

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE  
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION  
COUNTY OF WAKE 11 CVS 16896  
11 CVS 16940

MARGARET DICKSON, et al., )  
 )  
 Plaintiffs, )  
 vs. )  
 ROBERT RUCHO, in his )  
 official capacity only as )  
 the Chairman of the North )  
 Carolina Senate )  
 Redistricting Committee, )  
 et al., )  
 )  
 Defendants. )  
 )  
 \_\_\_\_\_ )  
 NORTH CAROLINA STATE )  
 CONFERENCE OF BRANCHES OF )  
 THE NAACP, et al., )  
 )  
 Plaintiffs, )  
 vs. )  
 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, )  
 et al., )  
 )  
 Defendants. )  
 )

DEPOSITION OF GARY BARTLETT  
NC STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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9:31 A.M.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2012

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301 FAYETTEVILLE STREET  
SUITE 1900  
RALEIGH, NC 27601

By: Denise Myers Byrd, CSR 8340, RPR

**Exhibit 4**

1 county can deal with split precincts in a  
2 redistricting plan.

3 **A.** It has changed tremendously since then. What  
4 occurred in 2007 was the freezing of precincts that  
5 became the VTDs. And, of course, that was for  
6 redistricting purposes and research purposes.  
7 They're etched in stone and will not change.

8 And before that, we had a long period where  
9 the precincts were frozen and we were starting to  
10 get some large precincts, and the law was passed to  
11 give the county Boards of Elections the ability to  
12 either combine or split within that VTD as long as  
13 the election results were reported back to the VTD  
14 within 60 days after the election.

15 In our shop, we were given the task of now  
16 approving those lines and saying that they comply  
17 to law, whereas before it was given to the GIS part  
18 of legislative research and they would say, yes,  
19 this meets the law.

20 Now we have two people in our office that  
21 review the submissions for whether they comply with  
22 the statute or not and then it is brought to me for  
23 signature.

24 **Q.** So if I understand correctly, in 2007, every county  
25 reported all of their precinct lines to the Census

1 Bureau and those became VTDs for the Census?

2 **A.** What was the current precinct lines were the  
3 beginning of the VTDs.

4 **Q.** So in 2007, at least at some point initially, VTDs  
5 and precincts were exactly the same throughout the  
6 state?

7 **A.** Yes.

8 **Q.** So am I correct that all of the changes since  
9 then --

10 **A.** Is only to the precinct.

11 **Q.** Okay. So the VTDs have stayed the same and the  
12 only ways in which precincts are different from  
13 VTDs are those ways that local counties have  
14 submitted to you changes that they wanted to make?

15 **A.** Right. And it must be combined or dividing within  
16 that VTD. In other words, you cannot take a little  
17 street here and put it in another precinct like  
18 they used to previously.

19 Previously you could change precinct lines,  
20 and most of the time they would change precinct  
21 lines to try to conform with school board or  
22 commissioner districts or anything that keeps from  
23 having a different ballot style.

24 **Q.** I see. But now they really can't do that?

25 **A.** No.