Rep. David Lewis, R-Harnett, the House co-chair of the committee, said Friday.</p> <p>However, despite bipartisan legislation (H.B. 49 2015-2016) to indeed provide input from the public, the State of North Carolina is faced with this crisis, putting the 2015 primary in jeopardy, in addition to the cost to taxpayers, due to attitudes such as this: "God bless 'em, I can't wait to get</p>

		<p>it over here," Republican Sen. Tom Apodaca of Henderson County told WRAL. "It's dead. It's not going anywhere."</p> <p>Redraw Congressional Districts based on population, regardless of political affiliation, and leave counties intact as best as possible. Twenty-two other states have given representation back to its citizens, North Carolina should do the same.</p> <p>Donna Beckmann Durham County</p>
	Richard Weisman Wilmington, NC	<p>Greetings,</p> <p>Thanks for the opportunity to express my views in this very, very critical process. Currently, NC is a district mess (and joke). Many citizens are aware that this is the most 'gerrymandered' state in the union. The City of Wilmington is split into part of two congressional districts: This is nonsense. Urban neighborhoods should not be split for partisan reasons. Congressional districts should include entire preexisting municipal districts, if possible to do so and make the numbers work. Ideally, counties would not be split. Neither would most NC cities. If a city is so large that it must be split, then existing municipal districts such as wards or precincts need to be used. The bottom line is that the legislators in power need to have this removed since they abuse it (both parties are guilty) and districts should include entire cities and/or counties when possible.</p> <p>Thanks Richard Weisman</p> <p>I believe that the legislature in office at any time of redistricting should NOT be allowed to change districts alone. There should be a bipartisan commission (equally split by party) of folks who can work together and compromise when needed, not stake out polar opposite positions from which they will not budge.</p>
	Kimberly Jones Summerfield, NC	<p>plans on congressional redistricting as the NCGA awaits the Supreme Court Decision.</p> <p>I believe that the congressional maps for Districts 1 & 12 were drawn using accepted precedent for representing the will of the people and are constitutional. The districts are just, fair, legal and in compliance with the laws.</p> <p>I am confident that the United States Supreme Court will issue a stay or "delay" so that the NC primary can proceed.</p> <p>I am convinced that the "rogue" judge who selected our districts 1 and 12 for review is disregarding the fair and legal manner the lines were drawn. While I am sure that the citizens of Districts 1 and 12 are unhappy with their representation that is a separate issue from the validity of the districts as drawn to comply with the Voting rights laws. I believe that I speak "write" for 1000 of North Carolina citizens (those at work, caring for children or just unaware of the issue) that our state, our elections, our legislature and our representative government processes are fair and legal and did nothing wrong!</p>

		<p>So “stick to your guns” and be firm in your convictions that the lines are lawful, right, justified and were also reviewed previously. I support our legislature and our representative government processes in which all citizens are equal before the law. Republicans are the party of respecting elections.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted, Kimberly A. Jones</p>
Christopher Mansfield	Greenville, NC	<p>Comments for Public Hearing Joint Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting February 15, 2016 10:10 AM</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments in writing. My name is Chris Mansfield. I was coming from Greenville but only got as far as Wilson this morning because of icy roads. I had hoped to share these thoughts about the way we should make democracy work.</p> <p>I think my thoughts represent the sentiments of many other citizens. Polls tell us that citizens are angry, frustrated, disgusted, untrusting of government – all three branches but the legislative branch especially. A root cause is the electoral process. There is a sickness in the process but you can cure it. You can un-rig the electoral districts and make our democracy more truly representative. Yes, it is rigged. The current and past reapportionment plans have been a perversion of the Voting Rights Act and a carefully contrived, partisan corruption of democracy.</p> <p>The voters no longer choose who their legislators are, the legislators choose the voters who will elect them. The problem is more than just with Congressional Districts 1 and 12. It is with the NC House and Senate districts as well. There is no choice of a Republican in 29 of the current NC House races and no choice in 6 Senate districts. No choice of a Democrat in 28 House districts and no choice in 12 Senate Districts. Where there was a choice in the 2014 elections, only 8% of the races were competitive. The process is totally rigged.</p> <p>Most of the NC legislative districts are safe seats. The Congressional Districts all are safe, by 23 – 39 percentage points based on presidential election results.</p> <p>With no competition in the contest of ideas, there is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No constructive dialog; • No reason for bipartisan, creative compromise; • No accountability, no representative democracy; • Polarization and legislative gridlock; • More opportunity for cronyism and corruption; and • No faith in government. <p>Thank you for the opportunity to be heard. I hope the Commission is listening. I want what all North Carolinians want; representatives who will</p>

		<p>listen to citizens and talk and listen to each other. We want legislators who are more willing to save the state than save their seats. You can fix the problem. Please take up H92 in the short session.</p> <p>Chris Mansfield 408 S. Harding, Greenville, NC 27858</p>
Jimmy Gentry	Statesville, NC	<p>For many years the NC State Grange has been concerned about the redistricting process in our state. We have seen the results of partisanship in connection with the way that district boundaries are drawn by both Republicans and Democrats. As a non-partisan organization, we believe that party affiliation should not be considered when drawing district maps. Elections are important and all candidates should have a chance of being elected rather than having to overcome the obstacle of a skewed district that favors certain individuals. Our hope is that these hearings combined with recent court actions will lead to a more equitable method of creating voting districts in our state.</p>
Brian Irving	Cary, NC	<p>The people of North Carolina deserve a process where they choose their representatives, not the other way around. When it reconvenes in April, the state House should immediately consider and bring to a vote House Bill 92 to establish a nonpartisan redistricting process.</p> <p>Under this bill, the redistricting plan would be drawn up by a legislative office and submitted to the legislature for an up or down vote. It is based on the system used in Iowa successfully for years.</p> <p>For decades, North Carolina has had the most litigated redistricting process in the nation. Both Democrats and Republicans put partisan politics ahead of the interests of the people. As a result, elections were delayed and representation denied.</p> <p>When the Democrats controlled the process, the Republicans cried foul and challenged the plans in court. Now that Republicans are in power, they act no better. Whichever party is on top invariably acts in the same, self-serving way.</p> <p>Even though only two Congressional districts were ruled unconstitutional, redrawing the lines will have a ripple effect in adjoining districts. The problem goes far beyond using race to draw lines. The process is fundamentally flawed. The people of North Carolina need and deserve better.</p> <p>The state Libertarian Party supports an independent, nonpartisan, open, and transparent redistricting process. Party registration, voting history data, and the incumbent's place of residence shouldn't be considered when drawing district lines.</p>
Mary Platek	Jamestown, NC	<p>The Congressional district boundaries need to be drawn so that either political party does not have an advantage. Both parties have changed the boundaries to their own advantage, but the republicans have been shameless with their current changes and has made our state an object of ridicule</p>

Michael Garrett	Greensboro, NC	<p>Nobody interested in fair maps assigns a committee of people who have wrongfully redistricted local county commissions, boards of education, and city councils. Today's convening of the NCGA is only for the purpose of doing as little as possible to meet a court-mandated requirement and then resume politics as usual in gerrymandered districts.</p> <p>The time for nonpartisan redistricting reform was back in 2010. The least we can do now is get over politics and get back to work by agreeing to move forward with just maps. When I'm your State Senator, I will only vote for redistricting efforts proposed by nonpartisan committees of unelected officials OR that have been submitted to the taxpayers affected for a vote</p>
Martha Jenkins	Chapel Hill, NC	I dont' understand how federal law can require majority minority districts and then all the legislature down for using race to determine districts. Let the election proceed.
Dwight Collins	Salisbury, NC	Attempting to reform the 1st and 12th districts at this point is not a proper approach to assure voter inclusion. Redistricting may well be an exercise that needs to take place but not in the middle of an election that is already underway. The level of confusion will be too great. Both options run the risk of excluding some voter rights but the lesser of the two is to let this primary continue and make district changes after the elections.
Cathy Wright	Chapel Hill, NC	Why don't we question the constitutionality of the Voting Rights Act?
maryanne friend	raleigh, NC	<p>From: Maryanne Friend [mailto:maryanne.friend@gmail.com] Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 9:41 AM To: Sen. Bob Rucho Cc: Rep. David Lewis Subject: redistricting</p> <p>Dear Gentlemen: Sorry the weather will keep me from your session today regarding new redistricting. I am opposed to changes at this moment in time because voting has already begun, everyone can vote, no one is disenfranchised, and postponing congressional elections will only lead to lower voter engagement and turn-out as it will be more confusing. Review of the districts can take place more thoughtfully and carefully after this election cycle. Thank you~ Maryanne Friend Raleigh NC</p>
Richard Self	CARY, NC	Few of the districts in NC are compact and routinely split neighborhoods into multiple districts - mine is a prime example. The two districts in question need to be dramatically compacted to remove the racial gerrymandering.
Patrick Paige	Charlotte, NC	The power to set political districts should be removed entirely from those entities that benefit from district lines, most notable the Democratic and Republican parties. Districts should be established by an independent commission that utilizes mathematic principals to establish boundary lines that give equal power and representation to every individual vote in the state.
james mills	asheville , NC	I vote NO to redistricting NC.
Harold Nunn	Raeford, NC	We SHOULD NOT be required to redraw congressional district maps in the middle of an election cycle. This is a blatant attempt to cause chaos in an election cycle, a standard procedure of the left!
Jennifer Frye	Durham, NC	<p>Dear Lawmakers,</p> <p>I first want to say that I appreciate the gravity of the situation you are in</p>

with having to re-draw NC's district maps. I also want to acknowledge that the Republican Party in NC was not the first to use gerrymandering to draw lines that favor its own party. There is a long history of that from the Democrats in NC and from both parties across the country. That's the main problem - that you legislators draw the maps in the first place. The temptation is too great to rig the game in your favor and for you to select the voters versus having them select you. I am sincerely disappointed to hear many Republican lawmakers and party members, instead of taking responsibility and righting past wrong by working for greater fairness, parrot the excuse that "the Democrats did it, too" to justify the current maps. That's not taking responsibility - it's shirking responsibility - which goes against the stated ideals of your party.

That said, that's the situation we are in, and you have been ordered to redraw the maps. I'd like to weigh in as a dedicated, unaffiliated voting citizen with some understanding of how redistricting works.

I agree with the legal experts and judges who have said that the current maps go way to far in giving a partisan advantage by dividing the state along racial lines and severely diluting the voting power of Black voters. The Voting Rights Act was established to protect minority voters from this kind of diluting of their voting power as a group. The current maps segregate Black voters and further divide the voting citizens of our state in ways that can only lead to highly polarized, highly partisan elections rather than fair elections that lead to good governance.

District 1 and District 12 had both historically elected Black candidates by comfortable margins. There was no legal justification for increasing the percentage of these voters in these districts above 50% and certainly no justification from a standpoint of civil rights and protecting the vote. Packing black voters into these districts at the rate you all did means that taking their voting power away from other districts, making all of the districts less competitive. This is very similar to what happened in Alabama, where it was ruled that race was the primary motivation for increasing percentages of Black voters in districts where they were already winning.

To the concern about how close we are to the Primary election, I'll say this: It is far better to ask folks who have already voted absentee to re-send ballots at a later time, under fair maps, than to proceed with unconstitutional maps, as one of the speakers eloquently explained during the hearing this morning.

I will close by saying that I have heard my Republican leaders time and again talk about the need for competition and fairness in the economy, the need for responsible government leaders, the need for people to take responsibility for their lives. However, it seems when it comes to elections and civic participation, you prefer policies and practices that reduce competition and increase barriers to access and participation. These maps, along with the voting law you passed in 2013, make it easier for the Republican party to gain and maintain power. Legislators from both parties need to rise above this kind of partisan calculation and manipulation to make our elections as fair, competitive and accessible as possible.

		<p>People like me are losing faith in our elected leaders and our political system and yet we continue to show up and participate. I continue to vote even though my choices on the ballot box are pitiful sometimes. I contact my representatives, I listen to public hearings, I show up - time and again - because I believe that our government should truly reflect and represent the population of North Carolina, not just a portion of the population.</p> <p>I'm calling on whatever spirit of public service led you to run for office to rise above and give our state fair maps. Let the voters pick you, not the other way around.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jennifer L. Frye</p>
Richard Baldwin	Fletcher, NC	<p>Dear Committee Members,</p> <p>I am opposed to any further redistricting of Congressional Districts in North Carolina. Given the current distribution, my voice is heard. I feel that I am being represented at the state and federal level. Previous the the latest redistricting I was not being represented adequately at either a state or local level. The NC state house followed all guidelines set forth by the Department of Justice and the dictates of state and federal law.</p> <p>Rich Baldwin</p>
Samuel Santoianni	Swannanoa, NC	<p>This is, perhaps, premature, but I would like to offer birthday congratulations to Gerrymandering, which will turn 204 this March. That is, unless we decide to kill it here and now in NC.</p>
Lindsey Cooper	Raleigh, NC	<p>This attempt to dilute black voting power, and to pack black citizens into districts where they won't be able to exercise their voting rights, is horrific. The districts need to be redrawn, immediately, without regard to race.</p> <p>North Carolina, its politicians, and the NC GOP have a long history with racism and the KKK. Downtown Raleigh, and its affluent politicians and businessmen, were integral in turning NC into "Klansville USA" [not my term, used in recent documentary on the history of racism and oppression in North Carolina in the 1950s and 1960s].</p> <p>I fear that many of these racist ideas towards black people still remain in the hearts and minds of those running the NC GOP and the NC legislature. This gerrymandering and the SHAM voter ID laws prove that you still want to keep black North Carolinians subjugated and powerless by making their right to vote nearly impossible and their voting power non-existent.</p> <p>FIX THE DISTRICTS. EXAMINE YOUR PREJUDICES AND UNDERLYING RACISM and figure out why you're so intent on keeping black constituents "in their place" by literally packing them all into two main districts. Shameful. You have disgraced the ideals and commands of our Constitution, of North Carolina, and the Lord.</p>

	Irma Fiordalisi	Marshall, NC	I am opposed to redistricting! Please stop this election engineering and allow people to exercise their rights without the machinations of big government, control-loving progressives. PLEASE VOTE NO to redistricting.
	Lisa Baldwin	Fletcher, NC	<p>Dear Committee Members,</p> <p>I am opposed to any further redistricting of Congressional Districts in North Carolina. Given the current distribution, my voice is heard. I feel that I am being represented at the state and federal level. Previous the the latest redistricting I was not being represented adequately at either a state or local level. The NC state house followed all guidelines set forth by the Department of Justice and the dictates of state and federal law.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - North Carolina should not be forced to redraw its congressional districts in the middle of an election cycle, where people have already begun voting. - Delaying the congressional primaries for a court ordered redraw of the maps will cause massive voter confusion and disenfranchise thousands of voters who may not vote in a likely mid summer, stand alone congressional primary. (1998 Primary Elections: May 5th Primary for US Senate: 799,371 ballots cast and September 15th Primaries for US House: 161,596 ballots cast) - Republicans are largely satisfied with their current representation and the constituent services they are receiving. - The current 10-3 partisan split is a fair result of Republican election victories, which allows legislators to take partisan voting behavior into account when drawing districts. - A new congressional map should keep precincts and counties whole as much as possible. - Due to the reclining influence of North Carolina's rural communities, it is imperative that our state's smallest counties not be split. - Finally, as Chief Justice Roberts said in the opinion for Parents Involved in Community Schools v. Seattle School District No. 1, "the way to stop discrimination on the basis of race is to stop discriminating on the basis of race." Any new districts should be drawn in a completely "color blind" fashion, with no regard to race or racial political quotas. <p>Lisa Baldwin</p>
	heather shane	charlotte, NC	<p>The fact that NC was found to be guilty of gerrymandering is shameful. The fact that the public hearings being held to address the redistricting are located in small venues in unaffected counties is an additional impediment to democracy! The constituents in NC deserve to have their vote count. Voter apathy is a sickness in our country and it needs to be remedied, not fomented.</p> <p>The posiitive to come out of all of this is that you still have a chance to reverse course and create fair districts that reflect the diversity within this great state. Democracy is from what all of the power in this country is derived, and it can be brought back to our great state. We do not all have to agree, but through discourse is where we will arrive at the best solutions and will bring about the best representatives. Civic engagement is a critical component to our governmental system and now is the time to recultivate it!</p>

Bonnie Bechard	Leland, NC	This time, please redistrict, not gerrymander. Gerrymandering is expensive for taxpayers. Dividing counties and towns does not honor local government. Due to extreme gerrymandering, North Carolina is no longer proportionately represented. The House is no longer "Representative" as envisioned by our Founding Fathers. It is time for a non-partisan redistricting commission.
Kristin Wing	Greensboro, NC	<p>The Voting Rights Act was established to protect minority voters, these maps not only undermine that intent, they effectively marginalize minority voters.</p> <p>When redistricting processes are controlled by legislators then political concerns will play a role. This plan, however, is more than just partisan politics. This plan segregates African-American voters rather than building African-American into the fabric of North Carolina. When you segregate the electorate by race you change the politics of the state for the worse.</p> <p>District 1 and District 12 had both historically elected African-Americans by comfortable margins. There was no legal justification for increasing the African-American percentage in these districts above 50% and it is clear that packing black voters into these districts was the primary goal of the plan – meaning that race was the most important factor in their creation.</p>
Ann Hass	Greensboro, NC	<p>It is just common decency to draw district lines impartially. Our districts now are so bizarre as to be a joke. They make us a laughingstock nationwide.</p> <p>Start over. Do it fairly and logically. Republicans will NOT always be in the majority. The sooner the job is done fairly (FAIRLY) the better for our beautiful state.</p>
Thomas Coulson	Marshall, NC	As a long time member of Common Cause/NC I supported the late Ham Horton's efforts to pass legislation creating a non partisan redistricting commission. This was when Democrats were in the majority and controlled the Legislature. Now that Republicans are in control I support the efforts to do away with the partisan gerrymandering of public offices. The challenges to redistricting legislation under the present system has resulted in court interventions with a frequency that makes that appeal look like an automatic part of the process. Join the twenty first century; pass redistricting reform!
Jeannette Cabanis-Brewin	Cullowhee, NC	When Asheville was excised from our district, it was done specifically for the purpose of separating the more progressive voters in the three university-hub counties from each other, thereby diminishing if not eliminating our voting clout. While in Eastern NC, this gerrymandering was done on racial lines, here it was done purely on political lines, but the effect is the same. Because the university-hub areas are also more diverse, it also has a silencing effect on all minorities (including the Cherokee) in our district. Asheville is the urban center for WNC, and belongs in our voting district. They have nothing in common economically or culturally with the counties they are now paired with. Put Asheville back in my voting district!
Amy Cortner	Connelly Springs, NC	One of the most difficult challenges in life is to do the right thing when doing so is not in your own best interest. Whether it is in the best interest of your political party or not, please support a non-partisan redistricting of North Carolina. Our state has been on the wrong side of history too often, and it is more than time to overturn the wrongs done by gerrymandering.

		All people need a voice-not just rich people.
Michelle Mitchell	Cornelius, NC	It's past time to take the politics out of congressional redistricting. No political party should hold sway over this process. Please work to change the process so that it's impartial and fair to voters. Thank you.
Candace Young	Bayboro, NC	Lines should be drawn without using the ploys of "cracking"or "packing" to deny minority voters an equal opportunity "to participate in the political process and to elect representatives of their choice. Basic fairness should be the rule.
David Brewin	Cullowhee, NC	Please look at redistricting in such a way that any candidate, regardless of party, has a fair shot of being elected by someone that really represents the constituency. An election should be decided by people who can look at an individual candidate and vote for whom they feel is the most qualified. Thank you for your consideration.
Jeanne Blethen	Marshall, NC	I am opposed to redistricting the state this close to an election.
Diana Bellgowan	Asheville, NC	<p>I am a citizen of the state of North Carolina and I agree with the recent Federal court ruling, and want North Carolina to redraw its congressional district maps to be more fair an equitable for all of our citizens.</p> <p>In 2011, the NC legislature redrew the maps – supposedly based on the 2010 census. I know very little about the other districts, but in the 10th and 11th North Carolina districts the changes had a partisan and racially discriminatory bent. That redistricting lead to moving the very Democratic-leaning city of Asheville to the 10th district combining it with the densely populated and very Republican Charlotte suburbs. It also added more Republican-leaning counties to the 11th district – creating a district that is now considered one of the most Republican in the South.</p> <p>Democrats and Republicans have each had a hand gerrymandering in North Carolina at various times in our history – but this recent redistricting has a definite racial component to it.</p> <p>According to the 2010 census data, Buncombe County where Asheville is located had +238,000 including 6.5% African American and 6.5% Hispanic/Latinos – making it both the most populated and racially diverse county in Western North Carolina. The Counties in the new 11th District (including Macon, Swain, Jackson, Haywood, Clay, Graham, Madison, Cherokee, Yancey, Avery, Burke, Henderson, Transylvania, McDowell, Caldwell and Mitchell) are very rural, lightly populated areas with very little racial diversity – with few exceptions these Counties have populations that are less than 2% African American and less than 5% Hispanic/Latino.</p> <p>By creating the new 10th and 11th districts, the legislature has in effect diluted the voice of African Americans and Hispanic/Latinos in western North Carolina which is illegal under section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.</p> <p>We need to redraw the North Carolina maps and correct this problem.</p>
Sue Butcher	Willow Springs , NC	NO to changing districts.
Taylon Breeden	Leicester, NC	<p>My trust in the NC GOP is nonexistent.</p> <p>Splitting Asheville into NC 10 and 11 was a political move to maintain GOP control. and to act like this isn't the truth is only going to make the citizens</p>

		angry. I want legislation enacting the North Carolina independent redistricting commission.
Dakota Cary	Wilmington, NC	<p>North Carolina's congressional districts should be as competitive as possible to ensure good governance by elected officials. As districts move away from racial bias and towards competitive elections, citizens will benefit from less partisanship and more constructive policy dialogue.</p> <p>The scheduling of currently held public meetings is not a sincere attempt to govern well. but rather a partisan attempt to collect targeted feedback. Given the speed with which these meetings were announced and executed, it appears as though legislators were trying to pick their voters.</p> <p>Any third party to the map-drawing process should be made available during Committee meetings so the public may have a full understanding of their role, cost, and intent during the process.</p> <p>The North Carolina General Assembly should disclose all monies spent on the map-drawing process in an effort to provide the most transparency possible during this process. As is with other budgetary expenditures, the NCGA should strive to fulfil its fiduciary duty to North Carolinians and provide quality, comprehensive information about this process.</p> <p>Most importantly, the General Assembly should consider ways to make districts more geographically succinct, politically competitive, and racially nonbias. Our districts should represent fair elections, fair voting rights, and fair intent, as is the proper role of government.</p>
James Dingman	Greensboro, NC	The current gerrymandered districting distorts fair representation and does not reflect the will of the people by reducing the number of Democrats in the US Congress. It sends a message of lack of respect for the democratic process observed by foreign and domestic media reflecting on the state's image. North Carolina should strive to be a national leader through improved education and honest political processes.
Jeff Lominac	Conover, NC	People have done started voting here in Nort Carolina! Leave things as they are for now! Besides the fact that people are voting now, look at the cost this will be to the tax payers of this state if we have to redo this part of the election!
Tamara Jackson	Greensboro, NC	To wait until 30 days before the March Primary, then the picture ID & last but definitely not the least the redistricting of District 1 & 12. These Districts should not be taken away.
Lydia Long, LCSWA	RAMSEUR, NC	With the Civil Rights Movement and passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, Gerrymandering for the purpose of reducing the political influence of a racial or ethnic minority group was prohibited.The districts are not representing the people of NC and in fact racially based. This was ruled unconstitutional! . I know that you all care about this state and want the best so I urge to fix this as the way it is currently is unfair. We want money out of politics, we want a fair electoral process. I am asking you to re-draw the districts of NC to represent more accuracy.
Perry Woods	Raleigh, NC	Gerrymandering has always been around, but now with big data, it has been elevated to a science, and is among the biggest threats to our

		<p>democracy. Unless it changes, it will be done house to house.</p> <p>Anyone can draw districts. Does not have to be a Independent Commission. Staff can do it. What matters are the rules. Simply say in drawing districts, only thing that can be considered is population, no demographics, parties, voting histories, or big data. Say they much be compact, contiguous among communities of interests, and no splitting of counties or precincts unless needed to meet one man one vote.</p>
Patsy Poston	Shelby, NC	<p>Please commit now to redraw the two congressional districts found unconstitutional. I had rather have the March 15 primary delayed than hold another election unfair to voters in these districts. Given that other, likely adjacent districts will no doubt be affected, the legislature should move the primary to a later date and get to work immediately on making all districts fair. And while at it, the legislature should immediately commit to a non-partisan redistricting commission for the future.</p>
Andrew Goldberg	Asheville, NC	<p>Dear Sir or Madame,</p> <p>Thank you for considering my comments on the current congressional districts and redistricting issues. First, I feel like I have been gerrymandered with the most recent division of more populated Asheville area/region into two districts. I have nothing in common with people way over there in the rest of Rep. McHenry's district. And I have been cut from the people I share my life with in Asheville and Western North Carolina. Secondly, this strikes me as fundamentally bad for my community and undemocratic. I feel like the power has been taken from my community and my vote.</p> <p>Please make this process better, fairer, more democratic and less partisan. Please put me on any mailing list so I can be informed about next steps in this process.</p> <p>Thanks for your consideration.</p> <p>Andrew M. Goldberg</p>
Karon Harrold	Asheville, NC	<p>The decision to divide Asheville into two districts was a true act of absurdity. The only possible reason was to bolster political power in the 10th district and to dilute power in the 11th. This cynical act will be undone in 2020, but should be undone before that. I know that partisan gerrymandering has gone on for many years and each party can rightly say the other is guilty, but surely, at some point, justice and reason will prevail.</p>
Zachary Crotts	Winston Salem, NC	<p>I hope that we can hold off on any district changes until after the election in November. We have candidates who have been campaigning in these districts as well as citizens and tax payers who are already asking for absentee ballots. Our primary is only a month away and any changes will be a major issue as well as a huge cost to our state.</p> <p>If we must change the districts then please try to do so after the election and then remove any and all race or political portions from the lines. We should try to keep Counties and precincts in one district and not split them into multiple. I live in Davidson County and we have the 5th, 8th, and 12th that run through the County. I would prefer we only have one district.</p>
Laura Sinai	Charlotte, NC	<p>It is always the time to do the right thing. It is always the time for justice.</p>

		<p>Just because some paperwork and scheduling will be difficult does not mean justice should be delayed or ignored. Gerrymandering is wrong. Packing one race into a voting district is wrong. Redistricting must be done in an open and transparent way. And the courts have spoken. These unconstitutional districts in NC must be redrawn.</p>
Samantha Sarube	Wilmington, NC	<p>There are concerns over the fact that some absentee ballots have already been requested and submitted. I do not believe that the concern over this outweighs the damage that holding an election for the third time on a map that is unconstitutional would do. Our sole goal should be to have constitutional and fair elections. It should be worth the effort to make sure this happens regardless of the administrative difficulties. If the Republican majority had not abruptly changed the date of the election a few months ago the filing period would not even be over yet. Another issue I am having is the fact that this meeting was called and little notice was given and that it was held at a date and time that is completely unreasonable to those who have full-time jobs and those who are in school. I also have an issue with where it was held it was held on CFCC North Campus which is completely out of the way for most and in a room so small there was only standing room and most people were not even let in the room. A better location would have been CFCC's campus downtown or UNCW's campus where there are much larger rooms available and in a more convenient area for those who wanted to make it could. Obviously not much consideration was put in to this meeting for those who actually want action to be taken. I, myself came to the meeting today to be able to speak my mind but because of the time and way this meeting was held we had to sit there and listen to other sites speak as well. Because I am a student I had to leave in the middle of the meeting because it was taking too long and I had class. This meeting was not held in a standard that is conducive to actually hearing everyone out and attempting to make an attempt to solve the issue. The districts are not constitutional. They are a mess and they need to be cleaned up before another election takes place.</p>
Joyce Cotten	Pittsboro, NC	<p>The Voting Rights Act of 1965, and following a number of changes over the years, set the stage for establishing district lines in all the states. Even though it has been amended several times, it continues to be a force to guide states in the process of redistricting. It would appear to me that the courts are contradicting itself when it comes to the redistricting process. The courts ruled that states must consider demographics under the Civil Rights Act of 1965 and now the courts are telling us that we should not be considering demographics.</p> <p>The fact that a lower court has imposed such a mandate on North Carolina when we are in the midst of an election and given the North Carolina General Assembly just two weeks to redistrict disenfranchises the current voting process.</p> <p>Having served on a county Board of Elections for 16 years, I have followed this process closely and felt that dividing counties and at times precincts was not in the best interest of the voting citizens. If the North Carolina General Assembly must change its boundaries due to this court decision, I strongly urge the North Carolina General Assembly to keep precincts and counties whole as much as possible.</p> <p>Joyce Cotten</p>

		Chatham County February 15, 2016
Charlie Duckett	Hot Springs, NC	Keep our Congressional Districts as they are now.
Stephanie Hamrick	Charlotte, NC	It is unreasonable, not to mention unconstitutional and a slap in the face to our democratic process, the way that our districts have been drawn. There has been a deliberate emphasis on decreasing the influence of poor people, people of color, and students, in an intentional power grab by white Republicans. This cannot stand, and I ask that the committee submit a plan for immediate redistricting.
Marilyn Shaw	Hot Springs, NC	NO to redistricting!
Marlene Pratto	Greensboro, NC	I would like for everyone to have a choice in an election. We have far too many elections with only one person running. Sometimes we have elections when it is all over at the primary. We have two major parties and several smaller ones, but sometimes we only hear from one and that is in the primary. The general election has little meaning when everyone is running in a safe district. It is good to hear the views of at least two people before voting in a general election. How can we know what is good for our state or our country if we don't hear from more people? Lots of people have ideas, and some are excellent ideas yet Gerrymandering of districts is keeping us from hearing views. It also makes our votes less powerful. You can see why some say why bother? What choice have I in this district? That is wrong. You have the power to fix this now and for the future. Please see HB 92 cosponsored by a representative from Guilford County, Jon Hardister. Fix the districts now and then consider HB92 which will fix them for a very long time. Sincerely, Marlene Pratto
Amy Musser	Asheville, NC	I am a citizen of the state of North Carolina and I agree with the recent Federal court ruling, and want North Carolina to redraw its congressional district maps to be more fair and equitable for all of our citizens. In 2011, the NC legislature redrew the maps – supposedly based on the 2010 census. The changes in the 10th and 11th North Carolina districts the changes were partisan and racially discriminatory. That redistricting removed the very Democratic-leaning city of Asheville to the 10th district combining it with the densely populated and very Republican Charlotte suburbs. It also added more Republican-leaning counties to the 11th district – creating a district that is now considered one of the most Republican in the South. Democrats and Republicans have each had a hand gerrymandering in North Carolina at various times in our history – but this recent redistricting has a definite racial component to it. According to the 2010 census data, Buncombe County where Asheville is located had +238,000 including 6.5% African American and 6.5% Hispanic/Latinos – making it both the most populated and racially diverse county in Western North Carolina. The Counties in the new 11th District (including Macon, Swain, Jackson, Haywood, Clay, Graham, Madison, Cherokee, Yancey, Avery, Burke, Henderson, Transylvania, McDowell,

		<p>Caldwell and Mitchell) are very rural, lightly populated areas with very little racial diversity – with few exceptions these Counties have populations that are less than 2% African American and less than 5% Hispanic/Latino.</p> <p>By creating the new 10th and 11th districts, the legislature has in effect diluted the voice of African Americans and Hispanic/Latinos in western North Carolina which is illegal under section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.</p> <p>We need to redraw the North Carolina maps and correct this problem. And to make sure this doesn't happen again in the future, we need independent redistricting in North Carolina. Do the right thing for your citizens.</p>
Shelby Rogers	Locust, NC	<p>These maps are the most cynical kind of politics. They meticulously divide the state along racial lines, dividing communities that have a proven record of working together towards common goals. The Voting Rights Act was established to protect minority voters, these maps not only undermine that intent, they effectively marginalize minority voters. When redistricting processes are controlled by legislators then political concerns will play a role. This plan, however, is more than just partisan politics. This plan segregates African-American voters rather than building African-American into the fabric of North Carolina. When you segregate the electorate by race you change the politics of the state for the worse. District 1 and District 12 had both historically elected African-Americans by comfortable margins. There was no legal justification for increasing the African-American percentage in these districts above 50% and it is clear that packing black voters into these districts was the primary goal of the plan – meaning that race was the most important factor in their creation. These districts move us back to a day of segregation that most of us thought we had moved away from. The net result of this redistricting plan is that it doesn't improve African-American election prospects at all because they were already winning. What it does is it minimizes the influence of African-Americans in surrounding districts. In the recent Supreme Court ruling regarding redistricting in Alabama the court found that Alabama's plans were illegal because they misapplied the Voting Rights Act and used race as the primary consideration rather than looking at what percentages were needed to elect the minority candidate's candidate of choice. The North Carolina plan follows the exact same flawed thinking.</p> <p>I also have a HUGE issue with the way this meeting was brought about. This meeting was called Friday night after 5pm and then held a little over 48 hours later during work, during school, and during a snow storm. People's lives were put in danger for this mediocre meeting that was called on a whim. There is no possible way that an accurate representation was present at this event. Not only that but we were also hoarded like animals into a room suitable for 20 people. In addition to these grievances we were not told beforehand about online registering to discuss our issues, and we were forced into a perpetual loop with five other locations to listen to others speak. This is completely inappropriate and a huge inconvenience to hard working people and students. I was unable to voice my opinion in a public setting and a lot of my peers were refused entrance into the room. I genuinely feel victimized by the state of North Carolina and I wholeheartedly believe the location, time, and speaking rules were used to restrain our voices.</p>

Joseph Kelly	Charlotte, NC	It's of the utmost importance that we have fair congressional district lines, with with non-partisan selection and transparency of the process.
Mary Wible	Durham, NC	<p>As a member of a non contested district, I find the zig zag of lines that encompass any district so very intentional to keep incumbents in office. Job security is great though many in the public don't have that luxury and decisions you all make affect that.</p> <p>Populations evolve. Politics evolve. I think this should be seen as a chance to redistrict the entire state (perhaps not for this election cycle) in a pragmatic arms length way. Perhaps by Zip Codes?</p> <p>I trust you all to do what is right for the people of this state, not for the sake of your job security.</p> <p>Many thanks, Mary Wible Independent, Durham NC</p>
Patricia Rosencrantz	Oriental, NC	The current legislature does not realize the harm that it is doing to the state with their policies of redistricting (as well as as others). Among several of my Northern friends who once considered moving here, NC is now off their list as the state has become an embarrassment for its intolerance and racial profiling regarding districts. If NC wishes to grow, prosper and attract people, it will be necessary to rethink its current legislative action and return to a progressive and inclusive agenda. The current mindset is only making the state appear as a backward moving, hateful, intolerant place to live. The NC legislature needs cut the obvious gerrymandering if it wishes to be considered as a place of the future rather than a Jim Crow state of the past.
Gary Kenton	Greensboro, NC	Although there will be "winners" and "losers" when districts are realigned, the only way to restore integrity and confidence in our electoral process is to assure that districts are established on the basis of verifiable demographics and overseen by an independent, non-partisan agency. That would be called democracy.
Gerlinde Lindy	Cullowhee, NC	Stop the gerrymandering! Put Asheville back in District 11, where it belongs. This district has been blatantly and shamefully gerrymandered, as have many other districts throughout North Carolina. This is not Democracy!!
Bradley Overcash	Belmont, NC	Thank you for your good work. The maps are thoughtful and constitutional. Please resist the calls to strip authority from our elected representatives and give it to unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats. All the best, Brad Overcash (Gaston County)
Gerlinde Lindy	Cullowhee, NC	Stop the gerrymandering! Put Asheville back in District 11, where it belongs. This district has been blatantly and shamefully gerrymandered, as have many other districts throughout North Carolina. This is not Democracy!!
Lyda Carpen	Greensboro, NC	<p>The current maps must be redrawn. They are unfair and undemocratic.</p> <p>It is clear that there is a need for North Carolina to establish a nonpartisan system for drawing our state's voting maps. North Carolina should adopt an independent redistricting process that does not allow the party in power (whomever that might be) to alter districts to suit themselves.</p>

	Cary Branthwaite	Durham, NC	<p>Durham County is divided up into four Congressional districts. I live in eastern Durham County and along with about 1% of the rest of Durham County residents, I am assigned to the 13th Congressional District. Although I would like to believe that elected officials represent the best interests of all his or her constituents, I find it hard to believe that any Representative of the 13th Congressional District is going to make the interests of Durham County a priority. Although not designated as unconstitutional, the 13th Congressional District's formation is just as convoluted and the 1st and 12th.</p>
	Charles Wallin	Asheville, NC	<p>I am a citizen of the state of North Carolina and I agree with the recent Federal court ruling, and want North Carolina to redraw its congressional district maps to be more fair and equitable for all of our citizens.</p> <p>In 2011, the NC legislature redrew the maps – supposedly based on the 2010 census. I know very little about the other districts, but in the 10th and 11th North Carolina districts the changes had a partisan and racially discriminatory bent. That redistricting led to moving the very Democratic-leaning city of Asheville to the 10th district combining it with the densely populated and very Republican Charlotte suburbs. This seriously limits the voice of Asheville now that it belongs to a district that does not represent its interests. It also added more Republican-leaning counties to the 11th district – creating a district that is now considered one of the most Republican in the South.</p> <p>Democrats and Republicans have each had a hand gerrymandering in North Carolina at various times in our history – but this recent redistricting has a definite racial component.</p> <p>According to the 2010 census data, Buncombe County where Asheville is located had +238,000 including 6.5% African American and 6.5% Hispanic/Latinos – making it both the most populated and racially diverse county in Western North Carolina. The Counties in the new 11th District (including Macon, Swain, Jackson, Haywood, Clay, Graham, Madison, Cherokee, Yancey, Avery, Burke, Henderson, Transylvania, McDowell, Caldwell and Mitchell) are very rural, lightly populated areas with very little racial diversity – with few exceptions these Counties have populations that are less than 2% African American and less than 5% Hispanic/Latino.</p> <p>By creating the new 10th and 11th districts, the legislature has in effect diluted the voice of African Americans and Hispanic/Latinos in western North Carolina which is illegal under section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.</p> <p>We need to redraw the North Carolina maps and correct this problem.</p>
	Vernon McMinn	Brevard, NC	<p>I am really embarrassed by the way NC was redistricted after the 2010 census. An impartial panel is needed to do this every ten years. Districts should be compact, equal in population and respect existing political boundaries. Counties and communities shouldn't be split. Districts should not look like amoebas like the third or hernias like the tenth or ink blots like the first. Much of the heavy lifting has already been done at http://bdistricting.com/2010/. Please correct this injustice and fix it so that the process remains impartial.</p>
	James Wickes	Cary, NC	<p>Equal population, compactness, congruity, partisan fairness, racial equality and more, are the components for drawing district lines. Can districts be</p>

		<p>drawn so each of these is perfectly and equally balanced? If not, then compromises had to be made. Therefore, any one of these components could be challenged as less than perfect and, by definition, it would be true. That is the case here.</p> <p>The question should be, was there malicious intent. The challenger can't find fault with 11 of the 13 N.C. districts. That doesn't seem like the work of a group intent on disenfranchising voters. I believe compromises were made and best judgement applied by people who live in this state.</p> <p>However, one of the considerations used to determine if a district has been drawn fairly has been judged unacceptable by a court. Our legislature must redraw the lines to be more pleasing to the court, in the opinion of the court - after an election has begun. The process of redrawing those lines will impact the balance and fairness of all the bordering districts. That means those districts could be challenged, and then their adjacent districts challenged, and so on until the end of time. The fact is, this state should be judged as a whole - not by one or two districts and not by one or two of many considerations used to create a fair voting district, and especially not during an election.</p>
Stacey Selkin	Waxhaw, NC	<p>It's always time to the right thing. It's always the right time for justice. Gerrymandering is wrong and unconstitutional. The court has ruled on this and we must begin for filling our duty and obligations to the people of North Carolina!</p>
Thomas Hill	Zirconia, NC	<p>The most reasonable and expeditious approach for complying with the recent 4th Circuit Court Order is to revert to the district borders as they existed and were approved prior to the 2012 map. Otherwise, a new re-drawing cannot be accomplished in a timely manner, and the Court itself may choose to re-draw the districts. An untimely response would harm candidates of both parties. Moreover, the likelihood of a Supreme Court stay of the 4th Circuit Order is diminished due to the demise of Justice Antonin Scalia.</p>
Ellen Weiner	Greensboro, NC	<p>I would have been at GTCC today if the hearing had been held. Thank you for this opportunity to send in my thoughts. I have three:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I want NC's voting districts to be based on contiguous boundaries. I want our cities within their counties to be united, not divided. For Pete's sake, district #1 goes from Durham to New Bern! <p>I have no doubt the remedial redistricting maps are already drawn up and waiting to be submitted. I believe they were ready a week ago and could have been published immediately for citizen review. That they weren't is evidence to me these public hearings are just for show. How will I know any legislator(s) even read this?!</p> <p>A Greensboro resident, I learned how easy it is for one legislator alone to have maps re-drawn ... how effectively our legislative leaders can line up the dominoes (pitifully easy, I learned, with many of our legislators) to reach the end they want. They're c-l-e-a-r-l-y not even interested in their fellow citizens input!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. I believe any current senators and representatives who don't believe in and protect the voice of the individual citizen, who instead allow

		<p>gerrymandering to exist, should be disqualified from elective office. Be lobbyists; at least be honest. This is my litmus test for a true patriot.</p> <p>3. I ask our NC legislators to approve a nonpartisan commission in place by the next census to re-draw our voting districts from now on. I hear and respond to the call issued by former NC Republican Charlotte mayor Richard Vinroot and NC Democratic Raleigh mayor Charles Meeker to end gerrymandering in our beloved NC. I have heard retiring Republican Rep. Skip Stam argue the time is now, particularly as population statistics projected for NC call indicate fresh new reasons to change the process, in addition to it being in his opinion the honorable thing for US elected representatives to support.</p> <p>I have seen HB92 with 61 bi-partisan supporters (!) die in committee. I'm so glad to see Rep. Jon Hardister, who has carried the flag on nonpartisan redistricting in NC, on this committee!</p>
Doris Kistler	Asheville, NC	<p>There is no question in my mind that these districts are unfairly drawn. Who in their right mind would construct a district that looks like 12. It is absurd and unfair. In my opinion the entire state should be reassessed by an independent organization....this should not be up to politicians.</p>
Ramona Dula	Asheboro, NC	<p>We the voters in NC should not be forced to change our voting during an election that has already begun. North Carolina should not be forced to redraw its congressional districts in the middle of an election cycle. By delaying and or changing the congressional primaries for a court ordered redraw of the maps will certainly cause massive voter confusion and disenfranchise thousands of voters who may not vote in a likely mid summer, stand alone congressional primary.</p> <p>We as Republicans are satisfied with their current representation and the constituent services they are receiving. They are excellent and should remain as is. Not changed and rearranged to suit a few unsatisfied people who will always be unsatisfied no matter how you change things.</p>
William Dula	Asheboro, NC	<p>North Carolina should not be forced to redraw its congressional districts in the middle of an election cycle, where people have already begun voting. If delayed the congressional primaries for a court ordered redraw of the maps will cause massive voter confusion and disenfranchise thousands of voters who may not vote in a likely mid summer, stand alone congressional primary.</p> <p>I am satisfied with their current representation and the constituent services they are receiving. Please leave the maps alone and let us VOTE!!</p>
Everett Dula	Asheboro, NC	<p>Leave the maps alone and let us vote! Voting has already begun. Don't change the rules in the middle. Not American!</p>
Rachel Patton	Waxhaw, NC	<p>Gerrymandering is WRONG! You need to reverse course and create fair districts that reflect the diversity within this great state. Democracy is from what all of the power in this country is derived, and it can be brought back to our great state. We do not all have to agree, but through discourse is where we will arrive at the best solutions and will bring about the best representatives. Civic engagement is a critical component to our governmental system and now is the time to re-cultivate it!</p>

Harvey Richmond	Cary, NC	The legislature should redraw the 1st and 12th districts and make adjustments to the neighboring congressional districts so that are more compact and not split precincts, towns and cities, and counties to the maximum extent possible. Creating districts that are not compact and that don't respect boundaries like precincts, cities and towns, and counties results in less effective representation. Its time to minimize the politics and create districts that are compact and make sense.
Bradley Littlefield	Raleigh, NC	I am opposed to redrawing the Congressional districts that are presently in place.
ANDRE D. VANN	DURHAM, NC	<p>First, thank you all so much for allowing me the opportunity to participate and give my voice to the Joint Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting.</p> <p>I oppose the districts as drawn as it is more than obvious that race was the determining factor in the creation of not just the Congressional Districts, but also in the General Assembly.</p> <p>As a resident of the First Congressional District I call on this committee to bring integrity back to this process by doing the right thing and listen to Rep. H. M. Michaux who ensured fairness and integrity during his years of serving on this committee. I urge you to call upon his wise counsel along with Sen. McKissick who have a true passion for fairness and justice for all concerned.</p> <p>I believe in one person one vote and we should not retreat from this as we are one people and one government. As a descendant of former enslaved Hawkins, Vann, Crutchfield, Hicks and Yarborough family members all from Henderson, North Carolina a part of the 1st District and former 2nd District. I call on you to honor their memory by removing obstacles and barriers to voting by their descendants. Please treat African American voters with respect and dignity that we have so valiantly worked to preserve.</p> <p>The decisions that you have made have placed the citizens of the State of North Carolina in a terrible place and have set us back for a hundred years of more. Your decisions have impacted our democracy and the Fourth Circuit has been our remedy and I urge you to move today to right this wrong as the time is now !!!!</p> <p>Let us work to get politics out of this process and the time is now to redistrict and do what is right as the citizens of this state are watching.</p>
Kevin Brock	Waynesville, NC	Government derives its just powers from the consent of the governed. That consent does not exist today in North Carolina, in current districts for Congress and both houses of the General Assembly. Our representation is grossly skewed by extreme gerrymandering. Now is the time to end this continued insult to representative government. Establish a non-partisan redistricting committee immediately, and give them the task to draw fair, representative, competitive district lines for Congress and the General Assembly.
Charles High	Asheville, NC	I attempted to attend the meeting on Congressional Redistricting at UNCA this morning in Asheville. Unfortunately, being on a college campus during classes, there was no parking. After driving around the main campus circle 4 times and going into many parking lots, all I found was "Permit Only"

		spaces. Why could you have not held this meeting at a location with more public parking or on campus after hours? The DMV held the Asheville connector meeting downtown at night early in the week and there was plenty of parking-even in downtown Asheville. Was the location and time an attempt to keep the public from attending?
Michael Lyons	Franklin, NC	As the decision of whether or not to stall our primary election is being considered this year, I am grateful that Raleigh has sought to get public opinion. As I see it, this primary election is (at all levels of government) a spectacular event, building great excitement and energy going into "Super Tuesday". Democrats and Republicans alike are on the edge of their seats in anticipation for the results. For legalities and beuractic statistics (highlighting technical problems with the smallest degree of percentiles) to get in the way of that; that's the definitive reason why people have already lost so much trust in the government. Please, I say, let us vote as we have been preparing to vote; don't throw the people you serve a curve-ball at the last minute.
Mia Prior	Chapel Hill, NC	Please redraw the district boundaries in a logical, non-partisan manner without regard to what race people in the counties and cities are. The current districts are totally unacceptable. Now the result it throwing our election into chaos. In the future, we need a NON PARTISAN committee to draw up the districts for NC. Without a fair election process, our democracy becomes a sham.
Gerald Houston	Kinston, NC	I support redrawing the Congressional districts. I would like to see a entire county be in one district rather than split the way they are now. I feel the current districts were drawn this way for only one purpose and that was to dilute the votes of certain classes of people. I also don't like the voter suppression that has been enacted in NC making it difficult to register to vote. Thirty state allow for online registration. Our legislators needs to get with the program of encouraging people to vote instead of creating every obstacles you can to prevent voting.
Jo Isler	Greensboro, NC	It is my opinion that this partisan redistricting needs to stop. The Democrats did it and now the Republicans have done it. I believe it has been worse under the Republicans and these lines were drawn by an outside political person or group to favor Republicans. All districts need to be drawn by nonpartisan persons or groups. Voting should be fair for all and not stacked against any one party or group. These changes need to be done prior to the March 15, 2016 Primary regardless of whether absentee ballots have started to return. Return the State Primary to its original May date. Republicans also need to disclose how much of our taxpayer money was spent on consultants to draw maps and on outside attorneys.
T. Rick Smith	Asheboro, NC	It is absurd for the court to disrupt North Carolina's election process which is already in process, with many absentee ballots already cast. The confusion and frustration caused by confusing or even delaying an election process which is already underway will only result in disenfranchising countless voters who will wind up not voting at all. The current districts as drawn give fair representation and constituent services to the people of North Carolina, with both political parties having appropriate representation. If and when New Districts are drawn, it should be done without regard to racial or political quotas. The practice of splitting counties to achieve those quotas should end. Thanks, Rick Smith, Asheboro, North Carolina.

	David Mildeberg	Charlotte, NC	Please establish an independent commission to oversee Congressional redistricting in North Carolina. The current districts are ridiculous by any measure, and shame on both parties for designing them. Majority party should get to select majority of commission members; minority party should be allowed to select others. Base the breakdown on the percentage of votes received in the previous gubernatorial election. (E.g, 52% for the Republicans, 48% for the Democrats would mean a slight majority on the commission - say 12-8 or 11-9 if it was a 20-member group). It won't eliminate politics, but it will be better than current approach. Goals should be communities of interest, fairness and common sense. Please do the right thing.
	Diane Smith	Asheboro, NC	Confusion or delay of the March 15 election to redraw congressional districts when the election is already in process with votes already cast is totally unfair and counter productive to its alleged purpose. This disruption of the process will frustrate and confuse voters resulting in less votes cast not more. N. C. Citizens are satisfied with their representation and constituent service as provided by the current districts. District should only be changed as the regular cycle matures and then they should be drawn without regard to political or racial quotas. Thanks, Diane Smith, Asheboro, N. C.
	Bernadette Chasteen	Durham, NC	Pretty clear that you need to move the primary election out to its original date, and redraw the voting districts to better represent the population of our State. The sooner the better.
	Hasan Harnett	Harrisburg, NC	<p>Mr Chairman, committee members and ladies and gentlemen both far and near.</p> <p>My name is Hasan Harnett, I am an American, a registered voter in the 8th District and THE Chairman of the GREAT North Carolina Republican Party.</p> <p>My SINGLE VOICE as the Republican Chairman represents large, diverse communities of the human race...nearly two million Republican voters strong.</p> <p>Overall, The North Carolina Republican Party strongly opposes the redrawing of the congressional maps in the MIDST of the an election cycle.</p> <p>-Likewise, we believe law makers, thru the General Assembly, have and will continue to protect the rights of NC voters.</p> <p>- We also believe law makers have previously established voting boundaries that are fair, reasonable and legal.</p> <p>Just for the record, General Assembly is not here to choose voters or even marginalized voters like some might have suggested. This type of thinking in itself...is offensive...and from an African American perspective, quite frankly, color has nothing to do with it. Therefore, it is completely LUDICROUS to think otherwise.</p> <p>Let me remind you, The North Carolina Supreme Court upheld the unanimous ruling of the three-judge panel that heard the case in NC Superior Court</p> <p>Let me remind you, that since 2011, every court that has issued an opinion</p>

and even the Obama Justice Department has reached the same conclusion. "North Carolina's redistricting maps are constitutional."

All in all, the Republican Party in North Carolina, is very diverse. We are largely satisfied with our present day representation and the constituent services we are receiving.

Mr. Chairman and committee members, present day congressional primaries must go on without judicial tinkering. Delaying the North Carolina congressional primaries for a court ordered redraw of the maps will cause MASSIVE voter confusion which will destabilize and UTTERLY destroy voter confidence all across the state.

Additionally, disenfranchise voters will not come out to vote in a stand alone congressional primary and this will end up costing the state close to 10 million dollars. For all the business owners and parents out there...what ever happened to financial accountability and responsibility?

Again, the North Carolina Republican Party opposes the redrawing of the congressional maps.

Democrat Roy Cooper won all 13 of these Congressional Districts showing they can be won by democrats. Of the 10 congressional districts currently held by republicans NONE have majority GOP registration.

Therefore, all must create a broad coalition between republicans, conservative democrats, and unaffiliate Voters to win. It is all about campaigns and candidates and the messages they present.

Therefore, the current 10-3 partisan split is a fair result of Republican election victories, which allows legislators to take partisan voting behavior into account when drawing districts.

IF North Carolina is forced to redraw its congressional districts, as a potential solution, the North Carolina Republican Party believes that any new congressional districts should:

- 1) Keep precincts and counties whole as much as possible
- 2) Congressional maps should be drawn in a completely "color blind" fashion, with no regard to race or racial political quotas.
- 3) Due to the reclining influence of North Carolina's rural communities, it is imperative that our state's smallest counties not be split.

In closing, the North Carolina Republican Party opposes the redrawing of Congressional maps in the midst of an election cycle. We have full-confidence in the North Carolina General Assembly. We thank you for this public hearing opportunity and for representing the citizens in this great state of North Carolina.

For these and other reasons, The Republican Party of North Carolina STRONGLY urges and RECOMMENDS that you leave maps the way they are

		so we don't interrupt the primary process that is already underway.
Matthew Witosky	Holly Springs, NC	<p>Stop gerrymandering. The only way to stop gerrymandering is to give the task of setting districts back to citizens. The next round of retaliatory gerrymandering will be just as shameful and damaging as the last, and until the power is given back to the people, it will not end.</p> <p>The legislature is locked in a permanent "Boys in the Dome" turf war, with the voters as the victims of constant drive-by gerrymandering. In the races underway today, far too many voters literally have no choice for whom to vote, because the districts have been drawn such that only one candidate even attempts to run. Do not underestimate the damage that your passive or active participation in gerrymandering does to our society. Merely because you inherited a corrupting system does not exonerate you for the damage it causes, if you fail to stop it. If you fail to stop it when you clearly could, you own it just as much as the corrupt officials that started the practice.</p> <p>I am a registered independent, and generally consider myself a moderate. I can support any moderate in some way, because I am assured that most moderate elected officials govern by the strength of compromise, and understand the inherent protection of the rights of any minority on any issue in our democratic system. Under the current boundaries, sitting legislators have no incentive to seek middle ground or moderate their rhetoric to seek compromise on vital issues facing our society. They face no viable opposition to their re-election no matter what they say or how they vote. This is not democracy.</p> <p>Given that Republicans are currently enthroned in power, I challenge the Republicans to live their convictions. If your opinions are truly held by the majority of citizens of this great state, you have nothing to fear from a commission of citizens to develop compact districts set by the citizenry. Should you cling to gerrymandering, you betray your own convictions that what you believe, most people believe.</p> <p>You should know that I have just as much loathing for unfettered gerrymandering by Democratic legislators. "He did it first" is the excuse for five year-olds and gang murderers, not for the caretakers of republican democracy. While typing this letter, I have been listening to the streaming audio of hearings across the state. The only speaker to support the status quo system, was a member of the legislature and Republican party. Go figure. Every other speaker supported some form of citizen commission or non-partisan format for drawing districts. Do not fail us, the citizens. Be a hero of democracy, show us you can live by your spoken convictions, rather than let your actions convict you of hypocrisy. Give us back the power to elect our representatives. Appoint a non-partisan citizens' commission, give them guidelines, and let the best ideas win.</p>
Christine Hardman	Chapel hill, NC	<p>I find it unnecessary to redistrict based on the cost and the fact the elections have already started.</p> <p>Don't cancel out my vote and confuse all the voters</p>
Pete Glidewell	Elon, NC	<p>In 2012 Democrats for the US House of Representatives from North Carolina got 50.5% of all the votes cast yet only 4 of the 13 seats were won by Democrats. When you say that the present results are the will of the people, you have made a disingenuous statement. Half the votes should</p>

		reflect 50% of the seats, not 30%. So I consider your district design a fraud.
Joseph Sistare	Charlotte, NC	It is obvious that there can be no bipartisan consideration and cooperation in redistricting. Therefore the only logical solution is to remove the politics from the process. Since the early 2000's...there have been many articles about research done on developing mathematical algorithms to determine how congressional districts could be drawn. If our democracy is to be saved from eventual civil unrest... and possibly a class war in the streets... you had better use a non partisan mathematical approach. You may not like the facts that scientific research prove... but this is one time that you should consider mathematics. As a voter in the 12th district... I do not appreciate what you have done to electoral politics in this state.
Liz Millsaps Haigler	Charlotte, NC	It's is quick and easy to redraw our gerrymandered congressional districts! Adopt these fairly drawn districts: http://bdistricting.com/2010/NC_Congress/map.png If not this map, then please choose and independent commission and make the process transparent with lots of public feedback. Thank you!
Melissa Bizzaro	Charlotte, NC	must have an independent bipartisan commission to redraw our gerrymandered congressional districts
Steven Taylor	Greensboro, NC	As a registered, unaffiliated voter in Greensboro, NC, I strongly urge the Joint Select Committee to put a stop immediately to the Gerrymandering that has been used and abused for decades by both parties in many states. The fact that it is a long-standing "common practice" does not make it "right." The continuation of Gerrymandering discriminates against and disenfranchises voters of all races, sexes, and political parties. The arguments that it would be "too difficult" and that "there's not time" simply don't hold water. In fact, Sen Rucho has stated that if redistricting were required, the elections could be delayed. It's that simple. A simple redistricting plan is also available. On Sunday, Feb. 15, the Greensboro News and Record published a sample map, compiled by scholars at Duke University, that is optimized for compactness and equal population. Go with that map. This is not the appropriate time for "action" to be defending the status quo. Rather, it's time for action to unravel long-standing wrong. Respectfully, Steven Taylor Reference: http://www.greensboro.com/gnr/public-hearings-on-congressional-redistricting-canceled-update/article_2d68ee11-ccfe-5017-8a19-584220086cce.html
Raisse Ward	Creedmoor, NC	Voting Districts in North Carolina should be drawn fairly. No district should be drawn to favor a particular political party.
Beth Liner	Bullock, NC	The districts - as they stand - are ridiculous and it a shame that one party is

		so afraid of losing that they would need to do something like this. There must be something wrong with your platform if you have cheat to win
Shel Anderson	Durham, NC	I am very concerned about fairly-drawn districts. I live in congressional district #1, and was moved in the last re-districting. Please do not destroy more public trust in the election process by creating districts that confirm one party or the other. I hope you will redraw districts on the basis of geographic connection. My county (Durham) was sliced and diced among 4 different districts. I see little reason for that.
Marsha Wray Lowry	Harrisburg, NC	REDRAW THE DISTRICTS through non partisan or bipartisan committee. NC GOP Stop passing unconstitutional laws and districts.
Mark Nance	Raleigh, NC	<p>My name is Mark Nance. I live in Raleigh; I'm married and have two kids, Simon and Anna; and I'm an assistant professor of political science at NC State's School of Public and International Affairs. I appreciate the opportunity to comment here this morning. Much like you, I'd guess, I'm still processing the implications of a court decision that declares electoral districts illegal in an election that is technically already underway. Logically, legislative leaders have appealed for a stay. That outcome was uncertain to begin with and is even more so following the death of Justice Scalia. My comment this morning is thus not based so much on how to re-draw the districts, but rather the bigger lessons that I think this points out.</p> <p>In that regard, I'd like to make one simple point: we have to reform how we draw electoral districts in this state. We have a long tradition, stretching now across both parties, of the courts finding districts drawn by our legislators to be unconstitutional. North Carolina has much to be proud of, but our representative districts frankly are a source of embarrassment. Let me focus on two key points here this morning regarding why that's one tradition that's in desperate need of being overturned.</p> <p>I understand that it's tempting to draw your own district and party into safety while putting the other party at a disadvantage. And God knows I understand that the Democrats did this for generations. But North Carolina is changing drastically, and with it the strategic value of gerrymandering. We know that there is a rapid urbanization and that rural counties are losing population; we know that North Carolina is becoming more diverse and we don't know how these new folks will vote; we know that the traditional racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic settling in urban centers versus suburbs versus exurbs are also breaking down at rapid rates. In short, your districts will look very different in 10 or 15 years than they do right now; the political make-up will be very different than it is right now. Finally, as Dr. Andrew Taylor in our department is fond of saying, we also know that primary strategy of gerrymandering is to win small and lose big. The sum total of all of that is that districts drawn by the majority party will be the first to be impacted by demographic shifts. There is, in other words, a tremendous amount of uncertainty the politics of North Carolina over the next 15 or 20 years.</p> <p>Again, as Dr. Taylor has said, it therefore behooves those in power to buy themselves an insurance policy by implementing a system of redistricting that is transparent, accountable, reliable, and fair, regardless of the party in charge.</p> <p>Second, this is not abstract political theory, but has a real impact on our economy and on our democracy. For those of you involved in the gritty, day-to-day of district drawing, this process seems to morph into a largely technical, wonky exercise: move a few voters here and there to get above</p>

		<p>the constitutional bar. Let me assure you: most people outside of these walls see it as the worst kind of political maneuvering. It feeds into an already strong cynicism about the ugliness and pettiness of our political process. My students just read the work of Robert Putnam, who conducted a landmark study of the regions of Italy to determine why some of the regions seemed to work better than others. The regions were all structured the same and given the same resources. His answer? There was a higher level of trust among citizens in better functioning regions: trust among themselves and trust that no one was rigging the system to the systematic advantage of some and the systematic disadvantage of others. As a result, they engage their fellow citizens and their representative institutions in a way that makes the whole system work much better. Partisan gerrymandering undermines that trust and hampers the functioning of our democracy.</p> <p>As Rep. Stam said last fall in a forum that I hosted at NC State, ending gerrymandering won't solve so many of our problems. But just as better interstates, railroads, ports, and schools are the infrastructure our state needs to build a stronger, more competitive economy, a fair and transparent redistricting process is the infrastructure that we need to build a stronger, better functioning democracy. In short, it makes for a stronger North Carolina. And surely that is an agenda that we can all fully endorse. We need an independent, bi-partisan redistricting commission now to prevent these debacles in the future.</p>
Brian Thornburg	Chapel Hill, NC	Current districts are unfair. Please create an independent means of drawing the map, please.
James Morris	Greensboro, NC	Keep the redistricting the way it is. Democrats think they can gerrymander but Republicans should not and follow a different set of rules.
Mary Klenz	Charlotte, NC	<p>My name is Mary Klenz and I am Co-president of the League of Women Voters of NC.</p> <p>The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that has fought since 1920 to improve our government and engage citizens in the decisions that impact their lives. Formed from the movement that secured the right to vote for women, the centerpiece of the League's efforts remain to expand participation and give a voice to all Americans. We do this at all 3 levels of government, engaging in both broad educational efforts as well as advocacy. Our issues are ground in the history and the processes that make democracy work.</p> <p>So you can understand how dismayed we are that the democratic process of transparency, accountability and public input is compromised. It seems that having public input on maps that redraw the districts without ever producing the maps puts the cart before the horse.</p> <p>It is more than a week since the courts ordered the congressional maps be redrawn and they are due for submission to the federal courts in a mere 5 days. Yet, maps are nowhere to be seen. This further jeopardizes the process and erodes public trust and confidence that the elections will be fair.</p> <p>The evidence is clear: this redistricting plan causes harm to voters and the courts agree. More damage has already been done by the confusion and lack of transparency. When the process is in question the people of North Carolina are harmed.</p> <p>The League promised throughout this legal process that we will not give up</p>

		<p>in our fight to ensure that redistricting in this state is conducted in a fair and legal way. We've said it before and we say it again. Voters deserve new maps and fair elections to make democracy work here in North Carolina. This is not a Republican issue. It is not a Democratic issue. It is an issue of integrity and fairness. The League of Women Voters expect policymakers to live up to the responsibilities that have been entrusted to you by the voters and the law.</p>
Mark Prokop	Chapel Hill, NC	<p>Please don't change the districts at this time since the voting for our primary has already begun! Stop the politics and let our vote count!</p>
David Marshburn	Jacksonville, NC	<p>It is time for you to do the right thing and discard the gerrymandered maps you have created. You are not fooling anyone and now without Scalia to protect you, you might want to come up with some legitimate maps before the district court that just ruled against you makes you revert back to the old maps ! The eyes of the country are on you and more importantly the eyes of the North Carolina voters are on you !</p>
Patricia Rieser	Durham, NC	<p>I strongly support a non-partisan effort to re-draw NC's districts to accurately represent the state's diversity, which the current lines fail to do. If this means delaying the March primary, so be it. The party in power in Raleigh created this chaos, the taxpayers are footing the bill for the lawsuits that have ensued. This is your mess to deal with. There are ways to approach this in a truly non-partisan way, here's one example: http://bdistricting.com/2010/NC_Congress. There are others. Take this opportunity to behave like statesmen, not politicians. You know from the polls it's what the voters want. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
Kirk Folk	Charlotte, NC	<p>Thank you for accepting public comment online. I was at the CPCC forum in Charlotte, but after waiting 3 1/2 hours, I needed to leave the public comment hearing. There was, obviously, a lot of concern over the unconstitutional gerrymandered redistricting led by the ruling Republican Party.</p> <p>The way the districts are redrawn, decided by who wins office, is shamefully non-representative of the voice and voting of the people. I am among the growing population of unaffiliated voters in North Carolina that have been disenfranchised by these partisan politics at the expense of the people. The only reasonable, fair, democratic way of fixing the redistricting map is to conduct a non-partisan, independent redrawing from an outside agency and in an open and transparent forum with the public scrutinizing the process and results. While this makes sense, I fear, and believe there's proof to back up my concerns, that this is not what the parties vying for power in NC want. This is undemocratic and un-American. We the people vote for the representatives of the people. Politics which go against the will of the people hurts not only the people themselves from just representation but it hurts the system itself and perpetuates the divisiveness that undermines community solidarity and peace in society.</p> <p>I disagree with some of the comments being made in an attempt to justify keeping the system as illegal as it is. Several comments made concerned early voters and especially highlighted the military members serving overseas. The comments actually used the word disenfranchising of those NC voters. I cry foul to this claim. I am a 12 year veteran of the US Air</p>

Force and voted while overseas more than once. The disenfranchisement happens when a corrupt system is allowed to exist and drives people away from the polls and when voters know and understand that they are fighting for a corrupt system instead of the democracy they thought they were defending. Re-sending voter ballots is not a difficult task, and if it is expensive, those putting gerrymandered maps in place are responsible for misusing NC taxpayer dollars to bail themselves out of getting caught rigging the system. Those who have already cast votes will welcome resubmitting new votes in appropriately, legally drawn districts since they will have more faith that the system works to represent the people the service members overseas are fighting to protect. It was the current political establishment that put this currently unconstitutional redistricting map in place, and if members who voted early are now disenfranchised, it would necessarily be the responsibility of those who put the current maps in place.

Likewise, the "chaos" caused by a "last minute" court decision doesn't hold water, either. If there are unintended consequences caused by a legislature who unconstitutionally drew district maps based primarily on race, as the court rightfully found, the chaos is inherent in the system and doesn't change based on voting in this primary season. To not put a pause on the current elections and continue to rig the elections for the party in power will bring further turmoil as the population knows the districts have been drawn with politicians interests in mind, not the people's. The Legislature owes it to the people of NC to have fair elections that abide by the will of the people, not dirty political tricks. And, as some defending the unconstitutional maps have argued, the process allowed them to draw the redistricting lines based on race in a legal way and part of the current process in place, then the process needs major overhauling and the current system needs to be ruled illegal, as the federal court has found! In other words, even if it's "legal" now, it's still not right, and the laws need updated to reflect a non-racist process.

When districts are drawn in the inequitable way they are currently drawn, it undermines the people's vote and marginalizes large segments of the population. The current map is an inaccurate picture of the voting public and segregating voting blocks and communities based on color is still immoral and illegal. When the Supreme Court unwisely allowed a partisan attack on the Voting Rights Act and dismantled critical protections for the voting rights of people of color, their stated conclusion was we didn't need those protections in today's day. With gerrymandering districts, discriminatory voter ID laws, and other voter suppression tactics, it's quite obvious they were mistaken and we, in fact, do need those protections in place. This government is mandated to work for ALL the citizens, not just the ones who vote a certain way! When districts are segregated the way they are, the politics get changed in those areas, and that's where citizens then go unrepresented and their rights are infringed upon.

This NC Legislature owes it to the citizens of the state to redraw the districts in a way that includes more people in the political process. The lines need to be non-partisan, represent the voting blocks equally, and stop discriminating against large blocks of voters. Shame on those who suppress votes because they don't go toward them. Get a better platform and start working for the people instead of your own special interests if you want to

		stay in office!
Jessica Grey	Durham, NC	<p>As a recent transplant to North Carolina, I did not vote any of you into office (yet), but I am - now - a constituent and I find it appalling that before I've even had the chance to exercise my right to vote in a congressional election in this state, that my vote has already been marginalized by racist and partisan politics. Further, I find it deeply frustrating that after having already so egregiously gerrymandered congressional districts that any member of the General Assembly would cry foul - not just at having been caught doing it, but at the limited time constraint in which to fix it... when, in fact, it was a decision made by that same General Assembly that has so reduced the time available to step into compliance with the ruling of federal judges.</p> <p>These lines can and must be redrawn in a fair, non-partisan way and it must be done now. I've heard arguments that to delay the primary in order to redistrict first would disenfranchise voters, but is that not in fact what is already being done? and to a number of voters far larger than would be impacted by having to mail in another absentee ballot. This is a spurious argument, often made by pulling on patriotic heartstrings by invoking the right of our soldiers to vote. They absolutely do have the right to vote; but they, as well as every citizen in the state of North Carolina, have the right to vote in a constitutional election, something that will not occur should the elections continue forward with the lines drawn as they are. Further, this argument ignores the fact that many of those service members, in fact, hail from those districts that have been most marginalized by the 2011 redistricting.</p> <p>Delay the primary. Redraw the lines. Prove to your constituents that you value the Constitution, that you value the People, and that you value your own integrity. Prove your commitment to your oaths to the people of North Carolina. ALL the people of North Carolina.</p>
Jean Berrier-Tate	Charlotte, NC	<p>I hope this ruling will provide a good "kick in the pants" for all involved in this debacle. It is time to return democracy to the people. Districts should be drawn fairly based on geographical boundaries and ties (eg. cities, counties, etc.) not on race and political persuasion. Both parties have been guilty in the past and the time to stop this is NOW...Please do your duty as leaders of our state...</p>
Jeff Edwards	La Grange, NC	<p>I am 47. As a member of the 1st Congressional district in its present form and all previous ones, I have never voted in an election where the party of my representative wasn't already pre-determined in Raleigh. This was wrong when the Democrats did it and it is still wrong today. Almost every state Republican representative and Senator has been on record in the past for independent redistricting of ALL districts. The time has come to do the right thing and make it happen.</p>
Magaretha Herman	Durham, NC	<p>I reside in current District 1, and I feel very strongly that our congressional districts should be more compact. I had to drive to Elizabeth City to attend one citizen gathering in my district--that's too far. I oppose, on moral grounds, any district lines being drawn in order to promote the welfare of one political party over another. Let's have a non-partisan commission to draw district lines. When, through the mechanism of gerrymandered districts, one party wins more votes statewide, but has only 1/3 as many</p>

		congressional seats as the party that won fewer votes, that denies voters the representation they are due. I ask the NC legislature to create districts that respect the wishes of voters.
Carol Pierce	Seagrove, NC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - North Carolina should not be forced to redraw its congressional districts in the middle of an election cycle, where people have already begun voting. - Delaying the congressional primaries for a court ordered redraw of the maps will cause massive voter confusion and disenfranchise thousands of voters who may not vote in a likely mid summer, stand alone congressional primary. (1998 Primary Elections: May 5th Primary for US Senate: 799,371 ballots cast and September 15th Primaries for US House: 161,596 ballots cast) - Republicans are largely satisfied with their current representation and the constituent services they are receiving. <p>Again, the North Carolina Republican Party opposes the redrawing of the congressional maps. However, should the Courts require the maps be redrawn, the North Carolina Republican Party believes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The current 10-3 partisan split is a fair result of Republican election victories, which allows legislators to take partisan voting behavior into account when drawing districts. - A new congressional map should keep precincts and counties whole as much as possible. - Due to the reclining influence of North Carolina's rural communities, it is imperative that our state's smallest counties not be split. - Finally, as Chief Justice Roberts said in the opinion for Parents Involved in Community Schools v. Seattle School District No. 1, "the way to stop discrimination on the basis of race is to stop discriminating on the basis of race." Any new districts should be drawn in a completely "color blind" fashion, with no regard to race or racial political quotas.
John Campbell	Carrboro, NC	Please get back to work now. It's time to get these districts redrawn in a fair and unbiased manor. Stop your racial and political bias and do what is right for our state not what makes you the most money from special interest groups.
Melani Winter	Raleigh, NC	End the discriminatory redistricting by redrawing the lines of Districts 1 and 12.
Theresa Nash	Greensboro, NC	I believe it is mandatory, in order to have a functioning democracy, to assure that all citizens' votes count equally. Gerrymandering reduces competition in elections and reduces the value of some citizens' votes. I urge you to adopt an ungerrymandered voting district map and pass HB 92, which would create a truly nonpartisan redistricting process.
Paula Stober	Greensboro, NC	In North Carolina's last congressional elections in 2014, due to gerrymandering, no North Carolinian's vote was very powerful but some votes were much less powerful than others by design. As a result of gerrymandering, no congressional candidate won by less than 14.5% of the vote, seven won by 30% or more and one even won with more than 92% of the vote. With majorities so large in every race, no election for North Carolina Representative in the US Congress was competitive in 2014 and hence individual votes were not very powerful. In the 2016 election 40 % of the representatives will have no opponents

		because gerrymandering made it impossible for opposing candidates to be competitive. In those districts, the votes of North Carolina citizens will have zero power unless an amazing write-in candidate bursts on the scene. The same is true for 13 of the election contests for seats in the North Carolina Senate.
Susan Dodder	Kernersville, NC	<p>North Carolina needs redistricting that is transparent, fair, impartial, and non-partisan.</p> <p>Redistricting that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures fairness for ALL North Carolinians • Makes every vote count • Promotes public confidence in our political system • Makes government in North Carolina work for everyone • Reduces bitter partisan divisions in the NC General Assembly and avoids costly, lengthy legal battles • Serves the best interests of our state. <p>A poll by the North Carolina-based Public Policy Polling found that those surveyed 45 percent of registered North Carolina voters support nonpartisan redistricting, while just 18 percent oppose it. There is support among Democrats (48 percent to 14), Republicans (37 to 25), and independents (49 to 17).</p>
Patricia Beaman	Black Mtn, NC	<p>Please recognize my strong objection to the current redistricting attempt within an already active voting period and the middle of a voting cycle. We do not need this type of political intrusion. We have enough very challenging issues to address! without this type of confusion.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted, Patricia Beaman</p>
Amy Trawick	North Wilkesboro, NC	<p>I am thrilled with the court's decision and unhappy with the gerrymandering that has existed in this state for years. The district lines need to be redrawn before the primary, hopefully by an independent redistricting commission, with the use of government computers (not Republican reps'), and with transparency in the process. Please take this opportunity and your responsibility to the citizenry of this state seriously. Thank you for your service.</p>
Robert Carey	Burnsville, NC	<p>Redistricting should be done immediately</p>
Thurman Hubbard	Ramseur, NC	<p>Please do the right thing and simply redraw new lines based on natural boundaries such as rivers, major highway medians, and county lines in accordance with the intent of the authors of our state constitution. Doing so can be accomplished quickly. Stop tinkering with our elections to benefit yourselves and your benefactors and do the right thing before we have to force you.</p>
Anne Hummel	Greensboro, NC	<p>We must end to gerrymandering once and for all. Why? To be in compliance with the VRA, all voters should enjoy the same constitutional protections to fair elections, so that they have equally powerful votes. I urge you to adopt an ungerrymandered voting district map, and then, adopt a bill like HB 92 which Representative Jon Hardister has co-sponsored, a bill that would create a truly nonpartisan redistricting process.</p>
Manisha Devasthali	Fayetteville, NC	<p>Be transparent: Just follow the county lines. Stop laboring over what the demographic composition of the various regions are. This is not a task that</p>

		requires as much effort as education and women's rights.
Martha Brouwer	Troutman, NC	Please have redistricting done by an indepent agency.
Elena Snavelly	Durham, NC	Please draw some districts that make sense (and not just politically). Thanks! Elena
Victoria Weeke	Winston Sale , NC	Redistricting needs to be done immediately. Lawlessness by continuing these districts is wrong and unconstitutional.
John Balla	Raleigh, NC	Please redistrict N.C. districts for US Congress and NC Legislature in the most compact way possible and stop using racial, partisan or any other considerations when redrawing districts. I have more common interests with my nearest neighbors in Raleigh (no matter which party affiliation) than with people many miles away in rural areas or other cities. Thank you! John Balla
Melissa Murphy	Asheville, NC	I urge you to comply with the mandate and redraw the maps. North Carolina deserves a non-partisan system for drawing congressional districts. This is another embarrassing moment for our state; and coupled with all of the confusion and complications around voter ID and the rest of the voting restrictions the legislature has enacted, this is a serious hindrance to our democracy. North Carolina deserves better. We deserve fair maps that represent us and we deserve easy access to the ballot. If the election needs to be postponed to redraw our maps fairly, then that is what we should do. Please do it right this time.
Carl Johnson	Garner, NC	Redraw FAIRLY and EQUITABLY ALL DISTRICTS. And begin the process to allow an nonpartisan independent commission to draw them based on the decennial census results. I have no trust in the GOP led NCGA.
Leslie Kirby	Albemarle, NC	There should be fair districts because A. It makes a minority (regardless of party, race, etc.) equal to others and B. I'd rather see competition than an easy win for the political parties.
Patricia Sawin	Chapel Hill, NC	The redistricting must produce geographically compact districts where citizens will be diverse in terms of political position and race but have common interests in local communities and the needs and concerns particular to their area of our state.
Melinda Davis	Durham, NC	I support the redistricting the lines.
Holly Francis	Durham, NC	It's not hard, you're lying about that (not surprised) and you caused the problem in the first place! Check out this Website: https://www.washingtonpost.com/.../this-computer.../
Janine Rouson	Raleigh, NC	I believe the districts should be re-drawn before the March 15th primary. When I saw the maps this week from the news stories, it just makes no sense to see how districts 1 and 12 were drawn without some extreme bias in mind. Do the right thing.
Barbara Beard	Durham, NC	The situation was corrected five years ago. This is nothing more than effort to disrupt an election that is already in progress.
Bruce Emory	Asheville, NC	2014 election results demonstrate the unfairness of the current districts. Number of seats in Congress for each party should be roughly proportional

		to the statewide vote for that party. Start from scratch; don't just adjust current districts. Ignore where incumbent representatives live. Redistricting should follow county lines wherever possible, and districts should be compact as possible. Where counties must be split (no more than 13 counties should be split), lines should follow natural boundaries or municipal boundaries as much as possible. All of Buncombe County should be in one district.
Barbara Beard	Durham, NC	The situation was corrected five years ago. This is nothing more than effort to disrupt an election that is already in progress.
Cathi Bert-Roussel	Raleigh, NC	Dear Committee Chairmen, Please try to do a better job this time at drawing the boundaries of the 1st and 12th congressional districts. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see these two districts were gerrymandered. I would rather the elections be postponed than vote in an election with unconstitutional districts. As a voter and resident of North Carolina I am ashamed that so many of the laws and actions completed by the General Assembly end up being challenged in court. It would certainly seem as if many of our legislators are incompetent. Sincerely, Cathi Bert-Roussel
Margaret Krome-Lukens	Chapel Hill, NC	The redistricting which resulted in Districts 1 and 12 was a shameful process with shameful results: the disenfranchisement of Black voters. The drawing of districts must be a non-partisan, independent process free from the influence of political groups, including the Republican State Leadership Committee. Anything less is a blatant perversion of democracy.
David Armstrong	Durham, NC	Its not rocket science to figure out what the federal judges want to see. They need to see something reasonable. What you did previously was not reasonable else you would not now have hearings or solicit comments. You can't turn your sow's ear into a silk purse. Stop gerrymandering. Can you be competent? Scalia picked a great time to die.
Zan Bunn	Cary, NC	It is unconscionable for Federal Courts to interrupt an election underway. The current districts and district lines have passed the scrutiny of NC courts at all levels, and the current Justice Department (pre-clearance approval previously given). The districts, as drawn, are FAIR and LEGAL. The disenfranchisement of those who have already voted absentee ballots for the primary election of March 15 would be tremendous. I am personally happy with the district lines. The districts DO NOT need to be redrawn. If the court sees fit to demand such, then they can do so AFTER the election is finished. KEEP THE DISTRICT LINES - KEEP THE DISTRICTS - LEAVE NORTH CAROLINA ALONE!
Jeffrey Egerton	Gibsonville, NC	Gerrymandering, no matter which party draws the lines, is an affront to democracy. Please fix this in an honest and fair way.
Beverly Meek	Durham, NC	I write to request that the legislature follow the court's order and move

		<p>forward with a fair redrawing of voting maps that are now gerrymandered along racial lines. The current maps do not support open and fair elections and devalue my vote and that of NC citizens.</p> <p>Any challenges creating fair voting districts is worth it because with the current map it is unfair and has been for years.</p> <p>Redraw with fairness to all.</p>
Linda Spallone	Chapel hill, NC	<p>Do the right thing. Quickly redistrict these so we don't lose our right to a primary vote. You should let an independent group decide the new boundaries Do not disallow people from voting because you legislatures did the wrong thing and tried to prevent people from voting</p>
Teresa Grunwald	Raleigh, NC	<p>We need a totally independent body to draw the new districts. The partisan maps that create completely partisan districts undermine our democracy. It doesn't matter which party is in power. When voters have so little choice because districts overwhelmingly favor one party, we do not believe we have a voice in our government. I expect you to do the right thing.</p>
George Hague	Elizabeth City, NC	<p>For many years I lived in Rep.Butterfield's old district and felt that I did not have representation in Congress. I am now represented by Rep. Walter Jones in Pasquotank county. I look forward to Republican primaries now! Giving Pasquotank two different representatives give us more clout in Congress. Please leave Pasquotank as is.</p>
Marian Abernathy	Durham, NC	<p>We need fair and representative districts. I live in district one, but my neighbors across the street do not. Let's get legitimate, constitutional districts in place!</p>
Alisa Johnson	Durham, NC	<p>We need to delay the primary so that there is time to redraw districts. We also need to reform the way districts are drawn.</p>
Bart Goswick	Durham, NC	<p>Tell Judge Cogburn and the rest of the Federal Judiciary to mind their own business. They have NO AUTHORITY over the NC Election Process nor how NC draws its congressional districts. If they THINK they have that authority, please show it to me in the "Enumerated Powers" listed in the US Constitution. (Art.I Sec. 8) Also, these federal judges need to re-read Art. III.</p> <p>In closing, allow me to add that Art I. Sec. 4 does not apply here... I don't care WHAT you lawyers might have been indoctrinated with during law school.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
Thomas Stark	Chapel Hill, NC	<p>Mr. Chairman and Members of the Joint Select Committee:</p> <p>My name is Tom Stark. I practice law in Durham, North Carolina, where I have practiced for 34 years. I am a native son of this state. I find it ironic that the Democrats, after years of gerrymandering our congressional districts, now seek to defeat the current district pursuant to a ruling which appears to exhibit a heavily partisan imprint. This type of district came into being to satisfy the voting rights act, and was substantially abused by democrats. Today, We have districts that appear to be both fair and legal. Democrats complain because of the proportion of congressional seats held by each party. This, however, is reflective of the voters of our state. We</p>

		<p>should be mindful of the following:</p> <p>First, we have elections already under way. It would be prejudicial to the state (due to the extreme costs and disruption of a changed or split primary), to the candidates, whose campaigns will be thrown into chaos as they move through the final days before an election, and who in a moved election would have to face a much smaller turnout, and to voters, who will be confused by any changes in voting schedule, especially if filing periods are reopened and new or different candidates present. It is highly prejudicial most of all to the voters for a court to arrest the elections in the middle, in order to impose its will. It is hard to imagine such a move can pass muster under either the North Carolina or the United States Constitution.</p> <p>The difficulties are exacerbated by the fact that both parties elect national convention delegates and electors by congressional districts.</p> <p>Second, if new districts are to be considered care must be taken to give rural voters an adequate voice in a time when the tyranny of urban voters, who have no appreciation for rural living having long sense lost contact with their own rural roots, dominate political decision making. Rural Counties in particular should be left intact, and grouped to give a reasonable voice in the districts.</p> <p>Third, political subdivisions should be honored in drawing districts. We should avoid dividing precincts and Counties, which are the political subdivisions by which voters normally vote. We should also attempt to group voters into media markets so that we can keep down the cost of campaigns.</p> <p>Fourth, if we are to remove race as a grounds for complaints or discrimination in our society, we must stop making race the basis for treating people differently. The voting rights act made it acceptable to look at race, and one could argue that approach has made the situation worse. At a minimum, constantly focusing on race has made our society race conscious. We must deal with voters on an individual basis, and remove race from the consideration. Political views may be considered, but not race.</p> <p>I live in the Fourth Congressional District. While I am represented by a Democrat, but would prefer a Republican, that does not make the district necessarily unfair. The current districts should be left alone until redrawn in the next census, or at a minimum, redrawn now but without application to the pending election.</p> <p>Thank you Tom Stark</p>
Kelley Torbett	High Point, NC	Gerrymandering is a blatant threat to democracy and is unconstitutional. Our state deserves better.
Courtney Brown	Durham, NC	I live in district 1, that used to be four. Downtown Durham is developing and changing and should be represented by people who. Have to campaign here and not need to split time, north repast and down to Fayetteville. Delay congressional primary only Dix weeks so no one disenfranchised. Revert to old map for two years while you redraw in nonpartisan manner, one that regonizes the changing nature of urban areas, and hope SCOTUS doesn't incalidate the election I'd law in meantime.
Fay Hoggard	Greensboro, NC	I live in Guilford Country and very concerned about the recent ruling that will require a new redistricting map for Disticts 1 & 12 be drawn prior to our

		primary, scheduled for March 15th. The deadline to redraw the maps in such a short period is unrealistic and should not be required before this election. Of course, the existing map allows for fair representation for NC voters and the map prior to the existing map was drawn to favor the Democratic party. NC voters want and should be allowed full voting rights in the upcoming primary/election cycle. Leave the district map as is until the Supreme Court issues a ruling. please don't disenfranchise the Voters in NC!! Absentee ballots have already been submitted, the primary is a few weeks away and politics interfering with 'We the People' will be a mark on NC.
Ernest Roane	Burlington , NC	Simplify voting for all North Carolina's citizens by eliminating Gerrymandering and making all voting districts party-neutral.
Gary Rosche	Durham, NC	I live in the horribly gerrymandered District 1 and I demand that the General Assembly do their job and follow the court's order to redraw these districts that were meant to isolate and diminish the votes of African Americans in North Carolina. What other interest do urban Durham voters have with rural northeastern NC voters other than race? Shame on the GOP for cynically using race to cement their majority in congress. It is time to step up and do the right thing. Redraw the districts so that they fairly represent the political, geographical and racial realities of this state.
Bonnie Kristoff	Greensboro, NC	I have disagreed with gerrymandering for many years, and am very disappointed that the General Assembly has felt the need to continue this biased process. If you are representatives of the citizens of North Carolina, you should heed your promises and stand on your merits and fair competition. The current process disenfranchises citizens and does not provide equal representation and power to citizens. It is a travesty that so many candidates are unopposed. I join many other North Carolina citizens in urging you correct the current districts quickly, and to adopt a bill like HB92 to create a non-partisan redistricting process. NC citizens need this to happen in the next legislative session so that we feel all of the voting population is represented and have their voices heard through voting.
Dennis Meek	Durham, NC	Despite the fact that both parties have gerrymandered districts to protect incumbents in the past, the districts drawn by the legislature this time around blatantly disenfranchise democratic leaning, minority populations, who would more than likely vote many of you out of office. This process either needs to be non-partisan, as has been successfully implemented in some other states, or needs to be reviewed by the federal government under a strengthened voting rights bill.
Tod Puckett	Rougemont, NC	The districts have been drawn within the limits of the law and should stand as is. Should the NCGA choose to redraw, as permitted by the NC Constitution, then so be it, however the Federal Government nor the Federal Courts have no Constitutional authority to involve themselves in the electoral system of NC
Russell Haddad	Elizabeth City, NC	The new districts should be void of vengeance. They should be drawn with a non political process. Republicans and democrats should live and die by the vote and not rig the system.
Rebecca Cary	Durham, NC	Rep. David Price used to be my Congressman. The redistricting changed that -- I went from sharing a Congressman with my friends and acquaintances in the Triangle to sharing a Congressman with my mother. My mother lives in Hertford County. That's a long way from Durham.

		Hertford County has very little in common with Durham, other than the fact that both places have a lot of black people. Additionally, I checked a map, and most of the members of North Carolina's US Congressional delegation live closer to me than my own Congressman does. That's just not right.
Jennifer Palmer	Durham, NC	The 2011 redistricting that rounds up all the African Americans and jams them into district 12 and 1 to limit their influence is disgustingly racist. This is SO not OK with me. Redraw them, postpone the primary, deal with the fallout from that with contacting the absentee ballots, and get off any high horse you might have about how little time you have to do so. The tight timeline is 100% the fault of those of you who made the racist maps in the first place. And the same ones who then moved up the primary to March. So stop whining, and go let someone else do your job like you should have in the first place. We need a non-partisan, outside group to fairly redistrict NC.
Natalie Beyer	Durham, NC	I am an unaffiliated voter living in Congressional District 1. I am extremely concerned about the extremely gerrymandered Congressional and State House & Senate districts in our state. The General Assembly should enable an independent, nonpartisan group to draw district maps now and in the future. Fair maps result in fair elections and are the foundation for our democracy. Please enable public comment before drawing new maps. Thank you!
Heather Stevens	Whittier, NC	I live in Western North Carolina where the districts were redrawn along political lines such that Asheville was removed from my district in order to wash out and reduce the voice of democrats and others with more liberal leanings. This had the effect of washing out both the progressive voices in Asheville as well as those further west and was clearly politically motivated. Districts should be based upon where people live and not changed periodically based upon the current ruling party's political motivations. This practice should be illegal and smacks of voter fraud as it has the effect of making it so that every vote is not counted in the way that it should be.
Jennifer Richmond-Bryant	Chapel Hill, NC	The only way to resolve the issue with voting districts is to create an independent panel. This panel will favor neither party and therefore will serve the voice of the people more effectively. The current gerrymandered districts are a violation of our democratic values.
Robert Sparks	Advance, NC	There is absolutely no reason that elected officials should have the power to draw electoral district lines. The fact that the argued justification for the challenged districts was to create a partisan slant is disgusting, and contrary to the spirit and purpose of democracy. We have the power to draw fair, completely unbiased districts by any number of algorithms. Take, for examples, the "Shortest Splitline" algorithm, or Brian Olson's "Optimally Compact" algorithm. The fact that the General Assembly insists on drawing district lines themselves is an incredible display of cowardice and awareness that the current 10-3 delegation would look a lot different if the lines were drawn with any sense of neutrality. We have the ability to draw fair districts. Our elected officials just lack the political will.
Hope Nicholls	Charlotte, NC	I do believe the current districts are gerrymandered and need to be redrawn to make them more racially balanced, and more balanced between rural and urban areas.
Suzie Dollar	Durham, NC	Get this redistributing done ad done fairly. It is not right for any party to

		change the voting districts in order to exclude certain people from Adair representation of their voting block. It is never ethical to rig the system in order to favor one party over another; that undermines democracy and what we stand for as US citizens and North Carolinians. This state has become a laughing stock under this legislature and governor. I beg you to hire an unaffiliated nonpartisan group to use statistical analysis to resort and redraw these districts. Please fix this mess.
Woody Holliman	Durham, NC	The racial gerrymandering and race-based voter suppression tricks have become clear to most N.C. voters. Your failure to share draft maps and seek meaningful feedback until five days before the deadline the Court provided is evidence that your extremist leaders continue to act in bad faith, as they did in the 2011 redistricting process. It is absurd, as the Federal Court pointed out, for public servants to engage in cynical tricks to choose their voters, rather than introducing and passing policies that will inspire voters to choose them. It is a farce to schedule public hearings a few days before the Court's deadline. Push the primary back to May. I demand the Court use its power to draw constitutional districts.
Teraysa Grasty	Charlotte, NC	Please create a independent bipartisan commission to redraw our gerrymandered congressional districts!
Joanne Heckel	Clemmons, NC	I am asking that redistricting be changed so as to eliminate race from the system.
Alex Crist	Greensboro , NC	I think the time is long overdue to set up equal areas regardless of voting patterns, and do it non partisan, out of the legislatures hands, so that the people within each voting district have a fair chance to vote who they think is the right person for them, and not have it predetermined due to unfair districting.
Kevin Farmer	Clemmons, NC	NC's congressional districts must be redrawn by a non-partisan election commission. NC's legislative districts will be subject to the same scrutiny and will suffer similar fate in the courts. Those must also be redrawn by a non-partisan election commission. The presidential primary can proceed on March 15th, as can any other races that are not affected by district boundaries. Let's do this right! Thank you.
Audrey Smith	Stem, NC	First District looks impossible for a Republican to win.
Tal Lewin Wittle	Chapel Hill, NC	As a longtime resident of NC, I implore the committee to fulfill its duty and draw constitutional voting districts for all North Carolinians. It seems that a reasonable proposal has been put forth to delay the first primary until the May date for the second primary, thus giving the committee ample time to complete its work and for ballots to be correct for the new districts.
David Smith	Cary, NC	North Carolina should create an independent, non partisan commission with the purpose of creating compact non-gerrymandered congressional districts.
Jennifer Battle	Cary, NC	Stop the unfair redistricting!!
Beth McKee-Huger	Greensboro, NC	Democracy is injured when districts are drawn to include or exclude by race. Elected officials can get away with ignoring constituents who do not agree with them because they are confident that they have enough support from voters drawn into their districts by the current districting plan. There is no need for them to consider the good of the whole or to compromise to find solutions that benefit the whole state. Racial lines presume segregated residential patterns and political affiliation, rather than making decisions

		based on the merit of candidates or issues. I urge redistricting that is fair, with equal population and without splitting precincts or defining by race.
Paul Richer	Holly Springs , NC	Congressional districts should be drawn by a non-partisan committee. Race and political position should not be characteristics considered when determining district lines.
jeffery gorski	chapel hill, NC	Please move with all haste to re-draw voting district lines to meet voting deadline and not impede the voting rights of the citizens of those districts. Political gamesmanship should not shadow the rights of the local voters!
Ellen Dagenhart	Durham, NC	Please do not delay in redrawing these districts in a more compact manner so that voters may choose their elected officials, instead of politicians choosing their voters. If the primary must be delayed to May, so be it. If you find you cannot remove partisan considerations from this work, you need to turn it over to non-partisan representatives to get the job done for ALL the voters of this great state.
Edward Sheary	Weaverville, NC	All districts must be drawn to meet the constitutional test of one man one vote. That means they must be geographically logical and drawn to ensure that they produce competitive races that give no particular constituency or party a strong advantage. The current sets of congressional and legislative districts make obvious a rigged election system and that breeds cynicism and voter apathy. The time has come for a nonpartisan redistricting commission
Tina Rodriguez	Newport, NC	The primary must be delayed to allow the redistricting to take place to ensure the fairness and integrity of the vote. Anything less is not acceptable. This could have been avoided in so many ways. It is very disappointing to see our state made fun of in late night comedy shows. It must end. Do the right thing; postpone the congressional primary and draw these maps correctly and fairly.
Elizabeth Propst	Mooresboro, NC	Please redistrict fairly on natural or county lines, not on what any politicians want. Rigging elections should not happen in a democracy.
Scott Jones	Whitsett , NC	Please do this right and put aside all the Political Party bull and represent all of NC not local political parties!!!
Lora Light	Sanford, NC	The current maps are FAIR and LEGAL. They've been cleared in the past, we don't need to change ANY of them in the middle of the election.
Bonnie Foster	Raleigh, NC	As a product of Wake County Public School System, mother, asvocate, and NC System, I want our school system to rremain the best. Living in Charlotte I see what resembles schools of yesteryear. All blacks or minority schools, no text books, loss of good teachers, and just blame non education of minority students due to bias redistricting that segregates, separates, and divides; whereas, manifesting inequality and prejudices of yesterday. The same in drawing district voting lines and requiring ID to vote. You as our elected officials can make a difference. Please do. I sit here after an accident with 6 broken bones writing due to need your help being needed to support what is best for the citizens of NC. Therefore, a significant Teacher pay increase is needed; as well as, programs to help individuals with a degree to go into education if they have a desire to teach.
Tiffany Birkner	Apex, NC	Please do the right thing and leave the districts as they were written by the NCleg. There is nothing wrong with these districts, and in the middle of the Presidential primary is NOT the time to do this debate. Getting this all caught up in legislation would only disenfranchise voters, who many have

		already submitted their absentee ballots!! It would create ridiculous, unnecessary confusion. I'm NOT ok with having this important election stolen by these banana republic tactics of redrawing lines this late in the game. PLEASE KEEP THE MAP AS IS!! Thank you, Tiffany
GAIL CHANDLER	CLAYTON, NC	Republicans will not always control the NC legislature. NOW is the time to create a nonpartisan panel to handle redistricting! It is what is best for ALL North Carolinians!
Gwendolyn Wilkins	Rocky Mount, NC	1st District should be as it was before the redistricting, I.E., which did not include Durham County. Packing majority AA in one District does not give them a voice; instead, it stifles voices to one central area. This is not the North Carolina way...it is NOT the American way.
Robin Ellis	spruce pine, NC	Please consider returning our primary election to the original date in May. This continued effort to hinder ease of voting must stop. I am looking forward to having equitably drawn voting districts.
Amelia McComas	Mooresville, NC	It might be worth considering the 2014 Washington Post article where districts were drawn based on census data. Here's the link for your reference: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2014/06/03/this-computer-programmer-solved-gerrymandering-in-his-spare-time/ Thank you.
Leslie Frost	Durham, NC	I am writing to encourage the committee to draw representative boundaries that do credit to our state's commitment to the voting rights of all of our citizens and to the legislature's commitment to representing the will of all citizens. Hopefully we will soon have nonpartisan redistricting of the entire state -- something all citizens who want the best for our state support -- but until then please redistrict fairly.
Christina Ward	Cary, NC	Please remember that fair and constitutional voting districts are at the very heart of our democracy. Too many people had to fight for (and suffer and die for) their basic right to vote in this country. It would be disgraceful to intentionally weigh some votes more than others, simply to ensure uneven representation among Republicans and Democrats. Do what is morally and ethically right, even if that takes courage.
Mary Ann Manning	Whispering Pines, NC	You need to hold off on redistricting until after the November election. Many people have already voted absentee in their given districts. By redistricting now, you will effectively deprive them of their right to vote and to have it counted. Additionally, candidates have spent money in their districts and if you change them, it gives an unfair advantage to some and not to others. If redistricting needs to be done, it should have been done last year or after the general election in November. Redistricting now does not represent the people you were elected to serve.
Amy Sherman	Holly Ridge , NC	I strongly believe NC should be divided by a 3rd party contract. I consider the current map racist and should be illegal. I'm ashamed of what the current GA and Gov have done to our State.
William Hurt	Greensboro, NC	The state of North Carolina needs an impartial organization to develop or implement plans that are based on population not party affiliation.
Richard J. Manning	Whispering Pines, NC	No redistricting until after the elections in November. Once campaigning has started and people have submitted absentee ballots, it's too late to change the district. Changing anything now does not serve the best interests of the voters or of the candidates, who have essentially wasted money and time

		campaigning/advertising in areas which are now part of a new district.
Ronald Hatman	raeford, NC	To move forward now to redraw districts with elections already underway will bring confusion to the voters, extra expense to the counties and a lot of extra work for county workers during a high pressure time. This has the potential to affect every district in the state not just the 2 addressed. I appeal to wisdom and address this issue after the primary election is over. Most races now are for party candidates.
Kathryn Blaylock	Clayton, NC	All maps need to be drawn by an independent commission. Delay the elections until the new maps are reviewed and approved.
Jessie Larkins	Durham, NC	Delay the primary till the original May date so that this can be done fairly! Draw boundary lines that make sense and do not reflect racial or economic bias.
Sara Bausch	Durham, NC	I absolutely think the Supreme Court's was correct, the redistricting creates racially gerrymandering and to say that they are fair is utterly laughable. Do the right thing and redraw the districts fairly.
Bryon Settle	Hillsborough, NC	Redistricting should benefit the people. Not the candidates. That sums it up nicely. Stupid politics.
Alma Adams	Greensboro, NC	<p>In November 2014, voters of North Carolina's 12th Congressional District elected me to serve as their federal representative in the U.S. Congress and entrusted me to be their voice. It's been my pleasure to serve.</p> <p>Since it's inception, voters in the 12th Congressional District have challenged the District's constitutionality on the basis that race was the predominate factor in drawing the lines. Two weeks ago, the 4th District Circuit Court ruled against the current lines of the 12th and the 1st Congressional Districts.</p> <p>Our Congressional map is unconstitutional and it is the responsibility of our General Assembly to fix it before another voter is impacted. I am deeply troubled that our Great State has allowed race to unduly impact our Congressional map and I urge the General Assembly to redraw these lines and do what is right by the people you've been elected to serve.</p> <p>I encourage you to move with all deliberate speed to remedy a wrong that has inflicted grave harm upon the people of the 12th and 1st Congressional Districts. This easily preventable miscarriage of justice can no longer be tolerated.</p> <p>The 4TH Circuit issued its opinion ten days ago on Feb. 5th, and instead of taking immediate action to correct the wrongs inflicted on North Carolina's voters, the General Assembly launched a fight to uphold their unconstitutional gerrymanders. This only adds further insult to injury and is a tremendous waste of time and resources.</p> <p>I now implore the General Assembly to now move with all due speed to create a Congressional map that comports to the Constitutional requirements outlined by the 4th Circuit.</p> <p>However, the General Assembly must not draw these lines without first hearing from the people. The General Assembly must quickly put forth</p>

		<p>potential Congressional maps and allow the voters to provide their input and suggestions.</p> <p>While the General Assembly wants to rewrite the Constitution and have citizens o believe that elected officials have the right to choose their voters – I am hear to tell every North Carolinian that is absolutely incorrect.</p> <p>The cornerstone of our Democracy relies on the fact that every person has a voice and every person has the power to elect his or her representatives. The power is with the people and in this case the people have spoken and so have the Courts.</p> <p>The General Assembly should move all Primary elections to the second Primary date, May 24th. This will ensure that our legislators have time to redraw the Congressional map with public input and reduce cost on the State and confusion amongst the electorate. This will ensure that the power remains with the people and that our state is operating within the confines of our scared Constitution.</p> <p>Let us now come together and move forward to remedy a wrong that has inflicted grave harm upon our people.</p>
Mary Huggins	Belmont, NC	Fair and legal; no need for questioning.
Simon Percival	Raleigh, NC	For decades, the gerrymandering of voting districts was criticized at times but never contested to this degree. It would appear that is now only warranted when a different political party is in control of the process. Ultimately, I would agree that the process should be left to a non-partisan, independent process but it is difficult to see how that would be achieved if appointees to that process are to be determined by partisans. In the meantime, the Obama-stacked Federal Courts are being unreasonable and it now would appear impossible to get a stay from the SCOTUS. Nevertheless, with the election process already in progress to some extent for 2016, I would strongly recommend against making any changes before the next legislature convenes in 2017 at the earliest.
John Harvilla	Cary, NC	There is no need for redistricting the congressional districts they are fine and we should move forward with the election cycle. This would add confusion to an election cycle that has already started!
Robert Hord	Cherryville, NC	All districts should be drawn in contiguous blocks, following county lines as much as possible, that minimize their boundaries.
Beth Rosen	Cary, NC	This needs to happen... North Carolinians deserve a fair and unobstructed way to vote.
Ann Sullivan	Goldsboro , NC	This map has already been approved by the Obama justice dept. Yes it was drawn according to race Because of the 1965 (4) Voting Rights Bill to have 2 Minority Districts. This was done, we even tried to get that thrown out BEFORE the maps were drawn! You would have thought we planned to lynch someone. Is it gerrymandered? Yes because of the law! You can't have it both ways! You move a line and it affects other Districts! It amazes me they waited until now to object.
Michelle Bannon	Wilmington, NC	When looking at my current congressional district, it is clear that the

		boundaries were drawn for a political purpose. Those of us living within the district are not neighbors and do not live in the same general area. We do not have common concerns or needs and therefore our Congressman/woman cannot provide us with adequate representation. The congressional districts should be determined by a nonpartisan panel and be based on the geographical borders of cities, counties and neighborhoods. I want to feel as those I am represented fairly rather than the pawn of whomever happens to be in office when the districts are drawn. Thank you,
Alan Herlands	Oriental, NC	When drawing the Congressional District boundaries: 1. Race and political party affiliation should not be included in the data used to make the boundaries. 2. County boundaries should be used whenever feasible.
Josh Parshall	Carrboro, NC	The redistricting must produce geographically compact districts where citizens will be diverse in terms of political position and race but have common interests in local communities and the needs and concerns particular to their area of our state.
Randy Neighbarger	durham, NC	The districts as they now stand are illegal and should be redrawn in a more representative fashion.
Melissa Lennon	Fuquay Varina, NC	Please put gerrymandering aside and draw fair districts that fairly represents the voters and citizens of NC. Then pass legislation creating an impartial Redistricting Commission to draw districts in the future. Let your legacy be one of ending gerrymandered districts in NC.
Deborah Krueger	Salisbury, NC	I want my vote to count. Why can't districts be drawn on county lines?
Mirthela Villanueva	garner, NC	Toward we can make a difference
Robert Brinson	Garner, NC	No redistricting until after the 2016 elections and then only if the Federal government gets out of the business of the States and their elections.
Total	381	

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North Carolina General Assembly
Joint Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting (2015)

February 16, 2016

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1 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: No.

2 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Okay. Then, just at ease for about 10 to
3 15 minutes. Thank you.

4 (Recess)

5 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Spend a few minutes taking a look at that
6 and see from its beginning on through the latest maps what
7 has transpired. I think it will be very educational. Thank
8 you.

9 All right. Let's call this Joint Select Committee on
10 Redistricting back into order. You have a copy of the
11 agenda before you. And there's just one correction on the
12 agenda. When -- on this right quadrant under "Senate," it
13 had "Harry Warren." It should be "Senator Harry Brown." So
14 fix that.

15 Okay. Well, yesterday we had a chance to have a public
16 hearing, and I think each of you knows that the General
17 Assembly, based on the Harris case, there was an opinion
18 given by the three-judge panel, and we are responding to
19 that. We still believe that the maps that are presently
20 enacted are fair, legal, and constitutional, as has been
21 validated by five different bodies, including the Justice
22 Department, including a three-judge panel, including the
23 Supreme Court on three occasions.

24 And so, under the circumstances, we are taking precaution,
25 and we anticipate some reaction from the Supreme Court on

1 2011 plans as "the enacted plans." The enacted
2 congressional redistricting plan of 2011 was first
3 precleared by the United States Department of Justice, as
4 was required by section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. The
5 enacted congressional redistricting plan was then challenged
6 in state courts through what is known as the Dickson vs.
7 Rucho case. The plan was affirmed by a three-judge panel
8 and by the North Carolina Supreme Court.

9 The enacted congressional redistricting plan has been used
10 to elect members of the U.S. House of Representatives in
11 2012 and 2014, and has also seen citizens file for election
12 in each of the 13 districts this year. Further, voting has
13 begun, and we are informed by the State Board of Elections
14 that more than 16,000 citizens have already requested to
15 vote by mail.

16 Unfortunately, the enacted plan was challenged again in
17 what is known as the Harris vs. McCrory case. In that
18 decision, in which we respectfully disagree with the
19 three-judge panel, it was found that the 1st Congressional
20 District and the 12th Congressional District are racial
21 gerrymanders, and they ordered new maps be drawn by February
22 19th, and that the election for U.S. House not be held under
23 the current maps.

24 While, as Chairman Rucho said, we're confident that a stay
25 of this decision, which interrupts an election already in

1 progress will be granted and they -- and that the enacted
2 map will ultimately be upheld on appeal, we are required to
3 begin the process of drawing a 2016 contingent congressional
4 map.

5 I reiterate that while the 2011 plan was dictated by the
6 Cromartie and Strickland decisions of the U.S. Supreme
7 Court, we will move forward to establish a plan based on the
8 Harris opinion.

9 The proc- -- this process began with the appointment of
10 this Joint Select Committee and continued yesterday with
11 public hearings held in six locations across the state with
12 more than 70 speakers participating. There were also more
13 than 80 comments submitted online. The chairs thank all the
14 citizens who participated yesterday. The Chair reminds the
15 members that the written comments have been placed on the
16 General Assembly's website and a link emailed to each of
17 your email accounts.

18 Mr. Chairman, at your direction, I would like to submit to
19 the committee a series of proposals to establish criteria
20 for the drawing of a 2016 contingent congressional map.

21 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Yes, sir. Chairman Lewis, you can begin
22 and go through the rotation as you plan.

23 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I'd like staff to
24 distribute the 2016 congressional -- pardon me -- the 2016
25 Contingent Congressional Plan proposed criteria beginning

1 respond to that?

2 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, thank you.

3 Senator Blue, I appreciate that inquiry.

4 It is my understanding in reading of the opinion that race
5 is not to be a factor in drawing the districts. Adoption of
6 this criteria would mean that the ISD staff of the General
7 Assembly would be instructed to establish computers. And I
8 believe the software is called Maptitude. And the staff
9 would be instructed not to include race as a field that
10 could be used to draw districts.

11 I'll go one step further and say respectfully that race
12 was not considered when the General Assembly passed the 12th
13 District of the enacted plan. But the Court still
14 questioned its use. This would contemplate that that data
15 would not be available to mapmakers who make maps to comply
16 with the Harris order.

17 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Follow-up.

18 SENATOR BLUE: You are saying that notwithstanding all of
19 the jurisprudence in this area, at least that I've seen over
20 the last 25, 30 years, that you're going to draw minority
21 districts without taking into account whether minorities are
22 in the minority district?

23 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Senator Blue, I believe the Harris
24 opinion found that there was not racially polarized voting
25 in this state, and, therefore, the race of the voters should

1 not be considered. My proposal would be that we use
2 political data only and do not use race to draw
3 congressional districts.

4 SENATOR BLUE: One last question.

5 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Follow-up.

6 SENATOR BLUE: I long for the day, just like you do,
7 Representative Lewis, when we can do that. And I hope it's
8 sooner, rather than later. But I don't think it's wise to
9 spit in the eyes of three federal judges who control the
10 fate of where we're going to go with redistricting. And I
11 understand what you're trying to do here, but I think it's
12 an insult to their intelligence to take this approach, and I
13 think that they will show you the ultimate power of the
14 federal judiciary that's existed since 1802 in Marbury vs.
15 Madison if you do this.

16 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Respectfully, sir, it would never
17 be my intent to offend or to question the dignity of the
18 office of a federal judge. And if anything I've said hither
19 and to has done that, I apologize. However, it is my
20 understanding that when we drew the enacted plan, we applied
21 the Cromartie, the Strickland decisions as best we knew how
22 to do in drawing the first. We did not use race when we
23 drew the 12th. The Court has found those both to be racial
24 gerrymanders.

25 It would be my -- they also found, based on my reading of

1 the opinion -- which is certainly not spit in their face,
2 just trying to read what they said -- that there's not
3 racially polarized voting. If that is indeed the case, then
4 race should not be a factor.

5 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Smith-Ingram. Representative
6 Smith-Ingram.

7 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: I'm sorry. I --

8 SENATOR SMITH-INGRAM: Thank you.

9 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Before I do that, I'll -- I --
10 Senator McKissick got me first.

11 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Please, Senator McKissick.

12 SENATOR MCKISSICK: Sure. The thing that I'm deeply
13 concerned about is that the Voting Rights Act and the courts
14 have historically indicated that it's appropriate to use
15 race in drawing congressional districts. And I don't
16 understand why we would abandon it as a criteria. From what
17 I understand from reading the most recent decision in
18 Harry [sic] -- Harris vs. McCrory, what they were concerned
19 about was the fact that it was a predominant consideration.
20 So there was an overconcentration of African-American
21 voters, because majority-minority districts were created.
22 And I think that was what I understood to be the finding,
23 the creation of these majority-minority districts when
24 historically the 1st and 12th Districts could elect a
25 candidate choice without being a majority-minority district.

1 attorney. It's my reading of the case that the Court has
2 found that there was not racially polarized voting, which is
3 the trigger point to draw a VRA di- -- a VRA district.
4 Therefore, if that is not the case, then we believe the
5 enacted maps should stand as they are.

6 If we're going to redraw the maps with the Harris order,
7 which says there's not racially polarized voting, then we
8 believe that race should not be a consideration in drawing
9 the maps.

10 SENATOR MCKISSICK: Follow-up, Mr. Chair.

11 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Follow-up.

12 SENATOR MCKISSICK: Why would we not here want to consider
13 the election results in the 2008 and two thousand, I guess,
14 twelve presidential elections? Is there a specific reason
15 why we want to exclude those specific election results and
16 include other potential election results within that same
17 general time frame?

18 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Yes.

19 SENATOR MCKISSICK: Because, I mean, the thing that --
20 obvious to anybody, we had an African-American running for
21 president in those two election cycles.

22 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Yes, sir. And I don't recall which
23 pages it's on, but in the Harris opinion, one of the judges
24 wrote that using the 2008 Obama-McCain data was really a
25 code for trying to use black versus white. So we simply say

1 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Well, Senator --

2 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Representative Lewis.

3 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 I'm going to reiterate my earlier comments to you, sir,
5 that in no way has anything that I have said had the intent
6 and I hope not the effect of causing any offense to any
7 member of the federal judiciary. I would reiterate the only
8 way to make sure that race is not the predominant factor is
9 to make sure it's not a factor when the maps are being
10 considered.

11 This Court -- I'll go one step further. With the utmost
12 respect to the -- to the Court, this Court was shown that
13 race was not a factor that was considered in drawing of the
14 12th, but they still found that it was a factor. This is --
15 this way, we make sure that, in fact, it is not.

16 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Members of the committee, Senator
17 McKissick.

18 SENATOR MCKISSICK: Representative Lewis, are you aware of
19 any racial result of polarized voting studies which have
20 been conducted since the 2010 census was -- occurred?

21 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Senate McKissick, respectfully, I
22 would direct you to the redistricting tab of the General
23 Assembly website. I believe there are some studies that are
24 listed there. Certainly, there are numerous studies that
25 are referenced in the various lawsuits. I know the General

1 Assembly did commission a study on racially polarized
2 voting. I do not believe the Harris court admitted or
3 considered it.

4 SENATOR MCKISSICK: Follow-up, Mr. Chair.

5 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Follow-up.

6 SENATOR MCKISSICK: Is it not possible to go back and find
7 that data, which is reasonably current, since it was done
8 since 2010 to examine the racially polarized voting patterns
9 throughout the state because different parts of the state
10 are different? Our urban areas have different
11 characteristics and there's more coalition politics. Other
12 parts of our state racially polarized voting patterns are
13 present and continue to exist. I would suggest that we go
14 back and look at those studies, analyze them, and use those
15 studies as part of the database that would be used to move
16 forward and draw in these districts. Any reason why we
17 cannot do that?

18 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Respectfully, sir, I may -- I may
19 agree with you, but the Court does not.

20 SENATOR MCKISSICK: And I have to respectfully disagree on
21 that.

22 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Noted.

23 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Senator Clark.

24 SENATOR CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25 With regard to the language on the voting districts in

1 of the congressional delegation under the enacted plan is
2 ten Republicans and three Democrats. The committee shall
3 make reasonable efforts to construct districts in the 2016
4 Contingent Congressional Plan to maintain the current
5 partisan makeup of North Carolina's Congressional
6 Delegation."

7 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Representative Lewis to explain.

8 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, the explanation of
9 this is reasonably simple. As we are allowed to consider
10 political data in the drawing of the maps, I would propose
11 that -- to the extent possible, the map drawers create a map
12 which is perhaps likely to elect ten Republicans and three
13 Democrats. I acknowledge freely that this would be a
14 political gerrymander, which is not against the law.

15 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Okay. All right. Members of the
16 committee, any questions?

17 Senator Blue.

18 SENATOR BLUE: Just one, Mr. Chairman.

19 And this was a point of order since you've got my friend,
20 the Rules Committee chairman up there. Is -- what are the
21 rules under which committee is operating? House or Senate?
22 And if Senate -- and if it's neither, where do they come
23 from? But if it's the Senate, aren't ayes and nays
24 prohibited in committee votes?

25 SENATOR APODACA: The chairs agreed we'd operate under the

1 House rules. And I can tell you I wasn't here for that.
2 But they did.

3 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: All right. Representative -- Senator
4 Blue.

5 SENATOR BLUE: One follow-up.

6 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Could I have your attention.

7 SENATOR BLUE: Since I'm not familiar with the House rules
8 anymore, there is a permitted abstention in the ayes and
9 no's under the House rule, is there not?

10 REPRESENTATIVE STAM: Mr. Speak- -- Mr. Chairman.

11 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Representative Stam, if you can respond
12 to that question.

13 REPRESENTATIVE STAM: I could. There is no such rule
14 under House rules now or when Senator Blue was the speaker
15 of the House.

16 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Senator Blue, did you get your answer?

17 SENATOR BLUE: (No audible response.)

18 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Good. Thank you.

19 Okay. Members of the committee, let's pay close attention
20 to this.

21 Senator McKissick.

22 SENATOR MCKISSICK: In looking at this particular
23 criteria, I mean, certainly parti- -- partisan advantage is
24 a legitimate consideration. But I don't know why, based
25 upon the number of Democratic registered voters, Republican

1 registered voters, and Unaffiliated voters in this state, we
2 would want to ever sit and ingrain as a criteria for
3 redistricting that we would only allow one party three seats
4 in Congress and the other one ten in Congress when not very
5 long ago, before 2010, we had seven Democrats and five
6 Republicans. So I'm trying to understand why you feel this
7 would be fair, reasonable, and balanced in terms of voter
8 registrations in this state as it is currently divided.

9 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Thank you for the question,
10 Senator.

11 I propose that we draw the maps to give a partisan
12 advantage to ten Republicans and three Democrats because I
13 do not believe it's possible to draw a map with 11
14 Republicans and two Democrats.

15 SENATOR MCKISSICK: Follow-up, if I could.

16 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Follow-up.

17 SENATOR MCKISSICK: Were you aware of the fact that in the
18 2012 election cycle, if you total the number of votes
19 received by Democrats running for Congress versus the total
20 number of votes cast for Republicans running for Congress,
21 the Democratic candidates had a higher number of total
22 votes, but it ended up with fewer seats? Were you aware of
23 that factor in drawing up this criteria?

24 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: I'm aware, Senator. First of all,
25 thank you for the question.

1 or do you foul, run, and win in the districts in which you
2 live? Our system has historically been the latter.

3 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: I'll have a follow-up there, Senator.
4 Representative McKissick, go ahead.

5 SENATOR MCKISSICK: Yeah. Simply this: I think what
6 voters want are more competitive districts; more competitive
7 districts where they have a clear choice between a Democrat,
8 Republican, and perhaps an Unaffiliated candidate who is
9 running, but not ones that are gerrymandered to give one
10 party or the other just a clear partisan advantage. More
11 competitive districts, I support completely. But that means
12 drawing the maps in a way where you're not, from the outset,
13 establishing a criteria that gives one party an unfair
14 advantage.

15 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Representative Lewis.

16 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, the only thing that I
17 could add is that we want to make clear that we, to the
18 extent, are going to use political data in drawing this map.
19 It is to gain partisan advantage on the map. I want that
20 criteria to be clearly stated and understood. I have the
21 utmost respect for those that do not agree with this
22 particular balance.

23 I will say -- and the gentleman from Durham did not say
24 this, but I will say that during the public comment
25 yesterday, more than one speaker referred to, Can't we just

1 draw them where there's five this way or six that way? That
2 is partisan gerrymandering. If you're drawing five and
3 seven or seven -- or six and seven -- whatever it is, I'm
4 making clear that our intent is to use -- is to use the
5 political data we have to our partisan advantage.

6 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Representative Michaux.

7 REPRESENTATIVE MICHAUX: Yeah. Mr. Chairman, you know, if
8 we were where you are today and we came up with this idea,
9 you all would be jumping all over the place trying to
10 dissuade us from that. First you want to -- you really want
11 to dissuade race from being put in here. Now you want to
12 make sure that you keep your ten-to-three advantage. The
13 same situation that got you in trouble before. And how are
14 you going to -- you -- well, what you're telling us is we
15 want you to do this and/or -- and you vote for it, and this
16 is the way it's going to be, period, end of (inaudible).

17 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Okay. I think that was no question, I
18 don't think so -- unless you want to respond to his comment.

19 Okay. I've got Representative Stam first.

20 REPRESENTATIVE STAM: Yes. I'd like to share a statistic
21 that I haven't used in about -- years, but I'll tell you
22 why. During the last redistricting by the other party in
23 2004, I did jump up and down because I saw it coming. In
24 the election in 2004 for the House, right, these -- 52
25 percent of the voters chose Republican, 44 percent a

1 we can argue that we shouldn't -- that the folks that have
2 been here for a long time can argue that we shouldn't
3 gerrymander these on political reasons, and they're some of
4 the same people that developed that map of District 1 and
5 District 10 in 1992.

6 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Thank you.

7 Any additional questions?

8 Representative Smith-Ingram.

9 SENATOR SMITH-INGRAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10 Can you be specific as to what constitutes partisan
11 advantage? Do we have to tie it to a number?

12 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: No, ma'am. But I will first of all
13 thank you for the question.

14 To perhaps expounded on it a bit, this would -- this would
15 contemplate looking at the political data, which was the
16 earlier criteria adopted by this committee. And as you draw
17 the lines, if you're trying to give a partisan advantage,
18 you would want to draw the lines so that more of the whole
19 VTDs voted for the Republican on the ballot than they did
20 the Democrat. I hope that answers your question.

21 SENATOR SMITH-INGRAM: I think that --

22 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Follow-up.

23 SENATOR SMITH-INGRAM: Thank you. Follow-up.

24 It answers about 50 percent of my question. If I could
25 ask you another one, maybe a different way. You threw out

1 some numbers. Would there not be partisan advantage with
2 eight-five?

3 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Thank you for that question,
4 Senator.

5 I would point out that, indeed, you would use political
6 numbers to draw a partisan -- to draw districts in which
7 eight Republicans would win or five Democrats. I'm saying
8 to the extent that you can, make it ten-three.

9 SENATOR SMITH-INGRAM: Last follow-up.

10 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Last follow-up.

11 SENATOR SMITH-INGRAM: Just a statement. I am concerned
12 that we are trying to mimic the outcome of the previous
13 election that never existed for a very long time in North
14 Carolina until this district was redrawn in 2011. The
15 challenge here is we are balancing where we are with where
16 we have been historically. But at the end of the day, we
17 are elected to come together to work together to serve the
18 constituents and citizens of North Carolina. This is one of
19 the concerns resonated yesterday, and many of us have it
20 here. We are drawing these lines so that we get to pick our
21 voters, as opposed to them choosing us. It is unfair. It
22 should not be perpetuated in this process, and I will not be
23 supporting this.

24 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Thank you.

25 Representative Jones.

1 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: Well, that's what I think. And I
2 think regardless how you draw these districts -- you know, I
3 come from an area where I can remember a time where voting
4 for the Democratic party was extremely, extremely high. And
5 that time has changed and those votes have changed. A lot
6 of people that I can tell don't necessarily vote for the
7 same party that they're registered. And so I -- you know, I
8 think we ought to respect the voters as individuals and
9 whether they're registered Democratic, Republican,
10 Libertarian, Unaffiliated, whatever. Recognize that they do
11 have an opportunity to vote for any candidate that is on the
12 ballot before them. And I appreciate your answer, and I
13 appreciate --

14 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Thank you.

15 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: -- your honesty and integrity and
16 going forward with the process.

17 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Thank you, Representative Jones.
18 Senator Clark.

19 SENATOR CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 I'm having difficulty understanding why I should agree to
21 vote for maps to make a partisan advantage that was achieved
22 through the use of unconstitutional maps. Could you explain
23 that to me?

24 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Well, to be clear, sir, we are
25 proposing that the maps that are drawn now under this

1 criteria, which we have passed a plank of and continue to
2 move forward.

3 One of the goals in drawing the map will be to preserve
4 the ten-three.

5 With all due respect, I've listened to this, and we can,
6 of course, continue to discuss this as long as the committee
7 wants to. It's always sort of amazed me that if the map
8 elects one side, the other side consider it -- considers it
9 a gerrymander and something bad. If it elects their side,
10 they consider it a work of art and good government.

11 So this is saying that one of the goals will be to
12 elect -- to speak directly to your point, the goal is to
13 elect ten Republicans and three Democrats.

14 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Thank you.

15 Representative Lewis, there was a comment earlier about
16 the districts -- the 13 districts that exist, ten presently
17 Republican and three Democrat. And, under the
18 circumstances, could you explain a little bit about the
19 makeup of the Republican districts and who they're composed
20 of and what is necessary for that Republican to win an
21 election?

22 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Thank you for the question,
23 Mr. Chairman.

24 First of all, it would be necessary to go back and review
25 the stat packs and whatnot from 2011 districts, which are

1 reasonable effort to make a ten-three split?

2 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Representative Jackson, thank you
3 for that series of questions.

4 The answer to your question -- the first part was -- I'm
5 sorry.

6 Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry. I --

7 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Representative Jackson, go ahead, please.

8 REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON: Would there be any type of
9 ranking of these criteria in an order?

10 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: No. No is the answer. That's why
11 these criteria are being presented individually and
12 discussed and debated individually. Map -- drawing maps is
13 largely a balancing act. We are trying to specify certain
14 things that you cannot use. You ask about race. You cannot
15 use that. And I apologize. I don't remember what else you
16 asked about, Representative Jackson.

17 REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON: Follow-up, Mr. Chair.

18 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Follow-up.

19 REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON: Okay. So it would be your
20 contention, then, that making reasonable efforts would not
21 include violating any of the other criteria that we have
22 passed?

23 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Absolutely.

24 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Okay.

25 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Mr. Chairman --

1 people. You've got to split Wake. You've got to split
2 Mecklenburg. The others could be made whole, except for
3 population purposes.

4 So why would you adopt criteria saying that you're not
5 going to split counties except to protect incumbents when
6 you don't have any incumbents to protect and you ultimately
7 say that you would split them for political impact, which
8 means that you can indiscriminantly split counties however
9 you want to anyhow if you determine what the political
10 impact is? Why would you say that, and why would you put
11 that provision in there?

12 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Representative --

13 SENATOR BLUE: And that being said, would you be willing
14 to --

15 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: One question. Let him answer this one
16 first, please.

17 SENATOR BLUE: It's part of the same question.

18 That being said, would you be willing to strike after the
19 comma in the word "population" on the third from the bottom
20 line the two -- the phrases "consideration of incumbency and
21 political impact" so that there's a clear signal that you're
22 not going to split counties since you don't have to split
23 them to protect incumbents? So that you're not going to
24 split counties, except where you have to, to get to the one
25 person, one vote requirement?

1 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Representative Lewis, why don't you
2 answer his first question first.

3 He asked too many questions, yeah.

4 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Senate Blue, thank you for that
5 series of inquiries.

6 I do apologize that I don't remember exactly what you
7 asked.

8 SENATOR BLUE: Do you need me to re-ask it?

9 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Let me just say that it is my
10 intent to split as few a counties as we possibly can and to
11 not allow the counties to be divided more than two times are
12 the overarching goals of this.

13 As Representative Jackson and I have had some continued
14 conversation, all of these criteria kind of overlap on each
15 other. I would agree with you that equalizing population is
16 a mandatory reason that a county may have to be split. I
17 would also say that it would be dishonest of me to say that
18 political impact can't be considered in how you draw
19 districts. I don't see any harm in leaving the word -- the
20 words "consideration of incumbency" because there's no
21 requirement that the districts be drawn to include the
22 current seated members. It just allows for the
23 consideration that they are -- that they are, in fact,
24 there.

25 SENATOR BLUE: One last follow-up.

1 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Last follow-up.

2 SENATOR BLUE: Yeah. If there is no incumbency, then
3 incumbents won't be considered in splitting districts, and
4 that can't be the reason for splitting it. I'm simply
5 saying that when you say "political impact," you take away
6 everything else you've put in that phrase. And if we
7 believe in keeping counties whole to the extent possible,
8 especially small counties -- if we believe in that, then all
9 we've got to do is say we're only going to split counties to
10 equalize population. And I'm wondering why it's so critical
11 that you say "political impact" since that phrase is loaded
12 with all kinds of subjective determinations with the ability
13 to totally disregard this earlier portion saying that you're
14 not going to split counties or you're only going to split
15 counties to put them into two districts. Because you don't
16 say you won't split them but two times. You say you'll make
17 reasonable efforts not to. I'm saying why don't we have an
18 absolute prohibition on splitting counties, except when it's
19 necessary to comply with one person, one vote.

20 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Thank you for that question,
21 Senator Blue.

22 My response to that would be that we will look forward to
23 reviewing maps that you may submit that follow that
24 criteria. I feel very comfortable that we've made clear
25 through this process of what our in- -- what our intents

1 are.

2 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: I gotcha.

3 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: And I would prefer that this
4 cri- -- this criteria remain as it's written.

5 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Thank you.

6 Representative Jones.

7 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8 I just wanted to clarify the record that there are two
9 congressmen that live in Guilford County: Mark Walker of
10 the 6th district, and Alma Adams of the 12th District.

11 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Okay. I've got -- I've got Senator
12 Smith.

13 SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14 I certainly appreciate the idea of compactness. I very
15 much want to see precincts and counties left whole. I would
16 respectfully tell you that in 2011 there was a district
17 drawn where an incumbent was drawn out. It was the district
18 that I lived in. And so the 7th Congressional District
19 drew -- was changed to the 8th Congressional District and
20 the congressman, McIntyre, who was the incumbent was drawn
21 out essentially of his own district.

22 And my concern is what Senator Blue has said. The idea of
23 compactness is great, but when we leave in this other phrase
24 about incumbency, we have taken away the other reason -- the
25 only reason that really should be the case, and that is

1 And let me say that this is an aspirational goal.

2 SENATOR MCKISSICK: In which case I embrace it.

3 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Okay. From the Chair, Senator McKissick.
4 A question that Representative Jackson asked earlier and we
5 talk about the criteria, is it accurate to say that all of
6 them are weighted at the same level and is a matter of
7 harmonizing to try to get to a map that meets those
8 criteria?

9 David?

10 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman.

11 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Oh, I'm sorry. From the Chair, a
12 question for you.

13 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Yes, sir.

14 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Based on what Representative Jackson
15 asked earlier, all of these criteria are listed that's being
16 submitted and voted upon. Is it fair to say that the
17 criteria established are not ranked as far as priorities but
18 are a matter of harmonizing until you can get a map that
19 meets those criteria?

20 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: That's correct, sir. We are
21 seeking aspirational harmony.

22 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Okay. Do you have a motion?

23 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I would move that the
24 2016 Contingent Congressional Plan Proposed Criteria labeled
25 Compactness be adopted by the committee.

1 All right. Members of the committee, on the roll call
2 vote on Representative Stam's amendment dealing with -- and
3 it's titled "Amendment to Political Data Criteria." It is
4 adopted 30 to 4.

5 Okay. We'll now just -- we'll go on to the next --

6 All right. Members, you have an amendment coming out
7 toward you, and it is Amendment Compactness Criteria.
8 It's --

9 All right.

10 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Mr. Chairman?

11 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Yes, sir, Representative Blue --

12 Excuse me. Representative Lewis. I got -- we need to
13 have Senator Blue explain his amendment.

14 Go ahead.

15 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: I was wondering if Senator Blue
16 would agree to a technical fix to strike the number sign in
17 the 6.

18 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Okay. Members of the committee, on
19 Senator Blue's amendment, it -- the title will be "Amendment
20 Compactness Criteria." You will scratch No. 6. That will
21 not be in there.

22 All right. Senator Blue. Everyone has a copy of the
23 amendment. Would you like to explain your amendment?

24 SENATOR BLUE: I would. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25 And, Mr. Chairman, and ladies and gentlemen of the

1 committee, and Senators and House members present, what I
2 try to do in this amendment is simply recognize that the
3 County is the most important governmental unit following the
4 State, because they're extensions of the State and to set
5 forth clearly that we're only going to divide counties when
6 you're equalizing population, although that's a federal
7 requirement, too, and when you're complying with federal
8 law. It's something you've got to do. You might as well
9 admit that we have to comply with federal law if federal law
10 is supreme.

11 And so this says that we will split counties only when
12 you're trying to get down to zero deviation in population,
13 which we're going to try to do, I take it, and only when
14 you're complying with the federal law regarding
15 redistricting. All of the other reasons that have been
16 given, the -- would not be justification for splitting
17 counties.

18 And I move the adoption of the amendment.

19 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Representative Lewis.

20 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank
21 you, Senator Blue, for that explanation.

22 Let me be clear, ladies and gentlemen. We, of course, are
23 going to comply with federal law. We would not be here were
24 we not attempting to comply with the federal -- a federal
25 decision issued by the courts. I would submit that this

1 amendment is not necessary and should not be adopted because
2 we, of course, are going -- as Senator Blue said, of course
3 we're going to comply with the federal law.

4 As we've already had a pretty lengthy discussion, that
5 consideration -- the word "consideration" of incumbency and
6 political impact may be considered. It's not required to be
7 considered and I've already stated, for the record, that
8 equalizing population is the most important reason that a
9 county would be divided.

10 I would respectfully ask for members to vote against this
11 amendment.

12 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: I've got Representative Stam.

13 REPRESENTATIVE STAM: And I would oppose the amendment and
14 point out what may be obvious. Senator Blue, as a minority
15 leader, is going to be perfectly entitled to submit his own
16 plan and nothing in what we've written would prohibit him
17 from striking those two criteria from his maps. He doesn't
18 need this amendment to do what he wants to do.

19 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Yes, Senator Blue.

20 SENATOR BLUE: Just a comment. My cape disappeared and
21 I'm not superman anymore, so I can't do a map in a day that
22 takes into account all of the stuff that we have as
23 criteria. I was thinking we were narrowing the things we
24 were looking at. I can't really look at all that I would
25 want to.

1 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Okay. You all set?

2 Members of the committee --

3 Excuse me. Senator Hise.

4 SENATOR HISE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And this may be
5 for -- just trying to get clarity on what this amendment
6 would actually do. One of the outcomes of the last maps is
7 that all of the major urban areas in the state were
8 represented by two Congressmen that was coming in and
9 something we saw -- at least two -- that was coming in.
10 Would this amendment prohibit that type of decisions for
11 those districts so that as that would be a political impact
12 that was coming in that we could not make sure that urban
13 areas were represented by two Congressmen?

14 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Okay. Representative -- excuse me.
15 Senator Blue, would you please answer that question?

16 SENATOR BLUE: I'd be happy to answer that.

17 Certainly not. As I said, the only two counties that
18 absolutely would be guaranteed to be represented by two
19 congresspeople would be Mecklenburg and Wake, since each of
20 them has a population in excess of the 700-plus-thousand
21 that's necessary to draw a Congressional district.

22 If you started drawing a district toward an urban area,
23 then you could split that urban area when you got to it so
24 that it's in two separate districts. This would, in no way,
25 prohibit having two congresspeople from whichever urban

1 areas other than Wake and Mecklenburg where you'd be
2 guaranteed at least two, where you could bring them into one
3 of the urban counties, but you couldn't split it but one
4 time. So you'd get two -- you could get two from Guilford,
5 two from Cumberland, two from Forsyth, two from any of the
6 counties including the smallest, if you pad it with a much
7 bigger population.

8 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Representative Lewis, comment?

9 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: No, sir. I would say I'm sure that
10 the answer Senator Blue gave is correct to Senator Hise's
11 question.

12 I just again would not support the amendment as it's
13 drafted for the reasons that I've already stated.

14 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: All right. Members of the committee, you
15 have an amendment before you from Senator Blue and the
16 amendment is entitled Amendment Compactness Criteria. Any
17 additional questions, comments?

18 Seeing none, the roll call, Mr. Clerk.

19 THE CLERK: Lewis?

20 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: No.

21 THE CLERK: Lewis, no.

22 Jones?

23 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: No.

24 THE CLERK: Jones, no.

25 Brawley?

1 REPRESENTATIVE BRAWLEY: No.

2 THE CLERK: Brawley, no.

3 Cotham?

4 REPRESENTATIVE COTHAM: Yes.

5 THE CLERK: Cotham, yes.

6 Davis?

7 REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: No.

8 THE CLERK: Davis, no.

9 Farmer-Butterfield?

10 FARMER-BUTTERFIELD: Yes.

11 THE CLERK: Farmer-Butterfield, yes.

12 Hager?

13 REPRESENTATIVE HAGER: No.

14 THE CLERK: Hager, no.

15 Hanes?

16 REPRESENTATIVE HANES: (No audible response.)

17 THE CLERK: Hanes, yes.

18 Hardister?

19 REPRESENTATIVE HARDISTER: No.

20 THE CLERK: Hardister, no.

21 Hurley?

22 REPRESENTATIVE HURLEY: (Inaudible.)

23 THE CLERK: Hurley, no.

24 Jackson?

25 REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Jackson, yes.

2 Johnson?

3 REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON: (Inaudible.)

4 THE CLERK: No?

5 REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON: (Inaudible.)

6 Jordan?

7 REPRESENTATIVE JORDAN: No.

8 THE CLERK: Jordan, no.

9 McGrady?

10 REPRESENTATIVE MCGRADY: No.

11 THE CLERK: McGrady, no.

12 Michaux?

13 REPRESENTATIVE MICHAUX: Aye.

14 THE CLERK: Michaux, aye.

15 Moore?

16 REPRESENTATIVE MOORE: Aye.

17 THE CLERK: Moore, aye.

18 Stam?

19 REPRESENTATIVE STAM: No.

20 THE CLERK: Stam, no.

21 Stevens?

22 REPRESENTATIVE STEVENS: No.

23 THE CLERK: Stevens, no.

24 Rucho?

25 SENATOR RUCHO: No.

1 THE CLERK: Rucho, no.
2 Apodaca?
3 SENATOR APODACA: No.
4 THE CLERK: Apodaca, no.
5 Barefoot?
6 SENATOR BAREFOOT: No.
7 THE CLERK: Barefoot, no.
8 Blue?
9 SENATOR BLUE: Aye.
10 THE CLERK: Blue, aye.
11 Brown?
12 SENATOR BROWN: No.
13 THE CLERK: Brown, no.
14 Clark?
15 SENATOR CLARK: Aye.
16 THE CLERK: Clark, aye.
17 Harrington?
18 SENATOR HARRINGTON: (Inaudible.)
19 THE CLERK: Harrington, no.
20 Hise?
21 SENATOR HISE: No.
22 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Hise, no.
23 Jackson?
24 SENATOR JACKSON: No.
25 THE CLERK: Jackson, no.

1 Lee?

2 SENATOR LEE: No.

3 THE CLERK: Lee, no.

4 McKissick?

5 SENATOR MCKISSICK: Aye.

6 THE CLERK: McKissick, aye.

7 Randleman?

8 SENATOR RANDLEMAN: No.

9 THE CLERK: Randleman, no.

10 Sanderson?

11 SENATOR SANDERSON: No.

12 THE CLERK: Sanderson, no.

13 Smith?

14 SENATOR SMITH: Aye.

15 THE CLERK: Smith, aye.

16 Smith-Ingram?

17 SENATOR SMITH-INGRAM: Aye.

18 THE CLERK: Smith-Ingram, aye.

19 Wells?

20 SENATOR WELLS: No.

21 THE CLERK: No.

22 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: All right. Members of the committee, the
23 roll call vote was aye -- excuse me. No, 23; aye, 11.

24 All right. We have another one before us and this one
25 will be Senator Erica Smith-Ingram's amendment on criteria.

1 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Mr. Chairman?

2 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Yes, Representative Lewis.

3 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Would Senator Smith-Ingram agree to
4 a small technical amendment to strike the number and 6?

5 SENATOR SMITH-INGRAM: Yes.

6 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Thank you, ma'am.

7 SENATOR SMITH-INGRAM: On --

8 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Members of the committee, Senator
9 Smith-Ingram has agreed to a technical amendment that will
10 strike the title and the title will read Amendment to
11 Compactness Criteria, and that'll be all it will say there.

12 Okay. I have Senator Smith-Ingram to present her
13 amendment.

14 SENATOR SMITH-INGRAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In light of
15 our previous discussions and our effort to promote harmony,
16 you can have one-part harmony, two part, three part. In
17 this case, this will add the four-part harmony. And I would
18 ask staff if there is needed discussion about the actual
19 language. It came from the federal case.

20 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Mr. Chairman?

21 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Representative Lewis, comment?

22 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Yes, sir. I appreciate the
23 amendment and the sentiment expressed by the Senator. I
24 would offer that it appears, to me, that the language that's
25 attempting to be added is somewhat vague and nebulous as I

1 don't know that we have a defined way -- a actionable
2 definition of what community of interest is or community of
3 shared interest.

4 So, respectfully, I would ask the committee to defeat this
5 amendment.

6 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Members of the committee, any questions
7 or comments?

8 We have a motion before us dealing with amendment to
9 Compact Criteria submitted by Senator Erica Smith-Ingram.
10 You have that before you.

11 Seeing no comments or questions, Mr. Clerk, roll call,
12 please.

13 THE CLERK: Lewis.

14 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: (No audible response.)

15 THE CLERK: Lewis, no.

16 Jones?

17 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: No.

18 THE CLERK: Jones, no.

19 Brawley?

20 REPRESENTATIVE BRAWLEY: No.

21 THE CLERK: Brawley, no.

22 Cotham?

23 REPRESENTATIVE COTHAM: (No audible response.)

24 THE CLERK: Cotham, yes.

25 Davis?

1 REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: No.

2 THE CLERK: Davis, no.

3 Farmer-Butterfield?

4 FARMER-BUTTERFIELD: (No audible response.)

5 THE CLERK: Farmer-Butterfield, yes.

6 Hager?

7 REPRESENTATIVE HAGER: No.

8 THE CLERK: Hager, no.

9 Hanes?

10 REPRESENTATIVE HANES: Yes.

11 THE CLERK: Hanes, yes.

12 Hardister?

13 REPRESENTATIVE HARDISTER: No.

14 THE CLERK: Hardister, no.

15 Hurley?

16 REPRESENTATIVE HURLEY: (Inaudible.)

17 THE CLERK: Hurley, no.

18 Jackson?

19 REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON: Yes.

20 THE CLERK: Jackson, yes.

21 Johnson?

22 REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON: No.

23 THE CLERK: Johnson, no.

24 Jordan?

25 REPRESENTATIVE JORDAN: No.

1 THE CLERK: Jordan, no.
2 McGrady?
3 REPRESENTATIVE MCGRADY: No.
4 THE CLERK: McGrady, no.
5 Michaux?
6 REPRESENTATIVE MICHAUX: Yes.
7 THE CLERK: Michaux, yes.
8 Moore?
9 REPRESENTATIVE MOORE: Yea.
10 THE CLERK: Moore, yea.
11 Stam?
12 REPRESENTATIVE STAM: No.
13 THE CLERK: Stam, no.
14 Stevens?
15 REPRESENTATIVE STEVENS: Yes.
16 THE CLERK: Stevens --
17 REPRESENTATIVE STEVENS: No. Sorry. No.
18 THE CLERK: Stevens, no.
19 Rucho?
20 SENATOR RUCHO: No.
21 THE CLERK: Rucho, no.
22 Apodaca?
23 SENATOR APODACA: No.
24 THE CLERK: Apodaca, no.
25 Barefoot?

1 SENATOR BAREFOOT: No.

2 THE CLERK: Barefoot, no.

3 Blue?

4 SENATOR BLUE: Yes.

5 THE CLERK: Blue, yes.

6 Brown?

7 SENATOR BROWN: No.

8 THE CLERK: Brown, no.

9 Clark?

10 SENATOR CLARK: Yes.

11 THE CLERK: Clark, yes.

12 Harrington?

13 SENATOR HARRINGTON: No.

14 THE CLERK: Harrington, no.

15 Hise?

16 SENATOR HISE: No.

17 THE CLERK: Hise, no.

18 Jackson?

19 SENATOR JACKSON: No.

20 THE CLERK: Jackson, no.

21 Lee?

22 SENATOR LEE: (No audible response.)

23 THE CLERK: Lee, no.

24 McKissick?

25 SENATOR MCKISSICK: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: McKissick, yes.

2 Randleman?

3 SENATOR RANDLEMAN: No.

4 THE CLERK: Randleman, no.

5 Sanderson?

6 SENATOR SANDERSON: No.

7 THE CLERK: Sanderson, no.

8 Smith?

9 SENATOR SMITH: Aye.

10 THE CLERK: Smith, aye.

11 Smith-Ingram?

12 SENATOR SMITH-INGRAM: Aye.

13 THE CLERK: Smith-Ingram, aye.

14 Wells?

15 SENATOR WELLS: No.

16 THE CLERK: Wells, no.

17 Twenty-three, 11, 2.

18 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Twenty-three, no; 11, yes.

19 THE CLERK: Yes.

20 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Okay. Members of the committee, on
21 Amendment to Compactness Criteria from Senator Erica
22 Smith-Ingram, the ayes, 11; the noes, 23. That amendment
23 was not adopted.

24 All right. We have another one, and I believe it's
25 already at your desk. And this one is a communities of

1 interest submitted by Senator Floyd McKissick.

2 Senator McKissick, would you like to explain your
3 amendment?

4 SENATOR MCKISSICK: Sure. And it's very straightforward.
5 It's not seeking to amend any other criteria. This would
6 just be a criteria that is aspirational, as many of the
7 others. It does follow case law in terms of what's stated.
8 And what this says is, that "The committee will make
9 reasonable efforts to respect political subdivisions,
10 cities, towns," what have you, "as well as communities as
11 defined by actual interest."

12 What I would like to do is recognize Kara, as well as
13 Erica, perhaps to provide further clarification in terms of
14 existing case law. I think we are -- we would be remiss if
15 we did not include this as one of the benchmarks that we
16 would seek to use in drawing the plans as we move forward.
17 I can't imagine why we would want to ignore communities who
18 shared interest or not respect political subdivisions other
19 than counties. This is talking about other political
20 subdivisions for towns that might be within these
21 Congressional districts, which should also be respected to
22 the extent it's possible and feasible to do so, not just
23 counties.

24 Kara, Erica, if you could comment, please.

25 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Please identify yourself and respond to

1 Senator McKissick's request, if you can.

2 MS. MCCRAW: Kara McCraw, staff attorney with the
3 Legislative Analysis Division.

4 Senator McKissick is referring to the last part of this
5 amendment. The term -- the language "respect political
6 subdivisions in communities defined by actual shared
7 interests," is language that was used by the Supreme Court
8 in the Miller v. Johnson case from 1995 as part of the list
9 of traditional race-neutral districting principles.

10 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: All right. Representative Lewis.

11 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank
12 you, Senator, for offering this additional criteria.

13 As best I can understand it, to the extent it's required
14 by federal law, of course we're going to be mindful of that.
15 But as you and I had an aside conversation earlier, I don't
16 believe we have defined, in this state at least, what a
17 community of interest is. I don't understand actually what
18 actual shared interest means.

19 So, therefore, I would have to ask the committee, based on
20 the vagueness of these terms, to reject this additional
21 criteria.

22 SENATOR MCKISSICK: Follow-up, Mr. Chair?

23 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Senator McKissick.

24 SENATOR MCKISSICK: Let me ask you this, Representative
25 Lewis. I see you have some problems with that terminology

1 that was used by the U.S. Supreme Court, which I think is
2 pretty clear in terms of a directive. But what is the
3 objection to respecting political subdivisions? Because I
4 would think that we would all want to do so for the cities
5 and towns and communities that we represent --

6 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Representative Lewis.

7 SENATOR MCKISSICK: -- and they are used collectively by
8 the Supreme Court. But, I mean, if you've got problems with
9 that, I think you still have to follow it or you end up in
10 litigation. I don't think any of us want to end up in
11 litigation any more than we already are in this state. I
12 don't know why -- what's the objection to respecting
13 political subdivisions?

14 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Well, sir, to be clear, as I
15 pointed out when we adopted the Compactness Criteria, it's
16 not our intent to split -- we're going to do the best we can
17 to keep as many counties and as many VTDs whole. I'll give
18 you a direct example of why I think this is vague.

19 We've already heard from the gentleman from Wake, Senator
20 Blue, as he, I think, correctly stated that a county is the
21 most important political subdivision. I actually agree with
22 that. Your city, Durham, has annexed into Wake County. So
23 when I say it's vague and nebulous, how do you know which
24 interest you're going to follow? I think we've done a good
25 job in this committee of saying we're going to keep as many

1 counties and as many VTDs whole as we can.

2 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Okay. I've got Representative Stam.

3 REPRESENTATIVE STAM: Yeah. Yes. I was about to make the
4 same point. Cary has annexed into Chatham. So under this,
5 it would give map makers an excuse to break the Wake/Chatham
6 line so they could keep Cary together. Angier, if you can
7 believe it, has annexed into Wake County. I don't know how
8 David Lewis let them do that. (Inaudible) met with this
9 amendment, map makers could despoil Wake County just to get
10 a few more Republicans into Harnett County district.

11 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Mr. Chairman?

12 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Representative Lewis.

13 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: For the record, while I do not
14 support Senator McKissick's amendment, I think anywhere
15 Angier can be shared is a positive thing.

16 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Senator McKissick.

17 SENATOR MCKISSICK: I would simply say that we ought to
18 try to respect these political subdivisions. I don't think,
19 with the current mood of this general assembly, we have to
20 worry about too many more annexations occurring for a while.
21 So, you know, respecting political subdivisions is a valid
22 criteria, regardless of what those political subdivisions
23 might look like. So, obviously, I support it, but --

24 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Um --

25 SENATOR MCKISSICK: -- I can certainly put my finger in

1 the air and see the way these winds are blowing.

2 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Members of the committee, any additional
3 questions?

4 Senator?

5 REPRESENTATIVE STEVENS: Yes. Representative Lewis, I'm a
6 little bit confused about your objection to the use of this
7 language inasmuch as it relates to not having a definitive
8 definition. Is it possible for staff to be able to comment
9 on what is the definition used in North Carolina of
10 communities of interest, as we have applied it in the past?

11 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: The Chair will allow that.

12 Which staff member would like to define communities of
13 interest?

14 MS. MCCRAW: I'm Kara McCraw, staff attorney with the
15 Legislative Analysis Division. North Carolina has not
16 adopted a definition of communities of interest.

17 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Follow-up?

18 SENATOR SMITH-INGRAM: Follow-up.

19 As I recall, Representative Stevens just read from -- I
20 believe she was citing a case law. But it just seems that
21 all of the other elements that you have already in the
22 criteria are there with the exception of communities of
23 interest. And so I'm just concerned about why you have
24 adopted the other three and why you feel comfortable with
25 that but not with the communities of interest.

1 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Representative Lewis?

2 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Well, again, thank you for that
3 inquiry, Senator. I would just say, again, as we've never
4 defined what a community of interest is, and the example I
5 tried to use with Senator McKissick, how do you define it
6 the -- is the city of Durham a more important community of
7 interest than the citizens of Wake County? I don't think
8 we've ever defined it. I certainly think that, to the
9 extent that it's not restricted from being used as the maps
10 are prepared that, you know, I think that's something that
11 the map drawers may wish to try and use, but I don't know
12 that it -- I don't understand -- I don't understand it
13 enough and I do want to take this opportunity to
14 respectfully let my friend from Durham know that as I
15 reminded him, I'm not an attorney, and in no way have I
16 tried to disrespect or disregard any ruling from the U.S.
17 Supreme Court, nor from this federal trial court.

18 But I'm not prepared to stand before this committee today
19 and say that I understand what this is trying to do;
20 therefore, I continue to oppose this new criteria.

21 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Members of the committee?

22 From the Chair, Representative Lewis, I recognize -- and I
23 think the committee recognizes the full effort to keep
24 counties whole. I think the counties are relatively stable
25 in their -- in their borders, but yet a municipality and a

1 town and the like with annexation, deannexation and the like
2 is more variable. Do you think that that may be one of the
3 reasons for what could be adding confusion?

4 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: I think that's fair. I think
5 that's a good indication of why I say this is vague and not
6 really defined. We got a request from a member for the
7 central staff to explain how communities of interest are
8 defined in the state, and they're not. So since there's not
9 a definition, they shouldn't be in the criteria.

10 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Members of the committee, we've had
11 discussion on this issue. We have an amendment before us,
12 as submitted by Senator Floyd McKissick, dealing with
13 communities of interest. Any additional questions,
14 comments?

15 Seeing none, Mr. Clerk, roll call, please.

16 THE CLERK: Lewis?

17 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: No.

18 THE CLERK: Lewis, no.

19 Jones?

20 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: No.

21 THE CLERK: Jones, no.

22 Brawley?

23 REPRESENTATIVE BRAWLEY: No.

24 THE CLERK: Brawley, no.

25 Cotham?

1 REPRESENTATIVE COTHAM: (No audible response.)

2 THE CLERK: Cotham, yes.

3 Davis?

4 REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: No.

5 THE CLERK: Davis, no.

6 Farmer-Butterfield?

7 FARMER-BUTTERFIELD: (No audible response.)

8 THE CLERK: Farmer-Butterfield, yes.

9 Hager?

10 REPRESENTATIVE HAGER: No.

11 THE CLERK: Hager, no.

12 Hanes?

13 REPRESENTATIVE HANES: Yes.

14 THE CLERK: Hanes, yes.

15 Hardister?

16 REPRESENTATIVE HARDISTER: No.

17 THE CLERK: Hardister, no.

18 Hurley?

19 REPRESENTATIVE HURLEY: (Inaudible.)

20 THE CLERK: Hurley, no.

21 Jackson?

22 REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON: Yes.

23 THE CLERK: Jackson, yes.

24 Johnson?

25 REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON: No.

1 THE CLERK: Johnson, no.
2 Jordan?
3 REPRESENTATIVE JORDAN: No.
4 THE CLERK: Jordan, no.
5 McGrady?
6 REPRESENTATIVE MCGRADY: No.
7 THE CLERK: McGrady, no.
8 Michaux?
9 REPRESENTATIVE MICHAUX: Aye.
10 THE CLERK: Michaux, aye.
11 Moore?
12 REPRESENTATIVE MOORE: Aye.
13 THE CLERK: Moore, aye.
14 Stam?
15 REPRESENTATIVE STAM: No.
16 THE CLERK: Stam, no.
17 Stevens?
18 Stevens?
19 REPRESENTATIVE STEVENS: (No audible response.)
20 THE CLERK: Rucho?
21 SENATOR RUCHO: No.
22 THE CLERK: Rucho, no.
23 Apodaca?
24 SENATOR APODACA: No.
25 THE CLERK: Apodaca, no.

1 Barefoot?

2 SENATOR BAREFOOT: No.

3 THE CLERK: Barefoot, no.

4 Blue?

5 SENATOR BLUE: Aye.

6 THE CLERK: Blue, aye.

7 Brown?

8 SENATOR BROWN: No.

9 THE CLERK: Brown, no.

10 Clark?

11 SENATOR CLARK: Aye.

12 THE CLERK: Clark, aye.

13 Harrington?

14 SENATOR HARRINGTON: No.

15 THE CLERK: Harrington, no.

16 Hise?

17 SENATOR HISE: No.

18 THE CLERK: Hise, no.

19 Jackson?

20 SENATOR JACKSON: No.

21 THE CLERK: Jackson, no.

22 Lee?

23 SENATOR LEE: (No audible response.)

24 THE CLERK: Lee, no.

25 McKissick?

1 SENATOR MCKISSICK: Aye.

2 THE CLERK: McKissick, aye.

3 Randleman?

4 SENATOR RANDLEMAN: No.

5 THE CLERK: Randleman, no.

6 Sanderson?

7 SENATOR SANDERSON: No.

8 THE CLERK: Sanderson, no.

9 Smith?

10 SENATOR SMITH: Aye.

11 THE CLERK: Smith, aye.

12 Smith-Ingram?

13 SENATOR SMITH-INGRAM: (Inaudible.)

14 THE CLERK: Smith-Ingram, aye.

15 Wells?

16 SENATOR WELLS: No.

17 THE CLERK: Wells, no.

18 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Members of the committee, the result of
19 the vote on Senator McKissick's amendment dealing with
20 communities of interest: aye, 11; no, 22. The motion is
21 not adopted.

22 Members of the committee, any additional amendments?

23 Any motions? Senator Hise?

24 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Mr. Chairman?

25 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Oh, excuse me.

C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2
3 STATE OF WASHINGTON)

4) ss

5 COUNTY OF SNOHOMISH)
6

7 I, the undersigned, do hereby certify under penalty
8 of perjury that the foregoing court proceedings, recorded
9 statements, hearings and/or interviews were transcribed under my
10 direction as a certified transcriptionist; and that the
11 transcript is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and
12 ability, including any changes made by the trial judge reviewing
13 the transcript; that I am not a relative or employee of any
14 attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto, nor
15 financially interested in its outcome.
16

17 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
18 this 22nd day of February, 2016.
19
20
21

22 _____
23 Bonnie Reed, CETD
24
25

2016 Contingent Congressional Plan Committee Adopted Criteria

Equal Population

The Committee will use the 2010 federal decennial census data as the sole basis of population for the establishment of districts in the 2016 Contingent Congressional Plan. The number of persons in each congressional district shall be as nearly as equal as practicable, as determined under the most recent federal decennial census.

Contiguity

Congressional districts shall be comprised of contiguous territory. Contiguity by water is sufficient.

Political data

The only data other than population data to be used to construct congressional districts shall be election results in statewide contests since January 1, 2008, not including the last two presidential contests. Data identifying the race of individuals or voters shall not be used in the construction or consideration of districts in the 2016 Contingent Congressional Plan. Voting districts (“VTDs”) should be split only when necessary to comply with the zero deviation population requirements set forth above in order to ensure the integrity of political data.

Partisan Advantage

The partisan makeup of the congressional delegation under the enacted plan is 10 Republicans and 3 Democrats. The Committee shall make reasonable efforts to construct districts in the 2016 Contingent Congressional Plan to maintain the current partisan makeup of North Carolina’s congressional delegation.

Twelfth District

The current General Assembly inherited the configuration of the Twelfth District from past General Assemblies. This configuration was retained because the district had already been heavily litigated over the past two decades and ultimately approved by the courts. The Harris court has criticized the shape of the Twelfth

District citing its “serpentine” nature. In light of this, the Committee shall construct districts in the 2016 Contingent Congressional Plan that eliminate the current configuration of the Twelfth District.

Compactness

In light of the Harris court’s criticism of the compactness of the First and Twelfth Districts, the Committee shall make reasonable efforts to construct districts in the 2016 Contingent Congressional Plan that improve the compactness of the current districts and keep more counties and VTDs whole as compared to the current enacted plan. Division of counties shall only be made for reasons of equalizing population, consideration of incumbency and political impact. Reasonable efforts shall be made not to divide a county into more than two districts.

Incumbency

Candidates for Congress are not required by law to reside in a district they seek to represent. However, reasonable efforts shall be made to ensure that incumbent members of Congress are not paired with another incumbent in one of the new districts constructed in the 2016 Contingent Congressional Plan.

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North Carolina General Assembly
Joint Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting (2015)

February 17, 2016

TRANSCRIBED BY: Reed Jackson Watkins, LLC
Court-Certified Transcription
206.624.3005

1 THE CLERK: Smith-Ingram?

2 SENATOR SMITH-INGRAM: (No audible response.)

3 THE CLERK: Wade?

4 SENATOR WADE: Here.

5 THE CLERK: Wells?

6 SENATOR WELLS: Here.

7 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Okay. We're ready to begin our meeting.
8 And again, there aren't very many opening remarks. We look
9 forward to moving forward in an effort to comply with the
10 three-judge panel's direction as to redrawing some
11 congressional district maps and the congressional districts.

12 Again, as you might expect, we still believe that the
13 enacted maps are fair, legal, and constitutional. That has
14 been validated by a number of North Carolina courts. But
15 under that circumstance, we're following the direction of the
16 three-judge panel from the middle district. And so that's
17 what we're going to do.

18 The first part that I'd like to request and yesterday if
19 you remember correctly, we authorized \$25,000 for each
20 majority and minority side to draw maps. And I will ask
21 [sound of cell phone ringing] -- don't ever do that to my
22 wife, but I did.

23 I will ask that we will first ask Senator Blue, do you have
24 any maps that you're planning to present today?

25 SENATOR BLUE: Not at present.

1 that office.

2 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Okay. And just a clarity, Senator
3 McKissick, before you go onto your next question. And I
4 think Representative Lewis mentioned it, that the criteria
5 that was established never used registration or racial
6 demographics in the production of these maps. So that's why
7 that information was not available. But at any point, you
8 can go ahead and request from staff what you think you need
9 as far as additional documentation. Okay?

10 SENATOR MCKISSICK: If I could?

11 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Next question?

12 SENATOR MCKISSICK: Sure. If it's possible, and I
13 understand these codes could probably be figured out and
14 calculated, but if we could actually put the names of the
15 various candidates above these various categories.
16 Considering the amount of time that we have to review and
17 digest this information, it would save a awful lot of time.
18 Rather than going back and forth between sheets to decipher
19 the codes.

20 There may be codes that you guys are familiar with from
21 looking at it. But from someone seeing it upon first
22 impression, it becomes somewhat challenging to make certain
23 precisely what I'm reviewing at any given point in time. So,
24 I mean, it would seem to be a simple thing to add in terms of
25 a category.

1 another chance to review it. And then, of course, on the
2 floor both in the House and the Senate.

3 So, Senator McKissick, I want you to rest up. You're going
4 to have plenty of opportunity.

5 Okay. I've got Senator Brown?

6 SENATOR BROWN: Just a quick comment. Just to talk about
7 the 13th District and its competitiveness. The Democrats
8 have won that district, if you'll look through this, on
9 several occasions. So it's obviously a competitive district,
10 because they have won some races in that district.

11 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Okay. Representative Michaux?

12 REPRESENTATIVE MICHAUX: Mr. Chairman, following up on what
13 Senator McKissick asked for and you might wonder why. Even
14 though you have taken out race as a criteria, we still need
15 to have race mentioned in here, because of Section 2 of the
16 Voting Rights Act. We've got to have that information in
17 there as a determination of whether or not Section 2 has been
18 violated in this map.

19 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Representative Lewis, you have a comment
20 on that, please?

21 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, certainly
22 Representative Michaux is much more learned in this area than
23 I am. I just want to state again for the record for this
24 committee that race was not considered in the drawing of this
25 map.

1 Later today we're going to ask this committee to adopt this
2 map. After this map is adopted and prepared for introduction
3 to the General Assembly, I believe that the Senator McKissick
4 requests and perhaps the Senator Clark request and now the
5 Representative Michaux request would be to take this map and
6 to populate it with the data that they have asked for. That
7 can certainly be done after this committee adopts this map
8 and as it moves forward.

9 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Yes, sir, follow-up?

10 REPRESENTATIVE MICHAUX: But would not that information now
11 help us to make a determination as to how we wanted to vote
12 out of this committee on this map?

13 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Thank you for that question,
14 Representative. The information on race is simply not
15 available to provide to you at this moment on this map.

16 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Follow-up?

17 REPRESENTATIVE MICHAUX: Then when is it going to be
18 available and when are we going to have an opportunity to see
19 it?

20 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Well, just to be clear,
21 Representative, and I want to clearly state this, as an
22 individual member of this committee, you can request whatever
23 information on this map, on any district, on any county, on
24 anything that you want. But race is not going to be
25 considered by this committee as we adopt this map and

1 recommend it to be passed by the General Assembly.

2 REPRESENTATIVE MICHAUX: Mr. Chairman?

3 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Yes, sir?

4 REPRESENTATIVE MICHAUX: My follow-up to Representative
5 Lewis. Representative Lewis, the three-judge panel found
6 that these drawings were unconstitutional. And it was based
7 predominantly on race. There are other factors that should
8 be considered.

9 For instance, as I said before, a violation of Section 2 of
10 the Voting Rights Act. We need, I'm not going to vote for
11 another unconstitutional map if I can't determine whether or
12 not Section 2 is being violated by what you've done.

13 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Well, thank you for clarifying,
14 Representative Michaux. To the best of my knowledge, you
15 didn't vote for the 2011 plan. The plans that you've voted
16 for have, in fact, been unconstitutional.

17 But let me continue in my answer. The criteria that this
18 committee adopted in open debate yesterday was the following:
19 equal population; contiguity; political data; partisan
20 advantage; the 12th District; compactness; and incumbency.
21 That is the criteria that this committee debated and adopted
22 over about a 3.5, 4 hour period. Those are the criteria that
23 were used to draw these maps. Those are the criterias that
24 these members will be asked to base their decision on.

25 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Representative?

1 Representative Lewis?

2 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, could I just clarify
3 with Representative Farmer-Butterfield, you wanted to go
4 through the three districts that Senator Blue referred to
5 based on the criteria that was adopted? Yes, ma'am.

6 First of all, the first criteria was equal population. The
7 population of the 1st is 733,499. The second criteria is
8 contiguity. I think you can look at the map and even this
9 map if it's more helpful without county lines and be able to
10 see that all the territory is contiguous. It does touch.

11 Political data, I provided that to you that shows what the
12 election results were with inside this district. The
13 partisan advantage, I've conceded that Republicans don't have
14 a great partisan advantage in the 1st.

15 The 12th, the drawing of the 1st, one of the criterias
16 yesterday was to do away with the serpentine shape of the
17 12th, so that would not apply to the 1st. Compactness, I
18 think you will notice that nearly every county in the 1st is
19 a whole county. You will see that there are three divided
20 counties in the 1st, Wilson being one of them. That was done
21 to take into account the residency of the incumbent. Pitt
22 was divided to, again based on the requirement to have equal
23 population. And you'll see that Durham is divided as well,
24 as best I recall, as a combination of the need to equalize
25 population and political concerns as well.

1 In the 4th, the criteria for equal population is met. The
2 population in the 4th is 733,499. Contiguity, you'll notice
3 that it is all Orange County. It connects nicely through
4 Durham in whole precincts and you'll see that it connects
5 into Wake. All of the area is contiguous.

6 The area political data I provided to you in the stat
7 packs. The partisan advantage I have conceded that I think
8 the Republicans are going to have to work hard to win this
9 seat.

10 The 12th District, the doing away with the serpentine 12th
11 does not apply to the drawing of the 4th. Compactness, I
12 think you can see that it's one whole county. It is in my
13 opinion a very compact district. And in the area of
14 incumbency, one incumbent member of Congress resides in
15 Orange County, so it takes that into account as well.

16 As far as the 12th goes, in the area of equal population,
17 the population of the 12th is 733,498. The contiguity,
18 you'll see that it is all connected territory within
19 Mecklenburg County. Political data I have provided to you.
20 Partisan advantage I have conceded that Republicans have to
21 work really hard to win this seat.

22 The 12th District, you will see it is certainly not a
23 serpentine district that snakes all the way up through the
24 state. Compactness, I think, certainly you can recognize
25 that it is compact. And incumbency for this particular

1 district was not a consideration, because there is not an
2 incumbent residing in the 12th at this time.

3 REPRESENTATIVE FARMER-BUTTERFIELD: Thank you, I
4 appreciate --

5 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Follow-up?

6 REPRESENTATIVE FARMER-BUTTERFIELD: Follow-up. I
7 appreciate that information. It's certainly helpful, because
8 I live in District One. And I'm also concerned about how
9 District 12 was leaning as it relates to party. So that's
10 been real helpful.

11 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: I've got Representative Michaux had a
12 question?

13 REPRESENTATIVE MICHAUX: Chairman, I've just got a short
14 question.

15 Representative Lewis, do you believe that what you've done
16 here, that African-American voters have a reasonable
17 opportunity to elect candidates of their choice?

18 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Representative Michaux, I've
19 conceded that you're a brilliant man. I've conceded that
20 you're a very good attorney.

21 I'm going to answer that by saying these maps were adopted
22 by the criteria, were drawn by the criteria adopted by this
23 committee. The winks and the nods are not going to change my
24 answer. Or the smirks.

25 CHAIRMAN RUCHO: Follow-up?

C E R T I F I C A T E

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STATE OF WASHINGTON)
)
COUNTY OF KING)

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing court proceedings, recorded statements, hearings and/or interviews were transcribed under my direction as a certified transcriptionist; and that the transcript is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and ability, including any changes made by the trial judge reviewing the transcript; that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto, nor financially interested in its outcome.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 20th day of February, 2016.

Bonnie Reed, CETD

NORTH CAROLINA LEGISLATIVE HOUSE FLOOR DEBATE

CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

EXTRA SESSION

FEBRUARY 19, 2016

Transcribed by:

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1 unfortunately or fortunately it's here and its
2 faced and we have to take it into
3 consideration. And when you take it out, then
4 that becomes a predominant factor in this whole
5 thing.

6 So you're going to do what you're going
7 to do, but I don't think you've seen the end of
8 this problem yet.

9 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Mr. Speaker.

10 SPEAKER MOORE: For what purpose does
11 the gentleman from Harnett, Representative
12 Lewis, rise?

13 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Would the
14 distinguished gentleman from Durham yield to a
15 question?

16 SPEAKER MOORE: Does the gentleman from
17 Durham, Representative Michaux, yield to the
18 gentleman from Harnett?

19 REPRESENTATIVE MICHAUX: The gentleman
20 will yield. I don't know how distinguished he
21 is.

22 SPEAKER MOORE: He yields.

23 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I
24 appreciate only the distinguished but the
25 well-dressed gentleman taking time to yield to

1 I was in attendance in the committees
2 and tried to pay attention to the questions
3 that were asked. Unfortunately, I made the
4 mistake of sitting next to Representative
5 Torbett and we were cutting up in class a
6 little bit. So, Representative Lewis, I may
7 repeat some of the questions that you've
8 already attempted to answer, and for that I
9 apologize, but blame Representative Torbett for
10 that.

11 Mr. Speaker, the first question I'd ask
12 the gentleman from Harnett is regarding
13 Dr. Hofeller who I believe he said was the map
14 drawer. And my question is: Was Dr. Hofeller
15 paid for his services with public funds? And,
16 if so, how much did he receive in public money?

17 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Thank you for
18 that question, Representative. Dr. Hofeller
19 has not, to my knowledge, invoiced the State
20 yet. I do anticipate that he will. I don't
21 have access to that at the moment. It
22 certainly would not exceed the 25,000 that was
23 authorized to Chairman Rucho and myself on
24 behalf of the Republicans and the 25,000 that
25 was authorized to the Democrats to be able to

1 registration because we believe that election
2 results/election outcome are much better
3 predictors of how the people actually vote than
4 partisan registration is.

5 I mean, you and I have had
6 conversations in the past about the continued
7 growth of the total percentage of voters that
8 choose to list themselves as unaffiliated.
9 We've talked about that in the past. So we
10 believe that we looked at the political results
11 of past elections and have been able to produce
12 a map that will still require the political
13 parties or the individual seeking to be elected
14 within those districts to offer a good, solid
15 candidate who can appeal to their base, be it
16 Democrat or Republican, but also be able to
17 appeal to the ever-growing unaffiliated.

18 So we believe that while -- and I
19 freely acknowledge that I sought partisan
20 advantage. As based on the criteria in drawing
21 this map, we do believe that the map has been
22 drawn in a fair and open attempt to comply with
23 the court ruling.

24 REPRESENTATIVE MARTIN: Mr. Speaker,
25 see if the gentleman would yield to another

1 to understand and get an answer from you as to
2 whether or not you think that the plan you have
3 now with the partisan result it has in light of
4 congressional election results in
5 North Carolina is constitutional.

6 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Representative,
7 thank you for that question. As -- and I'm not
8 trying to sound like a broken record. I know
9 that you're an attorney. I'm not.

10 I will tell you that the committee
11 adopted criteria, one of which was to seek
12 partisan advantage for the Republicans. Now,
13 if you ask me personally if I think that's a
14 good thing, I'll tell you I do.

15 I think you're a great man. I think
16 you're a fine public servant. I think electing
17 Republicans is better than electing Democrats.
18 So I drew this map in a way to help foster what
19 I think is better for the country.

20 REPRESENTATIVE MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, I
21 would like to see if the gentleman would yield
22 to another question.

23 SPEAKER MOORE: Does the gentleman from
24 Harnett yield to an additional question from
25 the gentleman from Wake?

1 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: I yield.

2 SPEAKER MOORE: He yields.

3 REPRESENTATIVE MARTIN: Thank you,
4 Mr. Speaker.

5 And let me add for the record that I
6 think the gentleman from Harnett is a fine
7 public servant, also, with the interest of the
8 public at heart and, to boot, he has wonderful
9 hair also.

10 Mr. Speaker and members, I do feel that
11 we have a tendency to treat questioning on the
12 floor of the General Assembly like a
13 cross-examination. We've heard the adage that
14 Physician Hill and myself, in this case Lawyer
15 Hill and myself is appropriate. So I don't
16 want to turn this into a cross-examination, but
17 I've tried to answer the question about his
18 opinion on the constitutionality of a partisan
19 gerrymander. I don't think it's been answered,
20 but to avoid this from turning to a
21 cross-examination, I would like to move on to
22 another question.

23 And that question is: Dr. Hofeller and
24 anyone else involved in the map drawing, what
25 data did they use to meet your stated criteria

1 of attempting to get a ten to three Republican
2 advantage?

3 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Well, thank you
4 for that question, Representative.

5 On every member's desk and also before
6 every member in the committee, the joint
7 committee, the committee in the Senate and the
8 committee in the House, is a stat pack, if you
9 will, that lists a variety of races that --
10 over 2008, 2010, 2014 we list out all of the
11 political contests that were used. I'll be
12 happy, if you would like me to, to let you know
13 which ones they were, but I think it's pretty
14 clear to the members and on the record which
15 political contests were used.

16 Just real quick, Attorney General 2008,
17 Commissioner of Agriculture 2008, you know, in
18 fact -- yeah, I mean, we used a variety of
19 political contests from 2008 through 2014, all
20 of which we provided to the members on their
21 desk.

22 REPRESENTATIVE MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, to
23 see if the gentleman would yield to another
24 question.

25 SPEAKER MOORE: Does the gentleman from

1 yield to an additional question?

2 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: I yield.

3 SPEAKER MOORE: He yields.

4 REPRESENTATIVE MARTIN: Thank you,
5 Mr. Speaker.

6 And, Representative Lewis, are there
7 any races that are not listed on these charts
8 that the map-makers considered?

9 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: No, sir.

10 REPRESENTATIVE MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, to
11 see if the gentleman would yield to another
12 question.

13 SPEAKER MOORE: Does the gentleman
14 yield to an additional question?

15 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: I yield.

16 SPEAKER MOORE: He yields.

17 REPRESENTATIVE MARTIN: Thank you,
18 Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Representative Lewis.

19 In looking at those different races,
20 did you weigh, for example, the results in
21 lieutenant gubernatorial elections equally
22 with, say, a gubernatorial election?

23 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Thank you for
24 that question, Representative. I think it's
25 important to understand the races that we used

1 the rules, because this is my fault.

2 SPEAKER MOORE: It's actually the
3 gentleman's time spending to asking questions,
4 but the Chair will give the gentleman one
5 additional question.

6 REPRESENTATIVE MARTIN: Thank you,
7 Mr. Speaker.

8 Representative Lewis, the question I
9 would ask is: Do you believe under these maps
10 that African American voters have a reasonable
11 opportunity to elect the candidate of their
12 choice in any of the districts you've drawn?
13 And, if so, which of those districts do they
14 have such an opportunity? And, if so, how did
15 you determine that?

16 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Thank you for
17 that question, Representative.

18 As I've said before, the criteria that
19 we used in drawing these maps has been spelled
20 out. One of those criteria was not race. Race
21 was not considered in the drawing of these
22 maps. I do not know what the racial
23 composition of the voters that reside in these
24 districts is. So I don't feel that is a
25 question that I can give a direct answer to as

1 race was not among the criteria considered when
2 we drew these maps based on our understanding
3 of the Harris case which said that racially
4 polarized voting did not exist. Thank you.

5 SPEAKER MOORE: And, Representative
6 Martin, should the gentleman wish additional
7 questions, the gentleman will be recognized a
8 second time for that in just a bit if the
9 gentleman so desires.

10 For what purpose does the lady from
11 Buncombe, Representative Fisher, rise?

12 REPRESENTATIVE FISHER: To ask a
13 question of the bill sponsor.

14 SPEAKER MOORE: Does the gentleman from
15 Harnett yield to the lady from Buncombe?

16 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Yes, sir.

17 SPEAKER MOORE: He yields.

18 REPRESENTATIVE FISHER: Take a breath,
19 Representative. I know you've been on the spot
20 for a little while, but I appreciate your
21 taking a moment to answer.

22 I had a concern passed along to me and
23 because it happens to do -- happens to deal
24 with my district, which I thought was kind of
25 unusual because I thought that this was only

1 50 percent in those districts, the two key
2 districts that we're talking about that have
3 been changed. Now we're looking at no
4 consideration at all for race. It's
5 overreaching in that the maps guarantee
6 election of ten Republicans and three
7 Democrats, so is said. Democrats are
8 43 percent of the voters in this state, and
9 only giving an opportunity for three districts
10 for congress doesn't seem balanced at all. In
11 fact, one of the districts that was recently
12 drawn we were told that it was leaning
13 Republican.

14 What about legislators, are they
15 required to protect minority communities from
16 racially polarized voting patterns? Yes, they
17 are. Voter discrimination matters.

18 If indeed public hearings mattered and
19 the input of African Americans had been taken
20 into consideration, perhaps we would not be in
21 this position we're in today. In fact, I know
22 we would not be in the position we're in today.

23 Finally, when the leadership was asked
24 in committee this morning if the map was drawn
25 prior to the public hearings held on Monday and

1 prior to the criterion being decided on
2 Tuesday, the response was "I can't say."

3 So given all these factors I share with
4 you, I ask that you vote against these maps
5 that have been redrawn. Thank you.

6 SPEAKER MOORE: For what purpose does
7 the gentleman from Forsyth, Representative
8 Hanes, rise?

9 REPRESENTATIVE HANES: To ask the bill
10 sponsor a question and to speak on the bill.

11 SPEAKER MOORE: Does the gentleman from
12 Harnett yield to the gentleman from Forsyth?

13 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: I yield.

14 SPEAKER MOORE: He yields.

15 REPRESENTATIVE HANES: Representative
16 Lewis, let's -- let's talk about race just a
17 second. And some of the representatives here
18 know that I like -- I like this conversation
19 and I fashion myself as a person who can do
20 it -- talk about race without getting racial.
21 So I want to ask you a question, and it's a
22 little nuanced from the questions that have
23 been asked to you regarding race this morning.

24 Representative Lewis, does race impact
25 the maps that have been drawn? The question's

1 majority, that seemed to be fine.

2 And so a lot of the voices that I hear
3 today representing the minority party that used
4 to be in the majority, I have to wonder, you
5 know, where were those voices in the Democratic
6 Party for decades and decades and decades.

7 You know, I've heard it also, a lot of
8 complaining about the fact that there are ten
9 Republican congressmen and three Democrats,
10 that there currently are and that these maps,
11 as Representative Lewis has -- has been very
12 candid and transparent and honest, something
13 that I, for one, greatly appreciate and would
14 have greatly appreciated that conversation over
15 the decades.

16 So thank you, Representative Lewis, for
17 your honesty and integrity and transparency and
18 coming right out and saying that. Yes, I do
19 believe, as we adopted in the committee, that
20 there was an attempt made at that partisan
21 advantage.

22 And I keep hearing the complaints from
23 the other side that enjoyed that partisan
24 advantage because of gerrymandering for so many
25 decades. I would just remind the members of

1 There's been a contingent made somehow
2 that Democrats failed to participate in this
3 process, that we offered no alternatives, and
4 nothing can be further from the truth. We
5 offered several amendments, which I think I'm
6 correct in saying that the record will show
7 were opposed by every single Republican member
8 of the committees.

9 In those committees, the Democratic
10 members of the committee told you that you
11 needed to draw districts that gave minority
12 voters the opportunity to elect candidates of
13 their choice, that you've said that you refused
14 to even consider that data.

15 The Democratic members of these
16 committees told you that they thought it was
17 important to keep Representative Alma Adams, a
18 highly capable minority member of the
19 North Carolina Congressional Delegation, a
20 district in which she has a hope of getting
21 re-elected, but you declined to incorporate
22 that request.

23 We told you that it's important to
24 consider one of the basic principles of
25 redistricting, communities of interest, which

1 the gentleman from Durham, Representative
2 Michaux, rise?

3 REPRESENTATIVE MICHAUX: To ask
4 Representative Lewis a question.

5 SPEAKER MOORE: Does the gentleman from
6 Harnett yield to the gentleman from Durham?

7 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: I yield.

8 SPEAKER MOORE: He yields.

9 REPRESENTATIVE MICHAUX: David,
10 honestly, this will be my last question to you.

11 In drawing the maps, was anything made
12 or said or asked to what extent we must
13 preserve the existing minority percentages in
14 order to maintain the minority's present
15 ability to elect his candidate of choice?

16 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Representative,
17 thank you for the question. It is my
18 understanding of the Harris decision that they
19 did not find the tests were met to -- that
20 racially polarized voting existed and, as such,
21 we did not consider race in any way when we
22 drew these districts.

23 REPRESENTATIVE MICHAUX: Thank you.

24 SPEAKER MOORE: For what purpose does
25 the gentleman from Cumberland, Representative

1 First of all, with all due respect, the
2 Harris opinion does not find racially polarized
3 voting, nor have -- has any member of the body
4 submitted any kind of document showing that
5 there's racially polarized voting in this
6 state.

7 Further, I realize the time has been
8 short, but we even had members of the minority
9 stand up and speak about possible ways that
10 districts could have been drawn, yet despite
11 the fact that central staff and even special
12 staff was made available to them, nobody has
13 submitted a map showing how they think the
14 districts should be drawn.

15 I also want to say that these plans in
16 no way guarantee the election of ten
17 Republicans. If you will look at -- I know the
18 lady from New Hanover asked about statewide
19 election results. There are actually -- most
20 of them are on our desk and you will see that
21 in all 13 of these districts, for instance,
22 Attorney General Cooper won them. I think --
23 I'm not going to go into what some of what has
24 been said before, but I think it has a great
25 deal to do with the quality of the candidate



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 17, 2016

Senator Phil Berger
President Pro Tempore, NC Senate
16 West Jones Street – Suite 2007
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-2808

Representative Tim Moore
Speaker, NC House of Representatives
16 West Jones Street – Suite 2304
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-1096

Dear President Pro Tempore Berger and Speaker Moore:

I take strong exception to several of the criteria adopted by the Joint Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting to be used in drawing a 2016 Congressional Plan in response to the February 5, 2016 decision in *Harris v. McCrory*. The enacted criteria do not comply with the U.S. Constitution, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, or basic fairness. My objections include, but are not limited to, the following criteria:

1. *“...data identifying the race of individuals or voters shall not be used in the construction or consideration of districts...”*

It is a clear violation of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to draw districts that do not protect the voting interest of African American communities. To concentrate black voters into districts that dilute their voting strength is a violation of the law. In *Harris v. McCrory*, the court stated that race should not be the predominant factor in drawing the districts. However, the court did not say that race should not be a factor at all.

2. *“... the Committee shall construct districts in the 2016 Contingent Congressional Plan that eliminate the current configuration of the Twelfth District.”*

It is inconsistent with the law for you to eliminate a voting rights district that the court has previously held to be constitutional prior to the 2011 congressional redistricting. Any new configuration of the 12th congressional district should not dilute African American voting strength.

3. *“The Committee shall make reasonable efforts to construct districts...to maintain the current partisan makeup of North Carolina’s congressional delegation.”*

The courts have held that there are limits to political gerrymandering and the current Republican gerrymandering of congressional districts does not account for the fact that there are more registered Democrats than Republicans in the state. Therefore, the current 10 Republican to 3 Democrat composition of the NC congressional delegation should not be maintained.

The above criteria are inconsistent with the law and the committee should immediately adopt new standards for redrawing the maps.

Very truly yours,

G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

BUTTERFIELD.HOUSE.GOV

Communities of Interest - Census Place

Friday, February 19, 2016

2:36 PM

Census Place	District	Population	%
<u>Census Designated Place</u>			
Rougemont NC	3701	831	85.0
Rougemont NC	3706	147	15.0
St. Stephens NC	3705	2,680	30.6
St. Stephens NC	3710	6,079	69.4
Stony Point NC	3705	1,161	88.2
Stony Point NC	3713	156	11.9
		356,036	
<u>City</u>			
Archdale NC	3706	11,082	97.1
Archdale NC	3713	333	2.9
Asheville NC	3710	54,451	65.3
Asheville NC	3711	28,942	34.7
Charlotte NC	3709	140,599	19.2
Charlotte NC	3712	590,825	80.8
Durham NC	3701	203,951	89.3
Durham NC	3704	24,379	10.7
Fayetteville NC	3708	186,426	93.0
Fayetteville NC	3709	14,138	7.1
Greensboro NC	3706	84,519	31.3
Greensboro NC	3713	185,147	68.7
Greenville NC	3701	60,025	71.0
Greenville NC	3703	24,529	29.0
Hickory NC	3705	5,782	14.5
Hickory NC	3710	34,144	85.3
Hickory NC	3711	84	0.2
High Point NC	3705	8	0.0
High Point NC	3706	11	0.0
High Point NC	3713	104,352	100.0
Mebane NC	3704	1,793	15.7
Mebane NC	3706	9,600	84.3
Raleigh NC	3701	1,060	0.3
Raleigh NC	3702	34,294	8.5
Raleigh NC	3704	368,538	91.3

Census Place	District	Population	%
<u>City</u>			
Rocky Mount NC	3701	17,524	30.5
Rocky Mount NC	3702	39,953	69.5
Salisbury NC	3708	3,441	10.2
Salisbury NC	3713	30,221	89.8
Saluda NC	3710	701	98.3
Saluda NC	3711	12	1.7
Thomasville NC	3706	264	1.0
Thomasville NC	3713	26,493	99.0
Wilson NC	3701	42,314	86.1
Wilson NC	3702	6,853	13.9
		3,652,335	
<u>Town</u>			
Apex NC	3702	26,857	71.7
Apex NC	3704	10,619	28.3
Benson NC	3702	0	0.0
Benson NC	3707	3,311	100
Blowing Rock NC	3705	1,192	96.1
Blowing Rock NC	3711	49	4.0
Broadway NC	3702	25	2.0
Broadway NC	3706	1,204	98.0
Cary NC	3702	18,697	13.8
Cary NC	3704	115,115	85.1
Cary NC	3706	1,422	1.1
Chapel Hill NC	3701	2,234	3.9
Chapel Hill NC	3704	54,999	96.1
Clarkton NC	3707	9	1.1
Clarkton NC	3709	828	98.9
Davidson NC	3712	10,650	97.3
Davidson NC	3713	294	2.7
Eastover NC	3708	4	0.1
Eastover NC	3709	3,624	99.9
Elizabethtown NC	3707	1,540	43.0
Elizabethtown NC	3709	2,043	57.0
Falcon NC	3707	0	0.0
Falcon NC	3708	258	100
Garner NC	3702	8,191	31.8
Garner NC	3704	17,554	68.2
Hope Mills NC	3708	10,276	67.7
Hope Mills NC	3709	4,900	32.3
Kenly NC	3702	576	43.0

Census Place	District	Population	%
<u>Town</u>			
Kenly NC	3707	763	57.0
Kernersville NC	3705	23,071	99.8
Kernersville NC	3713	52	0.2
Knightdale NC	3702	3	0.0
Knightdale NC	3704	11,398	100.0
Long View NC	3710	4,119	84.6
Long View NC	3711	752	15.4
Midland NC	3708	3,073	100
Midland NC	3709	0	0.0
Mint Hill NC	3709	14,938	65.7
Mint Hill NC	3712	7,784	34.3
Pineville NC	3709	0	0.0
Pineville NC	3712	7,479	100
Red Springs NC	3708	0	0.0
Red Springs NC	3709	3,428	100
Rolesville NC	3702	3,786	100
Rolesville NC	3704	0	0.0
Selma NC	3702	5,707	94.0
Selma NC	3707	366	6.0
Sharpsburg NC	3701	772	38.1
Sharpsburg NC	3702	1,252	61.9
Smithfield NC	3702	7,805	71.2
Smithfield NC	3707	3,161	28.8
Spencer NC	3708	2,423	74.2
Spencer NC	3713	844	25.8
Surf City NC	3703	292	15.8
Surf City NC	3707	1,561	84.2
Troutman NC	3710	1	0.0
Troutman NC	3713	2,382	100.0
Whitakers NC	3701	402	54.0
Whitakers NC	3702	342	46.0
Winterville NC	3701	0	0.0
Winterville NC	3703	9,269	100
		1,535,245	
<u>Village</u>			
		62,491	

Census Places -- listed by District

District 3701

<i>Census Designated Place</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>%</i>
Rougemont NC (part)	831	85.0
Census Designated Place Totals	8,242	
<i>City</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>%</i>
Durham NC (part)	203,951	89.3
Greenville NC (part)	60,025	71.0
Raleigh NC (part)	1,060	0.3
Rocky Mount NC (part)	17,524	30.5
Wilson NC (part)	42,314	86.1
City Totals	368,581	
<i>Town</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>%</i>
Chapel Hill NC (part)	2,234	3.9
Sharpsburg NC (part)	772	38.1
Whitakers NC (part)	402	54.0
Winterville NC (part)	0	0.0
Town Totals	77,305	
District 3701 Totals	454,541	

District 3702

<i>City</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>%</i>
Raleigh NC (part)	34,294	8.5
Rocky Mount NC (part)	39,953	69.5
Wilson NC (part)	6,853	13.9
City Totals	90,363	
<i>Town</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>%</i>
Apex NC (part)	26,857	71.7
Benson NC (part)	0	0.0
Broadway NC (part)	25	2.0
Cary NC (part)	18,697	13.8

Garner NC (part)	8,191	31.8
Kenly NC (part)	576	43.0
Knightdale NC (part)	3	0.0
Rolesville NC (part)	3,786	100
Selma NC (part)	5,707	94.0
Sharpsburg NC (part)	1,252	61.9
Smithfield NC (part)	7,805	71.2
Whitakers NC (part)	342	46.0
Town Totals	215,472	

District 3702 Totals

312,661

District 3703

City

Population %

Greenville NC (part)	24,529	29.0
City Totals	195,037	

Town

Population %

Surf City NC (part)	292	15.8
Winterville NC (part)	9,269	100
Town Totals	108,841	

District 3703 Totals

371,460

District 3704

Town

Population %

Durham NC (part)	24,379	10.7
Mebane NC (part)	1,793	15.7
Raleigh NC (part)	368,538	91.3
Apex NC (part)	10,619	28.3
Cary NC (part)	115,115	85.1
Chapel Hill NC (part)	54,999	96.1
Garner NC (part)	17,554	68.2
Knightdale NC (part)	11,398	100.0
Rolesville NC (part)	0	0.0
Town Totals	253,930	

District 3704 Totals

649,374

District 3705

Census Designated Place

Population %

St. Stephens NC (part)

2,680 30.6

Stony Point NC (part)

1,161 88.2

Census Designated Place Totals

30,718

City

Population %

Hickory NC (part)

5,782 14.5

High Point NC (part)

8 0.0

City Totals

252,699

Town

Population %

Blowing Rock NC (part)

1,192 96.1

Kernersville NC (part)

23,071 99.8

Town Totals

95,613

District 3705 Totals

400,321

District 3706

Census Designated Place

Population %

Rougemont NC (part)

147 15.0

Census Designated Place Totals

10,657

City

Population %

Archdale NC (part)

11,082 97.1

Greensboro NC (part)

84,519 31.3

High Point NC (part)

11 0.0

Mebane NC (part)

9,600 84.3

Thomasville NC (part)

264 1.0

City Totals

271,834

Town

Population %

Broadway NC (part)

1,204 98.0

Cary NC (part)

1,422 1.1

Town Totals			76,050	
<hr/>				
District 3706 Totals			359,492	
District 3707				
<i>Town</i>			<i>Population</i>	<i>%</i>
Benson NC (part)			3,311	100
Clarkton NC (part)			9	1.1
Elizabethtown NC (part)			1,540	43.0
Falcon NC (part)			0	0.0
Kenly NC (part)			763	57.0
Selma NC (part)			366	6.0
Smithfield NC (part)			3,161	28.8
Surf City NC (part)			1,561	84.2
Town Totals			106,318	
<hr/>				
District 3707 Totals			365,511	
District 3708				
<i>City</i>			<i>Population</i>	<i>%</i>
Fayetteville NC (part)			186,426	93.0
Salisbury NC (part)			3,441	10.2
City Totals			335,002	
<hr/>				
<i>Town</i>			<i>Population</i>	<i>%</i>
Eastover NC (part)			4	0.1
Falcon NC (part)			258	100
Hope Mills NC (part)			10,276	67.7
Midland NC (part)			3,073	100
Red Springs NC (part)			0	0.0
Spencer NC (part)			2,423	74.2
Town Totals			98,541	
<hr/>				
District 3708 Totals			465,427	
District 3709				
<i>City</i>			<i>Population</i>	<i>%</i>

Charlotte NC (part)	140,599	19.2
Fayetteville NC (part)	14,138	7.1
City Totals	241,091	
<i>Town</i>		
	<i>Population</i>	<i>%</i>
Clarkton NC (part)	828	98.9
Eastover NC (part)	3,624	99.9
Elizabethtown NC (part)	2,043	57.0
Hope Mills NC (part)	4,900	32.3
Midland NC (part)	0	0.0
Mint Hill NC (part)	14,938	65.7
Pineville NC (part)	0	0.0
Red Springs NC (part)	3,428	100
Town Totals	175,327	
District 3709 Totals		
	446,355	
<i>District 3710</i>		
<i>Census Designated Place</i>		
	<i>Population</i>	<i>%</i>
St. Stephens NC (part)	6,079	69.4
Census Designated Place Totals	41,018	
<i>City</i>		
	<i>Population</i>	<i>%</i>
Asheville NC (part)	54,451	65.3
Hickory NC (part)	34,144	85.3
Saluda NC (part)	701	98.3
City Totals	263,530	
<i>Town</i>		
	<i>Population</i>	<i>%</i>
Long View NC (part)	4,119	84.6
Troutman NC (part)	1	0.0
Town Totals	66,070	
District 3710 Totals		
	370,731	
<i>District 3711</i>		
<i>City</i>		
	<i>Population</i>	<i>%</i>

Asheville NC (part)	28,942	34.7
Hickory NC (part)	84	0.2
Saluda NC (part)	12	1.7
City Totals	92,768	
<i>Town</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>%</i>
Blowing Rock NC (part)	49	4.0
Long View NC (part)	752	15.4
Town Totals	101,482	
District 3711 Totals	253,425	
<i>District 3712</i>		
Charlotte NC (part)	590,825	80.8
<i>Town</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>%</i>
Davidson NC (part)	10,650	97.3
Mint Hill NC (part)	7,784	34.3
Pineville NC (part)	7,479	100
Town Totals	97,552	
District 3712 Totals	688,377	
<i>District 3713</i>		
<i>Census Designated Place</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>%</i>
Stony Point NC (part)	156	11.9
Census Designated Place Totals	15,679	
<i>City</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>%</i>
Archdale NC (part)	333	2.9
Greensboro NC (part)	185,147	68.7
High Point NC (part)	104,352	100.0
Salisbury NC (part)	30,221	89.8
Thomasville NC (part)	26,493	99.0
City Totals	390,009	
<i>Town</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>%</i>
Davidson NC (part)	294	2.7

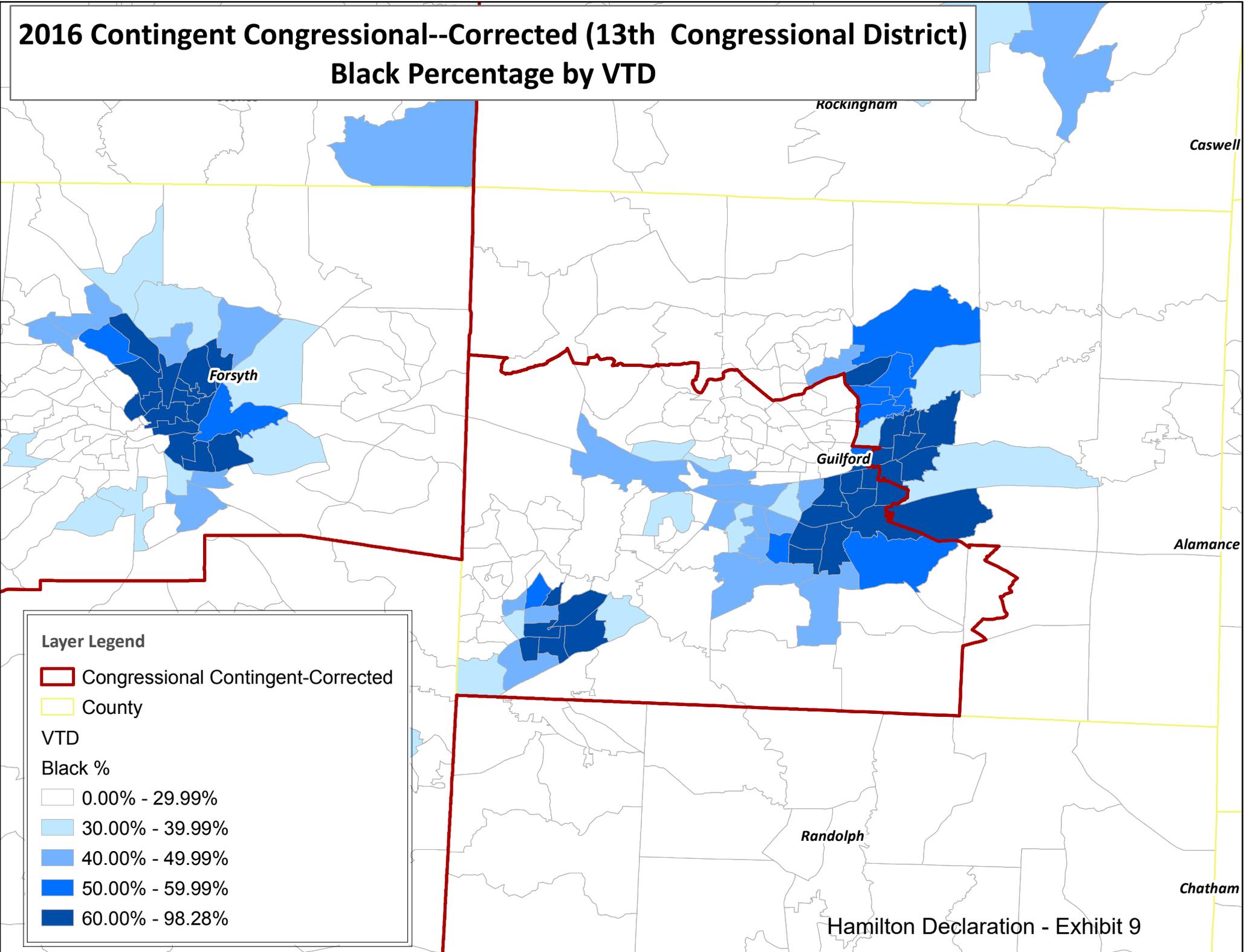
Kernersville NC (part)	52	0.2
Spencer NC (part)	844	25.8
Troutman NC (part)	2,382	100.0
Town Totals	62,744	

District 3713 Totals 468,432

Summary Statistics

Number of Census Place not split	686
Number of Census Place split	51
Number of Census Place split in two	47
Number of Census Place split in three	4
Total number of splits	106

2016 Contingent Congressional--Corrected (13th Congressional District) Black Percentage by VTD



Layer Legend

 Congressional Contingent-Corrected

 County

VTD

Black %

 0.00% - 29.99%

 30.00% - 39.99%

 40.00% - 49.99%

 50.00% - 59.99%

 60.00% - 98.28%

Hamilton Declaration - Exhibit 9

NORTH CAROLINA LEGISLATIVE SENATE FLOOR DEBATE

CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

EXTRA SESSION

FEBRUARY 18, 2016

Transcribed by:

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1 both in Raleigh and six counties -- or six
2 locations outside. So it was a huge
3 transparent effort. I wish you were there to
4 spend seven hours with us so we could really
5 have enjoyed all that friendship time together.

6 But under the circumstances, yes,
7 Dr. Hofeller was consulted. And at one point
8 was -- there was an agreement to produce a map
9 that we can be able to get the Court -- so we
10 meet our obligation to the Court.

11 SENATOR BRYANT: Okay. So when and
12 where --

13 PRESIDENT FOREST: Senator Rucho, do
14 you yield for another question? Senator Rucho,
15 do you yield?

16 SENATOR RUCHO: Yes, I do.

17 PRESIDENT FOREST: All right, Senator.

18 SENATOR BRYANT: So when and where were
19 the maps initially drawn and were public funds
20 involved in that process?

21 SENATOR RUCHO: My understanding of it
22 is that when we consulted with Dr. Hofeller
23 and, of course, consulted with our attorneys to
24 make sure that we had the best answer to be
25 able to comply with the Court since I'm not

1 like you, an accomplished lawyer, I'm just
2 merely a dentist.

3 And the -- you know, we did talk with
4 the experts and we were able to find a plan to
5 do it, and in doing so, that's how we actually
6 got the criteria established which is why and
7 how Dr. Hofeller was able to draw maps that
8 our -- what we have before us.

9 SENATOR BRYANT: Okay. One more
10 follow-up.

11 PRESIDENT FOREST: Senator Rucho, do
12 you yield?

13 SENATOR RUCHO: Yes, I do.

14 SENATOR BRYANT: So at what point or
15 when were the maps transferred to our
16 legislative system?

17 SENATOR RUCHO: When the -- when the --
18 when the -- let me just ask a question. Hold a
19 second.

20 We just asked Dr. Hofeller to follow
21 the criteria in trying to meet the
22 requirements.

23 And I will ask, with all sincerity,
24 Senator Bryant, this map that's before you is
25 what we consider an answer to what the Court

1 asked us to do, and I urge you, members in the
2 back row, members of the majority party, to
3 look at this map and base it on its merits.
4 And the merits that you have before you are why
5 you have a map that looks the best.

6 And if you remember being in the room
7 over there, they had from 1982 forward, all of
8 those maps were addressing all of the different
9 iterations over the years, the 12th District,
10 the 1st District and all the others.

11 So I would just say to you in
12 concluding my answer that it's time for you and
13 the other members to just look at the merit of
14 this map. And the time for questioning on
15 these issues, as you well know, as Senator Blue
16 and Senator McKissick, we may have another five
17 years as we take this into court or you all
18 take this into court, giving a chance so that
19 there will be plenty of opportunities to do
20 depositions and witnesses in front of the court
21 in answering all of these questions that you're
22 addressing.

23 So the real issue is let's go ahead and
24 focus on this map and decide if this is the map
25 we want to go ahead to meet the obligation of

1 the Court. And I think that probably finishes
2 my answers. Thank you.

3 SENATOR BRYANT: Mr. President, I just
4 need a follow-up, if I can, because I didn't
5 get an answer to my last question.

6 PRESIDENT FOREST: Senator Rucho, do
7 you yield?

8 SENATOR RUCHO: I think that's -- no,
9 sir.

10 PRESIDENT FOREST: Senator Rucho does
11 not yield. Senator Bryant --

12 SENATOR BRYANT: Could I --

13 PRESIDENT FOREST: Would you like to
14 speak to the bill, Senator Bryant?

15 SENATOR BRYANT: Well, I just want to
16 say -- I guess so. I'll make these remarks.

17 It's concerning to me since I can't get
18 an answer to the question about when the data
19 was imported into our computers and get a sense
20 of that process, then who's accountable for the
21 criteria and what loopholes there might have
22 been with the criteria being honored still is
23 an issue as he would like us to just accept
24 what's going on and make the best of it. I
25 hear him, but our constituents' rights weigh in

1 the balance so it's a bigger -- a much bigger
2 issue than that.

3 And so I think there's still a question
4 about how much we can trust the honoring of
5 this criteria given that we don't know more
6 information about this process.

7 Thank you.

8 PRESIDENT FOREST: Any further
9 discussion or debate?

10 Senator McKissick, for what purpose do
11 you rise?

12 SENATOR MCKISSICK: To see if Senator
13 Rucho will yield for a question.

14 PRESIDENT FOREST: Senator Rucho, do
15 you yield?

16 SENATOR RUCHO: Yes, sir, Senator
17 McKissick.

18 SENATOR MCKISSICK: Senator Rucho, do
19 you -- I assume your consultant had a database
20 that covered all of the fields that would have
21 been covered back in 2011 for evaluating a new
22 potential congressional district map. Would
23 that not be correct?

24 SENATOR RUCHO: Senator McKissick, as I
25 discussed with Senator Bryant, it's very

1 simple. The criteria that Representative Lewis
2 and I gave to our map producer is the ones that
3 they were told to use and there is nothing in
4 there that included race or -- or party
5 affiliation or anything other than what's on
6 the criteria.

7 And you were at the -- at the committee
8 meeting, at the joint committee. We discussed
9 it. You hammered a lot of questions. You got
10 your answers. You actually requested beyond
11 what we wanted because we felt race should not
12 have been part of this based on the decision by
13 the Court, but you wanted the information on
14 race and the racial demographics and the like,
15 and that's your privilege, and we -- you know,
16 we actually worked with the staff to make sure
17 you got everything you wanted. Not much else
18 to say about that.

19 SENATOR MCKISSICK: Quick follow-up,
20 Mr. President, if I could.

21 PRESIDENT FOREST: Senator Rucho, do
22 you yield?

23 SENATOR RUCHO: Yes.

24 SENATOR MCKISSICK: Do you know if
25 before the adoption of the criteria if your

1 consultant had already begun making maps
2 without knowing that criteria would be adopted?

3 SENATOR RUCHO: Well, to say that -- I
4 think it's simple to say that, you know, as
5 there are always criteria when you establish
6 that -- you know, I mean it's like -- let me
7 just say to you, it's like any bill in the
8 legislature. When you submit a bill, you
9 already have it planned out. You have a
10 privilege, you know, privacy and the like and
11 you're thinking about what you want to put in
12 the bill.

13 Well, we think about what we would like
14 to see in there the same manner as you do, and
15 in doing so, you know, you go ahead and you
16 say, you know, we want it to be drawn with
17 whole counties, which we actually got only 87
18 whole counties, which is the best it's ever
19 been. We didn't want to cut any -- divide any
20 VTDs, or as few as possible, so that we can at
21 least do it on -- based on trying to maintain
22 the zero deviation and, you know, the basic
23 criteria that would be there and that you would
24 discuss.

25 And I'm sure -- and as a matter of

1 fact, it may be a great time for me to ask you
2 some questions about who your map-drawers were
3 and who funded it and the like too, so -- but
4 in essence, we did -- we had a discussion with
5 him to make sure that he fully understand what
6 his limitations were and in doing so -- you
7 know, as well as I do this thing, those
8 criteria, that's what he was told to do and
9 that's what I'm sure he did.

10 SENATOR MCKISSICK: Follow-up,
11 Mr. President.

12 PRESIDENT FOREST: Senator Rucho, do
13 you yield?

14 SENATOR RUCHO: Sir.

15 SENATOR MCKISSICK: Very brief, Senator
16 Rucho. So it's possible that before those
17 criteria were adopted, if he had the
18 traditional categories that were available
19 under the 2011 stat pack, it might have
20 included race or party affiliations and a
21 number of other parameters that -- it's a
22 possibility that he began drawing early maps
23 taking into consideration those factors before
24 the criteria were adopted. Is that right?

25 SENATOR APODACA: Mr. President.

1 PRESIDENT FOREST: Senator Apodaca, for
2 what purpose do you rise?

3 SENATOR APODACA: Inquiry of the Chair,
4 please.

5 PRESIDENT FOREST: Senator Apodaca.

6 SENATOR APODACA: Mr. President, are we
7 talking about this map or are we talking about
8 how we draw maps or what imaginary maps may
9 have been done or who may have done what, when
10 or where, or are we voting on this map today as
11 presented?

12 PRESIDENT FOREST: Thank you, Senator.
13 I would recommend that we keep our focus on the
14 map that we're talking about today,
15 specifically on that bill.

16 The question can follow up -- go ahead
17 and finish the question. And, Senator Rucho,
18 if you'd like to answer it, feel free.

19 SENATOR RUCHO: I'm not sure how to say
20 it any clearer. The answer was simple.
21 When -- you know, the criteria that was there
22 was what was given to the map-drawer. They
23 were told that this is all you live with and
24 this is all you work with in drawing this map.

25 What part of that am I not

1 understanding? Or maybe you're not
2 understanding it. The criteria was established
3 and that is the criteria that was followed.

4 SENATOR MCKISSICK: I understand your
5 statement and --

6 PRESIDENT FOREST: Senator McKissick,
7 would you like to speak to the bill?

8 SENATOR MCKISSICK: Yes.

9 PRESIDENT FOREST: Senator McKissick,
10 you have the floor.

11 SENATOR MCKISSICK: The thing that
12 gives me some concern and that is the extent to
13 which there are outside consultants being
14 involved in drawing maps.

15 And while I understand that these
16 criteria were indeed put before the Joint
17 Committee of the House and the Senate members
18 dealing with this particular reconsideration in
19 drawing of the congressional district map that
20 perhaps the consultant wasn't completely bound
21 by the criteria that were subsequently
22 established, and that, in my mind, opens up the
23 potential for race as well as party
24 affiliations and other parameters to have been
25 considered when the maps were being drawn even

1 though by the time they were imported in the
2 database, the state system, to provide us with
3 the map here today, it would have been
4 potentially sanitized, so to speak.

5 Now, why do I ask these questions? For
6 a couple of reasons. If you go back to the
7 Harris versus McCrory case, the thing that the
8 Court emphasized specifically was that they
9 were extremely concerned about the packing and
10 stacking of District 1 and District 12.

11 And when I say packing and stacking,
12 it's the over concentration of African American
13 voters into those particular districts, and the
14 Court was concerned about it because it was
15 unconstitutional. It was unconstitutional
16 because these were majority-minority districts.
17 Neither of these districts have been
18 majority-minority districts in the past. These
19 districts had been allowed in the past to elect
20 candidates of choice without having to be
21 majority-minority districts, and that's what
22 the Voting Rights Act requires and it still
23 requires that. It still requires that.

24 While there is certainly questions
25 about the applicability of Section 5 at this

1 SENATOR STEIN: To speak on the bill.

2 PRESIDENT FOREST: Senator Stein, you
3 have the floor to speak on the bill.

4 SENATOR STEIN: Thank you,
5 Mr. President.

6 Members of the Senate, as we all know,
7 last week the three-judge federal panel ruled
8 that the 2011 maps were unconstitutional
9 because they diluted the votes of African
10 Americans that impacted their ability to elect
11 candidates of their choice because they
12 mechanically put a majority of them into two
13 congressional districts, the 1st and the 12th.

14 I agree with Senator McKissick's
15 analysis that this effort suffers from the same
16 infirmity as the last, which is there has been
17 no analysis of racially polarized voting. So
18 we don't know under Section 2 whether these
19 districts are good or not, but by having --
20 dealing with one constitutional problem and
21 racial gerrymandering that we saw in the last
22 map, what you all have done is squarely put
23 this map with another constitutional problem
24 and that's a political gerrymander.

25 The committee chair said that they drew

1 these maps to maximize the number of
2 Republicans elected to Congress. When asked
3 why he supported maps that would yield ten
4 Republican congressmen and three Democrat
5 congressmen, Chairman Lewis said it was because
6 he couldn't draw one to produce 11 Republicans.
7 His goal was to maximize the number of
8 Republicans elected to Congress.

9 Folks, political gerrymandering is
10 unconstitutional and it's subject to court
11 review. The case, Senator Newton, is Davis
12 versus Bandemer. That is the precedent and it
13 remains the precedent of political
14 gerrymandering cases.

15 Even Justice Scalia holds that
16 political gerrymandering as unconstitutional.
17 He just differs in that that case was the Vieth
18 case. He differs in that he says those cases,
19 even though unconstitutional, are not
20 appropriate for court review, but in that case,
21 the Vieth case, he referred to plurality of
22 four. There were five justices, including
23 Justice Kennedy, who held that Davis versus
24 Bandemer is still good law and that political
25 gerrymandering cases can be unconstitutional

1 and it would be appropriate for a court to
2 determine and set a standard for what is an
3 unconstitutional political gerrymander.

4 Just two months ago another three-judge
5 federal panel, just like the one here in
6 North Carolina, ruled that a Wisconsin plan
7 would not be -- litigation to block the
8 Wisconsin plan could go forward asserting a
9 political gerrymander case in Wisconsin.

10 And, of course, one of the most
11 prominent cases upholding a political
12 gerrymandering case happened here in
13 North Carolina. The plaintiff was the
14 Republican Party of North Carolina, and they
15 successfully sued to change the way in which
16 Superior Court judges were elected in our
17 state.

18 This brazen gerrymander undermines our
19 democracy. The voters have a constitutional
20 right to have their votes mean something, yet
21 this map wastes hundreds of thousands of votes
22 of North Carolina citizens simply because of
23 what party they're affiliated with. It is a
24 slap in the face to those voters. It was drawn
25 with the declared purpose of electing ten

1 Republican congress people. That's 77 percent
2 of our congressional delegation

3 SENATOR RUCHO: Mr. President.

4 PRESIDENT FOREST: Senator Rucho, for
5 what purpose do you rise?

6 SENATOR RUCHO: Would Senator Stein
7 yield?

8 SENATOR STEIN: I would be happy to
9 when I finish with my remarks.

10 PRESIDENT FOREST: Senator Stein, you
11 have the floor.

12 SENATOR STEIN: Thank you very much.

13 Our state is a 50/50 state by almost
14 all measures. An analysis of every
15 United States Senate election in the entire
16 country in the last 25 years concluded that
17 North Carolina is the most politically
18 competitive state in the nation.

19 In 2008, we were the state that most
20 narrowly went for the president.

21 In 2012, we were the state that most
22 narrowly went against the president.

23 In 2012, of all votes cast in that
24 election for Congress, 52 percent --
25 51 percent, excuse me, went for a Democratic

1 candidate. 49 percent went for a Republican
2 candidate. We have 13 congress people. You
3 would think it would be seven Democrats, six
4 Republicans, maybe six Republicans -- six
5 Democrats, seven Republicans. That's what
6 happens when you have the 50/50 vote.

7 In 2012, the results were nine
8 Republicans and four Democrats. So I want to
9 underline that fact. In 2012, more people in
10 North Carolina voted for a Democrat to
11 represent them in congress and yet only
12 31 percent of the representatives were
13 Democrat. A minority of North Carolinians
14 voted for a Republican and they got 69 percent
15 of the representation in our delegation. This
16 is simply a subversion of democracy.

17 In 2014, Republican candidates did a
18 little better, 52 percent of all votes went for
19 Republican, 48 percent went for Democrat, yet
20 the outcome was even more outrageous because
21 77 percent, 10 of the 13 congressional
22 representatives, were Republican.

23 We are a 50/50 state and yet our
24 congressional delegation is three to one
25 Republican to Democrat. And please do not say

1 this is how it has always been done because
2 that's not true. The last redistricting was
3 2002, and that election -- that was the first
4 election after the last round of redistricting.
5 In that election, 54 percent of
6 North Carolinians cast a vote for a Republican
7 member of Congress; 46 percent voted for a
8 Democrat. You know what the split was?
9 54 percent of our delegation was Republican and
10 46 percent was Democratic. That is a
11 perfect -- nearly perfect congruence of votes
12 and representation.

13 And guess what's supposed to happen in
14 a democracy: The share vote should yield the
15 same share of representation.

16 This gerrymander boils down to
17 self-preservation without representation. The
18 only saving grace of this map is it represents
19 partisan abuse of such scale that the Supreme
20 Court can use it to create a standard for
21 determining what constitutes an
22 unconstitutional political gerrymander.

23 Friends, we live in North Carolina, not
24 North Korea. Voters should choose their
25 representative, not the other way around.

1 Okay. It took us six months the last time to
2 get this done and we had 11 days to try to get
3 this done.

4 So in reality, we needed to get advice
5 and we got advice as soon as we found out that
6 there was indeed a problem with the courts and
7 they -- funny thing about it, all the courts in
8 North Carolina said they were fair, legal and
9 constitutional, and the one federal court
10 decided, for whatever reason, that they didn't
11 agree with what the courts in North Carolina
12 said.

13 SENATOR CLARK: Follow-up.

14 PRESIDENT FOREST: Senator Rucho, do
15 you yield?

16 SENATOR RUCHO: Yes.

17 SENATOR CLARK: Let me narrow my
18 question a little bit more. Was the criteria
19 to maintain political advantage provided to the
20 mapmakers prior to the public hearing?

21 SENATOR RUCHO: Repeat that again. I
22 couldn't hear you.

23 SENATOR CLARK: Was the criteria to
24 maintain political advantage for the Republican
25 Party provided to the mapmakers prior to the

1 public hearing?

2 SENATOR RUCHO: Well, we looked at
3 the -- at the previous map which was done
4 following the Voting Rights Act and all the
5 other things that needed to be addressed the
6 way the Supreme Court had told us to do and
7 that is how we did the other map. This one was
8 found unconstitutional.

9 What we were doing is saying, okay,
10 political gerrymandering is not illegal,
11 despite what Senator Stein says, and CD 12 is a
12 political gerrymandering that was approved by
13 the Supreme Court. So there is nothing wrong
14 with political gerrymandering. I won't accept
15 that as being criticism.

16 SENATOR CLARK: I didn't say anything
17 was wrong with it. I'm just trying to
18 determine whether or not one of the criteria
19 provided to the mapmakers was to maintain
20 political advantage and was that done prior to
21 the public hearing.

22 SENATOR RUCHO: To answer your
23 question --

24 PRESIDENT FOREST: Go ahead, Senator
25 Rucho.

1 SENATOR RUCHO: To answer your
2 question, we wanted to achieve the same goals
3 that were available -- or that were achieved on
4 the previous map on this new map so that -- and
5 to clearly achieve -- we had 13 -- excuse me --
6 10-3, and we said 10-3 would be the appropriate
7 way to go on this one too.

8 SENATOR CLARK: I guess I should take
9 that for a yes.

10 PRESIDENT FOREST: Senator, do you want
11 to speak to the bill or do you want to ask
12 another question?

13 SENATOR CLARK: Will the senator yield
14 for another question?

15 PRESIDENT FOREST: Senator Rucho, do
16 you yield?

17 SENATOR RUCHO: Yes.

18 SENATOR CLARK: Okay. Well, you're
19 proud of the fact that a lot of folks did
20 respond via online to the -- as a part of the
21 hearing; is that correct?

22 SENATOR RUCHO: I'm sorry. Say that
23 again, please.

24 SENATOR CLARK: You all have been
25 somewhat boastful to the fact that we provided

1 the opportunity for the citizens to respond to
2 the public hearing online.

3 SENATOR RUCHO: Yes, sir.

4 SENATOR CLARK: Did we actually use the
5 comments that they provided to us?

6 SENATOR RUCHO: Yes.

7 SENATOR CLARK: Are you aware that in
8 those comments -- let's see, there are about
9 381 comments and about 150 of them spoke
10 against gerrymandering. So on what basis am I
11 to believe that we actually listened to our
12 citizens when they told us that political
13 advantage for the Republican Party was not one
14 of their concerns?

15 SENATOR RUCHO: Well, I think you may
16 have missed it, Senator Clark. I mean, they
17 said we want to keep counties whole. We put
18 the map that has never been -- never been
19 better as far as whole counties.

20 They said that they don't want to have
21 VTDs split so it wouldn't be erratic and be
22 less than what would be respectable, and this
23 is what I would consider respectable mapping,
24 okay.

25 And it also, you know, achieved the

1 fact that we wanted to -- the 13 -- we did the
2 13 -- excuse me -- 10-3 because that was what
3 the previous map said. So those are the
4 reasons why. I mean, those are some of the
5 examples that we did.

6 Oh, one other thing. They didn't like
7 the shape of the 12th District, and we fixed
8 it. And so we listened to the people out
9 there. And my understanding having read them
10 and listening for six hours, as you did, of
11 that debate in that hearing, you know, many of
12 the people spoke on both sides of the issue.
13 Some of them were happy with the old map. Some
14 of them weren't happy. They were critical of
15 the 12th District. We fixed the 12th District.
16 We have whole counties. We have whole VTDs
17 wherever we could. We have zero population as
18 federal requirement. We achieved everything
19 that was necessary to meet the requirements of
20 the court to the best of our ability and that's
21 what we did.

22 SENATOR CLARK: Thank you.

23 PRESIDENT FOREST: Senator Clark.

24 SENATOR CLARK: I'd like to speak to
25 the bill.

1 PRESIDENT FOREST: You have the floor,
2 Senator.

3 SENATOR CLARK: Clearly there are
4 problems here -- to me. It appears as though
5 we did not seriously take into consideration
6 our citizens' viewpoint. I mean, I can look at
7 the online submissions right here. I see 381
8 submissions, 151 instances in which people
9 spoke against political gerrymandering, yet we
10 do it anyway.

11 We probably established the criteria
12 before we even asked them to speak, which would
13 be bad enough, maybe even worse if we
14 established such criteria after they had
15 spoken.

16 A lot of the comments that have just
17 been made were really not a point I was trying
18 to drive home because even during the public
19 hearing I asked the question that I still did
20 not -- that I did not get an answer to then and
21 I'm not sure anyone can go out and provide the
22 answer to me now, and that is why should I
23 support these maps that contain a 10-3 partisan
24 advantage and there were -- this advantage was
25 achieved based upon maps that were deemed to be

1 had nothing to do with actual transportation
2 needs. Then Senator Harrington, Senator Rabon,
3 Representative Torbett, Representative Brawley
4 came together and did this state a great
5 service, they put in place a new system that
6 elevated simple fairness over partisan
7 politics.

8 The strategic transportation
9 investments bill was a generational piece of
10 legislation that brought both sides together to
11 take the politics out of transportation
12 funding. Our state is better for it.

13 Even though the majority party finally
14 had the power to be the ones playing politics
15 with that pot of money, you decided to leave a
16 legacy instead. I bet none of you regret that
17 choice. I bet that's one of the pieces of
18 legislation you are most proud of.

19 Partisan redistricting needs to end.
20 No one can honestly defend drawing maps for the
21 express purpose of favoring one political
22 party. And we know the map is politically
23 gerrymandered because Representative Lewis told
24 us so. Debating whether this map is
25 politically gerrymandered is like debating the

1 moon landing. It happened. As my good friend
2 Senator Tillman once said, it's called if you
3 win, you draw the map.

4 Although I'll accept his challenge to
5 name a state anywhere that has solved this
6 problem: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho,
7 Montana, New Jersey, Washington, Alaska,
8 Arkansas, Colorado, Missouri, Ohio,
9 Pennsylvania. It can be done.

10 Look, I'm not ignoring the fact that my
11 party abused its power over you. None of us
12 are surprised by your vengeance.

13 SENATOR RUCHO: Mr. President.

14 PRESIDENT FOREST: Senator Rucho, for
15 what purpose do you rise?

16 SENATOR RUCHO: Inquiry of the Chair.

17 PRESIDENT FOREST: Senator Rucho.

18 SENATOR RUCHO: We talked about roads.
19 We've talked about other things. What does
20 that have to do with this map?

21 PRESIDENT FOREST: Senator -- Senator,
22 I'll allow you to finish, Senator Jackson.
23 Again, focus on the bill. I think so far
24 you've been pretty germane here. So keep
25 going, but please keep it focused on the map

1 and the bill.

2 SENATOR JACKSON: Just like with
3 transportation funding, this is an opportunity
4 to leave a legacy of simple fairness and common
5 decency that will outlast all of us. If you
6 bring an end to partisan redistricting, it will
7 be an act of political courage unlike any this
8 state has seen in a long time. Independent
9 redistricting is the type of legislation that
10 gets politicians into heaven. That may alter
11 the course for some of us. It's a
12 demonstration of truly selfless service. It's
13 proof that we're all here for the right
14 reasons.

15 We could do it today. We could shock
16 the state. We could restore confidence in our
17 elections and set an example for the nation in
18 how both sides can come together --

19 PRESIDENT FOREST: Senator Jackson --
20 Senator Jackson, now you're straying a bit. So
21 let's focus -- let's focus on the bill at hand.
22 If you have comments related to the bill and
23 comments related to the map, please direct them
24 there. We -- we've had a lot of comments, a
25 lot of discussion here, but we're drifting so

1 that's -- what you're speaking about is not
2 this bill currently. So please keep it focused
3 on this bill.

4 SENATOR JACKSON: This bill was
5 produced by a fraud process. This bill should
6 be denied by this chamber because it was
7 allowed to be produced through a thoroughly
8 partisan process. No system of redistricting
9 is perfect, but ours wins the prize for
10 absolute worst. We are living with an open
11 acknowledgment that we draw the map to favor
12 one party, this map. In a few years that's
13 going to seem about as strange and sad as Jim
14 Crow laws seem to us now.

15 The process that produced this map is
16 not going to age well. By the -- by the time
17 it is finally put to rest, public opinion on
18 the matter will be harsh and unanimous. Be the
19 ones who finished partisan redistricting.

20 In a moment I'm going to offer an
21 amendment that would allow us to do that. I
22 feel confident in predicting that this
23 amendment has less than a 50 percent chance of
24 becoming law today. I think that's a safe
25 statement. I'm not doing this to be a burden

1 before. We know that in the 13th District
2 where you talk about not disenfranchising
3 people, where Congresswoman Alma Adams is
4 placed in the new map, there's only 21 percent
5 of African Americans in that district, and she
6 was overwhelmingly elected by African Americans
7 and Democrats in the 12th District.

8 The other issue here is that in the new
9 District 13, any African American or Democrat
10 can't be elected. So that is partisan packing,
11 and that is disenfranchising a group of people
12 because of how the African Americans -- and
13 I've looked at that 13th and it's most of my
14 district and how it's locked in with mostly
15 Republican areas all around it which makes it
16 virtually impossible to elect another African
17 American, another Democrat and African
18 American, Angela.

19 This to me, while you're talking about
20 maintaining -- and certainly you can maintain
21 the three and the ten however, but when you're
22 taking one incumbent and you're targeting that
23 one incumbent and that incumbent is only the
24 second African American woman elected from this
25 state since it began to elect African Americans

1 after Reconstruction and then make it almost
2 virtually impossible to elect another either
3 Democrat or African American in that area, then
4 this smacks in the face of equal protection
5 under the law.

6 I'm not surprised, of course, by these
7 actions as a cultural -- as a culture of racial
8 inequality has been deepened on this side of
9 the aisle. It saddens me, however, to think
10 that this is how we operate in Raleigh and it
11 is controlled still by male gerrymandering.

12 This is a sad day to me for women
13 across the state in terms of equal protection
14 and fairness and even sadder in terms of a
15 growing majority of minorities in the State of
16 North Carolina who should be able to expect
17 that they could elect their representatives.

18 PRESIDENT FOREST: Senator Brown, for
19 what purpose do you rise?

20 SENATOR BROWN: Just quickly respond to
21 Senator Robinson's comments.

22 PRESIDENT FOREST: Senator Brown, you
23 have the floor to speak a second time.

24 SENATOR BROWN: Senator Robinson, I was
25 looking at District 13, I guess it was -- let's

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING

FEBRUARY 19, 2016

ROOM 643

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1 the question, Representative Michaux. The
2 criteria that was used in drawing the map are
3 the criteria that I listed earlier in our
4 discussion. However, based on a series of
5 questions that were asked before the Senate
6 Redistricting Committee and also during the
7 joint -- the Joint Redistricting Committee and
8 also conversations that I've had with you, I
9 would like, on that one subject or on the
10 subject of race in general, to submit for the
11 record of the committee the expert report by
12 Dr. Allan J. Lichtman.

13 This is a report that was prepared
14 for -- or in, pardon me, the Dickson versus
15 Rucho case, and I believe that this was an
16 expert witness hired by the plaintiffs.

17 So, Mr. Chairman, I'm going to submit
18 this for the record.

19 VICE-CHAIRMAN JONES: Thank you,
20 Representative Lewis.

21 Follow-up, Representative Michaux?

22 REPRESENTATIVE MICHAUX: Yes, sir.

23 You are now submitting that to this
24 committee and you have not submitted it to us
25 before?

1 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Representative
 2 Michaux, I have been very clear that we did not
 3 use race in drawing these maps. I have not
 4 looked at any racial data. I merely submit a
 5 report that the Democrats who challenged the
 6 maps before paid for.

7 VICE-CHAIRMAN JONES: Further
 8 follow-up, Representative?

9 REPRESENTATIVE MICHAUX: Yes, sir.
 10 I've got several follow-ups.

11 The contention in not including race --
 12 from what I understand the reason that you did
 13 not include race was because your feeling that
 14 the decision came out of the Harris case said
 15 that you could not use race. Am I correct in
 16 that?

17 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Representative,
 18 thank you for that question. As I've said
 19 before, before this committee and before you,
 20 you know that I'm not an attorney. However, I
 21 believe that the entire decision from the
 22 Harris case has been made available to all of
 23 the members and, as such, I would also like to
 24 make sure that that is a part of a permanent
 25 record. Mr. Chairman.

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VICE-CHAIRMAN JONES: So noted.

REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Thank you, sir.

And it is our understanding of this decision, Representative, that the Court has found that there was not racially polarized voting which is a requirement in order to consider race in drawing the maps.

So, again, race was not considered in the preparation of these maps.

VICE-CHAIRMAN JONES: Follow-up, Representative Michaux?

REPRESENTATIVE MICHAUX: Yes.

Are you aware of the fact that the Court, in its ruling, indicated that their ruling does not mean that race can never play a role in redistricting and that legislatures must always be cognizant of race when drawing district lines? Are you aware of that being a part of that decision?

REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Thank you for the question, Representative. What I'm aware of is based on our reading of the opinion, the Court said that racially polarized voting was -- did not exist and therefore that would be one of the triggers that would require race

1 to be used, and we did not use race to draw
 2 these maps.

3 VICE-CHAIRMAN JONES: Representative
 4 Michaux, follow-up?

5 REPRESENTATIVE MICHAUX: Yes.

6 Then your understanding of that
 7 indicates that you did not -- that because it
 8 said there was no polarization in there, is
 9 that what you're telling us, that the district
 10 that was drawn before showed no racial
 11 polarization?

12 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Representative
 13 Michaux, in reading of this case -- and you may
 14 have it before you. I have some notes, but I
 15 don't have the actual case, that is -- that
 16 is -- as I've tried to explain before, our
 17 understanding of the decision is that race
 18 should not be a factor in the drawing of these
 19 lines and therefore race was not one of the
 20 criteria that was used in drawing these maps.

21 VICE-CHAIRMAN JONES: Follow-up?

22 REPRESENTATIVE MICHAUX: Yes, I have
 23 follow-up.

24 Let me move to another point, then,
 25 because this point was also raised in the

1 Mr. Chairman.

2 And Representative Michaux started some
3 of my questions. I think we all agree we want
4 the federal court to be able to act as quick as
5 possible in an attempt to clarify some of the
6 things that were asked in the Senate yesterday.
7 I just had a few questions on that.

8 You said Dr. Hofeller drew this new map
9 and it was certainly drawn in North Carolina.
10 Is that correct?

11 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Yes, sir.

12 VICE-CHAIRMAN JONES: Follow-up?

13 REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON: Follow-up.

14 Was it drawn on a legislative computer
15 or a private computer when it was originally
16 drawn?

17 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Representative
18 Jackson, in an attempt to comply with the court
19 order and with all due respect what I believe
20 to be a very compact time schedule, the chairs
21 met with our redistricting consultant. I've
22 already told the representative from Durham it
23 was Dr. Hofeller, and I am certain that
24 Dr. Hofeller worked on his own computer in
25 drafting the concepts that we discussed. He

1 then brought the concepts to the General
2 Assembly, loaded the concepts on and made
3 additional changes in criteria on the state
4 computer. So the answer would be -- to your
5 question would be both.

6 VICE-CHAIRMAN JONES: Further
7 follow-up?

8 REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON: Yes. And do
9 you know when he brought that to the
10 legislature and loaded it on the computer?

11 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Representative,
12 let me glance at my notes. I believe it would
13 have been on the 16th of this month which I
14 think would have been Tuesday. I apologize, my
15 calendar's not pulling up.

16 VICE-CHAIRMAN JONES: Follow-up?

17 REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON: Follow-up.

18 And would it be fair to say that he
19 originally drew a version of this map on his
20 private computer prior to this committee
21 meeting and voting on the criteria to be used
22 earlier this week?

23 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: I'm certain that
24 he drew various concepts on his computer.

25 REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON: Thank you,

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VICE-CHAIRMAN JONES: Follow-up?

REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON: Follow-up.

Is Dr. Hofeller still in North Carolina? And if so, would he be made available to this committee to answer some of the questions that you cannot answer for us today?

REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Representative Jackson, I don't know where Dr. Hofeller is at the moment, and I would not contemplate, as he was a consultant for Chairman Rucho and myself, that he would be made available to the committee. I also will not seek to get the consultants that may or may not have produced such a fiery response from Representative Michaux to appear before the committee to share the information that they may or may not have produced in the two weeks since they knew they were going to have to produce it.

VICE-CHAIRMAN JONES: And just for the record, let the Chair state that there's going to be a vote here shortly. I'm not going to wait for Dr. Hofeller to come from wherever he may be.

Representative Davis, you're

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
) C E R T I F I C A T E
COUNTY OF WAKE)

I, DENISE MYERS BYRD, Court Reporter
and Notary Public, do hereby certify that the
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Signed this the 28th day of February
2016.

/s/ Denise Myers Byrd /s/
Denise Myers Byrd
CSR 8340, RPR, CLR 102409-02

NORTH CAROLINA LEGISLATIVE HOUSE FLOOR DEBATE

CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

EXTRA SESSION

FEBRUARY 18, 2016

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1 the hope that we can do this once, do it right.
2 There would not be no runoff. It would be the
3 same that's in the bill before you but
4 hopefully would save the state some money and
5 give us time.

6 And one of the arguments I want to tell
7 you is we are making this -- this bill today
8 before you with the expectation that the
9 Federal District Court will approve the maps
10 that we have yet to see in this chamber but
11 were seen by the Redistricting Committee and
12 approved by the Senate today. However, there
13 was some novel arguments raised in our
14 Redistricting Committee.

15 The majority has argued that in drawing
16 these new maps, they didn't consider race at
17 all and instead of using a racial gerrymander,
18 they replaced it, freely admitting, with a
19 political gerrymander. I'm telling you that
20 that is a novel legal argument to say that in
21 the south, when you draw congressional seats,
22 you use race not at all in consideration.

23 I think it's going to take the Federal
24 District Court a while to look at that and look
25 at what we've done, and if it takes them one

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
) C E R T I F I C A T E
COUNTY OF WAKE)

I, DENISE MYERS BYRD, Court Reporter
and Notary Public, do hereby certify that the
transcription of the foregoing proceeding was
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said proceeding.

Signed this the 22nd day of February
2016.

/s/ Denise Myers Byrd /s/
Denise Myers Byrd
CSR 8340, RPR, CLR 102409-02