Exhibit 2
<p>| Category    | Date Submitted  | Name                  | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Message</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 5:21PM</td>
<td>Ms. Michelle Ricker</td>
<td>NC Citizens deserve fair, and equitable redistricting. If the only way 1 political side can win, is to illegally grab districts to advance their agenda, then we don't have a democracy!! We are better than this as a country. Please do the right thing, and represent and draw the redistricting lines so that they are fair, and balanced, and equal. Make every citizen's vote have equal weight. That is the great country we have always been. Thank you, Michelle Ricker.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 5:24PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Kim Gramlish</td>
<td>Nonpartisan redistricting is the only way to put power in the hands of the people. Make it nonpartisan now!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 5:44PM</td>
<td>Andrea Nenque</td>
<td>I would like a bipartisan group drawing the districts. I am so tired of not having equal representation. I don't care who did what to whom for the past 100 years. I want a fair system now, today. It is disgraceful that our state, with numbers more like 50-50 dem/GOP, is run by all GOP now. This has been a disaster for our schools, our environment and our health care system. I don't want it 100 percent dem either. Why can't we set a good example for once for our divided country that both sides can work together for the good of the people if our legislators cannot be trusted to defend the constitutional rights of every NC citizen equally, without regard to their political registration, then they are unfit to hold public office. The millions of tax dollars spent legally defending the immoral and unethical power grabs of the ruling party could have improved our schools and roads, and many other things for our once proud state. I pray that you will actually read the Bible you so loudly thump, read the constitution that you falsely claim to defend, and have a crisis of conscience that requires you to finally do what is right and fair to every North Carolinian, and not just your rich donors and lobbyists.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 5:52PM</td>
<td>Ms. Patricia Sheppard</td>
<td>For love of state, country and our democracy, please find the wisdom and courage to redraw district lines, not on race or politics, but on what would be best for the good citizens of our great state of North Carolina.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 6:04PM</td>
<td>Allister Snyder</td>
<td>For the love of state, country and our democracy, please find the wisdom and courage to redraw district lines, not on race or politics, but on what would be best for the good citizens of our great state of North Carolina.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 6:06PM</td>
<td>Mr. John Blair</td>
<td>Stop the gerrymandering.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 6:10PM</td>
<td>Mr. Perry McCorkle</td>
<td>I would ask that the NCGA follow these guidelines during the redistricting process to draw fair maps, that represent the factual racial makeup of NC state. That the redistricting process and deliberations be fair and open; avoids racial or partisan gerrymandering; and allows voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 6:12PM</td>
<td>Dr. Timothy Lindeman</td>
<td>Please make voting maps free from partisan politics.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 6:13PM</td>
<td>Ms. Margaret Silvers</td>
<td>I believe that voting districts should be drawn by a non-partisan, impartial committee in order to create a fair voting environment across the state.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 6:13PM</td>
<td>Mr. Joel Bartley</td>
<td>No partisan gerrymandering! Use computers to make sure neither party has wasted votes!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 6:14PM</td>
<td>Mr. Colin Johnson</td>
<td>Competitive elections are the way democracy is supposed to work. In order to ensure that elected officials represent the interests of the North Carolina public, district maps need to be drawn fairly by a non-partisan third party.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 6:16PM</td>
<td>Peri Alletto</td>
<td>Please allow a non partisan commission to write fair lines based upon actual demographics and non partisan looking to the future of our great state.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 6:16PM</td>
<td>Scott McMennamy</td>
<td>It's insane to me that we even have to ask for a fair and unbiased way to draw districts... lay a grid over the state... party should have no roll in drawing lines.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 6:16PM</td>
<td>Ms. Gayle Ruedi</td>
<td>One person, one vote. It's time the legislature &quot;get with the program&quot; of Democracy. Unfortunately, many in our legislature don't have a clue what Democracy is.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 6:16PM</td>
<td>Mr. Robert McCurdy</td>
<td>Voting maps should be drawn free from partisan politics.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 6:17PM</td>
<td>Dr. Jean Fromson</td>
<td>The state of NC needs an independent non-political commission to redraw districts without regard to party affiliation of constituents.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 6:17PM</td>
<td>Peggy McLeod</td>
<td>We deserve voting maps that are drawn free from partisan politics! Peggy McLeod Weaverville, NC.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 6:18PM</td>
<td>Ron Gramlish</td>
<td>Leave politics and race out of it. Be fair. Let the voters choose their Representatives.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 6:18PM</td>
<td>Mr. Mark Nippert</td>
<td>Do you believe in representative democracy? Then work for accurate representation.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 6:19PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Martha Spencer</td>
<td>Voting maps should be completely non-partisan! I support redrawing all districts to be free from partisan politics. Thank you.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 6:19PM</td>
<td>Ms. Rebecca Marks</td>
<td>It's time to fix this unfair voting districts and create districts that are not based on partisanship, that account for natural grouping (cities, etc.), that reflect the community. We need a non-partisan team to address this issue NOW!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 6:20PM</td>
<td>Mr. Larry Hannon</td>
<td>The citizens of NC have been unfairly represented for years. Please pur and end to Gerrymandering and draw up fair and impartial districts.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Please bring an end to redistricting as a means to gain advantage over one party or another. It is wrong and undemocratic. I am no statistician but I do understand there are fair and non-partisan methods to create districts that represent any particular region. Creating fair and impartial districts is the only way to allow voters to be properly represented and to put end to party partisanship. Frankly, I wish we did not have parties at all. Political parties have become the bane of our great nation.

I would like voting maps drawn free from partisan politics. Thank you.

I want fair voting maps. No gerrymandering. Thank you.

Please move forward with non-partisan redistricting. Each party abused the system when in power. Let's make sure our elected officials actually do represent us. If that were true now, both locally and nationally, I believe we would have a stronger country. Thank you for your consideration.

It is very important for the health of this state and nation that the citizens feel they have an equal opportunity to have their vote count as much as any other citizen. We are currently divided emotionally due to partisan rhetoric which has been enabled by voting districts that are no longer competitive nor contested. We do not want to be victims of either Republican or Democratic shenanigans, which have become intense due to computer accuracy in dividing neighborhoods and communities. We demand logical districts that adhere to basic community and or county shapes. We demand that these districts be drawn by non partisan methods and people.

I believe that a NON-PARTISAN committee is required for redistricting. I speak for myself as well as my fellow voters that we deserve fair elections in our state and the first step in that direction is to redraw the legislative districts in a fair and nonpartisan way.

As a concerned citizen in NC, I think it is imperative that we end gerrymandering. This is a none partisan issue and we deserve fair voting maps and fair elections!

I am tired of Republican's and Democrats waging a political game to win a battle only to see the other win the next battle. Gerrymandering on any basis should never have ever been allowed. It’s fundamentally wrong! How about doing something that benefits ALL North Carolinians.

Everyone knows that each party is guilty of redrawing voting maps in favor of their party in power's ability to mess with the democratic process. So that the people's wishes are carried out...NOT skewed according to their party's favor. PLEASE...do the right thing and change this crazy advantage of the Republican Party!

I distrust such a dishonest, and bias team choosing the correct contiguous areas are only considered once and for all and let all votes be equal.

I would like voting maps drawn free from partisan politics.

I speak for myself as well as my fellow voters that we deserve fair elections in our state and the first step in that direction is to redraw the legislative districts in a fair and nonpartisan way.

We want fair voting maps!

Bring logic and justice back to our elections!!

It is time to stop the gerrymandering in North Carolina and allow the voters to elect officials regardless of race. Take race out of politics once and for all and let all votes be equal.

It is time to end partisan gerrymandering now. It is unconstitutional legislative districts, North Carolina's House and Senate are currently drawn to serve the people, not just your donors and maybe we will re-elect you in spite of the districts being drawn fairly!

We want fair voting maps! Fair voting maps and fair elections!

I support a process for drawing political district maps that is: - fair and open - avoids racial or partisan gerrymandering - allows voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around.

Thank you.

Please ensure our voting rights as citizen of NC. Fair voting districts are needed to END PARTISAN GERRYMANDERING NOW!

It is time to stop the gerrymandering in North Carolina and allow the voters to elect officials regardless of race. Take race out of politics once and for all and let all votes be equal.

Thank you for your consideration, nationally, I believe we would have a stronger country.

As they begin the early stages in the process of redrawing unconstitutional legislative districts, North Carolina's House and Senate passed by FND PARTISAN (GERRYMANDERING NOW!)

Democracy in North Carolina is what we the people want - and if this is a threat to your longevity in the NC General Assembly, then find ways to serve the people, not just your donors and maybe we will re-elect you in spite of the districts being drawn fairly!

I expect that state lawmakers will draw voting maps that are free from partisan politics!

As they begin the early stages in the process of redrawing unconstitutional legislative districts, North Carolina's House and Senate passed by FND PARTISAN (GERRYMANDERING NOW!)

Please do your jobs and fix redistricting. The arguments that one side did it so now you should, too, simply don't wash any more. Get it done! Please bring an end to redistricting as a means to gain advantage over one party or another. It is wrong and undemocratic. I am no statistician but I do understand there are fair and non-partisan methods to create districts that represent any particular region. Creating fair and impartial districts is the only way to allow voters to be properly represented and to put end to party partisanship. Frankly, I wish we did not have parties at all. Political parties have become the bane of our great nation.

Bye!
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017</td>
<td>6:37PM</td>
<td>Ms. Ellie Richard</td>
<td>Fair and unbiased, no racial disenfranchisement, or silencing of the voices of The People through partisan lines. There are &quot;elected&quot; State senators and legislators who have not been legitimately elected—we know this. The People of North Carolina have lost faith in our elected legislators and the voting process. If you are not fair and unbiased as you draw the new maps you should brace yourselves for some serious blowback. And I do believe that you would like to get re-elected, yes?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017</td>
<td>6:38PM</td>
<td>Pat Clark</td>
<td>I am a new voter to NC, and would really like to see you drawing voting district maps that are not partisan, and where the geography makes some sense. Why not have a non-partisan commission develop a district plan? You are wasting too much time fighting in the courts over this issue. The only patriotic thing is to enact HB200. Any other position is an act of treason and political cowardice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017</td>
<td>6:42PM</td>
<td>Mr. John Southworth</td>
<td>I want voting maps drawn free of partisan politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017</td>
<td>6:45PM</td>
<td>James Marsh</td>
<td>I want voting maps drawn free of partisan politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017</td>
<td>6:47PM</td>
<td>Ms. EVA RAND</td>
<td>Please put an end to gerrymandering. Redraw the district maps to make them fair.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017</td>
<td>6:49PM</td>
<td>Ms. Barrie Conger</td>
<td>I think redistricting needs to be done in a completely non-partisan way.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017</td>
<td>6:50PM</td>
<td>Dr. Wayne Lunsford</td>
<td>Please stop gerrymandering. We need voting maps that are drawn free from partisan politics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017</td>
<td>6:51PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Nancy Geimer</td>
<td>Please be fair with redistricting and eliminate the gerrymandering!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017</td>
<td>6:51PM</td>
<td>Mr. James Seramba</td>
<td>Districts should be formed based on logic not political considerations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017</td>
<td>6:52PM</td>
<td>Ms. Connie Nicholson</td>
<td>One person one vote must be the rule in NC. In order to achieve this fairly, districts need to be drawn in a non-partisan manner, it is appalling that half of the people in NC are not represented in government due to gerrymandered districts. I pay taxes, why does my vote not count?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017</td>
<td>6:53PM</td>
<td>Ms. Mary Goodkind</td>
<td>A non-partisan redistricting commission is the only real solution to gerrymandering. Voters deserve to be represented and that requires fairly drawn voting districts. As a voter, I strongly urge you to set up a non-partisan redistricting commission to fix our broken democracy in North Carolina.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017</td>
<td>6:54PM</td>
<td>Ms. Lorraine Werts</td>
<td>Gerrymandering is wrong no matter what party is in control. Voting districts should be drawn in a fair and bipartisan manner and remain that way. North Carolina has 28 districts that were deemed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court as they were drawn on racial lines. Make this right. You people owe that to the constituents who live in this state. Do not sell out once again by allowing correct individuals to draw our maps. We will continue to fight if this travesty continues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017</td>
<td>6:55PM</td>
<td>Mr. Thomas Liebtag</td>
<td>North Carolina’s voting districts are grossly unfair due to both racial and partisan gerrymandering. Republicans and democrats have practiced gerrymandering to protect their power and to rig elections. Gerrymandering is CHEATING, plain and simple. It STEALS the power of the ballot from citizens, it empowers government to override our self determination, vastly reduces the number of competitive elections, intrudes on our liberty and ignores our right to choose who will represent us. Unfair districts allow some incumbents to ignore constituents who disagree with them, and destroys the legislative compromise upon which a vibrant democracy depends.. As a result, most of our votes simply do to matter, either because there is no way an opposition candidate could win, or because our votes simply add to an already overwhelming majority. This intolerable abuse of power violates the values of all Americans, and it is undermining our precious democracy. We need a process to establish voting districts that is independent of political parties, fair, and answerable to the citizens. There are several models available, but I suggest that either the process established in Iowa or California would be appropriate. An even better approach would be to use ranked choice voting with proportional representation as recommended by FairVote, proportional representation. It makes sense and it works. Everyone deserves a meaningful chance to vote.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017</td>
<td>6:57PM</td>
<td>Emilee Hendrix</td>
<td>The redistricting for North Chatham county put us in a huge district, all for Republican gain! Give us back our smaller district and move the process to a non partisan body. Neither party should be involved in the setting up of statewide districts, EVER. Everyone deserves a meaningful chance to vote.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017</td>
<td>6:58PM</td>
<td>Mr. William Satterwhite</td>
<td>Do the right thing. A non-partisan, even-handed redistricting that retains geographic boundaries as much as possible. There are plenty of examples available in the public arena. Don’t screw this up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017</td>
<td>7:00PM</td>
<td>Ms. Carolyn Hackney</td>
<td>Citizens of North Carolina deserve honest representation, not based on partisan redistricting. Repugnant gerrymandering has destroyed our democracy. It’s time for gerrymandering to end.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017</td>
<td>7:01PM</td>
<td>Ms. Julia Latham</td>
<td>I am so encouraged that this effort is taking place. Please do not abuse my trust in you. To have the greatest likelihood of ensuring a map that is not tainted by racial considerations, I strongly encourage the GA to form a bi-partisan, independent volunteer commission to draw our redistricting lines. In the alternative, if not permissible, a bipartisan committee of lawmakers would begin to improve our current situation. Our state will never get over its gridlock and offer meaningful elections until a drastic step away from partisanship is taken.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017</td>
<td>7:02PM</td>
<td>Ms. Peggy Arcari</td>
<td>I support voting maps drawn free of partisan politics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017</td>
<td>7:03PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Sylvia Horvath</td>
<td>It’s time to fairly represent the people of this state with nonpartisan redistricting.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I urge you to set up a process which ensures that voting districts are created on a non-partisan basis. Each vote should count equally and districts should not be set by political parties.

Fairness in voting is the heart of democracy. Both parties have disregarded fairness in redistricting. It's time to correct this practice and get back on track to a truly representative democracy. Please implement a nonpartisan, fair redistricting system. Thanks you.

I want to put forth my request for the appointment of a non-partisan commission to carry out the court order for redrawing the lines.

I support independent redistricting—completely taking politics out of the drawing of all lines. If you truly want the will of the people, then allow a computer to evenly split the districts to provide a true understanding of what “we the people” want when we vote.

Please draw maps that are competitive and fair.

Voters should choose their representatives, not the other way around. It's a total abuse of power and a corruption of honest democracy to draw the maps with “surgical precision” for optimum partisan advantage. Everyone says the Democrats were just as bad as the Republicans are now. And it is true that the Democrats manipulated the districts for partisan advantage, no doubt. But new technology and uber-partisanship by the Republican ruling class, has taken this process to an obscene level. We need independent redistricting. It's the ONLY way to bridge across the extreme polarization that partisan gerrymandering has wrought. Thank you.

Districts should be apportioned primarily on population (one person one vote). Districts should be single member, compact, convenient, contiguous and reflect communities of interest. Districts should provide for partisan fairness, preservation and protection of communities of interest, respect boundaries of municipalities and counties, Districts should explicitly REJECT protection of incumbents and should NOT use addresses of incumbents or political affiliation of registered voters or other partisan data. Redistricting should be vested in an independent commission with membership that reflects the diversity of the unit of government, including citizens at large, representatives of public interest groups, and members of minority groups.

Redistricting should be free of politics and the districts should be redrawn to reflect a fair representation of the district. The people of North Carolina should be able to decide whom should represent them, not have the politicians make that decision. I am in District 11 and the word is that it is so slanted that no one has a chance to defeat Mark Meadows, that is just not right.

I demand fair and nonpartisan redistricting. Fair, as in not racially or class motivated. The current legislation is an illegally elected body, as determined by the US Supreme Court!!

I am an active voter. I want our maps drawn in a non-partisan (and certainly not racist) fashion. We would all benefit by having legislators elected in competitive districts.

It is not encouraging to see that the same consultant who helped with the last maps is involved again. At taxpayer expense.

This delay is motivated by hopes to confuse voters and block local re-elections.

North Carolina is a diverse state with a wide range of political attitudes. I encourage the redistricting process throughout the state and for both house and Senate to strive for a politically balanced population in the districts. EVERY DISTRICT SHOULD BE COMPETITIVE. Every vote is important and should count equally and block local re-elections.

Please draw districts that are not skewed toward one party or the other.
<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Baas</td>
<td>Jul 26 2017 7:41PM</td>
<td>I am the software developer behind the free and open-source software &quot;Autoredistrict&quot;, and I offer my software AND my services free of charge. I can evaluate any proposed map for partisan fairness using any measure ever proposed, as well as how well it fits traditional redistricting criteria. I can also generate optimally fair districts based on any criteria using academically established optimization techniques. I can also use the same method to &quot;tweak&quot; any proposed plan. I am also happy to show anyone how to use Autoredistrict to do any and all of these things, for free. At your service, Kevin Baas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. William Garrard</td>
<td>Jul 26 2017 7:41PM</td>
<td>Please don't draw the lines on a partisan basis and give voters in every district a real chance to have an alternative. Please don't divide up our city as we need one congressional representative for our whole city so we can get them to focus on our needs. For once try to draw the maps halfway fairly, to represent the people. Reel in this partisan madness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Margaret Anderson</td>
<td>Jul 26 2017 7:47PM</td>
<td>I fully support redrawing the voting districts along non-partisan lines. Districts are compact and can be drawn in a non-partisan way that represents the people's interests.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. James Umbanhowar</td>
<td>Jul 26 2017 7:47PM</td>
<td>Fair districts are fundamental to a functioning representative democracy. While there is a long tradition of gerrymandering, both for partisan and racially discriminatory reasons, I hope that you can rise above this unfortunate history to craft districts that meet the original intent: compact, contiguous, and representative of already existing communities. I beg you to do this as democracy in this state is failing due to the inability of the assembly to create legal and representative districts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gregory Kennington</td>
<td>Jul 26 2017 7:47PM</td>
<td>Please bring democracy back to North Carolina. Please use a non-partisan standard for drawing district maps such as the Gill v. Whitford &quot;efficiency gap&quot;.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Vickie Atkinson</td>
<td>Jul 26 2017 7:47PM</td>
<td>Redistricting should be done fairly. This means that voters should choose their representatives instead of politicians choosing their voters. No gerrymandering should be done racially or based on political Party. Too much time and money have already been expended on the unfair maps that were drawn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Linda Smathers</td>
<td>Jul 26 2017 7:48PM</td>
<td>An independent, non-partisan committee should be appointed to redraw the NC voting maps so we can have fair elections which we deserve.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Judith Weigner</td>
<td>Jul 26 2017 7:54PM</td>
<td>Please get back to having fair redistricting so our voting can truly represent us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Karen Kaser-Odor</td>
<td>Jul 26 2017 7:54PM</td>
<td>A free democratic state has nonpartisan voting districts. I urge you to draw district maps based on equalizing population representation not partisan politics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Brendan Dillon</td>
<td>Jul 26 2017 7:58PM</td>
<td>When district lines are drawn in such a way that 50% of the voters have up to 75% of the representation, it violates the spirit and purpose of our republic. Political affiliation should have no bearing on the redistricting process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Devon Newton</td>
<td>Jul 26 2017 7:59PM</td>
<td>I would ask that fair districts be drawn by a non-partisan, third-party, or have Republicans and Democrats draw maps, and have a third party pick which one they think is the most fair. That way, each group will make an earnest effort at fairness. We need to get rid of gerrymandered districts. We currently live in an apartheid system, where the Republicans are disproportionately represented, when weighed against actual numbers of votes. It makes for radical policies and discourages bipartisanship. I find previous NCGA efforts shameful and disgraceful. NC Republicans have acted without integrity and honor. All I see is a bunch of racists, bigots, and xenophobes. You are definitely not acting like the Christians that you claim to be.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Cama C. Merritt</td>
<td>Jul 26 2017 7:59PM</td>
<td>Please find a way to give us nonpartisan redistricting. Please no more gerrymandering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. John Herson</td>
<td>Jul 26 2017 8:01PM</td>
<td>quit lying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Hazel Poolos</td>
<td>Jul 26 2017 8:04PM</td>
<td>I want nonpartisan redistricting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Melanie Mercer</td>
<td>Jul 26 2017 8:06PM</td>
<td>End partisan gerrymandering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Ryan Williams</td>
<td>Jul 26 2017 8:06PM</td>
<td>Please move to a system where an independent, non-partisan group of people draws our legislative districts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beth Jezek</td>
<td>Jul 26 2017 8:09PM</td>
<td>Use the Iowa model for redistricting. &quot;Iowa's redistricting system is nonpartisan, an arrangement that protects the minority party. ... Instead of drawing lines that favor a single political party, the Iowa mapmakers abide by nonpartisan metrics that all sides agree are fair.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Betty L Shotton</td>
<td>Jul 26 2017 8:11PM</td>
<td>Today's computer aided, algorithmic gerrymandering has resulted in voting districts in North Carolina that pretty much insure republican representation, even when democracy have a popular vote advantage. That is wrong. This dilutes the fair playing field that is a foundation of a free election system and underpins our democracy. Forget the past and who did what; that is childish conversation of blame. North Carolinians deserve a non-partisan board to address redistricting to ensure a fair and non partisan process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Judith Miller</td>
<td>Jul 26 2017 8:11PM</td>
<td>No gerrymandering...districts should be drawn without regard to politics. Stop this nonsense and have fair elections.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I want non-partisan voting districts. KEEP POLITICS OUT and most certainly race unlike last time. I read that the NC GOP is bringing back Tom Hofeller who gave us the last unconstitutional maps. I am horrified at the maps drawn by the NC GOP - as were Republican Federal judges. Shame on Tom and those who supported the travesty REPUBLICANS called the worst since reconstruction. I used to vote Republican as did my husband. the NC GOP's horror show sure changed that. NON-PARTISAN VOTING DISTRICTS.

we need fair voting districts. Please have an independent group make voting districts.

Please make sure that the new maps are constitutionally drawn and empower democratic debate and compromise in our state. Having maps free from partisan politics and gerrymandering is the most important issue facing North Carolina right now, and I'll be following the redistricting process closely. Thank you and good luck.

The days of the majority party drawing voting districts needs to come to an end. The voters are better served by a process using independently drawn districts. They have been able to do that in Iowa. I cannot believe that we are less intelligent than the people of Iowa.

Please give us fair electoral districts, free from partisan politics. The current districts, some of which even split precincts, are difficult to understand, and expensive to administer. Worse, they are designed to render some votes ineffectual, in violation of the basic tenants of democratic government. Enough! Please do it right this time!

I support a process for drawing our NC legislative maps by an independent, non-partisan commission. Districts are supposed to make sure that everyone is fairly represented, and that their vote counts. Having whichever party is predominant at the moment carve districts to serve their own advantage undercuts both fairness and our faith in the democratic process. Other states have successfully adopted a non-partisan approach, North Carolina can, too. Whether the gerrymandering is done out of racial or partisan bias, it should have no place in our districting process. Thank you for considering a non-partisan method for redistricting.

Voting districts have to be geographical and non-political. We need maps that are drawn independent of partisan politics. Please draw districts such that each person's vote counts! If 60% of the folks vote for Republicans than roughly 60% of the representatives should be Republican. I know folks argue that each group in power draws the line to their advantage, but the fact that everyone does it, does not make it the right thing to do. We all learned this as teenagers! Please respect the voters and the vote. I fear that continued partisan districts will lead to a revolt and a breakdown of our government and consequently of our society.

I'm beginning to lose faith our political system all together. Stacking the deck is no win, it's cheating! I strongly believe US and State congressional districts should be drawn by an independent, non-partisan body to avoid either party being able to unfairly gerrymander districts to disadvantage voters of the opposing party. It's contributing to the extreme partisanship in our civil discourse and loss of the ability to COMPROMISE!!
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Message</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26</td>
<td>8:42PM</td>
<td>Dr. Frank Lorch</td>
<td>I want voting maps drawn free from partisan politics. The people should select their legislators, not the other way around! My comment is regarding redistricting. I appeal to you to please utilize the most non-partisan, scientifically fair and balanced methodology to re-draw our states voting districts. The voting districts must be such that there is no favor or preference given to any party over another. This creates the framework for the exercise of our constitutional process of equal, safe, private and fair elections for all.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 26</td>
<td>8:42PM</td>
<td>Dr. Karen Clark-Keys</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 26</td>
<td>8:43PM</td>
<td>Beverly Dugan</td>
<td>I want voting maps drawn free from partisan politics. The people should select their legislators, not the other way around! My comment is regarding redistricting. I appeal to you to please utilize the most non-partisan, scientifically fair and balanced methodology to re-draw our states voting districts. The voting districts must be such that there is no favor or preference given to any party over another. This creates the framework for the exercise of our constitutional process of equal, safe, private and fair elections for all.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26</td>
<td>8:46PM</td>
<td>Mr. Gary Clontz</td>
<td>Please establish a nonpartisan group to establish fair and equal legislative districts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26</td>
<td>8:46PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Hattie Hair</td>
<td>We as citizens of NC deserve to have our distinct drawn fairly, so that we have fair representation in our congress and state...we demand fairness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26</td>
<td>8:47PM</td>
<td>Janice Alexander</td>
<td>We need fair and legitimate elections. Redistricting must be corrected for fair elections. Lets get this done now!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26</td>
<td>8:50PM</td>
<td>Dr. Gavin Dillard</td>
<td>Give us non-partisan, legitimate voting districts — NOW.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26</td>
<td>8:50PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Robin Blackburn</td>
<td>I am absolutely fed up with the partisan politics that have been going on for years! Enough is enough! It is our constitutional right to have fair, fair, and nonpartisan/gerrymander free primaries and elections! Redraw those maps and thus time make sure that they are nonpartisan and fair!!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26</td>
<td>8:52PM</td>
<td>Mr. William Hollar</td>
<td>Please undo the evil voodoo which Ruch, Lewis and Hofeller had cast as doo-doo upon our state. North Carolina's citizens deserve to have fair elections, unsullied by schemes, whether brazen or insidious, for partisan advantage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26</td>
<td>8:56PM</td>
<td>Dr. Heide Copottelli</td>
<td>First, there's nothing complicated about what is the right thing to do for our democracy. Legislative districts should not be twisted and cobbled to keep some of the people of our State from having their votes count. That's not what our Constitution sought to lay down as the foundation of a Great America. It's shameful. Second, knowing what the right thing to do is, there's no legitimate excuse for not doing it. Political shenanigans for the sake of making some people more equal than others are unethical and immoral, which is why the Constitution would have it stopped. Third, Do it right. Do it now.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26</td>
<td>8:57PM</td>
<td>Ms. Teresa Frohock</td>
<td>I urge you to install non-partisan districting. It's undemocratic and wrong. It's politics at its worst and voters won't stand for it. Have some integrity and do what is right. If elected officials are doing a good job they shouldn't have to &quot;cheat&quot; to win their seats and shouldn't be threatened by non-partisan districts. I want to give my wholehearted support for the creation of nonpartisan districts mapped by an independent committee. I am tired of the constant gerrymandering from both Democrats and Republicans. Without gerrymandering, people have faith not only in the election process, but also that our leaders represent all of us, regardless of political affiliation. Thank you for your time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26</td>
<td>8:58PM</td>
<td>David Forman</td>
<td>Though I am not a constituent, I am an American. North Carolina's districting process affects everyone who hopes to live in a democratic country. We, everywhere in the country, have a right to expect that the delegation you send to Washington, D.C. is roughly proportional to your voters beliefs and party affiliation. Otherwise, it warps the national debate. The same is true when we visit your state (or choose not to). We have a right to expect that your laws reflect the will of your people. As it is, I delay visiting my mother-in-law there, and get her to come visit NY instead. It hurts your economy. So, not only does government derive its just powers from the consent of the governed, fairness benefits everyone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26</td>
<td>9:00PM</td>
<td>Beverly Dugan</td>
<td>Please give NC a non-partisan redistricting process.</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 9:08PM</td>
<td>Dr. Keith Allen</td>
<td>Gemryandering should be outlawed. We should have fair and free elections. The Gerrymandered legislature has repeatedly mis-drawn districts to favor themselves. These guys should be in prison, not in a legislative body. They are serial offenders, and pitiful excuses for democratic representation.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 9:10PM</td>
<td>Mr. Scott Olah</td>
<td>Fix it!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 9:10PM</td>
<td>Martha Shafer</td>
<td>An independent commission or special master is absolutely necessary to insure that redistributing is not done with partisan advantage in mind. Now is the time to do the right thing. The General Assembly should not be involved in redrawing the map.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 9:16PM</td>
<td>Mr. Alan Hensel</td>
<td>DRAIN THE SWAMP! Gerrymandering is an ugly form of corruption, favored only by the corrupt. We need districts drawn by non-partisan committee, with the aid of an open-source computer program, using only population density statistics, the previous map, and strict guidelines that include an efficiency gap calculation.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 9:16PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Diane Clark</td>
<td>Please make non-partisan, new voting districts in North Carolina which will allow for fair elections, and do this as soon as possible, before the next election. Unfair voting districts have already taken a toll on our democracy here in North Carolina, and this needs to be remedied immediately.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 9:21PM</td>
<td>Ms. Jessica Heriot</td>
<td>Let's have fair voting districts that do not favor either party</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 9:21PM</td>
<td>Bonnie Stevenson</td>
<td>Make it fair.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 9:22PM</td>
<td>Ms. April Tacey-Dickinson</td>
<td>End Gerrymandering NOW. We deserve fair lines drawn by non-partisan, objective people!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 9:23PM</td>
<td>Ms. Janet Flowers</td>
<td>Please redraw the maps to reflect the population and not the partisan bias that has been eroding our democracy in this state. As the maps are currently drawn, our elected officials do NOT reflect the majority of voters. That is immoral and undemocratic. Please make the fair and objective changes as quickly as possible so that our votes actually count and are reflected in the governance of North Carolina. Thank you.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 9:27PM</td>
<td>Mr. Tom Byers</td>
<td>Please end the cycle of partisan gerrymandering and give us a non-partisan re-districting commission along the lines of Iowa's. This change is badly needed to counteract the cynicism and apathy bred by our current system. Under the present system, North Carolinians observe that politics is being played like a game in which the winners change the rules to give themselves an unfair and undemocratic advantage for the next match-up.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 9:27PM</td>
<td>Bonnie Stevenson</td>
<td>Please bring fairness back to the way the redistricting is conducted. Allow the public to know what has been decided. Thank you. NC has been hurt by the redistributing the last 10 years-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 9:28PM</td>
<td>Margaret Brown</td>
<td>Please work with non-partisan organizations to design legislative districts that are fair and rational. Let's end gerrymandering so every vote counts.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 9:35PM</td>
<td>Ms. Jennifer Greenholt</td>
<td>Truly competitive districts should allow your ideas to win elections. If you don't believe in your ideas enough to let them stand for election, then ask yourself why you are in office. Any person of American ideals should be ashamed to hold elected office without the courage to get there on the strength of his or her convictions.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 9:38PM</td>
<td>Ms. Rachel Campbell</td>
<td>Gerrymandering should be outlawed. We should have fair and free elections, not based on either party. Politics have no place in our free elections. Otherwise we will be like other countries who do not have fair and impartial elections.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 9:42PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Raines Kuppin</td>
<td>I am writing to request that voting maps please be drawn free from partisan politics! It's time, and the people of NC deserve fair, representative districts. Thank you!!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 9:43PM</td>
<td>Ms. Dale Mendoza</td>
<td>Make elections fair and redistrict apolitically. Dale Mendoza</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 9:44PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Norma Warren</td>
<td>Please, please, redistrict in a fair way. I believe there are standards for fairness, which do not favor any political party. This is what North Carolina should be doing. I understand the Democrats gerrymandered when they were in control. That was wrong! Now the Republicans have done the same. It is still wrong! Asheville was divided in two and we even lost an elected representative. This is outrageous. As I recall Iowa has had successful non-partisan redistricting for some 40 years. We should do the same, using whatever system seems most fair. After months of doing nothing, the NCGA is showing the citizens of NC that they have learned nothing. Using the same people who drew our last unconstitutional set of maps solves absolutely nothing. Many groups have articulated how to draw FAIR, NONPARTISAN maps. There are many tenable, transparent, and scientifically sound ways to do this. If Ohio and California can do it, so too can we. Ground rules for fair redistricting will prevent a hypothetical future Democratic majority from unfair gains as well. This is in everyone's interest.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 9:46PM</td>
<td>Mr. Christopher Wells</td>
<td>I would like to see North Carolina use a nonpartisan committee for redistricting based on the Iowa model.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 9:49PM</td>
<td>Mr. Barry Summers</td>
<td>Please adopt a non-partisan committee redistricting model. It's the only way to take the divisive politics out of this important issue.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 9:53PM</td>
<td>Mr. David Alan Cook</td>
<td>Stop Republican Corruption in Politics!</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<td>Name</td>
<td>Comment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 9:54PM</td>
<td>Julie Arader</td>
<td>Redistricting for your benefit is cheating and is what got us into this mess with the worst president we've ever had and why we have so much unrest since 12/9/16.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 9:57PM</td>
<td>Dr. Heather Simon</td>
<td>I am a concerned NC citizen and I am commenting today to ask that the legislative redistricting process be carried out in a nonpartisan manner, ideally by an independent commission and with the opportunity for the public to comment on the final district map. For me, the issue of nonpartisan redistricting is fundamentally about preserving our democracy. Both Democrats and Republicans won statewide races in the last election, indicating that the voters in North Carolina are fairly evenly split. In contrast, whenever elections were based on districts, the scale leaned very heavily towards Republicans: 10 vs 3 for NC representatives in the U.S. house and veto-proof majorities in both the state house and the state senate. Any process that is designed to favor some voices or opinions over others is fundamentally undemocratic and goes against the spirit of the NC and US constitutions. Section 2 of article I of the state constitution states “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.” The current districts do not represent a government originating from the will of the people and I urge the legislature to design truly fair and representative districts when the draw new maps. Attempts at gerrymandering for the purpose of gaining a political advantage are short sighted in that they are undermining our core democratic principles for temporary political advantage. The issues faced by this state will change. The demographics of this state will change. However, once lost, democracy is very hard to regain.</td>
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<td>Jul 26 2017 9:59PM</td>
<td>Dr. Douglas Wingeier</td>
<td>I write to urge you to draw new voting maps which are totally free from partisan politics.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 10:03PM</td>
<td>Carolyn Felton</td>
<td>I strongly encourage you to support a change to nonpartisan redistricting for our state. Both parties spend too much time focused upon partisan districts instead of doing the jobs you were all elected to do. Every member of our legislature needs to be a good statesperson and stand this partisanship nonsense.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 10:05PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Barbara Nettesheim</td>
<td>State and congressional districts should be determined by a nonpartisan process, free from political influence. The districts should not be drawn to favor a political party. The responsibility for drawing districts should be given to a group that will be fair to voters and keep communities together. It should not be done by elected officials.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 10:06PM</td>
<td>Julia Myers</td>
<td>Please create a non-partisan commission to draw voting maps that are free from partisan politics.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 10:12PM</td>
<td>Kay Richey</td>
<td>Have districts align with county lines as much as possible and when county must be divided follow precinct lines.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 10:19PM</td>
<td>Melanie Nikdel</td>
<td>We need fair maps, without bias towards race or political party. Gerrymandering leads to political extremism and unequal representation, which has created untenable politics on both the state and national level. Historically, both Democrats and Republicans have drawn district maps in their own favor. <strong><strong>The only way to ensure fair districts is to have them drawn by a completely nonpartisan group</strong></strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 10:21PM</td>
<td>Anne Fondren</td>
<td>Districts need to be redrawn with a bipartisan approach and not based on race. The districts should be compact without long tentacle like lines.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 10:23PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Madelyn Quattorraine</td>
<td>Redistricting must be fair and free of political influence. So many American men and women have died to protect the right of Americans to vote. Don’t dishonor them by tainting voting rights with partisanship. Our patriotic martyrs did not die for any particular political party, or to deprive other Americans from having a fair vote because of their race or economic status.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 10:26PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Janet Rodie</td>
<td>Redistricting efforts must be nonpartisan. Districts must not be gerrymandered to provide an advantage to one party or the other. The gerrymandering is manipulative and takes power from the citizens.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 10:28PM</td>
<td>Ms. Chris Chato</td>
<td>It is absolutely essential to democracy that the process used to draw the maps for our legislative districts be unbiased and free from politics. Other states have come up with fair redistricting processes that work. Let's take out cue from them!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 10:31PM</td>
<td>Ms. Alice Wieting</td>
<td>We need fairly drawn districts.</td>
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</table>
An independent group should redraw district maps in NC, not a republican controlled legislature which was elected using unconstitutional maps. This should be done immediately. The consultant which the republican controlled legislature has chosen to use is biased, and should not be used. Why don't the maps simply follow zip code, or perhaps school district boundaries? As a full time stay at home mom for the last 20 years, it seems to me that those living in the same zip code, or perhaps base school area (in wake county for example) have similar local and state issues that they are dealing with and would like represented in congress. It is ridiculous for you to draw lines that attempt to minimize the impact of certain voters (for example carving out universities and lumping them together in one district rather than 2 separate districts, as appears to have been done with UNC and NCSU where 2 of my children go to college). Apparently you want to dilute the young voters of our state and the impact they could have on elections. As the courts have ruled, you've done the same with people based on race: put as many African Americans as possible in as few districts as possible in order to dilute their impact when voting in elections. What are you afraid of? Losing your southern white control? Well I'm here to tell you that my kids, born in NY, are the new North Carolina natives, and things are changing in our state. It's time you became more aware of that, and people like me who moved here and raised our families here and contribute to your growing technology based economy are smarter than you think. This is not the old south anymore. We won't stand for the racial bias games you republicans have played for generations - ever since Lyndon B Johnson made the right civil rights choices that caused southern democrats to leave and join the current Republican Party. As one of many NC residents who call this state our home, I am asking you to be rational and impartial and allow an independent commission to redraw the redistribution maps. If not you all will eventually follow McRory... Voters have the right to vote for their legislators not the other way around. The only way to do that is by fair nonpartisan redistricting.

Larry Hicks

Jul 26 2017 10:53PM

It doesn't matter is it's Republicans or Democrats, taking unfair advantage of an opponent by Gerrymandering is wrong. To hamper peoples right to vote is not only illegal it is morally wrong. It's time to reach a fair and just Redistricting.

Ms. Diane Thomson

Jul 26 2017 10:55PM

I am against partisan redistricting regardless of party. It is not fair. If you can't win without gerrymandering partisanship you need to rethink who you are.

Legislative districts should be drawn by a non-partisan panel. We started and NC still has unconstitutional Congressional, NC House and Senate districts. As our "elected" President would tweet, SAD!!

Mr. Gregory Elkins

Jul 26 2017 10:59PM

As an undergraduate at UNC-G, it was my delight to study American History in depth with world class scholars. I am so dismayed that the Republic our founders created is being abused for purely partisan purposes. The power of ideas should decide elections, not the surgical precision of drawing partisan maps. It is past time to return to first principles, put country above party and make redistricting fair, objective and non-partisan. Setting aside partisan fractures, clear lines strengthen administrative abilities of local governments, those governments CLOSEST to "the people". I miss the days when North Carolina was considered a leader in "good government". Creating strong, non-partisan districts would signal that North Carolina, the first state to publicly fund education, the home of the FIRST "tea party" and the home today to all branches of the armed services, THAT North Carolina, is ready once again to lead. History will see any machinations to continue partisan manipulations as the betrayal of our country's entire reason for being. We are supposed to lead the world as a beacon and an exemplar. Drawing districts that look like "scribbles", rather than compact governmental districts, is insulting to voters and hampers, rather than helps, governance.

Ms. Yvonne Moody

Jul 26 2017 10:41PM

The only option that's fair to all voters is a bipartisan redistricting committee.

Vonnag Viglione

Jul 26 2017 11:05PM

As an undergraduate at UNC-G, it was my delight to study American History in depth with world class scholars. I am so dismayed that the Republic our founders created is being abused for purely partisan purposes. The power of ideas should decide elections, not the surgical precision of drawing partisan maps. It is past time to return to first principles, put country above party and make redistricting fair, objective and non-partisan. Setting aside partisan fractures, clear lines strengthen administrative abilities of local governments, those governments CLOSEST to "the people". I miss the days when North Carolina was considered a leader in "good government". Creating strong, non-partisan districts would signal that North Carolina, the first state to publicly fund education, the home of the FIRST "tea party" and the home today to all branches of the armed services, THAT North Carolina, is ready once again to lead. History will see any machinations to continue partisan manipulations as the betrayal of our country's entire reason for being. We are supposed to lead the world as a beacon and an exemplar. Drawing districts that look like "scribbles", rather than compact governmental districts, is insulting to voters and hampers, rather than helps, governance.

Ms. Melissa Carroll

Jul 26 2017 10:56PM

Just a quick look at election district maps show how unfairly they are drawn. North Carolina needs to have fair districts that are drawn to be fair to our voters and uphold our state constitution. Gerrymandering is illegal and immoral. North Carolina needs to stop being an embarrassment and begin to stand for the values of fairness our country's entire reason for being. We are supposed to lead the world as a beacon and an exemplar. Drawing districts that look like "scribbles", rather than compact governmental districts, is insulting to voters and hampers, rather than helps, governance.

Mrs. Tami Oden

Jul 26 2017 10:57PM

I am against partisan redistricting regardless of party. It is not fair. If you can't win without gerrymandering partisanship you need to rethink who you are.

Larry Hicks

Jul 26 2017 10:57PM

Please push for non-partisan districting by an independent citizen group. Neither party should be in control of this. Citizens should select their representative, not the other way around. Tanks you!

Andrew Stern

Jul 26 2017 11:05PM

It has been over 6 years since this new round of redistricting has started and NC still has unconstitutional Congressional, NC House and NC Senate districts. As our "elected" President would tweet, SAD!! The time is now for an independent redistricting commission to redraw districts for our unconstitutional districts, using HB200/ SB209 as a model. Both parties have supported an independent commission at some point (when they were not in control of the process)--if it was the right thing to do when not in control (which it is), then it is the right thing to do even when in control. Please do the correct thing, as how can the public have confidence in laws being passed by representatives that won in unconstitutional districts? Is it any wonder that the public has such low confidence in our political institutions?!

Mrs. Mary Ramirez

Jul 26 2017 10:57PM

It doesn't matter is it's Republicans or Democrats, taking unfair advantage of an opponent by Gerrymandering is wrong. To hamper peoples right to vote is not only illegal it is morally wrong. It's time to reach a fair and just Redistricting.
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<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 11:06PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ms. Rita Large</td>
<td>Legislative redistricting needs to be done fairly in order for the elections to be done fairly!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 11:09PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ms. Mary Combs</td>
<td>The maps must be redrawn immediately.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 11:19PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs. Brenda McCall</td>
<td>Legislative districts need to reflect voter preference for a cohesive geographic area. They should be established and maintained by a non-partisan panel or committee. We need maps drawn by non-partisan means so that all people's votes are honored and not suppressed. Currently we are not being represented by our legislators and this is a failure for our democracy.</td>
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<td>Jul 26 2017 11:28PM</td>
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<td>Dr. Joseph Tanini</td>
<td>I strongly believe that a truly independent commission should be created that is composed of commissioners in proportionate numbers based on the state's total registered voter population. This will force the state's political parties to compete for voters based on the issues rather than gerrymandered districts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 11:34PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Jacqueline Dzau</td>
<td>Dear Members of the Redistricting Committee, I ask that you place people over party and allow for an independent commission to redraw the NC new district maps. Clearly bipartisanship no longer exists in this state, therefore a &quot;bipartisan&quot; redistricting committee is only that in name, especially when outside counsel such as Tom Hofeller, the mastermind behind the 2011 unconstitutionally gerrymandered NC districts, is asked by the Committe chair to assist in the redistricting efforts. We must put an end to this once and for all. Take the responsibility of drawing district maps out of the hands of conflicted politicians. Sincerely, Jacqueline Dzau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 11:42PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ms. Brenda Willis</td>
<td>We want fair redistricting. No gerrymandering. We elected Governor Cooper. Cooperate with him or we will see that you are voted out. Stop trying to hijack our state government and ram things down our throats.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26 2017 11:49PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Craig Hobaugh</td>
<td>Use county and large city boundaries where ever possible. With 100 counties it should not be that hard to find equality. They are permanent and will make it difficult to manipulate by either political party!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 27 2017 12:00AM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Gary Kenton</td>
<td>The only way to prove that you believe in democracy is to advocate for a non-partisan redistricting process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 27 2017 12:31AM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Larry Smith-Black</td>
<td>Slightly district maps can be drawn which gives neither party advantage over the other(s). A map that forces candidates to run for office on their merits as judged by the respective constituencies. Furthermore gerrymandered maps such as what we currently have encourages our perennial (safe seated) elected officials to become compliant in their roles as legislators so that little (if anything) gets done of intrinsic value for our communities and their residents. What they do accomplish is most often self-serving.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 27 2017 12:34AM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Jerry Lambert</td>
<td>There should be an independent commission established to draw up non-political Legislative Districts thru out North Carolina! Now and is in the past the party who was in power drew up the districts to favor their party at election time. That needs to stop now! By The Way (BTW) I am a registered independent (unaffiliated) voter!</td>
</tr>
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<td>Jul 27 2017 12:31AM</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 27 2017 12:34AM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ms. Cornelia Cornils</td>
<td>We, the people of NC, demand a fair, one-person, one-vote districting. Voters should be able to choose their candidate, not the other way around!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 27 2017 12:53AM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Richard Laskey</td>
<td>Please eliminate gerrymandering and make redistricting a non-partisan issue that does NOT discriminate against minority voters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 27 2017 2:50AM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Carol Michaelis</td>
<td>Fairness always works in the long run. Let's correct this very UNFAIR system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 27 2017 3:27AM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ayla Fickenc</td>
<td>I support bipartisan method for drawing new district maps. There should be no political influence on how the new maps are drawn. Thank you for helping us return to democracy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 27 2017 4:49AM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Sharon LeDuc</td>
<td>As a Ph.D. statistician, I know that there are methods that can provide redistricting that provide fairer representation. Right now I don't know why I bother to vote for a representative. The district is so unbalanced that voting is a joke. We should do better. Thanks for listening.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 27 2017 6:16AM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ms. Cornelia Cornils</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 27 2017 6:20AM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Jayne Owen Parker</td>
<td>Please keep our democracy safe by drawing voting maps that are nonpartisan. It is the only way to protect America and our party from being kidnapped by extremists. Loading districts in the favor of one party or the other weakens the party the district favors by lowering the competence and quality of the candidates. I want to see strong competition between strong candidates, not shoo-ins for rascals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 27 2017 6:26AM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ms. Stefanie Mendell</td>
<td>A key foundation of our country is representative democracy. We need fair and balanced, nonpartisan voting maps to ensure that voters pick the candidates and not the other way around. We have the technology now to do this in an impartial and fair way. Let's do what's right for our state and our counties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 27 2017 6:42AM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Betsy Williams</td>
<td>Please draw districts with no split counties unless the population numbers dictate a need, no regard to race, and no use of voter registration or voting history of the people living in each county. Base it, as much as is possible, on population numbers. Make the districts as connected as possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 27 2017 6:45AM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. John Maron</td>
<td>I strongly believe that a truly independent commission should be created that is composed of commissioners in proportionate numbers based on the state's total registered voter population. This will force the state's political parties to compete for voters based on the issues rather than gerrymandered districts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I want fair, nonpartisan redistricting so members of the legislature accurately reflect the will of the people. I'm tired of our state government being hijacked by a small minority of pompous old white men. It's time to give the government back to the people.

It should be obvious that legislative districts should be drawn up fairly, in every sense of the word, not designed to favor any group or party. If you can only win by cheating, it isn't winning. We need a nonpartisan group to draw up new legislative districts properly, without regard to any consideration except fairness.

Stop messing with the redistricting line for the good of the GOP. It's not right and it's not fair. STOP IT!

We need bi partisan re districts: our democracy works better for everyone when you are accountable to everyone.

The level of gerrymandering in our state is atrocious and reflects the flawed idea that legislators should be allowed to draw the maps defining their districts and hence picking the demographics of their own voters. It's time for our state to institute an independent, non-partisan redistricting process that seeks to balance districts compactly and using objective criteria like the Efficiency Gap or other to restore equality to the votes of all North Carolinians.

I am writing to ask that all voting maps in North Carolina be drawn free from partisan politics. I believe this would lead to much more fairer elections, and more accurate representation in the NCGA of the people in our state.

The citizens of NC deserve and demand redistricting maps which are neither racially nor politically gerrymandered. Respect our democracy and redraw the districts so that the results of our elections accurately reflect the political preferences of our citizens, not the political preferences of current legislators.

Keep our elections fair and open to all voters to ensure our democracy works for all people. Avoid the racial or partisan gerrymandering that only supports the GOP political agenda. Allow voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around.

The citizens of NC deserve and demand redistricting maps which are neither racially nor politically gerrymandered. It is everyone's right to have a voice and democracy will be maintained.

Having fairly drawn districts is the only way for the citizens of North Carolina to have confidence in their legislators. Governing by the currently drawn map is a unfair and not representative of constituents. We must demand nonpartisan redrawing of the districts.

Fairness and integrity and representation of All people in our state should be the foundation of drawing district lines. If you do not have the integrity to be fair, you should not be involved in this process! I am sick and tired of you people placing party above the good of the people of our state and country.

The legislative district lines must be drawn in a non-partisan manner and put in the hands of an independent, non-partisan commission. This is the only way that each citizen will have a voice and democracy will be maintained. Thank you for working toward this end.

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If you can only win by cheating, it isn't winning. We need a nonpartisan redistricting process that seeks to balance districts compactly and using objective criteria like the Efficiency Gap or other to restore equality to the votes of all North Carolinians.

Hi- I follow emails from Common Cause to stay updated on redistricting efforts across the country. Not having politicians draw maps used to elect them is a common sense measure that should be implemented nation-wide. Fairness and following lawful/moral principles is something our country is based on. Make the Founder Fathers proud, won't you?

I would like voting maps redrawn that are free from partisan politics! North Carolinians want fair elections and fair voting districts!

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I implore the NCGA to utilize an independent commission to perform redistricting in the state. For too many years both parties have used gerrymandering to help guarantee their ability to win elections. Whether a democratic representative is able to win an election should be directly related to their ability to speak to and hear the people they represent, not their ability to draw a map. Anything short of independent redistricting minimizes the voice of the people and weakens our democracy.

No more illegal maps. Protect democracy. We deserve fair redistricting maps. No more stuff like you've done in the past. Do your job. Draw up fair redistricting maps. Please please please redraw the new legislative maps in a non partisan way. You have already passed districts that were unconstitutional.

Please for the sake of the state and the country, we need non partisan districts. You work for us, the people.

Take ALL of the politics out of redistricting----- please. No more gerrymandering ever!!!

It is time for you to really make all of America Great. Represent all of the people not just the Republican party. Do something good for a change. For too many years both parties have used gerrymandering to help guarantee their ability to win elections. Whether a democratic representative is able to win an election should be directly related to their ability to speak to and hear the people they represent, not their ability to draw a map. Anything short of independent redistricting minimizes the voice of the people and weakens our democracy.

Please draw maps without discriminating between Democrat and Republican, black and white. America is all of its people. If you cannot represent the real America, you need to go home and stop meddling in our processes.

Districts should be drawn in a fair and bipartisan way so that no one party benefits. We need to appoint a bipartisan committee to oversee redistricting in our state and end gerrymandering once and for all.

Many states have successfully done this and made gerrymandering a non-issue regardless of which party had majority power in the state. It is time for NC to pursue this path.

I love to see non-partisan redistricting in NC. Good politics starts from fair voting, regardless of political leaning. Why destroy a good thing when the solution is so simple?

Fair redistricting creates a stronger democracy. No more gerrymandering. No more rigged elections.

We need fair voting districts to be redrawn free from partisan politics!

Why do we have the SAME guy doing the maps? The voters want a nonpartisan redistricting group. You are costing the taxpayers by all of these lawsuits because you absolutely refuse to do what is right. The taxpayers are going to vote you all out as soon as possible.

Dear Members of the Legislature,

Gerrymandering is unique to America in that we are the only democracy on the planet that allows its elected officials to pick their voters; all other democracies use some form of independent non-partisan commission to draw voting districts. Now powerful low-cost mapping software combined with an ocean of available data on a voter’s purchasing history, movie preferences, social media use, voting history, etc. make it possible to draw voting districts with such surgical precision as to virtually guarantee that future election outcomes, for the following decade, will favor the political party that drew them. Democracy is about a fundamental freedom of citizens to have their voices equally and fairly represented in the government they elect. In North Carolina where the approximate breakdown of voters is 1/3 Republican, 1/3 Democrat, and 1/3 independents, the question before North Carolina voters is this, “Does the practice of gerrymandering a non-issue regardless of which party had majority power in the state. It is time for NC to pursue this path.” It would be directly related to their ability to speak to and hear the people they represent, not their ability to draw a map. Anything short of independent redistricting minimizes the voice of the people and weakens our democracy.

I would love to see non-partisan redistricting in NC. Good politics starts from fair voting, regardless of political leaning. Why destroy a good thing when the solution is so simple?

1. Disregard the political affiliation of voters
2. Disregard the location of any sitting member of the legislature
3. Strive for a compact shape of the district's boundaries
4. Respect the natural economic affiliation of communities, i.e. rural western NC counties have little economic affiliation with communities like Charlotte.
5. Try to have a district's boundaries not cut across county lines

Non-Partisan Redistricting will save money, eliminate lawsuits, and help make elections fairer in direct support of one citizen one vote. Gerrymandered districts rob voters of all parties of having their vote matter. Please don't use “but the democrats did it too” as an excuse for not doing the right thing.

Voting districts that honor the principle of one person one vote are essential to a functioning democracy. Districts that are contiguous, that keep counties and precincts whole as much as possible, and that are drawn by non-partisan delegates (on a practical basis that means both major parties as well as other minority stakeholders included) is desperately needed in this state and across the nation. Please follow the intention and the letter of the law as directed by the Supreme Court.
I am in favor of the Iowa model where districts are drawn in a nonpartisan manner. I want districts that are compact, drawn without regard to results from the previous election, and in agreement with federal law.

Please give the power of the vote back to the people of North Carolina. Non-partisan redistricting will allow the people of North Carolina to actually choose fair representation.

Please set up a non-partisan Iowa style redistricting plan in order to end the bi-partisan gerrymandering and endless lawsuits. Legislators should not be selecting their voters - it should work the other way around.

No political party should have influence over districting maps. I strongly urge lawmakers to adopt an independent system of districting, such as this redistricting algorithm: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2014/06/03/this-computer-programmer-solved-gerrymandering-in-his-spare-time/?utm_term=.3b7d0043fbbb.

A mathematical, non-partisan approach is really the only way to take human interference and gerrymandering out of our electoral process. This will help ensure that politicians have to win voters over with their ideas and track records, not just rely on districts drawn favorably.

It is important to me, and my family that district maps be fair and make it possible for all votes to count equally. This should be done by an independent commission so that both parties and all constituents of ALL districts have equal opportunity for their votes to count.

Redistricting should be non-partisan, and follow something like the Iowa criteria - districts of equal population compact, contiguous, and observing county and municipal boundaries where possible. This shouldn't be hard! To continue allowing maps to be drawn to favor one party disenfranchises citizens of our state of their votes, a gross violation for new democracy.

Please make the redistricting process fair and representative of us citizens. Partisanship has no place in this process.

It is past time for my legislators to remember that they work for all the citizens of North Carolina. Acting like the juvenile bully with the biggest stick in the sand box is simply not acceptable. "A rising tide lifts all boats" has been our salvation for generations. Honesty is, and always has been the best policy. Please, rediscover your inner best nature!!!

Voting maps need to be drawn free from partisan politics.

I would like the state to redraw the lines of the districts so we have a fair chance of voting for all the candidates. I would like to feel like I have a voice in this state, and am not just "mapped" to the candidate most likely to win for my party.

Thank you for making this right.

When redrawing legislative districts within the great state of North Carolina, please only rely on actual population counts - example the recent census showed 100 people of eligible voting age in this geographical area. There is no viable or ethical reason to involve any consideration of the voter's political affiliation, how they voted in the past, their sex or race or any other data points you may have on them.

Thank you for making this right.

The level of gerrymandering in our state is atrocious and reflects the flawed idea that legislators should be allowed to draw the maps defining their districts and hence picking the demographics of their own voters. It's time for our state to institute an independent, non-partisan redistricting process that seeks to balance districts compactly and using objective criteria like the Efficiency Gap or other to restore equality to the votes of all North Carolinians.

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I am a resident of Macon County, US House district 11. Due to the gerrymandering in our district, my vote does not matter at all. We are supposed to be a country of “one man - one vote” and I have ZERO impact. Also, our state legislature is so skewed in its makeup, largely due to the way the voting districts have been divided. In a state with 52% of the voters registered as Democrats, to come up with a legislature that is 77% republican is frankly absurd. I have been active for the last few years in working towards non-partisan, FAIR redistricting in NC (perhaps based on the Iowa model?). I would love to have an opportunity to participate in an actual democracy rather than this politically manipulative voting structure currently in place. Thank you for your time and attention to this all-important matter.

I am very concerned about gerrymandering in our state. I don't think it is fair for lawmakers to draw their own districts. I have a real concern about the impact this practice is having on our democracy. The current gerrymandering process is threatening to the fair representation of the people in North Carolina. I would like to see a nonpartisan redistricting process put in place to take the back and forth “politics” out of redistricting in our state. I am encouraging you to push for redistricting reform legislation.

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Our state has a long history of shamefully redistricting to benefit the incumbent party in power. For the true will of the people to be heard, we can't rely on politicians to pick and choose their own voters with convoluted maps. It is high time our state created an independent, non-partisan redistricting process that seeks to balance districts compactly and using proven objective criteria like the Efficiency Gap or something similar. We have the unique opportunity to be a model for other states struggling with the same issue.

Dear assemblywomen and assemblymen:

Mr. Lee Wallace

A functioning democracy depends on fair elections. Partisan gerrymandering is an impediment to fair elections. It is my sincere hope that our state have an independent, non-partisan council redraw our congressional district map that does not create districts based on race or party affiliation.

Katie Davenport

I request that redistricting be done on a strictly non-partisan basis, with no regard to where Democrats live or Republicans live. This is the only way to fairly represent the needs and wishes of all the citizens of NC. It has been done elsewhere in the country and I know it can be done here.

Almost two months ago the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that North Carolina lawmakers unconstitutionally racially gerrymandered dozens of legislative districts. They packed as many African-American voters into as few districts as possible to dilute their vote in Raleigh. It is disgraceful. WE DESERVE FAIR MAPS NOW!

Legislators should not be picking their voters. Voters should be picking their legislators. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.

Jul 27 2017 10:19AM

Mrs. Sara White

I would like for our state to stop spending millions of tax dollars to defend unconstitutional voting districts. Please use compactness, population, and keeping communities together to guide your districts. All politics must be kept out of the process. Let a non-partisan body draw the lines with the goal of creating fair, compact districts.

Peggy McLeod

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Mrs. Kathryn Strickland

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Mr. Terry Brooks

End gerrymandering districts now. Democracy depends on fair voting practices, and all attempts to interfere in that process is a danger to the constitution.

Ms. Eileen Mangels

Redistricting: I want voting maps drawn free from partisan politics. Stop the gerrymandering!!

Dr. Gary Evans

Legislative districts must be drawn in a non-partisan manner. Any attempt to use gerrymandering to give one party advantage over the other is contrary to the principles of American democracy. Please put redistricting in the hands of an independent third party.

Jul 27 2017 10:20AM

Ms. Paula Pierce

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Dr. Mary McDermott

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Jul 27 2017 10:14AM

Katie Davenport

We have the unique opportunity to be a model for other states struggling with the same issue.

Jul 27 2017 10:24AM

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I am writing to express that I want partisan-free district boundaries. The lines as they are currently drawn are crazy and blatantly partisan. I am excited that they will be changed and encourage those involved in the modifications to take this opportunity to demonstrate constructive and fair results.

The lines as they are currently drawn are crazy and blatantly partisan. I am excited that they will be changed and encourage those involved in the modifications to take this opportunity to demonstrate constructive and fair results.

We need nonpartisan districts to get fair representation in our state. This requires an independent committee. Please end the gerrymandering which has perverted NC government for too long.

When we consider the foundation of our democracy, both within our state and nationally, fair and nonpartisan districting lies at the center. Without this, we are not a democracy, as the people's voice is manipulated and silenced. I urge you to please appoint a nonpartisan or bipartisan council to redraw our districts. This matter is much too important to let politics pervert and distort the will of the people. The people will be heard, and if you do not support that effort, your tenure and reputation in our state will be one not of democracy but of authoritarianism. There is a simple solution to creating fair districts, and this is a nonpartisan or bipartisan council.

Suggestions:  #1 No Split Zip Codes.  #2 No districts crossing natural boundaries. (Like across bridgeless rivers or mountains) #3 Make it fair

It is essential you come up with a non-partisan transparent redistricting plan. I would recommend you develop an open source algorithm that takes into account the geography, existing governmental boundaries and population distribution and draws electoral boundaries based exclusively on that. With some work North Carolina could provide the technical foundation for open transparent election boundaries for the 2020 census becoming a leader in transparent fair representation of all citizens.

We all know North Carolina's districts are gerrymandered. This is the worst-kept secret in North Carolina's politics. Your voters have noticed and we demand fair voting rights. In fact, we demand INDEPENDENTLY re-drawn districts before the mid-year elections. Your country is watching. The time to act is NOW!

As an unaffiliated voter, I have long believed in the efficacy and fairness of NON-gerrymandered districts. I strongly support removing control of drawing district lines from the Legislature -- be it Democratic or Republican in majority -- and holding an independent office accountable for independent, nonpartisan redistricting. That said, we need our new districts drawn as quickly as possible ... after SEVEN YEARS.

We want fair voting districts that do not favor either party, but reflect the population of our state. If you need information on how to draw fair districts, please see this article.

https://priceonomics.com/algorithm-the-unfairness-of-gerrymandering/

In redrawing district lines, try not to embarrass our state further. Race, party affiliation and sociology-economic background should have no place in the debates.

What the GOP did to our voting districts was revolting and unconstitutional. The damage done to our state as a result of their racial gerrymandering for political gain is unprecedented and unacceptable. The NCGA must act quickly to move forward with equitable redistricting correcting this selfish action. They should not be allowed to use any resources/people/organizations used previously. They should also eliminate any possible conflicts (i.e. Kim and Phil Strach) for this process. An independent organization should be used and required for this districting action and any future districting action. No political party should be allowed to design districting to their favor and action should be taken to prevent this from continuing.
Redistricting should be independent, not under the guise of bipartisanship because that is never true in NC. Those involved in previous mapping that have been deemed unconstitutional should no longer be eligible to participate in map drawing and redistricting. Those who have used or seen statistics regarding racial profile of voters should not be eligible for participation in redistricting and map drawing. Maps should not be drawn with any political affiliation or race or any other determining factor of vote in mind. North Carolinians deserve to be able to live where they want and have the right to control their government via voting and participation and the current maps do no allow for that. My neighborhood is looped in with the county, meaning, unless I vote Republican, my vote most likely doesn’t count, and when I say looped in, I mean my district has a tumor and that is where I live. Districts should not have tumors or be stretched across a state or MADE TO ACCOMMODATE ANYBODY BUT THE VOTERS OF THE COMMUNITIES THEY LIVE IN.

Those that are under investigation for any matter pertaining to their elected jobs and or that were involved in map drawing in 2011, such as Ralph Hise, David Lewis, and Thomas Hofeller should BY NO MEANS be involved in a new map making process EVER again. All of these people were involved in illegal mapping due to purposeful manipulation and gerrymandering in 2011 and you know how that saying goes…fool me once,

North Carolinians deserve better. We deserve to have our voices heard AND COUNT. Allowing those who have already failed a state over 6 years of representation to try again is not only a logistical failure, it’s showing the people of NC fair maps do no matter to you now, then, or ever.

I know you will choose an independent entity to redraw the maps, and if I would like to put forth my opinion that the following criteria to be used when redrawing the districts:

1. Disregard the political affiliation and race of voters
2. Disregard the location of any sitting member of the legislature
3. Strive for a compact shape of the district’s boundaries
4. Respect the natural economic affiliation of communities, i.e. rural western NC counties have little in common with the counties surrounding Charlotte.
5. Try to have a district’s boundaries not cut across county lines

Thanks,
Kendrick

I beg you (politicians on left and right) to grow up and do what is right. The fingerprints of self-interest from both sides are all over this issue. To govern is to serve others, and it is time to do the hard right vs. the easy wrong. Draw districts that make sense, without thoughts of getting re-elected. I am disgusted by how obvious it is you are serving yourselves and your parties.

I’ve asked for is to make the house and senate represent this as well. NC has become a joke in the U.S. due to these expensive political games. Thanks for your time.

I hope you will choose an independent entity to be involved in a new map making process EVER again. All of these people were involved in illegal mapping due to purposeful manipulation and gerrymandering in 2011 and you know how that saying goes...fool me once...

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I'm asking for is to make the house and senate represent this as well. NC is 50-50 Dems - Repsall likely doesn't count, and when I say looped in, I mean my district has a tumor and that is where I live. Districts should not have tumors or be stretched across a state or MADE TO ACCOMMODATE ANYBODY BUT THE VOTERS OF THE COMMUNITIES THEY LIVE IN.

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I would like to express my concerns to my local representatives (Jay Adams and Andy Wells) that hiring the same individual who constructed the previous maps “with surgical precision” will only lead to costly litigation at the taxpayers’ expense. Those involved in map drawing in 2011, such as Ralph Hise, David Lewis, and Thomas Hofeller should BY NO MEANS be involved in a new map making process EVER again.

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| Jul 27 10:51AM |        | Ms. Lindsey Mudge | It is essential that we abide by the following when redrawing our 28 voting districts. This will allow us to have the truest representation possible serving on the behalf of all North Carolinians.  
1. Disregard the political affiliation and race of voters  
2. Disregard the location of any sitting member of the legislature  
3. Strive for a compact shape of the district’s boundaries  
4. Respect the natural economic affiliation of communities, i.e. rural western NC counties have little in common with the counties surrounding Charlotte.  
5. Try to have a district’s boundaries not cut across county lines |
| Jul 27 10:53AM |        | Darlene Battaile | Please just draw fair districts, no gerrymandering of any area for any political party. Please encourage every citizen to vote and help them vote!! |
| Jul 27 10:53AM |        | Mr. Aaron Strickland | The level of gerrymandering in our state is atrocious and reflects the flawed idea that legislators should be allowed to draw the maps defining their districts and hence picking the demographics of their own voters.  
It’s time for our state to institute an independent, non-partisan redistricting process that seeks to balance districts compactly and using objective criteria like the Efficiency Gap or other to restore equality to the voters of all North Carolinians. |
| Jul 27 10:55AM |        | Mrs. Nancy Gray | Please make the redistricting process fair and representative of all NC citizens. Although gerrymandering has been done by both parties, partisanship has no place in this process. Fair voting maps means fair - and accurately represented - elections. |
| Jul 27 10:56AM |        | Ms. Teddy Jordan | A non-partisan committee s/b used to redraw district lines. Iowa uses a model that has district lines drawn by a non-partisan citizen committee. That w/b a much more fair and balanced approach than what has been used by BOTH political parties. Thank you. |
| Jul 27 11:00AM |        | Ms. Carol Reinhardt | North Carolina voters demand fair and equitable voting districts AND voter registration laws. It’s time our elected representatives actually reflect the wishes of our citizens. |
| Jul 27 11:03AM |        | Liesl Dineen | I’m struggling to understand how it is that we even have to defend our right to fair elections. Use math and science, and draw the lines without considering parties or minority status. Please? |
| Jul 27 11:03AM |        | Rachel Prouty | This needs to be an independent process that doesn’t favor either party.  
1. Disregard the political affiliation and race of voters  
2. Disregard the location of any sitting member of the legislature  
3. Strive for a compact shape of the district’s boundaries  
4. Respect the natural economic affiliation of communities, i.e. rural western NC counties have little in common with the counties surrounding Charlotte.  
5. Try to have a district’s boundaries not cut across county lines |
| Jul 27 11:04AM |        | Mr. Thomas Davis | We need a nonpartisan commission to draw districts. Districts must:  
aid no incumbents, parties or racial populations; and  
generally follow county boundaries and natural geographic connectivity. |
| Jul 27 11:04AM |        | Mrs. Lauren Perdue | Government should reflect the voice of the people. Non-partisan redistricting is the only way to ensure the North Carolina government is fair and just. Please take immediate action to end gerrymandering now. |
| Jul 27 11:05AM |        | Mrs. Kimberly Daggerhart | I’d like the following criteria to be used when redrawing the districts:  
1. Disregard the political affiliation and race of voters  
2. Disregard the location of any sitting member of the legislature  
3. Strive for a compact shape of the district’s boundaries  
4. Respect the natural economic affiliation of communities, i.e. rural western NC counties have little in common with the counties surrounding Charlotte.  
5. Try to have a district’s boundaries not cut across county lines  
Thank you. |
| Jul 27 11:05AM |        | Mr. Dan Jaworsky | 1. Disregard the political affiliation and race of voters  
2. Disregard the location of any sitting member of the legislature  
3. Strive for a compact shape of the district’s boundaries  
4. Respect the natural economic affiliation of communities, i.e. rural western NC counties have little in common with the counties surrounding Charlotte.  
5. Try to have a district’s boundaries not cut across county lines |
To whom it may concern:

The gerrymandering of districts in our state is harming North Carolina. It is time to put an end to this arena of any kind. We must stop trying to stack the deck in our favor, whoever “we” may be at any given time. Drawing racially, politically, or ideologically biased districts violates the deepest meanings of this country’s Constitution, violates the intent of the founding fathers of this country, and violates the rights of the peoples of our nation today.

If we want to win elections, we must return to the grassroots and ask the people what they want - then devise ways to make the people’s will, a reality. This means ALL the people, not just a 30% minority of people who shout the loudest and crowd the Internet with their boorish and backwards opinions. We cannot simply rely on tricking the system so that that 30%, which is so dedicated to its misguided principles, is the only part of the nation’s peoples that is heard. We MUST serve ALL of our people, not just 30%.

If you cannot win elections without rigging the system, then it is time to get out of politics because you are not good enough to lead this state.

You should follow these simple principles to create fair districts:

1. Ignore political affiliation and race of voters
2. Ignore location of sitting members of the legislature
3. Make compact shapes of the district’s boundaries. No more sprawling weird shapes to serve political parties
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5. Do not have district’s boundaries cut across county lines
6. Do not have district’s boundaries cut against the population
7. The level of gerrymandering in our state is atrocious and reflects the flawed idea that legislators should be allowed to draw the maps defining their districts and hence picking the demographics of their own voters. It’s time for our state to institute an independent, non-partisan redistricting process that seeks to balance districts compactly and using objective criteria like the Efficiency Gap or other to restore equality to the votes of all North Carolinians.

Please turn over the redistricting process to a nonpartisan group external to the legislature. I know that both Democrats and Republicans have drawn districts for partisan advantage, and I want it to stop. I think this round of redistricting would be a great moment to change that endless tug of war.

Senators and congressmen, drawing election districts must be done with zero demographic info, else you are destroying the very democracy in america that our families have fought and died to preserve. The only data that should be used is population count, and respecting existing municipa borders. anything else is just cheating, and is deplorable!

It is time to put a stop to “they did it first” politically gerrymandered voting districts.

If the legislature insists on retaining control of the redistricting process, please use it to ensure fair representation for all of our communities. I don’t think that making citizens votes - out most fundamental way of participating in democracy - count unequally is the path toward an engaged citizenry.

The gerrymandering of districts in our state is harming North Carolina and its people. Further, our current district maps reflect the flawed idea that legislators should be allowed to draw the maps defining their districts and hence picking the demographics of their own voters. It’s time for our state to institute an independent, non-partisan redistricting process that seeks to balance districts compactly and using objective criteria like the Efficiency Gap or other to restore equality to the votes of all North Carolinians.

We need to have a non-partisan outside group do our districting. We are firmly a purple state and our state legislature should represent the people what they want - then devise ways to make the people's will, a reality. This means ALL the people, not just a 30% minority of people who shout the loudest and crowd the Internet with their boorish and backwards opinions. We cannot simply rely on tricking the system so that that 30%, which is so dedicated to its misguided principles, is the only part of the nation's peoples that is heard. We MUST serve ALL of our people, not just 30%.

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<td>Jul 27 11:15AM</td>
<td>Steven Lord</td>
<td>It's past time to move on to non-partisan redistricting like Nebraska. Even a bipartisan independent commission like Arizona, California, Idaho, or Washington would be preferable to these constantly challenged and litigated (AT TAXPAYER EXPENSE) districts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 27 11:19AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Sue Ellen Camden-Lee</td>
<td>We need fair and equal maps for redistricting in our state. Get rid of the gerrymandering criminal behavior and correct it appropriately. NOW!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 27 11:20AM</td>
<td>Mr. Jesse Boggs</td>
<td>What do you think are the consequences of partisan gerrymandering? -- retention of republican power? Well, of course and the early death of democracy? Why care, then? Who needs democracy? Have you considered what follows democracy? Mob rule? Autocracy? Dictatorship? Destruction? The end of society? Our joint survival depends on equitable voting districts. Our joint survival. Do otherwise and don't complain of the unwanted and unanticipated results. Civil war is not civil but it is war! Think of your loved ones, your children, your extended families. In the 1860 US Civil War 50% died. Now think of the same thing happening tomorrow to your family.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 27 11:22AM</td>
<td>Ms. Lynn Fell</td>
<td>Why is the author of the illegal gerrymandered districts working on the new mapping? At the very least this gives the appearance that the GOP is seeking to maintain their majority illegally in an evenly split state. I hope the GOP will ensure that all constituents are represented fairly in this process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 27 11:26AM</td>
<td>Mr. A.H. Jessup</td>
<td>Redistricting MUST be non-partisan from this point forward. We’ve had enough slime and manipulation, underhanded gimmickry and outright criminality. Let’s get straight with our own people for crying out loud.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 27 11:26AM</td>
<td>Ms. Estelle Stokes Bowden</td>
<td>Right now, I feel very little representation by my elected officials. It seems that the only goal for each party, is to hurt the other, which has a negative impact on the citizens of North Carolina. When redistricting, be kind, be honest, check your biases, and make ethical decisions, not petty and self-serving ones. Districts should be drawn to reflect the diversity of this state, not to put one party at an advantage over another. Residents of all districts should feel that their interests and needs will be served with these new districts and that they will not be ignored. For example, just because historically, more Blacks have voted for Democratic candidates, does not mean that districts should be drawn to disenfranchise them. Work across party lines. Us everyday citizens do this everyday; why can’t you????</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 27 11:29AM</td>
<td>Mr. Austin Rhodes</td>
<td>As voting is an essential and important part of our republic, it is important that everyone’s right to vote is held to be sacred and as equal as possible. Gerrymandering (on any basis) is an attempt to influence voting not through ideas but through political rules that do not reflect the will of the people. The level of gerrymandering in our state is atrocious and reflects the flawed idea that legislators should be allowed to draw the maps defining their districts and hence picking the demographics of their own voters. It’s time for our state to institute an independent, non-partisan redistricting process that seeks to balance districts compactly and using objective criteria like the Efficiency Gap or other to restore equality to the votes of all North Carolinians.</td>
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<td>Jul 27 11:36AM</td>
<td>Erin Schuermeyer</td>
<td>Everyone deserves to be represented. Redistricting should be done on nonpartisan lines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 27 11:36AM</td>
<td>Melissa Lefko</td>
<td>Please consider the large number of independent voters as well as the rapidly changing demographics of this state. I understand that the rural/urban divide is great, however, urban taxes pay for rural services. The only acceptable boundary designation is one based purely on population numbers, as well as one with an eye to future demographic shifts. No other designation should ever come into consideration.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 27 11:38AM</td>
<td>Christine Waske</td>
<td>We the people demand fair and honest redistricting by an outside nonpartisan 3rd party. The NC legislators have failed at providing honest voting conditions. The redistricting maps should be drawn by the local area by an unbiased party with public input.</td>
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Mr. David Nikdel
I support fair play. Democrats gerrymandered the state to begin with and Republicans were right to call them cheaters then. Now Republicans have made it even worse and seem deaf to the same complaints! We need to end this once and for all and get back to governing from the middle. I will support fair districting no matter what it helps. This is not a partisan issue it is vital for the health of our democracy! I'm willing to give of my time and treasure to support this cause so watch out local politicians who vote against. There are more like me and it doesn't take many votes to lose a state district.

Dr. Jeffrey Collins
Please set up a non-partisan commission to handle the drawing of new (and fair) districts for all General Assembly races.

Ms. Rebecca LaPrade
We want redistricting that is fair to everyone in the state. I am tired of the republicans ignoring a court order like they are above the law. NO ONE is above the law period.

Mr. Anthony Piacenza
Redistrict new and show fair and impartial districts!

Ms. Diane Daniels
Voters should be allowed to pick their voters, instead of voters choosing their representative. Clearly this is genuine voter fraud. If NC lawmakers are concerned about voter fraud and truly care about fair elections then I urge you to draw new voting maps free from partisan politics.

Virginia Perschbacher
The NC legislative must provide opportunities for all voices to be heard in the selection of our elected officials at all levels. Gerrymandered districts based on race are unacceptable. The redistricting process should be a bipartisan effort and should be completed well before the mid-term elections.

Ms. Diane Daniels
Please support the end of gerrymandered legislative districts. Voting maps should not be sneaking sections made to pick up desired constituents for manipulated results.

Mr. Anthony Madejczyk
Since the beginning of the year there has been much discussion of voter fraud but somehow gerrymandering is never included or singled out as voter fraud. Gerrymandering means politicians get to pick their voters, instead of voters choosing their representative. Clearly this is a genuine voter fraud. If NC lawmakers are concerned about voter fraud and truly care about fair elections then I urge you to draw new voting maps free from partisan politics.

Ms. Deborah Good
Redistricting should be a nonpartisan process. Create an independent commission to draw districts according to the North Carolina Constitution so the people have fair and balanced state leadership.

Ms. Martha Bradley
Redistricting should be a nonpartisan process. Create an independent commission to draw districts according to the North Carolina Constitution so the people have fair and balanced state leadership.

Dr. Nathaniel Grubbs
Please use a non-partisan committee for redistricting. Voters should get to choose their politicians, not the other way around. Yet, while more voters are supporting Democratic legislators than Republican in NC, the General Assembly continues to be very lopsided in its partisan makeup. Several maps have been proposed by outside groups that would make NC's legislative maps more competitive, which will make our state a better democracy. Please consider one of these nonpartisan maps, or a nonpartisan commission for the next round of Redistricting.

Ms. Jennifer Griffin
Gerrymandering for racial or political affiliations is disgusting. Let the people who live in your district fairly, then you shouldn't be out of this process.

Dr. Susan Ortiz
The Shortest-Splitline Algorithm would be a great way to get politics out of this years ago and are should still feel the same. Communities of color should not be split into different districts if it also meets the other criteria listed - compact districts that don't cut up voters, instead of voters choosing their representative. Clearly this is a genuine voter fraud. If NC lawmakers are concerned about voter fraud and truly care about fair elections then I urge you to draw new voting maps free from partisan politics.

Mrs. Erin Hoy
We need a non-partisan, independent committee to draw the districts.

Dr. Susan Ortiz
Gerrymandering for racial or political affiliations is disgusting. Let the representatives of NC more closely reflect the diversity of this state.

Justin Lancaster
Take a stand to end gerrymandering by all parties. The GOP wanted maps free from partisan politics.

Mrs. Cinnamon Frame
I am tired of these gerrymandered districts. If you can't represent all of the people who live in your district fairly, then you shouldn't be elected. This redistricting needs to be FAIR and BIPARTISAN. You should be a representative of a clear constituent region with common concerns.
I am demanding that new electoral maps be drawn to provide for fair and proportionate representation via fair voting is vital to the healthy functioning of any democracy. I believe that North Carolina has fallen far short of this in recent years due to partisan and racially biased redistricting. As such I strongly advocate that the state move to an independent process to draw district lines. Failing that, I think we must do everything possible to prevent partisan districting so that our state can stay strong and our politicians are held accountable to the will of the people.

Proportionate representation via fair voting is vital to the healthy functioning of any democracy. I believe that North Carolina has fallen far short of this in recent years due to partisan and racially biased redistricting. As such I strongly advocate that the state move to an independent process to draw district lines. Failing that, I think we must do everything possible to prevent partisan districting so that our state can stay strong and our politicians are held accountable to the will of the people.

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I want voting maps drawn free from partisan politics. It is imperative that redistricting lines need to be drawn in a nonpartisan manner.

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Dr. Brenda Rubens
NC voting districts must be redrawn in a fair and nonpartisan manner before our state can provide an objective and honest environment for our voters.

I am demanding that new electoral maps be drawn to provide for fair elections in N.C. which ENCOURAGE people to vote and to know that their votes count!!

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It is imperative that redistricting lines need to be drawn in a nonpartisan manner.

1. Increase transparency during the redistricting or mapmaking process and
2. Give citizens the opportunity to draw state legislative and congressional districts themselves.

Base the method on Ohio’s method. Together, the League of Women Voters of Ohio, Common Cause Ohio, Ohio Citizen Action and other partners held a real-time competition using census data and partisan information created by Cleveland State University Prof. Mark Sailing. This competition gave citizens the opportunity to draw state legislative and congressional districts.

Criteria for the Redistricting Competition:
Compactness
Competitiveness
Representational fairness (not favoring one political party over another and mapmaking that reflect the partisan makeup of NC as a whole)
Respect for county and municipal boundaries
Mapmakers were also give guidance on how to create majority-minority districts that respect the Voting Rights Act.

Mrs. Kathy Stilwell
It is imperative that redistricting lines need to be drawn in a nonpartisan manner.

Please adopt a nonpartisan, fair methodology in drawing our districts. Creating legislative districts should not be the purview of the very politicians attempting to get into office. This is an inherent conflict of interest. We need independent creation of these districts to avoid further gerrymandering and to reverse what gerrymandering is already doing to our state. Honorable politicians who work hard will still be able to get elected by listening and responding to their constituents. It is the right thing to do. Please, do the right thing.

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I remember NC being the literal textbook example of gerrymandering when I was in school. (Gerrymander: manipulate the boundaries of (an electoral constituency) so as to favor one party or class). Seemed at the time (20+ years ago) like it should be part of our past history; something fixed long ago. The perception of today's political environment is that control and self-service, not public service, are paramount values. As such, neither party is likely to set aside their interests, i.e., relinquish control and potentially lose their job, to get the job of redistricting done right. Please use an independent, non-partisan redistricting process using objective criteria to put gerrymandering in North Carolina's past.

Please end gerrymandering and appoint a non-partisan board to oversee districting of legislative districts in North Carolina.

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To redesign our legislative and congressional districts, we need an independent commission in order to free the process from political and racial influences. The voters should be able to choose our lawmakers instead of the lawmakers choosing their voters. The current system is extremely unfair.

It is important that the committee that draws the new congressional districts NOT BE THE SAME PEOPLE WHO DREW THE LAST MAP....Have a committee that reflects who we are in this state. Otherwise, you will find yourselves in court again and again Do you think we are all stupid?

Pick a first grade class by lottery and let them draw the map as a school project.

Mr. erik raudsep
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Ms. Laurel Ullman
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Pick a first grade class by lottery and let them draw the map as a school project.
The level of gerrymandering in our state is absolutely atrocious and reflects the flawed idea that legislators should be allowed to draw the maps defining their districts and hence picking the demographics of their own voters. It's time for our state to institute an independent, non-partisan redistricting process that seeks to balance districts compactly and using objective criteria like the Efficiency Gap or other to restore equality to the votes of all North Carolinians.

Establish an independent, non-partisan commission to create districts based on population and geography, and not on political advantage. Both Democrats and Republicans have shamelessly used gerrymandering to create an unrepresentative political majority at the expense of the citizens' voice. It's time to stop that, and let political ideas be contested in a fair marketplace rather than continuing to preach to the choir.

Given the impending Supreme Court decision about Wisconsin's gerrymandering for political advantage, an independent commission would have the added benefit of guaranteeing that NC won't have to re-draw districts again if Wisconsin loses its case.

The number one issue in government today is NOT healthcare, the economy, immigration or a HB2. It is that we are losing our Democracy with extreme partisan gerrymandering that has muted the true voice of the people. In North Carolina over the last three elections the state has voted 48% Democrat, 50% Republican and 2% other. Yet in races that are in districts, there are 39% of the NC House, 30% of the NC Senate and 23% of the US Congressional delegation that are Democrats. We do not have a representative democracy right now and the anger over not being heard is growing. The process needs to change to non partisan redistricting of as many whole contiguous and common need counties in a district as possible without regard to race or party. Yes...both parties have done it...it is time for it to end.

North Carolina citizens deserve a fair, non-partisan body to be in charge of redrawing our illegal, unconstitutional, racially-gerrymandered maps. It is extremely clear by the Supreme Court's recent rulings that the NCGOP is not capable of leading this effort nor is their hired gun, Tom Hofeller. Why would the NCSC use the services of, let alone trust, this man to accomplish what he has already failed to do at the literal expense of the taxpayers of this state? This redistricting process needs to be fully transparent, not drawn up in back rooms with no public debate and/or input like so many other recent NCGOP bills/laws. Remove the gerrymandered, partisan bias from this process and empower a non-partisan, neutral body that will produce fair, legal, constitutional maps so that NC citizens can be fairly represented. Thank you.

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As the general assembly considers redistricting, I urge them to pursue non-partisan methods of redistricting. Districts made through partisan means, though technically legal, are not in service of fair representation of citizens' interests and should be abolished.

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The people of North Carolina deserve a fair vote. Please assure the following when redistricting:

1. Disregard the political affiliation and race of voters
2. Disregard the location of any sitting member of the legislature
3. Strive for a compact shape of the district's boundaries
4. Respect the natural economic affiliation of communities, i.e. rural western NC counties have little in common with the counties surrounding Charlotte.
5. Try to have a district's boundaries not cut across county lines

Thank you,
Lisa Neylan

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Thank you,
Charles Clay

I want voting maps drawn free from partisan politics.

Based on statistics regarding those who count themselves as Democrats and Republicans, our legislature does not reflect this. I am an Independent voter and only declare an affiliation with a party during the primary. I feel my voice should still be heard even if I am an Independent.

As for redistricting, I don't understand how this can be so complicated. Lines should be drawn by geographical/population areas. Anything less, seems to be nefarious. Let's preserve democracy and leave out political parties. This goes for BOTH parties. I believe people will vote for those who hold convictions that reflect their personal beliefs, not political affiliation.

The Supreme Court seems to agree that our districts are drawn to disenfranchise certain groups of people. To facilitate this, they should drawn along non-partisan lines to more accurately reflect the NC population and be done by a NON-PARTISAN committee. This would reduce the opportunities for any party, race, religion, etc. to be dominant over the voting process.

I certainly hope the legislature shows NC, and the US, that they can be non-partisan and come together.

With respect,

Hello, my name is Jeff Smith and I am an independent voter in Hillsborough, NC. Please support HB200. Working to help end voter suppression and gerrymandering in North Carolina should be of the state's highest priority. Since Gerry, redrawing districts to pick and choose voters is one of the bigger plagues on our democratic system. By supporting independent, non-partisan redistricting, we can see a shift in restoring democracy in our state. Please support HB200!
Thank you for this opportunity to comment. As new district boundaries are drawn, I urge the NCGA to consider the following factors only:

1. Equal populations - One person, one vote.
2. Compactness - Districts should have compact shapes.
3. Contiguity - The components of a district should adjoin one another, unseparated by other districts or geographic boundaries.
4. Respect for existing political boundaries - Counties should not be split between districts.
5. Respect for natural geographic features - Rivers, mountains and other natural features that create natural boundaries should be taken into account.
6. Respect for identifiable communities of interest - Similarities in social, cultural, ethnic and economic interest should be recognized and taken into account, as should school districts and other formal relationships between municipalities.
7. Respect for overarching law - Districts must be drawn in accordance with the US Constitution, the Voting Rights Act, and other federal statutory guidance.

At the same time, I urge the NCGA to ignore completely such factors as party registration and the residence of incumbents. It is high time we stopped having legislators choose their constituents, and started letting voters choose their legislators.

The entire redistricting process should be open and transparent, with information distributed timely and widely, and hearings held in Raleigh and across the state to ensure citizens' ability to review and comment.

The NCGA has distinguished itself in recent years by consistently drawing unconstitutional and constitutionally suspect districts. I urge the NCGA to ignore the past and to focus on drawing a clear future.

We need to remove redistricting from political influence as much as we can. This should be a decision made by geographers and cartographers, not politicians. Almost all of our State Colleges have departments of geography. Why not have each submit new district maps based on geographic criteria and pick a few for a final vote. Do the right thing. We need to restore faith in government in all parties.

Just do the redistricting by population only. Do not look at Board of Elections info. Actually that should be illegal anyway. Do not jump around and pick specific persons by their registration. And for goodness sake do not have one district scrolling down through 5 or 6 counties. That would be gerrymandering. Just do it fairly. We are worth it.

Maps should always be drawn by an independent third party with no political affiliation. New maps should be redrawn as soon as possible considering the outcome of the federal lawsuit last year. The bills passed between the court's decision and today are all illegitimate since the state does not have fair representation of it's constituents. We need new elections with newly drawn districts from an independent entity before the end of 2017.
The Supreme Court has already ruled in this case. North Carolinian

Mr. Richard Wynne

You MUST MUST MUST include dems in this effort to retain any

I want voting maps drawn free from partisan politics! Thank you!

Jul 27 2017 3:06PM

There are several transparent and highly regarded methods for

Jon Abrams

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I am a North Carolina constituent, and I feel that it is time to end the

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Mrs. Erin Isgett

I want to see an end to gerrymandering. I want fair voting maps and

Jennifer Keith

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Mr. David Wear

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Ms. BJ Caussey

This should be done by a non-partisan group -- no politicians! The

Dr. Helene Hilger

Please use a non-partisan, independent company to draw these maps.

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Brandi Bragg

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Ms. Shel Anderson

I strongly object to partisan redistricting. I am a proponent of a non-

Jul 27 2017 3:11PM

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Jul 27 2017 2:59PM

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Jul 27 2017  3:22PM

Mrs. Lynn Bennett

A group of judges met in Durham earlier this spring to discuss ways for redistricting fair. Having listened to and observed the results of their work, it is apparent that non-partisan redistricting is not only possible but also not difficult. North Carolina has failed in the past but now has the opportunity to lead the way for other states by doing the right thing, the thing most voters want, and that is to do away with gerrymandering. Imagine having a citizenship whose every vote actually is meaningful. Stop gerrymandering. Enlist non-partisan

Jul 27 2017  3:23PM

Ms. Janice Siebert

For the sake of one person - one vote, please draw the maps free from partisan politics. Fair, NOT GERRYMANDERED, districts are the only basis of representative government! I want the redistricting to be nonpartisan.

Jul 27 2017  3:27PM

Ms. Sarah Haman

Redistricting should be nonpartisan and follow something like the Iowa criteria - districts of equal population compact, contiguous, and observing county and municipal boundaries where possible. To continue allowing maps to be drawn to favor one party disenfranchises citizens of our state of their votes. This is a gross misdeed for any democracy.

Jul 27 2017  3:30PM

Becky Kelley

We deserve to be free from gerrymandering which has been put in place for decades! Our Republic and we the people have a right to a fair and unbiased voting system. Fix our maps! I believe it is my right as a citizen to have the opportunity to select my representatives who are chosen by the will of the people.

Jul 27 2017  3:40PM

Mr. Bryson Palmer

1. Disregard the political affiliation and race of voters
2. Disregard the location of any sitting member of the legislature
3. Strive for a compact shape of the district's boundaries
4. Respect the natural economic affiliation of communities, i.e. rural western NC counties have little in common with the counties surrounding Charlotte.
5. Try to have a district's boundaries not cut across county lines

Jul 27 2017  3:43PM

Mrs. Lee Lumpkin

Our legislative districts should be drawn in a non-partisan manner without the previous attempts to isolate certain populations unfairly. The citizens of our state deserve a equal opportunity for their voices to be heard in Raleigh.

Jul 27 2017  3:43PM

Ms. Mary Brooks

I believe it is my right as a citizen to have the opportunity to select my leaders no matter the color of my skin or my political party. The leaders should not be selecting their voters. I believe this to be morally wrong and not the intention of our forefathers. Please return this right to all citizens of our state.

Jul 27 2017  3:44PM

Brenda Piersons

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Jul 27 2017  3:47PM

Ms. Christina Stabileford

Please PLEASE redraw the voting maps to be NON PARTISAN so we can have fair elections! Make NC a beacon for freedom and justice instead of continuing with an unconstitutional, overly biased process designed by and for power hungry politicians.

Jul 27 2017  3:54PM

Ms. Alice Snell

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Jul 27 2017  3:56PM

Ms. Jillian Robson

Put the Democratic election process back in place. A bipartisan majority want fair redistricting maps drawn up. Free of artificial constraints such as race, party, ethnicity, language culture etc. ALL INCLUSIVE! Everyone is entitled to vote for the person of their choice. Not vice versa. We have enough threats to the country with Russia's cyber hacking. We do not need to make the US more divided and vulnerable. Do we want TRUE PATRIOTS leading our country or GREED inspired lunatics lured and bought out by BIG money. Citizens United has also broken down voters choice. Restrictive Voter Rights legislation is also weakening the election process. These ALL need to be addressed as a A WHOLE to regain balance in a population that is roughly balanced progressive and conservative.

Jul 27 2017  3:56PM

Mr. Charles Gilmore

If anyone on this committee is interested in fairness of competing ideas for true democracy these will be computer generated maps based solely on population distribution without regard to race, ethnicity, social status, wealth or political affiliation. This is the only way to strengthen our state and nation.

Jul 27 2017  4:01PM

Mr. Leslie Lee

In considering redistricting, please:
1. Disregard the political affiliation and race of voters
2. Disregard the location of any sitting member of the legislature
3. Strive for a compact shape of the district's boundaries
4. Respect the natural economic affiliation of communities, i.e. rural western NC counties have little in common with the counties surrounding Charlotte.

Jul 27 2017  4:03PM

Ms. Laura Goodwin

Try to have a district's boundaries not cut across county lines. I could not feel more strongly that fair redistricting is essential to our democracy. It is irrelevant which party is in power; the districting should be fair at all times. There are many things we disagree about in this country, and I think the problems that we are going to face in the years ahead are far beyond the Wisdom of Solomon, let alone me. But I think the right place to start is to say - fair is fair. This is who we are.

Jul 27 2017  4:06PM

Mr. Joseph Hardin

I am tired of feeling disenfranchised by the General Assembly. A 10 to 3 majority of districts is blatantly undemocratic. The majority in power has made a mockery of our state. They don't legislate. They dictate. They discriminate. They don't want more people to vote. They want fewer—mainly the poor and elderly. It's time to do what is right--a bipartisan redrawing of the voting districts.

Jul 27 2017  4:10PM

Mrs. Barbara Coulson

Find something in your brain that tells you that the 'in' group will someday be the 'out group, and you wouldn't like it as you didn't like it before. Let's save the State and both sides money by forming an INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION. Both sides should embrace a policy that makes for a level playing field.
It is critical that our voting process is as fair as possible and that

We need an independent non partisan commission to draw districts

It would be great to have public meetings on this issue.  I strongly

The government of North Carolina owes it's citizens free and fair
elections.  It's time for voting maps that are free from partisan politics.

I support the state of North Carolina setting up Independent Commissions to determine fair boundaries for State Legislative and Congressional elections in North Carolina.

In North Carolina, we need a non-partisan process for redistricting at

In lawfully drawing new maps, as the SCOTUS said you must, get

I demand a bipartisan committee redraw the maps, not someone who's already proven their willingness to gerrymander the state for one party. I want fair maps so my candidates get a fair shake. Just do proportional representation. Then you won't even have to make districts. Less work for you, fairer elections for us. Win-win.

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We need an independent commission to draw districts

Having the districts drawn by a non-partisan committee is much
drawn in such a way so as not to favor one political party or the other. Voting districts must be

We need an independent commission to draw districts that are neither racially or partisan gerrymandering. Too many people have votes that are essentially wasted. That is not democracy.

I support a nonpartisan redistricting commission that creates districts that follow county boundaries as much as possible and are contiguous. I support one introduced by Tom Ross or similar the methods they use in California or Ohio. Anything is better than what is in place now! Thank you!
Please draw up Fair Maps that are population not partisan based.

Please follow the “Iowa Model” for drawing district lines.

As an unaffiliated voter with great interest in the common good, I am clear that we must have a non-partisan commission to draw legislative districts that are fair to all. I do not think either of the two major parties can manage to be fair—certainly not the present Legislature. Honestly, the North Carolina Legislature's behavior has brought up feelings of embarrassment for me, but more importantly, we want redistricting done with an independent body.

Please redraw our state's voting maps free of partisan influence. Let us be a true democracy and promote fair voting districts. Be a true statesman and not a devisive, conniving politician. Thanks for doing the right thing.

I want to go on record stating that the voting maps should drawn without the influence of partisan politics. They should be drawn completely separate and free from it!

I don't trust the NC Legislature to be able to be impartial where redistricting is concerned. Redistricting absolutely needs to happen, but it needs to be done by an impartial body with no party affiliations or predispositions. Please obtain the services of a neutral body to redraw the voting districts in NC and free us from gerrymandering. Put the power to choose back into the hands of the people of NC.

Please draw up Fair Maps that are population not partisan based.

Make citizens' votes count.

1. Disregard the political affiliation and race of voters
2. Disregard the location of any sitting member of the legislature
3. Strive for a compact shape of the district's boundaries
4. Respect the natural economic affiliation of communities, i.e. rural western NC counties have little in common with the counties surrounding Charlotte.
5. You've drawn a district's boundaries not cut across county lines. I don't trust the NC Legislature to be able to be impartial where redistricting is concerned. Redistricting absolutely needs to happen, but it needs to be done by an impartial body with no party affiliations or predispositions. Please obtain the services of a neutral body to redraw the voting districts in NC and free us from gerrymandering. Put the power to choose back into the hands of the people of NC.

Please re-draw the districts without partisan politics in play. Be adults, it's time to act responsibly.

Redistricting should not be left to the "party in charge" at the time of the Decennial Census. There are far more efficient and neutral ways to get the job done. No party is neutral. Legislative redistricting should be done by an independent, nonpartisan group. The process of redistricting should be completely transparent. End the gerrymandering. Make citizens' votes count.

Follow the Duke model--2 teams each made up of 2 Dems & 2 Repubs--go by Federal guidelines--one team goes East to West and the other goes West to East, then compare the two and make fair tweaks. This isn't hard and you know it! Do the right thing and support Democracy.

Redistrict now, save taxpayers the expense of defending a losing case.

Please leave politics out of assigning voter districts. It should be expedient for you or your party.

Redistricting should be completely transparent. End the gerrymandering. Make citizens' votes count.

Case 1:15-cv-00399-TDS-JEP   Document 187-2   Filed 09/15/17   Page 31 of 382
I believe it is essential that North Carolina establish a nonpartisan commission to determine voting districts for all Federal congressional and State legislative offices.

North Carolina needs to use a nonpartisan commission to draw all legislative districts. I am in favor of House Bill 200. Thank you.

Redistricting in North Carolina MUST be accomplished by at least a bipartisan committee, but better still, a NON-PARTISAN committee! It is the ONLY way to assure fair elections in this state, regardless of party affiliation.

Please redraw lines asap

Jul 27 2017 9:25PM

Karen Ron

Seems like you're dragging your feet on redistricting. Need to focus on correcting injustices. Play fairly!

I am ashamed of my North Carolina & being in a State that has committed some of the worst Gerrymandering of Districts of all the States, strictly to influence the GOP votes. Everyone should have plenty of nearly precints, and disenfranchising the low income, elderly, minorities, uneducated is something that has to be corrected as soon as you all get off your high horses and decide to run a fair race. Your voters will remember this atrocity & we, the people have the power in our vote to kick you all out of office. This is unconstitutional and you know that. We are watching you. I am very savvy about politics and I have never in my long life seen such disgraceful behavior from our elected officials. Get to work and do your job in a fair & compassionate manner.

Andrew Dodds

Jul 27 2017 9:30PM

How about we try NOT gerrymandering the districts just one time? It might even work better.

Jul 27 2017 9:36PM

Ms. JANE WATSON

Supporting Bill 2007 creating a non/bi-partisan commission. In any event, with or without it, no district-drawing on partisan basis -- most definitely no engagement of map-drawers who are connected with either party, such as Republicans employed in their maps conceived since 2010 census. Conduct of that kind has created something akin to a new civil war within this state. STOP IT!

Jul 27 2017 9:50PM

Mr. John harris

I am writing in support of setting up Independent Commissions to draw fair voting maps in North Carolina. Gerrymandering flies in the face of democracy.

Jul 27 2017 10:16PM

Julianne Fontenoy

We should have maps drawn in a fair and free way with no influence from partisan politics. Of course. This is a democracy, last I checked. Please keep it as one!

Jul 27 2017 10:25PM

Mr. James Rowen

I would like to see North Carolina adopt a nonpartisan redistricting process. I believe the districts as they stand now are overtly gerrymandered.

Jul 27 2017 10:28PM

Ms. Hannah Lomas

I would like the North Carolina Legislature to adopt a nonpartisan redistricting process to help fix the extremely gerrymandered and unconstitutional districts.

Jul 27 2017 11:04PM

Mr. Shaun Kime

I wish to see a redistricting process that is fair and impartial, does not target race or class, and maximizes the value of one person's vote so that it is equally weighted to the value of others.

Jul 27 2017 11:08PM

Ms. Janine Rouson

I think this should get done very quickly and we should move toward a non-partisan process for drawing districts. For now, the courts have ruled and the actions need to be taken quickly to have new elections based on the newly drawn districts. Redistricting should be fair and nonpartisan.

Jul 27 2017 11:21PM

Ron Kiviniemi

I would like nonpartisan redistricting done by an independent commission.

Jul 27 2017 11:54PM

Dr. Reed Altman

Win at all costs politics has gone from eroding to decaying your constituents' faith in governance. Where is the accountability? In the absence of fairness in a system, people will eventually become desperate. I am scared that the very fabric of society that holds us together as North Carolinians is starting to tear. Voting should be made fair before this tipping point is reached. Please take the moral high ground and adopt a solution such as HB 200 NOW to solve the redistricting problem in a comprehensive, sustainable & non-partisan way!

Jul 28 2017 12:03AM

Mrs. Nan Chase

Please serve this great state best by appointing an independent redistricting commission. I am a registered Independent and I vote. Thank you.

Jul 28 2017 12:21AM

Mr. Emmett Casey

I would like to see non-partisan, fair, equitable redistricting. Asking the same man to redistrict who did an unfair partisan job the last time is desperate. I am scared that the very fabric of society that holds us together as North Carolinians is starting to tear. Voting should be made fair before this tipping point is reached. Please take the moral high ground and adopt a solution such as HB 200 NOW to solve the redistricting problem in a comprehensive, sustainable & non-partisan way!

Jul 28 2017 12:31AM

Ms. Katherine Vilas

I want to see an independent bipartisan body redraw the boundaries. I want to see the state represented by senators and representatives who very closely match the split between democrat and republican, not this criminally gerrymandered trash they gave us.

Jul 28 2017 4:09AM

Ann Brady

It is time to set up an independent redistricting process. Let the voters pick their representatives, not the other way around! Certainly seeing how the courts have ruled shows what NC is doing is NOT RIGHT! PLEASE allow fair redistricting to proceed.

Jul 28 2017 5:55AM

Mrs. Elayne Martin

Please make the redistricting process fair and representative of us citizens. Partisanship has no place in this process. Respectfully requesting fair voting maps and elections as soon as possible.

Jul 28 2017 6:26AM

Ms. Rebecca Nussbaurn

Please have an independent body redistrict NC. This should not be a partisan issue but rather an impartial expectation.

Jul 28 2017 6:33AM

Dr. Patricia Bowery

Please redraw all the districts in a nonpartisan manner.
It's embarrassing that NC continues to make news for our illegally drawn districts, and I'm angry that the same folks who manipulated our districts before continue to hold meetings in secret & delay. We need urgent, transparent action. We need districts that are contiguous, along geographic boundaries. We need the folks drawing them to put state & country above party.

I encourage those in charge of the redistributing in NC to make it a bipartisan effort that is done in a democratic fashion. Current gerrymandered plan is in the courts, so you hire the same guy who designed that plan to redesign it? What are you thinking?! You can't get away with that.

The partisan redistricting going on in North Carolina and elsewhere for far too long must stop! It is undemocratic. I urge you to conduct the redistricting process in a way that:

1. Disregards the political affiliation and race of voters
2. Disregards the location of any sitting member of the legislature
3. Strives for a compact shape of the district's boundaries
4. Respects the natural economic affiliation of communities, i.e. rural western NC counties have little in common with the counties surrounding Charlotte.
5. Tries to have a district's boundaries not cut across county lines

Nothing destroys confidence in our political system like the belief that the game is rigged. It prevents thoughtful discussion of social issues because everything seems partisan. You have the power in your hands to make sure that the make up of the general assembly reflects the way people actually vote. Please make it happen, assembly match majority in those districts, and I'm angry that the same folks who manipulated our districts before continue to hold meetings in secret & delay. We need urgent, transparent action. We need districts that are contiguous, along geographic boundaries. We need the folks drawing them to put state & country above party.

We need to have fair voting districts that represent the people who live in those districts. Get this done in an impartial and fair way. It is undemocratic. I urge you to conduct the redistricting process in a way that:

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The redistricting process must be carried out in a nonpartisan manner by an independent commission. There must be an opportunity for the public to comment on the final district map. I consider this to be a fundamental issue in ensuring our democracy. Please be American! Thank you.
Mrs. Hazel Poolos

I am watching as you re-draw the illegally gerrymandered voting districts. I want districts that are contiguous, with boundaries that are geographic rather than drawn with the intent of diluting votes from either party.

Mrs. Christine Sashegyi

Redistrict in a way to represent the PEOPLE to vote in their candidate, not the candidate choosing the people. It is not American, and it is not constitutional. This rip off of the American voting system has got to end. Right now, I don’t feel represented, and not one of my representatives, federal or state, feels the need to listen to anything I say, all my requests and letters and emails can be ignored because I have no voice, no one to listen to me. How is that American? We are supposed to be represented in this country whether the person in office is your party or not. Time to take redistricting out of politics and leave it up to independent boards to draw the lines. Time to take it away from political affiliation, race, ridiculous drawings of districts—keep it more as a block i.e., county, and area appropriate.

Mrs. Maria Butts

House Speaker Tim Moore & Senate Pro Tem Phil Berger, Please let HB200 and SB209 be given a vote. We need non-partisan redistricting.

Mrs. Laura Ingram

The redistricting process should be completed by an independent, non-partisan entity so that we avoid the targeting of minorities “with near-surgical precision.” We most certainly do not need Hofeller involved in the process again. The process should be completely transparent.

Craig Sherwin

Gerrymandering has harmed the governance in North Carolina and twisted the will of the people for far too long. It goes back generations and has harmed Republican voices in the state more than it’s harmed Democrat. It’s time to set partisanship aside and establish governance that reflects the will of the people and not party bosses. North Carolina needs an independent redistricting commission isolated from party influence.

Mrs. Hilda A. Highfill

Too many voters in NC have been not had their votes counted fairly because some voting districts were not drawn impartially. It was 2011—six years ago—that the maps that included state legislative and congressional districts were found by federal courts to include unconstitutional gerrymanders! NOW is the time to correct these errors and redraw corrective maps without further delay! To do otherwise is to delay justice to those N. C. voters whose rights have been infringed upon. This is the first, vital step toward restitution! Thank you for your prompt vote to redraw the unfair districts without further delay.

Sincerely,
Hilda A. Highfill

Mrs. Stacey Stallings

I think that the real voter fraud is Gerrymandering. I think that its far past time for our voting districts to be redrawn FAIRLY not only across NC but our entire country. The districts should be redrawn and there should be laws prohibiting this from ever happening again. When our right to fairly elect our officials is taken away that is the most un-American, illegal injustice I can think of. As a person of color and female I feel that my right has just been so recently given to me to be taken away again by back-door politicking and and manipulation. This is injustice at its very core.

#FairlyRe-DrawTheLinesNOW!!

Ms. Gail Waldeck

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4. Respect the natural economic affiliation of communities, i.e. rural western NC counties have little in common with the counties surrounding Charlotte.
5. Try to have a district’s boundaries not cut across county lines

Ms. Alexandra Dilworth

I strongly encourage the legislature to base the voting districts based on sensible geography and population numbers and not on partisan politics, nor with any racial/ethnic bias to who lives in a district. Please consider the true meaning of a democratic government when drawing lines for districts.
The redistricting of North Carolina's State House and State Senate districts should be accomplished as quickly as possible using an unbiased process and impartial, fair redistricting criteria that excludes the use of partisan data (and that specifically does not allow using the address of incumbents).

Specifically, the Redistricting Committee should revise the senate and house districts so that those districts meet the following goals:

• Districts shall comply with the United States Constitution and the United States Voting Rights Act;
• Congressional districts shall have equal population to the extent practicable, and state legislative districts shall have equal population to the extent practicable;
• Districts shall be geographically compact and contiguous to the extent practicable;
• District boundaries shall respect Communities of Interest (as defined below) to the extent practicable;
• To the extent practicable, district lines shall use visible geographic features, city, town and county boundaries, and undivided census tracts;
• Competitive districts should be favored where to do so would create no significant detriment to the other goals;
• Districts in the State may NOT be established with the major purpose of diluting the voting strength of any person, or group, including any political party.
• The place of residence of any incumbent or political candidate shall not be considered in the creation of a map. Districts shall not be drawn for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against any incumbent, political candidate, or political party.

As used herein, a "Community of Interest" is a continuous population...

I urge the NC GA to adopt a plan that promotes nonpartisan election districts.

It is time NOW to stop all forms of gerrymandering. It is possible to draw district lines without explicit or implicit racial or partisan bias. DO IT NOW.

I am writing to strongly urge that a non-partisan method to do redistricting be set up as soon as possible for the state of NC. In a state that is evenly divided, it is undemocratic, let alone unconstitutional, to have created gerrymandered districts that have so dramatically tipped the representative balance toward the party in power. The state has suffered seriously in light of this uneven representation and wasted much money in defending unconstitutional laws arising from extreme ideology. Restore integrity to the election process! Create a non-partisan commission to do redistricting and give them the power to do it in time to allow a special election that meets the court's requirements.

I believe there should be a non partisan panel to redraw the lines for the voting districts. If they can come up with a mathematical model and keep people out of it all the better. Gerrymandering has been around a long time, but it does not make it right, it tends to bring out the candidates with the most extreme views. Also, I would consider allowing independents vote in the primary of their choosing without having to change their party affiliation in order to do it.

Please use the following to re-draw districts:
1. Disregard the political affiliation and race of voters
2. Disregard the location of any sitting member of the legislature
3. Strive for a compact shape of the district's boundaries
4. Respect the natural economic affiliation of communities, i.e. rural western NC counties have little in common with the counties surrounding Charlotte.
5. Try to have a district's boundaries not cut across county lines.

We want voting maps drawn free from partisan politics. Please use an accountable independent commission to draw the House and Senate Districts that are fair, compact and functional by using general population demographics and without consideration to political party registration, voting history or any other partisan political criteria.

I moved to NC 3 years ago, and since that time, I have rarely felt represented in the NC General Assembly. Please use nonpartisan criteria in drawing the new districts, so that ALL North Carolinians can have their voices heard.

Please re-create the district maps so that they are fair. Everyone deserves an equal say in our voting process.

I feel strongly that all voting districts need to be drawn using non-partisan processes. The current gerrymandering is not serving our voters or our state well. Reform of this system is greatly needed. Sincerely, Jeff Jennings

Please appoint an independent council to draw the maps for redistricting!

I moved to NC 3 years ago, and since that time, I have rarely felt represented in the NC General Assembly. Please use nonpartisan criteria in drawing the new districts, so that ALL North Carolinians can have their voices heard.
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<tr>
<td>Jul 28 2017 12:15PM</td>
<td>Dr. Cody Perkins</td>
<td>I encourage the committee charged with redrawing North Carolina’s legislative districts to do so in a fair, non-partisan way. The courts have already ruled that the last process led to discriminatory districts, a cynical approach that devalued North Carolinians’ votes. Instead of repeating that process, please take your responsibility seriously. Several models exist for guiding the fair redistricting process. Reject the partisan nonsense led by consultants like Mr. Hofeller. Instead, look to non-partisan experts to help establish criteria for the new maps. Professor Moon Duchin of Tufts University has done outstanding work and helped establish efficiency models to ensure every voter’s ballot counts. Common Cause has helped lead anti-gerrymandering efforts against Democrats and Republicans, always holding the position that fair voting is more important than partisan advantage. Compromise is essential. Our state is nearly evenly divided between support for Democrats and Republicans. Our legislature should reflect that division and embrace the debate that ensues. We need checks and balances in our government, but at the moment we have two embattled branches wasting money on lawsuits over procedure rather than policy. Our state has become a joke. I grew up in Flint, Michigan, and when I tell people that, they inevitably respond with a look of concern. I get questions about corruption, lead-tainted water, and Michael Moore documentaries. More recently, when I tell people I live in North Carolina, that same look creeps into their eyes. Teaching at a boarding school, my students come from several other states and countries. The reputation of our state precedes itself in my students’ eyes. Everyone wants to know how North Carolina got to be like this.</td>
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<td>Jul 28 2017 12:18PM</td>
<td>Herbert Amey</td>
<td>Fairness -- not political or racial gerrymandering -- should be the only criterion when drawing maps to satisfy the court's order. The voters and the federal judiciary system are watching this process carefully. You should fix the affected and adjacent districts but leave statewide redistricting until after the 2020 census. Prior to that, act on S209 and H714 and H200 to ensure future districting maps are done correctly.</td>
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<td>Jul 28 2017 12:37PM</td>
<td>Kathleen Johnson</td>
<td>Make elections fair! Redistricting should not be done on a political basis.</td>
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<td>Jul 28 2017 1:01PM</td>
<td>Richard Wasch</td>
<td>Nonpartisan redistricting is the only fair approach - doesn't matter if you are Republican or Democrat. Implement HB200!</td>
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<td>Jul 28 2017 1:04PM</td>
<td>Ms. Cathy Holt</td>
<td>1. Disregard the political affiliation and race of voters 2. Disregard the location of any sitting member of the legislature 3. Strive for a compact shape of the district’s boundaries 4. Respect the natural economic affiliation of communities, i.e. rural western NC counties have little in common with the counties surrounding Charlotte. 5. Try to have a district’s boundaries not cut across county lines.</td>
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<td>Jul 28 2017 1:07PM</td>
<td>Ms. Joanne Kalp</td>
<td>1. Disregard the political affiliation and race of voters 2. Disregard the location of any sitting member of the legislature 3. Strive for a compact shape of the district’s boundaries 4. Respect the natural economic affiliation of communities, i.e. rural western NC counties have little in common with the counties surrounding Charlotte. 5. Try to have a district’s boundaries not cut across county lines</td>
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<td>Jul 28 2017 1:49PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Dorothy Schneider</td>
<td>1. Disregard the political affiliation and race of voters 2. Disregard the location of any sitting member of the legislature 3. Strive for a compact shape of the district’s boundaries 4. Respect the natural economic affiliation of communities, i.e. rural western NC counties have little in common with the counties surrounding Charlotte. 5. Try to have a district’s boundaries not cut across county lines</td>
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| Jul 28 2017  | 1:53PM| Mr. Herman Anderson| The Independent Redistricting Commission shall revise the senate / house / congressional districts so that, to the extent possible, those districts meet the following goals: • Districts shall comply with the United States Constitution and the United States voting rights act; • Congressional districts shall have equal population to the extent practicable, and state legislative districts shall have equal population to the extent practicable; Districts shall be geographically compact and contiguous to the extent practicable; • District boundaries shall respect Communities of Interest to the extent practicable; • To the extent practicable, district lines shall use visible geographic features, city, town and county boundaries, and undivided census tracts; • To the extent practicable, competitive districts should be favored where to do so would create no significant detriment to the other goals; • Districts in the State may NOT be established with the major purpose of diluting the voting strength of any person, or group, including any political party, except as necessary to comply with the requirements of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. • The place of residence of any incumbent or political candidate shall not be considered in the creation of a map. Districts shall not be drawn for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political candidate, or political party. As used herein, a "Community of Interest" is a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation. The citizens of North Carolina and the entire Nation are fed up with politicians gaming the system and unfairly fixing elections through gerrymandering. Stop putting political party and special interests groups as your primary concern, and use your elected office to represent all citizens, in a fair, ethical manner.
| Jul 28 2017  | 2:03PM| Mr. Michael hi Weaver| The place of residence of any incumbent or political candidate shall not be considered in the creation of a map. Districts shall not be drawn for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political candidate, or political party. As used herein, a "Community of Interest" is a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation. The citizens of North Carolina and the entire Nation are fed up with politicians gaming the system and unfairly fixing elections through gerrymandering. Stop putting political party and special interests groups as your primary concern, and use your elected office to represent all citizens, in a fair, ethical manner.
| Jul 28 2017  | 2:54PM| Mr. Kenneth Kahn    | This should be a given: Sensible folks do not let the fox guard the henhouse if they want to keep their chickens and their eggs. In case this is not clear, no member of the legislative bodies of North Carolina should be able to control or influence the creation and editing of districts. The conflicts of interest are blatantly clear, and the temptations are all too clearly overpowering. It is past time for the manner of district definitions to be in the hands of independent citizens who will collaboratively create fair districts that more accurately reflect the political affiliations, preferences and interests of the population of our state. These folks should truly be private citizens with no vested political interests beyond their stated political affiliations and whom should hold no public office other than this one. Their responsibility is solely to periodically manage the district definitions to ensure fairness and accurate representation. The penalty for any attempt to influence these citizens by money or coercion should be very harsh, as should any future attempt to suborn the democratic process. Regarding how that fairness is created by the district definitions, it is clearly a complex affair. But a place to start may be to enforce a rule that groups people geographically in such way that there are no "carve-out" areas — e.g., that every voter in any given district live no farther away from any other voter in the same district than XX miles (TBD). Ultimately, the proof is in the pudding, though, and should any redistricting effort result in gross misrepresentation (to be defined), emergency and timely redistricting should be ordered, without appeal, by the courts.
| Jul 28 2017  | 3:10PM| Mr. Greg Goodman    | It's time to put patriotism before party. Get redistricting done and make it fair to everyone. No more partisan maps! I am absolutely appalled at the ongoing gerrymandering attempts by the GOP and the total disregard for the rule and spirit of the law. If you cannot win by your policies, get out of office.
| Jul 28 2017  | 3:24PM| Mr. Kenneth Kahn    | This should be a given: Sensible folks do not let the fox guard the henhouse if they want to keep their chickens and their eggs. In case this is not clear, no member of the legislative bodies of North Carolina should be able to control or influence the creation and editing of districts. The conflicts of interest are blatantly clear, and the temptations are all too clearly overpowering. It is past time for the manner of district definitions to be in the hands of independent citizens who will collaboratively create fair districts that more accurately reflect the political affiliations, preferences and interests of the population of our state. These folks should truly be private citizens with no vested political interests beyond their stated political affiliations and whom should hold no public office other than this one. Their responsibility is solely to periodically manage the district definitions to ensure fairness and accurate representation. The penalty for any attempt to influence these citizens by money or coercion should be very harsh, as should any future attempt to suborn the democratic process. Regarding how that fairness is created by the district definitions, it is clearly a complex affair. But a place to start may be to enforce a rule that groups people geographically in such way that there are no "carve-out" areas — e.g., that every voter in any given district live no farther away from any other voter in the same district than XX miles (TBD). Ultimately, the proof is in the pudding, though, and should any redistricting effort result in gross misrepresentation (to be defined), emergency and timely redistricting should be ordered, without appeal, by the courts.
| Jul 28 2017  | 3:27PM| Mr. John King       | The Independent Redistricting Commission shall revise the senate / house / congressional districts so that, to the extent possible, those districts meet the following goals: • Districts shall comply with the United States Constitution and the United States voting rights act; • Congressional districts shall have equal population to the extent practicable, and state legislative districts shall have equal population to the extent practicable; Districts shall be geographically compact and contiguous to the extent practicable; • District boundaries shall respect Communities of Interest to the extent practicable; • To the extent practicable, district lines shall use visible geographic features, city, town and county boundaries, and undivided census tracts; • To the extent practicable, competitive districts should be favored where to do so would create no significant detriment to the other goals; • Districts in the State may NOT be established with the major purpose of diluting the voting strength of any person, or group, including any political party, except as necessary to comply with the requirements of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. • The place of residence of any incumbent or political candidate shall not be considered in the creation of a map. Districts shall not be drawn for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political candidate, or political party. As used herein, a "Community of Interest" is a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation. The citizens of North Carolina and the entire Nation are fed up with politicians gaming the system and unfairly fixing elections through gerrymandering. Stop putting political party and special interests groups as your primary concern, and use your elected office to represent all citizens, in a fair, ethical manner.
| Jul 28 2017  | 3:27PM| Mr. John King       | This should be a given: Sensible folks do not let the fox guard the henhouse if they want to keep their chickens and their eggs. In case this is not clear, no member of the legislative bodies of North Carolina should be able to control or influence the creation and editing of districts. The conflicts of interest are blatantly clear, and the temptations are all too clearly overpowering. It is past time for the manner of district definitions to be in the hands of independent citizens who will collaboratively create fair districts that more accurately reflect the political affiliations, preferences and interests of the population of our state. These folks should truly be private citizens with no vested political interests beyond their stated political affiliations and whom should hold no public office other than this one. Their responsibility is solely to periodically manage the district definitions to ensure fairness and accurate representation. The penalty for any attempt to influence these citizens by money or coercion should be very harsh, as should any future attempt to suborn the democratic process. Regarding how that fairness is created by the district definitions, it is clearly a complex affair. But a place to start may be to enforce a rule that groups people geographically in such way that there are no "carve-out" areas — e.g., that every voter in any given district live no farther away from any other voter in the same district than XX miles (TBD). Ultimately, the proof is in the pudding, though, and should any redistricting effort result in gross misrepresentation (to be defined), emergency and timely redistricting should be ordered, without appeal, by the courts.
| Jul 28 2017  | 3:30PM| Julia Bryan         | Redistricting and gerrymandering for racial and/or strictly partisan advantage have taken the voice away from the citizens of North Carolina and completely undermined democracy in this state. It is past time that drawing all district lines be done in a nonpartisan manner.
| Jul 28 2017  | 3:31PM| Susan N             | Thank you for inviting this feedback. I would like to see a nonpartisan group set the new redistricting boundaries. It is vital to be neutral with political and racial lines. Susan Bolton.
| Jul 28 2017  | 3:32PM| Susan Bolton        | Thank you for requesting our input. We look forward to restoring North Carolina's status as a representative democracy, preeminent in fairness among these United States.
| Jul 28 2017  | 3:33PM| Mike Lumpkin        | It is essential that new legislative district be drawn in a non-partisan manner. Can we ALL — both parties — please put NATION ahead of party, and do what is best for all this country’s citizens? Winning is not Goal 1! We need a nonpartisan citizen committee. We are paying attention.
| Jul 28 2017  | 3:34PM| Mr. Ricky Rawlins    | The citizens of North Carolina and the entire Nation are fed up with politicians gaming the system and unfairly fixing elections through gerrymandering. Stop putting political party and special interests groups as your primary concern, and use your elected office to represent all citizens, in a fair, ethical manner.
| Jul 28 2017  | 3:35PM| Jean Cassiy         | Please make sure that the redistricting lines are drawn by a non-partisan citizen committee. We are paying attention.
| Jul 28 2017  | 3:36PM| Mr. Greg Goodman    | It’s time to put patriotism before party. Get redistricting done and make it fair to everyone. No more partisan maps!

Page 37 of 381
I have researched Gerrymandering in great detail. As a mathematician, I want to make it clear that I totally support setting up Independent Redistricting Commissions to draw up fair voting maps in North Carolina. The fact is that 40% of our state House district elections in 2016 were won by a margin of 80% to 20% -- it is unconscionable, creating unfair representation in the US House, the NC House and NC Senate. As a NC taxpayer and voter, I demand NC districts be redrawn in a nonpartisan manner.

The partisan gerrymandering that has occurred in NC is unconscionable, creating unfair representation in the US House, the NC House and NC Senate. As a NC taxpayer and voter, I demand NC districts be redrawn in a nonpartisan manner.

We need non-partisan redistricting! The Republican drawn maps were illegal maps. They must NOT be 'packed' either racially or by party affiliation. The maps should be created in a timely fashion...no more stalling.

This process must be fair and open, NOT created behind closed doors. We are watching as you redraw the illegally drawn voting districts. We were extremely disappointed in the General Assembly's vote against clean energy (wind farms) and education and wholly support the Governor in his bid to reinstate North Carolina as a place where business and people want to locate.

The illegal gerrymandering in our State has to stop. When the Supreme Court recognizes the inherent racism that is the reason behind the illegal drawing of voting districts, it is appalling that our General Assembly continues to flaunt the law and push through their personal agenda rather than the long term interest of their constituents.

We are watching as you redraw the illegally drawn voting districts. We are watching as you redraw the illegally drawn voting districts.

I want nonpartisan redistricting criteria used for drawing new legislative voting maps in NC. Republicans: Stop procrastinating and obstructing justice! The Supreme Court has ruled. End gerrymandering NOW. Even though North Carolina's voting population is evenly split along partisan lines, Republicans control 10 U.S. House seats compared to only three for Democrats. Using race to enforce an unfair advantage for Republicans is simply wrong.

I want fair voting maps drawn free from partisan politics. Please establish an independent nonpartisan commission to determine fair voting maps. This is the best plan for NC so that all citizens get a fair chance to choose their legislators.

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Form a nonpartisan commission, consisting of those versed in elections analysis applied by a non-partisan agent(s). The districts should be drawn so that the elected representative is easily and equitably accessible geographically to all constituents.

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Please give full legal representation to the people of North Carolina. Please implement them.

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July 28, 2017 6:38PM | Ms. Pamela Quattrini | I would like to see nonpartisan redistricting. North Carolina deserves fair voting maps & fair elections!

July 28, 2017 6:43PM | Ms. Mary Endres | For the sake of our Democracy and for our state, please end both racial and political gerrymandering. Both major parties have been equally 'guilty' of gerrymandering, pretty much throughout our country's history and our state's history. This is one tradition that needs to end.

Put your duty to serve ahead of your party and your own personal ambitions. We are a diverse state and a diverse country, and make-up of our state legislature, and our representatives to the US Congress ought to proportionally reflect that diversity.

I believe our country and our Democracy is in peril now - from within - largely as the result of gerrymandering.

If your primary loyalty is to your party, you are in the wrong business.

July 28, 2017 7:27PM | Ms. Janice Garver | Please have a non-partison group redesign the legislative districts. The current shape of District 116 with McHenry in office seems ridiculous. It spans from Asheville to Gastonia. How can it be representative of the views of people ranging from such a distance in the state?

July 28, 2017 7:52PM | Ms. Deborah Thurston | I am in support of setting up Independent Commissions to set up fair voting districts in NC. Gerrymandering does not result in a fair or accurate representation of your actual constituency. It is important that our General Assembly actually represent all the people of NC, not just a few.

July 28, 2017 8:21PM | Robert Aldrich | I want an impartial, non-partisan council to redraw the voting districts along non-racial and non-political lines. Our gerrymandered voting directly undermines our state democracy and humiliates North Carolina nationally. We NEED non-partisan voting districts.

July 28, 2017 8:22PM | Mrs. Patricia Harms | Gerrymandering makes for unfair elections. It has had a definite negative effect on North Carolina elections. It is time to emulate states like Iowa that have independent commissions to establish districts.

July 28, 2017 8:32PM | Mr. Marshall Bennett | STOP POLITICAL GERRYMANDERING. IF YOU'RE TOO SCARED TO RUN IN FAIR DISTRICTS, YOU SHOULD NOT BE IN OFFICE. STOP IT.

July 28, 2017 9:07PM | Mr. Jeffrey Hardin | I am in favor of a non-partisan form of redistricting that respects local interests and the integrity of the democratic process. Whether Democrat or Republican, voters should choose their representatives based on ideas, not on artificially drawn lines. As it has been, representatives have chosen their voters. This is not only wrong, it is unsustainable in an open society.

July 28, 2017 9:25PM | Ms. Michele Adler | I would like to see nonpartisan redistricting. North Carolina deserves fair voting maps & fair elections!

July 28, 2017 11:09PM | Ms. Pamela Quattrini | We need INDEPENDENT, NON-PARTISAN people to do this work, evenly and equally divided between the genders (all of them-maybe according to percentage of population base - you know 51% female, 43% male, 6% 'other'). Political party affiliation should not be taken into consideration.

July 29, 2017 11:16PM | Christine Van Gorder | North Carolina is one of the most gerrymandered states in the country! This does not allow for a fair election. Everyone's vote needs to count, that is what true democracy is based on! Please let North Carolina be the amazing state it was meant to be! Please redistrict in a fair and even way!

July 29, 2017 12:49AM | Mrs. Risa Botvinick | Not using a nonpartisan system to create Congressional and General Assembly districts has resulted in the absence of competition for seats in many districts. No competition means no accountability. Being a representative should mean being accountable to voters. Furthermore, one vote should have the same value as any other vote. I am disgusted by the creation of preposterous district lines, which reveal that districts were designed to serve the majority party, not to serve the electorate. Remedy this serious problem by adopting a nonpartisan method of drawing district maps.

July 29, 2017 2:26AM | Ms. Linda Sharp | I encourage you to create districts that allow voters to pick their representatives, and not the other way around; avoid racial and partisan gerrymandering; and be fair and open. Thank you.

July 29, 2017 2:25AM | Ms. Joanne McGrath | Fair redistricting determined on a strictly nonpartisan basis is absolutely essential to our democracy.

July 29, 2017 6:38AM | Sharon Burkitt | Legislative districts in North Carolina should be drawn on as much of a grid as possible, WITHOUT CONSIDERATION WHATSOEVER to the politics or race of the residents of the district. Voters should choose the representative, not the other way around.

July 29, 2017 7:56AM | Thomas Graham | I've been a citizen of NC for 66 years and a voter for 44. Please be big minded enough to set up non-partisan redistricting. End the abuse of power by whichever party has the majority when the census occurs. In the long term we will have better government if you do.
Our voting districts have been gerrymandered in a way that enables political parties to control results. This applies to both parties. Our state must have redistricting that reflects both geographical reality and population balance in order to have fair and truly representative voting. Please work for us the people of this state to eliminate gerrymandering and to redistrict in a manner that represents the balance and fairness we deserve to have for our vote.

Districts should be drawn with as much of a geographical grid as possible without regard to race or political affiliation. There should not be any long spikes or odd shaped districts which traverse several counties.

Right now, North Carolina only has a semblance of Democracy, and the people have suffered because of that. The only Way back to a true and robust democracy is to draw fair and Competitive legislative districts. This will finally serve the public good. We, the people, must select our legislators and legislators must not select their voters.

I strongly support non-partisan optimally compact redistricting. thank you for your work on redistricting, the voting process is vital to the preservation of our representative form of government and should not be diluted through partisanship or bias in districting. we deserve a non-partisan process in the development of voting district lines. thank you again for your efforts in redistricting!

We need voting districts that are free from partisan politics. Let us vote for our lawmakers and not the other way around! When redistricting please use the Shortest Spline method or a computer algorithm that creates the best districts based on compactness, Thank you.

We support a process for drawing political district maps that is fair and open, that avoids racial or partisan gerrymandering and allows voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around. I urge lawmakers to support a redistricting process that follows these guiding principles. Democracy is at stake!

Make the lines follow county lines. NC has 100 counties so this shouldn’t be difficult. There would be only a few cases where a County had to be split and even then it should be done with a straight line. Some of the outlawed districts are really pathetic and it doesn’t take a genius to figure out why they were drawn the way they were.

I want a redistricting process that is fair and open. Partisan gerrymandering has gone much too far in recent years. As a voter in North Carolina, I will be watching!

I would like to see a redistricting process that is: fair and open; avoids racial or partisan gerrymandering; and allows voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around.

We need our democracy to be reborn in the drawing of our districts. We need them to be done in a non-partisan and non-racist way. We all are hurt when we are not true to our democratic principles. It is past time for fairness to lead the way to an honest future.

When drawing political district maps it should go without saying the districts ought to: be fair and open; avoid racial or partisan gerrymandering; and allow voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around.

Independent non-partisan citizens should be in charge of creating all districts that have equal amounts of Democrats, Republicans, Independents, and the unaffiliated. Peer-reviewed scientific research should guide independent non-partisan redistricting decisions, and in fact peer-reviewed scientific research should guide decision-making in all aspects of governing and the voting process; without influence from lobbyists, wealth or financial interests, and/or reelection self-interests. Voting rights and participation should be open, transparent, unfettered, and easy for all types of folks. Nothing should be done that limits any individual voter or voting group from fully participating. In addition, means should be given to guarantee that voting in NC is free from Russian or outside manipulation, and that our personal voting information is kept 100% secure here in NC, and not given to a national Whitehouse database. Thank you.
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<td>Jul 29 2017 4:30PM</td>
<td>Mr. George Huntley</td>
<td>Both House and Senate, democrats and Republicans need to first agree that fair elections are the foundation for sound governing in a strong democracy. We need each representative to commit to doing the right thing and re-draw districts fairly. Lots of folks feel like the kind of opportunism at play as the current districts are drawn is unethical. Don't wait until the other party gains control, take the high road now and it's the right thing.</td>
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<td>Jul 29 2017 4:43PM</td>
<td>Tim Scales</td>
<td>I strongly support a nonpartisan, unbiased committee to oversee redrawing of congressional districts. Please cease all delaying tactics and buckle down to the people's business of redrawing NC's voting districts so that all voters, black, white and Hispanic; Democratic, Republican, and independent are fairly and equally represented. Yes, it's common knowledge that the party in power has always drawn districts to their own advantage, but a history of wrongs does not make a right. Now is your chance to do the right thing!</td>
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<td>Jul 29 2017 5:09PM</td>
<td>Dr. Sam Pearsall</td>
<td>Partisan gerrymandering has long been a problem in this state and it needs to stop. It only results in frustration and disenfranchisement and increasingly extreme polarization, and discourages people from being involved in state politics because why bother trying to be involved if there's no way you can ever hope to win if you're in a safe district for the opposing party? Why bother trying to reach across to all your constituents if you're in a safe district for your own party? Each side is guilty of this at different times, but it is now at the point where it is tearing our state apart. I'm an independent voter in Ashe County and I fully support and encourage independent redistricting. No one's seat should be safe.</td>
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<td>Jul 29 2017 5:29PM</td>
<td>Susan Dodder</td>
<td>Ordinary citizens feel they have no say in who represents them. In my former district there was absolutely no opposition for our legislator. Citizens are at the end of their patience and are frustrated with the partisan gridlock, entrenched incumbents, blatant obstructionism, power grabbing, and failure to compromise. When we consider how lawmakers, Republican or Democrat; once in power, routinely use gerrymandering to stay in power and are no longer accountable to the people. This state spends millions of dollars in taxpayer money for redistricting litigation. It is NOW time to end gerrymandering. I support the passage of HB200 and SB209 so that the citizens of North Carolina can know that our legislative districts are drawn fairly. The time has come to end gerrymandering and restore full democracy to our state. I urge you to support these bills.</td>
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<td>Jul 29 2017 7:11PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Lynn Pritchard</td>
<td>Shame on those who created and passed voter redistricting lines that were unconstitutional and illegal. Our previous governor was voted out because of ideas such as this one. I hope you got the message that the people of North Carolina won't tolerate illegal plans certain members have and try to push through. And the new lines had better be carefully and fairly done this time.</td>
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<td>Jul 29 2017 7:22PM</td>
<td>Dr. Peter Anderson</td>
<td>Essentially, districts should be drawn so that the demographics of the district are represented in the outcome of the voters. At this time, it may be best to study how districts were drawn 50 years ago as the manipulation of district boundaries has been in practice for a long time. The gerrymandering has been crystal clear to the courts and to most observers. The Republicans may be too deep into it and therefore it may also be best if an independent commission/consultant redraw the maps.</td>
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<td>Jul 29 2017 10:08PM</td>
<td>Jennifer Rudolph</td>
<td>Our beautiful state used to be in the headlines for the best place to raise a family, go to college, vacation, or be welcomed because of its diverse mix of old southern charm coupled with 21st century progress. But the national headlines today make me sad for our state. Gerrymandering, racial and partisan profiling, and lawsuits costing the North Carolinian taxpayers millions, are dominating the local and national news. We have now become &quot;that state&quot; where revenge politics rules and certain officials are living in the past instead of moving forward based on what is right for our future. The more I learn about gerrymandering the more I realize that it is the single most important issue facing North Carolina right now. Denying a vote on independent re-districting (HB200) means the elected officials in charge are worried about the effects of fair maps on the next election. Fair maps create competitive campaigns. If these officials are worried about that, then we have every right to be worried about the future of democracy in North Carolina. The NCGOP has shown that it can not be trusted to draw fair maps. The sheer gall they have to re-hire Dr Hofeller to re-draw the maps and NOT allow the committee full access to him shows their nefarious intent. If the courts don't demand an independent commission to draw new maps then the NCGA must do the right thing and vote to pass HB200 themselves.</td>
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<td>Jul 29 2017 10:33PM</td>
<td>Dr. Sarah Carmichael</td>
<td>Partisan gerrymandering has long been a problem in this state and it needs to stop. It only results in frustration and disenfranchisement and increasingly extreme polarization, and discourages people from being involved in state politics because why bother trying to be involved if there's no way you can ever hope to win if you're in a safe district for the opposing party? Why bother trying to reach across to all your constituents if you're in a safe district for your own part? Each side is guilty of this at different times, but it is now at the point where it is tearing our state apart. I'm an independent voter in Ashe County and I fully support and encourage independent redistricting. No one's seat should be safe.</td>
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I support a fair and open process for creating new districts. It should not be left to one party to create the districts but to a nonpartisan group that makes the new maps. Counties should not be so divided and communities should be kept together with new maps.

Ms. Ann Seymour
Jul 30 2017 7:14AM
The process of redistricting needs to be completed fairly and rapidly. It is so disheartening to see the behavior of our legislators in their refusal to advance this process.

Mrs. Rita Parham
Jul 30 2017 7:32AM
NC badly needs a non-partisan redistricting commission so that neither party can gerrymander ever again.

Ms. Laura Abraham
Jul 30 2017 7:35AM
Please let districts reflect their communities, not abstract shapes to take away the voting impact of marginalized people.

Mr. David Molinaro
Jul 30 2017 8:44AM
Responsibility for redistricting should be vested in an independent special commission, with membership that reflects the diversity of the unit of government, including citizens at large, representatives of public interest groups, and members of minority groups.

Criteria: Districts should be apportioned primarily according to population ("one person one vote"). Districts should be single-member, compact, convenient, contiguous, and reflect communities of interest.

Other Additional criteria should:
• Be enforceable in court
• Require: Substantially equal population, geographic contiguity, effective representation of racial and linguistic minorities
• Provide for promotion of partisan fairness, preservation and protection of 'communities of interest', respect for boundaries of municipalities and counties
• Compactness and competitiveness may also be considered as criteria so long as they do not conflict with the above criteria
• Explicitly reject: Protection of incumbents. Do not use of addresses of incumbents or political affiliation of registered voters or other partisan data.

Ms. Ruby Coughenour
Jul 30 2017 8:57AM
I share the views of Democracy NC. We need districts that are fair and open, avoiding racial or partisan gerrymandering. We need districts that allow voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around.

Daniel Sircar
Jul 30 2017 10:30AM
I support a process for drawing political district maps that is fair and open; avoids racial or partisan gerrymandering; and allows voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around.

I urge lawmakers to support a redistricting process that follows these guiding principles. I also urge lawmakers to follow the efficiency gap standards developed by researchers when considering redistricting for fair representation. I also urge lawmakers to support a redistricting process that follows these guiding principles. I also urge lawmakers to follow the efficiency gap standards developed by researchers when considering redistricting for fair representation.

To whom it may concern. I am a lifetime resident of North Carolina. I am writing to demand an independent redistricting process. The courts have found that the maps were drawn with “surgical precision” to undermine the political power of African Americans, by packing some districts while making others safely Republican. Racial gerrymandering has a long and sorted history in NC and the south in general. Segregationist Democrats used the same tactics and more to suppress the democratic representation of people of color under Jim Crow. The current GOP strategy aided by modern technology has taken this historical racial injustice and brought it into the 21st century. This is unacceptable. It is clear now that the only concern of the NC General Assembly is to hold onto their ill-gotten power. It is profoundly undemocratic for representatives to be able to choose their constituents. Rather voters should be able to elect people to represent themselves without fear that the color of their skin or their voter history will be used to undermine their access to democratic representation. That is why I am demanding an independent body to redraw the districts in our state. The General assembly cannot be trusted to objectively draw their own maps. There must be an independent body to take on this essential task if we are to save our representative democracy.

Veva Silva
Jul 30 2017 10:44AM
I am concerned about partisan gerrymandering in our state. Please vote to make districts that are geographically reasonable and reflect the racial diversity in a way that will not disenfranchise voters of color or religious minorities. There should be voting areas in our state that are not majority white.

Bill Roach
Jul 30 2017 10:55AM
I support nonpartisan redistricting. No single political party should be in charge of establishing voting districts. I believe that this will allow political debate/discourse which will fairly reflect all sides of an issue. Neither political party should be in a position to neglect the views of up to 50% of the voters with little regard for consequences.
I support a process for drawing political district maps that is:

- fair and open;
- avoids racial or partisan gerrymandering; and
- allows voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around.

I urge lawmakers to support a redistricting process that follows these guiding principles.

Thank you,

[Signature]
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timestamp</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jul 30 2017 3:54PM</td>
<td>Dr. Joan Jobsis</td>
<td>We need a redistricting process that is free of racial and/or partisan bias. And, we need an independent redistricting process that neither party (Republican or Democratic) can influence in the present or in the future. The citizens of this State deserve to have their votes count, to have their voices heard, and to have representatives who serve their well-being and their interests.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 30 2017 4:45PM</td>
<td>Dr. William Yeager</td>
<td>It is time to stop playing games with voting rights. We need an independent, non-partisan commission to redistrict the NC legislature and judicial seats.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 30 2017 5:06PM</td>
<td>Ms. Patricia Rieser</td>
<td>Dear Public Servants, We write in response to your invitation for comments regarding your tardy and court-ordered effort to draw new maps for NC's federal and state electoral districts. In our work experience, we would not have been invited to &quot;try again&quot; after multiple attempts at my efforts had been rebuffed and found inadequate by numerous courts, that's sadly not the case for Mr Lewis and Mr Hofeller. We are among the MAJORITY of moderate NC citizens who are sick of hyper-partisanship and the wild swings of power in our state. We want to see districts that fairly represent ALL NC citizens. Criteria we would like to see used include: Compliance with the US Constitution and the Voting Rights Act Districts with equal population Districts that are contiguous and geographically compact Districts that are competitive, as long as the above criteria are met Districts that are NOT established with the purpose of diluting the voting strength of any people, groups, or political parties Districts that are NOT drawn to favor or discriminate against any incumbent, political candidate, or political party. The voters of this state, along with the courts, are following your actions closely. Perhaps this time will be the charm, and you will finally carry out the will of the majority of citizens who support fair districts. Thank you. Patti Rieser, RN, FNP (retired) Joseph Woolley, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 30 2017 5:17PM</td>
<td>Ms. Cheri DeRosia</td>
<td>Do the right thing before a court makes you do it. Stop the ridiculous expenditure of public funds to defend unfair districts. It's easy - use the nonpartisan maps developed by Duke University and Common Cause in 2016. Or something else. Just do it!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 30 2017 5:26PM</td>
<td>Mr. Jamie MacKinnon</td>
<td>Anyone can tell when a district has been gerrymandered. A district should look as close to a square or rectangle as possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 30 2017 5:59PM</td>
<td>Mr. Robin Myer</td>
<td>I want an independent council to be responsible for redistricting all of North Carolina's voting districts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 30 2017 6:05PM</td>
<td>Ms. Michele Phillips</td>
<td>This must be done immediately as we are in limbo. And the redistricting MUST be fair and open, avoid racial or partisan gerrymandering, and allows voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around. If this does not happen - then NC is not known a democracy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 30 2017 7:00PM</td>
<td>Ms. Leesa Brieger</td>
<td>We sorely need non-partisan generation of district maps so that the practice of racially-driven and/or partisan-driven districting ends (and doesn't return). The current state of affairs with districting presents a threat to our democracy, to which the current GOP super-majority seems to have little interest in adhering. But the voters are not OK with that! End this state of affairs - stop the practice of the legislators choosing their voters rather than the other way around! Guarantee districting that does not discriminate along partisan or racial lines. Get politics out of districting NOW!</td>
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<td>Jul 30 2017 7:14PM</td>
<td>Lara Little</td>
<td>All districts should be drawn to take into account population and geography with no regard at all for voting history or party affiliation. This nation was founded on the idea of a democracy where everyone gets to vote - but this is negated if districts are drawn to suppress votes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 30 2017 8:08PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Sarah Morse</td>
<td>I urge the NCGA to adopt a redistricting policy and procedure that is wholly non-partisan, as to completely avoid political, racial, and socioeconomic gerrymandering. I support the establishment of an independent redistricting body that would draw new, fair districts completely separate and apart from the influence of elected officials, lobbyists, and corporations. Thank you for this opportunity to submit comment on this very important issue. I hope you will do your utmost to ensure that North Carolina's government is a fair and representative democracy that is a model for the nation and allows voters to choose their representatives, not the other way around.</td>
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<td>Jul 30 2017 9:26PM</td>
<td>Ms. Leigh Watts</td>
<td>Maps should be drawn using no political, scientific criteria that divide the state into districts of equal population size that are diverse. There are software programs that can accomplish this without any bias.</td>
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<td>Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 30 2017 9:43PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ms. Demarie Anderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 30 2017 10:27PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Bruce Springthorpe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Jul 30 2017 10:33PM |        | Ms. Demarie Anderson | It's critical that our districts be drawn to allow fair and open elections. Fair and unbiased political district maps would ensure everyone's vote is counted and that we get reps that only serve their team's wingnuts.  

It's time for the General Assembly to establish a permanent, non-partisan redistricting committee. The primary goal of the committee is impartial, fair and open redistricting. An independent, non-partisan redistricting committee is the only path to establishing a General Assembly that truly represents the will of North Carolinians. |
| Jul 31 2017 12:09AM |        | Ms. Kidd Treadway | It's critical that our districts be drawn to allow fair and open elections of our representatives free of manipulation through gerrymandering by political parties. A practice that our founding fathers would condemn as contrary to the principles on which our country was founded. It's time we started practicing true democracy again. |
| Jul 31 2017 12:26AM |        | Mr. Lawrence Turk | Partisan commissions will always be unfair and undemocratic. It's long past time for nonpartisan redistricting. Your obsessive gerrymandering has created our state and national mess. So many 'safe' seats means we get reps that only serve their team's wingnuts. |
| Jul 31 2017 6:46AM |        | Mrs. Liz Noland | I support a process for drawing political district maps that is: fair and open; avoids racial or partisan gerrymandering; and allows voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around.  

I urge lawmakers to support a nonpartisan redistricting process that follows these guiding principles. I do not feel that the current method of having lawmakers draw their own districts, results in representatives who truly represent me or my fellow constituents in my region of NC. |
| Jul 31 2017 6:58AM |        | Robin Buchanan | Divide districts by population only. Where possible, keep counties intact. Do not use ANY other criteria. |
| Jul 31 2017 7:02AM |        | Robin Buchanan | Let a computer draw the lines based on population. No other criteria. |
| Jul 31 2017 8:38AM |        | Ms. Linda Hartford | In the spirit of our Constitution of the United States PLEASE support a fair and democratic redistricting map.  

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. |
| Jul 31 2017 8:57AM |        | Maggi Jackson | I support a process for drawing political district maps that is: fair and open; avoids racial or partisan gerrymandering; and allows voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around.  

I urge lawmakers to support a redistricting process that follows these guiding principles. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. |
| Jul 31 2017 9:10AM |        | Ms. Kimberley Korb | I demand fair voting maps in NC. Decisions are underway in the state regarding gerrymandered voting districts, which have significantly contributed to the Republican-held supermajorities in the NC General Assembly. This is unacceptable. |
| Jul 31 2017 9:12AM |        | Jeannette Stokes | I would like for the redistricting maps to be drawn in a way that is free of partisan politics. We can have districts in which voters get to choose their representatives instead of maps on which representatives choose their voters. |
| Jul 31 2017 9:22AM |        | Mr. Marc Schaub | It's time for the General Assembly to establish a permanent, independent committee to handle redistricting. I am one of over 2 million unaffiliated voters - we make up 30% of the electorate in North Carolina - and I continue to be distressed by the efforts of both parties to gerrymander districts with no regard for anything except holding on to power. The establishment of an independent, non-partisan committee is the only path to establishing a General Assembly that truly represents the will of North Carolinians. |
Redistricting maps must be drawn fairly, without intrusion from partisan politics. I would ask that the NCGA engage in a process that is "truly" transparent, fair and impartial in this redistricting. It is important to have public meetings and input, but it is also important that public input actually be taken into account; the evidence in the lawsuits is clear that public input was for show only last time and was almost completely disregarded. I also believe that it is a mistake to involve Thomas Hofeller again, since so many of the districts drawn under his direction have been declared unconstitutional. Especially since Rep. Lewis has declared that Democrats will have no access to him. How is this transparent, fair, or impartial? If the state wants to avoid more embarrassing lawsuits, then a good start would be to make the process more fair.

No demographic info other than needed for law, party registration, or vote history should be included in drawing maps. Only population. Districts should not be drawn for any partisan advantage. Thank you so much for considering this feedback.

Redistricting maps must be drawn fairly, without intrusion from partisan politics, and in a way that protects natural groupings of citizens (counties, towns). The General Assembly should NOT pick their voters - voters have to be able to pick their representatives and senators. The maps must be redrawn NOW. Passing laws with illegal districts is a lesson in unethical behavior and cynicism.

Redistricting in North Carolina must adhere to the following criteria:

1. allowing voters to select their political representatives, NOT the other way round
2. being transparent and fair
3. NOT gerrymandering in terms of race and partisanship
4. NOT being delayed

The courts, including the United States Supreme Court, have decided against gerrymandering in North Carolina. Any effort to negate, nullify, or put off redistricting that follows the criteria listed above would be un-American, defying and undermining the three branches of government, both the North Carolina State and the U.S. constitutions, and well-established law.

As a long time resident of the state, I am appalled at the amount of time, money and effort that has gone into the redistricting process. It is a stain on our state's reputation to have been repeatedly rebuked by the courts, including the US Supreme Court. Please take this opportunity to redraw the maps in a fair way that is not impacted by either racial or partisan considerations. It is time for all political parties to succeed or fail based on their policies, accomplishment and vision for our state, and not based upon having given themselves an unfair advantage. Indeed, what has been done is morally and ethically indefensible and it is time to take a step back from that brink.

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My name is Marissa Joyce, and I am writing to strongly advocate in favor of non-partisan redistricting in our state. I think it is shameful that NC is in the national spotlight for unfair gerrymandering, and I think it is time for our state to lead the nation in integrity and unbiased voting. This is a unique opportunity we have to re-write our maps, and I, for one, think it is high time that we get rid of partisan politics in the way we draw the maps altogether. It is VERY important to me that we draw our political districts in a way that is fair and open, avoids racial or partisan bias, and allows the VOTERS to determine who gets elected, not the elected officials. Thank you so much for considering this feedback.

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I urge you to implement a special, non-partisan commission to create fair districts for the state of North Carolina. Your constituents are tired of having our votes manipulated by either party through the unfair gerrymandering that has happened at the hands of both the Democrats and the Republicans.

The gerrymandering by both parties has made North Carolina a laughing stock and a travesty of democracy. Please implement a special, non-partisan commission to create fair districts for the state of North Carolina. Your constituents are tired of having our votes manipulated by either party through the unfair gerrymandering that has happened at the hands of both the Democrats and the Republicans.

Dr. Dennis Welch

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Thank you so much for considering this feedback.
Mr. Edward Ragsdale
I am writing to urge everyone involved in redistricting to put aside partisan politics and any perceived political wins or loses so that they can take seriously the task of fairly and impartially deciding our districts. As someone who doesn't share a district with my neighbors across the street but does share a district with people in Goldsboro 80 miles away, I have been appalled by the depths of partisanship and racism that determined these districts. I believe what we really need is to establish a process of using a third-party impartial organization separated from political influence and bound by strict rules to disregard or not be allowed data pertaining to socioeconomic or race of the populace and based solely on population and traits of the physical

Dr. Peter Anderson
The districts should not turn out to be the same as before, so we can waste more time and tax dollars being revealed as unconstitutional. Therefore, the districts should follow state and federal law, Voting Rights Act and state constitutional mandates. Avoid splitting counties and follow boundaries of state political subdivisions. Ignore results of past elections and residence of incumbents or challengers. Be leary of Tom Hofeller and listen to NC citizens.

Mrs. Shirley Thomas
Let's get this redistricting done for the midterm election in 2018!

Mrs. Kimberly Rehberg
I would like to suggest first that you hire a different consultant than Hofeller, who was so integrally involved in creating the most hyper-partisan and unconstitutional legislative and congressional districts in the country. This is NOT what NC should be known for.

Secondly, in terms of criteria for redistricting, NC protection of all NC citizens necessitates that the G.A. be guided by the following criteria in re-drawing districts:
1) Politically Neutral – No addresses of candidates or incumbents should be used, and residents’ voting histories should not be considered.
2) Compact and Contiguous – Voters within a district should not be unnecessarily dispersed, and no voting district may be geographically divided, or split, by another district, i.e. all portions of a district must connect.
3) Respect Boundaries – Avoid dividing counties and municipalities where possible.
4) Protect Communities of Interest – Avoid dividing communities of interest where possible. Communities of interest typically have social, cultural, racial, ethnic, and/or economic interests in common.
5) Transparent Process – The process of creating maps should be transparent, providing maps as soon as possible, live-streaming meetings, and allowing the public to provide suggestions for changes to the draft maps.

Mrs. Kathleen Klesh
My husband and I would like redistricting to be based on the bi-partisan House Bill 200. This would reduce partisan gerrymandering. It has worked in Iowa. Enough politicking. It's time to let the voters vote and choose their representatives in the House and Senate, not the reverse.

Ms. Betty Lawrence
It is hard to comment when we haven't seen what we are commenting on. However, I want to say that I am appalled that our legislature has been unconstitutionally elected for the last three elections, and that the unconstitutional legislature is setting itself up for sessions in (at least) August, September and May. Redistricting should be expedited to permit a special election this year. It should also be done in a nonpartisan manner. I am a registered Independent, and I am so tired of partisanship seeping into every nook and cranny of our government. It is a travesty. Give us a map of the new districts; we can comment on that. I actual hope the Court appoints a special master, because the current unconstitutional majority has given me no reason to hope it will behave in a responsible way.

Beth Davison
Because of sophisticated GIS mapping software and big data, we know, probably with around 90% accuracy, how a household is likely to vote. Thus drawing district maps with engineered precision to favor one party over the other is easy to do, but wrong. The result is what we see in the U.S. Congress, gridlock. When you know you are in a safe seat, there is no need to compromise. We need a better alternative that takes into account how we are geographically sorting ourselves primarily into urban/progressive and rural/conservative communities. Packing and cracking these communities stifies political input. Our current system is not a democracy. Redistricting matters, we can do better. To start, let voters pick the politicians, instead of the current redistricting system where politicians pick their voters.
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Author</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jul 31 2017</td>
<td>1:02PM</td>
<td>Mr. L Patrick Burrows</td>
<td>With the redistricting process underway because of the Supreme Court's ruling that the previous district maps were an unconstitutional racial gerrymander, I am writing to voice my extreme concern that the new maps are drawn in a fair and transparent way. It is clear that the previous maps attempted to disenfranchise black voters in particular, and Democratic voters in general. This is absolutely unacceptable. It runs contrary to the democratic and republican principles on which this nation was founded, and on which this State has long been an example within the South, for lawmakers to pick their voters rather than the voters freely selecting those who are to represent them. It is deeply concerning that the same GOP mapmaker as who drew the previous unconstitutional maps is involved in drawing them again, and almost spells another trip through the courts to knock them down again. Rather than repeat this constant back and forth between Democrats and Republicans both gerrymandering, this process should be entirely unpartisan, with political scientists and experts in voting fairness involved from top to bottom. Especially with the significant resources in just this particular area in the various universities within the State system, there is no reason these resources should not be drawn upon. There should be an independent, politics-blind commission responsible for districting. The maps, when they are finalized, should be widely disseminated and public comments once again invited, so as to maintain public accountability. This should not be a closed door process, nor should it be a late night vote. We are watching you, and we will demand accountability of you. Our democratic institutions are under unprecedented assault right now. Redistricting needs to be based solely on common sense geographical areas. Attempts to weight districts towards a party majority is unethical no matter what party it favors. Every citizen's vote should have the ability to count and not be automatically invalid because of manipulated districting. I am a moderate republican and believe we should protect our democratic process!</td>
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<td>Jul 31 2017</td>
<td>2:08PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Ann Baker</td>
<td>I suggest that new maps be guided by the following criteria: Politically Neutral – No addresses of candidates or incumbents should be used, and residents' voting histories should not be considered. Compact and Contiguous – Voters within a district should not be unnecessarily dispersed, and no voting district may be geographically divided, or split, by another district, i.e. all portions of a district must connect. Respect Boundaries – Avoid dividing counties and municipalities where possible. Protect Communities of Interest – Avoid dividing communities of interest where possible. Communities of interest typically have social, cultural, racial, ethnic, and/or economic interests in common. Transparent Process – The process of creating maps should be transparent, providing maps as soon as possible, live-streaming meetings, and allowing the public to provide suggestions for changes to the draft maps.</td>
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<td>Jul 31 2017</td>
<td>2:20PM</td>
<td>Dianna Wynn</td>
<td>I suggest that new maps be guided by the following criteria: Politically Neutral – No addresses of candidates or incumbents should be used, and residents' voting histories should not be considered. Compact and Contiguous – Voters within a district should not be unnecessarily dispersed, and no voting district may be geographically divided, or split, by another district, i.e. all portions of a district must connect. Respect Boundaries – Avoid dividing counties and municipalities where possible. Protect Communities of Interest – Avoid dividing communities of interest where possible. Communities of interest typically have social, cultural, racial, ethnic, and/or economic interests in common. Transparent Process – The process of creating maps should be transparent, providing maps as soon as possible, live-streaming meetings, and allowing the public to provide suggestions for changes to the draft maps.</td>
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<td>Jul 31 2017</td>
<td>2:45PM</td>
<td>Dr. Justin Johnson</td>
<td>To fully represent the people of North Carolina, any non-state-wide partisan electoral district (judges, US Congress, NCGA, etc) should be drawn by a bipartisan group of non-elected citizens, to eliminate the possibility of gerrymandering of any kind. Districts should be drawn as evenly as possible with regard to political party registration, so as to select for the most moderate, non-ideologically skewed candidates possible. An ideal district will have 50% registered Republicans and 50% registered Democrats, since the state as a whole is roughly 50-50. This is best for government - the current gerrymandered districts select for the most extremist candidates of both parties, leading to dysfunctional government, because ideologues put ideological extremism over good compromising government. The people should elect their representation, not the other way around. Justin Johnson</td>
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<td>Jul 31 2017</td>
<td>2:45PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Helene Heilig</td>
<td>I am writing in support of setting up Independent Commissions to draw fair voting maps in North Carolina. A independent group should be able to establish maps to allow for fair representation of all people in NC. Thank you.</td>
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<td>Jul 31 2017</td>
<td>3:11PM</td>
<td>Ms. Rae Thompson</td>
<td>I am an active NC voter. I believe voting districts should accurately represent ALL the citizens of the state in proportion to where they live, not gerrymandered by race or party. In addition, I urge you to follow the criteria below to create maps for NC Senate and House and US Congressional districts: ? Compliance with the US Constitution and the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965 ? Districts with equal population to the greatest extent possible ? Districts that are geographically compact and contiguous ? Districts that are NOT established with the major purpose of diluting the voting strength of any people or groups, including any political party ? Districts should NOT be drawn for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against any incumbent, political candidate, or political party.</td>
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<td>Jul 31 2017 3:40PM</td>
<td>Carolyn Silber</td>
<td>I strongly favor a nonpartisan legislative staff to redraw our district maps that neither dilutes or augments voting patterns that favor an incumbent or political party. States that have already done so have experienced few legislative challenges saving time and money not to mention increased voter satisfaction that his or her &quot;vote mattered&quot;</td>
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<td>Jul 31 2017 3:44PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Taneka Williams</td>
<td>Given the verdict from the Supreme Court of the United States of America, it is vital to our state government that gerrymandering end. I am requesting bipartisan collaboration to ensure results.</td>
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<td>Jul 31 2017 3:45PM</td>
<td>Mr. Steven Grochowski</td>
<td>1) Maintaining or establishing a partisan advantage for any party must not be a criterion for the construction or approval of House and Senate district plans.</td>
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<td>Jul 31 2017 3:45PM</td>
<td>Ms. Shirley Ferguson</td>
<td>2) Districts must be compact and contiguous.</td>
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<td>Jul 31 2017 3:45PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Ellen McNeill</td>
<td>3) District boundaries shall conform to the existing geographic boundaries of counties and cities and shall preserve identifiable communities of interest.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 31 2017 3:46PM</td>
<td>Steve Harrison</td>
<td>Public confidence in our electoral system is at an all-time low, and the only way to begin to restore that is to remove the obvious conflicts of interest surrounding the partisan redistricting process. At the very least, elected officials from both parties should be actively involved, to ensure any issues that arise are dealt with now, and not in court a few months down the road. Because make no mistake, doing the wrong thing multiple times is not going to solve this problem, it will just make it worse. And the longer this problem persists, the more the voting public will come to believe it is their rights being withheld and abused, and not just a candidate's right to a fair election. The choice is yours: Continue to erode the democracy so many people died building and defending, or do what you know is right. It's not a hard decision.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 31 2017 3:47PM</td>
<td>Dr. Rebecca Fogley</td>
<td>I moved to SC, just a short while ago. I have been active in legislature issues and politics for several years in NC. Before my husband and I moved, I worked for the 2010 Census and attended several of the GOP redistricting meetings in Wilmington, NC. Here is what my notes stated about these meetings. The panel of members conducting redistricting were polite and on time. The notice of those meetings were not as forth coming as they should have been and were cut short. Most of the information given by the public was given with the full knowledge that the GOP planned to gerrymander the congressional districts of NC. I would like to say that any of the learned statements by the public were taken into account. That was not the case. Their statements for a fair and legally draw map were listened to and disregarded. Even reports from Congressmen McIntyre were incorrect. After 18 years in the Congress, his district was to look nothing like an acceptable, accountable drawing of the 7th district. After the GOP submitted their plan it was obvious that the plan was not drawn on the basis of population and their boundaries. As it turned out only 2 district were compliant based on acceptable deviation, thus the Court cases to the highest level. The history of NC is one of political advantage when it comes to redistricting. This policy of political dishonesty when it comes to redistricting must end. North Carolina needs a bipartisan commission to redraw the lines for the Congressional redistricting for 2018 and continue this process as a permanent legislative entity for the future.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 31 2017 3:50PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Lucia Messina</td>
<td>Dear Chairman and Members: I am a registered Democrat, and while I would like more qualified Democratic candidates to be elected, I implore you to draw political district maps that avoid partisan gerrymandering. Regardless of party affiliation, I want my fellow North Carolinians' votes to be equally impactful. In this vein, I am also strongly opposed to racial gerrymandering. I urge you to make the process for redrawing maps open in order to safeguard against such tactics that pervert democracy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 31 2017 3:52PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Linda Hall</td>
<td>I want to see lawmakers draw political maps that are fair and open which will not reflect racial or partisan gerrymandering as they are now. As citizens we should be served by representatives who want to make the moral, honest, ethical decisions and not choose their constituents according to their politics. Do the Christian thing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 31 2017 3:54PM</td>
<td>Mr. Brody Wooten</td>
<td>I would like to see districts that are not gerrymandered. Neither racially or politically. I think districts that are so heavily tilted to one party that only that party's candidate runs, and the opposition doesn't even have a candidate in that district, is a travesty. The new districts should be fairly balanced, and allow citizens to have a fair choice between the parties.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 31 2017 3:57PM</td>
<td>Dale Lee</td>
<td>Maintaining or establishing a partisan advantage for any party should not be a criterion for construction or approval of any electoral district. This is fundamental to the American Way. Please rise above your self interest and do the right thing. Ask your minister and your conscience.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 31 2017 7:02PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Elizabeth Ritter</td>
<td>Maintaining or establishing a partisan advantage for any party shall NOT be a criterion for the construction or approval of House and Senate district plans.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Both parties have been using the redistricting process to their advantage when they were in power which means voters have often been denied a fair voice in elections. It is past time to have truly fair, nonbiased districts. Please work to accomplish this for all the citizens of North Carolina.

I am writing to urge the General Assembly to redraw the voting maps without regard for partisan political factors. Voting is a fundamental right upon which our democracy is based. Gerrymandering district boundaries to predetermine election outcomes is wrong and denies citizens their voting rights. Districts should be drawn that are based on nonpartisan factors such as compactness, contiguity and compliance with the Voting Rights Act, not on political data having to do with party affiliations.

While gerrymandering has been a long standing issue, there have been many bipartisan efforts in North Carolina to establish processes to rectify and prevent it in the future. Over the past several years, North Carolina has been the focus of negative attention, experienced confusion around elections and wasted a great deal of money due to

As a citizen of North Carolina, I urge that these efforts be heeded.

The concept of democracy, the integrity of NC elections, and the will of NC citizens, have been subverted by illegally drawn district maps. Gerrymandering is anathema to One-Person-One-Vote. As of 2016, 60% of NC voters favor INDEPENDENT (non-legislature, non-partisan) redrawing if our maps; only 9% opposed. – Please see the impartial sample map drawn by Duke University & Common Cause in August 3016. – The sooner, the better, as the people of NC are losing trust in a gerrymandered legislature with elected officials who Do Not fairly or legally represent the people or their needs.

It's important to me that the state I call home is also a state where elections are fair, there is no racial gerrymandering, and political representatives are picked by the citizens (like me!), not the other way around.

I am writing to urge the General Assembly to redraw our voting districts in a non-partisan way. This is the only way to break the cycle of partisan gerrymandering and achieve equitable voting. It is a disgrace that North Carolina was given a score of 7 out of 100 by the Electoral Integrity Project, which measures the the quality of elections worldwide. That is lower than any other state - or country - analyzed. North Carolina has the potential to be a leader in democratic practices, and non-partisan districting would be a tremendous step in that direction. Please provide for a non-partisan redistricting process.

To all Senators and Representatives each of whom works on behalf of every person in the state of North Carolina:

I beseech you to consider the moral imperative you have to ensure that every person in our state is given an equal opportunity to fairly vote for the candidates and policies that he or she supports without that vote being subject to a partisan determination of district lines. Justice is what is on the line here; moral, ethical, social justice for every person in this state. Surely you can come together and look into your own hearts and minds and do the right thing.

My next vote will certainly reflect your prompt attention to this.

As a North Carolina voter, I am interested in governance of our state with representatives who accurately reflect the demographics and conscience of our state. I advocate for fair maps drawn by a nonpartisan entity rather than the biased districts we have currently. Our state has a proud history as a "purple" state for good reason--and our representatives and governing bodies must represent that to the fullest extent. I am deeply disturbed by the use of race to effectively dismiss African American voters and am hopeful that our state will return soon to one that values not only democracy but the democratic process itself.

An independent commission needs to redraw our districts so that political party membership and race are not the only guiding lights. I'm tired of NC being a national example of one-sided bully politics. Please, get busy and pick INDEPENDENT, fair public servants to accomplish this task.

Please end gerrymandering. Draw the maps fairly. Allow citizens to pick their representative and not the other way around. End the racism. End the cheating politicians.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Message</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sondra VanSant</td>
<td>Jul 31 2017 9:56PM</td>
<td>I understand that the redistricting maps are to be constructed by the Supreme Court. I support nonpartisan redistricting. As determined by the Supreme Court, the current districts are not drawn legally and in my opinion the result is an undermining of democracy in the state. And the legislative battles to sustain the current districts has cost the NC tax payers millions of dollars. It is time the NC legislature stop playing expensive games and focus on making North Carolina a fair and more democratic state.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beth anderson</td>
<td>Jul 31 2017 10:55PM</td>
<td>I support nonpartisan redistricting. As determined by the Supreme Court, the current districts are not drawn legally and in my opinion the result is an undermining of democracy in the state. And the legislative battles to sustain the current districts has cost the NC tax payers millions of dollars. It is time the NC legislature stop playing expensive games and focus on making North Carolina a fair and more democratic state.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Laura Wenzel</td>
<td>Jul 31 2017 10:58PM</td>
<td>As a I expect and demand fair representation, I therefore demand that an independent bipartisan commission be established for the purpose of redrawing voting districts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Hays</td>
<td>Aug 1 2017 6:11AM</td>
<td>Please ensure that redistricting maps are drawn without regard to race or politics. North Carolinians want fair elections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Lori Olivet</td>
<td>Aug 1 2017 6:01AM</td>
<td>Gerrymandering is undemocratic, unrepresentative, and unfair, particularly in NC. In partisan districting systems, &quot;representatives choose their voters, rather than voters choosing their representatives&quot;. In the 2016 NCGA elections, Republicans received 52% of votes for the House and 56% of votes for the Senate - but they won over 60% of House seats and 70% of Senate seats. The Electoral Integrity Project, which measures the quality of elections worldwide, gave NC a score of 7/100 on the integrity of its voting districts, lower than any other state - or country - analyzed. Legal challenges to partisan districting have been costly for our state. Nonpartisan redistricting would make our elections more democratic and fair.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Hays</td>
<td>Aug 1 2017 7:28AM</td>
<td>Please make the redistricting process fair and representative of us citizens. Partisanship has no place in this process. We demand fair voting maps and elections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. David Marschall</td>
<td>Aug 1 2017 8:02AM</td>
<td>STOP the gerrymandering. You are being watched closely so do your JOB!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Robert Palombo</td>
<td>Aug 1 2017 8:08AM</td>
<td>Mr. Robert Palombo is a respected member of our community. He has dedicated his life to public service and has earned the trust of all residents. I urge you to consider his perspective carefully as we work to improve our legislative districts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Corey Cavalier</td>
<td>Aug 1 2017 8:46AM</td>
<td>New redistricting maps MUST be drawn by an independent body with no significant loyalty to either party. The current system contributes to polarization and a vicious cycle of 'payback'. It was wrong when the Democrats were in control and it's wrong now that the GOP is in control. Please don't contribute to the erosion of democracy in NC with more partisan gerrymandering. Please.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathryn Lang</td>
<td>Aug 1 2017 8:16AM</td>
<td>I support HB200 and SB209 on nonpartisan redistricting. I am appalled that the Electoral Integrity Project, which measures the quality of elections worldwide, gave North Carolina a score of 7/100 on the integrity of its voting districts. This is lower than any other state (or country) that they analyzed. This is shameful, and the NCRA has repeatedly misled voters, drawn illegal maps, and dragged their feet on court decisions. We need nonpartisan redistricting now. Thank you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beverly Dugan</td>
<td>Aug 1 2017 8:44AM</td>
<td>I want non-partisan maps. The voters should choose their representatives. With the current districts, the politicians are choosing their voters, thus undermining our democracy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Walter Aakert</td>
<td>Aug 1 2017 8:57AM</td>
<td>Districts should reflect voter preferences as close as possible. If 50% vote GOP and 50% for Dems, representation should be close to 50/50.</td>
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<td>Time</td>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Message</td>
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| Aug 1 2017 8:58AM | Ms. Laurel Vincenty | Thank you for inviting public input on what criteria to use in drawing up the new maps for the voting districts. I am a North Carolina resident in NC SENATE DISTRICT 16 and NC HOUSE DISTRICT 40. I ask that for both the House and the Senate, the drawing of the new maps follow these criteria:
- Make the maps impartial, that is, do not include political party affiliation, do not include addresses of candidates or incumbents, do not consider my voting history or the voting histories of any residents.
- Be transparent in this redrawing process: Provide maps on time, no delays. Live-stream meetings and provide other transparent means to allow the public to offer suggestions for any changes in the DRAFT maps.
- Draw maps so that they do not geographically divide any voting district or split a voting district by another district. Ensure that all parts of a district connect.
- Keep communities of interest intact - that is, communities that have social, racial, ethnic or economic interests. Work hard to avoid dividing those communities.
- Work hard to avoid dividing counties and municipalities.
- To verify that redrawn maps are fair and balanced, use the Open Source Redistricting software other states have used: https://code.google.com/archive/p/redistricter/ |
| Aug 1 2017 9:14AM | Mr. Michael Burke   | I am a registered non-affiliated voter. I ask that you seriously consider the passing of HB 200. I believe this would accommodate a system of representative districts which would honestly reflect the voting population. It would actually make candidates and representatives work for our votes. An added benefit might be that such a process as outlined in the bill could be step in ending the Federal oversight of the 40 counties as mandated by the voting Rights Act of 1965. |
| Aug 1 2017 10:39AM | Ms. Ann Rauchbach    | As a concerned NC voter, I implore the legislature to allow a nonpartisan group to fairly redraw the voting district lines. It is time to put gerrymandering to an end, because it is undemocratic, unfair, and does not represent how the people vote. |
| Aug 1 2017 10:46AM | Dr. Margaret Pennybacker | Please let voters choose their legislators rather than having legislators choose their voters. We need fair districts now, not ones that unfairly benefit either party. Thanks, Margaret Pennybacker |
| Aug 1 2017 10:49AM | Mr. Robert Spencer   | I implore you to establish an independent, non-partisan commission to draw congressional districts on both the state and national levels for North Carolina. It should go without saying that voters choose their representatives, not the other way around. The only way to ensure that neither side engages in blatant gerrymandering in the future is to establish an independent commission to draw the districts, and to enshrine the commission in our state constitution. |
| Aug 1 2017 10:58AM | Ms. gloria faley     | Why is there no published schedule for public hearings directly on the redistricting process? You have to search through the NCGA site. This is ridiculous". http://www.ncleg.net/document/sites/committees/senate2017-154/7-26-2017/Public%20Hearing%20-%20Voting%20District%20Redistricting%20Hearing%20-%20July%2026%202017 |
| Aug 1 2017 10:59AM | Ms. gloria faley     | Citizens should be on the redistricting committee. Citizens that are appointment by a bipartisan group of legislators and the governor. |
| Aug 1 2017 11:21AM | Julia Lloyd          | It is past time to take this process out of the hands of politicians and create an independent panel to draw these maps. My vote matters. Each and every vote matters. Gerrymandering is the most non-democratic thing this country has engaged in. It is time for North Carolina to grow up and be a true democracy. |
| Aug 1 2017 11:21AM | Ms. Erica Loring     | Using Thomas Hofeller again just shows you have no intention of putting gerrymandering to an end, because it is undemocratic, unfair, and does not represent how the people vote. |
| Aug 1 2017 11:40AM | Mrs. Terri Piasecki  | Many experts have studied the gerrymandering of North Carolina. We need these experts and a bipartisan committee to determine the new districts. Thomas Hofeller is how we got this mess to begin with, he shouldn’t be anywhere near the new maps. Take politics out of the redistricting process!! |
| Aug 1 2017 11:52AM | Mr. John Kennett     | I would love to see a non-partisan commission draw up the district maps. Gerrymandering has been taken to the nth degree with recent computer technology. This means when things shift as they will in our state as they will with shifting demographics the other party will do the same. I know that a non partisan drawing of districts is unlikely but at least the districts can be drawn in a more concise manner and not have squiggly tentacles that stretch out to divide and exclude. |
To whom it may concern:

I am watching the developments in redistricting in North Carolina closely. I feel strongly that fair electoral districts are the key to democracy.

As you draw the maps over the next month, the most important thing is a truly transparent process. This includes public meetings, the provision of maps for public comment as soon as possible, and live-streaming of ALL committee meetings on redistricting. I hope that the "behind closed doors" process that resulted in the current unconstitutional maps will be left in the past. In addition, any proposed plan should include a written explanation of why the specific district boundaries were chosen.

The data used to generate the maps should be limited to Census population data and race only as necessary to comply with the VRA. Addresses of incumbents or candidates, political affiliation, and voting histories should absolutely not be considered.

Counties, municipalities and precincts should only be divided when there is no viable alternative.

I look forward to seeing the maps.

Respectfully,

Dr. Laurel Voelker

Mrs. Elaine Bagley

I feel very strongly that our voting maps should be drawn free of partisan influence. I would like to see a non-partisan commission draw the maps after each census and leave the legislature entirely out of it. Iowa and other states have implemented this procedure, and it has worked well. Please get NC out of the business of gerrymandered districts and the ensuing court procedures challenging them.

I believe there is an issue at present which needs to be resolved before the election in 2018. Please get on with adjusting the boundaries of the districts to meet the guidelines that have been established.

Ms. Deborah McGovern

We need to begin to respect the democratic process of the voters electing their legislators not the other way around. I support fair redistricting, not the usual partisan districting that both Republican and Democratic parties have done in the past.

Mrs. Jennifer Lietzke

Below are some criteria for good maps that are recognized by anyone involved in redistricting reform. Politically Neutral – No addresses of candidates or incumbents should be used, and residents’ voting histories should not be considered. Compact and Contiguous – Voters within a district should not be unnecessarily dispersed, and no voting district may be geographically divided, or split, by another district, i.e. all portions of a district must connect. Respect Boundaries – Avoid dividing counties and municipalities where possible. Protect Communities of Interest – Avoid dividing communities of interest where possible. Communities of interest typically have social, cultural, racial, ethnic, and/or economic interests in common. Transparent Process – The process of creating maps should be transparent, providing maps as soon as possible, live-streaming meetings, and allowing the public to provide suggestions for changes to the draft maps.

Mrs. Cheryl Brooks

I want every vote to count. I want everyone to value the right to vote. I would rather voting be equal for all than to have my preferred candidate win.

rebecca maness

We need fair and impartial redistricting...draw districts by computer or use the Iowa model!

Nancy Nice

We need a BIPARTISAN committee to determine the new districts. Thomas Hofeller is partisan hack and shouldn't be anywhere near the new maps. Take politics out of the redistricting process!!

Mrs. Kimberly Geddes

I am writing to express my concern for the racial and political gerrymandering that defines the current congressional districts. I urge those tasked with redrawing district lines to perform their duties honestly so that all NC citizens can rest assured that their vote has meaning!

Ms. Ann Koerber

I support nonpartisan redistricting. Gerrymandering, for whatever reason, is unfair, unrepresentative, and undemocratic. In addition, legal challenges have been costly for our state.
Marilyn Carter

Aug 1 2017 1:34PM

Extreme gerrymandering in our great state has led to a legislature that no longer represents its citizens. We now have a system in North Carolina where "representatives choose their voters," when voters should be choosing their representatives. Both sides of the aisle are guilty of gerrymandering, but the courts have clearly spoken on the requirement to redraw the current legislative voting districts.

The Electoral Integrity Project gave NC a score of 7/100 on the integrity of its voting districts.

This is lower than any other state (or country) analyzed, and sullies the good reputation that NC once had as a beacon of economic and social progress in the south. North Carolinians are watching the implementation of the courts' orders closely. They will remember and hold to account those who undermine representative government by standing in the way of expeditiously forming a map that accurately represents the citizenry of our state.

Karen Floyd

Aug 1 2017 1:50PM

Hello!

I want voting maps drawn that are free from partisan politics and I'm hoping that my elected leaders feel the same way. Gerrymandering is undemocratic and unrepresentative and UNFAIR -- it decreases competition and contributes to polarization.

Additionally, legal challenges to the existing partisan districting are costly -- NC has spent over $5 million dollars, in just the past six years, on redistricting litigation.

I'm urging my legislators to make our elections more democratic and fair. A fairly designed districting system (by an independent, non partisan body) will enable us North Carolinian voters to choose our representatives, instead of our representatives choosing us. Our representatives are NOT supposed to be choosing who will vote for them...this is not how democracy works!

Thank you for considering my comments here!

Sincerely,

Karen Floyd

Susanna Turner

Aug 1 2017 2:03PM

Please allow NC to become a democracy again. All North Carolinians should have a voice.

Mr. Clifton Morgan

Aug 1 2017 2:12PM

It is unfair to the people of North Carolina that we can not have fair and just elections. Stop the gerrymandering!!! Let the people of North Carolina elect their candidates,...not the district.

Thank you.

Ms. Audrey Godshall

Aug 1 2017 2:13PM

NON-PARTISAN

Mrs. Leslie Sanders

Aug 1 2017 2:27PM

Please keep redistricting fair, neither based on politics or race. Please uphold the very core of our democracy and keep this a non-partisan effort.

Mrs. Paula Jennings

Aug 1 2017 2:42PM

Thank you for accepting public input.

I will make it very short, as I know you will probably get a lot of interest and comments. I want all my children and grandchildren to have a seat at the table and that will not happen with gerrymandered districts.

I recommend the following:

* Transparency—all meetings open with live streaming. No smoke filled back room district drawing.
* Districts should be drawn contiguously, without use of political data such addresses of incumbents and challengers, and without looking at voting histories.
* The Voting Rights Act should be followed.
* I recommend the use of the Efficiency Gap score to make sure each vote counts.

There are other criteria to ensure fairness, such as maintaining communities of interest and avoiding slicing of cities and counties, but the above bulleted items are the most important in my mind.

Thank you,

Paula Hinton Jennings

213 Lakewater Drive
Cary, NC 27511

Ms. Melanie Lane

Aug 1 2017 2:42PM

If you are on the right side of what the people want prove it by putting districts into the hands of non-partisans, show that we care about the state and country more than our parties. Win the hearts and minds of the people because you have right on your side, not because you've cherry picked your audience.
Dear legislators,

I know the democrats engaged in the same district packing to their advantage that the GOP is now doing. I'm a "good gov't" type who just wants a reasonable semblance of democracy-enhancing fairness to be made manifest in the required redistricting now underway. Please work for a balance that gives citizens a fair chance to have a real voice with their vote.

Roger Coates

Aug 1 2017 3:27PM

I am writing to express my concern for the racial and political gerrymandering that defines the current congressional districts. I urge those tasked with redrawing district lines to perform their duties honestly so that all NC citizens can rest assured that their vote has meaning! Thank you.

Ms. MARY CHEEK

Aug 1 2017 3:32PM

In the 2016 NCGA elections, per Ballotpedia, less than 15% of the races in the House and Senate were competitive. When representatives are able to choose their voters - and thus are not accountable to a broad constituency - they can afford to play solely to their base. This means not only that many interests are neglected in any given district, but also that more extreme interests/positions tend to prevail (polarization).

Legal challenges to partisan districting have been costly for our state. There have been over 30 court interventions in the redistricting process over the past 30 years in NC. In the last 6 years alone, NC has paid over $5 million for redistricting litigation.

Nonpartisan redistricting would make our elections more democratic and fair. A well-designed nonpartisan districting system would return to a system where voters choose their representatives instead of representatives choosing their voters. Nonpartisan redistricting is the best way to break the cycle of escalating "payback" between the political parties. Independent bodies that have no loyalty to a political party or vested interest in the outcome of elections are best positioned to draw district maps in ways that are fair and unbiased.

Ms. Cathy Cole

Aug 1 2017 4:42PM

My primary concern is that the redistricting process be transparent. These maps should not be drawn in a back room by one party, but in a bipartisan process that is transparent to the voters of North Carolina.

Dr. Paul Ringel

Aug 1 2017 6:13PM

It is ridiculous to allow Thomas Hofeller to help with the redrawing of the districts, when he was part of the problem that got us into the gerrymandering fiasco in the first place. Redrawing should be done by a b-partisan (or better yet, non-partisan) committee. This is a farce!

Ms. Sue McConkie

Aug 1 2017 6:22PM

There should be absolutely no gerrymandering by either party. Districts should be drawn as compactly as possible by a nonpartisan commission or computer program. Voters should be able to choose their legislators; not legislators, their voters.

Ms. Sandra Howerton

Aug 1 2017 6:28PM

Enough with the gerrymandering already....neither side should be subverting the process so that they can hold onto power. I say redistricting should be done by and independent 11 person council nominated by the governor using sitting NC supreme Court justices as oversite. The council itself should be made up NOT of politicians but rather one party official from each major and minor party, the balance to be made up of educated professors from public universities. They draw the districts, when he was part of the problem that got us into the gerrymandering fiasco in the first place. Redrawing should be done by a nonpartisan commission or computer program. Voters should be able to choose their legislators; not legislators, their voters.

CASEY NEES

Aug 1 2017 7:32PM

Redistricting should follow standards: an open process, districts that are contiguous and compact, districts that recognize communities as well as city and county boundaries. Improved technology has taken the long used process of gerrymandering to the point where many North Carolinians cast votes that really don't count. We have too many uncontested districts and too many districts into which certain kinds of voters are packed to dilute their impact. North Carolinians are awakening to the unfairness of this process and to the fact that it completely undermines faith in our democracy. It's time to end gerrymandering and enable fair redistricting.

Mrs. Donna Mergliano

Aug 1 2017 8:12PM

I think it is a right of every person to be able to vote and not be discriminated against because of the color of your skin. I feel like our nation and particularly our state has been guilty of this. The republican control of the house and senate in NC has regressed our state back to the 1960s. Pat McCrory has left his mark that will leave this state in recover for years. Stop gerrymandering your way to political victory, Everything that Roy Copper does or tries to do is met with resistance. Republicans better watch out you may be looking for a job like Pat.

Ms. Deborah Pardue Shaw

Aug 1 2017 8:22PM
Mr. Christopher Dragga  

The current district maps make a mockery of the democratic principles upon which this country is founded. They effectively disenfranchise hundreds of thousands, if not millions, and deprive many North Carolinians of proper representation. In the long run, this can only hurt our state, as potential newcomers look at the political situation and decide that they would rather live somewhere with a genuine democracy. 

The districts should be drawn as neutrally as possible, without consideration for the politics of those who live there or the residences of current officials. They should make sense, aligning at both the House and the Senate as much as possible, and reflect the boundaries of actual communities. Most importantly, they should comply with the Constitution and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Anything less would exacerbate an already shameful situation.

Ms. Theckla Sterrett  

This gerrymandering makes a mockery of the voting process. I know both parties do it or have done it. Now with computer analysis it is easier to assure a Republican win. That is unfair to the voting public. I want voting that is fair and open, avoids racial or partisan gerrymandering and allows voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around.

Ms. Rebecca Showalter  

Whatever side of the aisle you are on, it is time for a NON-PARTISAN drawing of legislative districts, here and across the country. Gerrymandering undermines democracy and make us into nothing but hypocrites, as we say we stand for our great democracy but do the opposite. I urge the NCGA to redraw these districts in a fair and just way without trying to draw them for partisan advantage. By doing that, then we can bring discussions back to good policy and finding compromise.

I also ask that all these comments be read, discussed, pondered and provided to any person, consultant or legislative staff, that is involved in the redrawing of these maps. It is not acceptable to ask for comments but then not include them in the decision making process.

Thank you,
Becky Showalter
NC Citizen, Mother, Engineer

Owen Guion  

The revised voting should be redrawn to be fair and impartial to ALL voters. I would urge the NCGA to step up and select an impartial third party to draw fair, impartial, compact district voting maps for North Carolina.

Mrs. Margaret Avery-Trujillo  

NONPARTISAN redistricting!

Karen Romo  

Please please please do it before the midterms!!

Beth Holloman  

Whatever side of the aisle you are on, it is time for a NON-PARTISAN drawing of legislative districts, here and across the country. Gerrymandering undermines democracy and make us into nothing but hypocrites, as we say we stand for our great democracy but do the opposite. I urge the NCGA to redraw these districts in a fair and just way without trying to draw them for partisan advantage. By doing that, then we can bring discussions back to good policy and finding compromise.

I also ask that all these comments be read, discussed, pondered and provided to any person, consultant or legislative staff, that is involved in the redrawing of these maps. It is not acceptable to ask for comments but then not include them in the decision making process.

Thank you,
Beth Holloman
NC Citizen, Retired teacher

Mrs. Heather Owen  

I really hope that the new districting lines are drawn with a bipartisan group. This has gone on too long and gerrymandering is now illegal. Do them right!

Mrs. Michelle Torres  

We demand NON PARTISAN redistricting, for democracy's sake!

Ms. Lynny Selter  

It is high time voting districts were drawn by a non-partisan group. ALL people should be fairly represented.

Melissa Taylor  

Please implement non-partisan redistricting. Every citizen has the right to vote.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Message</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>9:10AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Jennifer Filipowski</td>
<td>I would like to request that the Redistricting Committee revise the senate / house / congressional districts so that, to the extent possible, those districts meet the following goals:</td>
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<td>• Districts shall comply with the United States Constitution and the United States voting rights act;</td>
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<td>• Congressional districts shall have equal population to the extent practicable, and state legislative districts shall have equal population to the extent practicable;</td>
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<td>• Districts shall be geographically compact and contiguous to the extent practicable;</td>
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<td>• District boundaries shall respect Communities of Interest to the extent practicable;</td>
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<td>• To the extent practicable, district lines shall use visible geographic features, city, town and county boundaries, and undivided census tracts;</td>
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<td>• To the extent practicable, competitive districts should be favored where to do so would create no significant detriment to the other goals;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Districts in the State may NOT be established with the major purpose of diluting the voting strength of any person, or group, including any political party, except as necessary to comply with the requirements of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.</td>
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<td>• The place of residence of any incumbent or political candidate shall not be considered in the creation of a map. Districts shall not be drawn for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political candidate, or political party.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>As used herein, a “Community of Interest” is a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair.</td>
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<td>I would like to see district maps drawn free from partisan politics. I can understand the impetus but gerrymandering undermines confidence in elections and elected representatives. It is counterproductive and has made North Carolina a laughing stock on a national level. Remove politics from the districting maps and let the politics play out as they should in democratically elected governing bodies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>9:17AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Kate Marks</td>
<td>We need non-partisan redistricting. No more tipping the scales.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>9:40AM</td>
<td>Mr. Eric von Foerster</td>
<td>Partisan redistricting, no matter the party, has gotten too cutthroat. Think the Democrats will forgive you if they ever regain the majority? They'll cut this state up just as brutally to favor themselves.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>9:45AM</td>
<td>Mr. Thomas Honeycutt</td>
<td>We need non-partisan redistricting. No more tipping the scales.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>10:13AM</td>
<td>Mr. Joshua Lohmann</td>
<td>As a citizen and constituent, I am calling on the General Assembly to put in place NON-PARTISAN redistricting. The Supreme Court has even scolded North Carolina reps for RACIALLY gerrymandering with SURGICAL PRECISION! This flies in the face of the spirit of democracy. Fixing the race deprives us of democracy. I won't even begin to bring up other impediments, like shortening early voting &amp; illegally purging voter rolls. North Carolina is one of the worst offenders and it is embarrassing! Restore North Carolina’s honor. Restore democracy. We are considered a “flawed democracy” now, in part, due to efforts to suppress votes and impede democracy. Do the right thing. Go NON-PARTISAN.</td>
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<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>10:35AM</td>
<td>Maurice York</td>
<td>The redistricting should be undertaken by an independent, apolitical commission. The goal should be to have compact districts of roughly equal population, not tortured configurations designed to isolate voters on the basis of race or party.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>10:42AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Peggy Ferebee</td>
<td>Once again NC is being told the current voting districts are illegal. As an unaffiliated voter I am tired of both parties playing games with our voting rights. To avoid any more wasted time and public money on this just establish a non-partisan redistricting commission to deal with it. It’s a more just and logical way to do it. How we do it now is a disgrace and disenfranchises legal voters. I want legislators to know that they may be voted out of office and not sit in safe districts protected from the voters’ input. Now is the time to act.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>10:45AM</td>
<td>Ms. Holly Barcelo</td>
<td>Third party, non-partisan map drawers should ensure that it is possible for Black voters to elect their candidates of choice. Also, no dividing compact Black populations to weaken their power, per the Voting Rights Act. In addition to the federal Voting Rights Act, maps must abide by the US and NC constitutions and laws. “One person, one vote,” means districts must be very nearly equal in population. Map drawers should create compact districts, without odd tentacles and that don’t skip over areas or join two areas at just one point on the map. Count incarcerated persons as residents of their pre-incarceration home or family residence for purposes of redistricting. Keep it non-partisan; drawers shall not use the addresses of current lawmakers, or the party affiliation or voting history of voters, or other data to help a party or politician. Map drawers must avoid dividing a “community of interest,” such as people with similar cultural, ethnic and economic interests; a local government district; neighborhoods that have worked together on issues; and other relationships that can be documented to show common interests.Unless these are separated by County boundaries. Map drawers should make every effort to keep counties whole. If counties or towns must be split, a statement must explain why.</td>
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<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>10:56AM</td>
<td>Mr. Larry Hannon</td>
<td>We need fairly drawn congressional districts to make democracy work for ALL of us!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>10:57AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Katherine Dreyer</td>
<td>It is time for fair redistricting in North Carolina. Republicans have illegally gerrymandered for too long...the courts have spoken. Of course I don't trust the Republicans to do a fair job. So, we'll be watching closely.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>10:58AM</td>
<td>Ms. Sharon Ellison</td>
<td>Please adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps. NC voters deserve a fair representation and voice in the political process. Please exclude political information like voter registration data, past election results or where incumbents live when drawing maps. Please draw compact districts that keep communities together.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>10:59AM</td>
<td>Ms. Marlene Goland</td>
<td>I urge the General Assembly to redraw the State districting maps in a non-partisan and non-racial formula. The time has come in our State to end this current unfair redistricting and move forward with a map that will allow fair elections of our representative to Raleigh and to Washington. Thank you.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>10:59AM</td>
<td>Ms. Katherine Soleil</td>
<td>adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps exclude political information like voter registration data, past election results or where incumbents live when drawing maps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>10:59AM</td>
<td>Dr. John Barnshaw</td>
<td>Fair maps and general redistricting are essential to our representative democracy as the Founders Constitution did not envision a party system. For example, in 2014, the 13 United States Congressional Districts in North Carolina were represented by 10 Republicans and 3 Democrats with a near 50-50 split in voting. If Democrats were allowed to draw the district lines they could have drawn lines that would have sent 9 Democrats and 4 Republicans to the House. Using fair maps, we could send 5 Republicans, 5 Democrats and 3 districts that would be completely up for grabs which would enable a more vigorous debate and electoral outcome. Already 23 states have nonpartisan voting in elections. North Carolina should do the same.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>11:04AM</td>
<td>Mr. Alan Goland</td>
<td>I want non partisan map with no party affiliations with continuous communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>11:05AM</td>
<td>Mr. Michael Nevin</td>
<td>You have an opportunity to show some leadership that may be of importance to you in the future. Redistrict with a non-legislative method or redistrict in a manner that ends gerrymandering. Either party should be winning or losing elections on the basis of merit and ideas, not on gerrymandered districts. Use a method that doesn't lock party should be winning or losing elections on the basis of merit and ideas, not on gerrymandered districts. Use a method that doesn't lock</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>11:06AM</td>
<td>Ms. Margaret Silvers</td>
<td>I am commenting to ask that the committee adopt a non-partisan process for drawing new voting district maps, including things like not using political information about voter registration data or past election results when drawing maps and keeping districts compact and sensibly shaped to keep communities together. Thank you for considering my ideas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>11:06AM</td>
<td>Alexander Donaldson</td>
<td>I urge the Redistricting Committee to (1) adopt a non-partisan process for drawing up new voting district maps, (2) exclude political information such as voter registration data, prior election results or residential address of current incumbents, and (3) draw compact districts that reflect geographic communities. I have complained for decades about the gerrymandering by both parties in our state so this is not a partisan issue. This is about common sense, fairness and community something we all strive for and can support.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>11:06AM</td>
<td>Karen Macklin</td>
<td>Please adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps. The maps should not be based upon political information such as voter registration data, past election results or where incumbents live. The maps should include compact districts which keep communities together. Thanks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>11:07AM</td>
<td>Peggy Nance Lyle</td>
<td>NC must act now to comply with redistricting for voters in our State.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>11:11AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Ann Torsk</td>
<td>Now is the Time for legislators to draw fair district maps. Please be conscientious about your responsibility to the voters. Draw districts that are fair (and that each voter counts) and as compact as possible. Do not take race or politics or the address of incumbents or candidates in your consideration. Thank you.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>11:14AM</td>
<td>Ms. Karin Griffiths</td>
<td>Please try to be fair and make the redistricting totally non-partisan. Every vote has to count the same and in the system we have now that is not the case. Thank you Karin Griffiths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>11:16AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Aleta Galusha</td>
<td>During your meeting on August 4, 2017 about drawing new maps for voting. I just want to say there should be NO looking at past voting when these maps are drawn. These maps should be independent of where incumbents live. This should be a non-partisan effort. PLEASE draw compact districts, not ones that stretch for miles and look like a snake on a map. I want to see a reasonable map!</td>
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</table>
I live in Wisconsin but all states should have fair and equal representation. It is tragic that North Carolina has become the least democratic state in the U.S. It is even more tragic that the legislature remains unrepresentative. Please do right by the people of NC and reapportion the state on a fair and just basis.

If we do not have fair and equal districts it causes the people who do not get voted it to not have valid claims to their jobs. If a candidate wins by an unfair, rigged system how can that representative feel like he/she is supported by their constituents? Cheaters are not winners. Please help make our State elections legitimate!

Now that the legislature has an opportunity to remedy the illegally gerrymandered district map, I strongly urge you to do it right this time. Let's avoid court challenges by using a non-partisan process to create compact, contiguous districts which recognize municipal and county boundaries. Partisan data and use of incumbents' addresses should not be allowed. Use efficiency gap measurements to assure politically neutral districts. Be transparent.

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As a registered Republican, I support the goals of common cause in its quest for non-partisan redistricting. What goes around comes around; I do not wish to see either party suffer because the other can always retaliate. We don't need internecine fighting.

Now that the legislature has an opportunity to remedy the illegally gerrymandered district map, I strongly urge you to do it right this time. Let's avoid court challenges by using a non-partisan process to create compact, contiguous districts which recognize municipal and county boundaries. Partisan data and use of incumbents' addresses should not be allowed. Use efficiency gap measurements to assure politically neutral districts. Be transparent.

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I want voting maps drawn free from partisan politics. There are plenty of modern software/data-based methods for doing this automatically to create equally-sized (population) districts and geographically compact, contiguous districts which recognize municipal and county boundaries. Partisan data and use of incumbents' addresses should not be allowed. Use efficiency gap measurements to assure politically neutral districts. Be transparent.

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I am humble enough to know that yes, the unthinkable that is happening in many other countries can also break out here if the belief in voting is gutted. I beg the legislature to do the right thing for all of us, including their own children and grandchildren (!) to restore faith in this appears to have slipped away from us:

One would have to be oblivious to the violent beginnings and so-called "resolution" of economic disparities in this country over the course of US history (i.e., civil war) to not acknowledge that BOTH parties are playing with fire when they undermine the last hope people have for having a say in this (barely still) Republic. A reminder from Merriam-Webster on the definition of a republic, as this appears to have slipped away from us:

"- a government in which supreme power resides in a body of citizens entitled to vote and is exercised by elected officers and representatives responsible to them and governing according to law."

I want voting maps drawn free from partisan politics. There are plenty of modern software/data-based methods for doing this automatically to create equally-sized (population) districts and geographically compact, contiguous districts which recognize municipal and county boundaries. Partisan data and use of incumbents' addresses should not be allowed. Use efficiency gap measurements to assure politically neutral districts. Be transparent.
When our legislators pick their voters, instead of the voters choosing their legislators, the push and pull in the marketplace of ideas that leads to progress for everyone has failed. Democracy itself has failed as a plausible and effective means of government of, by, and for the people. It means that government has been captured by a small segment of society and representation of the divergent viewpoints has been lost to the eventual detriment of all. In a world which we all characterize by relationships -- up-down, conservative-liberal, black-white -- the lack of meaningful dialogue, dialogue that can actually result in new understandings and compromise, leads inevitably to the polarization, contempt, and hate that have infected our government and our society at all levels. I firmly believe that our continued existence as an effective democracy and leading light of the world rests on the ability of our elected leaders to trust that there is a collective wisdom in the voice of the people, if only the people are allowed to express themselves in an unfettered manner. Nowhere is this more important than at the ballot box. I believe it is of utmost importance that voting districts be redrawn in a manner that best represents the diversity of thought among our people and should be in no way “gamed” to lend a strategic advantage to either of our dominant political parties.

I urge that gerrymandering be eliminated in NC. Districts should be drawn in a nonpartisan manner. The Iowa and California models are good examples of methodology. Keep our communities whole and our districts compact.

Give us fair, constitutional, non-partisan districts, now. It may not be easy, but it is necessary. You can't speak for "the people" if you've weaseled the districts.

Please adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps excluding political information like voter registration data, past election results or where incumbents live when drawing maps.

I support non partisan redistricting because gerrymandering is undemocratic, unrepresentative, and unfair - particularly in NC. In partisan districting systems, "representatives choose their voters, rather than voters choosing their representatives."

In the 2016 NCGA elections, Republicans received 52% of votes for the House and 56% of votes for the Senate - but they won over 60% of House seats and 70% of Senate seats. The Electoral Integrity Project, which measures the the quality of elections worldwide, gave NC a score of 7/100 on the integrity of its voting districts, lower than any other state - or country - analyzed.

Gerrymandering decreases competition, and contributes to political polarization. In the 2016 NCGA elections, per Ballotpedia, less than 15% of the races in the House and Senate were competitive. When representatives are able to choose their voters - and thus are not accountable to a broad constituency - they can afford to play solely to their base. This means not only that many interests are neglected in any given district, but also that more extreme interests/positions tend to prevail (polarization).

Legal challenges to partisan districting have been costly for our state. There have been over 30 court interventions in the redistricting process over the past 30 years in NC. In the last 6 years alone, NC has paid over $5 million for redistricting litigation.

Nonpartisan redistricting would make our elections more democratic and fair.

A well-designed nonpartisan districting system would return to a system that I want fair district lines. I want communities kept intact. I want no partisan information affecting these redistricted lines. Our American democracy must not be rioted for either party.

Take politics out of the equation. Keep an eye on the efficiency gap.

Let’s stop wasting the states money on this stuff, its time to get back to business.

Everyone will be satisfied if an independent commission is assigned to do this work. Why busy legislators with this nonsense drawing?

Thank you.

There are computer programs that will construct neutral, fair districts. We should use a program (making sure it’s not biased, to formulate our districts. We must have fair districts! Thank you.
Aug 2 2017 12:25PM Elliott Feldman

In recent years the NCGA has been enacting legislation that is extreme and not consistent with the views of a large portion, perhaps a majority, of North Carolinians.

Part of the reason lies in the fact that Democratic voters are underrepresented because of gerrymandered districts. Democratic voters are concentrated—packed into a few districts, allowing others to be largely Republican.

It is time to have a more representative NCGA which can be achieved if Senate and House legislative districts are fairly drawn without partisan bias. This means turning over the process to a non-partisan committee or, at least a bipartisan committee.

With compact districts drawn without partisan bias, legislation will be more representative of majority opinion and will better enable accountability since legislators will know that they can be voted out if they go too far in legislating extreme bills.

Mr. George Linfors

We need to adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps which will exclude political information like voter registration data, past election results or where incumbents live when drawing maps. I urge the Assembly to draw compact districts that keep communities together. This way the Democrats don’t get to gerrymander the districts when they get back in power. This is the way to be fair to all voters in NC.

Mrs. Kathleen Hoffmann

For decades, NC has used a system in which the party in control of the legislature also controlled the redistricting process and managed that process to ensure voting maps that heavily favored one party or the other. This process has now become so expertly tailored using voter data that it produces many voting districts whose geographical distortion is patently absurd to look at on a map. The courts have had no difficulty recognizing that this is an assault on the democratic process.

In addition to the courts, a majority of North Carolinians support independent redistricting, as shown by a January survey from Public Policy Polling that found 59 percent of voters in favor of making the map-drawing process nonpartisan, with just 15 percent opposed to reforming the current system.

It is the job of the General Assembly to commit to an unbiased, nonpartisan process for drawing new voter maps immediately and continuing in the future. These maps must not be based on political information like voter registration data or where incumbents live. The maps should reflect coherent geographic areas that keep communities together so that everyone’s votes contribute to the selection process of our government representatives.

Listen to the courts and the people of North Carolina. We want free and fair elections now and in the future.

Mrs. Christine Swanson

As a regular voter I believe in the importance of voter participation. I also want to believe we have a fair chance for every voter to know our vote counts. I think connected communities are best able to determine needs and to advocate for those needs through Fair Maps - Maps not drawn on race or political party advantages. I expect the Redistricting Committee to use the best advice from non-partial experts to draw the new maps. Frankly I would feel more safe if an independent body were responsible. Thank you!

Mrs. Dana Courtney

For a regular voter I believe in the importance of voter participation. I also want to believe we have a fair chance for every voter to know our vote counts. I think connected communities are best able to determine needs and to advocate for those needs through Fair Maps - Maps not drawn on race or political party advantages. I expect the Redistricting Committee to use the best advice from non-partial experts to draw the new maps. Frankly I would feel more safe if an independent body were responsible. Thank you!
Last fall I saw a map which was generated by an independent organization which showed districts pretty much as squares. It was explained that a couple of areas weren’t quite squares because additional area was needed to equal the population in those districts. This seems like a fair way to set up the districts and the work has already been done.

Gerrymandering is against the NC Constitution requirements for one person one vote and whole counties. End the unconstitutional practice and return power to the citizens!

Please – gerrymandering on the part of BOTH parties has to end now. The citizens of North Carolina do not feel represented by their elected officials. We feel that elections have been stolen because of extreme gerrymandering and that the voice of the people needs to be heard. Since a majority of the joint redistricting committee has supported impartial redistricting in the past, I urge you to adopt a nonpartisan system for moving forward on new district plans.

Please redistrict in a nonpartisan way that avoids gerrymandering and race.

We need fair maps that reflect the realities on the ground rather than the ideology of those doing the redistricting.

I urge the committee to:
1. adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps
2. exclude political information like voter registration data, past election results or where incumbents live when drawing maps
3. draw compact districts that keep communities together

Appropriate criteria are essential to create districts that reflect voter choices rather than legislators choosing their voters.

Partisan data and the use of incumbents’ addresses should be prohibited from use. The efficiency gap should be used to assure that politically neutral districts are drawn.

Voting districts should be compact and contiguous as measured by Polsby-Popper Test or other mathematical assessments. Political boundaries (county, city, precinct) and communities of interest should be maintained as much as possible.

The “opportunity for protected classes of voters to elect the candidates of their choice” as required by the Voting Rights Act should be measured by polarized voting analysis data.

Adopt a transparent process including details such as the data assumptions used and live-streaming all meetings to built citizen confidence of the process.

Please let me know if there is any specific information that I can provide.

The Legislature needs to appoint a non-partisan redistricting commission to draw the legislative districts now and for the future!

Gerrymandering is the biggest threat to our democracy and is the biggest culprit in the dysfunction of our government. It causes a huge imbalance and disrupts the equality of votes. It hurts both parties at different points in time, and hurts the people ALL of the time.

Non-partisan boundaries for elections are CRUCIAL. I think they should be created by computer algorithms based on population size and communities with NO INPUT about race, gender, or political affiliation. End gerrymandering NOW.

Gerrymandering is the biggest threat to our democracy and is the biggest culprit in the dysfunction of our government. It causes a huge imbalance and disrupts the equality of votes. It hurts both parties at different points in time, and hurts the people ALL of the time. It results in litigation after litigation and billions of dollars of taxpayer money wasted on lawsuits of one faction of government against the other. We need real competition for government positions, real representation by elected officials, and people who are willing to compromise on solutions that work for everyone.

Non-partisan boundaries for elections are CRUCIAL. I think they should be created by computer algorithms based on population size and communities with NO INPUT about race, gender, or political affiliation.

Redistricting should be done on an non-partisan basis. It should not consider any political information such as voter registration information, past election results or where politicians live. The districts should be compact and simple in shape and form, keeping communities together.
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<th>Time</th>
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| Aug 2 2017  | 2:15PM  | Ms. Susan Koontz   | This is the criteria I would like to be used when drawing the new maps:  
1. Politically Neutral – No addresses of candidates or incumbents should be used, and residents’ voting histories should not be considered.  
2. Compact and Contiguous – Voters within a district should not be unnecessarily dispersed, and no voting district may be geographically divided, or split, by another district, i.e. all portions of a district must connect.  
3. Respect Boundaries – Avoid dividing counties and municipalities where possible.  
4. Protect Communities of Interest – Avoid dividing communities of interest where possible. Communities of interest typically have social, cultural, racial, ethnic, and/or economic interests in common.  
5. Transparent Process – The process of creating maps should be transparent, providing maps as soon as possible, live-streaming meetings, and allowing the public to provide suggestions for changes to the draft maps. |
<p>| Aug 2 2017  | 2:18PM  | Dr. Robert Hawkins | Our forefathers generally did a great job in writing the Constitution. But they probably didn’t expect that there would be such partisan extremism as we have today, so they left it to the legislators to do the redistricting. Sadly—with the help of computers—that has allowed a very undemocratic process to result. The product is gerrymandering in its extreme. What we now need is a process that will reinstate the “one man, one vote” concept, with voters choosing their legislative representatives, according to their best judgement. Every person, including every legislator, knows that the present process is UNDEMOCRATIC and should be changed. Please make it a democratic process. |
| Aug 2 2017  | 2:18PM  | Sean Pratt         | We have been in court over these maps since they were made years ago. We should have a Non Partisan Redistricting Commission so that this completely political and racial gerrymandering can no longer occur. The people in charge of drawing the new maps have had plenty of time to draw them and shouldn't be given an extension. They need to also establish a Non Partisan Redistricting Commission so that we won't waste so much time and money fighting illegal maps in court. There is a proposed law that should have been passed many years ago, but should pass now so we aren't in this situation again. The majority of people in NC want there to be Non Partisan Redistricting. Let's make that happen. And let's not racially or politically gerrymander these maps due on September 1. |
| Aug 2 2017  | 2:22PM  | Ms. Lewise Busch   | Please use fair, non-partisan guidelines in developing congressional district lines. The guidelines should not include residences of incumbents or voting demographic data. I hope they will include equality of voter numbers, contiguity and reasonable concentration of shape. The principle of one person-one vote should be observed. Since people who are incarcerated cannot vote, their home residences should be considered their residences. Thank you for attending to my concerns. |
| Aug 2 2017  | 2:24PM  | Mrs. Ann Parvin    | Please adopt a non partisan procedure for redistricting. Overwhelmingly supported by NC citizens who are sick of the political games and the resulting waste of state resources in legal battles. Many in legislature support; stop blocking a non partisan approach. Get it done right. |
| Aug 2 2017  | 2:31PM  | Mrs. Diane Geltner | We need fair unbiased districts that encourage people to vote and to bring NC into the civilized world |
| Aug 2 2017  | 2:56PM  | Mr. Mark Nippert   | If you are going to sabotage representation, please don’t turn around and tell me with a straight face that you believe in representative democracy. |
| Aug 2 2017  | 2:58PM  | David Meeker       | Could we make the drawing of these districts non partisan as well as not based on race? |
| Aug 2 2017  | 2:58PM  | Leslie Kern        | Please create a fair map for districts for NC. It is necessary for our democracy. We are watching. |
| Aug 2 2017  | 2:59PM  | Elaine Tobin       | I have recently moved here and I am appalled by the legislature’s failure to create districts that are fair and so all voters can have equal representation. We should a state government that is truly of the people, by the people and for the people. |
| Aug 2 2017  | 3:19PM  | Dr. Erica Carroll  | It is disheartening to know that our representatives will not use an non-partisan entity to draw voting districts. A non-biased creator (even a computer) is so obviously the only way the districts will actually be created fairly. I am so very sad that our State does not prioritize hearing from it’s citizens (by letting us vote fairly). NC is only interested in maintaining political power of individuals and parties. In this way, we are no better than a dictatorship. Please, use non-biased people (or computers) to draw our voting districts and stop silencing North Carolinians... |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Message</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>Ms. Rebecca Carina</td>
<td>As I learn more about legislative redistricting requirements and process, obviously it can and has become a much more complicated process than need be. Given the primary intent is for all NC citizens to have equal votes in the NC Legislature and the US House, the primary criteria for every district is one rep per a given size population and take into consideration Voting Rights Act. In addition, the only mention of terrain is respect for county lines, often drawn just like state boundaries with respect to rivers, mountains, and other environmental factors. There is nothing in law that I see that would allow a political party to structure districts to favor their own future as a representative. Therefore, it makes most sense for neutral group to take on this task. If members of a political party do a good job representing their constituents, they will be reelected. If they don’t, they need to leave. Dominating by creating an illegitimate majority is a coward’s way and will not survive in the long run. So be neutral and make this redistricting process practical that facilitates the voting of residents and not structured to try to get a particular outcome. Let’s make it easy for people to come voice their choices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>Mary McMillan</td>
<td>I am in favor of nonpartisan redistricting. I think that members of the League of Women Voters could do the job quite well.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>Ms. Scott Pope</td>
<td>North Carolina is a beautiful state with laws and voting maps that are, well less than beautiful. Please insure that the new voting district maps represent the voters, not the politicians. Thank you in advance for doing the right/ correct thing. Scott Pope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>Mrs. Linda McPHAIL</td>
<td>I would like to urge the legislature to be completely non-partisan when redrawing legislative districts in NC. Please use the following guidelines in designing the process: 1) exclude political information like voter registration data, past election results or where incumbents live, and 2) draw compact districts that keep communities together. Thank you for your consideration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>Dr. Pamela Schwing</td>
<td>I support a nonpartisan redistricting commission to be formed to create fair maps based on models put forward by FairVote.org. Generally, the commission should be mandated to put forward a one-person-one-vote map scheme to maximize voter efficiency, and thereby enhance democratic norms and values. I want to be in a competitive district, hear both sides of an argument by candidates, and know that my representative is not looking over his left or right shoulder ONLY, but is listening to all of his constituency. I want to support a democratic, not oligarchical system in this country.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>Mrs. Jennifer Williams</td>
<td>I do not believe either political party can be trusted to create fair electoral maps. For this reason, I am requesting independent redistricting. The people of NC deserve completely FAIR electoral maps. Providing us with less than that is not only shirking your duty, it is against every oath of office you took. Thanks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>Mr. Francis Werner</td>
<td>We need to eliminate gerrymandering and have non-partisan voting districts so the voters can pick their candidates rather than the candidates picking their voters. This is extremely important to have an accurate representation of the voters in NC! The overly Republican legislature in NC represents, at best, maybe 30% of the NC population. We need non-partisan voting districts!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>Mr. William Garrard</td>
<td>It is high time our state adopted a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps. The party in power should not be the one who decides but the people. And the process should exclude political information like voter registration data, past election results or where incumbents live when drawing maps. This should not be based on keeping the incumbents in power or defeating them if they are not in power. Let us have competitive districts. And draw compact districts so that keep communities together. Out city has three congress persons representing us which is ridiculous.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>Mrs. Jane Gorski</td>
<td>Please use this opportunity to create fair maps for NC. Our state has been plagued by gerrymandering for decades. It makes our elections unfair to voters with little options and makes our representatives nonresponsive to the concerns of their constituents. I urge you to adopt a nonpartisan process for creating election districts and exclude political voter registration data from the process. Also, draw compact districts that keep communities together as those who live together should share a common representative.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>Ingrid McCausland</td>
<td>Make districts equal in population. Create compact districts, without odd tentacles. Compactness can be evaluated with mathematical measures. Draw districts that don’t skip over areas or join two areas at just one point on the map. Map drawers should not use the addresses of current lawmakers, or the party affiliation or voting history of voters, or other data to help a party. Map drawers must avoid dividing a “community of interest,&quot; such as people with similar cultural, ethnic and economic interests Never effort to keep counties whole. If counties or towns must be split, a statement must explain why. Before it is approved, a map must be evaluated for overall racial bias.</td>
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</table>
Please adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps.
Please exclude political information like voter registration data, past election results or where incumbents live when drawing maps.
Please draw compact districts that keep communities together.

I’m not sure where to begin. I believe in honesty. This state, as said by the activist Shaun King, and others, is the Mississippi of today. I’m ashamed of North Carolina. Politicians representing this state should be ashamed of themselves. You folks have spent your time and energy trying to solidify white/Republican control of this state. You are indicative of a dying breed of white people who are determined to rule over everybody else. I’m sick of it. We deserve better. What you stand for is immoral and dishonest.

This committee must:
1. adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps
2. exclude political information like voter registration data, past election results or where incumbents live when drawing maps, and
3. draw compact districts that keep communities together.

North Carolinians deserve fair voting opportunities. It is what Democracies are built on.

I urge my lawmakers to:
1. adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps
2. exclude political information like voter registration data, past election results or where incumbents live when drawing maps
3. draw compact districts that keep communities together

Thank you for heeding my comments and making our elections FAIR and DEMOCRATIC!

Sincerely,
Karen Floyd

To be uphold the values of our great democracy, we need nonpartisan redistricting. Protect the constituents, do not exploit their views.

Please use a fair process and draw fair maps.
1. Adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps.
2. Exclude political information like voter registration data, past election results or where incumbents live when drawing maps.
3. Draw compact districts that keep communities together.

We need non partisan redistricting. There is already a bill for this, with bipartisan support, that Rep. Moore refuses to let come to the floor. Unbelievable!

We need for redistricting to be done on a fair nonpartisan basis !!!

In addition to the items below, I urge General Assembly to appoint a new, bipartisan committee to draw the new maps, to avoid using the outside consultant who assisted in drawing the current maps and to comply fully with the courts order.

Race is Key: Map drawers shall ensure that it is possible for Black voters to elect their candidates of choice. Also, dividing compact Black populations to weaken their power is prohibited. These are central requirements of the Voting Rights Act.

Obey Laws: In addition to the federal Voting Rights Act, maps must abide by the US and NC constitutions and laws.

“One person, one vote:” means districts must be very nearly equal in population.

Geographic Compactness: Map drawers shall create compact districts, without odd tentacles. Compactness can be evaluated with mathematical measures.
Contiguity: Draw districts that don’t skip over areas or join two areas at just one point on the map.
Count Incarcerated Persons: as residents of their pre-incarceration home or family residence for purposes of redistricting.

No Favoritism: Map drawers shall not use the addresses of current lawmakers, or the party affiliation or voting history of voters, or other data to help a party or politician.

Respect Communities of Interest: Map drawers must avoid dividing a “community of interest” such as panels with similar cultural, ethnic.

We can no longer tolerate immoral attempts to redistrict to favor party or race or any additional characteristics of people. With an eye to existing political boundaries, such as precinct or county, districting should be by population.

An independent redistricting process is essential to allow voters to choose their representatives and not to prevent legislators from choosing their voters.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Message</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017  5:20PM</td>
<td>Mr. Keith Brown</td>
<td>Hopefully this link will show you what I sent in to the redistricting committee for Guilford County. I had plenty of commissioners and High Point council members on board liking these maps for Guilford County. Last time it did not get any coverage on the state level but please consider seeing this link below to Guilford County. Thanks <a href="http://triadwatch.blogspot.com/2011/07/guilford-county-redistricting-map.html">http://triadwatch.blogspot.com/2011/07/guilford-county-redistricting-map.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017  5:21PM</td>
<td>Mr. Steven Liddle</td>
<td>I would like to express my strong support for adopting a nonpartisan process for drawing maps. We should not be using political party voting registrations to game the system but instead draw compact logical districts that maintain community boundaries. Mathematical methods of analyzing the success of a map in correctly representing the votes cast are available and should be used to limit the “packing and cracking” that have taken over NC districts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017  5:21PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Sharon Fowler</td>
<td>Please make the redistricting non partisan in addition to it not being based on race. Non partisan maps will be better for voters and it will be better for political parties too. Sharon Fowler NC voter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017  5:22PM</td>
<td>Ms. Brenda Willis</td>
<td>No partisan gerrymandering. We are tired of GOP trying to hijack our government. We choose Governor Cooper and we support him.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Aug 2 2017  5:23PM | Darlene Stone       | · adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps  
· exclude political information like voter registration data, past election results or where incumbents live when drawing maps  
· draw compact districts that keep communities together |
| Aug 2 2017  5:53PM | Mr. Ralph Besser    | Please adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps. Exclude political information such as past election results, voter registration data, or where incumbents live when drawing the maps. Draw compact maps that keep communities together. Thank you. |
| Aug 2 2017  6:06PM | Mr. Charles Brotman | stacking the deck (to either side of the aisle makes for an UNREPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY. Be Fair, and honest, FIX THIS NOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! |
| Aug 2 2017  6:18PM | Ms. Melissa Griffin | I urge you to adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps. To do this, you should exclude political information like voter registration data, past election results or where incumbents live when drawing maps. Strive to draw compact districts that keep communities together. Thank you. |
| Aug 2 2017  6:18PM | Dr. Joseph Tanzini  | Please draw fair maps the are Party blind. They should be drawn by an independent group that will choose visually compact regions without knowledge of notions politics or race. Thank you. |
| Aug 2 2017  6:23PM | Matthew Stafford    | It’s plainly obvious that neither side can be trusted to deal with this topic fairly. So take it out of the hands of political parties. |
| Aug 2 2017  6:42PM | Ms. Patience Vanderbush | Fair electoral maps are essential to a functioning democracy. Please disclose all of the criteria and assumptions that you use in redrawing North Carolina’s electoral maps. Please eliminate partisan advantage and racial bias from your criteria for drawing the new maps. Please make the new maps available for review and comment by the public in advance of hearings and again before the maps are finalized. We want fair maps. |
| Aug 2 2017  6:44PM | Dr. Liz Bolton      | I am writing to request that fair maps be drawn by following these guidelines:  
· adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps  
· exclude political information like voter registration data, past election results or where incumbents live when drawing maps  
· draw compact districts that keep communities together  
Thank you. |
| Aug 2 2017  6:58PM | Mark Ulrey          | I strongly urge Legislative Redistricting committee to:  
· adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps  
· exclude political information like voter registration data, past election results or where incumbents live when drawing maps  
· draw compact districts that keep communities together  
Thank you for bringing back fair and just voting to North Carolina once again!! |
Dr. Magaretha Herman

Our legislative districts must be compact, have an equal population, avoid unnecessary division of counties. I do not want our districts to be drawn for partisan advantage—I want every district to have competitive races so that we voters have real choices and do not see ballots where candidates are unopposed.

Mary Hughes Brookhart

Please take this opportunity to show our state and our nation that we can set up fair districts as neither the Democrats or Republicans have done in the past. Make the process non-partisan, keep communities together, and have the redistricting done with no attention to the politics and voting history of the area.

Thanks!!!

Ms. Dona Koeberl

Fair voting district should be: Complete cities or counties, including centers and suburbs, or divisions of those geographic areas, divided with straight lines into halves, quarters, thirds, to keep the numbers in the districts more nearly even.

Mrs. Whitney Clarke

Must be non-partisan!!!

Dr. Mons Hegarty

Let's draw fair maps - not consult voting records or registration, addresses of Candidates

Mr. James Alexander

I would like to express my strong support for a establishing a non-partisan approach to redistricting. Legislative districts need to be drawn in a geographically logical manner and without regard to party affiliations so that all voters are fairly represented regardless of their party affiliation and regardless of which party is currently in power. I am expressing this opinion as someone who is currently registered as an unaffiliated voter.

Ms. Janet Hancock

I believe that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed and that fair electoral maps are essential to a functioning democracy. I understand that the General Assembly is currently setting the criteria to be used to redraw North Carolina’s legislative maps. I urge you to support criteria and processes to create fair maps by:
- Disclosing all criteria and assumptions used on a timely basis as part of the public map review process
- Not setting partisan targets for election outcomes or purposely protecting incumbents
- Excluding data on voters’ party registration and past voting
- Excluding data on incumbents’ or candidates’ addresses
- Excluding data on race and ethnicity except where necessary to comply with federal law
- Ensuring the “opportunity for protected classes of voters to elect the candidates of their choice” as required by the Voting Rights Act, including the use of standard methods of polarized voting analysis, such as Bivariate Ecological Regression Analysis, and the reporting of the results by district for each set of maps
- Strictly applying the Stephenson process to define VRA districts and to draw county clusters that comply with North Carolina’s Whole County Provision
- Using accepted measures of compactness that measure both the extent to which each district is spread out from its center (e.g., Reock and Convex Hull) and how smooth or contorted each district is (e.g., Polsby-Popper and Schwartzberg) and then making the results of this analysis available for each district and each set of maps
- Reporting the efficiency gap for each district and set of districts after drawing each set of maps (but not using partisan data to draw the maps)
- Making maps available for review and comment by the public in a timely manner.

Mrs. Carol Ann Minor

Now is the time to make fair without gerrymandering district maps so we can stop wasting time, money and grief. Thank you.

Mrs. Betsy Webster

Racial and political gerrymandering need to end

Ms. Bu Brenowitz

Everyone no matter what their race or party affiliation should have the right to vote in a fair non partisan way. What is this country coming to?

Ms. Bridget J Dunford

I fully want and expect a non-partisan process for drawing new voter maps. Exclude political voter registration data and other searches that would delineate political bias.
- Districts need to be compact and keep communities together.
- Each vote needs to count. Draw apportionable maps!

Ms. Cheri Ewald

To the NC Representatives on the Redistricting Committee:

Thank you for your service as Representatives in our General Assembly. As you work through developing a redistricting plan for North Carolina, I ask that you:
- adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps
- exclude political information such as voter registration data, past election results, or where incumbents live when drawing maps
- draw compact districts that keep communities together.

Thank you.

Regards,

Cheri Ewald
I want North Carolina with the upcoming redistricting plan to be the pathfinder for the automated, transparent open source voting district software that only considers population, geography and community boundaries when composing new districts. North Carolina's voting district algorithm should be good enough that it becomes the foundation for the 2020 census redistricting. We should be the leader and not the infamous pariah of fair voting.

North Carolina needs to follow other states' examples of using non-partisan redistricting commissions. Every citizen should have confidence that their vote is counted with equal weight to every other vote. Partisan gerrymandering not only robs citizens of an equal voice, it attacks our highest ideal as a democratic republic. For representative democracy to be legitimate, voting districts need a non-partisan method of drawing their boundaries.

We must have a NONPARTISAN process for drawing new maps. Any/all political information (for example, voter registration and previous election results) should be excluded from consideration in drawing new maps. Finally, districts should be compact, keeping communities together.

We need fair maps. Please uphold our democracy and ensure fair voting.

1. adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps
2. exclude political information like voter registration data, past election results or where incumbents live when drawing maps
3. draw compact districts that keep communities together. Thank you.

We need fair maps. Please uphold our democracy and ensure fair voting.

Our constitution simply demands a count of eligible voters. It does not mention political affiliation, race, ethnicity, or gender (thought it envisioned male suffrage only). Governor Gerry infamously attempted to skew the process to favor his political party - and the result then and presently have worked to skew the makeup of state and federal legislatures with precision unimaginable by our founding fathers and those who followed in their footsteps.

The Constitutional process essentially envisioned an objective, random selection process which treated each and all citizens equally (albeit with the 3/5ths rule arising from our 'original sin' of enslaving slavery in our law).

Politicians have ignored the intent over the years, essentially selecting which citizens might cast ballots in 'their' voting districts. As has been said, allowing politicians to choose 'their' voters instead of voters choosing "their" representatives.

We can see the results in North Carolina (as in many other states) when we compare statewide voting results with the cumulative results drawn. I know that both republicans & democrats have been guilty of gerrymandering votes in the past and it's time to stop this practice.

I'm aware that on Friday, August 4, at 10:30am the legislature will hold a redistricting committee meeting and take public comment on what criteria they will use when drawing new voting maps. I am writing to say that the redistricting committee must:

1. adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps
2. exclude political information like voter registration data, past election results or where incumbents live when drawing maps
3. draw compact districts that keep communities together.

Please uphold our democracy and ensure fair voting.

We need fair maps. Thank you.

I urge you to exclude political information like voter registration data, past election results or where incumbents live when drawing maps and draw compact districts that keep communities together.

I am a mother, teacher, artist and proud North Carolina resident. Lately I have been embarrassed by my States political actions, especially over the unfair & undemocratic ways districts have been drawn. I know that both republicans & democrats have been guilty of gerrymandering votes in the past and it's time to stop this practice.

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We can see the results in North Carolina (as in many other states) when we compare statewide voting results with the cumulative results drawn. The results of Gerrymandered Districts.

Since present day redistricting efforts are aided by sophisticated computers and GIS data as well as access to voter rolls indicating party preference and voter histories, the ability to surgically craft and create voting districts comprising a majority of voters registered with a particular political party the process has produced undemocratic districts which effectively deny literally millions of citizens equal representation.

I urge you to exclude political information like voter registration data, past election results or where incumbents live when drawing maps and draw compact districts that keep communities together.

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Aug 2 2017 11:57PM Ms. Beth OConnell Whatever side of the aisle you are on, it is time for a NON-PARTISAN drawing of legislative districts, here and across the country. Gerrymandering undermines democracy and make us into nothing but hypocrites, as we say we stand for our great democracy but do the opposite. I urge the NCGA to redraw these districts in a fair and just way without trying to draw them for partisan advantage. By doing that, then we can bring discussions back to good policy and finding compromise.

I also ask that all these comments be read, discussed, pondered and provided to any person, consultant or legislative staff, that is involved in the redrawing of these maps. It is not acceptable to ask for comments but then not include them in the decision making process.

Thank you,
Beth O’Connell
NC Citizen

Aug 3 2017 1:24AM Mr. WILLIAM ALDRIDGE I would like to request that moving forward that nonpartisan redistricting be used for drawing new legislative voting maps. This is needed to return true democracy to our voting process. The will of the people must be heard rather than the effects of strategically drawn legislative districts that favor any one party over another.

Aug 3 2017 1:31AM Mrs. Lara McKinnon Two wrongs don’t make a right is a certain truth. The excuse of “the Democrats did it too” just doesn’t hold up when you examine the data. The obscene degree in which the NCGA has gerrymandered our congressional districts is seen best through a lens of history.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Democrats</th>
<th>Republicans</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>2014</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
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The results of the 2012 election are directly correlated to dramatically racially gerrymandered districts, which have been declared illegal.

The same methods, and indeed the same mapmaker who drew the racially biased congressional districts, applied the same approach to the state legislative districts. No wonder the court has mandated you redraw them.

Our Democracy is healthier with real competition. If the only challenge a legislator faces happens in the primary there is effectively no competition.

If you racially gerrymander or politically gerrymander our districts you have denied fair competition and it is fraudulent.

Aug 3 2017 6:06AM Mr. Michael Connolly Several months ago, my wife Brie and I drove 2 1/2 hours up to Raleigh to speak with our Senator Bill Rabon and our Representative Chris Millis and ask them to put an end to the gerrymandering in NC. We have also written letters and e-mails to them and others about this very important issue. We cannot come to Raleigh on Friday August 4th to express our views on this subject because of a previous commitment. But here is what we are asking as the legislature works on redistricting:

- adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps
- exclude political information like voter registration data, past election results or where incumbents live when drawing maps
- draw compact districts that keep communities together

And let us see the maps and give us time to study them before any final decisions are made on them. Thank you.

Aug 3 2017 6:09AM Ms. Sandy Irving Be compact and contiguous

Be drawn without considering partisan factors like voter registration, results of previous elections, voter turnout and where the incumbent lives

Be Fair.

Aug 3 2017 6:15AM Anne Hummel It is high time that the General Assembly follow state and federal law to engage in redistricting that is fair to all voters. No gerrymandering! Districts should be redrawn to be compact and contiguous, and without partisan factors such as voter registration, voter turnout, where the incumbent lives, or the results of previous elections. Precincts should not be split for any races. And in Congressional redistricting, county boundaries should not be split, unless it is absolutely necessary for equitable distribution of the population into districts.
Mrs. Pat Moore

Be compact and contiguous
These districts should be drawn without considering partisan factors
I agree with Jane’s criteria. The time for fair, un-rigged elections is long overdue. Legislators should not choose us; we should choose them!

Aug 3 2017 6:25AM

Michael Brown

Please make sure in your upcoming redistributing deliberations that new voter districts are: contiguous & non partisian (without consideration of previous voter roles/affiliation). Let’s play fair, and make our representatives responsive to the entire electorate not a computer generated voter sub set of narrow ideologies that favor any particular party.

Aug 3 2017 6:28AM

Mrs. Mary Peterson

Be compact and contiguous
Follow state and federal law
Be drawn without considering partisan factors like voter registration, results of previous elections, voter turnout and where the incumbent lives

Aug 3 2017 6:30AM

Ms. Stefanie Mendell

Let’s uphold the greatest traditions of our democracy and draw fair and impartial voting districts. That means that they should be compact and contiguous, follow state and federal law, and be drawn without considering partisan factors like voter registration, results of previous elections, voter turnout or where the incumbent lives.

Aug 3 2017 6:41AM

Mr. Earl Chestnut

The redistricting line should follow the state and federal law as it is outline by the court. It should be done fair and equally that allow voters to a choice who they want vote for. They should be not without racist discrimination and party affiliation. It should be drawn to reflect that particular district of people county lines that they live in and not lines that stretches all across North Carolina.

Aug 3 2017 7:06AM

Ms. Mary Lou Buck

I am for ending Gerrymandering!

Aug 3 2017 7:07AM

Ms. Laurel Colton

Voting is our right. You have manipulated my Constitutional right to vote. I have exercised my right to vote for more than 55 years. Do your job now.

Aug 3 2017 7:11AM

Nada Barnett

I think they should be drawn by a bi-partisan committee in a just and fair way irrespective of race and political leanings. The districts should not meander all over the map but should be drawn to be in contiguous areas.

Aug 3 2017 7:19AM

Dr. Tim Hoyt

I agree with Jane’s criteria. The time for fair, un-rigged elections is long overdue. Legislators should not choose us; we should choose them!

Aug 3 2017 7:21AM

Ms. Virginia Sullivan

I would like to see redistricting done by a bipartisan group, not the legislature. All districts should be compact and contiguous, follow state and federal laws, and be drawn without considering partisan factors like voter registration, results of previous elections, or voter turnout. Virginia

Aug 3 2017 7:23AM

Ms. Catherine Shoemaker

North Carolina citizens don’t want partisan advantage or racial bias to play a role in drawing the new maps. Please come up with fair maps.

Aug 3 2017 7:25AM

Mr. Steve Buehler

These districts should be drawn without considering partisan factors like voter registration results of previous elections, voter turnout and where the incumbent lives. If you can’t win an election honestly based on your ideas and plans...then you shouldn’t be there. You shouldn’t get to choose your voters. NC deserves better.

Aug 3 2017 7:26AM

Mrs. Pat Moore

The importance of everyone’s vote is essential to democracy.

Aug 3 2017 7:42AM

Mrs. PJ Gentry

I support a new Senate district for Person Caswell & Granville Counties.

Aug 3 2017 7:44AM

Mr. E Thomas Bowers

Let every vote count

Aug 3 2017 7:46AM

Ms. Katherine Archie

Redistricting must be free of Political affiliation s

Aug 3 2017 7:47AM

Dr. Deebbie Swift

I want the General Assembly to draw district lines that are compact, no snaky lines of districts that reach far and wide from some unclear central location just to secure a particular political party. Districts should be contiguous. I do not want them to follow voter records or racial profiles. Using common sense and not partisan politics should be the guideline, as well as federal regulations.

Aug 3 2017 7:52AM

Heidi Perry

Get a computer program to draw the lines and have someone from each party (but outside the state) review them.

Aug 3 2017 7:54AM

Cheryl Wheaton

Redistricting should be nonpartisan, compact, and follow state and federal laws.

Aug 3 2017 7:58AM

Dr. Jacob Brayboy

The redistricting committee must, 1. adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps. 2. exclude political information like voter registration data, past election results or where incumbents live when drawing maps and 3. draw compact districts that keep communities together. Democracy is built on fair voting so we need fair maps. Thank you for your time.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Message</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>8:02AM</td>
<td>Mr. Dale Weston</td>
<td>I am ashamed of the partisan game playing both parties have engaged in. I support the creation of contiguous, population based districts which then encourage both all parties to honestly represent and support the will of the people. The court has mandated fairness in establishing districts. The digitized databases of state wide population factors can establish districts incorporating fair criteria in a matter of minutes. I ask prompt action based on the principles established by the founding fathers - not on the principles of corporate and personal greed embodied in the current boundaries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>8:06AM</td>
<td>Mr. Mary Clayton</td>
<td>Why are you making the 6th district so large? We need to leave the 6th district as it is with Person, Granville, Caswell and Durham. Or leave Durham out, I'd be fine with that. Leave Durham out and put us with Alamance.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>8:35AM</td>
<td>Dr. Gregory Galbicka</td>
<td>I am ashamed of the partisan game playing both parties have engaged in. I support the creation of contiguous, population based districts which then encourage both all parties to honestly represent and support the will of the people. The court has mandated fairness in establishing districts. The digitized databases of state wide population factors can establish districts incorporating fair criteria in a matter of minutes. I ask prompt action based on the principles established by the founding fathers - not on the principles of corporate and personal greed embodied in the current boundaries.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>8:40AM</td>
<td>Ms. Margaret Peeples</td>
<td>Thank you for your consideration! I am a retired NC educator and was disgusted with the racist redistricting that was done and implemented by the legislature. Thank goodness the courts have demanded new lines for our districts. I want the districts to be: 1) compact and contiguous, 2) comply with state and federal laws, and 3) drawn without considering partisan factors like voter registration, results of previous elections, voter turnout and/or where the incumbent lives. You can no longer pack minorities and/or progressive voters into a few districts to stack the legislature in favor of one party. As citizens, we want our voices back and refuse to be ignored any longer. Get to work, and make our state's legislative districts actually represent the people of North Carolina.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>8:26AM</td>
<td>Mr. Mack Pearsall</td>
<td>It is long past time to end the partisan gerrymandering of legislative districts in North Carolina. The Republican super majorities in both houses are in no way reflective of the electorate, and it's time to quit stalling. Federal Judges agree...no more delays. You must redraw districts that are compact and contiguous, that follow state and federal law, and that are drawn without considering partisan factors like voter registration, results of previous elections, voter turnout and/or where the incumbent lives. You can no longer pack minorities and/or progressive voters into a few districts to stack the legislature in favor of one party. As citizens, we want our voices back and refuse to be ignored any longer. Get to work, and make our state's legislative districts actually represent the people of North Carolina.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>8:28AM</td>
<td>Eric Greene</td>
<td>It is time for fair maps and a chance for the voters to choose their representatives versus the representatives choosing the voters. Please do this now. It's the legal thing to do; it's the American thing to do; it's the right thing to do. North Carolina has become an embarrassment for its bad and unethical management — let's change that. A nonpartisan process for drawing new maps is the American thing to do; it's the right thing to do. North Carolina has become an embarrassment for its bad and unethical management — let's change that. We need to end political gerrymandering once and for all. To adopt such a strategy is to disenfranchise voters pure and simple.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>8:28AM</td>
<td>Mr. Tracey Kendrick</td>
<td>Why are you making the 6th district so large? We need to leave the 6th district as it is with Person, Granville, Caswell and Durham. Or leave Durham out, I'd be fine with that. Leave Durham out and put us with Alamance.</td>
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<td>Emily Kotecki</td>
<td>Please adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps, exclude political information like voter registration data, past election results or where incumbents live when drawing maps, and draw compact districts that keep communities together. Thank you!</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>8:50AM</td>
<td>Mr. Thomas Clayton</td>
<td>I am ashamed of the partisan game playing both parties have engaged in. I support the creation of contiguous, population based districts which then encourage both all parties to honestly represent and support the will of the people. The court has mandated fairness in establishing districts. The digitized databases of state wide population factors can establish districts incorporating fair criteria in a matter of minutes. I ask prompt action based on the principles established by the founding fathers - not on the principles of corporate and personal greed embodied in the current boundaries.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>9:00AM</td>
<td>Mr. Salvatore DiBlasi</td>
<td>I would like to take this opportunity to say “why is it OK for Democrats to redistrict when they have the majority, but slap a lawsuit on Republicans when they have the majority.” WHY is their two sets of rules in the House, one for the privileged Democrats who can do no wrong, While Republicans have their every move scrutinized. Time for CHANGE!</td>
</tr>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>9:06AM</td>
<td>Mr. Mary Clayton</td>
<td>The new state and federal districts should be drawn without considering partisan factors like voter registration, anticipated turnout, and results of previous elections. They should reflect existing law and past election results—in drawing the new maps. And keep the districts compact and contiguous. Thank you for taking comments and more importantly, developing a fair process!</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>9:07AM</td>
<td>Emily Kotecki</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>9:09AM</td>
<td>Mr. Mack Pearsall</td>
<td>It is time for fair maps and a chance for the voters to choose their representatives versus the representatives choosing the voters. Please do this now. It's the legal thing to do; it's the American thing to do; it's the right thing to do. North Carolina has become an embarrassment for its bad and unethical management — let's change that. A nonpartisan process for drawing new maps is the American thing to do; it's the right thing to do. North Carolina has become an embarrassment for its bad and unethical management — let's change that. We need to end political gerrymandering once and for all. To adopt such a strategy is to disenfranchise voters pure and simple.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>9:14AM</td>
<td>Dr. Gregory Galbicka</td>
<td>Districts need to be drawn by simple algorithms that provide equal population sub-areas of the state as compactly as possible, taking no other factors (race, sex, voting history, etc.) into account. To do anything else is a waste of taxpayer dollars and a devaluation of the equality of every vote. There are a variety of methods that could be employed, including the shortest splitline method (<a href="http://rangevoting.org/GerryExec.html">http://rangevoting.org/GerryExec.html</a>). Adopting such a method removes all political and other motives and simply defines districts by their ability to represent equal populations. They are easily and simply redrawn as census changes, saving taxpayers time and money, are always and forever unbiased, and won't unduly empower your opponents whether you are in the majority or the minority. It is time to end political gerrymandering once and for all. To adopt such a strategy is to disenfranchise voters pure and simple.</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>9:07AM</td>
<td>Ms. Dianne Layden</td>
<td>The need to keep our &quot;finger Counties&quot; together still remains. We share economics, hospitals, entertainment, and many other factors. Two hospitals cover the region and are one of the major employers in the area. The Regional Health services cover this entire northeast region. We share ESCU and COA. With all this these northeast counties have so much in common that it would be a shame to place them in different legislative districts. There would be no consistency in policy, activities, economy, and basic life if these counties are broken up and put in with counties that do not have anything in common. Please do not break us up. We fight for survival in relation to the rest of NC. For stability of the area please let us stand as we are.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>9:12AM</td>
<td>Ms. Barbara Henegar</td>
<td>This activity could be brought into this century by doing the redistricting by computer. Take the party politics out of it. Have the criteria be population and age based (18 and over) ... be fair ... get it done</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>9:13AM</td>
<td>Brian Irving</td>
<td>The Libertarian Party of North Carolina supports a redistricting process conducted by an independent, nonpartisan agency for all local, state, and federal districts. The process should be open and transparent. It should involve significant public input with the opportunity for citizens to weigh in on proposed district maps. The criteria used to draw all district lines should be simple. The districts should: 1. Be compact and contiguous 2. Follow state and federal law 3. Be drawn without considering partisan factors like voter registration, results of previous elections, voter turnout and where the incumbent lives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>9:18AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Heidi Mize</td>
<td>I am in favor of redistricting Caswell-Person-Granville-Durham Senate district.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>9:18AM</td>
<td>Byron Dame</td>
<td>Do it right, and do it fairly for constituents, not your party. Just because 'they' did it in the past does not mean you can't stand up and do what is right.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>9:18AM</td>
<td>Mr. ROBERT CHERNIAK</td>
<td>Let us have non partisan redistricting by creating an independent commission.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>9:19AM</td>
<td>Mr. RICK Nichols</td>
<td>Time to stop cheating and stealing elections. Our Republican officials are and have been stealing our rights to a fair election for years. They know we will vote them out for selling us all out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>9:19AM</td>
<td>Dr. Susan Weaver</td>
<td>I am writing to encourage you to use this opportunity to draw districts as fairly as possible without partisan interests. People fought and died protecting democracy and the right to vote. This is your time to make a lasting effort to protect it from special interest greed and partisan bias.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>9:20AM</td>
<td>Ms. Kathryn Charles</td>
<td>I am a constituent from the 5th District of North Carolina, and I vote. I strongly support districts that accurately represent ALL the citizens of the state, and use fair and legal criteria to create maps for NC Senate and House and US Congressional districts that represent ALL NC citizens, not just those that favor or discriminate against any political candidate or political party. Maps should be drawn in compliance with the US Constitution and the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965. Districts should have equal population to the extent possible, and be geographically compact and contiguous. North Carolina has some of the most gerrymandered districts in the country. This is disgraceful, illegal and damaging to democracy and must be corrected. Kathryn Charles 2715 Old Highway 60 Purlear NC 28665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>9:24AM</td>
<td>Ms. Marla Drucker</td>
<td>the districts should Be compact and contiguous Follow state and federal law Be drawn without considering partisan factors like voter registration, results of previous elections, voter turnout and where the incumbent lives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>9:29AM</td>
<td>Dr. Victoria Shea</td>
<td>Districts should be drawn without regard to A) where incumbents live; B) party affiliation and previous partisan voting patterns of residents. Also, districts should be compact, not spread out into long spindly patterns with pieces that barely touch each other. And finally, district maps should comply with all federal and state laws and with the Constitution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>9:33AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Judith Mont</td>
<td>GOP - Stop the cheating!!! We will vote you out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>9:35AM</td>
<td>Ms. Nancy Jacobs</td>
<td>I am amazed and disturbed that our legislature has so little confidence in their constituents that they resort to virtually having to &quot;cheat&quot; to win elections by restricting voters who they think will vote against them. This is cowardly and immoral to say the least. And Pathetic. Most people in the state want fair and non partisan decided districts. Get on with it ... You know what is right...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>9:39AM</td>
<td>Mr. Jerry Marples</td>
<td>The districts should be compact and contiguous. Follow state and federal law. Be drawn without considering partisan factors like voter registration, results of previous elections, voter turnout and where the incumbent lives. This should be done by a non-partisan commission. Both parties have supported this, now is the time for my Republican Party to stop acting like Democrats.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>9:45AM</td>
<td>Mr. Fred Stanback</td>
<td>Establish a non partisan redistricting commission.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>9:46AM</td>
<td>Alan Knudsen</td>
<td>PLEASE have re-districting completed on a non-partisan basis! What BOTH parties do when in power is very similar. But when the forefathers first began gerrymandering, they didn't have the computing / technology / IT technology to do it with the tools we do today. It's destroying NC and this country. You have the power to stop it, and do the right thing by creating independent commission create non-partisan districts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>9:47AM</td>
<td>Mr. Stephen ADVOKAT</td>
<td>Get on with this already. You've been foot-dragging long enough. I want my Democracy back.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>9:49AM</td>
<td>Mr. Jamie Lau</td>
<td>The required redrawing of legislative maps in North Carolina must be done in a nonpartisan fashion, without the use of data on voters' party affiliations or any proxy data related to party affiliation such as race. Partisan gerrymandering of legislative maps is undemocratic, and undermines the will of North Carolina voters. A representative republic only has credibility when elected officials are truly representative of the public that elects them to office. North Carolina has lost credibility as a result of its currently illegally constituted General Assembly, which continues to pass unpopular laws seeking to entrench its power. These laws are costing the State a great deal of money, as they are repeatedly challenged in court. A General Assembly elected through a fair process will more accurately reflect the will of the people of North Carolina, and will not pass laws that are wildly unpopular and illegal. For the sake of democracy and North Carolina's citizens, please end the partisan madness and draw legislative maps in a fair manner. Sincerely, Jamie Lau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>9:54AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Susan Phipps</td>
<td>One of the most fundamental requirements to sustain a healthy democracy is to allow all qualified citizens to participate in free and accessible elections that result in the person(s) favored by the majority taking office. Gerrymandering is a totally un-American effort to thwart the wishes of the majority and I urge you to draw fair district lines right now in North Carolina with no consideration of the politics or race of the individual voters within any compact new district. Support Democracy. Thank you. Stop gerrymandering our state. Create a district map and procedure to ensure all of NC's citizens can easily vote in their district. We are watching your actions and votes. Thank you for doing the right thing for our state.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>9:54AM</td>
<td>Ms. Joan Jolliff</td>
<td>Stop gerrymandering our state. Create a district map and procedure to ensure all of NC’s citizens can easily vote in their district. We are watching your actions and votes. Thank you for doing the right thing for our state.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
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<td>Marshall Bobvinick</td>
<td>For the past seven years, North Carolina has been using unfair and unconstitutional maps. The Supreme Court's recent unanimous judgment that our 2011 maps were a racial gerrymander should be a wake up call to politicians of both parties that we need a more equitable and nonpartisan approach to redistricting. Right now, members of the General Assembly have an extraordinary opportunity in front of them. They can correct the mistakes of 2011 and steer North Carolina towards elections that are fairer and more competitive, or they can continue down the same path that has forced tax payers to spend millions of dollars defending unconstitutional maps. I urge the legislature to get it right this time. North Carolinians are tired of paying for our politicians to defend maps that are drawn for their own personal and political benefit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>9:55AM</td>
<td>Mr. Matthew Damron</td>
<td>It's time to put an end to the illegal voting districts, ruled by a federal court as racial gerrymandering. Please do the right thing and do it quickly. Every citizen deserves a voice. Isn't it enough that we've put a madman in the nation's highest office? This is the natural evolution of partisan politics. When did ensuring your team wins become more important than the will of the electorate?</td>
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On criteria and process, I urge:

*Disclosing all criteria and assumptions used on a timely basis as part of the public map review process

*Using the preservation of communities of interest as a criterion (e.g., not splitting municipalities unless necessary for population equality)

*Excluding data on race and ethnicity except where necessary to comply with federal law

*Ensuring the “opportunity for protected classes of voters to elect the candidates of their choice” as required by the Voting Rights Act, including the use of standard methods of polarized voting analysis, such as Bivariate Ecological Regression Analysis, and the reporting of the results by district for each set of maps

Strictly applying the Stephenson process to define VRA districts and to draw county clusters that comply with North Carolina's Whole County Provision

*Using accepted measures of compactness that measure both the extent to which each district is spread out from its center (e.g., Reock and Convex Hull) and how smooth or contorted each district is (e.g., Polsby-Popper and Schwartzberg) and then making the results of this analysis available for each district and each set of maps

*Making maps available for review and comment by the public in advance of hearings and again before the maps are finalized

*Maintaining a public log of comments and the response of the committee to each comment. Invoking whether the more measured

As you consider the factors going into fair and transparent redistricting boundaries please be mindful of the following factors:

1. Be compact and contiguous
2. Follow state and federal law
3. Be drawn without considering partisan factors like voter registration, results of previous elections, voter turnout and where the incumbent lives.

Districts should strive to be competitive and compact, and free from partisan bias. Partisan bias that should be excluded from the process would be consideration of any voter's party affiliation, past voter turnout, and the address of the incumbent for any proposed district.

The criteria used to draw the districts should be published and available for public review from the very beginning of the process. Lawmakers should make all comments to the committee available for public review.

The districts should not be drawn to benefit either party, but to represent the citizens in our state in a logical, useful and non-partisan way. Please do not put your party's interest above doing your job in an ethical, respected manner.

Please be fair in this latest attempt at redistricting, all American's have a right to vote and to have their vote count. We will not tolerate racial bias or lines intended to exclude any portion of the population. We are watching you. I don't care what was done in the past, if you can't win an election by competing fairly, than you shouldn't be running for office. I support independent districting and will fight until it becomes law. I know the majority of people in our state agree.
The new maps should be drawn with NO access to information on party affiliation. Factoring that into the process is driving our government toward a single-party system like that in Cuba and other communist regimes. We must stop this trend before it destroys America. Thank you.

Mrs. Maia Sloan  Aug 3 2017 10:26AM

The district lines in NC need to represent all the people and be fairly drawn so that everyone has a voice that counts. The legislatures job is to work for the people and instead we see a shameful power grab by one political party desperate to stay in control. It’s not fair and it’s not democratic and it underlines everything that our country stands for. The people are not being equally represented in NC and something needs to change.

Allison Mangkang  Aug 3 2017 10:31AM

Please commit to nonpartisan guidelines for re-drawing state voting districts including the exclusion of voter registration data, past election results and incumbents’ addresses. Please assign redistricting responsibility to an independent body when drawing new districts, and not the same body that drew the illegal districts during the previous effort.

Dr. David H. Bland  Aug 3 2017 10:33AM

It is no secret that Democrats played the gerrymandering game in past years, but the sophisticated tools which were available to the Republican mapmakers over the last six years has made North Carolina a poster child for non-representative elections where the legislators choose the voters rather than voters having unrestricted opportunity to select their legislators of choice. The court has been clear in its assessment of our gerrymandered districts and has given you legislators an opportunity to rectify the disregard which has been shown to North Carolina voters. I urge you to apply the following criteria as you revise our present districts and begin seriously considering a nonpartisan redistricting commission:

* Be compact and contiguous
* Follow state and federal law
* Be drawn without considering partisan factors like voter registration, results of previous elections, voter turnout and where the incumbent lives.

Ms. Cheryl Jones  Aug 3 2017 10:38AM

I would like to request that you stop screwing over the people of this State and start acting like you actually have ALL of our best interests at heart. Please treat us fairly and give ALL of the people of N.C a FAIR chance to vote and have their voices heard. And remember there WILL be an election coming in the near future and whether or not you stay is up to the People and the People are watching!!!

Mr. Chris Kaman  Aug 3 2017 10:38AM

I believe that redistricting in North Carolina has historically been unfairly manipulated by the party in power and overwhelmingly favorable to incumbent candidates. Also, district maps drawn for partisan advantage have led to years of expensive legal wrangling, divisive politics, and voter dissatisfaction. Lastly, it seems to me that election districts created by partisan-drawn maps actually subvert the voting power of its citizens. Partisan gerrymandering must be ended in North Carolina, and across our country!

Therefore, I fully support legislation to reform our redistricting process which includes the following principles:

a. Districts are “compact and contiguous” meaning that there are no long tentacles that stretch out and barely touch the rest of the district.
b. Districts follow state and federal laws.
c. The most important: districts are drawn not considering factors such as the party affiliation of voters, where the incumbent lives, the results of previous elections, or other partisan factors.

Thank you for working on this critical issue!

Barbara Vandenbergh  Aug 3 2017 10:44AM

North Carolina voters are watching. I urge you to use these criteria: Be compact and contiguous. Follow state and federal law Be drawn without considering partisan factors such as voter registration, voter turnout, results of previous elections and where the incumbent lives.

Jessica Flemming  Aug 3 2017 10:45AM

I’m very pleased to see that this redistricting effort of under way. I truly hope that this will we done with a nonpartisan effort to ensure fairness and proper representation for all North Carolinians.

Ms. Angela Porzini  Aug 3 2017 10:49AM

Redistricting needs to happen now. The current state of the districts in North Carolina is embarrassing. North Carolina General Assembly has demonstrated their inability to draw electoral maps that are fair and constitutional. NC needs leaders to adopt independent redistricting. Current legislators have wasted tax money on various methods to suppress votes via discriminatory gerrymandering and voter ID laws. Stop playing games. Transparency and non partisanship is required.

Mrs. Nancy Driscoll  Aug 3 2017 10:53AM

Make it fair and bipartisan.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date and Time</th>
<th>Message</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Ronald Sederoff</td>
<td>Aug 3 2017 10:54AM</td>
<td>the criteria should require that the districts should</td>
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<td>Districts should be compact and contiguous</td>
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<td>Follow state and federal law</td>
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<td>Be drawn without considering partisan factors like voter registration,</td>
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<td>results of previous elections, voter turnout and where the incumbent</td>
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<td>lives.</td>
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<td>Mrs. Dorothy Williams</td>
<td>Aug 3 2017 10:56AM</td>
<td>I believe it is imperative for the leaders of North Carolina to ensure</td>
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<td>that one vote counts as much as another and nonpartisan redistricting</td>
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<td>is an important step toward this goal. I would encourage you to adopt</td>
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<td>a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps; exclude political</td>
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<td>information like voter registration data, past election results or where</td>
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<td>incumbents live when drawing maps; draw compact districts that keep</td>
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<td>communities together. Thank you for serving North Carolina as an</td>
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<td>elected official and for considering the common good above all else.</td>
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<td>Christine McLynn</td>
<td>Aug 3 2017 10:58AM</td>
<td>I live in the infamous drawn 12th District - the abomination of</td>
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<td>partisan redistricting. Let a bipartisan group redraw boundaries - or</td>
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<td>better yet - let a computer programmer -with no affiliation to NC</td>
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<td>politics - redraw them. Whether Democrat, Republican, or Independent,</td>
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<td>each voter's vote should count as close to equally as possible.</td>
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<td>Ms. Laura Dendy</td>
<td>Aug 3 2017 10:59AM</td>
<td>Please draw the new district lines in a non-partisan fashion. Our</td>
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<td>districts should contain a fair balance of registered Republicans,</td>
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<td>Democrats and Independents. This is the best way for all North</td>
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<td>Carolinians to have our voices heard. As it stands now (and in the</td>
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<td>past) this is not the case. I believe you know this to be true in your</td>
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<td>hearts. Please show that you care about NC havin a real democratic</td>
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<td>Ms. Misako Toda</td>
<td>Aug 3 2017 11:01AM</td>
<td>Please consider the following:</td>
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<td>1. adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps</td>
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<td>2. exclude political information like voter registration data, past</td>
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<td>election results or where incumbents live when drawing maps</td>
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<td>3. draw compact districts that keep communities together</td>
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<td>Ms. Eileen McMinn</td>
<td>Aug 3 2017 11:02AM</td>
<td>We need impartial redistricting, to be determined by a commission or</td>
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<td>academic panel without guidelines that have nothing to do with</td>
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<td>political partisanship. It is the only way we can ensure that the people</td>
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<td>will elect legislators who represent their wishes.</td>
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<td>Ms. Dona Koeberl</td>
<td>Aug 3 2017 11:03AM</td>
<td>voting districts should be</td>
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<td>compact and contiguous</td>
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<td>follow state and federal law</td>
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<td>not be based on party voter registration</td>
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<td>Mr. Gary Welsh</td>
<td>Aug 3 2017 11:03AM</td>
<td>The current gerrymandering makes me feel like my opinion and my</td>
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<td>vote don't count because the Republican party has found a way to</td>
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<td>cheat and game the system. They have defeated democracy to</td>
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<td>impose their will on the state. This is not how the nation is designed</td>
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<td>to function and it is not Christian. All the excuses and rationales</td>
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<td>that try to justify this are just ingenuous distractions. To succeed as</td>
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<td>a state and a nation we need non-partisan redistricting.</td>
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<td>Mr. Akiva Fox</td>
<td>Aug 3 2017 11:07AM</td>
<td>Please, please, consider a non-partisan redistricting plan.</td>
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<td>Republicans won't be in power forever, and neither will Democrats.</td>
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<td>It is fair, it is right, and it leads to better governing. People lose</td>
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<td>faith in their legislature when it looks like a power grab, not a</td>
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<td>representative body. What we have now is not working.</td>
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<td>Mr. PHILIP LENOWITZ</td>
<td>Aug 3 2017 11:08AM</td>
<td>It's simple. We need an independent, non-partisan group to make this</td>
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<td>happen. Not under the control of the majority party, but a fair,</td>
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<td>equitable redistricting.</td>
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<td>Mr. Thomas Paugh</td>
<td>Aug 3 2017 11:11AM</td>
<td>Redistricting should not be a political tool to weaken individuals' votes</td>
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<td>It should simply reflect the change in population and demographics</td>
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<td>with a goal of providing as fair representation as possible to all</td>
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<td>citizens. There are several groups who have developed clear</td>
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<td>procedures for fair redistricting. These procedures should be applied</td>
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<td>by an independent committee made of knowledgeable adults.</td>
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<td>Mrs. Diane Clark</td>
<td>Aug 3 2017 11:13AM</td>
<td>Hello, My family and I have felt disfranchised from voting for many</td>
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<td>years now, as we are Democrats in a Republican-held district (Senate</td>
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<td>and House of Reps.). The Republicans run unopposed, as they have</td>
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<td>held power for a number of years now. We believe in Democracy, but feel</td>
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<td>that the current legislative districts are unfair to the voting public,</td>
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<td>favoring the Republican party. Please make new districts so that all</td>
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<td>people will be represented fairly, and so that a candidate can run from</td>
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<td>each party and feel they have a chance at winning. This needs to</td>
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<td>happen immediately, so we can get back to American values, not just</td>
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<td>Republican values, running our state and country.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>11:16AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Lynn Maust</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>11:24AM</td>
<td>Dr. Mary Diener</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>11:26AM</td>
<td>Dr. Mary Diener</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>11:31AM</td>
<td>Nancy Shoemaker</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>11:33AM</td>
<td>Mr. Timothy O'Brien</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>11:33AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Sylvia Horvath</td>
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As a voter in NC, it's very important that redistricting criteria be transparent and fair to ensure faith in the overall system. I am very much in favor of mathematical formulas to be followed where possible, such as not to exceed ratios of registered voters in one party vs the other. In addition, I am in favor of the following subjective criteria as general principles for redistricting:
- Be compact and contiguous
- Follow state and federal law
- Be drawn without considering partisan factors like voter registration, results of previous elections, voter turnout and where the incumbent lives

Please ensure that the redrawing of legislative districts will NOT be a partisan process. Our state has seen enough discord from one party or another abusing their power by gerrymandering districts to suit their needs. We need to have both major parties have input in this redistricting process. It would also be helpful to call upon statisticians and programmers to design a nonpartisan algorithm to help ensure our districts will enable fair, nonpartisan-weighted elections.

Redistricting has to follow certain criteria to be accepted.
- compactness
- contiguity
- equal population
- preservation of existing political communities (This wasn't done when Asheville was divided between the 10th and 11th Districts!)
- partisan fairness (This wasn't observed in recent redistricting.)
- racial fairness (This wasn't done when the I-85 corridor District was designed!)

In drawing the map please adhere to the following criteria: Be compact and contiguous
- Follow state and federal law.
- Be drawn without considering partisan factors like voter registration, results of previous elections, voter turnout and where the incumbent lives.

I think the redistricting criteria should be that the districts be compact and contiguous, follow state and federal law and be drawn without considering partisan factors like voter registration, results of previous elections, voter turnout and where the incumbent lives. Thank you for considering what I believe to be fair and just criteria for redistricting.

I am asking the legislators to ensure new districts are drawn using impartial criteria and in an open and transparent process the public can trust. Districts should strive to be competitive, compact, encompassing communities of interest, and free from partisan bias. Partisan bias that should be excluded from the process would be consideration of voter's party affiliation, past voter turnout, and the address of the incumbent for any proposed district. The criteria used to draw the districts should be published and available for public review from the very beginning of the process. Lawmakers should make all comments to the committee available for public review.

To avoid major redistricting again in the near future please make this one nonpartisan in addition to racial. I believe upcoming court cases will mandate nonpartisan which will mean the maps will need to be redrawn for the 2020 election.

A majority of you are on the record as supporting nonpartisan redistricting. So please, drawn them fairly now so that 2020 is not a major overhaul.

NC should use a non-partisan commission that does not use voter registration data, past election results, or where incumbents live when drawing maps. Also the state should draw up compact districts that keep communities together so their needs and voices are heard by our elected officials.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Timestamp</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>Dr. Jennifer Bremer</td>
<td>I strongly encourage the Committee to set an example for the nation and for our state's future by developing a fair and impartial set of criteria for the upcoming redistricting of the North Carolina House and Senate. Such criteria should be based on the following:</td>
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<td>1. Disclose all criteria and assumptions used on a timely basis as part of the public map review process</td>
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<td>2. Do not set partisan targets for election outcomes or purposely protect incumbents</td>
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<td>3. Exclude data on voters' party registration and past voting</td>
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<td>4. Exclude data on incumbents' or candidates' addresses</td>
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<td>5. Exclude data on race and ethnicity except where necessary to comply with federal law</td>
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<td>6. Ensure the &quot;opportunity for protected classes of voters to elect the candidates of their choice&quot; as required by the Voting Rights Act, including the use of standard methods of polarized voting analysis, such as Bivariate Ecological Regression Analysis, and the reporting of the results by district and overall for each set of maps</td>
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<td>7. Strictly apply the Stephenson process to define VRA districts and to draw county clusters that comply with North Carolina's Whole County Provision</td>
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<td>8. Use accepted measures of compactness that measure both the extent to which each district is spread out from its center (e.g., Reock and Convex Hull) and how smooth or contorted each district is (e.g., Polsby-Popper and Schwartzberg) and then make the results of this analysis available for each district and each set of maps</td>
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<td>9. Report the efficiency gap for each district and set of districts after drawing each set of maps (but without using partisan data to draw the maps)</td>
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<td>10. Make maps available for review and comment by the public in advance of hearings and again before the maps are finalized</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>Mr. Keith Helmer</td>
<td>Northern Durham County is far more poorly represented by the current district in the NC General Assembly and the US House of Representatives. A western and northern change if districts would be more representative and appreciated.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>Mr. Charles Deaton</td>
<td>Please adopt nonpartisan redistricting criteria. Creating districts without gerrymandering will reduce polarization, increase voter trust, boost our state's image, and improve the health of our democracy.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>Jeff McLarty</td>
<td>My only request is that the process be fair and the resulting districts be as neutral as possible by race, income, party and demographics. Let neither party use this as a means of winning or maintaining control. Please. We have enough problems.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>Ms. Sara Casey</td>
<td>I support the following for the redistricting process:</td>
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<td>· adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps</td>
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<td>· exclude political information like voter registration data, past election results or where incumbents live when drawing maps</td>
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<td>· draw compact districts that keep communities together</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>Richard O'Brien</td>
<td>I feel strongly that legislative redistricting should be completed in a non partisan fashion or outcome and without intended or unintended harm to African American voters.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>Dr. Ellen Colodney</td>
<td>Fair, open elections are the cornerstone of our democracy. Please protect this process by stopping gerrymandering.</td>
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<td>adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps exclude political information like voter registration data, past election results or where incumbents live when drawing maps exclude economic and racial data when drawing maps draw compact districts based on geography rather than politics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>Ms. Karen Burns</td>
<td>I encourage you to please pursue a nonpartisan process that will create compact and fair districts. We've had enough of politicians who feel so safe in their districts that they no longer respond to the will of their constituents—power for power's sake instead of serving the people of North Carolina. Please do what's right and put an end to this.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>Ms. Susan Ferguson</td>
<td>Please do this redistricting in a bipartisan manner by listening to all sides especially the undecided voters like myself.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>Mr. Geoffrey Wilson</td>
<td>Please redistrict without regard to partisan advantage. Partisan gerrymanders rob people of their equal protection and undermine our democracy.</td>
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<td>The existing gerrymanders concentrate Democratic voters into overwhelming majority districts, while distributing Republican voters across multiple districts where they win by smaller margins. Please make this move fair.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>Ms. Nancy Curtis</td>
<td>Please use the best totally nonpartisan mathematical method of redistricting for the entire state. Then everyone can complain, and we will have the fairest opportunity to have our individual votes count.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>1:25PM</td>
<td>Mr. Kevin Strezo</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>1:26PM</td>
<td>Phyllis Demko</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>1:29PM</td>
<td>Joshua Worley</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>1:37PM</td>
<td>Ms. Elizabeth Kent</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>1:59PM</td>
<td>Ms. Anne Clark</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>1:37PM</td>
<td>Mr. Jerry Aiken</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>1:42PM</td>
<td>Dr. Henry Nuttle</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>1:48PM</td>
<td>Joshua Worley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>1:59PM</td>
<td>Leslie Dillon</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>1:59PM</td>
<td>Ms. Christina Stableford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>2:00PM</td>
<td>Mr. David Ambaras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>2:03PM</td>
<td>Mr. Benjamin Dudley</td>
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</table>
The redistricting process should be fair, transparent and open to the public. Districts should:

- Be compact and contiguous
- Follow state and federal law
- Be drawn without considering partisan factors like voter registration, results of previous elections, voter turnout and where the incumbent lives

The redistricting process should be fair, transparent and open to the public. The process should not include the addresses of incumbents or candidates as well as residents' voting histories. The process should respect existing municipal and county boundaries where possible. The maps should not divide communities of interest. The districts should be compact and contiguous.

I am a resident and active voter citizen in North Carolina. I am demanding that the legislature abandon gerrymandered districting in favor of any political party. It is time for redistricting that does not allow party affiliation, race, religion or voting history in drawing electoral maps. The North Carolina constitution requires districts that conform to 1 person 1 vote equality and minimal cutting and slicing of counties. The redistricting process should be handed to an independent and non partisan commission. In terms of immediate redistricting I understand a group led by Tom Ross has already proposed fair redrawing of districts - these should be considered in this session. Enough is enough, legislators do not get to choose their personal viewpoints.

It is past time to create districts without gerrymandering. We need straightforward districts, free from partisan machinations. This issue is important for people to have confidence in our state government. We need to avoid the controversy that has landed us before the courts again and again. Do the right thing!

The redistricting process should be fair, transparent and open to the public. The process should not include the addresses of incumbents or candidates as well as residents' voting histories. The process should respect existing municipal and county boundaries where possible. The maps should not divide communities of interest. The districts should be compact and contiguous.

I believe that the criteria for redistricting should require that the districts should:

- Be compact and contiguous
- Follow state and federal law
- Be drawn without considering partisan factors like voter registration, results of previous elections, voter turnout and where the incumbent lives.

Please follow these keys to end gerrymandering:

Race is Key: Map drawers shall ensure that it is possible for Black voters to elect their candidates of choice. Also, dividing compact Black populations to weaken their power is prohibited. These are central requirements of the Voting Rights Act.

Obey Laws: In addition to the federal Voting Rights Act, maps must abide by the US and NC constitutions and laws. "One person, one vote:" means districts must be very nearly equal in population.

Geographic Compactness: Map drawers shall create compact districts, without odd tentacles. Compactness can be evaluated with mathematical measures.

Contiguity: Draw districts that don't skip over areas or join two areas at just one point on the map.

Count Incarcerated Persons: as residents of their pre-incarceration home or family residence for purposes of redistricting.

No Favoritism: Map drawers shall not use the addresses of current lawmakers, or the party affiliation or voting history of voters, or other data to help a party or politician.

Respect Communities of Interest: Map drawers must avoid dividing a "community of interest," such as people with similar cultural, ethnic and economic interests; a local government district; neighborhoods that have worked together on issues; and other relationships that can be documented to show common interests.

Respect County Boundaries: Map drawers shall make every effort to keep counties whole. If counties or towns must be split, a statement must explain why.

Evaluate Fairness: Before it is approved, a map must be evaluated for overall racial bias and partisan competitiveness. There are a variety of tools recognized by courts to measure racial and partisan fairness.

Redistricting should be done by a third, independent party. Under no situation should NC Democrats or Republicans draw the new district lines. This practice of having the ruling party draw district lines led to gerrymandering to the extreme and districts being found unconstitutional as is the case with this last redistricting.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timestamp</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Message</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017 4:00PM</td>
<td>Ms. Jinny Batterson</td>
<td>Please do your best to create fair district maps after as extensive a public comment period as possible given your September 1 deadline. It's nearly time for the next census; the endless jockeying for political advantage through gerrymandered districts is not serving anyone well. Whatever &quot;advantage&quot; one political party or another may gain is more than offset by an increasing distaste for the way such an advantage is being sought. More and more of my acquaintances, especially younger ones, are changing their registrations to &quot;unaffiliated&quot; out of disgust for the hyper-partisan shenanigans currently masquerading as governance. We have lots of real problems. Please produce fair, openly arrived at maps, and then get on with the bipartisan work of solving problems!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017 4:03PM</td>
<td>Deborah Skinner</td>
<td>Dear Honorable members of the Legislative Committee for Redistricting: As an informed and concerned citizen of this great state, I have concerns and hopes for the criteria that will be used in drawing new voting maps. Please give strong consideration to using a NON PARTISAN process for drawing the new maps. It is critical that political information like voter registration data, past election results and location of homes of incumbents be EXCLUDED from the process and the criteria. Please allow democracy to work in an equitable way in North Carolina. Draw districts that are compact and that keep communities together. Please do the right thing and allow citizens to have their voices heard equitably in the voting process in a fair manner. Thank you for your consideration of my comments. Respectfully, Deborah S. Skinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017 4:10PM</td>
<td>Dr. James McGlinn</td>
<td>For democracy to work, the vote needs to be meaningful. Take away representative govt, and deal with the chaotic consequences of a frustrated and angry people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017 4:16PM</td>
<td>Mr. Charles Sims</td>
<td>I support the redistricting for Person, Granville, Durham, Caswell districts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017 4:24PM</td>
<td>Rachel Kuliani</td>
<td>I would like to see NC should follow other states' examples of a non-partisan commission that does not use voter registration data, past election results, or where incumbents live when drawing maps. I also feel that the state should draw compact districts that keep communities together so their needs and voices are heard by our elected officials.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017 4:42PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Karen Balcom</td>
<td>I understand that although there will be a hearing for public comments regarding redistricted voting maps for NC, that the NC Legislature has opted to not share those maps with the public, even though they are already ready. This is so frustrating. The citizens of NC are tired of back-room deals, secret meetings, and last-minute trickery. Just do your job in a transparent fashion. Serve the citizens of the state rather than yourselves. Make maps that are bipartisan and keep communities together. It is the only way we can have fair elections in our state.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017 4:51PM</td>
<td>Mr. Gene Griffith</td>
<td>With all due respect to the Leadership of the General Assembly, I believe that the course to redistricting that best serves the people of North Carolina involves an independent, non-partisan board utilizing computer generated maps based on current population data. Thank you for your service to our Great State.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017 5:07PM</td>
<td>John Palermo</td>
<td>We are very happy with our current congressman, Congressman Mark Walker. The immediate past maps have produced an engaged and well informed public, on matters of public policy, and elements of the previous maps should be retained where allowed by law. Please also note that we believe: 1. Counties should be kept whole as prescribed by law. 2. Cities and Towns should be kept as whole as possible. 3. We should respect communities of interest. 4. Race should not be a factor in the drawing of legislative districts. The courts should respect the role of the General Assembly, who under the Federal and State Constitutions and the laws of the State of North Carolina are responsible for redistricting. John Palermo Chair Chatham County Republican Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017 5:14PM</td>
<td>Dr. Kent Wicker</td>
<td>Democracy will fail unless the people can believe their districts don't disenfranchise them. In a democracy, the people choose their political representatives. If it's the other way around, democracy has failed in this state. Please give us a fair and open process that scrupulously avoids both racial and partisan gerrymandering. That is literally the very LEAST you can do for this state.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017 5:14PM</td>
<td>Mr. Garrett White</td>
<td>When drawing maps, the goal should be in create an engaged and informed public voting block. As I have travel across the state, I have noticed an increase of public awareness in local and state government. This is due to the former maps allowing counties kept whole, towns not being split, and the general respect of the communities interest being respected. The redistricting process should be completed by people who actually live in the counties represented, not a judge who wants to legislate from the bench. The writing of the new maps should be completed in a manner that respects counties, towns, and communities, similar to the former maps.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017 5:16PM</td>
<td>Mr. Jack Brown</td>
<td>It is quite interesting to note that the Democrats did some redistricting especially the one that Mel Watts had from Charlotte to Greensboro. That was okay for them to make deals like this, but when the Republican legislature make some changes it is unconstutuional. Thats why we are in such a big mess today. These left wing Judges make the rules as they go along, and I for one am up in arms about it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017 5:19PM</td>
<td>Dr. Carl Mumpower</td>
<td>I appreciate your efforts to find a good landing place on redrawing districts amidst so many obstacles - legal vagaries, hostile media and an habituated adversarial posture from the opposition party. Thanks for pressing on through the silliness and savaery.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017 5:19PM</td>
<td>Dr. Nancy Friedman</td>
<td>Understanding the history of racism is crucial to end gerrymandering. In addition to deep community involvement, fair redistricting should follow basic principles. The Federal Voting Rights Act set clear guidelines for fair voting and some of North Carolina's districts are unconstitutional. It troubles me that the same person who drew the previous maps is drawing the new maps. He clearly believes in manipulating the district maps on partisan grounds. He states that openly. Here are the important principles as I see them. Other states have adopted these principles. Race should not be taken into account. Maps must be constitutional. Voters should be able to choose their legislators and not the other way around. Geography should be respected with compact districts. There should not be odd shapes which favor certain parties. Voting history of citizens or party affiliation should not be considered in drawing the maps. Finally, proposed maps should be available for review and for public comment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017 5:22PM</td>
<td>Mr. Michael Eisenberg</td>
<td>I don't have a warm and fuzzy feeling for a fair outcome. The same players that drew the unconstitutional maps are still at the table including Tom Hofeller. How can you prove me wrong?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017 5:23PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Reina Steele</td>
<td>Please consider setting up Independent Commissions to draw FAIR voting maps in North Carolina. Thank you for your serious consideration in this matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017 5:23PM</td>
<td>Charles Tinsley</td>
<td>I believe the maps have been successful and efficient in the election process. The existing maps should be used and referenced regularly in the drawing of the new maps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017 5:34PM</td>
<td>Mr. Haskell Davis</td>
<td>I don't think race should be a factor in this redistricting. We should keep out county and cities intact. I am pleased with my representatives. Don't try to help the Democrats by making it biased. Thanks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017 5:36PM</td>
<td>Mr. Francis Chandler</td>
<td>I am deeply concerned about legislative redistricting. It is well past time to have done this, and for the sake of democracy these districts should be redrawn with these three factors involved: Compact and contiguous, Follow state and federal law, Be drawn without considering partisan factors like voter registration, results of previous elections, voter turnout and where the incumbent lives. Thank your for your attention to this matter. It would be nice for North Carolina to be considered to be a democracy again.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017 5:36PM</td>
<td>Mr. John Kretschmer</td>
<td>Please return the voice and the vote to the great people of North Carolina. To do so, please adopt an independent, non-partisan and non-political process for drawing new maps. Please exclude political information, including voter registration data, past election results, and especially information regarding incumbents, and where they may live. Please draw compact and contiguous districts that keep communities together. As a Tar Heel Born &amp; Bred, I am looking forward to my home state returning to a democratically representative government - one that better represents our society as whole.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Mr. Frank Picco

Redistricting should be done by another means than a partisan body,

Mrs. Raines Kuppin

I urge you to please leave politics out of the process when drawing new voting maps ... North Carolinians deserve better than political Gerrymandering. Thank you.

Aug 3 2017 5:37PM

Dr. Michael Justice

I would like to see Districts based on compact geographic populations...closely following county lines as much as possible, without regard to race or political party. We must cut out the gaming for political advantage and establish credibility with the electorate. Often said, we need voters to select their representatives not the reverse! Thanks.

Aug 3 2017 5:45PM

Mrs. Raines Kuppin

I urge you to please leave politics out of the process when drawing new voting maps ... North Carolinians deserve better than political Gerrymandering. Thank you.

Aug 3 2017 5:48PM

Richard Churchill

I strongly urge you to consider using available software programs that can draw congressional district along rational, non-partisan parameters. This is so important, so please do not use party politics when considering the contours of these districts. Do this for the citizens of our state, regardless of their race or party affiliation.

Aug 3 2017 5:51PM

Dr. Dan Graham

Electoral Districts should be competitive for voters--by party ID and demographically inclusive.

Aug 3 2017 5:51PM

Mr. Lawrence Slack

Redistrict for "fairness" to give every voter a chance to make an impact (which is obviously the "proper" thing to do) and do not redistrict for the sake of political parties (which is obviously the IMPROPER thing to do). Thank you.

Aug 3 2017 5:58PM

Mr. Frank Picco

I believe that the criteria should require that the districts should:

- Be compact and contiguous
- Follow state and federal law
- Be drawn without considering partisan factors like voter registration, results of previous elections, voter turnout and where the incumbent lives

I hope you on the Joint Redistricting Committee and your legislators will seriously consider my opinion for a fair redistricting method for all of North Carolina. Thank you.

Aug 3 2017 5:59PM

Donna Drinnen

Fair maps will benefit everyone in the long run.

Aug 3 2017 5:59PM

Mr. Bill Fletcher

After 40 years of Democrats drawing the district lines, did the Federal Courts get involved, ruling that their lines promoted racial inequality and political unfairness? They always appealed their minority zealots with districts that greatly favored their candidates and gave their old line Democrats every benefit of the doubt! I congratulate our lawmakers for their diligence in producing fair and "politically correct" district maps! We should never split up our rural counties to appease the liberal cause. Under the Republican leadership in the General Assembly, minority members still account for over 16% of the seats. I'm not sure if it was ever that high under the Democrats' control. Just look at the cost of these extra days to operate the Legislature with taxpayers dollars!!!

Aug 3 2017 6:04PM

Dr. Raja Ramanathan

Please make the districts blended and fair. Stop trying to get only a certain party elected and let us all vote together. We are neighbors. You should stop trying to divide us along lines that mean nothing beyond party. Thanks.

Aug 3 2017 6:05PM

William Lanier

Let it be known:

As a politically cognizant and active citizen of North Carolina I am perfectly happy with all my current Republican Legislators under whom more access and information on public policy has produced a better politically aware and participatory public. I attribute this to our most current legislative districting maps which should be retained without change.

In respecting our current maps, counties and townships will remain as whole as possible while eliminating race as a consideration for the redrawing of legislative districts.

I also ask that our General Assembly's role be respected as this body is responsible for such action under Federal and State Constitutions of North Carolina. Thank you...

Aug 3 2017 6:09PM

Mr. David Carroll

In the interest of fairness to the voters of North Carolina, I implore the North Carolina General Assembly avail themselves of the services of the non-partisan joint project between Duke University and Common Cause North Carolina. This body is comprised of an equal number of Republicans and Democrats and the panel of 10 retired judges was led by former N.C. Supreme Court Chief Justices Rhoda Billings and Henry Frye. Congressional district lines should never be entrusted to a partisan body.

Aug 3 2017 6:11PM

Dr. Robert Penny

I would like to obtain a copy of the proposed maps!

Aug 3 2017 6:16PM

Dr. Margaret Hermann

Please provide any drafts of maps that you have already made so that the public may comment on those drafts as well as provide suggestions for the principles to use in identifying new districts. The core principle I hope for is that districts are drawn in such a way that they are competitive. It is discouraging to have no choice at the ballot box. And please make the districts compact, with populations as equal as possible.

Aug 3 2017 6:17PM

Mrs. Susan Smith

It is the right for every voter to have their vote count. Gerrymandering silences votes. Let's institute fair districting that is bipartisanship - I don't want anyone trying to manipulate districts for a win. And that goes for both parties. Our votes matter! Thank you.

Aug 3 2017 6:18PM

Mrs. Amee Stewart

Redistricting should be done by another means than a partisan body, perhaps by computer pick. Whatever, the districts should be drawn w/o consideration of race or political affiliation. Never again should illegitimate legislators be allowed to govern. There should be "do over" of every single bill that has passed since 2016. Please end this practice for once and for all. It threatens our democracy.
Mr. John van Arnold
To the legislative redistricting committee:
As a native North Carolinian, I have watched with dismay over the last two decades, as the democratic ideals which were taught in our public schools have been trampled upon by the people who were entrusted with protecting our democracy. Given that we have been unable to overcome our partisan tendencies, it is time for us to change the way we decide our state representative and senatorial districts. It is time for us to change the way we draw our congressional districts.

We need to move to a nonpartisan commission that draws our legislative and congressional districts based on community and geography not on the way small groups vote. The trust we have placed in our legislature is being called into question by the partisan behavior. We need to return to a democratic approach to electing our representatives rather than having our representatives choose people who agree with them in closing off all other discussion. Please, let us alter the way we draw our representative districts for both North Carolina legislature and Congress.

Sincerely,
John Van Arnold

Mrs. Deborah Beroth
I believe that the districts should be fair, compact and allow everyone's vote to count. They should be competitive so that we have a choice of someone to vote for. We are a state that has about equal % of Republicans and Democrats and our districts should reflect that. It is only right that we should see the maps and then be able to comment.

Dr. Samuel Steele
Current districts and Representative are fair and more than satisfactory. This foolish exercise to move two or more lines or go overboard and redistrict the entire state for petty politics driven by a vocal minority is absurd. Legislators should hold their ground with minimal change in districts.

Mr. John Vanover
Let's have an independent non-partisan body draw up all our districts. Doesn't that sound like the most truly democratic approach; for the good of the state and country?

Robert Stryker
North Carolina has been especially egregious in the past with statewide electoral results (in terms of seats won per party) that are far out of alignment with the popular vote throughout the state. While currently the beneficiary is the Republican party, the Democrats have had their share of similar activity in the past.

There are significant differences between rural and urban North Carolinians, what they care about, what issues are important to them, and how they feel others should behave. While these differences are real, the current battle to control the Assembly or Senate and enforce the will of one group onto the other is counterproductive and divisive. A new normal needs to be discovered, one that will work for both urban and rural citizens.

Having one party in a consistent majority due to gerrymandering will not move this state any closer to solving the real issues that divide us. Counties should move closer to a 'home rule' style of government, where rural counties have more control over their laws, and urban counties will as well.

Regardless of what issue is the topic of the day, whether it be gun rights, abortion rights, taxes, or any other, forcing 49% to live under the edicts of the 51% is wrong. Compromise positions must be found, and they won't be found so long as one party has a lock on power. They won't be found, because, when one party has a majority, they have no incentive whatsoever to actually consider the voices, desires, or wishes of the minority.

Gerrymandering is causing a growing state, one that has done a lot to improve the lives of their citizens and attract new residents and businesses. It has to end with itself, and it must end with its new residents...

Ms. Kay Crisp
I see no reason for redistricting. We have voted in our own districts, know where the boundaries are and respect those boundaries.

Ms. Patricia Williams
We know that the redistricting maps have already been redrawn, under a veil of secrecy, and without the participation of Senators and Representatives of BOTH parties. If these new maps are fair and constitutional, then why keep them a secret? The public and your fellow legislators should be given the courtesy (if not the right) to review the new maps, with ample time for public comment and meaningful discussion. To do anything less is to suggest that the only way for the majority party to retain its majority position is by overstepping the bounds of democracy.

Mr. Conrad Pogorzelski
When the Democrats do it, it's OK. When the Republicans do it; it's always challenged. We need to figure out how to end the blame on the Democrats.

Mr. Joseph Sistare
The people of North Carolina are tired of the partisanship that is affecting politics here and the country. All Americans should put fair elections... the foundation of our democracy... before partisan politics.
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>7:18PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Carol Ann Minor</td>
<td>Be compact and contiguous • Follow state and federal law • Be drawn without considering partisan factors like voter registration, results of previous elections, voter turnout and where the incumbent lives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>7:28PM</td>
<td>Mr. Kevin Lusk</td>
<td>It is time for fair districts!</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>7:29PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Mary Kane</td>
<td>Districts need to be drawn by a non-partisan group, not the NC GA itself. They also need to be as compact as possible, based on general population and with as many natural dividers as possible (such as major rivers, county lines, etc.). The court ordered this to be done a full year ago and it is beyond ridiculous that this process has been drawn out this long. Heck, there are computer programs that can do this in a couple of hours! Let it done ASAP. We citizens are tired of the &quot;gotcha&quot; in the NC GA. (Races for) their feet.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>7:40PM</td>
<td>Dr. Jonathan Kotch</td>
<td>Real democracy requires an informed electorate. It would help the democratic process if the public could see the legislative redistricting maps before public hearings were held. It is important that the maps avoid even the suggestion of racial or political bias. Thank you.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>7:48PM</td>
<td>Mr. John Hall</td>
<td>I think the maps should be drawn without regard for a political party. If it was wrong for Democrats to gerrymander lines, then it is just as wrong for Republicans. I think all members of the legislature should think more about the people of this state and less about their reelection.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>7:48PM</td>
<td>Todd Jenkins</td>
<td>I support non-partisan redistricting.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>7:52PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Linda Elfrid</td>
<td>Stop redistricting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>7:54PM</td>
<td>Tina Forsberg</td>
<td>Do not be intimidated by those who would weaponize our justice system against the wishes of the voters. Be bold.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>7:58PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Michelle Haller</td>
<td>I am frustrated that the issue of redistricting keeps popping up. The last district maps had bipartisan support and approval, yet, here we go again? It is unnecessary. I appreciate the current representation our county has and their ongoing efforts to communicate with their constituents, regardless of party or race, or any other sub category. Critics like to say we are not properly represented. I know my representatives in the House and Senate, and follow their activities to the extent that I can, and they are accessible to all, and listen. I also have a concern for my county, Johnston, being further fractured by new districts. It is already problematic that we are split into two House Districts, and have three different state Senators, and two Congressional districts. Ballots get quite confusing for citizens, and the more we keep drawing new lines, it seems the worse it gets. Rather than gerrymandering districts to get what some feel is the perfect racial mix, I’d like to see district lines focused on counties and proper regional representation. How can a representative properly know the needs of multiple counties, and pieces thereof? It gets a little ridiculous for them and for we, the people, when common sense is abandoned in the process. I wish we could leave well enough alone, and stick with the maps that must have agreed are fairly drawn, and save us the time, money, and headache of more change.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>7:58PM</td>
<td>Mr. David Williams</td>
<td>I understand that the new maps have already been drawn. If so, they need to be released before public comments. Assuming that understanding is not correct, the criteria for redistricting seem simple to me. They are embodied in the Constitution: The state’s Constitutional requirements for redistricting every 10 years (which reflect federal requirements) are: One person must equal one vote: Each district that elects one representative to the legislature is required to be approximately equal in population to every other such district. Consideration of minorities: The Voting Rights Act and Court cases decided under it forbid drawing districts that dilute minority voting strength. Impermissible consideration of race: The General Assembly and its redistricting plans are also subject to lawsuits if consideration of race impermissibly dominate the redistricting process. Districts must be contiguous: Under the State Constitution all parts of a House or Senate district must touch, with no detached parts. Division of Counties must be minimized: The State Constitution says that no county shall be divided. Court cases have determined that the “Whole County Provision” must be honored to the extent it can be honored. I recognize populations are not evenly distributed and some of these are difficult to achieve. Use the following criteria will allow the state to exhibit the use of Best Practices and mitigate the chance of additional litigation: The process be totally transparent; Districting be non-partisan, excluding all data that would belie this; Strictly apply the Stephenson process to define VRA districts and to redraw county lines that comply with North Carolina’s Whole County Provision. Why? I am writing to urge the NC GA to include as guidelines for redrawing the districts that will result in fair, equitable districts. For example, that the districts be compact, contiguous, follow Federal and State laws, and especially ignore political factors.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>8:05PM</td>
<td>Dr. Marilyn Smith</td>
<td>I am writing to urge the NC GA to include as guidelines for redrawing the districts that will result in fair, equitable districts. For example, that the districts be compact, contiguous, follow Federal and State laws, and especially ignore political factors.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>8:06PM</td>
<td>Dr. Wendy Wieber</td>
<td>Those who redraw the maps should be independent and non-partisan. The fact that the individuals who won elections unfairly control the redistricting of districts tempts further rigging. We really should hold new elections to be fair. Regardless of what body set what dates and when, it is beyond time that legislative redistricting is properly carried out in NC.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>8:10PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Judith Barton</td>
<td>Regardless of what body set what dates and when, it is beyond time that legislative redistricting is properly carried out in NC.</td>
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Aug 3 2017  8:11PM  Mr. John Towler
Overall I am very pleased with our current legislators and the current districts have energized people and created a much better informed electorate. The current maps should be retained except where courts have ruled them illegal. Counties and municipalities should be kept as whole as possible as the law prescribes. Race should not be a factor and the court should respect the actions of the General Assembly in doing their constitutional duty. People are tired of this.

Aug 3 2017  8:16PM  Mr. Mike Hinton
Whose ox is being gored? Right now the Republican majority is sticking it to the Democrats on multiple fronts. Probably feels good, but there's always been an ebb and flow to political power and the majority of today will be the minority of tomorrow. It is time to put into place legislation that allows for the creation of a nonpartisan group for the creation of congressional (state and federal) districts. These squiggly districts carved out to preserve power are an embarrassment. Do the right thing and take the politics out of creating districts once and for all.

Aug 3 2017  8:18PM  Mr. Isaac Jacobs
Please stop using racial bias to redraw districts!

Aug 3 2017  8:16PM  Mrs. Deborah Williams
I have attached a link to a Duke Univ. project which provides a very good proposal for redistricting. https://sanford.duke.edu/articles/nonpartisan-redistricting-panel-reveals-unofficial-nc-congressional-voting-mao

Aug 3 2017  8:20PM  Charles Talley
I want state lawmakers to support nonpartisan redistricting. It is time for lawmakers to pledge to honesty, decency and integrity and make redistricting fair and equitable.

Aug 3 2017  8:26PM  Ms. Kathleen Valentl
I urge all state elected representatives to form a non partisan districting commission to draw districts according to Geography rather than political advantage for either party. The current bizarre district lines favor republican candidates to the point that there is no contest. Be fair. Allow all votes to count and all voices to be heard.

Aug 3 2017  8:28PM  Ms. Lucy Young
I hope the re-districting map is not being drawn in a vacuum. I hope you will make this available for public comment, before you make this decision.

Aug 3 2017  8:30PM  Diane Bauknight
I am writing as the Chairman of the Yadkin County Board of Commissioners. Yadkin County has been served very well by our current members of the General Assembly.

We are in Senate District 31 which is sure to be affected by the new maps due to the fact that District 31 surrounds District 32, one of the few designated for reconfiguration. Our Senator understands Yadkin County very well and has been of great assistance to all of our citizens. We are very hopeful that we will remain in Senator Krawiec's District.

Our House District 73 is made up of Yadkin County, Alexander County, and a small portion of Wilkes County that connects Yadkin and Alexander. We in Yadkin consider Alexander County our sister county. We are of similar size and share the same positions on matters of the General Assembly. We are hopeful that the vast amount of changes will be necessary to meet the Court's requirements will not result in a change to our House District.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kevin Austin
Chairman, Yadkin County Board of Commissioners

Aug 3 2017  8:32PM  Anita Simha
I learned to read that a redistricting plan already exists but has not yet been shown to the public. I request that a public comment session be held after the plans are revealed because otherwise the public cannot in good faith believe that their comments have any influence at all. For a round of revisions, I request that districts be compact, that they encompass whole counties, and that they not consider the addresses of incumbents. Thank you for taking the people's concerns into account.

Aug 3 2017  8:31PM  Mr. Josh Prater
The current maps, as well as the system used to create them, are unacceptable and limit true, equal participation in our democracy for thousands of North Carolinians. They are frankly shameful. They reduce the power of the vote for thousands of us - especially for our black neighbors. Given our state's history, I am appalled that we still have to have these conversations. I will refer you to recent court decisions, of which I am sure that you are aware, which explain the problematic nature of these maps in great detail.

All that said, this is an opportunity for the General Assembly to show real leadership by committing to a fair, non-partisan redistricting process that will truly support the idea of "one person, one vote." We urge you to take up the proposals being made to draw fair, rational, and competitive districts. Our state and our democracy are made stronger through greater participation. If a party has faith in its ideals and policies, let them win a majority by campaigning and winning the support of their constituents, not by buying a home in a "safe" party district and getting a nod from the local party office.

Aug 3 2017  8:34PM  Charles Talley
To make the process fair and transparent. No more gerrymandering!

Aug 3 2017  8:35PM  Ms. Katie Williams
I am writing as the Chairman, Yadkin County Board of Commissioners. Yadkin County has been served very well by our current members of the General Assembly.

We are in Senate District 31 which is sure to be affected by the new maps due to the fact that District 31 surrounds District 32, one of the few designated for reconfiguration. Our Senator understands Yadkin County very well and has been of great assistance to all of our citizens. We are very hopeful that we will remain in Senator Krawiec's District.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Kevin Austin
Chairman, Yadkin County Board of Commissioners

Aug 3 2017  8:38PM  Mr. Kevin Austin
I am writing as the Chairman of the Yadkin County Board of Commissioners. Yadkin County has been served very well by our current members of the General Assembly.

We are in Senate District 31 which is sure to be affected by the new maps due to the fact that District 31 surrounds District 32, one of the few designated for reconfiguration. Our Senator understands Yadkin County very well and has been of great assistance to all of our citizens. We are very hopeful that we will remain in Senator Krawiec's District.

Our House District 73 is made up of Yadkin County, Alexander County, and a small portion of Wilkes County that connects Yadkin and Alexander. We in Yadkin consider Alexander County our sister county. We are of similar size and share the same positions on matters of the General Assembly. We are hopeful that the vast amount of changes that will be necessary to meet the Court's requirements will not result in a change to our House District.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kevin Austin
Chairman, Yadkin County Board of Commissioners

Aug 3 2017  8:43PM  Ms. Lucy Young
District boundaries should: Be compact and contiguous; Follow state and federal law; Be drawn without considering partisan factors like voter registration results of previous elections, voter turnout and where the incumbent lives.

Aug 3 2017  8:44PM  Stephen Hopkins
I hope the re-districting map is not being drawn in a vacuum. I hope you will make this available for public comment, before you make this law.
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<th>Timestamp</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017 8:46PM</td>
<td>Michael Williams</td>
<td>Compact districts are the most logical choice. End gerrymandering by BOTH parties, and adopt compact districts immediately!</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017 8:48PM</td>
<td>Michele Holland</td>
<td>We need a bipartisan committee to draw these maps and ensure district lines represent the people, not a specific group of voters or constituents. A basic premise of democracy is that every citizen's voice is valued equally; in our current system, that's simply not true. Our system has created a legislature that feels no compunction to act in anything other than their own interest, and has no incentive to compromise. Please - stand up for your citizens and move forward with an independent, nonpartisan committee.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017 9:00PM</td>
<td>Mr. Dale Leatham</td>
<td>I am extremely happy with my current set of legislators and would expect them to remain as such after the re-drawing of the districts. Whole counties and cities should be a major goal of the redistricting. RACE should NEVER be a factor of re-districting and simply because a certain area has a majority population of one race shouldn't be factored into the overall equation. Please just follow state law when re-drawing the legislative lines and there shouldn't be any further redistricting.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017 9:03PM</td>
<td>Dr. Jim McGinn</td>
<td>A healthy democracy requires that all of the citizens know that their vote counts. Heavily gerrymandered districts make those who are minorities in those districts feel powerless and unrepresented. As a consequence, frustration and anger can arise causing a breakdown in relationships in the community. For the good of our democracy, end gerrymandering and create districts that naturally fall along geographic lines or population densities without regard to political party.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017 9:06PM</td>
<td>Mr. Jonathan Cumbie</td>
<td>It is time to have the redistricting maps drawn by an independent nonpartisan committee. Please - stand up for your citizens and move forward with an independent, nonpartisan committee.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017 9:15PM</td>
<td>Joe Garza</td>
<td>It is time to have the redistricting maps drawn by an independent nonpartisan party. The legislature should no longer participate in how boundaries are drawn to avoid all bias. This will benefit the state in the long run. My hope is that this legislature has the will to do what is best for the people of the state and not their political party regardless of the argument on who did this first or last. History shows that the political pendulum will always swing from one side to another and it is just a matter of time when the current majority will be the minority again. You will want to secure fairness for the future and not only consider the present. It is the responsibility of the legislature to do what is best for all people and not just for some people.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017 9:20PM</td>
<td>Mr. Chris Sargent</td>
<td>Please ensure everyone gets a voice once the redistricting is completed, no surgical exclusions of individual groups. Yes, you may have been elected by Republicans, but you serve the whole state.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017 9:23PM</td>
<td>Mark Shuman</td>
<td>I am pleased with my representatives in the North Carolina legislature. I honestly feel that cities and counties should remain whole and not be carved up. Districts should be left as they are now.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017 9:23PM</td>
<td>Mr. Michael Arensorf</td>
<td>Let's see the new maps - we can't comment until we see the maps!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017 9:34PM</td>
<td>Dr. Karen Ziegler</td>
<td>These legislators do not represent the people of North Carolina. This is an illegal assembly. And I am suspicious of having the same people who racially gerrymandered them before draw them again. This should be a bipartisan effort. This is an outrage and it needs to be corrected immediately.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017 9:39PM</td>
<td>Mr. David McLintock</td>
<td>It's about time that the legislature stopped its partisan and racist policies and moved into the real world by empowering and encouraging all free men and women to participate in our beautiful democratic process. A good step away from the gerrymandered oligarchy that Republicans have set up to make the rich and powerful richer. Just be fair and considerate of the public good this time. Thanks for your service.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017 9:43PM</td>
<td>Mr. Eric Donat</td>
<td>I'd like to see fair districts that are drawn by an independent commission as opposed to the party in power.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017 9:43PM</td>
<td>Ruby Sinreich</td>
<td>I am a mom that grew up in NC and am raising my family here. I have been a registered NC voter since 1990 and have voted at least once every year since then. I am extremely troubled by the extremely unfair voting districts we have now. If you love this state as much as I do, then it should be more important to you that all its residents get their voice at the ballot box than that any particular party have a legislative majority. Our districts should never cross municipal lines and should only rarely cross county lines if absolutely necessary. All these contorted lines make it look like those in power don't think they can win without showing. Show NC voters that you trust us and let us pick our own leaders.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017 9:54PM</td>
<td>Ms. Suzanne Duchmarois</td>
<td>Please create fair, non-partisan maps that allow voters to choose their leaders instead of legislators choosing their voters. Our democracy will not survive the distrust of and sustain for the legislative process that gerrymandering creates in the citizenry.</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>9:58PM</td>
<td>Michele Nix</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
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<td>Mrs. Ginny Cooper</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
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<td>Mrs. Annissa Clarke</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
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<td>Viren Makhijani</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>10:11PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Siobhan Millen</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
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<td>Mr. Jeff Dektor</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>10:16PM</td>
<td>Mr. George Burazer</td>
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<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
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<td>Ms. Leila Daly</td>
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**Page 89 of 381**
As a North Carolina voter, I support districts that accurately represent ALL the citizens of the state. I am opposed to the re-appointment of Representative David Lewis to Chair the House Select Committee on Redistricting and the use of tax dollars to pay Dr. Tom Hofeller as redistricting specialist again. Given their 2011 roles in depriving millions of their Constitutional right to be heard through their votes, I request they be barred from the privilege of participation in redistricting now and in the future. I want to see these criteria used to create maps for NC Senate and House and US Congressional districts that represent ALL NC citizens, not just those of one party:

- Compliance with the US Constitution and the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965
- Districts with equal population to the greatest extent possible
- Districts that are geographically compact and contiguous
- Boundaries that respect communities of interest; specifically areas with shared social and economic interests, such as those shared by an agricultural community, an industrial area, or an area in which people share local natural resources for their livelihood (for example, fishing in coastal areas)
- Competitive districts to the greatest extent possible, as long as there's no detriment to other criteria
- Districts that are NOT established with the major purpose of diluting the voting strength of any people or groups, including any political party

Do not divide towns nor counties when considering redistricting. Also I am an independent voter and I am very concerned about the

I would like to see every vote count. Completely non-partisan mapping.

As a North Carolina voter, I support districts that accurately represent I support bipartisan redistricting in North Carolina. The courts have

Do not divide towns nor counties when considering redistricting. Also

I am an independent voter and I am very concerned about the

Gerrymandering districts has been used now by both parties to say in power. It's not good for the state, its citizens, and probably not for the long term health of the party involved. It's time to stop the practice and have an independent committee or commission composed equally of Republicans and Democrats and perhaps an equal number of independents or some reduced percentage of independents. None of them should be in the legislature or involved in active politics. This type of committee should be able to draw maps and manage the process fairly. The process should be devoid of political pressure to draw maps to protect parties in power...rather, to provide fair representation of citizens. This has been done in some other states very successfully. Let's do it in North Carolina. After all, who doesn't want fair elections?

I support bipartisan redistricting in North Carolina. The courts have

Gerrymandering districts has been used now by both parties to say in power. It's not good for the state, its citizens, and probably not for the long term health of the party involved. It's time to stop the practice and have an independent committee or commission composed equally of Republicans and Democrats and perhaps an equal number of independents or some reduced percentage of independents. None of them should be in the legislature or involved in active politics. This type of committee should be able to draw maps and manage the process fairly. The process should be devoid of political pressure to draw maps to protect parties in power...rather, to provide fair representation of citizens. This has been done in some other states very successfully. Let's do it in North Carolina. After all, who doesn't want fair elections?

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I support bipartisan redistricting in North Carolina. The courts have
Plainly put, gerrymandering is cheating. Every single vote should and must be counted as a single and equal entity. Re-districting by ethnicity, affluence or age is an unethical method of skewing the results. I oppose gerrymandering and ask that district lines be drawn without regard to partisan predictability. Please be fair for the sake of election integrity. Do the right thing.

Fair districts must be drawn by independent nonpartisans. It is time for the voters to choose their representatives rather than the other way around. A true choice should be given to voters. To do otherwise only fosters the cynical view of our elected representatives. It keeps people from voting since they don't believe their vote will make a difference. The current bills are inadequate but a step in the right direction. Please choose democracy over partisanship.

The new maps should keep county, city, and town integrity as much as is possible. The current maps do need to be redrawn as they clearly have issues. Race should not be a determining factor in how maps are drawn. North Carolina and not the courts should decide what our maps look like. Partisanship should be thrown out in this important exercise. The Governor and all elected officials should accept the non partisan maps that North Carolinians expect the NCRA to draw. We should not waste more tax dollars or oxygen arguing over these after the NCRA finishes the maps.

How can we comment when a map of the redistricting is not provided. This is really a dumb way to do it & not very logical.

These are 3 things the process of redistricting should do: - adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps - exclude political information like voter registration data, past election results or where incumbents live when drawing maps - draw compacto districts that keep communities together

We need to get past the playground excuse of "But they used to do it to us!" and move on to a non-partisan redistricting commission. I have seen the software at work, and I know how fast it is. We can have a neutral group put together districts that let votes count instead of having members of the currently entrenched party count. Republicans ran a few years back on a promise to do this, and immediately claimed not to have time to do it. That was a lie. The current arrangement is a fraud on democratic principles.

Please make sure that each districts reflect the accurate percentage of all segments of population , that they make logical sense and not go through homes to enhance representation of one party over other as it is happening now. Our democracy is at stake.

Please get the job done. You keep moving me from one district to another.

Get rid of the gerrymandering and figure out a fair way to win elections

Only fair and impartial districts will provide the balanced leadership necessary to face the issues challenging North Carolina. The gerrymandered veto proof representation in the State House and Senate does not represent the broad views of North Carolinians and extremely partisan bills have passed as result.

Dear NC General Assembly, like most citizens I am appalled that a court outside our State would meddle into our redistricting process. It is apparent to me that the NC GA has followed each and every law federal law and the Constitution of North Carolina to draw the current legislative districts, and there is no justification what-so-ever for the courts, particularly federal courts, to interfere with your work. Whatever happened with the powers not delegated to Congress being reserved to the States?

However, since apparently we must endure such interference, make sure that the redistricting exercise about to be done first of all follows the North Carolina Constitution to the letter: create districts with counties as the NC Constitution mandates, and keep municipalities within the same districts as much as possible. Also remember that the best way to stop discriminating by race is simply to stop discriminating by race.

The current district maps that the NC GA has produced in the recent past appear to me to have been lawful and fair. Those were – are – good districts that make elections relevant to the public in general. The mess that federal courts have created is not only inconsiderate but frankly counterproductive. The districts must be redrawn to satisfy some imaginary problem, but they can still be redrawn fairly as long as the rules set by the NC Constitution are followed.
I look forward to this process moving forward to legal districts. I am concerned to see news stories about hiring the same individual to draw these districts that drew the illegal ones that North Carolina spent so much time and money defending. As you move forward, I urge you to hire an independent group to draw these maps. Anyone whose future career depends on where these lines are drawn cannot be impartial! An impartial process would result in:

- compact districts (goodbye, snake)
- respect for municipal, county and other existing boundaries
- keeping communities together since folks that live, worship and work together have similar goals and issues

Mostly though, my hope is that North Carolina can get it right without further marring our reputation that was so hard won. We used to be a beacon in the south and we can be again!

Amanda Height
NC native

I want my vote to matter. Every election this decade has been a landslide, or there wasn’t any opposition.

I’d prefer to live in a district where my vote matters- while not all districts can be set up this way- where I live now easily can be.

Please no more extreme gerrymandering.

Mr. Jeffrey Jarlett

I just want districts drawn fairly. No more gerrymandering. If candidates can’t win in a fairly drawn district, then they don’t deserve to be elected. It’s time to take map drawing away from lawmakers and put it in the hands of an independent commission.

I am requesting that a fair redistricting be done using the following criteria: contiguity, consistency with natural and political boundaries (e.g. county lines), and compactness.

Ms. Roberta Walls

I’m tired of having Democrats get 48% of the vote for Congressional representatives and only get 16% of the seats. My vote is not fairly represented.

I’m also tired of the NCGOP slow-walking the redistricting process. The court ruled a year ago and you should have begun working then, particularly to include citizen participation.

I would urge the Committee to adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps. You should draw compact districts that keep communities together, and exclude using political information (voter registration data, past election results, or where incumbents live) when drawing the maps.

Ms. Roberta Walls

I am requesting that a fair redistricting be done using the following criteria: contiguity, consistency with natural and political boundaries (e.g. county lines), and compactness.

Ms. Ms. Hannah Stallkamp

I’m tired of having Democrats get 48% of the vote for Congressional representatives and only get 16% of the seats. My vote is not fairly represented.

I’m also tired of the NCGOP slow-walking the redistricting process. The court ruled a year ago and you should have begun working then, particularly to include citizen participation.

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Ms. Ms. Hannah Stallkamp

Please end gerrymandering and go to fairly drawn districts.

Dr. Judith Porter

Do the right thing! Stop saying that the Democrats did it before. The current districts are a mockery, and they are clearly intended to silence the votes of our state's African-Americans. Put together a panel with equal representation of Republicans and Democrats to draw up the maps and work it out in a bipartisan fashion.

Ms. Ms. Amanda McCaskill

Iredell County being a Top Tier (top 20 out of 100) County should not be split in multiple districts with other Counties.

We rightly have two house members. But we should have one (1) Senator representing our county, not two that have two other counties to be concerned with. We need a Senator that can concentrate on and promote the interests of our entire county!

Mr. Ray Hayes

I feel so strongly that the Republican party does not need to use underhanded, unfair and pathetic tactics such as gerrymandering to gain votes. All you have to do is be honest, work fairly for your constituents and stop all of the unfurlattering tactics you have been using. I am ashamed of this legislature and I AM A NATIVE NORTH CAROLINIAN!

Ms. Sarah Keith

Do the right thing! Stop saying that the Democrats did it before. The current districts are a mockery, and they are clearly intended to silence the votes of our state's African-Americans. Put together a panel with equal representation of Republicans and Democrats to draw up the maps and work it out in a bipartisan fashion.

Ms. Kelly Allen
Please use an unbiased consulting service that is nonpartisan. Ideally, I would like to see compact districts as a priority. Also, follow census hello and thank you for your service to North Carolina and its citizens.

We should draw districts that are not based on voter registration data. New maps must be compact, contiguous, non-partisan and fair. Please work toward this objective.

The NC district maps should be drawn by DENSITY of population, not by land mass. In this way there is an even playing field for both parties, and let the best man win! You cannot give more voting power to an area with 15 people than to an area with 100 voting people. Please just make the voting districts FAIR for everyone and then leave them alone until the next census.

Shame on you all! You have managed to disenfranchise thousands and thousands of voters, effectively giving us no voice in our electoral process. If the districts had been drawn fairly, and not gerrymandered, how many of you would not be in that building taking this state backwards, trying to strip our governor of his traditional powers, and making our state a laughing stock. For once, do what is right for this state and it's people instead of your comfort and privilege! We are not stupid or blind; we see EXACTLY what you are doing.

I would like to see the redistricting plans now. Make the, public today.

End gerrymandering. Fair voting practices.

Please follow the following criteria in redistricting rather than basing districts on racist methods to ensure the illegally wrought continued domination of the Republicans:

a. Districts are "compact and contiguous" meaning that there are no long tentacles that stretch out and barely touch the rest of the district.

b. Districts follow state and federal laws.

c. The most important: districts are drawn not considering factors such as the party affiliation of voters, where the incumbent lives, the results of previous elections, or other partisan factors.

The Declaration of Independence declares the right of representation in the legislature "indefeasible to the people and formidable to tyrants." Radical partisan gerrymandering denies large groups of North Carolina citizens that right, just as our Founders charged King George III of denying large groups of American colonists that right. Furthermore, the right to "free and fair elections" enumerated in our state Constitution is subverted when the results of voting, based on gerrymandered districts, do not reflect the will of the electorate.

It is time NOW, not next year, not in the next decade, to do the right thing by ending radical partisan gerrymandering in our state once and for all.

New maps must be compact, contiguous, non-partisan and fair. Please design with a conscience. We are watching. Every NC citizen must have a vote that counts equally. This is no time for racial or partisan divisions. Do the right thing or you will lose.

We should draw districts that are not based on voter registration data or past elections. We should be trying to promote districts that make sure that every individual in the state has their voice heard so that there needs can be met. Let every district be a swing district. Let's get past the acrimony of yesterday and have districts that candidates win on the merit of their messaging to the voters and their character, not because of partisan advantages. Thank you!

Just go back to the original map. No one asked the General Assembly to change a thing. Maybe we as voter needs to tell whoever came up with this dumb idea that it time for them to loss their JOBS!!!!!!

Please use an unbiased consulting service that is nonpartisan. Ideally, every district should be a swing district. Let's get past the acrimony of yesterday and have districts that candidates win on the merit of their messaging to the voters and their character, not because of partisan advantages. Thank you!

Please use an unbiased consulting service that is nonpartisan. I have been around long enough to know that it was the Democrats that created District 12 and yet they have been able to lay the blame on the feet of the Republicans. Why, because the Republicans do not know how to effectively communicate and fight. Looking at the entire state one has to wonder what the legislators were smoking when they created the current districts. How about simple clean boundaries and forget everything except population.

Sorry, it's over. The voters choose their legislators, not the other way around. Thank you.
It is better to get it right than to rush

Allowing the GA to manage the redistricting and expecting them to do it in a fair and impartial manner is like allowing the fox in the henhouse and expecting to get a basket of eggs for breakfast.

Rather than pointing at all the times that Democrats have done this when they drew the maps, take this as an opportunity to do the right thing. If you don't, when the Democrats are in a position to draw the maps again (and it is short-sighted to believe they will not be at some point,) they will have no reason to not surgically disenfranchise Republicans, just as you have done them.

It has to stop somewhere and that somewhere can be you!

There are multiple computer algorithms designed to create fair maps. This state has a wealth of intelligent, trained mathematicians, http://rangevoting.org/GerryExamples.html

Then there is: http://autoredistrict.com/about.html

And: http://bdistricting.com/about.html

None of these would create perfect maps, but they would give the legislature a start. Please feel free to contact me if you would like details.

We demand an independent commission for redrawing the districts. No more tilting elections in favor of one party or another.

I think using the compact model and computer programs is the only way to make system fair and impartial. These districts with abstract lines do not make a lot of sense.

I respectfully request an independent panel to redraw our state maps. NC voters deserve to be represented in an independent, impartial manner.

Then there is: http://autoredistrict.org/

And: http://bdistricting.com/about.html

Mr. Jake Krug

Mr. Tracy Scull

Dr. Robert Sunris

Ms. Carolyn Valentine

We should be doing things in a fair manner - not based on politics or other factors. Our state has a wealth of intelligent, trained mathematicians. The sites I posted are just a couple of the many web sites that offer fair, impartial redistricting.

I am being properly represented in my state. Elections should be fair and open to all.

It should be done independently both republicans and democrats have proven to be untrustworthy to handle the matter. I do not feel that I am being properly represented in my state. Elections should be fair and open to all.

Maps should be drawn with the use of unbiased computer software using population as the only factor. Let the chips fall where they may. Politicians of any party should not be involved in redistricting that could potentially benefit them. This is a conflict of interest that in this day in time is unnecessary due to the availability of computer technology which can eliminate conflicts when used properly. As constituents we could then see that districts were drawn in an unbiased manner.

We are better than this!!

Of constantly looking back and moving backwards. We are better than that. We need to change other than for elections to be "fixed" or influenced. NC needs to get back to being the progressive state it used to be instead of constantly looking back and moving backwards. We are better than this!!
Mr. Thomas Kriston

Districting (and in this case, redistricting) needs to be assigned to an independent counsel.

Dear legislators,

Please have redistricting performed by an independent counsel.

Mrs. Elizabeth McIntyre

Democracy... by the people and for the people. If politicians can draw the lines to skew the view of voters, how are we really a democratic society? districts should be drawn by an independent bi-partisan group. And yes, that means black voters have just as strong a voice as the white voters!

Mr. Adam Brooks

This should be done independently and in a nonpartisan manner. The public is overwhelmingly in favor of this. Political gerrymandering is a threat to our democracy and our system of checks and balances.

Mrs. Connie Edelen

Our state's lawmakers have demonstrated time and time again, on every day and age of "big data" it seems that creating a fair redistricting plan is being created.

Mr. Shawn Proffitt

I think it is reprehensible for politicians to redraw districts to give themselves the political advantage. Even as children we are taught that cheating is wrong, but now politicians want to change the rules if they can't win. WRONG!!! Please redraw the districts in a fair and nonpartisan way. The districts should be drawn by population distribution and with an intent to continually make districts competitive. This benefits both, if not all, parties but benefits the voters the most. We need and demand real choices, creating a healthy and balanced discourse for each election cycle. When any party is allowed to perpetuate itself we the electorate lose. This is unacceptable.

Amanda Houk

Redistricting should be done by a nonpartisan group. If the districts are drawn by one party, it will be an endless cycle of lawsuits and redrawing. All the lawsuits are costing the taxpayers money. Please help ensure fair representation for all North Carolinians.

Ellee Wallace

Please make this a transparent process. Please use scientific research and no include current representatives addresses.

Mr. Nathaniel Timm

I believe that it is imperative for an independent party to oversee and manage the new district maps. There is no possible way to have unbiased maps if those creating them have a large stake in the outcome. Please, keep OUR (constituents') best interests in mind.

Mrs. Sara Overby

Districting (and in this case, redistricting) needs to be assigned to an independent group that is determinedly a-partisan. Neither party has a good track record on this activity, and both take advantage of their power at the given time, which leads to corruption, which leads to gerrymandering, which leads to expensive court battles, which leads back to redistricting rulings. I prefer tax money and political energy to be spent on public education and infrastructures that affect quality of life and economic development across NC.

Mr. Jason Torian

Legislative redistricting should be done by an independent panel, appointed by the governor, or better yet, by the courts. Legislators have no business drawing lines for their own districts. Serving in public office should be about who serves the interests of the citizens best and not about who can manipulate data the best.

Mr. Wayne Busch

The only way we will get fair representation if is districts are drawn by an independent non-partisan body.

Mrs. Brianne Ashley

Redistricting should be done by population distribution and with an intent to continually make districts competitive. This benefits both, if not all, parties but benefits the voters the most. We need and demand real choices, creating a healthy and balanced discourse for each election cycle. When any party is allowed to perpetuate itself we the electorate lose. This is unacceptable.

Mr. Michael Davis

As a fellow citizen, I implore you to draw maps that are politically neutral and instead that create competitive districts for all. Public faith in democracy is eroding and a sense that one's vote never matters is a key part of this. Furthermore, legislators from competitive districts have greater legitimacy with all of the people that they represent. Please do your part to shore up democracy in our state, even if this is not the will of your party.

Sincerely,

Mr. Thomas Kriston

Mr. Paul Black

Independent, non-partisan redistricting commission is needed. Voters should choose their representatives, not representatives choosing their voters.

Amanda Houk

Redistricting should be done by a nonpartisan group. If the districts are drawn, ensuring that the new boundaries be established in order to best serve all North Carolinians, and for complete transparency both during the establishment of said council and while our new voting map is being created.

Mr. Thomas Kriston

Our state's lawmakers have demonstrated time and time again, on both sides of the aisle, that neither Democrats nor Republicans should be trusted nor tasked with determining the size and shape of North Carolina's voting district. The time has come to show the rest of our country just how impartial and bipartisan our deeply diverse state can be.

I call for the establishment of an independent council for the purposes of determining how the voting districts in North Carolina should be drawn, ensuring that the new boundaries be established in order to best serve all North Carolinians, and for complete transparency both during the establishment of said council and while our new voting map is being created.

Ms. Regina Reid

I believe that redistricting should not be done by either party. Many of our fine universities have created redistricting plans already. In this day and age of "big data" it seems that creating a fair redistricting plan is within easy reach. Thank you,

Vanessa White

It is ludicrous that this is even an issue. Draw the lines legally and without gerrymandering. If you can't be elected honestly there is probably a message there. We are watching and noting who does the back to redistricting rulings. I prefer tax money and political energy to be spent on public education and infrastructures that affect quality of life and economic development across NC.

Ms. Regina Reid

I believe that redistricting should not be done by either party. Many of our fine universities have created redistricting plans already. In this day and age of "big data" it seems that creating a fair redistricting plan is within easy reach. Thank you,

Mr. Paul Black

I think it is reprehensible for politicians to redraw districts to give themselves the political advantage. Even as children we are taught that cheating is wrong, but now politicians want to change the rules if they can't win. WRONG!!! Please redraw the districts in a fair and nonpartisan way. The districts should be drawn by an independent council that is nonpartisan and has "no skin" in the game. The voters and constituents deserve nothing less.
Stop the gerrymandering and use an independent commission to draw district lines. It should not be left to one party. It should not be partisan.

Redistricting should no be done by or include any analyst which were used for past racially motivated maps. Maps should be designed by impartial parties and not designed to favor either party. If the republicans insist on using previous poor map designers I can guarantee my vote will not be republican.

We need independent redistricting not redistricting done by politicians from either party!

Hire an outside professional to redraw the maps. Politicians should not have the ability to construct their own districts. The current districts we have, with their willy uneven shapes, look as though they were drawn by a hyperactive toddler. Visually they make no sense, and where fairness and equality are concerned, they make even less sense.

An independent group should draw the map. This legislation is destroying NC's reputation.

Legislative redistricting should be done by a COMPLETELY un-biased, bipartisan process that bases the maps on pure population with no manipulation by ANY party to control the outcome or entrench themselves into power. NC must STOP this manipulation and deceit. We are a great state and we need to start showing America that our value is in fairness, honesty and embracing the diversity of America.

Be fair and do it scientifically!

I strongly believe that the district lines should be drawn by an independent, unbiased group. Allowing the republicans' chosen group/person to draw the lines again is foolish and will not result in fairly drawn districts. To quote Albert Einstein, "You cannot solve the problem with the same state of mind that created it".

Our very democracy is at stake. This is bigger than any one party. Hire an independent group. Thank you. Rachel Beck.

It is past time for the NC Legislature to stop playing with citizens voting rights. Representation must include all of North Carolina's citizens. I expect you to act in a fair and unbiased way to correct the wrong you have done to so many of us.

Put your egos aside, and behave morally. Redistrict so that the citizens can choose.

Please hire an independent non partisan council to redistrict the state based on population. This gerrymandering case has been an embarrassment to the people of N.C and deserves to be taken seriously and correctly so as to avoid wastino time on this again.

All redistricting should be done by an independent, non-partisan commission. It's time we take politics out of voting rights.

It would make even less sense.

Please consider hiring an independent outside party to draw maps that fairly represent our state.

Please remove yourselves from this process, turn it over to an independent group/person to draw the lines again is foolish and will not result in fairly drawn districts. To quote Albert Einstein, "You cannot solve the problem with the same state of mind that created it".

NC needs to switch to an independent process for drawing voting districts. It is completely inappropriate and undemocratic that the gerrymander from the other side when Democrats are in the majority.

Independent redistrict now.

NC needs to switch to an independent process for drawing voting districts. It is completely inappropriate and undemocratic that the ‘ruling party’ be allowed to draw maps that benefit themselves. Both parties have been guilty but the most recent maps are an outrage.

How much money has been wasted with the legal proceedings and redrawing of the districts? Please do what is RIGHT for North Carolina.

We are a great state and we need to start showing America that our value is in fairness, honesty and embracing the diversity of America.

Put your egos aside, and behave morally. Redistrict so that the citizens can choose.

Independent redistricting now.
District lines should be drawn by an independent, third-party entity to avoid bias and discrimination on behalf of EITHER party. The people of the state of NC deserve fair and equal opportunities to elect the person they feel is best suited to lead our state. The political games, on behalf of both parties, needs to stop and the legislature needs to restore public confidence in their ability to govern this great state!

Independent districting, full stop. Neither party, no party, can be allowed to draw districts for any purpose other than equal population distribution. NO party should be allowed to draw district lines to favor their own party or interests. NO party should be allowed the excuse of "well, the other side did it last time, so it's okay." Restore true representation in this state by removing partisan concerns from the districting process and let an outside, non-political body draw the maps.

Please turn all redistricting controls over to an impartial, nonpartisan, third-party. Redistricting should not be unfairly undermining voters' rights.

Go from one end of the state to the other and put everyone in districts based solely on population. Change only if underrepresentation based on race is found. Completely remove any look at party affiliation, the country/state is becoming an us vs them. Politicians are pushing for their gain not the county's or state's. We need to be more issue based not party.

Please work quickly, carefully & fairly to redistrict nc's congressional districts. thank you.

Those who benefit from the maps at election time should not be the ones drawing the maps. It's time for an impartial third party to take over redistricting. Our state is a national joke.

Please make the redistricting as near bi-partisan as possible. I am sick and tired of both sides gerrymandering the districts to their advantage.

Redistricting should be done by an independent commission. If politicians are involved in redistricting, then we will end up in the same horrible situation.

Redistribution should be done by computer algorithm. Districts should be prioritized in order by adjacent counties, the line of divisions within counties due to population restrictions should follow along natural barriers like Rivers, and by man made barriers such as highways.

Please use a non-partisan or bi-partisan committee to complete the redistricting. Voters should pick their representatives, not the other way around. Neither party should try to gain a political advantage with gerrymandering. Instead, democracy works best when candidates compete in the marketplace of ideas for the most votes. Extremism is curbed; we get better legislation that has been vetted on all sides; and, as a state, we stay out of the national news and off late night comedians' radar.

Our districting maps are an embarassment. It shouldn't be convulted to seem fair. Districting maps need to be drawn by an independent commission. If politicians are involved in redistricting, then we will end up in the same horrible situation.

Our state's lawmakers have demonstrated time and time again, on behalf of both parties, needs to stop and the legislature needs to restore public confidence in their ability to govern this great state!

Use this...and try to be honest this time

Our state's lawmakers have demonstrated time and time again, on both sides of the aisle, that neither Democrats nor Republicans should be trusted nor tasked with determining the size and shape of North Carolina's voting districts. The time has come to show the rest of our country just how impartial and bipartisan our deeply diverse state can be.

I call for the establishment of an independent council for the purposes of determining how the voting districts in North Carolina should be drawn, ensuring that the new boundaries be established in order to best serve all North Carolinians, and for complete transparency both during the establishment of said council and while our new voting map is being created.

I would like to see an independent group- agreed to by both parties, redraw the map. This isn't rocket science, get this done now in a fair and timely fashion.

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All new redistricting should be done by a non-partisan committee to to seem fair. Districting maps need to be drawn by an independent party and should include simple shapes only. Otherwise the maps are party and should include simple shapes only. Otherwise the maps are schemes and confusion gimicks designed to control and suppress the people.

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Please use shortest splitline districts drawn by algorithm. That will be truly non-partisan, and then neither side can complain about the outcome. It will also restore the electorate's faith in the process.

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All new redistricting should be done by a non-partisan committee to ensure North Carolina affords the full benefits of a democratic and truly representative government to its citizens.

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Our state's lawmakers have demonstrated time and time again, on both sides of the aisle, that neither Democrats nor Republicans should be trusted nor tasked with determining the size and shape of North Carolina's voting districts. The time has come to show the rest of our country just how impartial and bipartisan our deeply diverse state can be.
Redistricting should be done with clear straight lines, not with any attempt to favor Republicans or Democrats. Population of the area, numbers, should be the only factor in determining what a district looks like.

We need an independent commission to redraw the maps. Both parties have shown us they cannot be trusted to draw fair maps. The only solution for the good of our state, and fair elections for we, the people, is an independent commission.

Please redraw so that there is a fair and equitable mix of population. Political affiliation, race, age or sex should not be a deciding factor in these districts. It should be based on just population numbers alone, so that each district has an equal, fair number of people from all sides. In one word, be fair.

The voting districts should enable voters to choose their representatives, not the other way around. The deck should not be stacked in favor of a particular party like it is now where it’s almost impossible for a Democrat to be elected. It’s time for an independent, nonpartisan re-drawings of voting districts.

This is a job that needs to be done by an independent non-partisan commission, not by legislators! Please get the politics out of the process, and let the voters decide who represents them. Legislators who rig the system to keep either party in power do a disservice to the voters of NC.

Neither party should be allowed to shape the districts to skew the outcome. Not sure of the best method, but definitely does not need to be controlled in a partisan way. Some type of independent process.

Please draw non-partisan districts -- or have someone who is truly non-partisan do the drawing. Gerrymandering needs to stop, and it needs to stop NOW, and it needs to stop with North Carolina being an example to the rest of the nation that we can all rise above this mess. Let’s draw non-partisan districts and give the voters of NC their voices back!

Redistricting by computer makes sense to me.

Both parties need to acknowledge their past failures and get past, once and for all, craven political schemes to maintain power of a party.

Setup an independent or truly bi-partisan (half and half, not 2-1 like the voting boards the GOP has already slanted with special-session legislation under a lame-duck governor), and use census data to generate fair districts. Here’s an example that’s been around for three years. Maybe there are ways to make it better. Let some independent folks work together to figure out what those improvements can be.

Redistricting should be done by zipcodes with a narrow population difference with other districts. For Example, if an single urban zipcode has 1,000,000 population, every other district should be 900,000 to 1,100,000 by methodology. It is the only way for this to be completely impartial and fair.

Both parties need to acknowledge their past failures and get past, once and for all, craven political schemes to maintain power of a party.

I feel that the General Assembly should not be involved with the redrawing of district maps for elections. Elected officials have too much to gain by being involved in this process as was seen in the maps that were recently considered to have been gerrymandered. It is clear that impartiality, which should be a hallmark of elected officials who are meant to serve their constituents, is an oft missing trait in many in the General Assembly. North Carolina does not need biased maps and does not need to continue to be in the news regarding crazy political bullying and personal agendas. What North Carolina needs is fair maps producing fair elections where the people actually properly influence and elect those who represent them properly because that is how our state government should work. Please create a separate, unbiased panel to create the new maps. We do not need anymore bias in our elections and we don't need to continue to waste money being in court over lawsuits on decisions made with ill intent. Thank you for taking public comments.

Let's draw non-partisan districts and give the voters of NC their voices back! }

Let's draw non-partisan districts and give the voters of NC their voices back! The current system is an embarrassment, and you shouldn't need a Supreme Court ruling to tell you that. Use your eyes, and think of residents rather than your party's embarrassment, and you shouldn't need a Supreme Court ruling to tell you that. Use your eyes, and think of residents rather than your party’s state office.

This should be done via Brian Olson’s “optimally compact” methodology. It is the only way for this to be completely impartial and fair.

Should be done by zipcodes with a narrow population difference with other districts. For Example, if an single urban zipcode has 1,000,000 population, every other district should be 900,000 to 1,100,000 by adding multiple adjacent zipcodes.

I feel that the General Assembly should not be involved with the redrawing of district maps for elections. Elected officials have too much to gain by being involved in this process as was seen in the maps that were recently considered to have been gerrymandered. It is clear that impartiality, which should be a hallmark of elected officials who are meant to serve their constituents, is an oft missing trait in many in the General Assembly. North Carolina does not need biased maps and does not need to continue to be in the news regarding crazy political bullying and personal agendas. What North Carolina needs is fair maps producing fair elections where the people actually properly influence and elect those who represent them properly because that is how our state government should work. Please create a separate, unbiased panel to create the new maps. We do not need anymore bias in our elections and we don't need to continue to waste money being in court over lawsuits on decisions made with ill intent. Thank you for taking public comments.
The politicians of this state have proven that they are more concerned with stealing the votes from the people than they are about protecting democracy. No politician should be in charge of schemes that steal the value of one person one vote from North Carolina citizens. Where is the shame? The well documented theft of the vote from the people demands change. It is time for a non-partisan panel to draw these districts.

Redistricting is one of the few constitutional mistakes in that there are no limits as to where the boundaries can be. The gerrymandering was awful at all levels, state and congressional. Here I live as a Republican in a Democrat controlled county (Mecklenburg) and city (Charlotte) in a Republican controlled state, and I see the same abuses committed wearing the other jersey. As an American and a proud North Carolinian, I would like to see NC lead the way with a structure of independent review or check/balance on the redistricting, without having to resort to the delay, cost, and acrimony of the courts.

Please do not continue the partisan madness. When you win by cheating, you actually lost. Please help restore democracy with fair redistricting.

If politicians want to CHOOSE whom to govern go live in another country. This is American, we are trying to hang on to our democracy! If politicians want to CHOOSE whom to govern go live in another country.

Please draw districts that are contiguous and not gerrymandered in any way. Please draw districts that are contiguous and not gerrymandered in any way. Even if that means that they would accurately reflect the will of the voters to the disadvantage of the Republican party.

Please draw the districts in a fair way so that all people are represented. Our state is being compared to a dictatorial regime, and it is largely due to the gerrymandering we are trying to resolve now. Bi-partisan, independent commission. Appointed not elected but have to be confirmed. Long terms so they don't whip saw after each election. Term limited so they don't stay too long and acquire too many favors and special interest burdens.

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Please help restore democracy with fair redistricting.
Independent redistricting is the only way to ensure fair districts and accurate representation in the General Assembly. Both political parties have proven incapable of drawing fair, unbiased districts when given the opportunity, so it is time for an independent body to draw the district lines for GA representation. Duke University has done mathematical research on potential ways of drawing valid district lines, as one can see here: https://services.math.duke.edu/projects/gerrymandering/ Please take constituent feedback into account while the new districts are drawn. Disenfranchising voters because the group in power largely disagrees with them is hardly a fair method of governing. It’s time to let voters exercise the full power of their votes, and to give them the opportunity to elect leaders who truly represent them and their interests. Thank you for your attention.

Mrs. Anna Dhole

Please use a non-partisan method of redistricting. It is not right that our political process should be decided by any party. Politicians should not be able to choose their own constituents. Do not think only of retaining power - think of the bigger picture that is our democracy and how it is hurt by gerrymandering. Lines should not be drawn to affect outcomes of elections. They should never be drawn according to race. Stop making NC seem like a state full of backwoods racists and bigots! The whole country is watching this. We lost enough revenue from HB2.

Mrs. Brittany Hancock

Redistricting should be contracted out to a non-partisan group that has expertise in the matter. Now, tomorrow, and ever after. Let NC join the states of Arizona, California, Idaho, and Washington as an example to the rest of the nation. No more pendulum swings. No more need for regular voters to have to look up a new polling place. No more politicians trading our votes for their elections.

Dr. Kelsey Hample

If you ever want to have any semblance of credibility, you’ll draw lines that reflect non partisan population concentration. It’s not rocket science.

Mrs. Jill Miller

Now is NC’s chance to redraw the maps with NO gerrymandering at all, either racial or political. It is in the state’s best interest to have a third party redraw the maps. I would also love to see a law proposed that disallows gerrymandering from here going forward. I would hate to see the maps continually change based on whichever party controls the government. Do the right thing!

Lauren Dillard

The current system is egregiously biased and does not allow for a true representation of the residents. Our local government will better serve all of its people’s with more equitable districts.

Mr. Jonathan Beeker

I’m writing to urge an independent consultancy to draw purely geographical lines. It is dangerous to give either major party the ability to gerrymander districts so ruthlessly that they are no longer at the mercy of the voters. It is our money that they play around with, and the voters in the state’s financial, education, and population centers have had our voices squelched too long. The embarrassment that this state has become has been to achieve what? Tax breaks for people who don’t need them. If NC doesn’t do better, we will be left behind and the New South will mean Georgia and Virginia.

Mrs. Kirstin Cassell

Redistricting should be done by an independent non-partisan body. Systemic racism is alive and well in our state and we are long overdue in fixing the ways in which our districting has disenfranchised American citizens. If we truly value democracy, we need to create a system in which all of NC’s citizens are valued.

Mr. Phillip Vogatzke

I think gerrymandering has gone on long enough in our state. Take this as an opportunity to end it once and for all. Use nonpartisan redistricting to create a fair opportunity for either party to win allowing our public servant focus on the people instead of the party they serve. Use software that can create these districts so we can have more democracy in NC. Thank you for your time.

Mr. John Turpin

An independent, non-partisan group should be in charge of redistricting with the intent of providing fair representation for all citizens of the state of North Carolina based on approximate percentage of democrats and republicans.

Pegi Pike

The redistricting that has been done to ensure incumbent party wins is corrupt. It is time to end this illegal obscenity. The new lines must be nonpartisan and drawn to reflect real districts of people who live in the same area, not the nonsense we see now. Stop screwing with our lives and our votes! Try honor and honesty, come to an AGREEMENT between both parties (can you do that?) and have a third, nonpartisan, no agenda group draw up the new lines based on population within contiguous boundaries. Please bring some honor back into our state politics and don’t try to use this as the topic to distinguish others.

Margaret Hoke

I don’t believe gerrymandering will stop on either side of the aisle until either the committee is evenly split R/D or it is drawn by a non-partisan committee and utilizes unbiased tools such as computer generated algorithms. Stop the madness! We The People deserve to be fairly represented.

Joseph Womble

PLEASE go past the partisanship Democrats and Republicans have used for DECADES and create a truly fair process for independent redistricting. Be the bigger “person” and solve this issue in a way that people of ALL parties overwhelmingly support (aka independent redistricting).
Mr. Andy Andrews
An independent 3rd party should be in class charge of redistricting
We, the people of this great state, deserve districts drawn by an

Mrs. Kathleen Davis
Aug 4 2017  9:09AM
I am in favor of non-partisan redistricting.

Aug 4 2017  9:10AM
Stop gerrymandering.  Make voting districts fair.

Mrs. Joyce Shields
Aug 4 2017  9:09AM
Stop the gerrymandering! I suggest an independent council for

Mrs. Gail Cole
Aug 4 2017  9:09AM
We North Carolinians would love to see an independent third party
draw the new maps. That will allow all voters to regain confidence in
the NCGA.

Ms. Sara Cathey
Aug 4 2017  9:09AM
Maps must be redrawn by an independent, or computer assisted
program to be both Political Party and Racially Blind!!

Aug 4 2017  9:07AM
Doug Tabb
The only redistricting decisions that would be good for the people of
the state (and the only ones that should be acceptable to you, the men
and women who represent the people of the state) are ones which
create truly unbiased districts. The weight of knowing what is unbiased
doesn't have to fall entirely on your shoulders though. There are
equations, algorithms, and programs designed specifically to produce
 unbiased districts. I encourage you to utilize methods such as these:
http://rangevoting.org/GerryExamples.html
http://autoredistrict.org/
http://bdistricting.com/about.html

Jamila Simpson
Aug 4 2017  9:09AM
An independent 3rd party should be in class charge of redistricting
efforts. One that uses scientific methods that does not take social
categories into consideration. An entity that has no political stake in
the outcome.

Kelly Martinez
Aug 4 2017  9:07AM
This should be done via Brian Olson's "optimally compact"

Ms. Mallory Roman
Aug 4 2017  9:07AM
We North Carolinians would love to see an independent third party
draw the new maps. That will allow all voters to regain confidence in
the NCGA.

Mrs. Andy Andrews
Aug 4 2017  9:07AM
Stop gerrymandering. Make voting districts fair.

Aug 4 2017  9:08AM
Ms. Keeley L'Esperance
All redistricting should be done independently, not by political parties.

Nadine Bennett
Aug 4 2017  9:09AM
I work with GIS and have actually done local government district maps
(for Councils). I have done these strictly by population, while trying to
keep neighborhoods intact if possible. PLEASE do not create these
districts to gain political advantage. I would say the same to either
party. We have a pretty balanced state in terms of people and politics -
but that's not what our legislature reflects. I believe balance (and a
true reflection of the demographics of the state) is the better way to...

Mrs. Kathleen Davis
Aug 4 2017  9:09AM
... Politicians, no matter their party, should not be the ones making the
electoral maps for themselves. Period. Please put together a
NONPARTISAN, independent redistricting committee! Emphasis should be
on compactness of geographical area with no regard to political
party and only with regard to race for the purpose of ensuring
minorities are not disenfranchised. Democracy cannot function and
the people do not have their interests represented when super
majories in both houses prevent the minority party from having a
voice.

Mrs. Rebecca Dinsdale
Aug 4 2017  9:09AM
Please, please consider your motives when planning new districts.
Remember that you will not always be the party in power and that
your actions may have some very unintended consequences in the
future. You have every right to vote your conscience, but you do not
have the right to use your position of power to take away that same
right from others.

Mrs. Susan Purr
Aug 4 2017  9:09AM
Stop the gerrymandering! I suggest an independent council for
redrawing district maps. The people should select their politicians, not
the other way around. If you cannot select an independent council,
then have a computer do it. Keep party affiliation out of this.

Mrs. Gail Cole
Aug 4 2017  9:09AM
I want our redistricting done by a completely bipartisan group. It
should require that the vote reflects the population of the state
regardless of the majority party.

Ms. Elizabeth Traylor
Aug 4 2017  9:10AM
We, the people of this great state, deserve districts drawn by an
impartial third party. Gerrymandering is bad for everyone.

Nathaniel Isaacscon
Aug 4 2017  9:10AM
Gerrymandered districts are undemocratic and not productive.
Democracy thrives on allowing more voices to be heard and allowing
every eligible citizen to vote.

Ms. Sara Cathey
Aug 4 2017  9:10AM
It should be done regionally with no regard for party alignment.
Buncombe ( all of it) and Transylvania should be together like they
were pre-NCTPGOP. The GOP has ruined our state...we must have
the tools to move forward against racism and sexism.... We need
people with enough foresight to know we need to take care of the
environment... Sara Cathey

Mrs. Joyce Shields
Aug 4 2017  9:11AM
I deplore the practice of redistricting for the purpose of controlling the
outcome of elections for control of our state. I am a registered
Republican. I did not like it when the Democrats did it and I do not like
it now that the Republicans are doing it. As we have, a two party
system, we should have two candidates for each position from which
to choose in the election. Power grabbing by drawing the maps for
districts to the benefit of one or the other party does not encourage,
but does in fact, discourage eligible candidates from entering the race.
This is cowardly at best and self-serving at the worst. I do not believe
either party, nor the NCGA should have the 'job' of drawing the maps.
I believe they should be out sourced to an outside, non-partisan entity.

Ms. Rachel Fellman
Aug 4 2017  9:11AM
I am in favor of non-partisan redistricting.
After illegally gerrymandering the districts to diminish the voting power of African Americans, the NC Republican Party has the perception of being a party of racist white people. Should you want to change this perception, I would suggest you re-draw the voting districts in a non-partisan way that ensures every North Carolina’s vote counts regardless of party affiliation or color of skin.

Redistricting for partisan advantage or for racial reasons must stop. Please draw fair and reasonable maps so that North Carolina can move forward with truly fair elections and we can stop the endless cycle of litigation and gerrymandering. Thank you.

Can we please set up an INDEPENDENT redistricting practice? Let’s take this out of the hands of politicians from either side. Arizona has a model approach with their Independent Redistricting Commission. Why don’t we use them as a model for our approach? Show that you can put the people before partisan politics.

Partisan redistricting subverts the principles of democracy. If you can’t get elected through fair process then you shouldn’t be in power. Voters should be able to choose their representatives... representatives should not set to choose their voters.

After illegally gerrymandering the districts to diminish the voting power of African Americans, the NC Republican Party has the perception of being a party of racist white people. Should you want to change this perception, I would suggest you re-draw the voting districts in a non-partisan way that ensures every North Carolina’s vote counts regardless of party affiliation or color of skin.

The electoral maps should be drawn based on primarily geography, secondarily on population. There is no valid reason for some of our districts to have such odd splinters. There is no valid reason for some of our districts to have overlapping dovetail like sections. It’s embarrassing and not democratic. Politicians should try to win elections by sound policy, convincing arguments, and ability to govern. Not by sectioning off portions of their constituents.

Please do not let either party choose the district lines. Bias and preference would be impossible for either party to avoid. We need these lines drawn according to fair, honest, and consistent ruling by an independent party.

A non-partisan redistricting committee should draw the legislative districts because history shows both sides will cheat when given the chance.

A non-partisan redistricting committee should draw the legislative districts because history shows both sides will cheat when given the chance.

I think humans should be out of the process. Gerrymandering that gives any party an advantage is wrong. Congressional districts for example, should allow the fraction of representatives from each party to be closely aligned with the fraction of voters who voted for each party.

Please create an independent districting committee that can objectively design the district. No more politics in this process.

How is it the party that considers themselves constitutionalists are rigging the system against NC voters? You aren’t the party of the constitution, you’ve become the party of gerrymandering. Please stop embarrassing the great state of NC with your back room deals that negatively affect NC voters. If you have so much faith in your platform you wouldn’t have to gerrymander districts. Let NC citizens pick their representatives fair and square.

Please appoint a bipartisan committee to prepare the maps! If you can stand it, give the committee independent power to create the maps that reflect NC. The report from Tom Ross’s group of former judges, which party holds the majority while the redistricting is being done. An independent third party organization should create districts that accurately and fairly represent the people of North Carolina.

Not by sectioning off portions of their constituents.

Please create an independent districting committee that can objectively design the district. No more politics in this process.

Please appoint a bipartisan committee to prepare the maps! If you can stand it, give the committee independent power to create the maps that reflect NC. The report from Tom Ross’s group of former judges, both R and D, would be a good place to start. Please be transparent! Show the public all the options you considered before you choose one.

My feeling is that districts should be as much by county lines as possible. If a county has a large population, such as Mecklenburg and Wake counties, then those should counties should get 2 or 3 districts that are equal in size to the smaller counties.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 9:17AM</td>
<td>Ms. Jada Deiderich</td>
<td>Allow an independent organization OR bipartisan committee handle redistricting. You are supposed to represent the people. That doesn't happen when you deliberately draw lines to suppress a large number of those people. You should be leaders and heroes to ALL who live in NC. But we all know why many of you have a seat. Not very heroic for sure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 9:17AM</td>
<td>Mr. Robert Ladd</td>
<td>If NCGA is interested in creating equal voting districts that accurately represent the population, then there is a very simple solution that any Computer Science or Math major could easily provide. Even a panel of non-elected judicial employees would be better than partisan gerrymandering. If the NCGA is interested in unfairly stacking votes and limiting democracy in this great state, then it should stay the course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 9:17AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Chanda Green</td>
<td>Districts shouldn't be drawn by the party in power. Gerrymandering happens in both parties, but this last example was so egregiously racist that there wasn't even any pretense. It's just part of the list of things since the GOP stole power that have made our state a laughingstock.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 9:18AM</td>
<td>Hannah Fennell</td>
<td>PLEASE hire an independent organization to draw the redistricting lines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 9:18AM</td>
<td>Mr. Jeff Schauble</td>
<td>I think that legislators have no business drawing the district lines. It needs to be drawn by an independent party, preferably a computer program to preserve fairness. I don't get to determine if I keep my job, legislators shouldn't either.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 9:18AM</td>
<td>Ms. Tara Foss</td>
<td>I find it unconscionable that this state, once so progressive for the South, is now the subject of ridicule because of its racially biased voting districts. When the courts step in and say change this, you have to listen. Republicans getting to redraw the districts is insane, considering they are the ones who drew these abominations in the first place. Please, we need bi-partisan and non-partisan people to handle this important task. This cannot be left to one party only and that one party cannot be allowed to hold up the redrawing for political gains.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 9:18AM</td>
<td>Ms. Kirsten Milliron</td>
<td>A non-partisan, independent effort is vitally important for the restoration of fair elections and elective rights in the state of North Carolina. For too long, party lines have dictated the districting in ways which undermine the votes of thousands. We must take the power of drawing district lines out of the hands of politicians who stand to gain from them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 9:18AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Laura Deoras</td>
<td>Please follow the proper guidelines with no gerrymandering and no crazy shaped districts. Follow the lead of other states that do it properly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 9:18AM</td>
<td>Mr. Randy Earl</td>
<td>We need redistricting based on geographic proximity, not party affiliation. Gerrymandering fosters legislative deadlock since it ensures there is no effective competition - we need legislators to be forced to listen to ALL the people, not just THEIR people. We are supposed to have government of the PEOPLE, by the PEOPLE, not by the party for the party.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 9:19AM</td>
<td>Adam Stewart</td>
<td>Make it公平 to all parties – representation (state and federal) should reflect the popular vote % (not 50/50 split in vote yields 3-10 split in seats). Dems and GOP have done it for years -- it's time to be mature and END IT and be fair to the people. Let an unbiased computer algorithm own it OR a completely independent, bi-partisan group (even number on all sides) draw the maps. Use county lines when possible, or zip code boundaries at worst in metro areas. Raleigh shouldn't be grouped with Bertie County - that's nonsense. Uptown Charlotte shouldn't be lumped in with Midway near Winston-Salem. Use this as a test: if you are afraid that &quot;this could be done against us someday&quot; then you are not being fair in the present. Give the power back to the people – this is a purple state. We should have purple representation in all levels of government. Unfair maps -- like we had back in the 90s and like we really have now -- are the biggest affront to democracy that we have. This state is so closely split that we should not have super majorities by any party for probably the rest of our lives. And you know it. Make it fair, make it independent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 9:19AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Pat Bullard</td>
<td>It is most important that an independent redistricting committee draw the maps so that neither party can gerrymander. District should be compact and contiguous and should not be drawn to coincide with incumbents, should not be drawn with any partisan factors such as registration results of previous elections, voter turnout, and where incumbents live. I certainly hope there is no cause for further court action because of badly drawn districts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Please have the legislative districts redrawn by an independent, non-partisan panel. These proposals are introduced in the House, but go nowhere, despite bipartisan support. But wait, you can never eliminate politics from drawing districts, states the opposition. So just continue with the #1IP system we have add for centuries—with more taxpayer dollars for attorneys in court cases and appeals.

Like most voters in North Carolina, I do not want gerrymandered districts— for any party.

Perhaps the General Assembly will approve of a new license tag, showing the shape of one of our finest, snake-like districts, “North Carolina—First in Gerrymandering!”

Redistricting reform has been endorsed by Senator Thom Tillis, Governor Roy Cooper, former governors Pat McCrory, Jim Hunt and Jim Martin, former mayors Charles Meeker (Raleigh) and Richard Vinroot (Charlotte), the League of Municipalities, mayors of 110 N.C. cities and over half of the members of the N.C. House.

It’s time for a change!

Politicians should not be allowed to draw maps to control the outcome of elections and entrench themselves in power. Maps should be drawn by an independent bipartisan council using mathematical algorithms. The districting process and outcomes need to be transparent to the public and clearly unbiased towards any political party.

I am very frustrated that I have voted in multiple elections where my vote doesn’t count because of gerrymandering.

Please have the legislative districts redrawn by an independent, non-partisan, redistricting company/group/body. No politicians should have any say or control over this process. The sole mission of the redistricting should be to uphold the ideals of one person one vote, that everyone’s vote counts equally as we are all equal citizens of this country and this state. Thank you.

Fair districting protects the integrity of democracy. One person - one vote. Otherwise significant groups of people are left effectively unrepresented. The whole “taxation without representation” matter was a big deal almost 250 years ago, it’s still a pretty big deal now. Additionally, the “compressed time line” we’re operating under now is only the fault of our own legislators who have sadly defended the current gerrymandering to the embarrassment of our state. Despite the time crunch, I insist that the maps be released for public inspection prior to any vote in the legislature.

Legislators should have NO PART and play no role in drawing districts. This process should be conducted independently of the general assembly.

When you choose your voters you bypass the democratic process, the basic foundation of what this country is built on. District boundaries should be drawn in a non-partisan way.

I just think it’s crazy that people we elect a politician to represent them but the person places party loyalty or their own pockets above the needs of their constituents. And allowing unfair redrawing of districts makes it impossible to replace them with a more honest candidate. Please consider this when redrawing the lines and come up with a map that represents the majority of people and not just your party.

I hope that an independent group will work on redistricting plans. There needs to be a removal of political bias in districts to preserve the value of voting for our elected officials. To allow political bias in redistricting allows parties to, "stack the deck " or as I like to call it," to cheat." Our state needs the best elected officials and an independent redistricting plan will help that to happen.

We all should be embarrassed that this issue has made it to the courts due to the way the blatantly racist current maps were drawn. Elected officials shouldn't have to cheat to win.

I believe I am fairly represented by the current district boundaries, even though my preferred candidate did not win in 2016 (HD 49). The recent districts have resulted in an engaged voter base who can easily understand who represents them. Contrast this with prior to 2010 redistricting when the NC 12 district (to cite one example) made a laughingstock of North Carolina in the national view.

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Any new districts should:
- Keep district within a county (as prescribed by law)
- Cities and towns kept as whole as possible
- Respect the role of the General Assembly, who under the Federal and State Constitutions and the laws of the State of North Carolina are responsible for redistricting.
- Race should not be a factor in the drawing of legislative districts.
Redistricting should be done by non politicians! It should be done in a non-partisan way. This is for the good of our state and our fellow Carolinian and I expect my representatives to draw fair districts so elections are fair and ordered so that elections are fair for myself and for all my fellow citizens.

Aug 4 2017  9:27AM
Ms. Jeanne Robinson

I feel that it is unethical to allow politicians to draw the legislative redistricting maps. A non-partisan body should draw the maps so that whatever political party is in power is not tempted to draw borders that work in their favor and help entrench power to their party for decades to come. This is pretty common sense - map boundaries drawn by a non-partisan body are the only fair way to make our future map.

Aug 4 2017  9:29AM
Mrs. MaryBeth Duprey

I do not believe that politicians should be drawing district maps. I believe that an independent 3rd party should re-draw our maps in a way that makes sense. Constituents should be the ones picking their representatives, representatives shouldn’t get to use voting data to pick their voters.

Aug 4 2017  9:28AM
Ms. Harlene Gogan

Redistricting needs to be independent to partisanship! Otherwise you are stacking the deck for your own profit. Insider trading is illegal. Well redistricting based on information about party is akin to insider trading. This should be illegal. The outcome is feathering your own nest, profiling on the changes you have made. Not to mention the race factor, which is illegal. I am appalled that you have dragged your feet even after a court order. You must redraw the district maps in a non-partisan way. This is for the good of our state and our fellow Carolinian and I expect my representatives to draw fair districts so elections are fair for myself and for all my fellow citizens.

Aug 4 2017  9:28AM
Anita Blackwell

Districts should be drawn using an independent non-partisan committee. It’s true, both parties have used their tenure as majority power to retain and strengthen that power to varying degrees. Until recent years, the General Assembly has generally kept NC on a progressive track with a reasonable give and take between the two parties. Independent redistricting can provide a better balance of power and ideas. It will create representation that is a true reflection of our state. I would also favor keeping counties intact within voting districts.

Aug 4 2017  9:28AM
Ms. Jodi Bulmer

STOP THE GERRYMANDERING. Either get independent redistricting maps created or do this work with BOTH PARTIES DRAWING THE MAPS. You’d be better off getting school children to draw your maps!!! This state has got to get it’s act together. This state has got to get it’s act together. This state has got to get it’s act together. This state has got to get it’s act together. This state has got to get it’s act together.

Aug 4 2017  9:29AM
Sheryl Reto

This should be done on a non partisan basis. The best way to assure fair districts and a fair and free election is to have an independent group draw the lines. Neither party should be trusted to draw fair boundaries and democracy benefits when legislators have accountability to their constituents.

Aug 4 2017  9:29AM
Dr. Sangeeta Swamy

Redistricting should be done in a practical manner that serves the people, not politicians and parties. That should go without saying! It should be based on the needs of the people, to have an ethnically and economically diverse district so that groups are not isolated and can benefit from each other. Districts should also make geographic sense and not be drawn with skinny portions included in order to exclude less powerful minority. Thank you!

Aug 4 2017  9:30AM
Ms. Linda Clayton

I am Against redistricting. It needs to stay the same
Dear Representatives,

I write to ask that the pending redistricting follow the guidelines listed below. I am tired of spending state funds to defend districts that are so obviously illegal. We have so many needs in our state, spending money on a preventable problem seems unreasonable. Please, let's put the money to better use and have fair districts which produce a legislature reflective of the electorate as a whole. I know that is a scary proposition for Republicans, but we all benefit by living in a peaceful state.

Regards, Nora Haenn

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Districts should be &quot;compact and contiguous&quot; meaning that there are no long tentacles that stretch out and barely touch the rest of the district.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Districts should follow state and federal laws and respect the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The most important: districts should not consider factors such as the party affiliation of voters, where the incumbent lives, the results of the last election, or the party affiliation of voters.</td>
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</table>

In 1863, a great Republican and a great American stood on a battlefield at Gettysburg and expressed the hope of all true Americans: that "government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth." 

If North Carolina's Republican legislators choose their own voters by gerrymandering, rather than allowing the people to choose their legislators fairly, they will be declaring war, yet again, upon this most basic and essential of American values, and plunging yet another knife into the back of one of their party's most beloved historical figures.

I join with the majority of the people of North Carolina in demanding that the legislature remove itself entirely from the redistricting process and hand it over to a panel of respected individuals, evenly split between both parties, who do not have a vested interest in keeping their legislative seats and who can be judged to fairly apportion North Carolina's legislative maps.

Dear Representatives,

We need a legislature that truly represents the people of North Carolina. End partisan gerrymandering and uphold true American values.

Dr. James Gilmore

Redistricting should be conducted by an independent, non-partisan body free of agenda. I simply do not trust the legislature to remove bias from the equation. As it stands I feel inadequately represented at the state level, and partisan involvement in redistricting will change the basic and essential of American values, and plunging yet another knife into the back of one of their party's most beloved historical figures.

Maps should not be drawn by politicians. I'm disgusted by the blatant gerrymandering by BOTH parties. My representatives should represent ME and not their own interests.

Nora Haenn

Districts should be drawn as geographically symmetrical as possible. Please - no more snakes, octopuses, outlying parcels. Draw these districts so that ALL citizens of NC are treated equally. It is time for the NCGA to demonstrate that they view all residents of NC equally and eliminate racial and political gerrymandering in the drawing of districts. Since the courts have consistently ruled "one person, one vote", draw these districts with that mandate. Several nonpartisan groups have drafted maps that clearly demonstrate that districts can be drawn that address that mandate easily. Look to those for guidance - or better yet - use them. Make us proud of our legislature and draw fair and reasonable districts for ALL North Carolina residents.

Heather Manning

Redistricting should be conducted by an independent, non-partisan body reflective of the electorate as a whole. I know that is a scary proposition for Republicans, but we all benefit by living in a peaceful state.

Regards, Nora Haenn

Ryan McShane

Districts should be drawn for partisan advantage.

Mr. Nicholas Reigle

The redistricting should be fair, bipartisan, and leave us with competitive districts. When politicians get to pick their constituents through bizarre district lines, it creates a more extreme, less functional body of representatives. We also definitely need to be sure to use someone else to draw the maps than we did last time. Let's not waste any more money on court battles over illegal districts!

Ms. Melissa Mohlere

Please create an unbiased, independent commission to create the new maps.

Thank you, Melissa Mohlere

Mr. Kendall King

Remove ALL gerrymandering. Start representing the people of your community with integrity, honesty and transparency.

Mr. Nicholas Reigle

The redistricting should be fair, bipartisan, and leave us with competitive districts. When politicians get to pick their constituents through bizarre district lines, it creates a more extreme, less functional body of representatives. We also definitely need to be sure to use someone else to draw the maps than we did last time. Let's not waste any more money on court battles over illegal districts!

Mrs. Emily Miceli

The lines should be drawn to fairly represent the population and not suppress the voice of minorities.

Melanie Greenway

Please redistrict so that voters are electing someone to represent their local interest. Redistrict so it never goes back to court. I know that you know how to do this fairly. I wish that I trusted you more to do the right thing.

Ms. Sabrina Catlin

Leave the politicians out of it. A disinterested third party should be engaged to set up balanced districts. Having a Republican or Democrat majority in the districts is unfair to the voters. Unaffiliated like me will vote as we see fit and will make the difference for each district

Mr. Stephen Wells

I would like to see a combination of objective measures to be evaluated to ensure the equity of redistricting. I’d like to see measures of geographic compactness and measures of vote wastage evaluated to ensure that the redistricting process results in fair elections that represent the will of the citizens of our state. I do not want districts drawn for partisan advantage.

Case 1:15-cv-00399-TDS-JEP Document 187-2 Filed 09/15/17 Page 107 of 382
Aug 4 2017  9:33AM  Ben Frick  Redistricting should be performed by independent 3rd party to ensure that political adjustments are not included. Lines should be based on relevant factors and not party affiliation.

Aug 4 2017  9:33AM  Mr. Edward Riddle  Our state has shown repeatedly that both party’s gerrymander districts to maintain political power. As such, redistricting should be done by a non-partisan, independent council to ensure the will of the people is carried out and fairly and evenly represented. Race and party affiliation have no place in determining districts and any party that creates districts to maintain power is putting party over country, is UnAmerican and is not supporting the constitution of the United States.

Aug 4 2017  9:33AM  Teela Depena  Please stop acting against the spirit of democracy. If you truly believe in American ideals, you will let the voice of the people be heard through the ballot box, and stop manipulating districts for certain outcomes.

Aug 4 2017  9:34AM  Mrs. Elizabeth Harvey  The General Assembly needs to utilize an independent agency or committee composed of bipartisan members who are not members of the GA to create legislative maps that are more balanced and fair. Both parties have engaged in gerrymandering in the past, this needs to stop.

Aug 4 2017  9:35AM  Ms. Susan Mayer  North Carolina needs an independent commission to oversee redistricting. It’s not right for either party to gerrymander districts in their favor.

Aug 4 2017  9:35AM  Mrs. Katie Lynch  Politicians should not be allowed to draw these districts. An independent group should draw the districts. Allowing politicians to draw these maps let's them skew the districts in their favor not allowing the true voices of the people to be heard.

Aug 4 2017  9:36AM  Lanfon Baucom  Hello,  
I would greatly appreciate it if the focus of this redistricting process would be to ensure that the new House and Senate districts were as compact as possible. I believe this will result in districts that are ultimately more competitive, which is good for everyone involved.
I appreciate your consideration of my comments and look forward to improving the political system in our great state!
Best,
Landon Baucom

Aug 4 2017  9:36AM  Mr. Jacob Baldridge  Our democracy works best when there is a true contest of ideas between opposing sides. This takes competitive districts. I support an independent redistricting commission and strict term limits for legislators and senators. Short of that, districts should be drawn to be as evenly split and competitive as possible. Why? Because this way the legislature can reflect the true wishes of the people in a district, not the wishes of someone someone’s, someone’s or someone’s. I urge you to allow an independent commission to draw the new maps. For twenty years I have lived in one of the worst gerrymandered district and have never been represented by the person for whom I voted, because this district was drawn to protect Virginia Foxx. We need to have districts that represent the truly diverse population and not solely the need of one party.

Aug 4 2017  9:36AM  Ms. Demarie Anderson  For twenty years I have lived in one of the worst gerrymandered district and have never been represented by the person for whom I voted, because this district was drawn to protect Virginia Foxx. We need to have districts that represent the truly diverse population and not solely the need of one party.

Aug 4 2017  9:37AM  Mr. Wesley Tise  I believe that neither the house nor senate should even have the power to create districts. It has been demonstrated both here in NC as well as other states that neither party has the ethical ability to fairly draw these districts.
That fact aside, the legislature has been given ample time to redistrict and it should be done quickly and fairly. It would be great to just use an independent and non partisan outside group to do it for you.

Aug 4 2017  9:37AM  Ms. Leslie Clutz  Redistricting should be done by using a mathematical splitline algorithm generated by open source software, e.g. http://rangevoting.org/SplitLR.html. This ensures population-based, competitive districts with a guarantee of zero political or racial gerrymandering.

Aug 4 2017  9:37AM  Mrs. Peg Kaczmarski  It is important we have fair elections and no gerrymandering. I could not believe what was Dionne when I lived in Wake County and it in similar in Mecklenburg.

Aug 4 2017  9:37AM  Chad Miller  Need an independent panel that follows census data. Our lifelong corrupt politicians need to keep their hands off drawing lines.

Aug 4 2017  9:38AM  Mrs. Rebecca Hayes  As a lifetime resident of North Carolina, I have seen how this works when the General Assembly allows politicians to draw the districts. This is inherently a biased approach that results in self-serving districts for whichever party holds the majority at the time. The GA should hire a nonpartisan third party to determine the districts and divide them in a way that ensures all voters are represented. I think it would be a good idea to regulate this by statute so that this problem does not repeat in the future.

Aug 4 2017  9:38AM  Derek Green  Can county lines not be used in some capacity?
This should be done by a nonpartisan third party!

Mr. John Sutton

Districts should be drawn according to population and location. No demographic information such as race, political preference, gender, etc. should be used to determine the districts. Preferably they should be drawn by an entity that has no vested interest in the outcome of an election, such as independent commission or computer. This is the only true way to reflect the will of the voters, and until these changes are made our state will continue to be exploited by whichever party happens to be in the majority in the CA.

Ms. Janet Hancock

Aug 4 2017 9:39AM

Just have a third non political party do it. It will break the trend of each party saying "Well, they did it to us when they were in power." This really shouldn't be that difficult. Remember, although we all have different views, we all want what's best for this state. Get it done!

Mr. Donald Sinclaire

Aug 4 2017 9:40AM

I believe that redistricting should be completed by a non-partisan committee of diverse individuals who are not politicians. In fact, I feel that anyone who participates on a non-partisan redistricting committee should be barred from running for office for a period not to exceed six years. It is unconscionable for someone who will benefit from redistricting to participate in the redistricting process.

Mr. Ernesto Frausto

Aug 4 2017 9:39AM

This should be illegal! Neither party should have a tool (such as this) that allows them to control the voting landscape by creating districts based on socioeconomic status, ethnicity, or whatever happens to be the latest excuse. This seems like an improper way for a party to retain majorities. Let the people decide.

Mr. Tom Baker

Aug 4 2017 9:42AM

If the districts are competitive, and our officials really have to answer to the voters then that could put us back on the right path.

Mr. Lou Andre

Aug 4 2017 9:42AM

Please keep the districts as geographically compact as possible. I want to see as many of the districts to be as competitive as possible.

Mr. Anthony Neece

Aug 4 2017 9:42AM

It is unconscionable for someone who will benefit from redistricting to participate in the redistricting process.

Mr. Chris Swanson

We want fair nonpartisan districts drawn. We cannot have our vote being used to further the political career of our representatives. The map should not be 10 GOP 3 DEM and no tossup races. There should be a balance... and there should be some districts where neither side has a decided advantage. Quit playing games. Gerrymandering is dishonorable. When you take part in rigging the map you are a liar, cheat, and a thief. Quit trying to find new ways to lie your way to power... start working for the people... in order to do this you need to give up control and let an independent commission handle it. The GA has shown its ass for far too long... most recently its been the GOP in control... but before that the Democrats played games. An independent redistricting commission is the only way to go. I served in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan, what you are doing here in America is essentially the same stuff that politicians in those countries do to maintain power.

Mr. George Collins

Aug 4 2017 9:41AM

There should be an independent commission that draws the district maps in a fair manner.

Mr. Tom Baker

Aug 4 2017 9:41AM

Independent redistricting is the only way to go. Both parties have been playing games with the map in North Carolina for centuries... it is both parties that have a vested interest in the outcome of an election that is today. Take the control away from the GA and form an independent redistricting commission. The voters who serve the GA are made our state will continue to be exploited by whichever party happens to be in the majority in the GA.

Mr. John Sutton

Aug 4 2017 9:42AM

I am strongly in favor of a Non-partisan redistricting commission that uses the efficiency gap developed by Nicholas Stephanopoulos and Eric McGhee as a measuring standard to prevent egregious partisan gerrymandering.


Ryan McGill

Aug 4 2017 9:42AM

Since you are doing it at this time it should be fair and truly represent the area. We should have new districts that adequately make the people who live in those area, these districts should look more like districts.

Sarah Catchings

Aug 4 2017 9:42AM

I think that all political redistricting should be handled by an independent, apolitical organization. At a minimum, it should not be handled by those whose very jobs depend on it. Districting should result in a legislature whose members are proportionally representative of the populace they serve.

Mr. Louis Neece

Aug 4 2017 9:42AM

You need to give up control and let an independent commission handle the process. Please don't repel the voters by giving it to the GA. Please let districts be drawn by an independent commission.
Redistricting should always and forever be done under the oversight of non-partisan redistricting. It's time for voters to choose their elected officials, not the other way around. We need legislative districts that are compact and are representative of the people of North Carolina.

I feel very strongly that we need non-partisan redistricting. It's time for voters to choose their elected officials, not the other way around. We need legislative districts that are compact and are representative of the people of North Carolina.

Follow natural population totals and geographic boundaries when creating districts. County lines may be considered as well. Voter stats should not matter. Be aoditical.

I think redistricting is a complete nightmare for the people of any state. Politicians who use redistricting to further their own party are criminals. The people of NC deserve fair representation, and gerrymandering must end. District lines must be drawn by an impartial third party so that politicians cannot chest the system. Unfortunately NC has become a disgrace in this country, as the actions of our GOP in manipulating district lines and laws to keep themselves in power is unsustainable and unAmerican.

I'm requesting a bipartisan independent group to redraw the district's without gerrymandering the results. The was one done in February that would make our elections fairer and still gives a noticeable edge to conservatives. I quote "The map would produce six likely Republican districts, four likely Democratic districts and three toss-up districts, compared with 10 likely Republican districts, three likely Democratic districts and no toss-up districts under the congressional map drawn by state lawmakers in February." Please give this democratic solution a chance to prove that the American people know what they want from their leaders.

I think that all political redistricting should be handled by an independent, apolitical organization. At a minimum, it should not be handled by those whose very jobs depend on it. Districting should result in a legislature whose members are proportionally representative of the population they serve.

Districting should always and forever be done under the oversight of a non-partisan independent commission. The commission should be required to have three different maps available for public comment and review that used the latest in mapping software to draw the maps in a non-partisan solution.

The redistricting should be done by an independent source ( NOT legislators ) and it should have been completed within the timeframes suggested by the courts! I quit wasting my tax dollars and get this done! You are AM illegitimate legislature and this problem you have suggested by the courts! Quit wasting MY tax dollars and get this done! You are AM illegitimate legislature and this problem you have suggested by the courts! Have a neutral party draw the maps. Having said that, I think redistricting is the most important thing you will do all year and I find it hard to believe that you will do anything but continue the partisan charade you've always done democrat or republican. The time has come to let a neutral party draw the maps. Having said that, I expect that the maps will be drawn in the most fair way possible. I hope that is the case. If not, well I'm sure the courts will have a say. Do the right thing and redistrict fairly. I'd like to think that any good candidate that can fairly represent a district should. I also like to think that my candidate cares about the people and/interests of an area I live in, vs something miles away where their "real" base is. Please, PLEASE get an independent committee for drawing districts. For the people and better governance.

Do the right thing and redistrict fairly. I hope that is the case. If not, well I'm sure the courts will have a say. Expect that the maps will be drawn in the most fair way possible. I have come to let a neutral party draw the maps. Having said that, I think that any political redistricting should be handled by an independent, apolitical organization. At a minimum, it should not be handled by those whose very jobs depend on it. Districting should result in a legislature whose members are proportionally representative of the population they serve.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017 9:47AM</td>
<td>Sharon McConnell</td>
<td>Please, please adopt an objective computer algorithm approach to redistricting. The goal should be to achieve a map where districts make geographic sense and residents within the district all live relatively close to each other. Political party, race and similar demographics should be secondary to geographic logic and overall population equivalence. The power plays involved with redistricting and subsequent litigation are a waste of taxpayer dollars.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017 9:48AM</td>
<td>Mr. mike champion</td>
<td>I live in district 11 where Asheville has been carved out of the district. This allows one party to remain in power and subverts democratic principles. The legislature needs to display a willingness to allow a fair representation of the voter’s will. While I understand that this is a partisan exercise, that both parties have taken advantage of unfair ways, can you please just create proportional districts and let “we the people” determine in the next election if they are to be Republican or Democrat? Republicans have a chance here to take the high road and show that they can do this without any underhanded tricks that will unfairly advantage them. Perhaps if they can show that they can be adults about the redistricting process, we voters will reward them at the ballot box. Just be fair (and two wrongs don’t make a right). Please.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017 9:48AM</td>
<td>Mr. Cody Jones</td>
<td>Redistricting should occur by an independent council, not by democrats or republicans based on which happens to be in power. This is a clear and regrettable conflict of interest that needs to end. Constituents should elect their representatives and not the other way around! I support an independent commission, or computer algorithm based system of neutrally deciding how to district our state.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017 9:48AM</td>
<td>Ms. Miriam Thompson</td>
<td>I look forward to map and justification for how lines will be redrawn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017 9:48AM</td>
<td>Mr. Andre Fernandes</td>
<td>Redistricting should occur by an independent council, not by democrats or republicans based on which happens to be in power. This is a clear and regrettable conflict of interest that needs to end. Constituents should elect their representatives and not the other way around! I support an independent commission, or computer algorithm based system of neutrally deciding how to district our state.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017 9:49AM</td>
<td>Martin Lane</td>
<td>Redistricting should be done by an independent panel to avoid gerrymandering (perceived or real).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017 9:48AM</td>
<td>Izaabela Wojciechowska</td>
<td>The courts have struck down racial gerrymeranding. Partisan gerrymeranding should also be illegal. Fair maps are key to our democracy, and I hope the NCGA can see that. It's not fair to have the same people draw the maps who drew the illegal maps in the first place. Moreover, please allow public comment AFTER revealing the maps, so that if the public feels the maps continue to be unfair, we can speak out and the maps can be amended. We're the ones affected by redistricting. We're the ones who should have a say.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017 9:49AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Linda Schrager</td>
<td>North Carolina redistricting should be drawn by an independent group rather than by party. Otherwise it will always be weighed in favor of the party who holds the most seats, which in NC is republican.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017 9:49AM</td>
<td>Mr. Ian Caterina</td>
<td>I would like there to be a non partisan independent committee responsible for all political redistricting for the State of North Carolina. Political gerrymandering is taking away our right to fair and competitive elections. It is fraudulent and puts too much power into the hands of the party in control of the process. It is tantamount to rigging the elections. Districts should represent neighborhoods in their entirety and should be round or square like in three shapes. No more Rorschach test like shapes.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017 9:51AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Signe Waldbauer</td>
<td>The issue with the current districting is it was drawn up by politicians. Districting is not a partisan issue. This needs to be done by an independent and nonpartisan group. This is the only way for it to be done fairly.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017 9:52AM</td>
<td>Vera Goudes</td>
<td>I strongly oppose redistricting in any manner that purposefully draws lines to influence elections. Lines should be drawn geographically without consideration of political party, race, income, or other demographics. A friend who is a trial lawyer once said the research and study that goes into picking a jury is a waste of time because you can never truly predict which way people will vote, just throw 12 people in the box and go. To avoid improprity in politics, I believe the same of drawing districts. Am sure this will never happen, so at least try to make it fair and stop the deliberate, crazy, snaky districts in our state. Good luck! I am an &quot;unaffiliated&quot; voter, by the way, and vote for the person, not the party.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017 9:52AM</td>
<td>Jennifer Courtney</td>
<td>I have lived in several states and countries and I truly do not understand redrawing districts. Just vote in your county. Yes they will have some that will always be a republican area but redrawing lines to change that is a huge waste of time/money.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017 9:52AM</td>
<td>Mr. Dan Caugherty</td>
<td>It would be simple to have an independent commission and a panel of independent, vetted experts: 1) approve a software algorithm based on its correctness and adherence to stated requirements, 2) inspect the resulting software source code for its implementation of the product of Step 1, and 3) submit at least three results from such software for consideration by a larger redistricting committee. (This assumes that the algorithm is an approximation technique, and might not produce the exact same results every time.) This may take some time to fully implement, but one way to minimize political gerrymandering (perceived or real).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017 9:52AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Marilyn Talbot</td>
<td>Voting needs to be as easy and accessible as possible for all eligible citizens. Districts must be drawn equitably. That’s democracy.</td>
</tr>
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Aug 4 2017 9:53AM Dr. Michael Berntsen
Use a third party group that is fair! Having the court cases concerning
districting is a disgrace to this state. Please make the moral and right
decision to create districts based on math rather than politics! Our
state should never again be in the news for lawsuits concerning
improper districts.

Aug 4 2017 9:53AM Pierce Stewart-Thomas
Computer algorithm that ONLY considers:
a) Equitable distribution of registered voters (political affiliation is not
entered into the program) across every district
b) Minimum geographic dispersion (as the crow flies) between district
boundaries
c) Established boundaries: county lines preferred, zip codes for more
dense populations
If you are looking at party affiliation, sex or race in your determination,
then you are not creating a fair process. Our representation should
reflect our votes! It doesn’t even come close right now. Our congress
should be about 7 Republicans and 3 Democrats. Not 10-3. FIX IT. Be
bipartisan.

Aug 4 2017 9:53AM Dr. Lisa Cloyd
Redistricting should happen by people who are independent and not
partisan. There should not be discrimination based upon race, religion,
sexual orientation, gender, SES, political party, etc. If 40% of the
population of the state tends to vote one way and 60% tends to vote
another, the representatives should similarly be distributed. Districts
should be compact. Ensure all citizens are represented rather than a
few.

Aug 4 2017 9:53AM D Newman
NC needs to stop acting like a 3rd world dictatorship and put together
a bipartisan panel to establish districts that fairly represent our
population. You should not have to be ordered by the Supreme Court
to do what’s right, which it appears the legislature has refused to do.
We used to have a world class state. Now we have a legislature of frat
bros engaging in self promotion. You have wasted resources passing
phony laws to practice discrimination, costing our state BILLIONS in
lost revenue and soiling our reputation. NC will continue to grow and
become more socially liberal, despite your efforts. You’re shooting
yourselves in the face. I don’t mind adding my name to a ballot. In
fact, my state representative has refused to respond to my request to
be added to the legislative update. Inexcusable.

Aug 4 2017 9:53AM Mrs. Cassie Blackwelder
The redistricting should be completed by a bipartisan group to prevent
racial and political gerrymandering. For too long the Democrats and
Republicans have utilized gerrymandering to stay in power and ignore
the will of the people. Their constituents deserve to be heard and the
only way that will happen is if the districts are drawn by an unbiased
source.

Aug 4 2017 9:54AM Mr. Ronald Sinclair
Let an independent panel draw legislative districts. Big data has
allowed districts to be drawn with precision, causing you politicians to
choose our representation, instead of "we the people" (remember us?)
choosing our own representation. We’re fed up with you.

Aug 4 2017 9:55AM Mr. Bennett Stillerman
This should be a no-brainer. We live in a (so-called) democratic
system. How is it then that we can adjust the lines of districts to
systematically limit a person’s vote? The gerrymanders will be
remembered in the history books as assassins of our democratic
system. Now’s the time to make it right. Ensure proper representation
of the people.

Aug 4 2017 9:55AM Jill Liles
As a native of Raleigh NC – an increasingly rare thing these days - I
have watched my home state become torn by gerrymandering enacted
by both sides of the political fight. What was once a beacon of a
"new south" Working to move beyond the legacy of racism and
backwoods stereotypes has become a joke on the nightly news.

No one who has a vested, monetary interest - that is to say a current
or future politician - should be allowed to touch the districting process.
Allowing politicians to pick their voters invites corruption and
disenfranchisement whether it’s done by a republican or a democrat.

We live in a modern world with powerful data analysis capabilities.
There is no reason a computer could not be used to create fair and
just maps that consider everyone equally.

Aug 4 2017 9:55AM Ms. Rachel Campbell
I believe district lines should be drawn based purely on population
centers with barriers like county lines, roads and natural geographic
elements like rivers. No political or demographic data besides basic
population counts.

Aug 4 2017 9:55AM Mr. Walter Aakert
Please show some integrity, and draw districts in a way that gives an
advantage to neither* party.

Aug 4 2017 9:56AM Ms. Suzanne Pini
The state should hire or utilize technology (a computer algorithm) that
will impartially redraw district lines. It is time for fair districts. The
citizens of the state want fair representation and that does not happen
when districts have been gerrymandered.

Aug 4 2017 9:57AM Ms. Alison Spannus
I believe that the redistricting should be done in a fair and equitable
manner for all, NOT for any one political party. With all of the
computer renderings out there that show how NC can be redistricted
without boundaries that aren’t little snakes and alleys all over the place,
there is no need for NC districts to be anything but logical. For once we
should be leading the country in showing how redistricting SHOULDN’T
be done, not how it has been done based on which political party is in
power.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timestamp</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Message</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017 9:57AM</td>
<td>Mr. Benjamin Pearce</td>
<td>Please have a non-political, bi-partisan, third party redraw our voting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>districts. Politicians should not be involved in this process. This is</td>
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<td>the only way that we will truly have fair voting districts.</td>
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<td>Thank you for your time,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017 9:59AM</td>
<td>Robert Crosby</td>
<td>Will someone please explain to me why it is that we suer for gerrymandering when the</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017 9:59AM</td>
<td>Alice Herring</td>
<td>The purpose for an election is to allow the PEOPLE to select those they</td>
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<td>feel will best represent their interests in government. Deliberate</td>
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<td>drawing of district maps by said government to favor one party over</td>
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<td>another is a betrayal of everything the founders of our country stood</td>
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<td>for. Make the maps FAIR and UNBIASED and quiet destroying our state</td>
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<td>to line your own selfish pockets.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017 9:59AM</td>
<td>Karen Waters</td>
<td>Neither party be it Republicans or Democrats have any business drawing</td>
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<td>these maps. An independent non partisan group should be utilized to</td>
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<td>create impartial districts. I am a Democrat but would like districts</td>
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<td>that truly reflected the people who live in them and not ones drawn to</td>
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<td>give either party an up on election day. You need people to learn how</td>
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<td>to compromise and get something done instead of holding our state</td>
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<td>hostage with these crazy districts and voter laws that try and keep</td>
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<td>people from voting against you. If you believe in your ideas, sell them</td>
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<td>for what they are and quit trying to say they are something else.</td>
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<td>Honesty is still important to North Carolina voters whether the NCGA</td>
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<td>think they do or not.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017 10:00AM</td>
<td>Ms. annamaria papp</td>
<td>Dear Committee,</td>
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<td>I know both parties can claim that when the other side in power they</td>
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<td>gerrymander for their benefit. But we, the constituents are sick of it!</td>
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<td>NC is an almost 50/50 Republican/Democrat. How come we are</td>
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<td>overwhelmingly ruled and legislated by the R. party?</td>
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<td>We the people demand a fair and balanced redistricting where we can</td>
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<td>feel that the winner of an election was a result of the people's wish,</td>
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<td>not an awful disadvantage! We want districts that are occupied fairly</td>
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<td>evenly from both (included independents) parties!</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017 10:00AM</td>
<td>Rachel Harmon</td>
<td>I am a North Carolina by birth and love this beautiful state. I only</td>
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<td>hope that our general assembly will put their ego and greed aside to</td>
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<td>do what is best for ALL citizens of this state. Please allow an</td>
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<td>independent and unbiased third party to redraw our state's extremely</td>
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<td>gerrymandered districts and bring justice to our state. Our state's</td>
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<td>policies are an embarrassment to the integrity of the individuals who</td>
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<td>make up this great state. It is time for change.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017 10:00AM</td>
<td>Amanda Smith</td>
<td>Redistricting shouldn't be in the hands of the people poised to benefit</td>
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<td>from the district lines. That's how we've gotten into this current mess.</td>
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<td>People don't have faith in the process. You need a bipartisan</td>
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<td>commission doing this at least, and ideally the task would go to a</td>
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<td>wholly independent department or firm using mathematical algorithms</td>
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<td>to construct new district lines.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017 10:01AM</td>
<td>Mary Arnold</td>
<td>I want the work of this non-partisan commission to determine where</td>
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<td>district lines are drawn: <a href="https://sanford.duke.edu/articles/nonpartisan-">https://sanford.duke.edu/articles/nonpartisan-</a></td>
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<td>redistricting-panel-reveals-unofficial-nc-congressional-voting-map.</td>
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<td>North Carolina's election districts -- unconstitutionally gerrymandered</td>
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<td>and drawn with &quot;surgical precision&quot; with the intention of keeping as</td>
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<td>many white Republican legislators in power as possible -- are a</td>
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<td>national disgrace. Adding to North Carolina's shame are the voter ID</td>
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<td>requirements, bogus voter fraud claims by Republicans, the shutting</td>
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<td>down of polling places, limiting days for early voting, and other</td>
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<td>disgraceful partisan tactics NC Republicans have used to limit and control</td>
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<td>elections since provisions of the Voting Rights Act were relaxed. I want</td>
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<td>the federal and state courts to enforce fair elections in North Carolina.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017 10:01AM</td>
<td>Mr. Ken McLeod</td>
<td>This and all future redistricting should be prepared by an independent</td>
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<td>commission. As a voter, I am tired of ANY political party being able to</td>
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<td>draw themselves into power based on redistricting.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017 10:01AM</td>
<td>Robert Crosby</td>
<td>Why is it that it was ok for the Democrats to setup gerrymandered</td>
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<td>districts when they were in power but it is racist when the Republican</td>
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<td>legislature does it.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017 10:03AM</td>
<td>Ms. Rasheeda Smith</td>
<td>I would like to see a fairer voting map, in part because I want my vote</td>
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<td>to be counted equally as every other vote made in the state, and partly</td>
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<td>because the gerrymandered area I live in confuses me--I'm still not</td>
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<td>sure who I'm supposed to contact if I have an issue with my</td>
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<td>representatives.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017 10:03AM</td>
<td>Janet Webb</td>
<td>It is unfair for either political party to draw maps based on party or</td>
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<td>to disenfranchise a group of people. Please consider making the new</td>
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<td>maps more fair for everyone and not having a crazy map that makes no</td>
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<td>sense.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017 10:03AM</td>
<td>Mr. Samuel Austin</td>
<td>Redistricting should be done by a nonpartisan committee with no</td>
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<td>members of the General Assembly,executive branch,and state</td>
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<td>employees on the committee.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017 10:03AM</td>
<td>Ms. Veda Howell</td>
<td>Redistricting should be conducted by a nonpartisan panel based on</td>
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<td>population with no demographic delimiters other than citizens and not</td>
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<td>counting minors. Let's get the partisan power plays out of this process.</td>
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Aug 4 2017 10:04AM  Ms. Patricia Salomon  I am strongly in favor of non-partisan redistricting. Make voting fair for each party and each voter. No more special advantage to either party. Get back to governing collaboratively. Please.

Aug 4 2017 10:04AM  Mr. Matt McCarthy  Cut from a nicely worded response from JS. "I deplore the practice of redistricting for the purpose of controlling the outcome of elections for control of our state. As we have, a two party system, we should have two candidates for each position from which to choose in the election. Power grabbing by drawing the maps for districts to the benefit of one or the other party does not encourage, but does in fact, discourage eligible candidates from entering the race. This is cowardly at best and self-serving at the worst. I do not believe either party, nor the NCGA should have the 'job' of drawing the maps. I believe they should be out sourced to an outside, non-partisan entity."

Aug 4 2017 10:05AM  Gretchen Niver  We need to return to a truly democratic election process in our state. We've suffered under the partisan results of gerrymandering by both parties for far too long. New districts should be drawn under the following criteria: a. Districts are "compact and contiguous" meaning that there are no long tentacles that stretch out and barely touch the rest of the district. b. Districts follow state and federal laws. c. The most important: districts are drawn not considering factors such as the party affiliation of voters, where the incumbent lives, the results of previous elections, or other partisan factors.

Aug 4 2017 10:06AM  Mr. Duane Rowland III  Given the divisive history of partisan redistricting, by both political parties, I believe that Redistricting should be done by an Independent Committee of appointed members. Citizens should choose their representatives, and not the other way around. I believe that truly competitive general elections are critical to truly involving the people of North Carolina in their political process. Competitive elections also have the result of forcing our Representatives to truly listen to us, to seek our input, to compromise when necessary for the practical good. There should be no such thing as a "Safe District" in North Carolina. The mere existence of that idea is proof that something is wrong, something is broken in our current system. Only independent redistricting, by a committee made up of statisticians and data scientists, and NOT made up of politicians or elected officials, can draw electoral maps which properly reflect the geography and demographics of the State.

Independent Redistricting by a committee, appointed by the Governor to set terms of service, is the best and most effective way of engendering a sense of ownership and inclusion in our State political processes by the citizens of North Carolina. If the General Assembly wants to reflect the will of the People, then Representatives must be at the mercy of the People; they must be responsible to the Citizens of North Carolina, and not "Safe" in their seats of power. All elected state officials should be bound by this process.

Aug 4 2017 10:06AM  Marty Wolfe  The redistricting process should be supervised by a bipartisan Commission. Registrations of each party in each district should be equal in number.

Aug 4 2017 10:06AM  Courtney Scott  I would like to see a non-partisan completely independent redistricting body. One person one vote.

Aug 4 2017 10:06AM  Mr. Nick Rich  A novel idea: how about redistricting in a way that doesn't weaken the African-American vote and favor the Republicans unfairly. Hire an independent commission to draw districts in a way that accepts the changes the 21st century has brought and will continue to bring to our civilization. In other words, serve the people rather than your twisted and hateful agenda. Just a thought.

Aug 4 2017 10:08AM  Mrs. Tracey Principi  Politicians should not be involved with the redistricting maps. The State of NC needs an unbiased approach to redrawing the maps. The maps need to be fair to all people. Quit gerrymandering the maps.

Aug 4 2017 10:08AM  Timothy Goettel  Please just look for ways to have geographically compact districts that look logical, without regard to maximizing political impact. In fact, you could start by having the consultant available to ALL legislators, not just Republicans. You really shouldn't be afraid of the voters - just do what's simple and logical and then see if your ideas win!

Aug 4 2017 10:09AM  Carol Martucci  It is absolutely ludicrous for any politician to be involved with determining voting district boundaries. It should be handled by an independent, nonpartisan, neutral body.

Aug 4 2017 10:09AM  Ms. Rebecca Elmo  You have made North Carolina a laughing stock with your gerrymandering and abuse of power. Give us our dignity back and redistrict fairly. Your party's political power comes from the people, and if you take away our voice, you're not doing your job correctly. I implore you to give North Carolina it's dignity back and show how political parties can work together to better the lives of it's people and stop their unceasing hatred.

Aug 4 2017 10:09AM  Mr. Gannon Long  Districts should be drawn to accurately map to geographic distribution and to reflect popular vote support in legislative representation. NC's existing gerrymandered districts are shameful.

Aug 4 2017 10:11AM  Mr. Jason Cupp  Congratulations House GOP for winning 62% of the seats despite only winning 53% of the votes. You’ve clearly shown how good you are at gaming the system, but now is your chance to show your commitment to democracy by installing an independent redistricting committee with an open-process. I’m not holding my breath. I will never vote for a party that is so obviously corrupt at so many levels.
<table>
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<th>Timestamp</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017 10:11AM</td>
<td>Ms. Misty Landrum</td>
<td>Please know that the highly partisan districts currently in effect just foster animosity between the political segments. Please use neutral elements, such as population count and county lines to draw districts. We, the people of this state, need fair representation.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017 10:12AM</td>
<td>Mr. Paul Howland</td>
<td>The issues with district lines and gerrymandering have been a major embarrassment for this state and an issue that must be corrected as quickly as possible. I would suggest that we completely remove partisan viewpoints from the process. NC could become a leader in this area if this is done appropriately. I would urge our legislature to look outside the systems of committees and selected groups with representatives from either side of the aisle and more into completely impartial means, such as computer algorithms with simplified approach where only geography and population numbers are used. There is no place for partisanship in this issue. Let our representatives actually be accurate representations of the people of our state.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017 10:13AM</td>
<td>Mr. Johnne Smith</td>
<td>I have a pending contract on this home that I selected in large part that it was in a Democratic district in Raleigh NC. I would very much like to keep it that way.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017 10:14AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Shannon Crate</td>
<td>Please use a bipartisan or independent committee to draw the new district lines. I would love for North Carolina to be a leader in transparent politics for the nation.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017 10:14AM</td>
<td>Ms. Emily Langdon</td>
<td>I urge the General Assembly to utilize an independent party for redistricting the illegally gerrymandered districts. It is the only way to ensure fair and honest districts. You cannot continue to cheat North Carolinians out of representatives who actually work represent them and put their constituents over their party. The latest budget proves that the majority party cares nothing about their constituents; you only care to push North Carolina further backwards!</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017 10:14AM</td>
<td>Ms. Joyce Chapman</td>
<td>Regardless of the party in power, I would like for you all to put into law that from now on all redistricting is done by an independent commission. We have had too much partisan gerrymandering from both Democrats and Republicans over the years and the people of NC are sick and tired of the game. I hope you will consider an independent redistricting committee for these current maps. Thank you.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017 10:15AM</td>
<td>Ms. Shana Miller</td>
<td>I would like to see the state lead the country and use available technology's to redistrict the state. We have the ability to show true bipartisanship and help the people of the state be truly represented. Also by using this tech, it will remove any personal or political bias that could occur and obviously already has. Do what is best for the people of the state not the good of the party, country before party always.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017 10:15AM</td>
<td>Mr. Matt Morrison</td>
<td>Please take a concerted effort to remove race, religion, political affiliation, gender, and any other bias out of your decision to draw districts lines. Please do your best to apportion districts based on populations and geographical locations. The less squiggly lines and thin strips of districts the better. I am an independent voter, I rely on fact based decision making to reach conclusions on any given discourse. If you believe in your message and your platform, please present it with fact on hand and in mind. If it is the more beneficial and sound decision, you will get my vote. You are the government of a democratic society that proclaims fairness for all, please do your service and govern with fairness for all in your heart. NC over PARTY, ALWAYS!!!</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017 10:15AM</td>
<td>Mr. Matthew Bolick</td>
<td>Create an independent redistricting commission. &quot;The Democrats did it&quot; and &quot;The Republicans are doing it&quot; is not a solution to a problem. There is a computer algorithm to create districts based on population density that is more fair and accurate than human drawn maps.</td>
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I think we should have a full and open debate about what kind of districts we really want to draw in our state. The simple phrase end gerrymandering does nothing to solve the fundamental issue that there will always be a high degree of subjectivity in our district drawing. The greatest threat to everyday citizens of this state is that our elected officials are not truly politically liable for their actions, as long as the districts we draw are heavily one party or the other we will run the risk of the 10% of the population (the most extreme) having their voices heard in who is leading North Carolina. We need to create districts that are as competitive as possible, in order to create a legislative body that really is in tune to the entire population. Additionally, the competitiveness of the district will put a check on the type of candidate that can get through a primary, if you live in a moderately balances district, it will be very hard for someone on the extreme left or the extreme right to win a general election, and that is the point. This will foster an environment of compromise that can move North Carolina forward to becoming the State I know it can be. I feel the ultimate goal of each district is to have, on average, a similar percentage of democrats, republicans, and independents, as the state as a whole. I understand that just given how the political geography of the state shapes out there will always be some safe blue districts in urban areas and safe red districts in rural areas, but if we stick to the basic fundamentals of balancing the districts as the state itself balances I think we can really create a great redistricting plan.

I would like an independent commission, not politicians, to be in charge of drawing districts.

Let's begin a new regime of fair government that actually represents the people. Please make sure districts are based on nonpartisan criteria. Please confine each district to straightforward and geographically contiguous areas.

The redistricting methods should not take race or income into account when redrawing the district lines. The method SHOULD NOT be an effort to gerrymander or influence the vote or will of the people of North Carolina. We are a democracy and our representatives at all levels should be elected by a fair voting process not unfairly influenced by gerrymandering or redistricting efforts for political power.

Redistricting should be done by a bipartisan committee so it is fair and equitable for all parties. This is necessary to give all citizens representation in our democracy! Anything otherwise is not democratic!

The drawing of our voting districts is too important to be left vulnerable to partisan politics. An independent council would be the most efficient way to guarantee the greatest level of impartiality possible.

The NC General Assembly must comply with U.S. Supreme Court affirmed a ruling that the current maps that elect the N.C. House and Senate are unconstitutional racial gerrymanders.

Please end the partisanship over redistricting, and have a computer algorithm decide where the boundaries of districts are. Neither party should be favored in the final districts. Thank you.

It is a farce that politicians get to choose their constituents rather than the other way around. Please hand over the power of redistricting to an independent authority. The debate that no authority can be truly independent is hollow and very transparent to your constituents. While it’s true everyone has some bias, doesn’t it make the more sense to hand that power over to someone with LESS bias than the actual lawmakers trying to get elected? This country is poised on a political precipice, and people are not going to take the blatant abuse of power

I live in Mooresville yet my new district 13 (Ted Budd) goes all the way to Greensboro and his closest office is 45 minutes away! This district much longer.

I feel the ultimate goal of each district is to have, on average, a similar percentage of democrats, republicans, and independents, as the state as a whole. I understand that just given how the political geography of the state shapes out there will always be some safe blue districts in urban areas and safe red districts in rural areas, but if we stick to the basic fundamentals of balancing the districts as the state itself balances I think we can really create a great redistricting plan.

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I would like for you to stop drawing maps that segregate voters. This is 2017 and it’s time to have equal representation in North Carolina. The Legislature should represent every person in our state and have common sense voting districts. I believe that if you gerrymander the map again, the courts will have to step in and do job for you. I know you can do the right thing!

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To the Legislature:

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Sincerely,

Judith Williams

Please end the partisanship over redistricting, and have a computer

If the last few years have shown us anything, it's that neither party should be redrawn so that its size and shape enable constituents to interact with our leaders more easily.

Additionally, the competitiveness of the district will put a check on the type of candidate that can get through a primary, if you live in a moderately balances district, it will be very hard for someone on the extreme left or the extreme right to win a general election, and that is the point. This will foster an environment of compromise that can move North Carolina forward to becoming the State I know it can be. I feel the ultimate goal of each district is to have, on average, a similar percentage of democrats, republicans, and independents, as the state as a whole. I understand that just given how the political geography of the state shapes out there will always be some safe blue districts in urban areas and safe red districts in rural areas, but if we stick to the basic fundamentals of balancing the districts as the state itself balances I think we can really create a great redistricting plan.

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I live in Mooresville yet my new district 13 (Ted Budd) goes all the way to Greensboro and his closest office is 45 minutes away! This district much longer.

I feel the ultimate goal of each district is to have, on average, a similar percentage of democrats, republicans, and independents, as the state as a whole. I understand that just given how the political geography of the state shapes out there will always be some safe blue districts in urban areas and safe red districts in rural areas, but if we stick to the basic fundamentals of balancing the districts as the state itself balances I think we can really create a great redistricting plan.

It is a farce that politicians get to choose their constituents rather than the other way around. Please hand over the power of redistricting to an independent authority. The debate that no authority can be truly independent is hollow and very transparent to your constituents. While it’s true everyone has some bias, doesn’t it make the more sense to hand that power over to someone with LESS bias than the actual lawmakers trying to get elected? This country is poised on a political precipice, and people are not going to take the blatant abuse of power

I live in Mooresville yet my new district 13 (Ted Budd) goes all the way to Greensboro and his closest office is 45 minutes away! This district much longer.

To the Legislature:

I would like for you to stop drawing maps that segregate voters. This is 2017 and it’s time to have equal representation in North Carolina. The Legislature should represent every person in our state and have common sense voting districts. I believe that if you gerrymander the map again, the courts will have to step in and do job for you. I know you can do the right thing!

Sincerely,
Any redrawn districts should accurately portray and represent the people throughout North Carolina, there are simple solutions to map districts both fairly and accurately. If the NGCA are interested in creating districts that would fairly and accurately represent the people throughout North Carolina, the problem of determining how the voting districts in North Carolina should be drawn, ensuring that the new boundaries be established in order to best serve all North Carolinians, and for complete transparency both during the establishment of said council and while our new voting map is being created.

There should be a computer algorithm that can do this in a fair way. Over the years, both parties have proven to gerrymander for their own political benefit, making an actual republic legislature difficult. How can our voices be heard through our representatives if there are no fair elections when it comes to districts? Personally, I find this situation disheartening, and I think having an independent redistricting committee draw new maps would be a good way for NC to move forward and regain positive national views. Having fair elections that are not rigged through gerrymandering would help us really capture the people's voices and wishes in regards to how NC should move forward. Many politicians run for election with a position modeled in HR 200 and S B209. The plan worked. We need to move past the days of political gerrymandering, stop acting like quarreling brothers-he hit me first- and move to a plan that makes one person, one vote possible.

If the NGCA are interested in limiting equal representation and voter access in this great state, they should stay the course. This was a test case for an independent commission as has been done by a non-partisan group. Why is this really a thing? Don't answer that, I know why it is. It's just so wrong.

If the NGCA is interested in creating districts that would fairly and accurately represent the people throughout North Carolina, there are simple solutions to map districts both fairly and accurately. If the NGCA are interested in creating districts that would fairly and accurately represent the people throughout North Carolina, there are simple solutions to map districts both fairly and accurately. If the NGCA is interested in creating districts that would fairly and accurately represent the people throughout North Carolina, there are simple solutions to map districts both fairly and accurately. If the NGCA is interested in creating districts that would fairly and accurately represent the people throughout North Carolina, there are simple solutions to map districts both fairly and accurately. If the NGCA is interested in creating districts that would fairly and accurately represent the people throughout North Carolina, there are simple solutions to map districts both fairly and accurately. If the NGCA is interested in creating districts that would fairly and accurately represent the people throughout North Carolina, there are simple solutions to map districts both fairly and accurately. If the NGCA is interested in creating districts that would fairly and accurately represent the people throughout North Carolina, there are simple solutions to map districts both fairly and accurately. If the NGCA is interested in creating districts that would fairly and accurately represent the people throughout North Carolina, there are simple solutions to map districts both fairly and accurately.
Aug 4 2017 10:29AM  Mr. Christopher Scott  Elected officials should not be allowed to choose their own constituents. Voting districts should be drawn by non-partisan or bi-partisan commissions. Gerrymandering is antithetical to democracy and meaningful representation.

Aug 4 2017 10:30AM  Mr. Thomas Anderson  I believe a computer model of some sort which doesn't factor party affiliation, economics, or race would be the best option. It should rely on sheer numbers alone. Elections are a populations primary tool to enact change in how government works for us. By gerrymandering, the legislature has effectively crippled our primary means of changing an underperforming system.

Aug 4 2017 10:31AM  Zachary Dotsey  I am writing to request that our great state of North Carolina change the way districting is done. I know Democrats gerrymandered districts before Republicans took control. It wasn't right then and it's not right now. Districts should be done using a nonpartisan method. There are plenty of options and methods available to choose from. I want to feel that my vote matters in the state I love.

Aug 4 2017 10:31AM  Mrs. Adrienne Pilon  I believe a computer model of some sort which doesn't factor party affiliation, economics, or race would be the best option. It should rely on sheer numbers alone. Elections are a populations primary tool to enact change in how government works for us. By gerrymandering, the legislature has effectively crippled our primary means of changing an underperforming system.

Aug 4 2017 10:32AM  Ms. Juliet Jarvis  As a long time citizen of North Carolina, I am asking the state legislature to do the right thing for its citizens and have a bipartisan committee redraw our districts fairly to give EVERY citizen a legitimate voice and representation in state government. I didn't approve when the Democrats gerrymandered the districts and I don't approve of it now. I am tax payer who cares about my community and the people in it, votes regularly, and votes for the right person for the position vs. along straight party lines. It is your fiduciary duty as lawmakers to do right by the citizens of this state by offering them fair and transparent elections where everyone has equal opportunity to representation. Failure to do so is unconstitutional and a clear failure in legislative and moral leadership.

Aug 4 2017 10:33AM  Sara Bausch  We do not want maps drawn by the GOP to benefit the GOP. There are multiple studies that show that while only 1/3 of North Carolinians are registered republicans, over 2/3 of each legislature are registered republicans. This was ruled unconstitutional. Why should we trust the GOP to redistrict districts when it's obvious you do not represent us in any way. Public comment is the only recourse we have to keep your people honest. We do not want MORE of the NCGOP's dirty unconstitutional bs. You deserve to be voted in Fairly. Then maybe the GOP could try getting some decent ideas instead of disenfranchising younger people, women, and people of color. Try representing the actual people of NC and not the GOP.

Aug 4 2017 10:34AM  Mrs. Adrienne Pilon  Fair and square, please. No more gerrymandering! The voters are watching.

Aug 4 2017 10:34AM  Michael Lapomarda  The maps should be drawn by an independent 3rd party, giving neither party an advantage. It is time to represent the will of the people.

Aug 4 2017 10:35AM  Ms. Kathleen Molony  Please use an independent, non-partisan process for redrawing the maps. I remain registered unaffiliated because I feel it's important to look at all candidates. I feel that so many voices are not being represented based on the maps that have been drawn. The purpose of government is to represent all people, and both sides need to have a degree of compromise. The current setup does not reflect that.

Aug 4 2017 10:35AM  Sara Stratton  We need to redraw districts as compactly as possible to get the numbers needed and without considering party affiliation in any way. The redistricting should be done by a non-partisan, independent board with review or checks/balances, without having to resort to the delay, cost, and acrimony of the courts.

Aug 4 2017 10:35AM  Mr. Ashraf Farrag  As a NC native born in Winston-Salem, a graduate of both the NC public school system in Forsyth County and our excellent public university system, I believe that the only fair way to redistrict our state is to utilize a mathematical formula / computer model. We have more than enough highly educated professionals living all over this state in addition to several excellent academic institutions who can tackle this problem so that the process is as impartial as possible, fair to the citizens of NC and not based on any specific political party's or politician's interests. To do anything else in the year 2017 would be archaic and continue to demonstrate to the rest of the civilized world just how unelected and partisan that this state has become.

Aug 4 2017 10:36AM  Melissa Haefele  The districting maps should be drawn by an independent third party. There is too much conflict of interest if politicians are the ones drawing the maps. It is too tempting to make things easier rather than fair. We need fair representation of all people in our government and without fairly drawn maps that is not happening.

Aug 4 2017 10:37AM  Mrs. Christie Driscoll  But I am a native Floridian I completely disagree and also think it is shady and fraudulent if politicians have to read District something to win obviously they don't have what it takes up front to win

Aug 4 2017 10:38AM  Ms. Teresa Flanagan  Please use non-partisan computer algorithms to determine districts. No cherry picking!
North Carolina deserves fair and competitive elections in order to represent all North Carolinians. Today we have the power of big data and sophisticated algorithms that can ensure proportionally drawn and competitive districts without inserting the political will of Democrats or Republicans into the process. We should be looking towards the Hirsch model or something similar for our redistricting process: http://img.slate.com/media/1/123125/123054/2207789/2208001/2208423/Hirsch_Redistricting.pdf

Allowing politicians to draw districts is incomprehensible, naive, and must stop. It should be done by an independent non-partisan entity. The illegality of it has been proven by the courts. Do not allow this.

Political districts should not be designed by those with a vested interest in the outcome or make-up of the district. This is a form of corruption that has been normalized by both parties in state government. Legalized corruption is a sign that our country is failing in the great experiment established by our founding fathers.

I do not have access through this form or a quick google search to any specific language being proposed. Therefore, I can not at this time provide meaningful specific input. In general my input at this time is that to gerrymander is a true form of corruption designed to thwart the intent and direction of the voting population.

The world knows that in North Carolina the party in control selects its voters to ensure that control is not taken away by the voters.

The North Carolina system of political political districting, as it exists today is corrupt, anti-democratic and designed to usurp the will of the people of North Carolina.

An independent body should establish voting districts in a way that is not weighted to the majority party.

I don’t see any need to rush through the process of redistricting. Let’s get it right!

Please use a software program to redistrict the state of NC. You should have no say in how it is done because you are directly affected by the outcome. It is a serious conflict of interest for you to do this yourself.

PLEASE consider ALL of the citizens of this state when you re-draw voting districts. Stacking the districts in favor of either party is unfair and unethical. Districts should be drawn based on population so that each citizen has an equal vote. I strongly suggest the use of a non-partisan mapping program that will create compact, competitive districts.

We need fair and unbiased districts to be drawn. This is OUR democracy, not Republican or Democrats to pick and choose their voters. Our current districts are a disaster and have turned our state into a lopsided/non-majority selected legislature. Redistricting needs to be turned over to a bipartisan committee, and that committee can not be chosen by those in power in our legislature, they MUST be outside of the politic system, and proven to stand for the people of this state, not their party or self interest. No other option is acceptable!

I agree that Race should not be a factor in the drawing of districts. That being said, I believe that all counties and where possible all cities/towns should not be divided but kept whole.

Our NC State Constitution provides for redistricting every 10 years based on the Census. Our next scheduled Census is 2020 and therefore this court ordered redrawing is violating our State Constitution.

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The voices of mountain people are no longer heard in government. That being said, I believe that all counties and where possible all cities/towns should not be divided but kept whole.

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On a personal level, I am extremely pleased with my current NC House Representative, and NC Senate Representative and do not like nor support the idea of redrawing any districts that will cause that to
All districting and redistricting should be done by an independent, non-partisan group. I do not want either party to control this process.

Please draw the districts based on the population size and the needs of each region. The current gerrymandered map looks is ridiculously biased. Please make each district diverse and well balanced.

The redistricting should be done by algorithm, and not hand drawn. There should be zero political or racial motivation, and based solely on geography and population QUANTITY, not population Demographics.

Districts should be drawn based on number of citizens aged 18 and over. There should be no linking to party affiliation or race. Racially based districts mean that any candidate outside of those districts can ignore issues important to racial minorities. We can use computer generated maps to get districts that are truly representative of the population. Enough with the partisan re-drawing every ten years.

I support Gov. Cooper’s plan to give an independent commission the power to draw new district maps. Thank you.

I do not support Republican efforts to keep gerrymandered districts in place.

The new districts should not only be able to stand up in court, they should be made without regard to the parties or politics of the individuals within them. Simple geographical separations, such as county lines or rivers and streams, are one sensible approach. Another would be using census information in a database to have computers draw maps based on the required legal criteria. It would be easy to include only needed measures and disregard information that could create bias in makeup of district constituents. Please remember that you were elected to represent and it’s possible a different candidate may better represent the group of people voting. While it’s human nature to seek to keep a job or level of power, the purpose of government is the common good of the people.

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The Democrats placed our District with Representative Butterfield for years. In our District we the voters have had no choice in Representation until the Republicans redrew our district last election. Can you please keep this part of Wayne County in the 7th District.

I do not support Republican efforts to keep gerrymandered districts in place.

Redistricting should be done by a non-partisan committee. Politicians should not be picking their constituents, it is the other way around. It dilutes the voice of the people if you make them too partisan. Political parties (all of them) should have their candidates get elected based on their campaign rhetoric not because the system is rigged. Neither rural or urban voices should be diluted. Each area has its needs and concerns and these should be fairly represented. I spent all my years until recently in Alabama, a state that is truly backward and where the politicians are very corrupt. Gerrymandered districts have greatly contributed to this in recent years. Please don’t let North Carolina move backward and become like the state I worked hard to leave.

North Carolina district lines have been the subject of intense scrutiny by the Federal government because they were blatantly drawn according to racial and socio-economic ‘boundaries.’ These lines also heavily favor candidates who ascribe to a certain political party. This is unethical and immoral behavior, clearly conducted for purposes of gaining power and control over the people of North Carolina, by people who refuse to fairly and honestly represent the people of North Carolina. I’ve been raised here all my life. I graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, bought a house in Raleigh, and truly love my neighbors here. I cannot say the same for the people who are supposed to serve, protect, and encourage us as citizens to be the best we can be according to every metric. When my neighbor is marginalized because of the color of their skin so state legislators gain political power, I am completely and utterly disgusted. So much so that I intend to leave this state forever if this kind of racist, power-hungry, non-sense continues. The human capacity to empathize and think rationally has always pushed forward through acceptance, fairness, and open-mindedness. Please do not continue to make North Carolina the national symbol of the exact opposite of those values.

Legislative districts should be drawn by an independent group. Politicians from both parties have shown over and over that they are willing to blatantly use factors such as race, income and education level, and political affiliation to fragment more seats for their party rather than drawing districts that will result in the electorate being accurately represented. Independent groups, such as the panel of retired judges featured in the article linked to below, have shown that they can create much more effective districts: https://sanford.duke.edu/articles/nonpartisan-redistricting-panel-

I implore the state legislature to utilize outside, independent, and non-partisan means to withdraw the districts so that they are fair and unbiased. This should not even have to be a request. All elected officials should demand this for the sake of democracy in this state. Please put party politics aside and do what is right and fair for all people in North Carolina.

Representing the people of North Carolina means actually REPRESENTING THEM and not deviously advancing petty partisan agendas that do not reflect the majority of North Carolinians. The maps should be INDEPENDENTLY drawn without consideration of partisan advantage. Remember the press about NC no longer being part of a democracy based on basic criteria? Or the phrase "taxation without representation"? This is not advancing the present well being or the economic future of or state. Quit dancing with the Devil so you can have power. What you have done is wrong - now is the time to make it right.

I urge you to support criteria and processes to create fair maps by:
- Disclosing all criteria and assumptions used on a timely basis as part of the public map review process
- Not setting partisan targets for election outcomes or purposely protecting incumbents
- Excluding data on voters' party registration and past voting
- Excluding data on incumbents' or candidates' addresses
- Excluding data on race and ethnicity except where necessary to comply with federal law
- Ensuring the "opportunity for protected classes of voters to elect the candidates of their choice" as required by the Voting Rights Act, including the use of standard methods of polarized voting analysis, such as Bivariate Ecological Regression Analysis, and the reporting of the results by district for each set of maps
- Strictly applying the Stephenson process to define VRA districts and to draw county clusters that comply with North Carolina’s Whole County Provision
- Using accepted measures of compactness that measure both the extent to which each district is spread out from its center (e.g., Reock and Convex Hull) and how smooth or contorted each district is (e.g., Polsby-Hopper and Schwartzberg) and then making the results of this analysis available for each district and each set of maps
- Reporting the efficiency gap for each district and set of districts after drawing each set of maps (but not using partisan data to draw the maps)
- Making more available for review and comment to the public in a more open and transparent manner.

I think it is disgusting the way districts have been gerrymandered to the extreme. Any time anybody wins by more than 60% of the vote signifies that the representative of that district is not accountable to their constituents- whether Democrat or Republican. I would like to see independent redistricting and avoid at all costs the ugly serpentine districts we have all come to detest. Politicians should never get to draw district lines, and the process should be transparent... NC should only take population into account—not race, sex, political leanings, etc. I would like to remind any Republicans who think gerrymandering is the key to everlasting political victory: the Democrats thought the same thing before 2010, and look where that got them.

Stop with the partisan districting. Use an independent third party to redistrict the districts.

Redistricting should be done exclusively by open source computer algorithm and approved by a bipartisan commission. The algorithm should only take population into account—not race, sex, political leanings, etc. I would like to remind any Republicans who think gerrymandering is the key to everlasting political victory: the Democrats thought the same thing before 2010, and look where that did not them...

No more gerrymandering of any kind... no more packing or cracking... no more drawing of "irregular districts." Time to get the politicians out of redistricting... the real and perceived conflicts of interest harm the real, everyday interests of the PEOPLE who are supposed to be represented by those elected. Time to make this a fair process across the board. Redistricting at this time should be administered by an INDEPENDENT commission, there should be clear criteria on how to draw district lines, and the process should be transparent... NC constituents should be able to see and know how/why the lines are drawn the way they are drawn. A NC vote should be a fair NC vote.

It is critical that our state move to an impartial, non-partisan system of districting. The current system allows for abuses on the part of which ever party is in power, and is detrimental to the future of our state. It is my fervent hope that North Carolina will move to implement impartial non-partisan districts as soon as possible.

Politicians should not be involved in any redistricting. Period. This should be done by a non partisan agency that has no funding from corporate or political PACs. Our democracy is at stake. These political games are hurting people and making politicians rich. Gerrymandering has diminished the voice of the people and has contributed in a very large part to oligarchy. It's really pretty disgusting that I even have to write this now about this fact.

We need an independent committee to redraw our district maps. Politics should not create or maps to divide. Districts should make logical sense and not gerrymandered borders.
Mrs. Sarah Thompson

The most important aspect of redistricting to me is that the districts be drawn by computer programs to optimize for equal representation of the people who live in North Carolina.

Dr. Heather Settle

We need a truly balanced approach. As a registered Republican it is an important issue for our state government. Redistricting into non-gerrymandered districts is necessary, ethical and important.

Dr. Prairie Goodwin

It is necessary to use specialized software to draw the boundaries of the election districts, followed by review and validation of the resulting maps by an independent committee. We don't want a person like Tom Hofeller to draw the maps of electoral districts. He will cheat because he has an agenda.

Ms. pat roos

Please use a third party, nonpartisan organization to draw the maps. Neither party should be able to put their finger on the scales that much.

Susan Nguyen

Please redistrict in a way that is fair and best represents the voice of voters. This includes age, race, and political affiliation. Use math formulas mathematicians are recommending to calculate the efficiency of districts. https://www.wired.com/2017/04/how-math-can-save-democracy/

Dr. Heather Settle

I would like to make a meaningful public comment, but until the maps are released, I can't actually do so. How can citizens be a legitimate part of this process without transparency and accountability in the process? If the maps have not yet been redrawn, given the amount of time that's passed since the court initially rules on this, that reflects badly on our legislative leaders. If they have been redrawn already and they're being withheld from the public, that also reflects poorly. Please release the maps so citizens can be part of the democratic process.

Ms. Adelaida Alamo

I urge the redistricting committee to adopt nonpartisan criteria for drawing new legislative maps. We need independent redistricting that will ensure the true will of the people will be represented during elections. Our democracy is founded upon free and fair elections and gerrymandering to favor one party over the other, one race over the other, or one socio-economic background over the other must end.

Glenn Steadman

We need a truly balanced approach. As a registered Republican it makes me sick to see how we have let the political atmospheres take a way from our freedom vote. I am not a big fan of big government, but I am a fan of fair elections and all voices heard. This will allow us to truly hear from politicians and allow all voices to be heard so that a true debate can take place and we can vote in those who are going to vote best for their respective districts, no matter if they are democrat or republican.

Faisal Khan

Dear Sir/Madam,

We have the right to vote and we have the right to be counted in the election and counted equally. It's time for this to stop. Please stop racial gerrymandering. U.S. Supreme Court has made it plain it won't tolerate the racial gerrymandering that has infected the state's congressional and legislative district maps.

In April, a Public Policy Polling survey found nearly 60 percent of North Carolina voters would favor an independent system of redistricting. Just 9 percent opposed such a move.

Thank you.

Regards,

Mr. Brian Jouara

Districts should be drawn by computer programs to optimize for equal population and compactness.

Dr. Megan Kendellen

The most important aspect of redistricting to me is that the districts fairly represent consolidated geographical areas, without improperly providing favor to one political party or the other based on the demographics in those districts and whom has historically voted for each party. I also believe that drawing of districts should be done by an impartial or, if necessary, bipartisan panel, rather than elected government officials. It is unconscionable for politicians to actively work to cement their own seats and to purposefully provide certain areas of the state (for example rural areas over high-population centers) more control over our state government.

The Supreme Court has made it clear that the current boundaries are racially motivated. Additionally, they have placed population centers at a disadvantage legislatively. The boundaries must not be drawn such that the Republicans are ensuring their own dominance in the state government, regardless of what the majority of the population wants.

Mrs. Sarah Thompson

I'm uncomfortable with the idea that our elected officials can use redistricting to chose their constituents and entrench themselves in power and for partisan advantage. Regardless of which side of the aisle you sit on, it's a practice I oppose. If there is an unbiased and non-political way to redistrict, that is what I would support, even if it means that ability to redistrict is taken from politicians so it can be done objectively.

http://bdistricting.com/2010/NC/
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>11:10AM</td>
<td>Ms. Rebecca Obryon</td>
<td>Please use a bipartisan committee for this. Geographical location should be used to decide this - not voter registration. I am registered unaffiliated but do tend to vote Republican but also a teacher... It's really difficult to explain to future voters why these districts occur other than using the words &quot;checks and balance&quot; through the courts and &quot;gerrymandering&quot;. The people of NC deserve fair representation of their non-mathematical location. Thank you!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>11:10AM</td>
<td>Brent Morton</td>
<td>District lines should be set by a grid system. The lines should be done by computer in a geometric pattern that splits the district in to 12 sections. Then they can be sectioned in to districts. All section have to be adjoining to each other and divide into either east or west sections or north or south and be of equal population not of equal size.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>11:11AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Jennifer Waters</td>
<td>Please make the maps fair, stop these power grabs and attempts to silence minorities. We live in a democracy, that means each and every one of us deserves a fair chance to be heard. Please remember who we are!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>11:11AM</td>
<td>Mr. Phillip Craver</td>
<td>I do not want race used as the predominant factor in drawing district lines. That is a violation of the Equal Protection Clause. Constitutionally adequate districts should be enacted as quickly as possible to protect the rights of North Carolina citizens. Redistricting should be permanently separated from any partisan or legislative body and an amendment to the NC constitution should be passed barring partisan redistricting once and for all. There is geo-spatial (see ESRI) technology that can be utilized to draw impartial, rule based districts. An independent commission overseen by the NC Supreme Court should compile the rules. Some examples: -Geographically continuous, compact districts -Exclude party affiliation completely We will never be &quot;One State&quot; until partisan, racial and economic redistricting is ended.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>11:12AM</td>
<td>Tamara Oxley</td>
<td>North Carolina, and all other states, should take advantage of the technology available to us in order to avoid subjective and, therefore, political decisions on how districts are drawn. Neither party can be trusted to create districts on objective population alone, so use technology and existing algorithms to redraw the districts. <a href="http://www.esri.com/k">http://www.esri.com/k</a> doGet It</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>11:13AM</td>
<td>Monica Museler</td>
<td>I request an independent organization draw these maps based on current population. At no time before during or after the process should a member of the legislature, staff or representative from either party be involved. The maps should be free of any political bias.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>11:14AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Susan Baldwin</td>
<td>I don't claim to be a legislative expert, or lawyer, or any kind of specialist in judicial manners. But when a judge talks about the extreme racism and laser-like focus of NC's redistricting on keeping GOP members elected and surpassing minority and low-income voters, I listen. The map looks like some kind of wicked trail, disenfranchising the citizens of NC. I applaud those who will be giving up their nights and weekends to redraw. Please pay attention to the needs and voting rights of ALL of our citizens, and know that even people like me (non-experts, no judicial or legislative experience) are watching. Thank you!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>11:15AM</td>
<td>Ms. Linda Cave</td>
<td>I think it would be fair to draw district lines by county lines. Decide on how many districts and as equally as possible, draw the district lines by the county lines. DONE DEAL. No district should be a skinny line going across several counties from Charlotte to Raleigh. NO district should have only one county and other districts have five to ten counties. That gives one county as much voice as a group of counties. Population numbers or race or median income in an any area should have NO bearing on how the district lines are drawn.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>11:16AM</td>
<td>Mr. Wayne Abraham</td>
<td>I am adamantly opposed to the districts being redrawn as they have been in the past with partisan and racial gerrymandering. I want a level playing field. You are not entitled to choose your voters, we are entitled to choose you. Drawing &quot;safe&quot; districts for your cronies isn't going to work. The legislative districts need to be redrawn as impartially as possible. Let the chips fall where they may.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>11:18AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Ramona Gonzalez</td>
<td>I would truly appreciate when the lines are drawn that they are drawn with true desire to represent the people in that particular area. How can we say that someone will represent the people in their district; if they have no true idea of who the people are in that district. Not just the representatives friends, etc. Too much of not enough going on with politics. Let's get to being fair and impartial. Let the kings heart be truly ruled by God and not money, fortune or fame.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>11:18AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Barbara Aycock</td>
<td>Non-partisan, fair, equal redistricting would give true representation for all citizens. Politicians should not get to choose their voters. Implementing an independent voting commission for all North Carolina state and federal districts that uses unbiased technology is the fairest way to represent all of the electorate.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>11:19AM</td>
<td>Mr. Alan Moran</td>
<td>We will never be &quot;One State&quot; until partisan, racial and economic redistricting is ended. I request an independent organization draw these maps based on current population. At no time before during or after the process should a member of the legislature, staff or representative from either party be involved. The maps should be free of any political bias.</td>
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A close examination of the district lines in Salisbury reveals a case study in "packing." Districts should be redrawn using computer models to create geographically sane boundaries. Please don't trot out the canard that computer programs are useless because they are created by human actors with inherent bias; I'll take my chances with the computer thank you very much (http://scholarship.law.duke.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1026&context=jdclpp). I am tired of NC being mentioned in every major article/documentary on egregious gerrymandering. Enough!

Hello, I believe that a non-partisan body should be in charge of re-drawing the maps for North Carolina. I believe the court case has shown that politicians do not draw fair districts. A non-partisan body would alleviate any future embarrassment of NC politics and provide a fairer North Carolina. Thanks.

The drawing of weird districts to control the party that will win is detrimental to the citizens that the person is supposed to represent! They DO NOT represent a party - they are supposed to represent the people in their district, their unique problems and interests, and how can they do it with these bizarre maps? They don't even know the people they are representing! Please stop doing this and stop focusing on the party rather than the people.

As a registered voter to neither party please work TOGETHER to develop maps that are fair to all residents of the state. Republicans like to be known as Christians, but STEALING and votes (pretty much what you are doing when you have a super majority in a 50/50 state) and representatives is not very Christian like. Please use an independent committee to determine the legislative districts.

Redistricting should be done in a non-partisan way. The people drawing the districts should not have political or party bias, or be influenced or coerced by anyone with a political agenda. The algorithm used to determine districts should not be designed to weaken or strengthen the influence of any specific demographic or political affiliation. The design should be based objectively on geography and population density, but should be agnostic with respect to race, ethnicity, religion, etc. Specific demographics should not be consolidated to the same regions when they reside in different municipal territories. Why not use existing territory definitions that have been created for other purposes, which would be sure to rule out intentional bias -- such as city or county lines, etc? If necessary, an independent 3rd party should redraw districts if it means a more objective outcome.

Redistricting must be fair and result in as many swing districts as possible, allowing voters a real choice between candidates from different parties. The current gerrymandering secures seats for only three Democrats and ten for Republicans. Secure seats do not give voters choice, and choice provides a better, stronger democracy for all. Redistricting must be done as soon as possible. We have waited far too long. This NC GA has waited far too long to respond to the Court.

Hello, First up, drawing district lines has been a problem for generations. The core of the problem is that politicians who are running in these districts are also the ones drawing the lines. This could easily be solved with a nonpartisan redistricting committee.

Another solution is to use a computer and tell it to draw the most compact, contiguous possible districts.

Another way to consider is transferable proportional representation. Draw districts to have similar levels of population, and people would run for districts. The number of seats in the legislature is decided by the state wide vote totals, and the representative who fills each seat is decided by who gets the highest vote totals. So if there are 10 seats statewide, and republicans get 60% of the statewide vote, then 6 seats go Republican and 4 go democrat. The 6 republicans in those seats are the ones who got the most votes. This way, every vote counts. If you live in a heavily Republican district and vote democrat, your vote still means something because it helps the democrats pick up seats. If you live in a heavily Republican district and vote Republican, you both help the republicans pick up seats and help your individual that you vote for get to be one of the ones in the legislature. This permanently solves the gerrymandering because the shape of the districts don't matter, it just matters they all have similar population.

The districts need to reflect the needs of the people who serve and those in the complete geographic area.

I don't think redistricting is a Republican or Democrat issue. It was wrong when the Democrats did it, and it's wrong now. Super majorities keep our state from truly representative democracy, and it is vital to the political process that ALL votes count.

I believe that the districts should be optimized for equal population and compactness.
Aug 4 2017 11:24AM  Mr. Pamela Frome  I support non-partisan redistricting that fairly represents all citizens of North Carolina. I want to see fair, non-partisan districts created for the State Senate and House and the US Congressional Districts. This is the most important issue facing our state today. Districts should NOT be drawn for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against any incumbent, political candidate, or political party. I request that Representative David Lewis and Dr. Tom Hofeller be barred from participating in redistricting now and in the future given their 2011 roles in depriving millions of citizens of their right to vote.

Aug 4 2017 11:24AM  Mr. Joel Sowers  Redistricting should not be done by politicians or “independent panels”. Districts should be drawn algorithmically using computer programs and census block data. District boundaries need to reflect real neighborhoods. http://bdistricting.com/2010/  The way in which we redraw our districts is absolutely critical to de-polarizing our political culture and restoring public discourse in America. I can’t think of anything that’s more important than this issue. Gerrymandered districts provide shelter for hard left and hard right candidates and representatives and leaving constituents feeling shutout.

Aug 4 2017 11:24AM  Mr. Jack Wall  The push here – and it’s not clear where the courts stand on the whole process (see Justin Baker’s article in Greensboro News) is it’s not clear how biased they are - is to redo the district lines, but the redoing is being put in the hands of the very people who criminalized it in the first place. It’s time to turn to a non-biased, non-partisan, computerized system that would redraw lines based on fair and just parameters, not on partisan ideology and a grab or power!

Aug 4 2017 11:25AM  Mr. Richard Leary  The immediate past maps have produced an engaged and well informed public, on matters of public policy, and elements of the previous maps should be retained where allowed by law. Counties should be kept whole as prescribed by law. Cities and Towns should be kept as whole as possible The courts should respect the role of the General Assembly, who under the Federal and State Constitutions and the laws of the State of North Carolina are responsible for redistricting.

Aug 4 2017 11:25AM  Mrs. Sabrina Colon  It is time to re-establish us, the voters, to a state of electing our representatives rather than the other way around. Not having fair electoral maps drawn in accordance with the law not only violates that basic principle but also makes gerrymandering the norm. Without fair and proportioned representation by the electorate, there is not only representational mismatch and mismatched policy but worse - just plain old voter apathy. This is unacceptable. Establish an independent redistricting commission now. Follow the California model or create your own, but do this now. What is currently hurting democrats will certainly hurt republicans in the future if one is viewing through a partisan lens. There are different ways to establish an independent commission. Do this now or risk having no say in how this is established in the future, as the voting public is becoming much, much more aware of this and wants it to change.

Aug 4 2017 11:27AM  Mrs. Amy Ford  I believe we will only have fair elections once an independent commission makes redistricting decisions. I’m a registered Democrat, but I also don’t want the Democratic party to be in charge of drawing lines. Ideally, the legislature should reflect the state’s wants and needs, and gerrymandering from either side means that that doesn’t happen. Thank you for your consideration.

Aug 4 2017 11:30AM  Mr. Harvey Richmond  I urge your committee to come up with a bipartisan redistricting plan that to the maximum extent possible does not split precincts, towns and cities, and counties. I also urge you to create districts that are compact, and avoid strange stretched out districts.

Aug 4 2017 11:31AM  Ms. B Clendenning  Independent, non-partisan commission is the ONLY way to redistrict fairly. Let NC once again become a respected leader nationwide.

Aug 4 2017 11:31AM  Ms. Sarah Bass  Districts should be created by a non-partisan, independent, unbiased computer algorithm. Our democracy is founded on the principles that everyone’s voice is heard equally, and unbiased districts are essential to maintaining that democracy. Both parties have proven that they cannot be trusted with redistricting. We need an independent, bipartisan committee to redraw our maps or we will be doomed to repeat our history. There have been plenty of third party examples that use algorithms to computer generate the districts in a uniform way, you simply need to choose one. In the spirit of democracy, do the right thing.

Aug 4 2017 11:32AM  Ms. Christina Reagan  Independent, non-partisan commission is the ONLY way to redistrict fairly.

Aug 4 2017 11:32AM  Mrs. Aashima Rodkey  Redistricting should be conducted by an independent organization or committee. This process should be completely open and transparent to NC state citizens.

Aug 4 2017 11:32AM  Mrs. Melissa Zingle  Please do independent redistricting. Use computer modeling for true parity and fairness. No more districts by political parties.
Aug 4 2017 11:33AM Ms. Mary Goodkind
We need fair, impartial districts. That means we need a fair and impartial, non-partisan redistricting process. No political party should be exclusively in charge of this process. The process should also be public, with adequate time for citizens and grass roots groups to weigh in with their thoughts. This is important. Please take the time and make the effort to make our system representative again. The longterm health of our democracy is more important than the clout of any particular party. Think longterm! Here are some of the points the current process should adopt:
Disclosing all criteria and assumptions used on a timely basis as part of the public map review process
Not setting partisan targets for election outcomes or purposely protecting incumbents
Excluding data on voters’ party registration and past voting
Excluding data on incumbents’ or candidates’ addresses
Excluding data on race and ethnicity except where necessary to comply with federal law
Ensuring the “opportunity for protected classes of voters to elect the candidates of their choice” as required by the Voting Rights Act, including the use of standard methods of polarized voting analysis, such as Bivariate Ecological Regression Analysis, and the reporting of the results by district for each set of maps
Strictly applying the Stephenson process to define VRA districts and to draw county clusters that comply with North Carolina’s Whole County Provision
Using accepted metrics of compactness that measure both the extent to which each district is spread out from its center (e.g., Reock and Convex Hull) and how smooth or contorted each district is (e.g., Polsby-Hopper and Schwartzberg) and then making the results of this analysis available for each district and each set of maps

Aug 4 2017 11:34AM Mr. Dana Moore, III
Redistricting MUST be done by an independent commission. If redistricting is done by the legislature, regardless of party, the people of North Carolina will be misrepresented. In my opinion, an independent commission should develop a computer-run algorithm that divides North Carolina into new districts. But regardless, redistricting MUST be done by an INDEPENDENT commission. From my perspective, as a North Carolina citizen born and raised, North Carolina is not a true democracy until redistricting is performed by an independent, non-partisan board and drawn without regard to race, ethnicity, or the political affiliation of voters.

Aug 4 2017 11:35AM Mrs. Wendy Masters
Don't set the efficiency cap for each district and cut of districts after the elections. It doesn't make sense to use the elected people should draw the maps. It's too much power for them. It would be way to easy to draw the map in a way that benefits their party. It should be done by a 3rd party that looks just at the numbers. That draw it the best way to show what the community wants. Every voice should matter. The way it is now it doesn't look this way.

Aug 4 2017 11:36AM Rachel Bass
It's time for North Carolina to draw unbiased districts so that its constituents may vote and be represented fairly.

Aug 4 2017 11:38AM Timothy Moore
Congressional and State Legislative districts should be drawn by an independent, non-partisan board and drawn without regard to race, ethnicity, or the political affiliation of voters.

Aug 4 2017 11:39AM Ms. Krista Schenck
I see very little reason for the way the districts are currently set up. I think the majority of people or votes should decide. That is what I believe our Democracy is supposed to do. Our Constitution was written to achieve a balance of power. Our country does not have that. It starts at the state level.

Aug 4 2017 11:40AM Dr. Lydia Kwee
I’d like to add my voice to those requesting that NC create a nonpartisan redistricting commission eventually, and start with a nonpartisan, objective approach to these maps in the interim. As a statistician, I’ve been avidly following the research on defining and creating fair districts based on objective measures, and I believe strongly that we should be leaders in adopting and implementing these approaches that remove the politics from district creation as much as possible. I believe in representative government; I believe we can get back to those best principles; I believe this is best implemented by a group of ethical citizens from across the political spectrum who care deeply about democracy. Our new maps would be a great place to start; there are multiple experts on these issues in NC; I’d beg you to work with these people and inject some intelligence, sanity and humility in the process with this next set of maps. Let’s move on from spending so much of our resources litigating these bizarre districts.
Mr. Anthony Miracle  
I want to see non-partisan, independent, and ideally algorithmic redistricting based on publicly viewable software. I'm not interested in seeing this toxic game go on where whoever is in power abuses the system to stay that way. As soon as Republicans are out of power, Democrats will do the same thing. End this once and for all while you still can. Do your jobs, and make the system independently represent the people, not just the people.

Mrs. Mary Ellen Tyrell  
In the spirit of fairness, there needs to be an Independent nonpartisan board to accomplish the redistricting maps. I don't think either political party should have input.

Wynne Cook  
Please set up an independent redistricting commission to draw these lines fairly so no one political party has an advantage, and to assure there is no racially drawn barrier to limit or discourage voting as there has been in the past. This will earn the respect and increased participation of your constituents, and the rest of the country on behalf of North Carolina residents. Please do this.

Mrs. Kristina Linkswiler  
I implore you to do the right thing, and convene an independent council to contract with an independent computer firm who can write an algorithm to fairly redraw our districts. Equity is the only way forward.

Dr. Elizabeth Sullivan  
I moved to Charlotte in 2016 and I am appalled at the unconstitutional gerrymandering that is in place throughout the state. This practice, whether it benefits republicans or democrats is unconstitutional and undermines the basic principles of our democracy. I call on all leaders in the state to make the right choice and enact an independent, neutral, organization to redraw the districts.

Mrs. Julie Colby  
Districts need/must be drawn by nonpartisan third parties! No one should get to pick their voters. That is not the kind of freedom our country is founded on. And while I'm at it, voters should not have to register to a party either. You should just plain old register to vote with no party affiliation what so ever. If the candidate aligns with my ideals, then they'll get the vote. regardless of party.

Ms. Lee Beasley  
This process needs to be taken out of ANY elected person, and be done by a nonpartisan third party. Models from Arizona, California, Montana, Idaho, and Washington state are fair and balanced.

Mr. Edward Irvine  
Please create an independent body to redraw districts for the future. The current system does not work fairly. Politicians from the party in power should be drawing maps to control the outcome of elections. That is a conflict of interest. It is not fair.

Gretchen Alterowitz  
It's most important that redistricting be done in a non-partisan, non-discriminatory manner. The system of leaving district drawing to elected officials obviously leads to partisanship, but it is the system we have, and therefore it's necessary that those in charge of drawing the maps hold themselves to the most rigorous ethical standards. It doesn't matter which party is in power at the moment. All those charged to draw these maps must protect the rights of voters. Each vote should count for the same amount, and districts shouldn't be drawn to influence elections. This is a fundamental, constitutional issue.

Kelly Branson  
Voting districts should be representative of the makeup of the voters. Gerrymandering districts specifically to disenfranchise a segment if voters may be legal (anxiously awaiting the SCOTUS ruling on this), but it is UNAMERICAN. "The other side did it" does not make it any wrong. Look at the Iowa model. Let non-partisans draw the districts. The worm always turns...

Mrs. Kate Tinnan  
The maps MUST be drawn by an independent body with only fairness in mind for the voters. The maps should be shared with the electorate for comment. Legislators should see it at the same time the electorate does.

Mrs. Molly Feichter  
The current maps need to be totally re-configured to represent a more balanced and equal representation of the people of North Carolina.

Ms. Isechyressa Israel-Meqahan  
Gerrymandering is repulsive. Nix it now!

Ms. Julie Knutson  
I think it is absolutely critical that redistricting is conducted by a non-partisan, independent group. Redistricting should NEVER be conducted by the elected officials who are impacted by it; there is absolutely no sense in that.

Katrina Kutchko  
The state of North Carolina needs non-partisan redistricting. Please draw maps that do not take partisan affiliation into account, and instead use an unbiased algorithm to create fair districts that represent the ooze of North Carolina.

Dr. Kathleen Mallley  
Our government has ruled that our districts have been systematically drawn to favor one party and disenfranchise minority voters. To everyone, this is unacceptable. As an independent, I believe that districts should never favor either party. This, there is no other way to go about this process other than with an independent and bipartisan council. Placing someone on the committee like Tom Hofeller is inappropriate and will cause increased divisiveness in our state. We need to do this right, the first time, and set an example for the rest of the nation and not repeat the same old mistakes. Thank you.
I strongly support an independent group being used for redistricting.

All voting district borders should align with existing municipal, county, township, etc. borders. Once that happens there should NEVER be any partisan redistricting. Let Democracy work!

The United States Constitution gives its citizen the right to vote. Every vote must count and be counted. When votes are politicized by creating districts that make votes null and void, our voting rights are stolen. When there is a breakdown of normal political checks and balances the worst happens. Doesn't matter which political party is doing it. It is just wrong. It is un-American. The current districting in North Carolina is blatantly wrong and corrupt and very embarrassing. If a party cannot win honorably, they certainly deserve to lose on so many levels. If a party has to cheat to win, then they are doing so many things wrong. We have to stand up for what is right and do the right thing in establishing a fair and just redistricting map. Every vote is sacred and must be given an equal status to be given a chance in the system. Let's bring back honor and integrity to North Carolina.

We need an independent commission with no elected officials to draw districts. Those on the commission agree not to run for state or federal elected office for at least one election cycle. The districts should be drawn to reflect (1) population (2) communities of interest. No demographics should be used to draw borders. This process should be written into law and continue no matter who may be in power in North Carolina.

I am tired of having either the Dems or the GOP stack the redistricting in the favor of one party or another. Make the districts as reasonably compact as possible and let the chips fall where they may.

Do not use any demographic data to make these maps. Don't draw them on partisan lines, racial lines, or anything to divide us. Give us fair maps that give each citizen equal representation and make sense geographically. Looking at a map of our current districts, the gerrymandering is obvious and embarrassing, in addition to being undemocratic. We DEMAND fair maps so everyone had an equal voice!!!

We need an independent, completely transparent council to do this work. I'm really tired of NC being in the news for gerrymandering! Take corrupt politics out of our voting system!

I strongly support an independent group being used for redistricting.

Please use independent redistricting. This should be handled via nonpartisan algorithm.

I feel as though local cities and their populations should be considered when deciding which group an area needs to be clumped together with. I live in district 11, but I'm 2 houses down from the district 10 line. The people in my town do a lot of our shopping and work with. I live in district 11, but I'm nearly 2 hours from my district office when deciding which group an area needs to be clumped together with.

I feel strongly that redistricting must be done in NC independent of partisan redistricting. Let Democracy work!

Districts should be drawn by a nonpartisan body of civil servants based on criteria set by statute, with a public tiebreaker via vote. Statute should state that districts are determined / divided / drawn based on population equality and in compliance with the Federal Voting Rights Act as demonstrated by the redistricting simulation launched in August of 2016 by Duke University and Common Cause NC.

I strongly support an independent group being used for redistricting.

Please use independent redistricting. This should be handled via nonpartisan algorithm.

Our Declaration of Independence calls for the governance of us by representatives "deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed." This does not mean the said "Governed" should be corralled in abnormally strung districts that benefit one ideology or another. This does not mean that clumped voting blocs should be designed to reflect preference to a majority or minority race, or one religion over another, or one skin color, sexual preference, language skill, et al. It means that we, the People, each and every one of us should have the ability to participate fairly in the selection of our representatives "deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed." This does not mean the said "Governed" should be corralled in abnormally strung districts that benefit one ideology or another. This does not mean that clumped voting blocs should be designed to reflect preference to a majority or minority race, or one religion over another, or one skin color, sexual preference, language skill, et al. It means that we, the People, each and every one of us should have the ability to participate fairly in the selection of our representatives "deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed.

When some clever-headed gerrymanderer devised a way to cheat from our Declaration of Independence calls for the governance of us by representatives "deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed." This does not mean the said "Governed" should be corralled in abnormally strung districts that benefit one ideology or another. This does not mean that clumped voting blocs should be designed to reflect preference to a majority or minority race, or one religion over another, or one skin color, sexual preference, language skill, et al. It means that we, the People, each and every one of us should have the ability to participate fairly in the selection of our representatives "deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed.

We need an independent, completely transparent council to do this work. I'm really tired of NC being in the news for gerrymandering!
Aug 4 2017 12:01PM  Mr. Greg McBryde  The redistricting should be taken out of the hands of any political party, but should instead be developed by an independent, non-partisan committee.

Aug 4 2017 12:02PM  Mrs. Kristine Barberio  North Carolina was a diverse state leading the way in compromise and bipartisanship UNTIL gerrymandering destroyed not only our reputation, but our way of life. We are a diverse state that can have fairly elected officials representing ALL of our state. Redistricting should be conducted by a bipartisan outside group of concerned people who use a mathematical formula to achieve fairness. There is a way to make this process balanced and help our state to return to what it was. I would love to share my ideas on math driving our redistricting. Thank you.

Aug 4 2017 12:03PM  Jennifer Libby  A computer program using an algorithm with census data and geographic data should be used to avoid the temptation for ANY party to use party, race, economic or other factors when creating districts so that the legitimacy of elections can never be questioned on the grounds of gerrymandering. It undermines equal representation, it is unconstitutional and you are sworn to uphold the laws and values of a democracy. It must be bipartisan or it will not be fair. Stop trying to suppress the will of the people.

Aug 4 2017 12:04PM  Mr. Jeffrey Mason  Redistricting should be done by a non-partisan commission and not by the General Assembly. We need districts where there is either a balance by party registration or by economics so that everyone’s vote counts. The current process and results are destroying democracy.

Aug 4 2017 12:05PM  Mrs. Katherine Barnes  The redistricting should be taken out of the hands of any political party, but should instead be developed by an independent, non-partisan committee. An independent, non-partisan committee should redraw the lines. Both sides have used gerrymandering to skew election results, and it’s time to end all of that and listen to the voters of North Carolina, fairly.

Aug 4 2017 12:06PM  Ms. Carrie Archer  Redistributing should be done by an independent company drawing the lines, the only way to change these problems and have no one to complain on either side.

Aug 4 2017 12:07PM  Ms. JoAnne Hinson  Please create a permanent, non-partisan panel to conduct all future legislative redistricting.

Aug 4 2017 12:08PM  Mr. Jason Burdette  Please move toward an independent entity creating maps. Partisan gerrymandering (both Reps and Dems) has got to stop. North Carolina deserves better than this.

Aug 4 2017 12:09PM  Mr. John Storta  Today there are only 46 Democrats in the House and 74 Republicans. Despite only 30% of the state’s voters being registered as Republicans, that party makes up nearly 62% of the representatives. Think about that. Republicans are 30% of the population, but have 62% of the representation. It does not take a degree in statistics to realize that something is seriously wrong.

Aug 4 2017 12:10PM  Mrs. Kristine Barberio  That is the problem statement. Now the question is, what can be done about it? I am personally an advocate for taking human bias out of the equation. There are computer algorithms that automatically draw the district lines with an aim for compactness. These algorithms have no human bias and lead to a distribution of representation that more closely mirrors the population.

Aug 4 2017 12:11PM  Jennifer Libby  Some claim that these algorithms have their own flaws. I would argue that they cannot be any worse than what we have today – as much as 20% of the population that is not being represented.

Aug 4 2017 12:12PM  Ms. JoAnne Hinson  The ultimate goal of any redistricting should be to ensure that the representation in the NC house closely reflects the demographics of the state. I am not saying that it should always match exactly, but what we have today is significantly out of balance and needs to be. Please have an independent company draw the lines, the only way to change these problems and have no one to complain on either side.

Aug 4 2017 12:13PM  Thomas Viemont  Our state needs non-partisan redistricting. Neither party should control the process because partisan control got us here.

Aug 4 2017 12:14PM  Mrs. Katherine Barnes  An independent, non-partisan committee should redraw the lines. Both sides have used gerrymandering to skew election results, and it’s time to end all of that and listen to the voters of North Carolina, fairly.

Aug 4 2017 12:15PM  Ms. Donna Warshaw  It’s time to end the policy of trying to undermine democracy by gerrymandering. It undermines equal representation, it is unconstitutional and you are sworn to uphold the laws and values of a democracy. Make sure that race is not a factor in your maps. It must be bipartisan or it will not be fair. Stop trying to suppress the will of the people.
It is long past time to make the legislative districts fair and drawn to ensure all voters are given the opportunity for their vote to count. I am so disappointed in the Republican controlled legislator in this state.

Aug 4 2017 12:15PM Pamela Buchanan

We need non-partisan redistricting. An independent group should make the boundaries without regard to party affiliation, race, income, or other discriminatory factors.

Aug 4 2017 12:16PM Jennifer Viemont

Gerrymandering our state is not representation. Every day that these districts remain, we are faced with taxation without representation. Racial, and political Gerrymandering will not serve our states best interest.

Aug 4 2017 12:16PM Edna Azeeem

Gerrymandering in NC MUST stop. Please re-draw our Congressional districts in a sensible, objective manner, in optimally compact and equal population districts utilizing census block boundaries. We should all be represented where we live, work, worship and play without regard to which party won in the last election cycle.

Aug 4 2017 12:17PM Ms. Anne Toewe

I deplore the practice of redistricting for the purpose of controlling the outcome of elections for control of our state. I am a registered Democrat. We should have two candidates for each position from which to choose in the election. Power grabbing by drawing the maps for districts to the benefit of one or the other party does not encourage, but does in fact, discourage eligible candidates from entering the race. This is cowardly at best and self-serving at the worst. I do not believe either party, nor the NGSA should have the 'job' of drawing the maps. I believe they should be out sourced to an independent, non-partisan entity.

Aug 4 2017 12:17PM Mrs. Michele Wilson

I am sick and tired of unfair voting districts! Enough already! Everyone, but YOU sees what your doing. It has been proven unconstitutional by the US Supreme court. Please take this opportunity to make things fair to all people. You can do this!

Aug 4 2017 12:22PM Mr. Andrew Scharfenberg

Redistricting should be done by a non-parisan committee. Either political party is bound to make the maps undemocratic. Please do not disenfranchise your constituents and do the right thing. Create a non partisan group to fix the maps.

Aug 4 2017 12:22PM Mr. Granger Roseberry

It makes no sense to have the people in power mapping the districts. It needs to be done objectively by an independent entity. That is the only way to protect our democracy and ensure fairness in elections.

Aug 4 2017 12:23PM Mr. Christian Massi

As a former constituent of NC's 12th district (the nation's most gerrymandered Congressional district), I've seen the severe impact of gerrymandering firsthand. The GOP packed my district (along with the 1st and 4th districts, also in the nation's top 10 gerrymandered districts) with Democrats, ensuring they would win there and lose in the neighboring Republican-weighted districts.

This deprives the state's voters of a reflective number of representatives that honor their beliefs and ideals. We need an impartial, non-partisan third party to redraw the maps, rather than Tom Hofeller, the GOP mapmaking consultant who helped redrew the maps that the US Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional.

Aug 4 2017 12:23PM Mr. Tyler Hodges

I believe that both parties, but most recently the Republican Party, are guilty of partisanship redistricting. It's time that human bias and error are taken out of the equation. We should be using a program that supports a fair map drawing method that can take into account all resident data. I do not want my tax money going to pay for legal defense against anymore battles with federal courts over whether or not mapping is unconstitutional. The last decision was made that the districts were drawn unconstitutionally. Make it fair by removing partisanship. Either an algorithm or a non-parisan committee

Aug 4 2017 12:23PM Mr. Thomas Beerbower

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Aug 4 2017 12:24PM Mr. Heath Baker

I don’t believe that politicians should be the ones responsible for redistricting. Gerrymandering terrible in nature and it's appalling that it exists, especially to the degree in which it has risen in North Carolina. I believe that it should be done by an unbiased third party (with no ties to money whatsoever to either political party) and then a council should be held to ensure that the redistricting effort is fair and unbiased.

I'm registered as unaffiliated with either party, though with more Democratic party leanings. I'm appalled that either party would attempt to sway their votes by means of unfair districts.(Yes, I'm aware that both parties have contributed to the current state of things) I urge you to reconsider the redistricting efforts, and make a fair attempt at making the voters' representation is fair.

Thank you.

Aug 4 2017 12:24PM Ms. Francine DiMicile

We should redraw the improperly drawn districts which NC has in place today. The redistricting should NOT rely on racial gerrymandering when drawing the state's congressional districts. Our process should remain non-partisan and reflect our NC values for our congressional districts.

Aug 4 2017 12:27PM Mrs. Carrie Banks

We need a non-partisan panel in charge of redistricting. No more gerrymandering!
Aug 4 2017 12:30PM Ms. Regina Pearson
Partisan gerrymandering is unfortunately a big part of politics. But everyone on the redistricting committee has a moral obligation to end racial gerrymandering. It disenfranchises already disenfranchised voters. It dissuades the now largest voting block from voting and perpetuates the notion that voting doesn’t matter. 

Aug 4 2017 12:30PM Ashley Hunsberger
Legislators should not be the ones to redraw district maps. This should be done by a completely non-partisan, unbiased group.

Aug 4 2017 12:31PM William Cramer
Whatever method is chosen, the state legislature and state delegation to the US House need to be proportionately representative to the votes cast in the state. It is so obviously corrupt for either party to have a 10 to 3 lead in a state that runs so tight in state wide races.

Aug 4 2017 12:31PM Mr. Cameron Hunt
This redistricting process should be fair and bipartisan! Please no more illegal gerrymandering. We hail this country as the champion of democracy, yet we seek to uphold partisan power above all. Legislative leaders, please seek whatever integrity you have in you and do this process in such a way.

Aug 4 2017 12:31PM Patricia Anderson
An outside nonpartisan company/committee should handle the redistricting. We obviously cannot trust the politicians. We would not be in this mess to begin with.

Aug 4 2017 12:31PM Dori Schoonmaker
NON-PARTISAN REDISTRICTING!! Independent redistricting with no heed given to any partisan politics. The only way to have legitimate government is with fair and impartial districts leading to fair and impartial elections.

Aug 4 2017 12:32PM Ms. Cynthia Guido
We need fair districts that reflect the total population of the state not just one party. Redistricting should avoid racial and partisan gerrymandering! It is not in the best interest of NC and it's citizens to reproduce partisan districts as they have in the past. Thank you for the opportunity to have input in this important issue.

Aug 4 2017 12:33PM Ms. Rebekah and Webb
Please create an independent bipartisan commission for redistricting.

Aug 4 2017 12:34PM Mr. John Blanton
As a born and raised resident of North Carolina, I am appalled at how the state's district lines need to be redistricted to rectify the current instances of gerrymandering that are prevalent throughout the state. Gerrymandering is an illegal act which undermines the power of the people and our values as a democracy, and therefore these unfairly drawn lines should be eliminated and redrawn fairly.

Aug 4 2017 12:34PM Ms. Catherine Mason
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Aug 4 2017 12:35PM Kate Leconby
This should be done by an independent agency.

Aug 4 2017 12:35PM Mr. Garrett Herfeldt
Although I still love my hometown city of Charlotte and our beautiful state of North Carolina as whole, we have become a national and world embarrassment due to the blatantly partisan techniques used by both parties (although one much more severely than the other) focused on grabbing power in ways that undermine our American values.

I call for the establishment of some kind of independent or bipartisan council to determine how new voting districts should be drawn. These districts should accurately and fairly represent their residents and have nothing to do with stacking votes for either party. It is time to stop the implausible drawing of districts while using an excuse of a "community of interest" they share when it is obvious they do not and are in fact made in order to keep a certain party in power. Let a computer algorithm or other system fairly designate the districts.

I plead with you to bring North Carolina out being what other states use as an example of what NOT to do and how NOT to be. Thank you.

Aug 4 2017 12:37PM Lyn Sadler
Get politicians out of the mapping. Let bipartisan committees do the final adjustments, after computers determine best balance of lines. Elections should be in the hands of the voters.
I am writing to encourage all legislators to appoint a non-partisan committee to redraw our state's districts. I do not believe politicians from either side (but yes, quite frankly the GOP especially) are able to resist the urge to keep their ambitions in check when it comes to determining who and where citizens vote. Please take the temptation out of their hands completely and let an independent committee free NC from it's current unfair and undemocratic maps. Thank you.

It's time for our elected representatives to put an end to redistricting based on gaining a political advantage. Make common sense, practical districts as much as possible. Adhere to the principles of compactness, contiguity, equal population, and preservation of existing communities. Regardless of whether you think it's constitutionally allowed, stop using race, gender, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, income, or registered political party as criteria in ANY way. Do it right and do it fair. Stop thinking of your political futures rather than your service to the people of this state.

Districts should be compact and fit county lines to the greatest degree possible. We need an independent commission. Neither Dem nor Republican lawmakers can be trusted to draw unbiased districts. The commission should include close to half Dems, close to half Republican and a couple of tie breaker unaffiliated. Even better follow the current voter demographics and have 1/3 Dem, 1/3 Republican, and a couple of tie breaker unaffiliated.

This should be a non-partisan independent commission in charge of redistricting. Politicians in power have no business drawing maps for their own elections. time and again it has been proven that they can not separate the good of the constituents and the desires of the people over their own political career. Age, sex, sexual, education, nationality, religion, and voting histories should NOT be taken into account when drawing maps. Curtis and the living maps. The map isn't to ensure your victory it is to ensure a representation based on the wishes of the people and provide a government that mimics that. your gerrymandering has broken that core concept out of greed and lust for power. It's immoral and sure as hell isn't Christian by any means as many of you all claim to be. Maps should be based on the population of an area and should be compact and not some arbitrary shape reaching half way across the state to fit as many people that tend to vote in one manner in one area to minimize or maximize the power of their vote as you see fit.

In short, yet again this is an issue that should be handled by an independent nonpartisan commission and not sitting elected officials

Voters are supposed to pick elected officials. Elected officials are not supposed to pick voters. In all likelihood, 2020 will be a wave election. Your best chance of retaining representation is to create fair, representative districts and then stand on the principle that every vote should count the same.

I live in a very safe GOP district. Given economics and demographics, it would remain so (and it has) even with the Democrats in charge. I do not think my vote, or that of any North Carolinian should be subject to the petty ambitions of some current or future politician. Elections are supposed to be the mechanisms by which voters provide term limits. Let us do our jobs.

I would strongly encourage that the redistricting in NC be completed such that each County and the legally defined boundaries of each respective County become the new districts for NC. No other means of defining districts outside of this already established definition within the state would satisfy a non-partial, non-partisan approach. Respectfully, Corey

I've been doing data analysis for years. Simply put the only politically neutral method of redistricting is to use algorithms based on population density. The algorithm should not take into account anything else.

This makes the districts truly representative of the people of those areas.

Districts should be compact and not have any "arms" or "legs" or other protrusions

Please redraw districts that represent the population of the district, based on race.

Please show leadership and draw these maps apolitically. The partisanship is outrageous. We need competitive districts.

Please turn over the actual redistricting to an independent, non-partisan committee and make sure the entire process is completely transparent.

Having actually put voice to the fact that this recent redistricting was done to impede Democrats and minorities from voting has demonstrated that the GOP currently running our state is incapable of fairness and should not be allowed to nor/c/ine.

Please draw maps that avoid racial discrimination or political bias. Use contiguous county boundaries where possible. Show your maps to all legislators and thy public now. Above all avoid political bias.Obey the NC and Federal Constitutions.
Those who serve in an elected capacity should have nothing to do with drawing electoral maps. They should be computer generated with the sole purpose of equitable representation for all citizens and no consideration for party affiliation.

Your re-election hinges on this redistricting in more ways than you might realize. If these maps are still gerrymandered to give the GOP an unfair advantage in 2018, we will ensure that no one that is currently in office remains there. Democracy depends upon representation, and NONE OF US are properly represented by gerrymandered maps. These maps should accurately reflect the constituency. Representation should be 49% Republican and 46% Democrat AT WORST, as that is the split represented by the 2017 presidential election. Anything less accurate than that is utterly unacceptable, and we will gladly run entire campaigns in 2018 on your inability to treat us fairly.

Redistricting should be done by a nonpartisan group and not by our legislatures who are gerrymandering the districts to the advantage of the party in power. Redistricting should be a non-partisan issue. It is fundamentally undemocratic for legislators (regardless of their affiliation) to draw up districts that determine whether they and their colleagues will stay in power.

I encourage the committee to make North Carolina a state to be proud of again by giving this power to a fully independent, non-partisan commission. Let's move North Carolina towards a more fair, representative system of redistricting. I think an independent council needs to be set up to re-draw the districts. I do not trust our current legislature AT ALL (my distrust is based on attending a CPE event and knowing they were grossly misrepresenting their positions on taxation based on my personal experience). Further, politicians only incentive when drawing the maps is to help themselves get elected. I don't support that for either party. The we are supposed to have a government for the people - not for political ideology or for the corporations.

I strongly support non-partisan redistricting. Voters should have the opportunity to choose their representatives, and candidates should be required to persuade the voters for their vote. Gerrymandering is un-democratic, as it too often results in the election of representatives that are not truly representative. Moreover, gerrymandering contributes to voter disengagement, by reinforcing the perception that the system is rigged. I would like it if the general assembly used the method provided by bipartisan panel of retired NC judges. They have a good methodology and them being from NC actually have NC interests at heart.

Nothing makes mr more angry than gerrymandering. Do it by population and as much as possible by county. If there are any irregular borders, just assume that the vote is being manipulated.

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The simplest plan and one that is not subject to the whims of the party of power is one that is delineated by county, municipal, or township boundaries with straight line divisions when needed to group those districts together which lack sufficient populations to stand alone. These non-partisan districts should then be set by state statute as not being changed for a stated period, i.e. 50 years.

Let's keep NC out of the news and out of the courts and have these maps drawn by an independent party or panel. Only then can the real desires of North Carolinians be known.

We need these districts to be drawn independently by a nonpartisan body.

Let all district lines be drawn by an independent entity. Only then can the real desires of North Carolinians be known.
Political party affiliation should not be considered in the drawing of legislative districts. To stay true to the Constitution, which has been the argument of the NC Republican party, representation should be based on the population. This will create legislators truly accountable to their constituents rather than political party. It would also create a balance of voices and maintain checks and balances in the state government. I strongly disagree with the present super majority in the General Assembly. It resembles a banana republic that only represents and implements the political views of white male ultra-conservatives. No one branch of government should be unchecked. The political bloc that voted for Gov.Cooper, which was the majority of North Carolinians, are being denied our voice. Please consider the future of continuing democracy rather than just maintaining Republican power now. Because history has shown the tides will surely turn. Thank you.

Neither party, be it Republicans or Democrats, have any business drawing these maps. An independent non partisan firm should be utilized to create impartial districts. Since that is not an option at this moment, Regional districts using county lines as border should be used, and there should not be "snaking" to gather and gerrymander voters for racial or party gains. Neither party affiliation of voters nor race of voters should ever be a factor in determining district lines. I would applaud lawmakers' efforts to enshrine that principle into law, and will fight for that principal in the next and future elections if not endorsed in this affect.

This should be a process that is completely handled by a third party that has no political ties to either party nor has any political gain. Let the people have fair and representative districts. I join with the majority of the people of North Carolina in demanding that the legislature remove itself entirely from the redistricting process and hand it over to a panel of respected individuals, evenly split between both parties, who do not have a vested interest in keeping their legislative seats and who we all can trust to fairly apportion North Carolina's legislative maps. THANK YOU!

Both Democrats and Republicans have drawn districts to intentionally control outcomes of elections and ensure power. It is time for that practice to stop. Legislators serve the people of NC and must ensure the people are equally represented. It would be a significant positive reflection on the Republican party if they are ones to STOP gerrymandering and do what is right by the people of NC. Let democracy work as it was intended without manipulation PLEASE!!!

Please set up an independent committee for redistricting, so no matter what side of the political aisle we're sitting on. Don't let this opportunity for greatness pass by. Thank you.

I recommend that the GA use an independent non partisan group to complete the redistricting process. This would help ensure a balanced and accurate representation of the demographics of our great state. Any attempts to gerrymander our legislative districts should be avoided.

Please take politics out of voting districts, redraw them based on census data. Gerrymandering is a toxicity that needs to be eliminated as a factor to how we determine who will represent the citizens.

I first let me say that redrawing districts to improve any parties election outcome is totally reprehensible and should carry a mandatory prison sentence. That neing said districts need to be drawn allowing for the most balanced mix of parties. Whether that is done using a computer program based on registered voters or manually; it needs to be fair and balanced.

The time has come to rise above partisan squabbling and short-sighted political agendas. Neither party is capable of drawing impartial & balanced.

Because neither party can be trusted to fairly divide up the districts I beg of you to appoint a nonpartisan commission to use computer generated modeling to find the most balanced districts. We have the chance to make NC a model for the nation. Let's give the nc citizens something to be proud of!

I realize both political parties are guilty of gerrymandering. But regardless of whom is doing it, it's SO unfair to voters of this state, my native state. PLEASE have a nonpartisan committee draw these new maps. Make them as equal as possible in number of voters represented, and then let the voting chips fall where they may. Rigging the system, as gerrymandering so effectively does, is not what democracy is about. Each vote counting as much as any other vote is what we should strive for.
I am for a strictly non partisan approach to redistricting in North Carolina. I feel that in previous times, too much consideration has been given to the party affiliations of voters in drawing the lines. And: when I look at the map of districts in North Carolina, I see that they are all spread out in various directions, not following logical lines of where people actually live as a unified entity. Please give these factors your consideration today,

Sincerely yours

Meriel Goodwin

I would like to make comments regarding fair redistricting policies

Mrs. Tamara Henderson

Redistricting should be done by computer based algorithms that look primarily into having equally populated districts. If multiple maps can be drawn this way then the secondary consideration should be clustering of cohesive geographic areas. Other demographics such as party affiliation, income, race and religion should be excluded from any redistricting

Mr. Richard Sterling

Please allow a bipartisan commission redraw our legislative maps. We need to move forward as a state. Not backward.

Ms. Teresa Outlaw

Independent drawing of the map is the only fair way to have this done.

Candy Kennedy

We must have one person- one vote by a nonpartisan committee.

Mr. Robert Cole

Kinston should not be chopped into a million tiny pieces as it is! The entire Lenoir county should be one district --or at least the city.

Dr. Darlene Dockery

North Carolinians deserve fair and balanced districts that represent the diversity of constituents who go to the polls. Its abundantly clear that the current legislature took advantage of redistricting and gerrymandering in order to expand their own political power and misrepresent the people of North Carolina. I live in a rural area of primarily white voters and I can tell you from the many conversations I have had that we are disgusted and embarrassed at the mess and national laughing stock NC politics has become. In a state that is known for being almost half and half democrat and Republican it makes no sense for the state to have a Republican supermajority. Everyone should have an equal chance to make their vote count and I expect this serious and dangerous precedent to be corrected, the integrity of our voting system to be corrected, and for this to never happen again, by either side of the political spectrum. We have a right to choose the candidates that represent us. Candidates and political parties should not get to choose their voters.

Andrew Pardue

I ask that the redistricting process be taken out of the hands of the legislators and given to an independent group. There is no reason why we should allow our elected officials to choose their voters. After Illegally gerrymandering the districts to diminish the voting power of African Americans, the NC Republican Party is perceived as a party of racist white men. Especially since those involved in making the gerrymandering map have been asked again to assist with the new map. Should you want to change this perception, you need to re-draw the map with a new committee that was not affiliated with the previous group that illegally drew the first map. Know that because of this gerrymandering all of you are not legally what the people wanted.

Mr. Edward Martin

The districts should be made by a nonpartisan private group using computers that use allegorical computations. It should then be checked by the courts. Get partisan politics out of our voting - meaning they shouldn't gerrymander and pick their constituents. Work toward democracy not partisan politics.

Dr. Bill Row

A bipartisan effort needs to be made. With an independent review.

Dr. Vicki Parker

It is an affront to democracy that any legislator is allowed to shape policy and cast votes while serving in an unconstitutionally drawn district. If the members of the House and Senate do not represent the people of North Carolina fairly, our government is a sham. I demand you comply in full with the court's instructions and implement a non-partisan district plan immediately.

Mrs. Kelly Armstrong

In redistricting please follow these criteria. Make districts compact and contiguous. Ensure that you follow state and federal law in drawing them. Draw them without considering partisan factors like voter registration, results of previous elections, voter turnout and where the incumbent lives. Drawing districts with bias (partisan, racial, etc) dis-empowers voters and increases voter distrust of government.

Mrs. Karen Taylor

The recent past drawings were both racially and partisan biased and led to districts that were neither compact and contiguous. This has been a major embarrassment to me as a citizen and voter in NC.

Dr. Gary Smith

Although I no longer have school aged children I do have multiple grandchildren who all attend Randolph County Schools. I am concerned they might be penalized with less school funding unless the districts are reviewed and changed according to the children and not according to race. The right to public education should be shared by all . We pay taxes to assure that right . Give all children a chance- not just the ones you as a Committee like. Thanks for reading.

Ms. Bonnie Burns
Redistricting should be impartial and non-partisan. I support computer-generated maps that group voters numerically regardless of political affiliation.

Recent developments in Redistricting software has led to the availability of powerful new tools that can generate maps that are fair and equal. These tools use algorithms that focus on size, shape and count rather than population demographics. This is good replacement for the current redistricting programs that can be used to gerrymander, if desired. Here's an example of one of the new programs: http://autoredistrict.org/

Elected officials should not be involved in the redistricting. You are inherently biased. Hire an independent, non-partisan organization or non-political committee should be responsible for drawing districts, not the politicians who have skin in the game and are trying to maximize their power and control.

The Legislative Redistricting Committee should seek an outside opinion. NC must create an INDEPENDENT Electoral Commission using non-partisan algorithms to create fair districts. Each district must reflect roughly equal numbers of citizens, and NOT be based on race or party affiliations. Only by doing this process, can we have fair representation in NC and a chance for representatives to be truly accountable to citizens.

Legislators need to GET OUT of the business of drawing legislative districts. It is clear that there is too much incentive to draw them to the benefit of whatever political party happens to be in power, to the detriment of the citizens of NC. Our representative republic is no longer "representative" at all if the majority of people's electoral votes do not even effect the outcome of elections due to gerrymandered districts. With gerrymandered super-majorities in the legislature, there is no incentive to compromise, hold open committee hearings, have debates or use good practice in law-making.

NC must create an INDEPENDENT Electoral Commission using non-partisan algorithms to create fair districts. Each district must reflect roughly equal numbers of citizens, and NOT be based on race or party affiliations. Only by doing this process, can we have fair representation in NC and a chance for representatives to be truly accountable to citizens. The US Supreme Court has ruled that our 2012 districts are unconstitutional. How can our laws be upheld and stand the test of time if our representation itself is unconstitutional?!! And now we have the same legislators who devised those unfair districts who are in the process of making new ones?!! That is unacceptable and completely dishonest on its face. Our legislators know what they SHOULD do now, they only need to show that they WILL do the right thing.

Our NC legislators have dragged their feet long enough. Not only has the majority party continued to gerrymander districts to favor Republicans, but even in the face of court orders and rulings, they have dragged their feet, refusing to follow court-ordered directives to redraw voting districts in a more equitable way. Over the past week and a half we have had to watch our representatives acting like children, refusing to compromise, sticking to their guns, and not even effecting any change in their districts.

We have the same legislators who devised those unfair districts who are in the process of making new ones. How can our laws be upheld and stand the test of time if our representation itself is unconstitutional?!! It is unacceptable and completely dishonest on its face. Our legislators know what they SHOULD do now, they only need to show that they WILL do the right thing.

The only way to have fair redistricting is to have a non-partisan algorithm to draw the districts. With gerrymandered super-majorities in the legislature, there is no incentive to compromise, hold open committee hearings, have debates or use good practice in law-making. The US Supreme Court has ruled that our 2012 districts are unconstitutional. How can our laws be upheld and stand the test of time if our representation itself is unconstitutional?!! And now we have the same legislators who devised those unfair districts who are in the process of making new ones?!! That is unacceptable and completely dishonest on its face. Our legislators know what they SHOULD do now, they only need to show that they WILL do the right thing.

Redistricting should be impartial and non-partisan. I support computer-generated maps that group voters numerically regardless of political affiliation.
Dear intern reading these comments: Hi! Thanks for all you do. I hope you will share my concerns with your supervisors.

I'm a born and bred North Carolinian. I grew up in a conservative household, with Rush Limbaugh blaring in the background, and I married a man who considered himself a Republican until recently, when the GA started legislating on social concerns instead of fiscal ones. I've always been surrounded by conservatives, though I've never considered myself one--grow up in poverty, and you'll understand why any child in that situation could be dissuaded from that.

I've lived in two foreign countries, and those experiences abroad were enough to show me how great things can be, if we govern ourselves morally, democratically, and fairly. Every human in the state deserves a fair and balanced election. Each of us deserves to have our vote count as much as our neighbor's. Politicians should not have the power to draw their own districts. Doing so to control the outcome of elections is despotic. Tyrannical. Anti-democratic. Anything less than an independent committee redrawing these lines is an act of authoritarian governing.

I hope you will do the right thing and find an independent committee to redraw our district lines. Our elected officials owe it to the citizens of North Carolina to set things right. Thank you for listening to my concerns.

North Carolinians need to see the districts redrawn by a fair bipartisan committee. If the process is being done correctly, then neither side should have a problem playing as a team. Constituents will be watching to make sure the map looks fair this time.

Our state's lawmakers have demonstrated time and time again, on both sides of the aisle, that neither Democrats nor Republicans should be trusted nor tasked with determining the size and shape of North Carolina's voting districts. The time has come to show the rest of our country just how impartial and bipartisan our deeply diverse state can be.

I call for the establishment of an independent council for the purposes of determining how the voting districts in North Carolina should be drawn, ensuring that the new boundaries be established in order to best serve all North Carolinians, and for complete transparency both during the establishment of said council and while our new voting map is being created.

A no-partisan committee should oversee the redistricting. NC unfairly has neutralized the votes of many citizens and we have become the butt of national jokes.

1. Districts are "compact and contiguous" – towns, cities & counties are not split unless required by population numbers. i.e. no ridiculously shaped districts with long tentacles that stretch out and barely touch the rest of the district.
2. Districts follow state and federal laws.
3. The most important: districts are not drawn on basis of factors such as race or party affiliation of voters, where the incumbent lives, the results of previous elections, or other partisan factors.

I think that districts should be drawn by an independent group not associated with any political party. Otherwise we will always have the temptation to draw the lines to favor your party's outcome.

Our NC legislators have dragged their feet long enough. Not only has the majority party continued to gerrymander districts to favor Republicans, but even in the face of court orders and rulings, they have refused to follow orders to redraw voting districts in a more equitable way. Over the past week Judge Eagles even commented that she believed they weren't taking her seriously. For their refusal to follow through, they should be held in contempt of court! We seem to have legislators who quite obviously believe they do not have to follow the law. Stop this delay; NC voters are not stupid, and we know what you are doing. Get the maps drawn and follow the court's mandate. If Republican candidates are worthy and will represent their constituents well, they will be elected, regardless of district lines. It is time for governing fairly and legally.

Redistricting should be done by a neutral, apolitical third party to reduce the chance of gerrymandering and nonsense that comes with political catfights. If you can't take the chance to win without cheating, you don't deserve to run. Do better.

Legislators should not play a roll in the drawing of their own districts. A clean, independent, bipartisan commission should be running this effort to ensure that the state house and senate are actually reflective of the voter makeup of North Carolina. When votes are over- or under-valued it damages our representation and our democracy.
I urge the committee to completely omit race factors when drawing the new maps in order to prevent new instances of racial gerrymandering. I also hope that the redrawn maps will not split up counties unless absolutely necessary. I do not think the addresses of incumbents should be considered as a factor in the redrawing process.

Finally, I think that the maps should be made public before implementation so more specific comments and responses can be made.

Please do your best to re-draw our legislatives as soon as possible, Let's get this done correctly this time!!!

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Dr. Todd LaMaskin

Appoint a bipartisan, independent commission to draw the district Maps, similarly to other states such as AZ and CA.

Lisa May

I would prefer a group outside of the government set these boundaries; the established committee has proven to be easily swayed and incompetent in their previous actions. I do not trust them! Districts should be square - I would rather not see fingers in the new map; those are very suspect.

Dr. Todd LaMaskin

Districts should be drawn such that, as many times as possible, the party with the most overall votes should win most of the seats. Anything less than this, and you're simply not representing the people whom you serve. This is not a partisan issue. Thank you for consideration.

Mr. Lyle Miller

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Ms. Jen Jahnke

The only way we can truly remove this kind of partisan behavior in drawing our districts is to have an independent committee, preferably verified with some kind of algorithm computer program to verify that it is balanced properly. I am tired of having politicians who don't feel they have to listen to their constituents because they are safe in their gerrymandered districts. And I'm REAL tired of having a congress that doesn't reflect the diversity of opinions in this state!!!!

Mr. Paul Brotherton

Maps need to be fair, preferably legal this time.

I suggest bi-partisan oversight commission (50/50) to ensure fair maps are drawn, and that they more accurately reflect their constituents.

Tzadi Elliston

Have an independent non/bi partisan collective group draw fair and equal districts.

Ms. Jesse Wharton

Appoint a bipartisan, independent commission to draw the district maps creating the boundaries along existing natural and community boundaries. Both parties have proven they cannot be trusted to draw fair districts. Regain the trust of North Carolinians and create an independent commission to draw district Maps, similarly to other states such as AZ and CA.

Mr. John Rippe

In reaction to the recent Supreme Court decision finding 28 voting districts in North Carolina to be racially biased, I strongly urge state legislators to take this opportunity to advocate for and establish an independent commission charged with all redistricting responsibilities. Though it is nothing new, it has become increasingly clear nationally and especially here in North Carolina that the current legislative procedure tempts and invites the biases of partisan politics and is unfair to the voters of the state who wish for equal and accurate representation in their government. Several states have already transferred redistricting duties to independent bodies, minimizing or eliminating input from partisan politicians, and in my opinion, it is time to do the same here in North Carolina. To me, it is completely backwards to put the power of choosing voters in the hands of the politicians that depend on those votes to stay in office, regardless of whether their intentions are good or bad. It is a blatant example of conflict of interest and the system must be changed.

Christina Binmore

All districts should be determined by an independent body. They should not be partisan in any way shape or form. Gerrymandering undermines the basic principles of democracy and makes NC look like a dysfunctional state.
Districts should be drawn in the most unpartisan way possible through an apolitical process that utilizes census data and statistics. Redistricting should not be determined by either political party under any circumstance. While no approach can remove all human bias, of course, this has the virtue of quantifying it substantially. Professor Duchin at Tufts has a great group working on this already [https://sites.tufts.edu/gerrymandr/](https://sites.tufts.edu/gerrymandr/). (disclosure: I have no affiliation with them)

Valid district maps are at the very core of democracy. No political party should unduly benefit from them; they are part of the populace’s birthright and they should be designed to fairly illustrate that.

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**Case 1:15-cv-00399-TDS-JEP   Document 187-2   Filed 09/15/17   Page 139 of 382**
I have been following the advances in redistricting for more than 10 years and thus, have a couple of requests of the ongoing redistricting process:

1) Transparency: There is no need to make this process secretive. Share your maps. Share the data used to decide on your maps. Share your analysis. Your critics will figure this stuff out anyway, why not make it easier for everyone to make up their own mind quickly and efficiently?

2) Public input: I request real public input. I am sure I am not the only constituent with an interest in this topic who also possesses some of the skills to evaluate and modify legislative districts in this state. I dare say that if a set of reasonable criteria were released that your constituents could come up with many solutions in a very quick time. Though, this would only be truly open if the public is given the same data and data processing tools that are made available to the legislators and special interest groups who do this work behind closed doors.

North Carolina has always been an incredibly moderate state in terms of voter ideology, yet our districts have not reflected such an even political sphere. Rather, our incredibly irregular shaped districts have given a supermajority to Republicans, who now control both houses. Time and time again the Supreme Court has ruled against our state's incredibly obvious gerrymandering, and time and time again lawmakers continue to redraw districts unfairly. The fact that 28 legislative districts were ruled unconstitutional due to racial gerrymandering is unacceptable, non-representative, and far from democratic. I am urging you to consider previous rulings and make the district representation reflect the political ideology of our state. Make districts that are balanced, that are fair, and that reflect our democratic republic. Otherwise our lawmakers cannot represent us fairly, and we cannot give everyone the rights and recognition they deserve. This is not about kicking Republicans out, it is about fairness and representation so that the government officials that best represent us, may in fact represent us. This is a topic that I will continue to fight for and a topic I greatly hope you consider as you begin redistricting.

I am completely baffled why a non-partisan committee can not be assigned for congressional redistricting. Political parties come and go (or at least they should) and therefore voting districts should not be subject to political affiliations. The purpose of voting districts should be (at least what is taught in Civics 101) to provide a representative to the state general assembly and to Congress. My representative, whether in the state house or senate, or my Congressional representative should represent me and my surrounding neighbors. Therefore, there are simple rules to follow. There never should be a district where any one section of the district is isolated and surrounded by another - like we see with several of our general assembly districts or congressional district 12. A congressional district should not meander through several counties - like 1, 4, 12 and 13. I am not sure how anyone can honestly say with a straight face, that the interests of someone living in Fayetteville are similar to another person living in northern Alamance County. If you live in Greensboro - your neighbors are in Forsyth county, not Charlotte. The only possible reasoning for these current districts is to separate voting blocks by race or current political identity. By doing so, the integrity of the system has been destroyed. Please return some sanity and find a non-partisan way to draw the lines.

I support a non-partisan commission to draw legislative districts. Twenty-one states successfully use non partisan or bipartisan redistricting commissions. I think it is a necessary reform which would protect democracy for the citizens of North Carolina. It would be beneficial to both political parties because it would prevent the political party in power from gerrymandering to continue its power. North Carolina has been used as a national example of partisan gerrymandering. I favor an independent redistricting commission charged with selecting an algorithm that creates districts based on compactness and population. "Communities of interest" should be carefully defined-- while there is an argument for protecting the voting representation of communities of interest, it seems this justification has been used to favor one political party or another at varying points in our state's history. To allow representation for all our state's citizens, an independent distracting commission seems better than one led by whichever political party is currently in power.

I believe that an independent commission, made up of academics from state schools and other non-partisan experts, should be responsible for drawing/redrawing legislative districts.

I think redistricting should be handled by an independent, nonpartisan commission relying on algorithms that help determine districts based on optimal compactness.

I would like an independent council appointed to redraw the districts in an impartial and unbiased manner.
Kathryn Allen  

Mr. Neal Chewning  

Aug 4 2017  1:59PM  

It is simple. Liberty requires non partisan or equal bipartisan redistricting. Please remember that what one party does can be revisited upon them during times of change. Our mothers taught us "Two wrongs don't make a right." I respect your service, please respect us in return.

Mr. Matthew Bingham  

Aug 4 2017  1:59PM  

I urge the state legislature to draw fairer district maps. I live in New Hanover Cty where the largely African American neighborhood downtown was taken out of NHC's Senate district and placed in the Brunswick Cty Senate district. We all know this was done to make it nearly impossible for a Democrat to win New Hanover Cty's Senate seat. Please fix this and the other gerrymandered districts.

Kathryn Allen  

Aug 4 2017  2:01PM  

Please support non-partisan redistricting that fairly represents me and my neighbors. Thank you.

Mrs. Stephanie Marlin  

Aug 4 2017  2:03PM  

Both parties have conclusively proven that they cannot be trusted to handle redistricting in a fashion that provides fair districts. Instead, they use it as a means to consolidate party power over the wishes of the constituency. Past time for an independent commission. Since that is apparently only your concern when you aren't the party in control, I'm positive that this will be ignored. Just like every other concern that doesn't keep your party in power.

Ms. Andi Klee  

Aug 4 2017  2:04PM  

You people have embarrassed us in front of the entire country. Fix this, and do it the RIGHT WAY, not to hot yourselves reelection. All of you positively make me ill.

Mrs. Sheila Beaudry  

Aug 4 2017  2:04PM  

Please keep areas as compact as possible. Try not to split towns and cities. Use natural boundaries like rivers or man-made like roads so it is easy to determine what precinct or district one is in. Do not take into consideration party affiliation or race.

Mrs. Jackie Thompson  

Aug 4 2017  2:06PM  

I am urgently asking the General Assembly to quickly address redistricting. We citizens of North Carolina need more balance in all our voting districts. It's time to put party biases aside and work for ALL citizens. Continued bickering between parties does not help our state to advance or achieve our goal of fairness to all voters. Thank you.

Mrs. Sarah Kinnaird  

Aug 4 2017  2:08PM  

We need an independent commission to draw new districts. Neither Republicans nor Democrats should be able to make the district maps to benefit themselves.

Mr. Taylor Bates  

Aug 4 2017  2:09PM  

I am outraged that politicians draw districts for their own political advantage. It is so embarrassing to watch courts rule that our maps are drawn illegally. Please stand up for democracy instead of just your own personal gain. You all should be ashamed of yourselves. We want fair districts drawn by an independent commission!

Mrs. Emily Viverette  

Aug 4 2017  2:10PM  

For fair representation, all legislative districts need to be drawn by a non-partisan independent body. North Carolinians cannot trust either democratic or republican leadership to draw fair districts. This has been oxios on for decades and needs to stop now,

Sarah Thomason  

Aug 4 2017  2:11PM  

I am very happy to see our state legislature agree to take on the bipartisan issue of repairing our currently-gerrymandered districts. Just wanted to make it known that you have a large and growing constituency of transplants to NC, who are so appalled at national politics that they refuse to declare party affiliation. I, for one, am a registered independent. And to those voters like me, seeing a good faith effort to rise above party politics, and create districts based on economic, geographic, and social compatibility, will do wonders for our faith in the state legislature as a body, and those representatives currently serving. I thank you in advance for not insulting the collective intelligence of your constituency, and look forward to following news on this redistricting effort closely.

Mr. John Hunter  

Aug 4 2017  2:12PM  

Take it out of either party's...and human... hands. Have some computer do it. Use an algorithm. Sure it may need some tweaking to make it viable on the ground, but it's a start.

Mr. James Scarborough  

Aug 4 2017  2:12PM  

Thank you for soliciting comments. I appreciate the opportunity to provide input on this important topic.

As the courts have found, it's important that districts be drawn with some attention to fairness. Other places have solved this problem well. California recently implemented a Citizens' Redistricting Commission to positive effect. If such a technique can't be implemented in NC due to various legal constraints, then we ought to make an effort to mirror its effectiveness by other means. Ohio's 2010 effort proved particularly biased. I would suggest an objective method[1] such as the shortest splitline algorithm which divides and re-divides the population by straight lines until the correct number of districts have been obtained.

Andi Thompson Klee  

Aug 4 2017  2:20PM  

Please consider the population, economic, geographic and social compatibility of your districts. If they are drawn illegally. Please stand up for democracy instead of just your own personal gain. You all should be ashamed of yourselves. We want fair districts drawn by an independent commission!

Thank you.

Virginia Reed  

Aug 4 2017  2:14PM  

Legislative districts should be drawn by a nonpartisan entity. Elected officials should not in any way shape what their districts look like or who lives within those lines.

Mr. Josh Artrip

Please do not allow the man who created the last racially gerrymandered maps to draw the new one. We taxpayers have spent too much cash on litigation.

New legislative and Congressional district maps should be created by an independent bipartisan commission.

Redistricting must be done by a bipartisan, or even better non-partisan, independent council.

Fair redistricting in the computer age is incredibly simple. Have the computers do it. Just give them only the population data for each precinct - no other data, and let them crunch it. The result should be compact districts that are fair to both parties. Avoids the endless lawsuits that we have now, and strengthens democracy. Just do it!

Mr. Evan Donahue

I support independent redistricting by a non-partisan entity. I do not want to have the courts send it back to you again.

The districts need to be redrawn by a nonpartisan, third party, unbiased way. There neess to be no ridiculous gerrymandering like in the 21 district. I want fair elections not rigged seats that have entrenched incumbents that are nigh impossible to unseat.

Mr. William Ronke

We're not a Democratic state. We're not a Republican state. We're a state of majority-party redistricting benefits me, as a private citizen, in any way. Either the process entrenches representatives I do not support, or it makes representatives I do support less responsive to my input. If there is a good reason that I should support the current process, I am willing to listen, but until someone at least tries to make that case, I must register my strong opposition to the current process.

Cathy Kirchin

I am 68 and I have always thought neither party should draw redistricting maps. Districts should be constructed to provide representation for the people not for the good of any political party. Our country operates best when we work together and recognize that no one has all the answers.

Why are we not have an independent redistricting process. This process is too closed. Get rid of Tom Hofeller. He already created BAD maps. This must be an open and independent process. Our votes should count.

Mr. Josh Artrip

With all due respect, maybe the law should be considered when redistricting, and race should not be used as a factor. I get why a party would want to gerrymander, you want to remain in power, and though I disagree, I understand the reasoning, so if party in power will not make logistical boundaries based on community or county lines where, though the people may look or vote differently at least share some of the same concerns that would allow a representative elected to TRULY represent the district, then use party lines to redraw the map. If, however, you find that only one race is voting for your party and that you have to identify people by race to exclude from a district because they know they will not vote for your party, well then maybe the problem is not with the district lines, maybe it is with your party line... where can I leave a comment for that?

Richard LeBeau

The districts need to be redrawn by a nonpartisan, third party, unbiased way. There neess to be no ridiculous gerrymandering like in the 21 district. I want fair elections not rigged seats that have entrenched incumbents that are nigh impossible to unseat.

Ms. Meredith Ellington

Please redistrict the state immediately to comply with the court's order and have a fair, democratic election in 2018 and beyond.

Emily Toone

The cheating, underhanded NC GOPers must get some apolitical computer geeks to fix this mess. Brian Olsen's tool profiled in WaPo is brilliantly elegant and removes politics.

Mr. William Ronke

We've had years of Democrat-biased gerrymandering in this state. We've recently had years of Republican-based gerrymandering, and they've had access to data that makes biased districting a science.

While the court decision may have been based on racial lines, even drawing them politically is a fundamentally unethical act. It's time to break this cycle and create districts that encourage greater competition and more capacity to reflect the population of North Carolina.

We're not a Democratic state. We're not a Republican state. We're approximately a 50/50 state. Our General Assembly, Senate, and Federal House districts should approximately reflect that proportion.

Dr. Rose O'Mahony

I would like to see non-partisan redistributing committees with responsibility for identifying new voting districts. I do not want to see the same politicians who brought us illegal districts involved in the process. I want to see districts that provide a legislature that reflects the votes cast by the citizens, i.e. if one party receives 50% of the votes I expect to see that party with 50% of the seats. If not, redistribution was done poorly.

Ms. Jeanne Doom

I hope that the General Assembly will act in a transparent way in redrawing both the NC Senate and House voting districts. We need fair districts that are contiguous, with equal populations, and with out regard to the locations of current or potential members. We do NOT want to have the courts send it back to you again.

It is time to come together, both Republicans and Democrats, to end Gerrymandering. Individual members on BOTH sides need to declare that they are willing to set up and live with an independent, permanent commission to set voting districts in response to the 2020 census. Thank-you, Jeanne Doom
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timestamp</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Message</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017 2:29PM</td>
<td>Ms. Blair Kutrow</td>
<td></td>
<td>I feel strongly that districts that have been drawn by legislative majorities have contributed greatly to the division in our political discourse in NC. When districts have been drawn as I believe they have to ensure one party will win in a district, then the people in that district are not fairly represented. NC is a state whose popular vote is very close to 50/50 between democrats and republicans yet we our representation skews toward republican. I do not feel the current state of our district maps accurately represents the views of our citizens and in fact insures that some representatives are insured that their seats are safe due to an unfairly drawn map. I feel strongly that the maps should be drawn by independent organizations. I feel that if the district maps are more fairly drawn we will have a legislature that would have to work TOGETHER to solve the problems of the citizens of the great state of NC.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017 2:30PM</td>
<td>Mr. Dave Palumbo</td>
<td></td>
<td>Redistricting, creating an end to gerrymandering, should be performed by non-political, technically proficient professionals who have no skin in the game and who profit by gerrymandering in the first place... academics from out of state might be best. Our way of life is at stake lets be fair, educated and progressively thoughtful about this issue... we do not want to end up like a tin pot, third world totalitarian dictatorship in which democracy is just a word banded about when the oligarchs decide to have a parade. We need to support and have real, equal &quot;we the people&quot; democracy based on our independent constitution which supports our American mandate to continually &quot;promote the general welfare&quot; first and foremost... and so do through the equality of purpose represented as our heritage of self rule. That and: - Be compact and contiguous - Follow state and federal law - Be drawn without considering partisan factors like voter registration, results of previous elections, voter turnout and where the incumbent lives</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017 2:30PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Camilla Buie</td>
<td></td>
<td>Please get a nonpartisan committee to do this. Drawing districts to include or exclude people based on how they vote is reprehensible and does nothing to help any of us. Make the districts based on geography not race or party. Thanks.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017 2:31PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Traci Veenstra</td>
<td></td>
<td>I am an unaffiliated voter, and I want to vote for the candidate that is working for me as a constituent before party. Please draw lines to make districts competitive. I am frustrated by this history of both parties outing power before the people who elect them. I would very much like to see districts drawn based exclusively on equal population and compactness. An independent commission is probably the best way to achieve this. The development of districts that favor one party and discourage electoral participation are an insult to the concept of true Democracy. Draw districts completely fairly and let the people send the candidates that THEY want to serve them to the legislature.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017 2:32PM</td>
<td>Mr. William Anderson</td>
<td></td>
<td>As a long time resident of NC, I have been aware of both parties implementing unfair districting practices to give their party an advantage in elections. This is NOT fair to the people of NC. I am imploring the NC Legislature to do their civic duty, and delegate this redistricting to a truly non-partisan, third party commission. It is clear that neither party is able to draw district lines fairly, and thus the most reasonable solution is to allow a third party to do it.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017 2:32PM</td>
<td>Mr. Michael Kelleher</td>
<td></td>
<td>Redistricting should be done by a non partisan group or at least a group made up of members of both parties.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017 2:32PM</td>
<td>Mr. Robert Coffin</td>
<td></td>
<td>I feel the current district lines are unfair and undemocratic, destroying voter confidence in their governments ability to lead a diverse state and cooperate with an opposition party for the betterment of all citizens. Open partisanship will do nothing more than entrench and embitter both sides, so that when the opposition again takes the helm of the State, it will impose harsh penalties on the current statesmen.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017 2:33PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Michelle Siegel</td>
<td></td>
<td>We deserve fair, nonpartisan voting districts NOW! The NC GSA GOP has disgraced our wonderful state since 2011. If you want any chance of keeping your seats, you'll start representing the majority of voters instead of only the Republican Party. There's still time for you to turn your horrible images around. If the only way you can win is by cheating, you don't deserve your jobs. SHAME ON YOU!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017 2:33PM</td>
<td>Ms. Virginia Underwood</td>
<td></td>
<td>We deserve fair, nonpartisan voting districts NOW! The NC GSA GOP has disgraced our wonderful state since 2011. If you want any chance of keeping your seats, you'll start representing the majority of voters instead of only the Republican Party. There's still time for you to turn your horrible images around. If the only way you can win is by cheating, you don't deserve your jobs. SHAME ON YOU!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017 2:34PM</td>
<td>Jayne Hunter</td>
<td></td>
<td>It is imperative that the power of the legislature be legitimate and representative of the people of the state. The intent of the Constitution is for voters to choose their representative, not for representatives to choose their voters. The non-partisan redistricting done by population, not party and definitely not by race that is available should be used. The unfair, illogical and unconstitutional gerrymandering in place will never ever stop being challenged, and it is costing the state time and money. Stop it, and redistrict fairly.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017 2:34PM</td>
<td>Stacey Selkin</td>
<td></td>
<td>The people of the great state of NC. Deserve to be represented fairly and equally. That's why I'm writing to the general assembly to have BIPARTISAN redistricting...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017 2:34PM</td>
<td>Diane Yanacek</td>
<td></td>
<td>Redistricting could be done using algorithms to keep them as compact (squarish?) as possible, without regard to politics or demographics. This is how it should be done. No one making these decisions should have access to, or take into account, who lives where. It should be geographical.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>2:35PM</td>
<td>Dr. Elizabeth H Harris</td>
<td>Stick to county lines wherever possible, or if necessary, divide counties down or across the middle, and group smaller counties so that the total population in every district is close to the same. Pay NO attention to the ethnic or demographic composition of the districts. Any funny-shaped protuberances in the district maps will be a give-away that you didn’t do a good job.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>2:37PM</td>
<td>Emil Kratt</td>
<td>New districts should, as close as possible, conform to or use existing county boundaries. They should ignore completely economic and political differences, and be almost exclusively geographic in nature, of course considering the population numbers. The simplest will be the fairest. Thank you.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>2:42PM</td>
<td>Dr. Steven Moody</td>
<td>I wish to leave a comment in support of compact districts that do their best to follow lines of government entities already in existence - counties, cities, towns, or local districts that have already been determined.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>2:42PM</td>
<td>DM PRICKETT</td>
<td>Our state’s lawmakers have demonstrated time and time again, on both sides of the aisle, that neither Democrats nor Republicans should be trusted nor tasked with determining the size and shape of North Carolina’s voting districts. The time has come to show the rest of our country just how impartial and bipartisan our deeply diverse state can be. I call for the establishment of an independent council for the purposes of determining how the voting districts in North Carolina should be drawn, ensuring that the new boundaries be established in order to best serve all North Carolinians, and for complete transparency both during the establishment of said council and while our new voting map is being created.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>2:43PM</td>
<td>Ms. Jennifer Knox</td>
<td>Districts should be drawn by computer algorithms. Neither party should have any influence on the districts. Fair elections require non gerrymandered districts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>2:46PM</td>
<td>Ms. Michelle Turner</td>
<td>districts should be drawn by computer algorithms. Inputting political affiliation to determine the most balanced districts available. Population and race can be used to make sure there are no skews in the results. Fair elections require non gerrymandered districts.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>2:46PM</td>
<td>Ms. K Joanne Kalp</td>
<td>This should not be done by the legislature. They are too invested in the outcome. This should be done by an independent, objective group which includes general voter representation. California might offer a model.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>2:46PM</td>
<td>Mr. Tom Murdock</td>
<td>Today’s world is complicated: medicine, military, diversity, economic inequality, increased authoritarianism around the world, increased secularization, and so many more. To make the needed political decisions to maintain our democracy and leadership, we need a political base that is strong. Fair redistricting helps make that happen. Each of us needs to believe that our vote matters. Each representative needs to believe that her vote will be watched by voters who will reward them.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>2:47PM</td>
<td>Dr. Benjamin Smith</td>
<td>I strongly recommend that an independent redistricting commission be established for this and all future redistricting needs. Unfortunately, both political parties have abused the redistricting process to give unfair advantages to their political party. I strongly believe that legislative districts should be fair. The citizens of our great state should have the ability to pick their representatives instead of legislators picking their constituents. Our congressional and state legislative districts should be based on contiguity, consistency with natural and political boundaries (e.g., county lines), and compactness. Those drawing districts should be forbidden from using partisan data. This includes voter registration, voting histories, and incumbents’ place.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>2:48PM</td>
<td>Kristen McKenna</td>
<td>Districts should be drawn using computer algorithm. Neither party should have any influence on the districts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>2:48PM</td>
<td>Ms. Evelyn Hanson</td>
<td>Please consider using a computer generated algorithm that will more evenly distribute voters into districts that fairly represent the voters and does not have a specific party slant. Both Dems and the GOP have been guilty of this and it has to stop, NOW! Several universities have developed programs that can protect parity among voters. I'm sure our universities are capable of this as well!</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>2:50PM</td>
<td>Mr. Glenn Goodrich</td>
<td>Letting politicians draw the districts is a bad in both idea and practice. Neither party has shown the ability to base it on anything more than what benefits their party. Use this opportunity as a chance to bring in an independent commission to redraw the districts and improve our state politics terra/field.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>2:51PM</td>
<td>Mr. Charles Claffone</td>
<td>Divide the state’s voter population by the number of district to get the average number of voters who should be in a district. Then start at one corner of the state, and add a county at a time, using only contiguous counties, until the population of the district is close to the average. Do this across the state, with each district consisting of fully contiguous counties. Once every 5-10 years, or census, validate that the districts are still equally distributed.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>2:51PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Emily Charette</td>
<td>The new districts should be drawn with no knowledge of voter identification nor political leanings. It should simply divide people into groups of equal numbers.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>2:52PM</td>
<td>Ms. Nora Davis</td>
<td>Gerrymandering by either party should be against the law. That is all.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Aug 4 2017 2:52PM  Mr. Joe Barker  STOP THE GERRYMANDERING. DRAW IT FAIR.

Aug 4 2017 2:54PM  Ms. Jean Marie Livaudais  When you look at general statewide elections—governor, lt. governor, attorney general, secretary of state—you see a pattern of almost 50%/50% for each party. Representatives in the general assembly are grossly skewed toward more than 60% for the republican party. Redistricting MUST do a better job of representing state voters at large so that the generally assembly better represents voters. A bi-partisan commission should handle redistricting, not the representatives

Aug 4 2017 2:54PM  Mr. Rich Frost  Please STOP wasting taxpayer money by redistricting in a way that leads to endless court battles. It’s an embarrassment to our state. If you don’t have the courage to create a non-partisan districting body of some sorts, as should be done in a true democracy, at least follow the constitutional and statutory guidelines that you’ve been ignoring for the last few years. END gerrymandering—the people don’t support it and you represent US!

Aug 4 2017 2:54PM  Mr. Trevor Cannon  As a citizen of North Carolina, I request that you re-draw the voting maps in a BEPARTISAN way!! If you do not make it fair for ALL people of North Carolina, I will stop sitting in the back ground and actively pursue the removal from office, any legislator who encourages a partisan map. I will knock on doors, attend rallies, create web-sites, and encourage others to vote you out! There are many, many of us who feel this way; Republicans, Democrats and Independents like myself. I do not care about the politics of the past. I care about the future for my kids and fellow North Carolinian’s. YOU, as elected officials OWE the fine people of North Carolina this request!

Aug 4 2017 2:55PM  Dr. Hallum Dickens  The North Carolina Republican Party is full of malevolent cowards whose policies are too stupid to stand on their own merit. The only way you continue to be elected is by drawing racist gerrymandered districts that allow you to choose your voters. You are what is wrong with this country and the world. You are a tyrant. Please go fuck yourself.

Aug 4 2017 2:56PM  Mr. Eric Rufa  Please institute a system for re-districting that is fair and non-partisan, non-political, and independent. Gerrymandering has been abused greatly by BOTH parties for a long time, but the current districts are completely biased.

Aug 4 2017 2:57PM  Ms. Donna Laiosa  I feel that political districting needs to be done by an independent committee free from political entities. They should use districting software so that fair districts can be created without the use of political biases. All districts should be created without racial, political affiliation, income, and gender biases. Elected officials should never be allowed to select their own voters. The following link as an example of the type of software that we need to use: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2014/06/03/this-computer-programmer-solved-gerrymandering-in-his-spare-time/

Aug 4 2017 2:57PM  Ms. Wendy Stewart  NC’s current voting districts are unfair, discriminatory, and impractical! Our representatives should understand and represent the common interests of a specific region, not pieces of geography linked together like threads of a web, only for political gain. Change must happen NOW!

Aug 4 2017 2:58PM  Ms. L. Edel  Stop the gerrymandering! NOW!! I want my vote to count where I live, not down in Charlotte.

Aug 4 2017 2:59PM  Mrs. Clarissa Miller  I am for independent, nonpartisan redistricting. It’s human nature for political parties to want lines drawn in their favor. Citizens should choose their representatives, not the other way around. Fair and independent redistricting is the moral thing to do.

Aug 4 2017 2:59PM  Susan Terry  There needs to be some nonpartisan oversight into this process. It is clear that the state GOP will do anything to maintain their stranglehold on North Carolina. I don’t think I’m alone in saying that it makes me very angry when my vote is rendered pointless by redistricting. That’s not how democracy is supposed to work.

Aug 4 2017 3:00PM  Jorie Walker  Districts should be drawn by geography and population as the only considerations. I can handle legislative decisions that ultimately don’t agree with my beliefs. I can handle having elected officials who don’t agree with me. I can handle lots of difference and...but only if I can have faith that the system that chose those elected officials isn’t rigged. I’ve lived for too long with elected officials who don’t have to listen to their constituents because they only worry about primaries. We need free and fair elections starting with fair districts.

Aug 4 2017 3:01PM  Mr. Daniel Swart  PLEASE create an independent and non-political committee to create our legislative districts. Politicians cannot be impartial in district creation. So please stop asking them to act that way.

Aug 4 2017 3:01PM  Maria Collias  Please do what is morally right, just, and fair. North Carolinians deserve fairness.

Aug 4 2017 3:02PM  Mr. Aaron Menconi  Congressional districting should rely on regional affiliation, not on politics or race or class. Citizen boards should review the districts to ensure that they do not rely on any of the biases above other than regional. The will of the state is a polyphony of the people distributed all across the state, not in specific pockets whose net voice is louder than others.

Aug 4 2017 3:02PM  matthew myers  Gerrymandering is the single greatest threat to our democracy. It is of most importance that we hand this task over to a non partisan board. No party should choose their voters. Period. Let us get back to real work of governing our state and not drawing red and blue lines. OMG. Protect us.
Redistricting should be done by an independent non-partisan committee.

Our state's lawmakers have demonstrated time and time again, on both sides of the aisle, that neither Democrats nor Republicans should be trusted nor tasked with determining how the voting districts in North Carolina should be drawn, ensuring that the new boundaries be established in order to best serve all North Carolinians, and for complete transparency both during the establishment of said council and while our new voting map is studied the gerrymandering of North Carolina. We need these experts to weigh in and provide guidance on how to redistrict in a responsible manner and stop making us look like fools to the rest of the country just how impartial and bipartisan our deeply diverse state can be.

As a resident of North Carolina, I call for the establishment of an independent council for the purposes of determining how the voting districts in North Carolina should be drawn, ensuring that the new boundaries be established in order to best serve all North Carolinians, and for complete transparency both during the establishment of said council and while our new voting map is studied the gerrymandering of North Carolina. We need these experts to weigh in and provide guidance on how to redistrict in a responsible manner and stop making us look like fools to the rest of the country just how impartial and bipartisan our deeply diverse state can be.

We need an independent commission to redraw our districts in order to make sure that it is as free of bias as possible. All voters should know for certain that their vote counts and their voice is heard. Allow an independent - nonpartisan group to redraw the lines and please do it soon. We need to make sure our districts are correct before the next round of elections.

You now have the opportunity in front of you to do the right thing and draw our state's districts fairly. Do not try to embark on this partisan gerrymandered district drawing that has happened in the past. Every eligible voter in this state deserves to be heard and have their vote count equally. Stacking the deck to create special districts to disenfranchise voters is unethical and should not be tolerated by either party. Remember you work for us, not the other way around. Draw fair districts in a responsible manner and stop making us look like fools to the rest of the country. People are watching and history will not look favorably on any of you if you don't step up and do the right thing at this point. Draw common sense and fair districts for this state. Let the results speak for themselves. If the majority share your vision and goals then so be it, but you should let the voters speak for themselves and not rig the districts in anyone's favor.

Shame on you if you don't step up and do the right thing at this point. Draw common sense and fair districts for this state. Let the results speak for themselves. If the majority share your vision and goals then so be it, but you should let the voters speak for themselves and not rig the districts in anyone's favor. Shame on you if you don't use this chance to right this wrong. Now is the time to rectify this situation.
Dr. Marilyn Smith  
Aug 4 2017  3:17PM  
I am writing to urge the NC GA to include as guidelines for redrawing the districts that will result in fair, equitable districts. For example, that the districts be compact, contiguous, follow Federal and State laws, and especially ignore partisan political factors.

Mrs. Krystal York  
Aug 4 2017  3:20PM  
The one thing this past presidential election truly accomplished was uniting people to pay attention to politics. Citizens are learning everyday how the system works and to fact check. Stop the gerrymandering! It may not have mattered to past generations but it matters to the new generation of voters. Stop gerrymandering!

Mrs. Amy Clark  
Aug 4 2017  3:25PM  
I feel as though this is pointless, because you don’t listen to your constituents anyway. But I believe our district maps should be drawn by a nonpartisan third party, from outside North Carolina. It is the only way we will get fair representation, which we all deserve, not just the republicans.

Mr. Ronald Myers  
Aug 4 2017  3:26PM  
I think having the legislature design and draw the legislative districts is wrong because they have shown over hundreds of years that the resulting representation does not provide a fair representation of the citizens of North Carolina. There should be an independent commission appointed to draw the districts. The commission must be individuals from the major North Carolina universities with expertise in political science, mathematics and social science and NOT have actively run for partisan office or supported any partisan politician. The basic goals provided to the commission should be that predicted elected representatives should be comparable to the citizens of the state with respect to registered political party, be as compact as possible thus minimizing distances between the center of each district and the furthest citizen in that district, and to comply with the requirements of the Voting Right Act.

Mr. Seth Sykora-Bodie  
Aug 4 2017  3:30PM  
To Whom It May Concern:  
Please ensure that our districts are designed to protect everyone’s right to vote. The current level of gerrymandering is unacceptable and threatens to undermine our democracy. Efforts to dilute the minorities and make voter registration more difficult are a disgrace to those who have fought to protect our rights for centuries. If the State cannot design fair districts, then the job should be put in the hands of a nonpartisan commission or left to the courts.  
Sincerely,  
Seth Sykora-Bodie

Amanda Dworsky  
Aug 4 2017  3:32PM  
Please implement nonpartisan districts so that all power if more equally balanced and candidates are more reflective of the area as a whole.

Jeana Routh  
Aug 4 2017  3:34PM  
Please form an independent panel of geography and population experts. No partisan tricks, just straightforward formulas that are fair to anyone running.

Mrs. Stacey Brown  
Aug 4 2017  3:34PM  
This is ridiculous. The courts already determined that these districts were gerrymandered with “surgical precision” to sway elections. Fix this! It is unacceptable. As a long-time North Carolina resident and registered Republican, I am tired of being ashamed of my state and our elected officials. Be decent people for once.

Mr. Derek Adams  
Aug 4 2017  3:36PM  
Gerrymandering and district packing must not be allowed to continue. Making seats “safe” and reducing the electoral importance of minorities by drawing ridiculous district lines has to end.

Dr. Nicole Peterson  
Aug 4 2017  3:37PM  
Redistricting is a way to ensure that votes count for something - make competitive districts - no more safe districts - so that candidates have to stand for something, not just win a primary. Some computer models have done a good job at creating more competitive districts - though “choosing an algorithm that defines the boundaries is, in itself, a political decision that can never be value-neutral... Having software that can compute complex metaheristics certainly helps, but it is meaningless without a public process to help decide upon the results”. (Source: https://www.citylab.com/equity/2013/02/why-computers-alone-cant-eliminate-corruption-redistricting/4790/)

It seems that a good first pass is something computer-based, like the programs mentioned in the article above. However, a real public process would certainly avoid pitfalls of even these less-biased redistricting processes.

Ms. Brenda Willis  
Aug 4 2017  3:37PM  
We want fair redistricting. We are glad McCrory's derriere is out and we hope the GOP 's rear ends are voted out too. We elected Cooper. Stoo oooosing him
It should be illegal for districts to be drawn by partisan groups, please redraw all district maps for House and Senate. All districts should represent one vote. Figure out something neutral and fair. Make voting in NC fair to the citizenry, and make it fair now! SA

The infection of partisan and racist agendas into the determination of district boundaries has been one of the very greatest wounds to and sins against our democracy. Knowingly reducing the power of innocent people's votes is a flatly evil thing to do, and must be fundamentally redressed. Anyone involved in it has fundamentally sacrificed their honor, no less (indeed much more) than cheating at cards or embezzling innocents' wealth. Means of fairly drawing districts have been available for years — see https://goo.gl/7Zn2Xw. Make voting in NC fair to the citizenry, and make it fair now! SA

It should be illegal for districts to be drawn by partisan groups, especially legislators. The citizens of North Carolina deserve the chance to choose their representatives, not have their representatives choose their voters through gerrymandered districts that aim to produce unfair advantages for either party. An impartial, non-partisan districting committee is the only fair way for the peoples’ voices to be heard.

Legislative maps should be drawn by an independent committee - not by the legislators themselves, as it has been proven they will always gerrymander the districts in their favor. An independent committee is the only way to go. Without fair districts, we do not truly have one vote per person.

Use an algorithm and an independent panel to control the redistricting process! Districts should be drawn to optimize compactness. The idea of creating "communities of interest" is too easily exploited to the benefit of who draws the lines. Can we please be on the leading edge of this issue in our country, demonstrate our ingenuity as a state, and adopt something similar to what is described here?: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2014/06/03/this-computer-programmer-solved-gerrymandering-in-his-spare-time/?utm_term=.6177d2303036

There can be no faith in a gerrymandered elected body. Fix This Now.

Drawing maps to control the outcome of elections is SHAMEFUL. The power that you have is real, and it's important... and you're abusing it. Stop making a mockery of our state.

I support a nonpartisan commission can be done efficiently and fairly. Reforming how redistricting is done is your opportunity to eliminate gerrymandering and ensure fair representation for all of us in the state. The lawsuits and disenfranchisement will not end until this reform is done.

I support redistricting reform. The process needs to be taken out of the hands of the legislature. Any bill passed should place authority for redistricting in a nonpartisan commission separate from the legislature. The commission should ONLY use clear criteria - population equality, contiguity, unity of counties and cities, and compactness. What it could not use is any data on political affiliation, race, previous elections results or the addresses of incumbents. This has been done in Iowa - a state once plagued by redistricting lawsuits just like North Carolina - with success. Using ONLY this criteria, the League of Women Voters hosted a mock, nonpartisan redistricting session to draw North Carolina's congressional map. The moderator was Tom Ross, former president of the University of North Carolina, and the commission consisted of 10 retired judges. The judges spent a day learning the legalities of redistricting, and three days drawing and finalizing the map. (See the mock redistricting event video at lwvn.org for the interesting results.) This mock presentation shows that redistricting by a nonpartisan commission can be done efficiently and fairly. Reforming how redistricting is done is your opportunity to eliminate gerrymandering and ensure fair representation for all of us in the state. The lawsuits and disenfranchisement will not end until this reform is done.

It should be illegal for districts to be drawn by partisan groups, please redraw all district maps for House and Senate. All districts should represent one vote. Figure out something neutral and fair. Make voting in NC fair to the citizenry, and make it fair now! SA

We need to vote within our government districts. Whole counties should be in districts. Forget all these contortions of lines. One citizen should represent one vote. Figure out something neutral and fair.

Lawmakers should not be in the position of determining the shape and size of districts. There should be an independent council created to draw the new voting map. We need a transparent, impartial process.

No more gerrymandering! Please! I don't want to see either political party in control of redistricting.

There can be no faith in a gerrymandered elected body. Fix This Now.

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We need to vote within our government districts. Whole counties should be in districts. Forget all these contortions of lines. One citizen should represent one vote. Figure out something neutral and fair.

No more gerrymandering! Please! I don't want to see either political party in control of redistricting.
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>3:51PM</td>
<td>Dr. Ryan Johnson</td>
<td>The basic principle of a representative democracy is fair and accurate representation of general and specific will and interests. Anything that goes against this is anti-democratic and thus un-American. Gerrymandering is a political disease because it eats away at this basic democratic principle. Both the GOP and democrats have used this diseased strategy, and they are both wrong. Voting and congressional districts should never have any aim than to accurately represent the people. If it seems obvious that politicians should never draw the district lines. A nonpartisan third party, operating behind a sort of &quot;veil of ignorance&quot; (as John Rawls might say), should draw voting maps. Please, please, please do the right thing, the moral thing, and engrave it into law that districts should never follow partisan, racial, or any partial aims. The only aim districts should achieve is the aim of that basic principle of representative democracy: fair and accurate representation of general and specific wills and interests. You, our elected representatives, select you; you do not select us.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>3:52PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Christina Jones</td>
<td>It is important to have a committee, of non politicians, put together because neither party can be bi-partisan enough to put together a fair map.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>3:55PM</td>
<td>Chad Berwick</td>
<td>Please..let's take the politics out of redistricting and elect a legislature that is representative of the people of the great state that is North Carolina. It's essential that every person's views are of equal value in our elected officials and it does not make sense that the state elected a Republican president by 51% and our House is 62% Republican and the Senate is 70% Republican. This is not fair representation. North Carolina has continuously been ranked among the most gerrymandered states in the nation. It's time to ensure continued American in North Carolina.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>3:55PM</td>
<td>Mr. Daniel Binmore</td>
<td>Fair and equal representation is a foundational part of what America really is. If you are against fair districting then you are against the very idea of the USA. Because politicians are political animals it is extremely hard to remain fair and so an objective method is needed. Either an independent committee, or preferably a computer program, is required to ensure a fair election rather than a bunch of crooks stealing elections, which both sides have done in the past.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>3:56PM</td>
<td>Dr. Teneal Purdue</td>
<td>Please appoint an independent body to draw district lines. Voters deserve fair representation, and the only way to achieve it is by removing politics from the drawing of district boundaries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>3:57PM</td>
<td>Townsley Minton</td>
<td>North Carolina lawmakers (both Republicans and Democrats) have proven time and again they cannot be trusted with drawing fair districts that allow the true voter voice to be heard in our great state. To avoid any further delays and stall tactics, redistricting should be handled by a non-partisan third party. This will ensure that no one party can create a super majority or achieve any other benefits over the opposing party. And moving forward, this should be the process/law when it comes to redistricting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>3:58PM</td>
<td>Mr. Daniel Binmore</td>
<td>The current districts are a pathetic and shameful play for power by the GOP. The counter-argument that 'Democrats have done it in the past' is downright childish, and goes to show that politicians (regardless of party) cannot be trusted to do right by the citizens of North Carolina.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>3:58PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Melanie Bebier</td>
<td>Voter districts should be drawn by computer algorithms in order to decrease bias in the process. Gerrymandering is cheating. If you can only win by cheating, then you shouldn't win. You should be required to follow the borders of existing counties. Counties should not be split up. Fix it and leave it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>4:02PM</td>
<td>Jim Douglass</td>
<td>It is absolutely imperative that the redistricting process be apolitical! Gerrymandering goes against the ideals America professes. Neither political party should control or even so much as subtly influence how districts are drawn. I would like for impartial experts and computer programs to design fair and compact districts for our state. If that is not an option, then at the very least the citizens of North Carolina deserve to have a bipartisan committee in charge of redistricting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>4:02PM</td>
<td>Claire Greenstein</td>
<td>Please adopt non-partisan redistricting. Our state has incredibly diverse needs, and the best way to ensure that ALL of NC (urban and rural) is fairly represented is to end gerrymandering. Sincerely,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>4:05PM</td>
<td>Ms. Stephanie Embry</td>
<td>Set up an independent commission of non-NGCA citizens evenly split among both parties and then a minority of fewer non-affiliated/independents (all adding up to an even number) with League of Women Voters and possibly the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights monitoring. Our State and Nation are more and more in jeopardy. You must not continue with the destruction-- Please!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>4:10PM</td>
<td>Mr. Byron Coultar</td>
<td>Redistricting must be done by a nonpartisan committee. That is the only way from preventing the party temporarily in power, which ever one it is, from unfairly taking advantage of the situation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>4:12PM</td>
<td>Ms. Eli Klein</td>
<td>ok, So the Democrats gerrymandered to a degree and the Republicans wanted to get even and do it even worse. Please stop.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>4:12PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Melissa Kietzker</td>
<td>An independent council or computer algorithm should be used to determine how the voting districts in North Carolina should be drawn, ensuring new boundaries best serve all North Carolinians.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>4:12PM</td>
<td>Mr. Patrick Summers</td>
<td>The current makeup of the NC General Assembly is in no way representative of the diverse people of North Carolina. While political gerrymandering may be legal, the lengths to which the GOP has gone to distort our states representation is deplorable. When redistricting do not just do the bare minimum to meet the requirements set down by the courts. Make an honest attempt to draw lines that represent all North Carolinians.</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>4:13PM</td>
<td>Mr. Stephen Sehafer</td>
<td>I realize that in this political climate it is almost impossible to find an impartial legislator, but for the love of God, is there no way to appoint an impartial committee to oversee the redistricting. I have faith in the American voter but not when they're being directed by partisan politicians.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>4:14PM</td>
<td>Mr. William Jenniches</td>
<td>Gerrymandered congressional districts are an existential threat to our representative democracy. It's time to take the task of drawing our voting districts out of the hands of our elected officials and create an independent committee for this task. A non-partisan approach will better reflect the diversity of our state. Better yet, let's use a mathematical algorithm to draw compact districts: <a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/work/wp/2014/06/03/this-computer-programmer-solved-gerrymandering-in-his-spare-time/">https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/work/wp/2014/06/03/this-computer-programmer-solved-gerrymandering-in-his-spare-time/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>4:14PM</td>
<td>Mr. Jim Conrad</td>
<td>Apportion by counties. If not enough people in a county add an adjacent county. If too many people in a county split evenly in halves, thirds, quarters or whatever. Enough gerrymandering already! We need an independent commission to draw legislative district maps based on neutral criteria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>4:18PM</td>
<td>Mr. William Morgan</td>
<td>The judges have gave their ruling and now this needs to be accomplished before the 2018 elections. Gerrymandering needs to stop by both parties. People expect fair elections and this is necessary to accomplish that.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>4:21PM</td>
<td>David Jordan</td>
<td>Districts should be drawn by an independent, nonpartisan committee whose criteria is made public. Effort should be made to keep neighborhoods continuous. Committee should review methodology presented in the court case from wisconsin now pending in the Supreme Court for an accurate methodology to measure packing and cracking to ensure neither party is under-represented. It is time to put an end to political gerrymandering in NC.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>4:22PM</td>
<td>Mr. Dane Coalson</td>
<td>Redistricting should not be subject to partisan politics. If you actually care about serving the best interests of your constituents, redistricting should be performed by a bi-partisan committee or via unbiased algorithm moving forward (not that I'm hopeful for a reasonable solution given the hyper-partisan behavior of the legislature in the last few years).</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>4:24PM</td>
<td>Ms. Pamela Quattrini</td>
<td>INDEPENDENT, NON-PARTISAN - ALL persons in a government or political position (party officials, etc.)locally, county wide, state-wide, nationally are automatically EXCLUDED from being able to participate. Get school teachers retired persons, and an array of ALL political affiliations, R, D, Green, Working Families, Independent, Independence, Labor, etc. And you'd better get crackin'!!!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>4:24PM</td>
<td>Mr. Mark Wear</td>
<td>Voting districts should be defined by a non-partisan commission. A fair democracy has competitive elections. I am a Republican. I have no problem having 10 republicans go to Washington to represent North Carolina, as long as those Republicans competed in well-contested general elections, and go there looking out for all of their constituents—even the ones outside of their party. Today, because of gerrymandering, our representatives are largely beholden only to their party, and America is paying the price.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>4:26PM</td>
<td>Penelope diMaio</td>
<td>I believe in democratic principles - the ideal of one person, one vote. I believe in the democratic principle of voters electing representatives - in the most elemental definition of representing the people that elected them. Instead, thanks to highly technical redistricting, it is no longer the people choosing their representatives, it's the representatives choosing the voters. Yes, I know the Democrats gerrymandered for years. While that was wrong, it was nothing like the surgical drawing of maps that is available today. Why even vote when I feel my vote is absolutely useless? This is NOT RIGHT! Please return to fair maps - maps that truly represent our constituency!</td>
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This entire redistricting process has been undemocratic. Crafting voting districts that disenfranchise members of the electorate (and then leaving those representatives from the illegally drawn maps to continue to serve in office) is outrageous in and of itself. But now there are so few (and so hastily organized) times for the public to actually meet and discuss what is happening in our government. This process has only reiterated that elected officials should not be in charge of drawing voting districts. If there will not be special elections this fall to re-vote usually legally drawn maps (and potentially remove officials who were elected because of illegally drawn maps), then we should slow the process down and take it out of the hands of elected officials. Instead of elected (partisan) officials, have independent judges draw district maps. Australia, Canada, and the UK all have involvement from nonpartisan officials in drawing legislative maps. When faced with the blatant illegality of recent district maps, it is imperative we make a change to the way NC acts. Having the current general assembly draw maps again is repeating the exact same process that got us into this mess and expecting different results.

Districts should be measured in retangular equal blocks to make it fair for all parties. An example would be the Rectangular Survey System that is used in the midwest for land survey but on a bigger scale. The power must be with the majority.

Mrs. Karlene Fryxell

Aug 4 2017 4:29PM

I strongly support independent and non partisan redistricting. Who made this abominable hire that has already cost the taxpayers too much in legal fees?

Ms. Caren Lobo

Aug 4 2017 4:29PM

Thomas Hofeller, is being again paid to help with the redistricting process to correct illegal racial gerrymanders. Hofeller, a former GOP mapmaker, was the architect of the 2011 districts found to be illegal. WHY IS HOFELLER BEING PAID AGAIN TO DO WHAT HE ALREADY WAS PAID TO DO AND CREATED ILLEGAL DISTRICTING?? Who made this abominable hire that has already cost the taxpayers too much in legal fees?


Redistricting in North Carolina has historically been unfairly manipulated by the party in power and overwhelmingly favorable to incumbent candidates. This takes power away from the electorate. District maps drawn for partisan advantage have led to years of expensive legal wrangling, divisive politics, and voter dissatisfaction. Partisan gerrymandering must be ended in North Carolina, and across our country!

Therefore, I fully support legislation to reform our redistricting process which includes the following principles:

a. Districts are "compact and contiguous" meaning that our representatives can travel easily to all parts of districts.
b. Districts follow state and federal laws.
c. Districts are drawn not considering factors such as the party affiliation of voters, where the incumbent lives, the results of previous elections, or other partisan factors.

Do your job representing the people of NC.

Mr. Corey Dockser

Aug 4 2017 4:29PM

Please grant the mapmaking process to some nonpartisan third party. My generation (I’m 18) is sick and tired of every one of our efforts to participate in the political process being instantly discarded by gerrymandered maps. We know that Democrats did it too before the GOP won its majority but that doesn’t make it okay. Democracy doesn’t work if there’s no possibility of certain groups of people having any voice in the matter.

We don’t want to live in a country where the electoral system is built to keep itself in power. Please stop withholding clout from the people who have to actually live with the decisions you make. We matter, no matter how little you think of us.

Kaley Lowman

Aug 4 2017 4:29PM

Politicians of either party should not be in charge of redistricting. Please use an independent, non-partisan committee to redraw our districts in a totally fair and transparent manner.

Mrs. Karlene Fryxell

Aug 4 2017 4:30PM

Legislature: give up your power. Use Brian Olson’s algorithm for compactness using census blocks.

Nathan Montgomery

Aug 4 2017 4:32PM

My request of the legislature during the redistricting process is simple: believe in democracy. Bizarre district boundaries are drawn for one reason only—because legislators are willing to sacrifice democratic fairness for political advantage.

Mrs. Martha Touchstone

Aug 4 2017 4:32PM

History has its eyes on you and me. The many, who have to actually live under these maps, until the maps are redrawn, will continue to meet and discuss what is happening in our government. This process must be ended in North Carolina, and across our country!

Mrs. Jeanne Barefoot

Aug 4 2017 4:35PM

I think they should have an independent group to accomplish redistricting.

Dr. Laura Bottomley

Aug 4 2017 4:38PM

I strongly support independent and non partisan redistricting.

Nathan Johnson

Aug 4 2017 4:40PM

Please hire an independent third party company to calculate and draw the voting districts according to population numbers only. Please do not redraw districts with regard to anything else like political status. Thank you for your service.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Message</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Pedro Morey</td>
<td>Aug 4 2017 4:40PM</td>
<td>I believe redistricting is causing a disruption in the communities best interest. Counties should be kept whole as prescribed by law. Cities and Towns should be kept as whole as possible. We should respect communities of interest. Race should not be a factor in the drawing of legislative districts. The courts should respect the role of the General Assembly, who under the Federal and State Constitutions and the laws of the State of North Carolina are responsible for redistricting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Heather Patisa</td>
<td>Aug 4 2017 4:43PM</td>
<td>I am a scientist and as such I want to see redistricting done in a fair, unbiased manner by a bipartisan independent commission. There are now mathematical and other scientific tools for minimizing gerrymandering (see, for example, the article in the June 7, 2017 issue of the prestigious journal Nature by Carrie Arnold) and removing partisan politics from the process. Past redistricting has been plagued by partisan, racial and other biases. Now is the time to rise above pettiness and establish a scientifically-sound redistricting process that is transparent and can be used now and going forward to ensure minimization of bias, adherence to constitutional principles, and preservation of the public interest, regardless of which political party is in change. NC residents deserve fair representation at the ballot box, regardless of political affiliation. Failing to ensure this basic right will further erode public confidence in their political leaders, and damage our democratically derived political principles. NC residents deserve fair representation at the ballot box, regardless of political affiliation. Failing to ensure this basic right will further erode public confidence in their political leaders, and damage our democratically derived political principles. Rigging the process to essentially create one party rule does not fit with the values upon which this state was established. Development of a scientifically-sound process will minimize the risk of either party succumbing to this enticing but ultimately autocratic temptation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Nguyen</td>
<td>Aug 4 2017 4:43PM</td>
<td>Please introduce legislation to prevent gerrymandering. Our votes should not be diluted. Gerrymandering and bad politics in Chicago made its debt balloon along with tax rates. Please do not do the same here in NC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Jane Small</td>
<td>Aug 4 2017 4:45PM</td>
<td>North Carolina deserves fair, reasonable maps and an independent, bipartisan panel to draw the maps. Districts should not be drawn based on race, political party, or other factor designed to give political advantage. The citizens of this state deserve a fair and transparent process, and if maps have already been drawn, we deserve to see them now and have the opportunity to comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Leslie Shaw</td>
<td>Aug 4 2017 4:46PM</td>
<td>Do NOT allow the same short-sighted irresponsible people who drew the gerrymandered unconstitutional districts to participate in the re-draw. How about a non-political oriented group or registered Independents do the re-draws AND have the courts check it out to make sure the same mistakes were not made YET AGAIN. STOP STALLING ! ! ! !</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
North Carolina should represent its citizens in a more truthful light. I strongly urge you to allow North Carolina voters like myself to see...
I would like to see a non-partisan body draw boundaries. This should be done in a data-driven way that is free from political agenda.

Instead of districting in order to keep certain members in power, you NEED to district in a fair and equitable manner for ALL voters in the state. The racial gerrymandering needs to STOP NOW.

I am an Precinct 16-05 Wake County. I have lived at this address since August, 1978. I am 74 years old. At my precinct, based on your street address and number, you could be in one of three Congressional Districts! This in and of itself should be totally illegal!!! In 1978, I was in 4. Then I was changed to 2. Then I was changed to 13. Now I am back in 4. My house is still on the same foundation, the neighborhood has not changed location. We are still 10 minutes from downtown Raleigh and I can throw a stone at Garner city limit sign. If this does not show how ridiculous and GERRYRIGGED our state is, nothing can. Neighbors should be voting for representatives who actually live in their area. I am tired of being represented by a lobbyist from Wake Forest in the State senate and a US congressional representative who lives in Smithfield and neither has any idea what his constituents need or want. Let an impartial panel be required. This has gone on long enough and has gotten to the criminal level now. It must be changed.

Redistricting should be left to non-partisan third parties, using nothing but the overall population of an area. No district should be in "snake" "spattering" shapes, but divide the state into equal sized chunks, straight lines and with no attempt to include or exclude any part of the population. What has been done up to this point is shameful and criminal in its execution. I do it right this time. Why not stop drawing maps and go let each county choose representation based on population? For example, Wilkes County (where I live) might have 1 representative and 1 senator while Mecklenburg might have 2 or 3 based on population.

These maps can be redrawn by non partisan computer programs in hours if not days. Please stop diluting votes and not letting democracy work. Non-partisan maps are vital to our state and people's belief in democracy. My vote should count the same regardless of where I live in the state, not which district you squish me into, to dilute my vote. Non partisan redistricting now.

In order to be in compliance with the order of the court and in the interest of fairness I urge you to establish an independent commission responsible for designing the voting districts in a nonpartisan and racially neutral manner. Thank you for your consideration.

I feel this legislative redistricting should be done by a non partisan, independent committee or computer algorithms. Neither Republican nor Democrat can be trusted with this very important redistricting as we have seen.. We need fair and last maps.

Why doesn't an INDEPENDENT commission do the redrawing? Having either party do it is just not intelligent. To say I and others are beyond disgusted at the current situation is putting it mildly. I am a life long Republican but honestly, Berger and his gang (this isn't all Republicans) care nothing about democracy or the state. Sigh.

Partisan gerrymandering should be illegal, when done by either party. Racial gerrymandering should be punishable by jail time. I am making my vote (and I vote every election) contingent on support for a nonpartisan independent redistricting board. Politicians should not be able to choose their own voters.

It is imperative that the new district lines are drawn by an independent non partisan contractor.

Don't hire the same mapmaker that got you into this legal mess in the first place. Independent and nonpartisan is the ONLY way to do this fairly.

The redistricting needs to be done by an independent committee. Elected officials should not be drawing their own districts. North Carolina still has a long way to go to make up for our lack of legislative professionalism, but we can certainly start with this...

I am an independent. There are more independence now North Carolina and then there have been ever. Please take this into consideration when the redistricting is done. I wish there would be an independent committee to address the redistricting so that there will be no more controversy regarding how things are assigned. It is a waste of time and money to do otherwise.

I am interested to see if the screwy district I am in will get fixed.

We need independent redistricting. Our state government has proven it is simply incapable of being impartial when it comes to partisan politics.
<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>6:11PM</td>
<td>Ms. Patricia Saylor</td>
<td>Districts should be drawn by an independent, NON PARTISAN body following reasonable, normal, existing political (cities, counties) and physical geographic lines. There should be guidance or an algorithm used to update them to reflect population changes after each census. The districts should NOT be influenced by which party is in power; whether Democrats or Republicans. I have lived in NC all my life, and my family has been here (in Durham and Caswell Counties) for more than 200 years. This state is balanced. The legislature is not. This situation is untenable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>6:11PM</td>
<td>Mr. Joshua Wilson</td>
<td>Dear Legislators, I greatly appreciate the opportunity to give feedback to the upcoming redistricting process. The image of the great state of North Carolina has been tainted by lot of negative press over the past few years, some for very good reasons. My family is from eastern North Carolina, and I am proud to say I have lived in this great state for over 23 years. During that time I have seen how successful we can be in driving the progress of North Carolina to become one of the most desirable states in the nation to live, work and visit. I believe that the redistricting process gives us a valuable opportunity to change the negative discourse of the past few years and demonstrate that North Carolina's state government is committed to being a fair and congruent representation of all people of this state. The only way to ensure this is accomplished is to have an independent committee of a cross-section of citizens, not Legislators, responsible for the redistricting process. Republicans and Democrats alike have their own interests and have shown through their actions over the years that they are unable to be truly impartial when redrawing districts. Having an independent committee is a huge step in the right direction to show that the state of North Carolina is committed to its citizens and willing to put partisan politics aside for the sake of our future. Thank you again for opening the door to discussion around this important issue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>6:18PM</td>
<td>Mr. Dorsey Dyer</td>
<td>Gerrymandering amounts to nothing less than an attack on democracy itself.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>6:28PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Katie Tate</td>
<td>I request that all redistricting is completed by a non-partisan entity that receives no political gain from lines drawn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>6:28PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Jacqueline Spear</td>
<td>I want the districts to reflect fairness - no racial profiling; no fancy boundaries to negate the effect of minority voters. We have the most hateful group of people governing NC and consistently hurting our economy as well as our health, education welfare. We need a better balance in Congress, a balance of ideas - not the current supermajority that is not representative of our population.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>6:28PM</td>
<td>Mr. Stan Cross</td>
<td>I urge the legislature to appoint an independent bi-partisan committee to draw new district maps in accordance with court mandates. It is clear that the racial gerrymandering is also patrician gerrymandering and only an independent body can bring legitimacy to this process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>6:28PM</td>
<td>Mr. Frederick Briggs</td>
<td>With all the discussion of partisanship in district lines, why don't we just use already established county lines? Algorithms and bipartisan committees are complicated. County lines are already established and are not up for interpretation or arbitrary adjustments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>6:28PM</td>
<td>Mr. Thomas Johnson</td>
<td>The Democrats were notorious for partisan redistricting and gerrymandering. The Republicans were supposed to better, or so I thought. Instead it has gotten even worse. My vote really doesn't seem to matter anymore. End partisan re districting now!!!!!! But that ain't gonna happen, is it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>6:35PM</td>
<td>Ms. Sara Singleton</td>
<td>Please appoint an independent commission to determine redistricting now and in the future. I am so heartbroken by my home state as an example in the news of what not to do to ensure everyone's vote counts equally. District boundaries should be determine solely by population and geopolitical virtue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>6:37PM</td>
<td>Mr. Brett Walden</td>
<td>Redistricting needs to happen. It would be nice if there were equal or close to equal population in each district and the districts were not so oddly shaped.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>6:38PM</td>
<td>Mr. Justin Eason</td>
<td>Gerrymandering is an erosion of democracy. It undermines the fundamental principles of each vote counting equally, and serves only to ensure that the partisan extremes from both sides have outsized representation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>6:39PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Susan Postlithwaite</td>
<td>It's a disgrace that redistricting is done by those who have a vested interest, no matter what party, with a view to skewing the voting process. If any redistricting needs to be done, then it should be done by an independent body. It's just corrupt government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>6:41PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Kathleen Dygert</td>
<td>Please draw districts fairly so no party is benefiting. It would be good to have confidence that our elections are fair and honest.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mrs. Anna Bobasheva  
Honorable Representatives,

As a concern NC citizen I urge you to please:
- adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps. The example of the state of Iowa just shows that this can be done efficiently and fairly.
- exclude political information like voter registration data, past election results or where incumbents live when drawing maps. Please do it on the basis of the non-partisan and non-racial demographics statistics.
Everyone deserves a fair vote that won’t be overwritten by the carefully selected majority.
- draw compact districts that keep communities together. Stop our great state of NC from being an example of the extreme gerrymandering.
- stop spending more of the taxpayers money on law suites brought by the current gerrymandered maps.

I hope these all can be done to honor all the citizens of our state.

Thank you very much.

Mr. Michael Holcombe

Keep it with county’s, then population. Don’t allow political party be a part of the choice.

Mr. Geary Jolley

As a NC and USA citizen I can’t stress enough the importance of having districts drawn where all votes matter. The public is very very cynical that ANYBODY in Government cares about them. I am cynical too. I don’t think anybody in Raleigh listens unless I send a very, very large campaign contribution. When districts are drawn so the election results are known in advance...that only deepens the public’s lack of trust. Districts should be drawn to represent not white, black, D or R. They should be drawn to represent the PEOPLE of this state.

Ms. Mary T Accardi

Please let this process be done by an independent commission to eliminate the blantant bipartisanship. It is time that this state showed integrity. Fairness and honesty and integrity are more than just words they are the tenants of our democracy. Do the right thing.

Mr. Jason Wills-Starin

I’d like to see the house and Senate districts focused around representing professions and causes, not just geography, but barring that, I’d like to have the post offices used to determine districts. Where a division is needed, the arbitrary routes of individual postal routes should be used, not party affiliation. Let the most efficient path through a neighborhood by a mail carrier determine routed.

Mrs. Staci Noel

Elected legislators should have absolutely no input in the drafting and drawing up of legislative districts. It's exactly the same as saying that an employee of a company should get to determine what dictates their ability to maintain their employment with a company. How can it ever not end up being a means to maintain their job and put their interests ahead of the people they work for? Independent groups who have no skin in the game are the only fair arbitors. While input can be sought from local politicians they should never have the final say.

Ms. Cathy Weaver

North Carolina needs independent redistricting that is fair for all citizens, not just for those who’s party is in power at the time. Competitive districts make lawmakers responsive to all citizens in the district rather than only the representative’s base.

Ms. Sheila Bumgarner

Please just do it geographically, and be done with it. You will be heroes. Everyone will be happy. And NC can stay out of the courts. Please put partisan issues aside in your redistricting procedure. Citizens deserve the right to be fairly and equitably represented by our elected officials. Stop the gerrymandering, and do what’s right for those who live here.

Ms. Sara Cavennaugh

Neither Republicans nor Democrats can be really trusted to draw fair and impartial maps. An Independent council should be established. They should use a computer algorithm for drawing out the most balanced districts possible. That process should be transparently audited and verified, with reports made open to the public, at every step should be used in order to protect against hacking and/or coding

I am in District 9, currently Robert Pittenger is our “representative”. Mr. Pittenger knows he is going to win because of the way our district is set up due to gerrymandering. As a result Mr. Pittenger doesn’t care what his constituents want or need. He only represents the people who vote for him. I’ve called his office, sent faxes and he has never acknowledged me. Our districts should be structured so all people have representation. The areas should be drawn geographically and should not be biased. Fair districts and elections will only benefit the State of North Carolina. Thank you for allowing us to comment.
I am someone who has voted fairly evenly between Republicans and Democrats, am independent of any party. I realize that when Democrats were in power, they gerrymandered for their side. That does not make it right for Republicans to do the same now that they are in power. It took a few years for Republicans to get power, in no small part because we the people were tired of no options. Remember that as you draw your little maps. It might take some effort, but there are enough independents who are tired of your crap that with the Democrats who solidly oppose you, you might lose that majority in a few years. It is sad to have to resort to those kinds of threats. You should do the right thing without fear or threat of reprisals. This state is conservative enough that you should not feel you need to resort to …

Making sure that each citizen has a vote that counts and that the districts are fair and truly represent the people in them is vital. It’s a part of the fabric of our state and our country which must be protected. I am grateful the courts ruled to fix this, so please fix it by using independent redistricting groups.

Please redraw the maps with the goal of restoring public confidence in the statewide election process. Focus on drawing districts with an equitable distribution of demographic groups that have a historical preference for both republicans and democrats. A growing proportion of the citizens of North Carolina have not only grown cynical about the legislature, they have lost confidence in the fair representation of the preferences constituents hold. If you fail to produce equitable redistricting, not only will You lose the. Incidence of NC citizens, many incumbents will lose their seats.

The current lines are unacceptable they way they are. My vote would be to make the lines straight, regardless of community size or natural landscape. Gerrymandering is a bigoted practice and we need to move away from that in North Carolina. Fair boundaries, not squiggly lines.

Hello - I'm writing to ask you to please show the public the new legislative district maps before further decisions are made regarding the revised districts.

North Carolinians understand that you've known for a long time that racially-gerrymandered legislative districts would need to be redrawn to satisfy equal protection requirements under the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act. Frankly, it's embarrassing to be called out by the federal courts multiple times over this. The most sensible thing to do in this situation is to create a bipartisan commission though it may be too late for that.

My hope is that the interests of all North Carolinians is a priority. Redistributing of the districts needs to be done in an independent, non-partisan way so that gerrymandering can be made obsolete & a think part of the past. I don't think it should be done in a way that it is proposed now because it screams of corruption of the system in its present form!!

Stop redistricting and gerrymandering!

We should have clear and balance districts that do favor parties or individuals. We cannot allow manipulation of districts to provide any type of advantage. Anything less than completely fair maps subvert the democratic landscape. Gerrymandering is a bigoted practice and we need to move away from that in North Carolina.

My vote would do the right thing without fear or threat of reprisals. This state is conservative enough that you should not feel you need to resort to …

Make sure, like school districting, it's fair. Not all the wealthy folks in one area, and all the poor people in another area. Have a bit of middle class, wealthy, and lower classes mixed in. That may be difficult in the country where only a few wealthy people live, but you could mix the middle class with the poor nonwhites.

Stop drawing districts with an equitable distribution of demographic groups that have a historical preference for both republicans and democrats. A growing proportion of the citizens of North Carolina have not only grown cynical about the legislature, they have lost confidence in the fair representation of the preferences constituents hold. If you fail to produce equitable redistricting, not only will You lose the. Incidence of NC citizens, many incumbents will lose their seats.

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Redistricting needs to be taken out of the hands of the politicians and be done in a non-partisan way. Also, mathematically speaking, an algorithm could be used that divided the population evenly keeping the lines as straight as possible which would avoid the potential of favoritism to either party. This could also be achieved by limiting the ratio between the size of a district and the size of the border. Being home to research triangle park, I know we have people here smart enough to accomplish this, so failure to do so just shows a favoritism towards one party.

Please set a system that doesn't allow gerrymandering of any kind, including partisan and racial gerrymandering. Let three be true representation. Thank you.

Redistricting should be done by an independent group from another state. North Carolina's districts are clearly gerrymandered,

The redistricting should be bipartisan drawn and transparent. The state should set a system that doesn't allow gerrymandering of any kind, including partisan and racial gerrymandering. Let three be true representation. Thank you.

As a voting resident of North Carolina, it makes sense that the only way to ensure a fair and equitable redistricting map to send it to an independent group. Either party, democrat or republican, will tend to draw maps to favor their own party and further their goals. North Carolina has had issues in the past (both parties) of gerrymandering and the only fair way to ensure the playing field is level is to let a nonpartisan group handle the drawing.

Thank you for your time,
Dr. Erin Lubin
Please consider a neutral, independent body composed of non-politicians to create impartial districts. So long as those elected to office have the power to create districts, they will always be created in a manner to benefit those holding the majority of power. Districts should be balanced to accurately reflect the overall partisan makeup of the population.

Mr. Dennis Burns
The GA should adopt an objective non-partisan system like Iowa, Ohio and several other states so North Carolina has more competitive elections. In our diverse state, it is absurd that 90% of the 2016 legislative races were not competitive and it leads to Legislators beholden only to extreme left and right groups. Collaboration is discouraged and problems are not solved which is hurting our business particularly in innovation in which I work. Fix it now!

William Mackin
Please appoint an independent commission that draws the district lines for all seats without politicians influencing the process. No district is legitimate if any are drawn to help a party of politician. Everyone knows that is how it should be done. The current system has put our nation and state in jeopardy. It is hard to call our elected officials representatives when they thwarted the will of the voters to entrench themselves.

Jodie Lones
Why is this not done by computer? It seems a logical answer and would eliminate any biases.

Ms. Melissa Tuttle
It has been shown that when people who have an interest in maintaining power are willing to mess with redistricting in order to do so - a VASTLY undemocratic activity - they will inevitably take advantage of any chance to do so.

I STRONGLY urge you to make our representative republic REPRESENTATIVE again, by finding a panel of people without incentive to mess with the lines. It's time to make politics, not machines, the result.

Ms. Felice Nord
I am in favor of an independent counsel to determine future redistricting. Technology has made it too easy for a political party to manipulate the districts to influence how people are elected based on grouping together voters that favor one party vs another. It can be done with such precision that it's has become undemocratic, not allowing all voices to be heard.

Mrs. Samantha Register
The people of North Carolina deserve a fair and INDEPENDENT redistricting process that favors neither party. I'm tired of being known as the state with the most racist gerrymandering in the nation. It is my sincere hope that the state will take strong action to restore our image on the national stage.

Mr. David Vaughan
Please, please, please get an independent commission to perform this.

Or a group of 4th graders. The current scheme INCOURAGES THE EXTREMES of both parties, leaving us with EXTREME CANDIDATES as our only choices, and driving good people out of politics, and driving friends and families apart!

PLEASE!

Ms. Alison Hilton
Legislative districts should be drawn in such a way as to ensure that our elected representation reflects the proportion of registered voters for a given party in that district. Districts should not be drawn in such a way as to limit the representation and influence of a specific party or group of voters. We would all benefit from a true democracy in which there is debate and compromise and in which everyone’s voice is heard. There is no legitimate reason for there to be a super majority in the NCGA. Our state does not have a super majority of voters for one party. The citizens of the state and the rest of the country are watching you. Do the right thing.

Jeff Jones
What about limiting the number of acute vertices in the polygon represented on the map to no more that 10 or 12?

Ms. Dayna Ferguson
Please select and independent group/commission to draw the line for the new districts. The state has lost so much money and disenfranchised many voters by the illegal and improperly drawn districts. Let’s do this right this time.

Mr. Mark Bullock
Be non-partisan. Let a computer program do it with minimum input from humane.
The districts should reflect one person one vote. They should be equal in population size. The districts should be compact and contiguous -- they should make sense. In creating the districts, communities should not be divided. Make efforts to respect county lines. If a county must be split, a clear and honest explanation must be presented. In creating the districts, addresses of lawmakers -- current or past, party affiliation, voting history of voters or any other data to help a politician or party should not be used. Before the districts are approved they must demonstrate party competitiveness and no racial bias.

The maps should ensure that voters choose their elected officials and not that politicians choose their voters.

You should be ashamed of the way you've twisted a supposedly democratic system in your favor. Residents of North Carolina deserve fair, democratic districting.

In my opinion the redistricting should be done impartially. All candidates should be given an equal opportunity to be elected by the people. The district should reflect one person one vote. They should be equal in population size.

In my opinion the redistricting should be done by an independent statistician living outside the state with no connections to either party in North Carolina. The statistician should cite his or her methods for redrawing the districts in a white paper. That white paper should be reviewed by a board of other statisticians. Once the districts are determined there should be a re-vote for those districts and all legislation votes by those politicians losing the election should be nullified.

Thank you for allowing the public input. I have a few brief points, most of which you have heard today but all bear repeating.

* The districts should reflect one person one vote. They should be equal in population size.

* The districts should be compact and contiguous -- they should make sense.

* In creating the districts, communities should not be divided. Make efforts to respect county lines. If a county must be split, a clear and honest explanation must be presented.

* In creating the districts, addresses of lawmakers -- current or past, party affiliation, voting history of voters or any other data to help a politician or party should not be used.

* Before the districts are approved they must demonstrate party competitiveness and no racial bias.

* The maps should ensure that voters choose their elected officials and not that politicians choose their voters.

Redistricting should be done impartially. All candidates should be given an equal opportunity to be elected by the people. That is how a democracy is intended to function and the ideals on which this country was founded. Conceived in liberty and dedicated to the principle that all are created equally. Restore the power to the people. Neither party should manipulate districts to stay in power. That is fundamentally not American. Be patriots and do the right thing.

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The maps should ensure that voters choose their elected officials and not that politicians choose their voters.

"Our state's lawmakers have demonstrated time and time again, on both sides of the aisle, that neither Democrats nor Republicans should be trusted nor tasked with determining the size and shape of North Carolina's voting districts. The time has come to show the rest of our country just how impartial and bipartisan our deeply diverse state can be.

I call for the establishment of an independent council for the purposes of determining how the voting districts in North Carolina should be drawn, ensuring that the new boundaries be established in order to best serve all North Carolinians, and for complete transparency both during the establishment of said council and while our new voting map is being created.

Racism is a blight that our state has been choking on for centuries, and archaic fears still have too many imaginary teeth. Let's work together, with integrity and honor, to finally kill the social monsters.

2023 Aug 4 2017 9:47PM Mr. Robert Peterson Please get an independent committee to take care of redistricting voting districts. Gerrymandering has caused nothing but anger on either side of the aisle.

2024 Aug 4 2017 9:54PM Ms. Brett Batchelder Just redistrict without regard to anything. It will not be perfect and it will tweaked until the next redistricting! Get over it!

2025 Aug 4 2017 9:56PM Micah Lasovsky Our state's lawmakers have demonstrated time and time again, on both sides of the aisle, that neither Democrats nor Republicans should be trusted nor tasked with determining the size and shape of North Carolina's voting districts. The time has come to show the rest of our country just how impartial and bipartisan our deeply diverse state can be.

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Racism is a blight that our state has been choking on for centuries, and archaic fears still have too many imaginary teeth. Let's work together, with integrity and honor, to finally kill the social monsters.

2026 Aug 4 2017 10:03PM Ms. Susan Drakeford Appoint a bipartisan, independent commission to draw the district maps creating the boundaries along existing natural and community boundaries. Both parties have proven they cannot be trusted to draw fair districts. Regain the trust of North Carolinians and create an independent commission to draw district Maps, similarly to other states such as AZ and CA.

2027 Aug 4 2017 10:04PM Dr. Cary Hatton The Redistricting should be done by an independent commission selected by bipartisan (4:4) group requiring a majority agreement to each commissioner.

2028 Aug 4 2017 10:09PM Mr. JOSEPH HEGYI III We've allowed our state and our nation to be torn apart for far too long. We must devise a way to fairly and justly apportion districts so that the choice of the people is always represented and not the partisan choice of a few.

2029 Aug 4 2017 10:11PM Mr. Craig dollar It is clear that this technique is simply a political tool, and it goes against the spirit of democracy. Let all of the people be heard equally, the way it should be.

2030 Aug 4 2017 10:17PM Ms. Lara Lustig How about we use math and NONPARTISAN committees to create districts that fairly and accurately represent the people of our state?

2031 Aug 4 2017 10:17PM Ms. Terry Austin Your maps so far have been contrary to equal representation of all voters, not to mention devious and despicable. See if you can create maps that the courts won't throw out for a third time. Three strikes and you're out!

2032 Aug 4 2017 10:19PM Mr. William Piner Voters' right to have their votes counted equally and fairly shouldn't be a partisan football that gets kicked around every time the legislature changes hands. Judicial oversight of electoral maps is good, but an independent, nonpartisan redistricting committee would be best.

2033 Aug 4 2017 10:25PM Mr. Jason Krause Please consider moving the responsibility for drawing legislative districts to a non-partisan group. The current legal challenges and past actions of both parties have shown that it is nearly impossible for a self-interested political party to fairly design legislative districts. Shifting to a neutral organization will ensure districts are drawn with equal representation in mind for the citizens of its respective districts. This neutrality will also help prevent legal challenges to a district's constitutionality and thereby concurrently saving tax payers the burden of paying for such legal proceedings.

2034 Aug 4 2017 10:30PM Ms. Molly Martin We are tired of being embarrassed and ashamed of the clear racism on display by the GOP gerrymandering. If our current legislature is unwilling or unable to draw districts without trying to stifle voters' voices, then get an independent organization or a truly bipartisan one to do so.

Stop making North Carolina look like it's nothing but nast racists playing dirty politics with voters' rights. Stop making North Carolina look like it's nothing but nast racists playing dirty politics with voters' rights.

Racism is a blight that our state has been choking on for centuries, and archaic fears still have too many imaginary teeth. Let's work together, with integrity and honor, to finally kill the social monsters.
It is essential that redistricting be done in a fair, nonpartisan manner. The power of democracy is to have each person within it to have the power to vote with the chance for change when change is needed. For the maps to be drawn in a manner that essentially guarantees a specific outcome for a generation, we have lost the power of a strong democracy. There are scientific ways to draw district maps to make them fair, and out of partisan hands. I hope that these are reviewed. At a minimum, I hope that the individual political parties are removed from the process so that our democracy can remain strong, and each vote can matter.

The current districts are designed to make North Carolina democracy-proof! NCGA should adopt the map developed by an independent bi-partisan committee. The courts have now upheld the view that districts are racially gerrymandered and legally obligated the state to redraw them. This is not a task that can be left to either party, to the legislature itself, or to the judicial branch. The current governor - the chief executive of the state - should have the sole authority to appoint an impartial panel of five citizens (none of whom may be attorneys or have any demonstrated ties to political parties, legislators, lobbying firms, or companies that contract with lobbying firms), advised by the attorney general of the state with the ongoing and active supervision, to draw new districts that are fair to the entire electorate within those districts and can not possibly be deemed by any reasonable person to favor any race or political party. These appointments should be lifetime appointments who may not be removed except for convictions of high crimes and felonies, behavior unbecoming the office (including but not limited to taking or paying bribes, fees, or contributions to any public official), or crimes of moral turpitude. On their death, retirement, or resignation, they may be replaced only by the governor, who shall have sole authority in perpetuity to make such appointments, which must then be ratified by the voters in the districts to be redrawn. Any public official or private citizen who interferes with this process in any manner whatsoever, including attempts to usurp the authority of the governor to make and have ratified such appointments using legal action through any court, payments of bribes, fees, or fees to lobbying firms engaged to influence the appointment process, shall be guilty of a felony offense, punishable by life in prison without possibility of parole, have the entirety of their assets seized, and have their voting rights permanently revoked with no possibility of reinstatement. This governor's power to make and have ratified such appointments may be revoked for cause only by the GA, the GA could then approve for maps to be used.

Districts should be chunks of territory, with no bizarre tendrils. The popular vote percentages should at least roughly reflect the party split in the legislature. Thanks.

The current districts are the legacy of hundreds of years of racist thought, action, and legislation. The courts have now upheld the view that districts are racially gerrymandered and legally obligated the state to redraw them. Districts should be fair to the entire electorate within those districts and can not possibly be deemed by any reasonable person to favor any race or political party. These appointments should be lifetime appointments who may not be removed except for convictions of high crimes and felonies, behavior unbecoming the office (including but not limited to taking or paying bribes, fees, or contributions to any public official), or crimes of moral turpitude. On their death, retirement, or resignation, they may be replaced only by the governor, who shall have sole authority in perpetuity to make such appointments, which must then be ratified by the voters in the districts to be redrawn. Any public official or private citizen who interferes with this process in any manner whatsoever, including attempts to usurp the authority of the governor to make and have ratified such appointments using legal action through any court, payments of bribes, fees, or fees to lobbying firms engaged to influence the appointment process, shall be guilty of a felony offense, punishable by life in prison without possibility of parole, have the entirety of their assets seized, and have their voting rights permanently revoked with no possibility of reinstatement. 

The power of democracy is to have each person within it to have the power to vote with the chance for change when change is needed. Redistricting according to race or political affiliation undermines the legitimacy of our elections. Gerrymandering is destructive to democracy and freedom.

As citizens, we deserve fair and impartial elections and with that fair voting districts and fair voting laws. Enough with the egregious gerrymandering. It is immoral. It goes against everything that our country stands for! You call yourselves patriots, don't you? It's time to act like it.
I want independent redistricting to be law. No politician should be in this MUST be accomplished by a bi-partisan group!

Both Democrats and Republicans have abused gerrymandering to partisan advantage and the detriment of our state as a whole. Independent redistricting by a nonpartisan panel is the fairest long-term solution to ensure competitive districts where the best ideas and vision for our state prevail. Although no method is perfect, independent panels avoid many of the problems of gerrymandering that are embarrassing our state on a national level. I urge the State Assembly to create nonpartisan panels with representation from both parties to draw our new legislative districts.

I want redistricting done by a computer program using population density and traffic patterns (which would indicate the outerlying populations interaction with population centers). I specifically want party affiliations and past voting records data completely out of the equation. Would also expect psychographic and demographic information not to be included. I'm pretty sure that SAS or IBM would be able to do this very quickly and at a very reasonable fee (perhaps free... just for the good of the state).

I am disgusting that you politicians think it's okay to try to gerrymander our city for your political gains. We DO NOT want redistricting in our city. I thought you were conservatives who wanted to not microgovern. So stay out of our elections. My comment about redistricting is NO NO NO!

Redistricting needs to take into account population, not population demographics, or we get the Wyoming voter=California voter syndrome in our fair state.

I think redistricting should be done by an independent third party.

I hope you see this as an opportunity to restore faith in our democracy and must be stopped.

I want redistricting done by an independent third party. An independent third party can help us, the citizens of North Carolina. Don't win because you stacked the deck.

I want independent redistricting by a nonpartisan panel of representation from both parties to create nonpartisan panels with representation from both parties to avoid many of the problems of gerrymandering that are embarrassing our state on a national level. I urge the State Assembly to create nonpartisan panels with representation from both parties to draw our new legislative districts.

I think the districts should be re-drawn by a non-partisan third party.

I swear to god, if the insane shapes of districts continue to form as they have, our supreme court would not even have to get involved. Fix the mess all of you have created of our state and let us, the voting public, decide who represents the people of North Carolina. I expect my vote to matter in choosing representatives who are responsive, reflective, and accountable to me and my community. Unfortunately, I do not believe this to be case because you have manipulated election districts to choose your voters, rather than having voters choose you. Please do not allow a lust for power and influence to erode the democratic principles that have long predated you and will long outlast you.

Please do what's right here. The makeup of our representatives should reflect the will of the people and not the underhanded way that it has been done before. Will you give up your integrity to win at all costs? Even if it means disenfranchising the people that you are charged to represent? Win on the basis of your ideas and how you can help us, the citizens of North Carolina. Don't win because you cheated the public.

I think the districts should be re-drawn by a non-partisan third party.

I hope you see this as an opportunity to restore faith in our democratic process and ensure that the General Assembly truly represents the people of North Carolina. I expect my vote to matter in choosing representatives who are responsive, reflective, and accountable to me and my community. Unfortunately, I do not believe this to be the case because you have manipulated election districts to choose your voters, rather than having voters choose you. Please do not allow a lust for power and influence to erode the democratic principles that have long predated you and will long outlast you.

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I think the districts should be re-drawn by a non-partisan third party.

An impartial and bipartisan committee should be in charge of drawing the districts. Both Democrats and Republicans have a history of partisan committee to ensure fairness in the interest of the state's citizens/voters. The racially motivated gerrymandering is an assault on democracy and must be stopped.

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Redistricting needs to take into account population, not population demographics, or we get the Wyoming voter=California voter syndrome in our fair state.

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Good Morning

My vote has been watered down by the constant gerrymandering that the General Assembly has done over the years. The one man one vote rule has not been followed during the last three or more redistricting. It seems that during these redistricting events Democrats were placed into a relatively few congressional districts to ensure that the Republican party was well represented in Washington DC. Locally, when you redrew the State Senatorial district, he ran unopposed in 2014 because IMHO no Republican could win in this district because the General Assembly packed every Democrat Voting Precincts from Cumberland County in this district. https://www2.census.gov/geo/maps/dc10map/SUD_RefMap/upper/st37_nc/sldu37021/DC10SLDU37021_001.pdf, which does not meet the one man one vote rule.

Thank you for your time.

Gary V. Ritz
Non-Affiliated Voter 21st Senatorial District of the State of North Carolina

Mr. David Hill
Dear Sir or Madam:

Take the politics out of the redistricting. Should be a bipartisan process. The citizens of this state are not being served by an unresponsive legislature.

Thank you.

Larry Pendry
Avoid dividing parts of counties into more than one district.

Catherine Cambier
Please do the right thing and redraw district lines according to population number, political affiliation should not be a consideration. Allow us to have congressmen and senators who truly represent the population of their district. It is the right thing to do.

Michaela DuBay
What is fair or balanced about the legislators themselves drawing district lines? They should be drawn by an independent commission. People who run for office in the districts should not be drawing them. It's akin to insider trading.

Christie Rife
There must be a non-partisan, independent group creating these districts. No more taking turns between parties to draw the lines that give them an advantage.

Mrs. Alysia Ross
I personally have found it upsetting that legislators are so comfortable in their seats that they don't even bother to meet with constituents. My state senator's staff looked up my party affiliation and would not meet with me "because I probably didn't vote for him". Really? Even if I didn't vote for him, he represents me. Because he is so comfortable in his district, he can say and do things like this with no repercussions at the ballot box. It strips me, one of the people, of my power.

Do the right thing. Draw fair districts.

Mr. Nevin Absher
Having seen both political parties gerrymander districts to their own benefit, I see no recourse but to allow a non-partisan committee perform the redistricting with no political information provided at all. To me this is the only way that the people of North Carolina can be represented correctly by our government. Anything less than that will cause future questions about the legitimacy of our representation. Thank you for requesting comments and listening to the citizens of North Carolina!

Ms. Diana Brewster
Let’s stop exploiting this sad undemocratic practice of parties redrawing the voting districts to suit themselves. Let’s have North Carolina step up and lead our country toward ethical democratic practice by having a non-partisan process for redistricting. There can be good use made of computer programs to do this fairly while respecting the true character of various geographical districts in North Carolina. Let’s put an end to gerrymandering. We expect our elected representatives to hold themselves accountable first and foremost to the people, not to their party. There is nothing in the Constitution about political parties. Let’s all try and remember that.

Mr. Robert Coster
Please consider an independent non-partisan committee to establish districts based on population not voting records. Let’s bring some dignity back into politics.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Message</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2079</td>
<td>Aug 5 2017</td>
<td>7:43AM</td>
<td>Tessa Dyer</td>
<td>Having an independent body drawing our legislative district maps is absolutely crucial to democracy. Only in the US do elected officials get to choose their own districts. It has become clear that humans, given power, cannot be trusted to fairly draw the districts that they will represent. This is true not just of one side of the aisle - I am equally outraged about the gerrymandering that Democrats are doing in other states (and, let's be honest, they will do again when the pendulum ultimately swings back and gives Democrats the majority here in NC.) The only way we can have faith in a democratic process where we fairly elect leaders to represent us is to remove our elected officials from the drawing of the legislative district maps. Thank you for your time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2080</td>
<td>Aug 5 2017</td>
<td>7:45AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Jessica Rotenberg</td>
<td>A friend helped us come up with this list but this is what we want to see. Politically Neutral – No addresses of candidates or incumbents should be used, and residents’ voting histories should not be considered. Compact and Contiguous – Voters within a district should not be unnecessarily dispersed, and no voting district may be geographically divided, or split, by another district, i.e. all portions of a district must connect. Respect Boundaries – Avoid dividing counties and municipalities where possible. Protect Communities of Interest – Avoid dividing communities of interest where possible. Communities of interest typically have social, cultural, racial, ethnic, and/or economic interests in common. Transparent Process – The process of creating maps should be transparent, providing maps as soon as possible, live-streaming meetings, and allowing the public to provide suggestions for changes to the draft maps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2081</td>
<td>Aug 5 2017</td>
<td>7:48AM</td>
<td>Mr. Mike Hambourger</td>
<td>Please do your jobs this time. The previous, illegal, districts were a farce. Long squiggly districts a hundred miles long and an twenty feet wide. Do you think the public is too stupid to recognize the true objective. Please do not game the system. Democracy is supposed to represent all citizens. You undermine the core principles of our democracy if you gerrymander districts. Clean, simple districts that reflect one geographic area, please. Do it now and get it right this time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2082</td>
<td>Aug 5 2017</td>
<td>7:52AM</td>
<td>Mr. Alirio Estevez</td>
<td>Please, leave partisanship out of redistricting. We the people need to choose our representatives and not the other way around. Allow an independent, non-partisan commission to design the districts. It would be fair for democrats, republicans and the public in general.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2083</td>
<td>Aug 5 2017</td>
<td>7:52AM</td>
<td>Ms. Linda Sperath</td>
<td>Please give us fair and logical voting districts in NC. Taking what is not yours is wrong, and the same applies to gerrymandering for political gain (choosing your voters instead of letting them choose you). It doesn’t matter that both parties have done it, it’s still wrong. NC will be a stronger and better state if governing choices are made by the people’s representatives, accurately reflecting their views and preferences. We need to return to our role as a progressive southern state and leave the shame of recent events and policies behind us. Thank you for your service to our state and its citizens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2084</td>
<td>Aug 5 2017</td>
<td>8:02AM</td>
<td>Maria Powers</td>
<td>Please consider the use of independent contractors to redraw the maps. Tax dollars have been wasted defending the past maps. There will be challenges to the new maps if independents are not used. Enough is enough.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2085</td>
<td>Aug 5 2017</td>
<td>8:03AM</td>
<td>Kate Scott</td>
<td>I'm pleased that the general assembly will be working to correct the racially drawn lines of our districts that have led to unnatural power balances within our state. We need our districts to reflect the actual proportion of people's political views in this state. In order to ensure that the process is fair and transparent, I urge you to keep the public informed at every step of the way and allow for additional comments and input. Additionally, I would prefer that a non-partisan 3rd party take on the redistricting. However, since that is not yet the required practice, I would urge the Republicans to engage Democrats in the process and draw lines that have bi-partisan support. This will be important for public support and healing within our state.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2086</td>
<td>Aug 5 2017</td>
<td>8:04AM</td>
<td>Ms. Cheryl Vering</td>
<td>There are computer programs that can create districts based on compactness, and logical geographical boundaries, USE ONE.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2087</td>
<td>Aug 5 2017</td>
<td>8:07AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Dwan Dorman</td>
<td>I urge you to work together to redraw voting districts that are fair and non-partisan. We deserve for our votes to count. Thank you!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2088</td>
<td>Aug 5 2017</td>
<td>8:12AM</td>
<td>Mr. Michael Raible</td>
<td>Can we at least agree that competition improves the quality of public service? Then it stands to reason that we should draw competitive districts for the Senate and the House. I have a difficult time explaining to my grandchildren who are now heavily involved in sports, that we have drawn political districts so that we don't have to compete because that's what the other party did when they were in power. Let's be better than that and level the playing field. I believe if we field a better team, they will win. We don't have to cheat to do so. Thank you for listening.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Aug 5 2017  8:15AM  Ms. Kate Green  Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I would like to see redistricting done in a bipartisan way. With input from both parties. Better yet an independent committee made up of both parties. We need to be fair and stop the partisanship by both parties.

Aug 5 2017  8:16AM  Mr. D. Rex Miller  I demand fair electoral districts and an end to gerrymandering. Politicians, of both parties, shouds win or lose on their merits, not because they or their party essentially hand picked their voters.

Aug 5 2017  8:16AM  Samuel Smith  End gerrymandering!

Aug 5 2017  8:18AM  Mr. Jason Howard  I think redistricting should be done by a non-partisan group using methods found to be impartial and fair. https://sanford.duke.edu/articles/nonpartisan-redistricting-panel-reveals-unofficial-nc-congressional-voting-mao

Aug 5 2017  8:18AM  Susan Pardue  No more gerrymandering. We need nonpartisan redistricting commissions to draw up fair districts so that packing is a thing of the past. Everyone's vote should be equal. Stop your partisan hackery. If you cannot remain in office without resorting to these games, you do not deserve to be there.

Aug 5 2017  8:20AM  Jason Thomas  Quit making North Carolina a laughing stock. You can start by making the districts fair. I'm an Independent voter that has been a Republican and a Democrat. I will never vote Republican again and actively encourage people not to if you can't get this mess straightened out.

Aug 5 2017  8:22AM  Ms. Corinne Russell  Maps should neither dilute nor enhance a vote. Follow the laws designed to protect the vote of all persons.

Aug 5 2017  8:24AM  Ms. Zola Packman  One man, one vote. Revised: One person, one vote. We need districts based on geography and population, not party politics. Please establish standards for creation of voting districts that will bypass the uphill efforts of all parties.

Aug 5 2017  8:26AM  Mrs. Deborah Thomas  "I am in favor of the establishment of an INDEPENDENT council for the purposes of determining how the voting districts in North Carolina should be drawn, ensuring that the new boundaries be established in order to best serve all North Carolinians, and for COMPLETE TRANSPARENCY both during the establishment of said council and while our new votins mao is being created."

Aug 5 2017  8:28AM  Mr. Thomas Warren  I believe voting districts must be drawn to be compact, coinciding with cities and towns and not splittings counties. Districts must be contiguous, not merely joined at the corners. Districts must be drawn to follow state and federal law, including the voting rights act. Finally, districts must be drawn to ignore all partisan factors, including voter registration, voter turnout, past election results, and the residence of incumbents.

Aug 5 2017  8:30AM  Ms. Judith Shay  The current redistricting in NC is required due to the blatant abuse based on race that has been recognized by the court system. However, I am opposed to all 'gerrymandering' as I believe it diminishes the right of one citizen and one vote as outlined in the Constitution. Because gerrymandering can be designed to increase the number of wasted votes among the electorate, the relative representation of particular groups can be drastically altered from their actual share of the voting population. This effect can significantly prevent a gerrymandered system from achieving proportional and descriptive representation, as the winners of elections are increasingly determined by who is drawing the districts rather than the preferences of the voters. Both parties have found this to be to their advantage and disadvantage. As an independent voter (part of growing rights act.

Aug 5 2017  8:36AM  Ms. Lynne Kane  NC, and every state, must have voting districts for any and all offices that provide one person, one vote. Please do not attempt to choose the voters for a political party or racial identity or economic status in legislative districts. Let NC be a model for the US. Thank you.

Aug 5 2017  8:38AM  Charlotte Dungan  The only way to ensure democracy is carried out to reflect the will of the people is to draw districts with an independent commission. Gervymandering from either party must end!

Aug 5 2017  8:44AM  Dorothy Jordan  Please consider using an algorithm to draw the new districts. Or some method that would take politics out of it. Thank you.

Aug 5 2017  8:47AM  Mrs. Deborah Wilkes  most won't feel it is a truly level playing field unless an independent panel redraws the district's. politicians should not be in charge of this.

Aug 5 2017  8:50AM  Dr. Anne York  Please just be fair to all. This should not be politicized, which is why an objective third party should do it, not the biased people that created what we have now. And get it done. I am sick of your spending our State's money on unconstitutional activities that have to be litigated in court.

Aug 5 2017  8:54AM  Mr. Robert Garmhausen  Needs to be done by a non-partisan 3rd party, or computer algorithm that will fairly draw the districts. The current system is breaking our democracy, electing reps that don't represent us.
Dr. Karen Geiger

August 5, 2017, 8:58 AM

I am calling on you for fair maps, one person, one vote! NC voters deserve a process for drawing political district maps that is fair and open; avoids racial or partisan gerrymandering; and allows voters to pick their political representative, not the other way around. I urge you to follow best practices for drawing nonpartisan districts. These include criteria that districts must be compact, coinciding with cities and towns and avoiding splitting counties. It must be contiguous, meaning that the districts are not merely joined at the corners; follow state and federal law, such as the Voting Rights Act; and ignore all partisan factors such as voter turnout, past election results, and the residence of incumbents. Thank you for your time.

Jeff Bohan

August 5, 2017, 9:00 AM

Redistricting should be done by an independent board, it should not be controlled by republicans or democrats. Get politics out of redistricting!!!

Mrs. Lalena Haro

August 5, 2017, 9:01 AM

Stop foot-dragging! Elections aren't that far away, and as an AARP official, we don't forget and we do vote...en masse.

Here's some guidelines, if you need help:

* Compact, coinciding with cities and towns and avoiding splitting counties;
* Contiguous, meaning that the districts are not merely joined at the corners;
* Follow state and federal law, such as the Voting Rights Act;
* Ignore all partisan factors such as voter registration, voter turnout, past election results, and the residence of incumbents.

Ms. Wendi Gratz

August 5, 2017, 9:01 AM

I've seen some districts drawn by computer that make perfect sense. The time has come to take politicians out of the redistricting process. Redistricting should be done by an independent board, it should not be controlled by republicans or democrats. Get politics out of redistricting!!!

Dr. Karen Geiger

August 5, 2017, 9:01 AM

Please establish an independent commission who will put aside their racism, classism, and political party to create a way to set up districts to truly represent the people in our state and repair our reputation.

Mrs. Natasha Fisher

August 5, 2017, 9:20 AM

Districts should not be drawn in a way that intentionally influences election outcomes. Doing so should disqualify one for public service. This is more embarrassing for our state than the 3 of our cities being in the top 25 opioid abusers then "accidentally" cutting mental health and substance abuse services even further, the amount of profit our MCO's are allowed to sit on, and the ingorance of HB2. Please ensure that redistricting follows a fair process to ensure representation for all people and find it in yourselves to separate your personal interests. It is not republicans against dems, it's a full state of people and families who elect you and pay for you and we allow you to make decisions for all of us in this state. It is a unmoral low to attempt to draw districts to influence desired outcomes for any specific party. Shame on this state. Do better.

Ann Alford

August 5, 2017, 9:22 AM

The time has come to take politicians out of the redistricting process. Why not use zip codes to draw the maps? With multiple media sources available to ordinary citizens, it is easy for voters to witness your egregious behavior and your attempt to corrupt our democratic process.

Ms. Denise Long

August 5, 2017, 9:19 AM

Redistricting cannot be done fairly by legislators who have the incentive to keep their own political party in power. It should be done by the courts or an independent commission. Otherwise, our democracy is a sham.

Mrs. Natasha Fisher

August 5, 2017, 9:20 AM

Districts should not be drawn in a way that intentionally influences election outcomes. Doing so should disqualify one for public service. This is more embarrassing for our state than the 3 of our cities being in the top 25 opioid abusers then "accidentally" cutting mental health and substance abuse services even further, the amount of profit our MCO's are allowed to sit on, and the ingorance of HB2. Please ensure that redistricting follows a fair process to ensure representation for all people and find it in yourselves to separate your personal interests. It is not republicans against dems, it's a full state of people and families who elect you and pay for you and we allow you to make decisions for all of us in this state. It is a unmoral low to attempt to draw districts to influence desired outcomes for any specific party. Shame on this state. Do better.

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J Lettieri

August 5, 2017, 9:28 AM

Please do the right thing that accurately reflects our state and is compact and contiguous.

Follow state and federal law.

Be drawn without considering partisan factors like voter registration, results of previous elections, voter turnout and where the incumbent lives.

Thank you.

Dr. Keith Allen

August 5, 2017, 9:37 AM

Here we are again. THE SAME group of zealots which has repeatedly, and illegally, gerrymandered our legislature is on board to do it again. They've squandered millions of NC taxpayer dollars defending their illicit behavior, and they assure us "Hey, we'll get it right THIS time!" No they won't, because they don't want to get it right! They're perfectly content to continue their shoddy, cowardly game, the voting public be damned. It's long past time for the courts to hold these sad clowns accountable for their actions, but, in fact, they're now doing their damnedest to gerrymander the courts, too. The REAL voter fraud in NC is in this legislature's drive to prevent "the wrong" people from voting, and rig the system as much as, and for as long as, possible.

Do away with this crassly charade! Let an INDEPENDENT, BI-PARTISAN COMMISSION re-District! Or GO TO JAIL, where you...
Mr. Jared Buckner

Greetings,

Part of the problem of redistricting stems from the perception that, because humans are responsible for the entirety of the map, it follows that the map is inherently partisan, carrying with it the biases of its drafters. A computer can be used to draw districts impartially -- if instructed impartially -- but there is little political will to give up the power of redistricting in its fullness to a bureau of technocrats.

I would propose that North Carolina take the time to develop and implement a computer-aided approach to redistricting. This approach limits the ability of either party to fully control election results by arbitrary boundary determination, yet retains for the parties the ability to select from among "fair" maps those best suited for the State and its communities. What follows is a description of one form of this approach. Other forms may also be suitable.

A district map seeks to satisfy two requirements: To ensure proportional representation, every district should have a nearly equal population. To reflect its constituency, districts should not divide communities. These requirements are in many ways at odds when drafting boundaries, for individuals may belong to conflicting communities of work, school, and church; these are also of different sizes and natures.

For the purpose of redistricting our State should be divided first into small indivisible geographic communities -- townships, for example -- and then joined into the appropriate number of contiguous regions. A computer can generate a myriad of such maps. How do we determine which ones are suitable for consideration? Each map is given two scores based on how well it meets the two requirements.
I hope that you will take VERY seriously the task of redrawing Mr. Barry Cheney

It would greatly simplify redistricting if counties were not divided into Helen Williams

I want fairly drawn voting districts for North Carolina. I am tired of Some countries address gerrymandering by tasking nonpartisan

Redistricting needs to be taken out of the hands of politicians. They Mr. Jonathan Schneider

History lesson for those of you who have forgotten: Voters are supposed to pick their representatives not the other way around. And make it random. That's the only way to prevent either party from using Ms. Rebecca LaPrade

Redistricting needs to be put into the hands of a nonpartisan Mr. Jeff Wehrheim

I want fairly drawn voting districts for North Carolina. I am tired of the system for personal benefit. Mr. Jeff Wehrheim

I want to see these criteria used to create maps for NC Senate and Mr. Jonathan Schneider

This is the only way to prevent either party from using the system for personal benefit. Ms. Diane Lemieux

Mr. Barry Cheney

I hope that you will take VERY seriously the task of redrawing Mrs. Sylvia Malagon

Mr. Jonathan Schneider

History lesson for those of you who have forgotten: Voters are supposed to pick their representatives not the other way around. And make it random. That's the only way to prevent either party from using Mr. Jonathan Schneider

History lesson for those of you who have forgotten: Voters are supposed to pick their representatives not the other way around. And make it random. That's the only way to prevent either party from using Ms. Diane Lemieux

Some countries address gerrymandering by tasking nonpartisan organizations or cross-party bodies with defining constituency borders, thus taking the responsibility out of the hands of politicians who have obvious self-interest in the results. Examples include the United Kingdom’s Boundary Commission and Australia’s Electoral Commission. Ms. Diane Lemieux

In Iowa, the nonpartisan Legislative Services Bureau determines boundaries of electoral districts. The bureau forbids considerations of incumbent impact, previous boundary locations, and political party proportions while satisfying federally mandated contiguity and population equality criteria. Iowa’s resulting districts are generally regular polygons, not strangely shaped, politically motivated lines. This is the only way to prevent either party from using the system for personal benefit. Ms. Diane Lemieux

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I am in favor of using a computer algorithm, or other completely bipartisan approach to redistricting. We have been misrepresented for long enough. The group or individuals involved in the last redistricting should in no way be involved in the new plans.

Dr. Thomas Jackson
Ms. Hendey Buckley, J.D.

I feel that an independent commission should be responsible for drawing the districts fairly and legally! Come on NC!!

Mrs. Carolee Morris
Ms. Judy Baker

NC voters deserve a process for drawing political district maps that is fair and open; avoids racial or partisan gerrymandering; and allows voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around. I urge you to follow best practices for drawing nonpartisan districts. These include criteria that districts must be:

Compact, coinciding with cities and towns and avoiding splitting counties;
Contiguous, meaning that the districts are not merely joined at the corners;
Follow state and federal law, such as the Voting Rights Act; and
Ignore all partisan factors such as voter registration, voter turnout, past election results, and the residence of incumbents.

Mrs. Carolee Morris
Ms. Judy Baker

Vote to establish and support the non-partisan Commission to do redistricting. It is a good solution, if not skewed in some way.

Ms. Jim Selby
Ms. Amanda Ball

Redistricting should be done by an impartial third party and proceed without implicit preference to any political party due to racial or political consideration.

Mr. Robert O'Connor
Dr. Amanda Ball

We need a non-partisan redistricting commission to draw the maps for the elections. As long as they continue to be drawn by partisan politicians of either party they will be biased. The districts should be non-biased so the representatives elected from those districts represent the voters from that district. Please end gerrymandering and create non-partisan election districts.

Dr. Thomas Jackson
Mr. Brian Manly

Please relinquish control of district voting maps to a non-partisan committee. Representatives should not be allowed to draw their own districts; they are to be chosen by the people, not vice versa. Elected representatives should not be allowed to choose their voters. This sets up a perverse incentive that allows rampant gerrymandering, by which every party is in power, democrats or republicans. This is significant threat to our very democracy based on free and fair elections. Please do the right thing for our state. Thank you.
NC's lawmakers have demonstrated repeatedly that neither Democrats nor Republicans should be trusted nor tasked with determining the size and shape of North Carolina's voting districts. The time has come to show the rest of our country just how impartial and bipartisan our deeply diverse state can be.

I call for the establishment of an independent council for the purposes of determining how the voting districts in North Carolina should be drawn, ensuring that the new boundaries be established in order to best serve all North Carolinians, and for complete transparency both during the establishment of said council and while our new voting map is being created.

Let us demonstrate to the nation that there is nothing to fear from impartial, independent redistricting, and in the process let us show that more importantly, there is nothing to fear from ending this great conspiracy. The fact that so many of our candidates run unopposed is an informal measure of how much our districts are gerrymandered to the benefit of one party or the other.

To prevent the perpetuation of gerrymandering as well. Nicholas Stephanopoulos and Eric McGhee have developed a system for measuring wasted votes (all votes cast for a losing candidate and all votes beyond those needed to win for a winning candidate) that could go a long way to providing fair maps. The fact that so many of our candidates run unopposed is an informal measure of how much our districts are gerrymandered to the benefit of one party or the other.

Stop gerrymandering. Create Nonpartisan group made up of diverse citizens to redraw map of NC districts. Politicians must not draw map.

The current districts are an insult to democracy and any reasonable consideration. The final answer should be presented by a non-partisan group that takes all this into consideration.

The state's redistricting should be done without bias to urban or rural districts. An algorithm that is not set up to create bias for one political party, race, sex or religion should be developed. This is a very complicated issue and should be studied carefully. The final answer should be presented by a non-partisan group that takes all this into consideration.

Each vote should count equally. Districts should be as compact as possible and should be drawn, ensuring that the new boundaries be established in order to best serve all North Carolinians, and for complete transparency both during the establishment of said council and while our new voting map is being created.

The current districts are an insult to democracy and any reasonable person.

The current districts are an insult to democracy and any reasonable person.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Message</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 5 2017 1:56PM</td>
<td>Ms. Karen McMahon</td>
<td>I would suggest that the Governor appoint, with input from the General Assembly, a bipartisan restricting commission to be responsible for the redrawing of all legislative districts. All districts should be drawn, to the fullest extent possible, to reflect geographic divisions and maximize the opportunity for truly competitive races.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 5 2017 2:01PM</td>
<td>Jason Pikler</td>
<td>Now is the time to embrace an independent, nonpartisan commission to draw fair, competitive districts and put an end to racial and partisan gerrymandering. The fact that both parties have engaged in gerrymandering doesn't make it right. Let's be better than that and create legislative/judicial districts that finally comply with constitutional standards and that are competitive. If the current legislators are unable to do so, it's time to turn things over to an independent commission. And guess what, one already exists and has already drawn new maps: <a href="https://sanford.duke.edu/articles/nonpartisan-redistricting-panel-reveals-unofficial-nc-congressional-voting-map">https://sanford.duke.edu/articles/nonpartisan-redistricting-panel-reveals-unofficial-nc-congressional-voting-map</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 5 2017 2:05PM</td>
<td>Candace Carraway</td>
<td>The people of NC do not want districts that give an unfair advantage to any particular group of voters, even if that turns out to be legal. We want compact districts that make sense geographically, and that comply with the law. If you want all of NC voters to have confidence in the fairness of the voting system, start by drawing districts that do not favor Republicans or Democrats, whites or people of color. Feeling that your vote does not count and does not make a difference is a recipe for anger and getting discouraged. You need to do everything possible to encourage voting and encourage a sense of us being in this together. Gerrymandering makes people feel fragmented and divided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 5 2017 2:10PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Mary Shulby</td>
<td>Please FAIRLYredistrict this time. I am tired of the Republicans having the advantage due to the way the maps are drawn. I am tired of no one being able to work TOGETHER for the good of our state!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 5 2017 2:18PM</td>
<td>Dr. Gwendolyn Wilkes</td>
<td>Lines must be drawn objectively drawn and follow these parameters: 1. Be compact and contiguous 2. Follow state and federal law 3. Be drawn without considering partisan factors like voter registration, results of previous elections, voter turnout and where the incumbent lives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 5 2017 2:23PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Renee Scaggs</td>
<td>General redistricting should be done by a nonpartisan committee or organization in order to keep politicians from being able to draw maps to control the outcome of elections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 5 2017 2:25PM</td>
<td>Mr. Phillip Scaggs</td>
<td>General redistricting should be done by a non-partisan committee/organization to keep politicians from being able to draw maps to control the outcome of elections. Let's end gerrymandering in NC!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 5 2017 2:32PM</td>
<td>Michael Sulewski</td>
<td>Thank You for taking comments on this. As someone who does not work in any sort of political arena, I would like to put forward some basic logic I think the maps should use to avoid future problems. They should not divide counties. I believe that current borders, should remain whole. Dissecting counties like a science experiment makes no logical sense, other than to try to &quot;swing&quot; an election one way or another. It is obvious. Also, it should not matter who lives in what area. Simply assign the districts to best divide the population equally amongst our representatives. This makes the redrawing simple, easy, and saves time and money. Thank You</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 5 2017 2:41PM</td>
<td>Ashley Birk</td>
<td>The racial gerrymandering in this state is disgraceful. I only had one choice on my election ballot in this last election; we're defined so well for the political majority nobody else even bothers running. Get us into even, fair election districts! And if the legislature is not able to do that - and I'm not sure you are - then turn our redistricting over to an independent commission. Sincerely, Ashley Birk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 5 2017 2:50PM</td>
<td>Ms. Pamela Cook</td>
<td>Districts must be drawn in a contiguous, compact manner, without regard to race, party affiliation or voting history!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 5 2017 2:57PM</td>
<td>Ms. Donna Kerr</td>
<td>They should be compact and not influenced by political affiliation or voting history</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 5 2017 2:58PM</td>
<td>Ms. Penny McGhee</td>
<td>I believe redistricting should be handled by a non-partisan entity. That is the only way to ensure that one party does not benefit from redistricting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 5 2017 3:07PM</td>
<td>Tracy Tulish</td>
<td>Partisan politicians should not play a role in drawing district lines. We should follow best practices followed by others. We should not have extreme shaped districts like snakes etc that purposefully group people like citizens. I would think county lines make good boundaries and may make much more sense. Thanks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 5 2017 3:09PM</td>
<td>Ms. martha ollis</td>
<td>Screw all of the districting, redistricting, gerrymandering by politicians and other obstruction of voting. We want one person one vote with verifiable paper ballots. We are tired of having our vote watered down by unfair manipulation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 5 2017 3:10PM</td>
<td>Anna Brown</td>
<td>It is way past time to address the rampant redistricting abuses. Draw the districts to make sense geographically NOT politically! We, the people, are watching.</td>
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<td>Time</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Full Text</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 5 2017 3:54PM</td>
<td>Eileen Hume</td>
<td>Redistricting should be done by a scientific algorithm, not either party. This is a no brainer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 5 2017 4:06PM</td>
<td>Mr. Parris Smallwood</td>
<td>To whom it may concern: I objectively analyzed publicly available election data to support my comments below. I am a registered Democrat in the state of North Carolina.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>- In the 2016 election, 47.4% of votes were cast for NC State House of Representative candidates formally affiliated with the Democratic Party. Democrats hold 38.3% of that chamber's seats.</td>
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<td>- In the 2016 election, 44.4% of votes were cast for NC State Senate candidates formally affiliated with the Democratic Party. Democrats hold 30.0% of that chamber's seats.</td>
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<td>- In the 2016 election, 46.6% of votes were cast for NC Federal House of Representative candidates formally affiliated with the Democratic Party. Democrats hold 3 of those 13 seats (23.1%).</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Districts drawn for the purposes of electoral representation at both the state and federal levels MUST reasonably and accurately represent the people of the state as a whole. It is clear from the key points from my analysis (see above) that the current districts have been drawn not only out of sync with the electoral reality, but also potentially intentionally to serve a Republican party agenda. I base this accusation on the facts presented above as well as the following key data points:</td>
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<tr>
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<td>- Including races in which either a Republican or Democratic incumbent was running unopposed, Republican candidates who were elected to the NC State House of Representatives won by an average margin of 54.4% while Democrats won by an average margin of 74.7%.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 5 2017 4:27PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Denise Zavaleta</td>
<td>The people deserve to be represented without gerrymandering and political influence over the opportunity of a fair election. The current maps blatantly are decisive towards lumping a demographic into a minority situation. North Carolina is better than this so we need new maps immediately and stop wasting taxpayer money that schools and infrastructure need to continue to fight lawsuits aimed at doing anything other that what is right! New maps now which are fair to the people who maintain this state.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 5 2017 4:40PM</td>
<td>Ms. Patricia Lester</td>
<td>I am a North Carolina voter, and I firmly believe that all voters deserve a process for drawing political district maps that is fair and open, one that avoids racial or partisan gerrymandering, and one that allows VOTERS and not legislators to pick their political representatives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 5 2017 4:54PM</td>
<td>Chad Eby</td>
<td>It's time for both parties to lead and get this right. Our districts have been an embarrassment for decades, regardless of whom is in control. My single issue in the next election is independent redistricting. If you have the courage to put your neck on the line, you'll have my vote for this election cycle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 5 2017 4:55PM</td>
<td>Mr. James Herrmann</td>
<td>The law you need to pass would be to use a computer algorithm to generate districts with the required number of voters that has the smallest perimeter. It's that simple. That will keep the districts as compact and fair as possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 5 2017 5:00PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Sandi Spier</td>
<td>I am very glad that maps will be redrawn, but this needs to be done by a non-partisan 3rd party. There is no reason politician should have this task. They’ve proven they can’t handle this responsibility without gerrymandering. They need to be fairly redrawn so election results are true and not planned out ahead of time. Thank you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 5 2017 5:13PM</td>
<td>Mr. Jim Quick</td>
<td>When considering map changes I encourage you to keep counties in the same district when possible. In addition please keep cities and towns as whole as possible. Map should respect communities of interest and race should not be a factor in the drawing of legislative districts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 5 2017 5:18PM</td>
<td>Dr. Jenny Hinson</td>
<td>I'm asking that we re-draw districts to not benefit either party, which would include making districts geographically contiguous and not artificially dividing municipalities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 5 2017 5:19PM</td>
<td>Dr. Duane Deardorff</td>
<td>Please use non-partisan criteria for drawing legislative district maps. All voters should have their vote count in a meaningful way.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 5 2017 5:29PM</td>
<td>Ferne Emery</td>
<td>Redistricting should be done using a computer algorithm. It should divide the state up in equal portions that allows for open elections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 5 2017 5:30PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Joanne Empie</td>
<td>I am pleased with my current Republican legislator who was elected under the current maps and have good communication. I believe the General Assembly followed the guidelines they had available in drafting the districts and it is their responsibility to do so, not the court. I support the current maps if they meet the law. Counties and cities and towns should not be kept whole if invisible.</td>
</tr>
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Redistricting should be conducted by a non-partisan, independent committee, using objective measures to identify criteria for what constitutes a balanced district. Available research and literature on non-partisan redistricting should guide the General Assembly's decisions in the matter.

Redistricting is just another way for politicians to reinforce racial and socioeconomic biases. North Carolina is a fantastic state that should not have a hand in this. I hope our politicians take our comments seriously.

We need redistricting that does not favor one party over the other, or that protects incumbents from being challenged. In making districts, ignore where incumbents live, race, party affiliation or socioeconomic status. The state legislature should represent *all* residents and voters. The votes of all voters should actually make a difference to the outcome.

Please appoint an independent commission to draw a district map that will result in more fair representation for all North Carolinians. I realize that it will take great courage for you to gamble that your own party may be adversely affected by letting an independent commission do this work but I trust that you can people the people of our state ahead of your political party. Thank you.

We are literally a laughing stock of the entire country right now. Sure democrats did this a while back but right now the republicans are in power and pushing their agenda. It doesn't do any good to not name names here. Our state is so unique, it is truly divided 50/50 but our power and control. Often with the arrogant view of "knowing what is best" for the citizens of North Carolina. With the advances in data collection the practice of redistricting has become more detailed and precise. It is time to use common sense. It is time to be bold and return the power of voting to the people. Time to allow a truer form of democracy to prevail without fearing the outcome. Use an independent commission. There are computer programs designed to assist with the process. Thank you.

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As a North Carolina citizen, I strongly urge our state legislature to create compact nonpartisan districts that comply with the Voting Rights Act so that we can have a representative government in our state. The gerrymandering of this occurred in the state is a national embarrassment; please, support democracy and create districts that are *not* biased for the people of North Carolina.

The eyes of North Carolina and the nation are on you, and what and how you deal with this will determine many things. Hopefully this is pressing in your minds as you act. Maybe you're pressured by faction or belief, this is believable. Yet naked power grabs like what you've already attempted will fail. Don't try this again.

If you can't win on the strength of your beliefs or the ability to sell them, you don't deserve to win. Modify the system to protect yourself, and you will expose the nihilism of those beliefs. The young already don't believe you, and they outnumber you. Choose your course wisely.
My own training is in philosophy rather than in law, but I wanted to share a certain line of argument with you that might be useful either in the Legislature or in legal action.

Most arguments about redistricting have focused on its outcome: gerrymandered districts, and whether they are constitutional. It is also possible to look at the process of redistricting, which produces this questionable outcome, and ask if that process is itself questionable. So I want to raise the question, “Is partisan redistricting an instance of self-dealing by the legislators?” Or in other words,: Could a case be made, that legislators are improperly using their office to obtain a material benefit for themselves when they define their own election districts? It is common to observe that voters should choose their legislators, not the other way around. But it occurs to me that there is a more substantive way to read that word “should,” which is a word that draws immediate attention from any philosophy major.

The US Constitution does not get into specifics about self-dealing by state legislators, but a useful summary outline of federal concepts is here:
https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/directories/rol/rola/asi_a_raca_prof_hutter_prosecuting.authcheckdam.pdf

The NC Statutes seem to contain some relevant material here, under “Use of Public Position for Private Gain”:
http://www.ncleg.net/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/PDF/ByArticle/Chapter_138A/Article_4.pdf

It could be argued that the NC Constitution gives the legislature the responsibility to create election districts. But every official position has responsibilities, and none of them are ever to be used for personal gain.

Voters deserve a process for drawing political maps that is fair and open. It should avoid racial and partisan gerrymandering and will allow VOTERS to pick their political representatives, not as it now stands, politicians picking their voters!

I’d like to encourage you to consider the following points when redistricting:
Compact, coinciding with cities and towns and avoiding splitting counties;
Contiguous, meaning that the districts are not merely joined at the corners;
Follow state and federal law, such as the Voting Rights Act; and
Ignore all partisan factors such as voter registration, voter turnout, past election results, and the residence of incumbents.

Please watch this instructional video on how to impartially redistrict the state. It can be re-implemented when necessary. Please feel free to share this video with your constituents.
https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=kUS9uvYyn3A

And please do NOT redraw the districts yourselves.

The State legislature needs to redraw the legislative districts to eliminate the existing bias and partisan segmentation.

NC voters deserve a process for drawing political district maps that is fair and open; avoids racial or partisan gerrymandering; and allows voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around.

I want to see these criteria used to create maps for NC Senate and House seats:
1. Compliance with the US Constitution and the Voting Rights Act of 1965
2. Districts with equal population to the greatest extent possible
3. Districts that are geographically compact and contiguous
4. Competitive districts to the greatest extent possible, as long as there’s no detriment to other criteria
5. Districts that are NOT established with the major purpose of diluting the voting strength of any people or groups, including any political party
6. Boundaries that respect communities of interest; specifically areas with shared social and economic interests, such as those shared by an agricultural community, an industrial area, or an area in which people share local natural resources for their livelihood (for example, fishing in coastal areas)

Criterion for construction of NC legislative districts: Maintaining or establishing a partisan advantage shall NOT be a criterion for the construction or approval of House and Senate district plans.

NC citizens want districts that are compact, contiguous, and drawn without consideration for past voter turn out or registration. We need lawful, non biased districts drawn asap!

Partisan Gerrymandering Must End. Partisan gerrymandering is entirely contrary to the foundations of our Democracy.
I advocate for a fairer process. Politicians should not be drawing these districts. I support an independent commission to re-draw the electoral districts in North Carolina. Since both Republicans and Democrats have accused the other of gerrymandering, it is clear that this critical feature of democracy has been perverted in the hands of partisans. As the courts have determined that racial gerrymandering and political gerrymandering has been attempted if not necessarily achieved, through partisan redistricting, large swaths of our citizenry are potentially (perhaps effectively) left without a voice as to their own well-being. This is intolerable.

The only way to restore our state (and nation) to a functioning democracy is to put redistricting into the hands of an independent commission. Let the respective parties compete on ideas and candidates instead of the issue being a foregoing conclusion with “safe” districts. This is the only way that elected officials will remember that the represent an entire district—not just those who are voting them in office.

I advocate for a fairer process. Politicians should not be drawing these maps, since both Democrats and Republicans have gerrymandered districts to benefit their own party. Our voting districts should be unbiased and nonpartisan. They should also make sense - zip codes should be kept together whenever possible. Although the recent court order requires immediate action, a process should be created so that in the future, a nonpartisan commission creates the districts and gives the public adequate time to study and comment upon the proposed districts.

It really is time to try some sort of nonpartisan/bipartisan redistricting system. Republicans, if they truly represent the majority of North Carolinians, should be able to win a majority of seats without having to resort to subterfuge and geographical contortions. It does not bode well that the legislators have selected Tom Hofeller to undertake the procedure. Surely there are enough folks in Raleigh who see the shortsightedness of disenfranchising large swaths of the population for short term political gain. If the legislators truly want to lead, they should lead with integrity. Step up to the plate, display Christian values that are inclusive of all voices, and do the right thing for our state. Maybe NC could once again be a leading state for honesty, probity, and principle.

Bring in an outside group to redraw the lines. We’re obviously incapable of doing anything that’s remotely fair on our own. I want to be proud of my home state, not find more and more reasons to relocate. Quite honestly, you could give a NC map to some high school students and they could do a better job. In fact, why not do that? NCSDM is a first rate public school filled with remarkably smart kids. I’m not joking. Creative responses to the dilemmas we’ve engendered are the only way out of the humiliation and inequality for which NC is known.

Our state’s lawmakers have demonstrated time and time again, on both sides of the aisle, that neither Democrats nor Republicans should be trusted nor tasked with determining the size and shape of North Carolina’s voting districts. The time has come to show the rest of our country just how impartial and bipartisan our deeply diverse state can be.

I call for the establishment of an independent council for the purposes of determining how the voting districts in North Carolina should be drawn, ensuring that the new boundaries be established in order to best serve all North Carolinians, and for complete transparency both during the establishment of said council and while our new voting map is being created.

Racism is a blight that our state has been choking on for centuries, and archaic fears still have too many imaginary teeth. Let’s work together, with integrity and honor, to finally kill the social monsters which NC is known.
Aug 5 2017 10:38PM  Robert Benett  Please prove to our state and the nation that our state government isn’t as full of scumbags as it appears. Be decent people and the legislators we elected and draw the district map that fairly represents all districts in North Carolina and not as a way to keep certain groups in power. If not then the change that will be needed will come during the next election when we have the opportunity to vote better people in to office than we have now. This is 2017, not 1957. Act like it.

Aug 5 2017 10:41PM  Ms. Judith Berry  It should not take a year and a court decision to draw fair districts. We can do better than this.

Aug 5 2017 10:42PM  Ms. Janet Morrison  The present gerrymandered districts in NC are not only an embarrassment, they’re now officially illegal. I think a non-partisan commission should redraw the district lines so as not to favor one party over the other. I have no faith in the current NC General Assembly to do this. Right or fairly.

Aug 5 2017 11:05PM  Dr. Jenica Davidson  Districting should be done by a non-partisan committee so that no one political party has an unfair advantage. The people of North Carolina should feel like their representatives actually represent them. It isn’t right for either party to skew the redistricting in their favor.

Aug 5 2017 11:15PM  Dr. Geoffrey Claussen  I’m writing to request fair districts that allow voters to select their representatives. Consider getting a consulting firm to draw the districts, a computer model, or just drop a grid over the NC map. Just make sure it’s something voters can believe in and offers a choice at general election time.

Aug 5 2017 11:18PM  Dr. Graham Hunter  I really believe that this should NOT be a political process but should be done by a 3rd party that cannot immediately profit from drawing the districts, a computer model, or just drop a grid over the NC map. Those run counter to our democracy and the notion that every single citizen gets a vote, and that every vote matters EQUALLY.

Aug 5 2017 11:30PM  Ms. Cleo Hirsch  I really believe that this should NOT be a political process but should be done by a 3rd party that cannot immediately profit from drawing the districts, a computer model, or just drop a grid over the NC map. Those run counter to our democracy and the notion that every single citizen gets a vote, and that every vote matters EQUALLY.

Aug 5 2017 11:30PM  Dr. Robert Bennett  We need an independent committee to decide redistricting. We cannot trust any of our elected officials when it comes to this. This corruption depresses me.

Aug 5 2017 11:34PM  Mrs. Sarah Haywood  Voting histories and party affiliation should not be considered. Any existing district that requires any voter to drive more than 30 minutes or wait in a line for more than an hour should be redrawn to eliminate such obstacles to our legal rights. Anything less is cowardice. If you fear you will lose or position if you do what you know is right, then be honest. Do the right thing tell your new constituents that you did. Then ask them to vote to keep you in office because you have, finally, shown good judgment. You know in your hearts that this is what freedom and democracy require.

Aug 5 2017 11:44AM  Dr. Geoffrey Claussen  Please use a non-partisan commission!

Aug 5 2017 12:03AM  Mr. Jay Helms  I am writing to voice my concern on drawing new legislative district plans. With the present gerrymandered districts in NC, voters are represented in our governments. I'm an independent voter, and I vote! Please create districts which are competitive between the various political parties. We work better as a state when all political views are represented in our governments. I'm an independent voter, and I vote! We need an independent committee to decide redistricting. We cannot trust any of our elected officials when it comes to this. This corruption depresses me.

Aug 5 2017 12:26AM  Michael Ferguson  Make the districts free from party bias. Independent districts should allow representatives to represent who bites for them.

Aug 5 2017 12:34AM  Mrs. Sarah Haywood-Withers  Voting histories and party affiliation should not be considered. Any existing district that requires any voter to drive more than 30 minutes or wait in a line for more than an hour should be redrawn to eliminate such obstacles to our legal rights. Anything less is cowardice. If you fear you will lose or position if you do what you know is right, then be honest. Do the right thing tell your new constituents that you did. Then ask them to vote to keep you in office because you have, finally, shown good judgment. You know in your hearts that this is what freedom and democracy require.

Aug 6 2017 12:39AM  Dr. Helinda Hansen-Holloway  Please create districts which are competitive between the various political parties. We work better as a state when all political views are represented in our governments. I'm an independent voter, and I vote!

Aug 6 2017 1:14AM  Dr. Geoffrey Claussen  Please use a non-partisan commission!

Aug 6 2017 1:17AM  Mrs. Judith Berry  You are supposed to be representing the people of North Carolina. DO IT! Draw a map that will allow all constituents an opportunity to speak. I would love to know how much tax money you have waisted on law suits you have lost. PLEASE, GIVE US A MAP THAT DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ANY ONE.

Aug 6 2017 1:18AM  Ms. Jean Styron  I fear its going to be the same as usual republicans are going to continue their illegal ways to win and finish destroying our state as well as country.

Aug 6 2017 2:18AM  Dr. Janica Davidson  Maintaining or establishing a partisan advantage for any party shall NOT be a criterion for the construction or approval of house and senate district plans.

Aug 6 2017 3:24AM  Ms. Cleo Hirsch  I really believe that this should NOT be a political process but should be done by a 3rd party that cannot immediately profit from drawing the districts, a computer model, or just drop a grid over the NC map. Those run counter to our democracy and the notion that every single citizen gets a vote, and that every vote matters EQUALLY.

Aug 6 2017 4:24AM  Ms. Judith Berry  It should not take a year and a court decision to draw fair districts. We can do better than this.

Aug 6 2017 7:14AM  Ms. Judith Berry  You are supposed to be representing the people of North Carolina. DO IT! Draw a map that will allow all constituents an opportunity to speak. I would love to know how much tax money you have waisted on law suits you have lost. PLEASE, GIVE US A MAP THAT DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ANY ONE.

Aug 6 2017 7:18AM  Dr. Jenica Davidson  I'm writing to request fair districts that allow voters to select their representatives. Consider getting a consulting firm to draw the districts, a computer model, or just drop a grid over the NC map. Just make sure it's something voters can believe in and offers a choice at general election time.

Aug 6 2017 7:18AM  Ms. Janica Davidson  I'm writing to request fair districts that allow voters to select their representatives. Consider getting a consulting firm to draw the districts, a computer model, or just drop a grid over the NC map. Just make sure it's something voters can believe in and offers a choice at general election time.

Aug 6 2017 8:14AM  Mr. Isaac Kaplan  I fear its going to be the same as usual republicans are going to continue their illegal ways to win and finish destroying our state as well as country.

Aug 6 2017 8:14AM  Ms. Judith Berry  You are supposed to be representing the people of North Carolina. DO IT! Draw a map that will allow all constituents an opportunity to speak. I would love to know how much tax money you have waisted on law suits you have lost. PLEASE, GIVE US A MAP THAT DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ANY ONE.

Aug 6 2017 9:14AM  Ms. Judith Berry  It should not take a year and a court decision to draw fair districts. We can do better than this.

Aug 6 2017 9:14AM  Dr. Jenica Davidson  I'm writing to request fair districts that allow voters to select their representatives. Consider getting a consulting firm to draw the districts, a computer model, or just drop a grid over the NC map. Just make sure it's something voters can believe in and offers a choice at general election time.

Aug 6 2017 9:14AM  Ms. Judith Berry  It should not take a year and a court decision to draw fair districts. We can do better than this.
Mr. Charles Bennett please fix this long-standing problem that has been abused by both Parties:

- Be compact and contiguous
- Follow state and federal law
- Be drawn without considering partisan factors like voter registration, results of previous elections, voter turnout and where the incumbent lives

This is not hard or complicated—just seemingly made so by those who want to maintain the dysfunctional status quo—thank you.

Dr. Judith Porter Please get rid of the extremely unfair practice of gerrymandering and give us fair scientifically arrived at districts.

Mrs. Elizabeth Dicey It should be done algorithmically. Not that that removes all human bias, of course, but it does help quantify it substantially. Professor Duchin at Tufts has a great group working on this already (https://sites.tufts.edu/gerrymander/) (disclosure: I have no affiliation with them).

Dr. David McDonald Redistricting should be controlled by an independent panel who do not have a vested interest in the outcome. Districts should be contiguous blocks of land that actually represent the populations of our state.

Patricia Bass Please make this process transparent and fair to all. Let us see the maps.

Jeanie and Tom Cottingham The people of North Carolina deserve fairly drawn districts where the people choose their representatives, not representatives choosing their voters.

Mrs. Jessica Frega Please use an independent group to draw new district lines. It is the most fair and accountable way to do this.

Ms. Renee Yost I do not feel that cherry picking voters is fair for the betterment of our state. It is not in our best interest for either Democrats or Republicans!

Ms. Gail Young Have been spending time going door to door and talking with people about gerrymandering. People are disillusioned with government, and almost universally oppose gerrymandering. They want fair competition. We don’t talk party politics…only this one issue. And I live in a red county. You too can find this out….just pick any community and knock on 10 doors.

Ms. Holly Ivel I am writing to ask the legislature take its responsibility to create and maintain voting districts in a fair and impartial way seriously. Fair and balanced voting districts are a basic foundational element of our democracy. I would ask that the Legislature look to charge a non-partisan group with work to help minimize political influence from either party.

Please look at the work done by the Sanford School of Public Policy as an example: https://sanford.duke.edu/articles/nonpartisan-redistricting-panel-reveals-unofficial-nc-congressional-voting-map

Their work demonstrates it is possible to use criteria for achieving equal population, compactness and comply with the Voting Rights Act, while leaving out partisan political consideration.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Holly Ivel

Jo-Dee Collins Two wrongs don’t make a right is a certain truth. The excuse of “the Democrats did it too” just doesn’t hold up when you examine the data. The obscene degree in which the NCGA has gerrymandered our congressional districts is seen best through a lens of history.

1996 6 Democrats, 6 Republicans
1998 5 Democrats, 7 Republicans
2000 5 Democrats, 7 Republicans
2002 6 Democrats, 7 Republicans
2004 6 Democrats, 7 Republicans
2006 7 Democrats, 6 Republicans
2008 8 Democrats, 5 Republicans
2010 7 Democrats, 6 Republicans
2012 4 Democrats, 9 Republicans
2014 3 Democrats, 10 Republicans
2016 3 Democrats, 10 Republicans

The results of the 2012 election are directly correlated to dramatically racially gerrymandered districts, which have been declared illegal.

The same methods, and indeed the same mapmaker who drew the racially biased congressional districts, applied the same approach to the state legislative districts. No wonder the court has mandated you redraw them.

Our Democracy is healthier with real competition. If the only challenge a legislator faces happens in the primary there is effectively no competition.

If you racially gerrymander or politically gerrymander our districts you have denied fair competition and it is fraudulent.
To Select Committee on Redistricting,

I attended the meeting on August 4 and would like to follow up with some comments. At the meeting, several comments discussed competitiveness of legislative districts. I have done a great deal of reading (in well-referenced sources) on the topic of redistricting. There is general agreement that competitiveness in political districts increases the motivation of representatives to really listen to and serve their constituents. I think we can all agree that this is a good thing for the people of NC. Does this mean it is your responsibility to "make the minority party competitive" or to intentionally draw competitive districts at the expense of other important criteria (county/municipal boundaries, contiguity, compactness, communities of interest)? In my opinion, no. I don't think political affiliation or voting history should be part of this process for any reason. However, this committee should not PREVENT competition. Previous plans have done just that. Draw the districts based on the important criteria of adherence to federal laws (VRA), keeping counties/cities intact, contiguous and compact districts, and consideration of communities of interest. Do not consider the addresses of incumbents or challengers, voter affiliation, or voting history for any reason.

The most important characteristic of the redistricting process is transparency. Thank you for planning the public meetings and sharing some information. However, you have not gone nearly far enough. For example, at the meeting on August 4, you shared what you believed were the "optimal county groupings." True transparency would mean that you shared all the maps you considered before settling on the one we saw. True transparency means that you provide a written justification for the map you chose. Being "based on mathematics" is not a sufficient explanation. True transparency means that you STOP gerrymandering!! I think you should just use the already drawn 100 county lines. If not then computer generated. We are sick and tired of this legislature robbing our lives for their benefit.

The people of NC. Does this mean it is your responsibility to "make the minority party competitive" or intentionally draw competitive districts at the expense of other important criteria (county/municipal boundaries, contiguity, compactness, communities of interest)? In my opinion, no. I don't think political affiliation or voting history should be part of this process for any reason. However, this committee should not PREVENT competition. Previous plans have done just that. Draw the districts based on the important criteria of adherence to federal laws (VRA), keeping counties/cities intact, contiguous and compact districts, and consideration of communities of interest. Do not consider the addresses of incumbents or challengers, voter affiliation, or voting history for any reason.

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Mr. Peter Bloomfield
Aug 6 2017 9:46AM
The districts in the new maps should:

- Be compact and contiguous;
- Follow state and federal law;
- Be drawn without considering partisan factors like voter registration, results of previous elections, voter turnout and where the incumbent lives.

Sharon Spry
Aug 6 2017 9:54AM
Pass NC House Bill 92 to establish an independent Nonpartisan Redistricting Commission. Establish districts that strive to include relatively equal numbers of registered Republicans, Democrats and Unaffiliated voters.

Susanna Dancy
Aug 6 2017 10:05AM
Instead of creating maps that serve political parties, please create maps that respect the intelligence of North Carolinians to vote for representatives who will stand up for their values and interests, rather than serving special interests or the extremes of either party. Some areas of the state are more conservative and some are more liberal, but few are all one or the other, yet you wouldn't know that by looking at our general election results. Please create districts that are compact and that comply with existing boundaries -- county, town/city, voting precincts -- to the extent possible, so that locals are electing their representatives, rather than mapmakers and the special interests of political parties. Political affiliation, voting history and race should not play any part in redistricting. Once fair maps are drawn, North Carolinians will have confidence that they are being governed by the people instead of by the extremes in either party. Please make North Carolina great again.

Mr. Robert Ligon
Aug 6 2017 10:10AM
The NCGA’s effective efforts to circumvent the will of the North Carolina electorate in recent years has not gone unnoticed... both in our state and nationally. Continuing down the path of gerrymandering and packing districts will continue to breed anger and resentment among the underrepresented and will undermine our democracy. If partisan interests do not have the integrity, will and moral fortitude to more fairly draw voting districts, perhaps independent, nonpartisan bodies should be tasked with this job.

Mrs. Janet Farmer
Aug 6 2017 10:19AM
There should be an independent committee for drawing districts. What has happened in NC a a travesty. Districts should represent WHOLE communities so that that the whole of the communities' needs are addressed.

Mrs. Jennifer De La Bara
Aug 6 2017 10:25AM
Here's my solution: there must be a be an independent council to determine districts and/or a basic computer algorithm should be utilized to verify balance with redistricting. “This is the only way to ensure the integrity and fairness state as the state that provided the blueprint for cheating via gerrymandering?"

Ms. Karen Maravich
Aug 6 2017 11:01AM
Our state leaders on both sides of the parties have proven again and again that they cannot be trusted with legislative redistricting. Is this how we will be remembered in history? As the state that provided the blueprint for cheating via gerrymandering?

Ms. Amy Kidd
Aug 6 2017 11:19AM
I firmly believe that voting districts should be determined by population count only. Demographics should not play a part. Redistricting should be non-racial and non-partisan.

Mr. J. William Hays
Aug 6 2017 11:24AM
I totally against gerrymandering. There should be no emphasis to make an area a Republican or Democrat District. I want to vote for the person I feel is most qualified. I vote in every election. When a district is tilted to one party there is no choice, my vote has no meaning.

Sarah Grossman
Aug 6 2017 11:33AM
This map is crazy. It is obvious to all of the voters out here watching what you are doing that you are working the voting districts to satisfy your party. Please stop! Start acting on behalf of your country, state and the individuals you work for (voters) and do what is right. All of this nonsense is not moving our country forward. Please reach into your heart and soul and do the right thing - because it is the right thing and not what special interest groups want you to do. Thank you.

Dr. Anne Marie Rakip
Aug 6 2017 12:12PM
Please- adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps;
- exclude political information like voter registration data, past election results or where incumbents live when drawing maps;
- draw compact districts that keep communities together.
Let’s make NC a fair state for our elections/voters. Thank you! Mindy Lisa

Mindy Bohlen-Admire
Aug 6 2017 12:16PM
Redistricting needs to be done in a manner that allows for a fair and balanced system. No one political party should be able to dictate all outcomes, which has been shown not to be the case in NC.
It is time to take redistricting out of the hands of the political parties. Redistricting must be done in a non-partisan way in order to be fair.

Mrs. Angela Levine
Aug 6 2017 1:11PM
Mrs. Manuel Hernandez
Aug 6 2017 3:33PM
Ms. Leslie Hagarty
Aug 6 2017 2:51PM
Mr. James Phillips
Aug 6 2017 4:25PM
Mrs. Jamezetta Bedford
Aug 6 2017 1:21PM
Mrs. Deborah Bundy
Mrs. Lauren Tompkins
Aug 6 2017 1:47PM
Kelly Pierson
Aug 6 2017 5:21PM
Mrs. Heather Harvey
Aug 6 2017 2:05PM
Deana Cunningham
Aug 6 2017 2:26PM
Mr. Peyam Barghassa
Aug 6 2017 4:25PM
Ms. Mary Jo Johnson
Aug 6 2017 5:21PM
Mr. Joseph Moody
Aug 6 2017 2:54PM
Mrs. Claire Ricci
Aug 6 2017 3:27PM
Mr. Ralph Norman Hill
Aug 6 2017 3:33PM
Jeff Byrd
Aug 6 2017 3:47PM
Mrs. Jamezetta Bedford
Aug 6 2017 3:58PM
Mr. James Phillips
Aug 6 2017 4:21PM
Mr. Peyam Barghassa
Aug 6 2017 4:25PM
Ms. Mary Jo Johnson
Aug 6 2017 5:21PM
Deana Cunningham
Aug 6 2017 2:26PM

I request that an outside, non-political firm do the redistricting. I’m not sure if this has already been stopped... This needs to be done in absolute terms. A real count and district-ed out in an even number no matter what party individuals belong too and in a fairly even cut of areas. None of this manipulating with more reputs in any given district, unless it happens in a natural binary shape. If a 50 square mile of any cut is majority republican, then so be it, same with democrat. Keep your manipulated, gerrymandered fingers out of the mix. An area should be represented by who THEY choose, not politicians ‘choosing’ their voters. Common sense people!

An independent commission is the best way forward to redraw the voting district map for North Carolina. Please keep in mind that your main responsibility requires being of service to the citizens, all citizens, of North Carolina, not service to a political party. This responsibility may require persistence and fortitude, but the result is doing what is best for all North Carolinians. Thank you.

It’s time for fair redistricting maps. We are paying attention and will vote for those who promote fair district maps.

I’m very disappointed in the Republican racial districting that has happened. I am a registered Republican, but will be voting for not one Republican candidate in future elections, until this vile practice has been stopped.

The racist, anti progressive redistricting must stop. For shame. Please, please, please create a strongly independent process for district creation.

Redistricting for NC Senate should be similar to US Senate with no redistricting for NC House. As a resident of North Carolina, I would like to see an end to racial gerrymandering through the state’s redistricting process, so that no system is rigged toward favoring one political party over another, thus ensuring that voters choose their representing politicians and not the other way around. Every voter in North Carolina has the right to be heard, regardless of his/her/their zip code, socioeconomic standing, religion, and ethnicity.

It is time to take redistricting out of the hands of the political parties and into the hands of a nonpartisan commission that bases districts on population instead of voting demographics. Let the people choose their politicians - not the politicians chose their people.

You might throw this away, because I’m in Mass., but remember that we invented Gerrymandering. I may know something. Someone has shown me a map of the N.C. 21st District; and it’s offensive at first glance. Districts should be “compact and contiguous.” This one is obviously not compact, and having far-flung parts connected by what looks on the map like maybe one road is a technical evasion: it’s not honestly contiguous. This is to ask you to treat the drawing of districts as a serious, non-partisan issue and, as I said, honestly. This something you owe to the whole state, and really, the country, which is why I’m signing in.

Redistricting must be done in a non-partisan way in order to be fair and completely transparent. Having a previous map making draw these new maps will not work. If you want your constituents to have faith in the process and in you in general, you need to establish a bipartisan commission to develop fair maps. That is truly the only way the maps can be acceptable to all people in the state.

If Redistricting is necessary, then the commission must be created asap and get honest fair maps created.

Maps should be drawn by an unbiased committee in a fair and commonsensical way. The process needs to be transparent and should not be tinkered with after each election cycle.

Creating that council asap and get fair maps created.
Mr. Martin Schweitzer: I strongly object to gerrymandering for political gain, regardless of which party is in power. Currently, North Carolina is fairly evenly split between Democrats and Republicans, yet the GOP has huge majorities of representatives in both the U.S. House and in the State legislature. This unfairly limits the electoral influence of many citizens while inflating the power of others. In moral terms, this is just plain wrong! I strongly recommend that new districts be drawn using either a criteria-driven civil servant approach, as is done in Iowa, or a criteria-driven independent commission approach, like the one used in California. In either case, the key criteria guiding the creation of districts should be compactness and consistency with natural and political boundaries. Let democracy prevail! The citizens of our great state are watching.

Mr. William Carley: No, politicians should not redraw the district maps. I want an independent nonpartisan commission to draw them.

Laura Reich: We want non partisans to draw district lines.

Elizabeth Seaton: Every district of the great state of North Carolina should be purple. Not red. Not blue. PURPLE. This way the state, and all its districts, is a level playing field. Why does either party think they have the right to change the redistricting for the sole purpose of giving their party an edge. If the party can't win on its candidate's own merit, he or she shouldn't be elected. Plan and simple and would save a lot of taxpayer money having to figure all this redistricting out. Maybe you can all have another day off.

Ms. Rachel Samuels: Dear Fascist Gerrymander O' Plenties (GOP):

Redistrict in a way that doesn't disenfranchise voters; stop the voter purges. Stop pulling funding from schools in districts that may not agree with you politically. I sincerely doubt you bigots are capable of playing in a fair and honest manner. After all, you fascist bigots have hired the same person to redraw the districts that gerrymandered them in the first place.

Nothing that you do will ever convince me to support your goddamn party in an election. You are all bigots and govern as such. So, I hope you aholes prove me wrong and do the right thing. Redraw them in a manner that doesn't put parties first. Put the populace first, but knowing you fascist bastards that's not likely.

I'd thank you for the job that you do, but I can't muster any thanks due to the way y'all have screwed over my city with the bathroom bill, our governor, and my reproductive rights. So, screw you all; I truly hope 2018 and beyond will hurt you all politically in this state and across the nation.

Samuel Neuspiel: Please make an effort to really represent the makeup of the population, rather than trying to accumulate as much power as possible for a particular political party. Thanks for all the work that you do.

Mr. Samuel Wells: ALL districts need to be drawn by an independent commission . In no way should race, income, or party affiliation be used to pick voters in districts.

Pamela Grundy: We need an independent redistricting committee that will draw districts that fairly represent the priorities of our state's voters, rather than deploying raw political power to magnify some interests at the expense of others, as has been the case in our state for decades.

Lisa Lass: It's sad that we have to beg the legislature to do the right thing and redraw the district maps immediately, followed by special elections. The representatives we have now were not legally elected. This stare has become an embarrassment to democracy.

David Hardee: I believe that the criteria should require that the districts should:
1-be compact and contiguous
2-Follow state and federal law
3-Keep like minded communities together
4-be commensurate in a northerly general election

Mr. Kenneth West: I would like to express a strong preference that the redistricting become non-partisan (as it is in many states), where independent commissions draw the district lines and politicians (Democrats and Republicans) are not allowed to choose their voters. I would like to encourage the legislature to draw boundaries that respect -- as much as is practically possible -- county lines and city lines so that communities are kept together within a district. Thank you.

Mrs. Barbara Nail: We need to have district maps that are fair and avoid racial and partisan gerrymandering. Please remember that voters are the ones who should be choosing their representatives, not the other way around.

Mr. shaun murphy: I am writing to have my voice heard on the redistricting issue that is before you. It is important to note that there is no relevant data to support voter fraud in this state or anywhere else across the nation. We need to draw our maps WITHOUT considering partisan factors like voter registration, the results of previous elections, voter turnout and where the incumbent lives. We need to be honorable and make sure we show respect for state and federal law by OBEYING those laws in our actions. We need to make the maps compact and NOT to be drawn in such a way as to favor the partisan preferences of those who would draw up unfair and partisan maps. Thank you in advance for your fair and legal actions on this very important issue.
Aug 6 2017 8:59PM  Mr. Andrew Chmar  Legislators:
It's time for NC to follow the Iowa model and create fair and legal redistricting. Irrespective of party affiliation (and be assured the majority will eventually swing back), all North Carolinians deserve equal representation in Raleigh, and gerrymandering must end for both sides. Now is the time to take the RIGHT action, and let a non-partisan, data driven redistricting process determine the legislative districts across the State. Emulate the Iowa model.

Aug 6 2017 9:10PM  Ms. Linda Rudick  New districts should be compact, no split counties, no regard for demographics.

Aug 6 2017 9:15PM  Kathryn Melton  The districts should be drawn by an outside, nonpartisan group. The districts should be drawn without regard to racial demographics or party affiliation and solely on making the districts even in the number of constituents in each one.

Aug 6 2017 9:39PM  Mr. Thomas Blanton  I opposed gerrymandering when Democrats did it, and I oppose it now. We need fair representation in our state, and in all states.

Aug 6 2017 9:50PM  Ms. Lois Nixon  To all you people responsible for this, please do the right thing, draw our legislative districts in a non-partisan way. Districts should never be drawn to be considered "safe" for any party. Democrats nor Republicans should be entrusted nor tasked with making the districts. Irrespective of party affiliation (and be assured the majority will eventually swing back), all North Carolinians deserve equal representation in Raleigh, and gerrymandering must end. Now is the time to take the RIGHT action, and let a non-partisan, data driven redistricting process determine the legislative districts across the State.Emulate the Iowa model.

Aug 6 2017 10:19PM  Mr. Michael Crotty  Hello,
I would like to request that the upcoming redistricting process follow these criteria:
1. Politically Neutral – No addresses of candidates or incumbents should be used, and residents’ voting histories should not be considered.
2. Compact and Contiguous – Voters within a district should not be unnecessarily dispersed, and no voting district may be geographically divided, or split, by another district, i.e. all portions of a district must connect.
3. Respect Boundaries – Avoid dividing counties and municipalities where possible.
4. Protect Communities of Interest – Avoid dividing communities of interest where possible. Communities of interest typically have social, cultural, racial, ethnic, and/or economic interests in common.
5. Transparent Process – The process of creating maps should be transparent, providing maps as soon as possible, live-streaming meetings, and allowing the public to provide suggestions for changes to the draft maps.

The citizens of North Carolina deserve to have a fair redistricting process. Thanks,
Michael Crotty Raleigh, NC 27617

Aug 6 2017 10:23PM  Ms. Linda Rudick  Our lawmakers have demonstrated time and time again that neither Democrats nor Republicans should be entrusted nor tasked with determining the size and shape of our voting districts. It is time to stop being a judicial joke in the country and be an example for other states.

Aug 6 2017 10:25PM  Kathryn Melton  The districts should be drawn by an outside, nonpartisan group. The districts should be drawn without regard to racial demographics or party affiliation and solely on making the districts even in the number of constituents in each one.

Aug 6 2017 10:27PM  Julie Kelly  Please draw districts without any data whatsoever on party, race, gender, income, etc. I want it to be as fair as football. Would you want the refs to be outspoken fans for the opposing team? Now, what if it were not just the refs, but the people making the rules? Maybe the scoreboard operator is impartial, but if the other team is making the rules and calling the fouls, how does that even help? Let’s not have North Carolina be the place where our sports is more fair, more cooperative, and more impartial than our election system.

Aug 6 2017 10:27PM  Mr. Andrew Chmar  It’s time for NC to follow the Iowa model and create fair and legal redistricting. Irrespective of party affiliation (and be assured the majority will eventually swing back), all North Carolinians deserve equal representation in Raleigh, and gerrymandering must end for both sides. Now is the time to take the RIGHT action, and let a non-partisan, data driven redistricting process determine the legislative districts across the State. Emulate the Iowa model.

Aug 6 2017 10:54PM  Mr. Thomas Blanton  I opposed gerrymandering when Democrats did it, and I oppose it now. We need fair representation in our state, and in all states.

Aug 6 2017 11:09PM  Ms. Linda Rudick  Our lawmakers have demonstrated time and time again that neither Democrats nor Republicans should be entrusted nor tasked with determining the size and shape of our voting districts. It is time to stop being a judicial joke in the country and be an example for other states to emulate.

Aug 6 2017 11:10PM  Mr. Thomas Blanton  It’s time for NC to follow the Iowa model and create fair and legal redistricting. Irrespective of party affiliation (and be assured the majority will eventually swing back), all North Carolinians deserve equal representation in Raleigh, and gerrymandering must end for both sides. Now is the time to take the RIGHT action, and let a non-partisan, data driven redistricting process determine the legislative districts across the State. Emulate the Iowa model.

Aug 7 2017 12:18AM  Ms. Catherine Lacienski  NC needs independent, non-partisan redistricting. Legislators should NOT be able to choose their constituents. Districts should be drawn without regard to racial demographics.

Aug 7 2017 3:00AM  Charlene Bartlinski  Our lawmakers have demonstrated time and time again that neither Democrats nor Republicans should be entrusted nor tasked with determining the size and shape of our voting districts. It is time to stop being a judicial joke in the country and be an example for other states to emulate.

Recommend an independent council to define the parameters for and the creation of NC voting districts to ensure the best interests of all North Carolinians. And, that there be complete transparency of these processes from start to final product.

Aug 7 2017 3:58AM  Ms. Janice Ellen Prenell  Everyone except the politicians need to be involved in the decision making process of our NC voting districts. Stop the gerrymandering. Allow all citizens of voting age to vote.
Why are the same people who created the biased maps making the revision? I do not understand this. That's the classic definition of crazy—to do the same thing over and over and expect different results.

As an NC voter, I support districts that accurately represent ALL the citizens of the state. It is critically important that ALL voters have an equal opportunity to be represented in our state government, including NC Senate, NC House, and US Congressional districts. Please respect the following criteria when redrawing:

- Compliance with the US Constitution and the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965
- Districts with equal population to the greatest extent possible.
- Districts that are geographically compact and contiguous.
- Districts that are not designed for a given incumbent
- Districts that do not waste votes

Thank you,
Scott

I am writing because I am extremely concerned about the criteria for redistribution and feel the best method would be to have an independent group NOT connected or in contact with our NCGA (until submission) to make up the districts. This way neither party during any 10 year period can control the citizens of NC.

That said, I demand the districts you set up now will be compliant with the 1965 VRA. I demand the boundaries represent communities of interest i.e. agriculture, industrial, citizens with common needs for their districts. I demand lines are drawn not to dilute voting of portions of the district.

I do NOT agree with Rep. Lewis "that partisanship is part of what each and every one of us are" as he said in Jan. 2017. I am a citizen with different needs than some other citizens but I am certainly willing to consider and find common ground so we can make living in NC good for all citizens not just the group with the power. We do not need lawmakers who live their lives with such egotistical and entitled beliefs.

Thank you,
Lynn Shapiro

Please redraw maps accordingly:

- Districts that are geographically compact and contiguous.
- Boundaries that respect communities of interest; specifically areas with shared social and economic interests, such as those shared by an agricultural community, an industrial area, or an area in which people share local natural resources for their livelihood (for example, fishing in coastal areas).
- Compliance with the US Constitution and the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965.
- The residence of any incumbent or political candidate should NOT be considered.
- Districts with equal population to the greatest extent possible.

I support an independent commission to draw up fair maps.

Thank you,
Andrew Olsen

I am writing because I am extremely concerned about the criteria for the redistricting committee should be completely transparent on the way that ensures every citizen an equal vote is, I think, the most important issue facing our democracy today. We cannot have any attempts to rig elections by gerrymandering districts have destroyed the faith of the people and have damaged the integrity of both parties. I am changing my registration to Unaffiliated and will support the party that demonstrates the most INTEGRITY AND HONESTY in the next election. I am tired of politicians making me ashamed of their greed and self-interest. It's not how our country or our state is supposed to work. Thank you.

Districting should be based on the counties and geographic areas where people actually live so that the outcomes reflect the desires of the community. This is what our founders intended. There should be a complete disregard for which party benefits and there should be NO attempt to manipulate outcomes by control where people vote. Attempts to rig elections by gerrymandering districts have destroyed the faith of the people and have damaged the integrity of both parties. I am not understanding this. That's the classic definition of crazy—

We need an independent commission to determine the size and shape of our districts. Politicians will always be biased.

We need and independent commission to determine the size and shape of our districts. There needs to be complete and full transparency at every step to ensure that a bias towards a party, race or gender played no part in the decision making.

1. The redistricting committee should be completely transparent on the criteria to draw the maps.
2. The committee should not use past election results or voter registration information in drawing the maps, nor should it use address of General Assembly members (past or present...
Please consider the following regarding redistricting:

I am very concerned about the issue of gerrymandering in North Carolina. Districting should not try to favor one party over another in a district. It should instead seek to have well balanced districts. I support an independent panel to draw the new districts to ensure partisan consideration.

It's time to stop the recurring illegal redistricting attempts. The new maps should be compact and contiguous and be drawn without partisan consideration.

The criteria for redistricting should not try to favor one party over another in a district. It should instead seek to have well balanced districts so that every vote counts equally. Continuing a partisan approach to a fundamental right of citizenship is at odds with a representative democracy. The process should be taken away from partisan politicians and be based on criteria like compactness, contiguity, equal population, preservation of existing political communities, partisan fairness, and racial fairness. Technology can be used to model fair districts and make evenhanded recommendations to a non-political body. This would go a long way toward making our government effective again and avoid the troubling divisiveness so prevalent today.

We could just revert the districts back to the way they were before the creation of this council nor while the new voting map is being created. Thank you for your time in reading my comments, and for considering your constituents input in this matter.

All citizens are entitled to a fair and easily accessible opportunity to cast their vote. Fair redistricting is an obligation to be achieved.

Fair redistricting is an obligation to be achieved. The process should ignore voter registration, voter turnout and results of past elections and residence of incumbents or challengers. No more partisan gerrymandering. Please work to remove this partisanship.

Local gerrymandering is a state's way of disenfranchising voters. It is an effort to make it so difficult for a non-partisan commission to gain the upper hand in the process that the party in power will continue to be the party in power. It's time to stop this madness.

In North Carolina it has proven too easy for a politician to get a seat. The new maps should be compact and contiguous and be drawn without partisan consideration.

Republicans gerrymandered them. IMHO it's no wonder the court said to redraw it. It's almost like politicians don't like competition and hate the free market. There needs to be an independent council to determine how to draw the new voting districts in North Carolina. We need to ensure the new boundaries will best serve ALL North Carolinians. Please let there be no secrecy during the creation of this council nor while the new voting map is being created. Thank you for your time in reading my comments, and for considering your constituents input in this matter.

Now that the courts have declared the current process unconstitutional, it is time to create fair districts. The process must ignore voter registration, voter turnout and results of past elections and residence of incumbents or challengers. No more partisan gerrymandering. Please work to remove this partisanship.

Full transparency is needed to ensure the new boundaries will best serve ALL North Carolinians. Please let there be no secrecy during the creation of this council nor while the new voting map is being created. Thank you for your time in reading my comments, and for considering your constituents input in this matter.

No more gerrymandering. Please consider the following regarding redistricting:

- Be compact and contiguous
- Follow state and federal law
- Be drawn without considering partisan factors like voter registration, results of previous elections, voter turnout and where the incumbent lives

Redistricting needs to be carried out by a non-partisan committee. It is time to put out fair and bipartisan districts. You have stalled and delayed and corrupted our constitutional freedoms long enough. End Gerrymandering now.

District drawing should be placed in the hands of a non partisan committee so that constituents are accurately and fairly represented and neither party has an unfair advantage. It WILL come back to bite your party, whichever that may be. Please work to remove this partisanship.

It is time for you to put out fair and bipartisan districts. You have stalemated and delayed and corrupted our constitutional freedoms long enough. End Gerrymandering now.

Redistricting needs to happen as soon as possible to end gerrymandering! This should be done by a non partisan third party committee not the current republican controlled house who made gerrymandering so bad in NC to start with. District drawing should be placed in the hands of a non partisan committee so that constituents are accurately and fairly represented and neither party has an unfair advantage.

There is no way to build a district without partisan consideration. I am concerned about partisan gerrymandering throughout the state of North Carolina and hope that redistricting would adhere to the guidelines of contiguity and geographical compactness. Please avoid partisan and racial gerrymandering.

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All citizens are entitled to a fair and easily accessible opportunity to cast their vote. Fair redistricting is an obligation to be achieved.

We should create a non-partisan commission to draw fair district lines. It is time to stop the recurring illegal redistricting attempts. The new maps should be compact and contiguous and be drawn without partisan consideration.

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There is no way to build a district without partisan consideration. I am concerned about partisan gerrymandering throughout the state of North Carolina and hope that redistricting would adhere to the guidelines of contiguity and geographical compactness. Please avoid partisan and racial gerrymandering.

I am requesting a fully transparent process to create fair districts. To create fair districts, the process must ignore voter registration, voter turnout and results of past elections and residence of incumbents or challengers. No more partisan gerrymandering. I support an independent panel to draw the new districts to ensure partisan consideration.

We should create a non-partisan commission to draw fair district lines. It is time to stop the recurring illegal redistricting attempts. The new maps should be compact and contiguous and be drawn without partisan consideration.
Political gerrymandering needs to be halted in our state. In lieu of an independent panel, I would like to recommend creating "optimally compact" equal-population congressional districts based on 2010 census data. Brian Olson, a software engineer in Massachusetts, has created an algorithm that draws districts that respect the boundaries of census blocks, ensuring that the district boundaries reflect actual neighborhoods and don't cut arbitrary lines through neighborhoods or even houses.

Please see this link to read more about this algorithm and process: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2014/06/03/this-computer-programmer-solved-gerrymandering-in-his-spare-time/

Sincerely,
Austen DiPalma
Charlotte, NC 28270

Districts in this state need to be drawn in a nonpartisan manner. Both parties have shown that, when they are in power, they want to maintain that power, and accrue as much more as possible. It's time for voters to choose their representatives, rather than the other way around.

I implore you to do the right thing and draw new legislative maps in a logical way, just dividing the state geographically, not considering racial or partisan numbers. Legislators should simply represent the citizens of a logical geographic area. We all deserve to be equally represented.

Please redistrict fairly and end gerrymandering. I also do no agree with using the consultant that worked with the GOP in 2010 for redistricting. He is costing tax payers millions of dollars with his racially biased maps. I hope the outcome is a fair one that represents all the people in the state of North Carolina and does not favor the GOP agenda. Thank you.

The only way to have fair redistricting is to set up an independent commission. As a voter in NC I am in support if an independent redistricting commission.

Please let me see the redrawn maps so I can comment on them more meaningfully! For now, I want to express that I have begun to doubt whether my vote counts and whether I live in a democratic country because of this gerrymandering that has been done. I am ashamed to tell people I live in North Carolina. And my concern is turning to fear that we are being led into authoritarian control and are helpless to do anything about it because our vote no longer counts. If you are a true American who believes in our freedom, stop this horror and restore my faith in my state and my country. Redraw the maps fairly as you have been ordered to do, and show them to the people!

I would like for the new districts to represent ALL NC citizens equally and fairly, not just one political party. The same criteria should be used for NC as well as US districts. In particular, the districts should be fairly equal in population and be contiguous (make sense geographically). Above all they should be fairly drawn so that they don’t represent one political party more than another or dilute the voting power of a political party. You have an opportunity to serve as an example to our nation for fair & equitable districting!

Absolve yourselves completely from any involvement in the redistricting process. Appoint a committee of nonpartisan demographers, geographers, statisticians, and other qualified professionals who know how to interpret census data. Give this committee the remit of drawing fair, balanced, sensible, and representative districts, and then stay out of their way. When you seek applicants for this committee, swear not to interfere in or influence their work. Promise before they start that you will accept their work when it’s completed. Do not interfere with their work, and do not threaten or initiate any legal challenges to their work.

Please set up an independent commission of experts from appropriate professions and then accept their findings. Better yet, write the use of such a commission into law so that no matter who controls the General Assembly, a fair process will be used.

I hope that political gerrymandering is halted. Liberals are just crying because they lost.

Stop letting politicians from both side choose their voters rather than the other way around. It's undemocratic and often racist.
I strongly urge the NCGA to task an independent multi-partisan or non-partisan commission with the responsibility of creating new district boundaries. The NCGA has shown time and again that it is incapable of creating districts that support a robust democracy where the representatives are loyal to special interests than their citizens. PLEASE create better districts that support a robust democracy where the representatives and the citizens have the strongest relationship.

Back on January 26, 2017, I had the privilege of attending a presentation sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad called: Restoring Democracy in NC. The Case for Nonpartisan Redistricting Reform at UNC-G. Presenters Dr. Tom Ross, Justice Rhoda Billings, and Justice Henry Frye discussed their work during last summer’s Nonpartisan Redistricting Project, in which they participated. You may be familiar with the nonpartisan legislative maps that came out of the project, which demonstrated that fair, competitive districts can be created in North Carolina without gerrymandering.

This issue is an important one, and one which I believe deserves your support in the NC Senate. There are many reasons to be in favor of nonpartisan redistricting, but to me, the most important one is to adhere to the "one person - one vote" standard set by the US Supreme Court in the early 1960’s. The way current legislative districts are drawn today, there are entire groups of people who are not represented in the US Congress or in the NC Legislature. Other reasons are:

North Carolina isn’t a one party state. Over half of the affiliated registered voters in North Carolina are Democrats, but Republicans have a 10 – 3 majority in the US House. More voters are unaffiliated than are registered Republicans. Voters should choose their representatives, not the other way around. Political affiliation or voting records should not be criteria for drawing district boundaries. If districts are competitive, more candidates will likely run. Elections won’t be decided in the primaries as many of them were in 2016. If races are more competitive, more voters from both parties will likely participate.

Focus on guidelines and independence in the map making process, it is time for bi-partisan or non-partisan redistricting. Both sides have a 10 – 3 majority in the US House. More voters are unaffiliated than are registered Republicans. Voters should choose their representatives, not the other way around. Political affiliation or voting records should not be criteria for drawing district boundaries. If districts are competitive, more candidates will likely run. Elections won’t be decided in the primaries as many of them were in 2016. If races are more competitive, more voters from both parties will likely participate.

It is time for bi-partisan or non-partisan redistricting. Both sides have politicized this far too long to the detriment of our state and the electoral process. I would strongly suggest that we ask a University such as Duke or UNC or another non-affiliated group to oversee the process. Worse case scenario, have the Judicial system do it for you! Perhaps we should move away from districts and simply have partisan

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To All Legislators: It is time that electoral redistricting becomes NON-Partisan or Bi-Partisan. Neither party has the moral right to draw districts that benefit one party, but severely hurt the other party’s chances to represent citizens of NC. The US is supposed to be a FREE nation where DEMOCRACY IS AVAILABLE TO ALL OF US, NOT JUST TO SENATORS AND HOUSE MEMBERS. THIS IS NOT CUBA, OR VENEZUELA, RUSSIA, CHINA OR NORTH KOREA. STOP IT!

Focus on guidelines and independence in the map making process, look at the models of California and Arizona for guidance.

Districts should be drawn up fairly, free from partisanship. There are PLENTY of computer programs/algorithms that can create fair and impartial districts from partisan districts. This way it should be!

Seehhttp://sites.tufts.edu/gerrymander/ for explanation of the computer algorithm that can easily be implemented to solve this problem.

North Carolina needs non partisan redistricting. We need fair elections.
Please establish an independent non-partisan commission to draw redistricting lines that are based on Independent. Reform proposals need to remove conflicts of interest and have an impartial body that is independent from the General Assembly draw the maps.

Objective, using non-partisan criteria. District boundaries need to be drawn on the basis of legal, demographic and commonsense criteria that ignore political interests.

Transparent. The process must be open to public inquiry and input. Citizens deserve to know the decisions behind the creation of their districts and have the opportunity to make their opinions known in the process.

A democracy is only as strong as the participation of its electorate. While the aim of gerrymandering has been to consolidate control by whichever party is in power, its opposite effect is to cause folks to wonder whether their votes really matter, and if not, why bother to participate. This can't be healthy for the future of our state. I implore you to put all the people of the great State of North Carolina first over party, and draw maps that include criteria such as equal population, contiguous geography, and shared economic interests. Please restore the founding principle of our state of "one person, one vote" unilaterally. Thank you for taking my comment.

Gerrymandering needs to be prohibited. Both parties have been guilty of the practice. If you look at some of our districts it is comical. We need a non partisan independent council or organization to draw up new districts based on population equality and according to the Federal Voting Act. I am not an expert but I am sure there are computer programs around that would remove some of the human bias from the process. I for one am tired of NC being the laughing stock of the Country for being a "former democracy". Gerrymandering has turned NC into a Republican dictatorship. That need to change with a non biased redistricting. Thank you....

I want our districts drawn fairly and free from partisan politics!

Here's why:
1. Gerrymandering is undemocratic, unrepresentative, and unfair - particularly in NC.
   - In partisan districting systems, "representatives choose their voters, rather than voters choosing their representatives."
   - In the 2016 NCGA elections, Republicans received 52% of votes for the House and 56% of votes for the Senate - but they won over 60% of House seats and 70% of Senate seats
   - The Electoral Integrity Project, which measures the the quality of elections worldwide, gave NC a score of 7/100 on the integrity of its voting districts, lower than any other state - or country - analyzed

2. Gerrymandering decreases competition, and contributes to political polarization
   - In the 2016 NCGA elections, per Ballotpedia, less than 15% of the races in the House and Senate were competitive
   - When representatives are able to choose their voters - and thus are not accountable to a broad constituency - they can afford to play solely to their base
   - This means not only that many interests are neglected in any given district, but also that more extreme interests/positions tend to prevail (polarization)

3. Legal challenges to partisan districting have been costly for our state
   - There have been over 30 court interventions in the redistricting process over the past 30 years in NC
   - In the last 6 years alone, NC has paid over $5 million for redistricting litigation

There are a couple of ways to do this. Chose an independent commission, devoid of politicians, to draw these districts. Or, there are computer algorithms that would take any human bias out of the equation. Either of these would get my vote, but definitely leave the politicians out of it. Thank you.

Non-partisan redistricting is vital to better legislative outcomes for all political parties. Non-partisan districts create environments that are more competitive across parties as well as within a given party. Competition produces more motivated candidates that are less likely to be influenced exclusively by a given interest group and are more invested in the concerns of their constituents.

The current model, with its favoring of incumbents and inability to encourage competition, leads to a public ennui and distrust of the legislature. People feel better about their representatives when they feel they are truly representative - having gone through an election process that is designed to put forth the most qualified candidates on either side.

Thank you...
We have a bedrock principal in our democracy- one person one vote - every vote should count the same. Some votes do not count as much as others because of gerrymandering for partisan benefits. This has been true to some extent with both parties in power. The legislature should pass legislation adopting a non-partisan commission with the responsibility of taking politics out of voting! Short of that, the legislature should appoint experts and mandate that race, income and politics must not be considered in drawing legislative lines and voting districts.

Please do the right thing and honorable thing. Every thinking person in the country knows that extreme partisan gerrymandering hurts everyone, is cynical, and is ultimately destructive. Independent, nonpartisan redistricting is required, and you can make it happen. Please listen to those most vocal and most knowledgeable about this. Voters should choose their representatives, not the other way around.

NC lawmakers have demonstrated time and time again, on both sides of the aisle, that neither Democrats nor Republicans should be trusted nor tasked with determining the size and shape of North Carolina’s voting districts. The time has come to show the rest of our country just how impartial and bipartisan our deeply diverse state can be. I call for the establishment of an independent council for the purposes of determining how the voting districts in North Carolina should be drawn, ensuring that the new boundaries be established in order to best serve all North Carolinians, and for complete transparency both during the establishment of said council and while our new voting map is being created.

The criteria used for redrawing the districts across the state need to provide equal representation for all races, income levels, political ideologies, etc. in each district. Please do what is right to ensure fair and even chances for all political parties to be represented in the NC government in the years to come. I am tired of seeing my fellow Americans be treated as less-than-human and have their needs be stolen from them. Please just start redistricting with a bipartisan board. These court challenges every time are killing the people of this state. The voters are watching you. Just do what is right and stop trying to gerrymander.

Most importantly I would like to see the redistricting follow the laws of the state and federal government. No regard should be paid to voting history of any area and neither should race play a role in the redistricting process and thusly the end results. Each district should be compact and contiguous and the candidate that is running for election should live in the district they represent. Your consideration and thoughtful consideration in this process following the applicable guidelines and should not favor either party.

The criteria for drawing the maps is not acceptable. Use criteria that are objective and defensible. North Carolina used to be a model for progressive ideals. I fear that now we represent every bad thing that electorate should know. No regard should be paid to voting areas or suburban areas. On the whole, communities gain power. Please hire mathematicians to solve this problem and redistrict with science. I am tired of seeing my fellow Americans be treated as less-than-human and have their needs be stolen from them. Please just start redistricting with a bipartisan board. These court challenges every time are killing the people of this state. The voters are watching you. Just do what is right and stop trying to gerrymander.

Districts should be drawn by an independent and diverse panel of people who are not elected officials and who can objectively map districts. Districts should be based upon population, creating each congressional district to contain roughly the same amount of people. The individuals who serve on the panel should be appointed, not be currently holding public office, and should serve for a defined period of time.

If a party cannot win based on their policies, they ought not to substitute a manipulated district for the REAL “will of the people”. Blatant partisanship in drawing the maps is not acceptable. Use criteria to reduce splitting of local governments. Use criteria that are objective and defensible. North Carolina used to be a model for progressive ideals. I fear that now we represent every bad thing that politics can be, hyper-partisanship, opportunism, negating local government actions and making a mockery of "free elections". Redraw maps that are an affront to democracy and you admit to being cowards afraid to compete on a level playing field. Make us proud of North Carolina once again. Do the right thing.

Carolina once again. Do the right thing. The legislature should pass legislation adopting a non-partisan redistricting. Thank you.

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Lines need to be redrawn to better reflect districts. Gerrymandering as it currently stands, our legislature represents acreage, not people. End gerrymander drawn maps by following the standards below to

Ms. Nina Carmen
Aug 7 2017 9:42PM
Please redistrict in a fair way that is blind to race, gender, age, political party affiliations, and other demographics. Thank you.

Mr. Powell Marshall
Aug 7 2017 9:23PM
This needs to be completed by an independent non partisan commission. And sitting legislative group, be Democratic, Republican or other will draw maps to Favor themselves.

Mr. Mark Zachmann
Aug 7 2017 9:38PM
It's impossible to describe how much I feel that going forward our districts should be drawn by a non-partisan commission. The US is the only civilized country that lets legislators draw their own districts and there's a reason no one else does - it's just crazy to let politicians decide district boundaries.

Mrs. Iris Carman
Aug 7 2017 9:42PM
NONPARTISAN redistricting is the only logical choice. End gerrymander drawn maps by following the standards below to create a fair process and fair district maps... adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps exclude political information like voter registration data, past election results or where incumbents live when drawing maps draw compact districts that keep communities together Protect and support our democracy by creating fair and sensible voting districts.

Mr. Evan Plante
Aug 7 2017 10:03PM
When I see gerrymandering (whether it's political or race based), I am reminded that the goal is to divide neighbors. Don't divide me from my people. Don't herd us into "manageable" groups. That's what gerrymandering does. Its a sick fantasy to play God. Let us assemble, then reckon with us as neighbors rather than numbers. Start at one house and count until you fill the district. It's easy, if you don't insist on 100% Car.

Ms. Nina Carmen Monroe
Aug 7 2017 10:07PM
Whatever method you choose for redistricting, you MUST remove the power of drawing districts from the hands of politicians, Democrat OR Republican. An independent body made of people from across the spectrum of parties needs to be responsible for this. Districts need to be designed by location and similarity of issues and needs. This is the SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT THING you can do for the state and the country at this time. Destroy gerrymandering - whatever it takes.

Mrs. Donna Klibanow
Aug 7 2017 10:17PM
As it currently stands, our legislature represents acreage, not people. The smallest number of people in this state have the largest representation, and the largest number of people have the least. The districts should be drawn so that the population is represented fairly. Gerrymandering our state to artificially give one power a super majority they have not earned and do not deserve is not democracy.

TAMMY WALSH
Aug 7 2017 10:32PM
Lines need to be redrawn to better reflect districts. Gerrymandering needs to end. Should be done by a bipartisan committee.

Dr. Douglas Hamerski
Aug 7 2017 11:25PM
Please pursue independent districting. This is too important to be left to those who stand to gain from its abuse.

Ms. Patricia Derrough
Aug 8 2017 12:13AM
Please stop unfair gerrymandering. Please redraw districts and make fair.
Districts in NC should be drawn by nonpartisan committee. If done properly the party representation should be roughly 50/50, reflecting the true nature of our swing state. This will force compromise and allow all citizens to be fairly represented in our state government.

According to litigation in the last 6 years alone, NC has paid over $5 million for redistricting process over the past 30 years in NC. There have been over 30 court interventions in the redistricting process. Legal challenges to partisan districting have been costly for our state government.

In the 2016 NCGA elections, per Ballotpedia, less than 15% of the races in the House and Senate were competitive. In the 2016 NCGA elections, Republicans received 52% of votes for the House and 56% of votes for the Senate - but they won over 60% of House seats and 70% of Senate seats. House seats and Senate seats are an embarrassment to the State of NC. Every vote should count equally.

Act quickly and be fair. Make the districts geometrically compact and stop with the racist tactics. Return Asheville back to Asheville instead of McDowell.

We need compact scientifically drawn non-politically motivated districts.  Computers are inherently non partisan. Computers are inherently non partisan.

Stop gerrymandering. It is undemocratic. Adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps. Exclude political information like voter registration data, past election results, or where incumbents live. Draw compact districts that keep communities together. Thank you. Betty Gunz.

We need a bipartisan and independent commission to draw new districts. Our state cannot wait for crooks and cheaters to “do the right thing”. Our GOP politicians have been bought and sold, and have no intention of working for all North Carolinians.

Creating or maintaining a partisan advantage should not be a criterion for redrawing electoral maps following the census to an independent body, like so many other states have already done.

Gerrymandering decreases competition, and contributes to political polarization. In the 2016 NCGA elections, Republicans received 52% of votes for the House and 56% of votes for the Senate - but they won over 60% of House seats and 70% of Senate seats. The Electoral Integrity Project, which measures the the quality of elections worldwide, gave NC a score of 7/100 on the integrity of its voting districts, lower than any other state - or country - analyzed.

Districts should be drawn by computer algorithms. Inputting political affiliation to determine the most balanced districts available. Population and race can be used to make sure there are no skews in the results. To make sure it's all balanced. But absolutely no cherry picking districts. Computers are inherently non partisan.

We need to put an end to gerrymandering. It is undemocratic. Adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps. Exclude political information like voter registration data, past election results, or where incumbents live. Draw compact districts that keep communities together. Thank you. Betty Gunz.

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Creating or maintaining a partisan advantage should not be a criterion for redrawing electoral maps following the census to an independent body, like so many other states have already done.

A nonpartisan committee should have the final authority to accept, reject, or redraw any voting district. Such a committee should include regular citizens, and a time of public comment and scrutiny. Lines should be geographically based, and contiguous. Splitting up a house, streets, college campuses etc should not be allowed. If a district is shown to be discriminatory, it should be redrawn within 10 days.

Creating or maintaining a partisan advantage should not be a criterion for redrawing voting district maps. DRAW CLEAN MAPS with clear geographically based districts.

Stop gerrymandering. It is undemocratic. Adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps. Exclude political information like voter registration data, past election results, or where incumbents live. Draw compact districts that keep communities together. Thank you. Betty Gunz.

We need compact scientifically drawn non-politically motivated districts.

The only way to ensure fair redistricting is to have the maps drawn by nonpartisan districts. Computers are inherently non partisan.

We need a bipartisan and independent commission to draw new districts. Our state cannot wait for crooks and cheaters to “do the right thing”. Our GOP politicians have been bought and sold, and have no intention of working for all North Carolinians.

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Act quickly and be fair. Make the districts geometrically compact and stop with the racist tactics. Return Asheville back to Asheville instead of McDowell.
Courtney McGuire

Aug 8 2017  9:25AM

I write to urge lawmakers to support nonpartisan redistricting. Gerrymandering is undemocratic and unrepresentative, especially in NC. The Electoral Integrity Project, which measures the quality of elections worldwide, gave NC a score of 7/100 on the integrity of its voting districts. This is lower than any other state or country analyzed and something which should be deeply shameful to all North Carolinians, but especially to our politicians. It is time to make our elections fair, increase competition and limit political polarization. I fully support a nonpartisan redistricting effort and I urge you all to support North Carolinians' rights to fair and democratic elections.

Sincerely,
Courtney McGuire

Mrs. CYNTHIA MALESKY

Aug 8 2017  9:26AM

Independent redistricting is the goal. In the interim, fair redistricting without gerrymandering based on political affiliation will provide balanced representation and may assist with reducing partisanship. When a district contains varying needs, representatives must balance the needs of ALL of the people.

Matthew Miller

Aug 8 2017  9:37AM

Please draw maps with fair and balanced populations. Do not draw maps that lean to specific voting groups or ethnic backgrounds. Representatives should be elected based on the voting of the people. Not specific people.

Tara Romano

Aug 8 2017  9:48AM

One person/one vote is the cornerstone to a robust democracy. Partisan redistricting, that aims to give one political party a practically unbeatable advantage in the gerrymandered district, threatens that cornerstone. In the 2016 state legislative election, over half of the races were uncontested, and many more were not competitive, considered as they were “safe” districts for one party or another. This type of partisan redistricting leaves a situation in which elected officials chose their voters, rather than the other way around.

Partisan gerrymandering leaves us with lawmakers in “safe” districts who don't feel the need to be accountable and responsive to their constituents, as those constituents are unlikely to be able to vote out these representatives. What we are left with is a legislature of extremists, who are only accountable to the moneied special interest groups that fund their increasingly expensive campaigns. Is that what democracy is supposed to look like?

We need an independent redistricting process now. Thank you.

Mr. Richard Boulter

Aug 8 2017  9:56AM

The citizens of this state deserve to have fair and unbiased voting districts! This right is at the heart of our constitution democracy! We need to have an independent redistricting commission to ensure competitive elections, and eliminate super majorities.

An independent redistricting commission would insure fair elections and hold legislators more accountable to their constituents.

An independent redistricting commission would not racially discriminate voters.

An independent redistricting commission would not isolate target individuals from their neighbors.

we deserve nothing less.

Rachael Barker

Aug 8 2017  9:56AM

We need an independent, bi-partisan team to handle redistricting. Every person in North Carolina should receive an equal opportunity for their vote to matter. It has been shown time and again that politics and racism is behind the current maps and it is long past time for that racism to be stamped out.

Britt Kaufmann

Aug 8 2017  10:02AM

I would like to see an independent redistricting commission take the primary role in sorting out the new districts. Let’s be wise with our taxpayer dollars and sort this out once and for all. We have to redistrict, so let’s do it the right way. Make the process non-partisan. Redistrict in a way that is fair to the people and above party. When we have competitive districts our representatives will better serve the people and be less prone to the corruption of outside money (i.e. Ralph Hise).

We've been given an opportunity to restore the people's faith in our government. Let's take advantage of that by removing the aile.

Ms. Susan Larson

Aug 8 2017  10:18AM

I favor setting up an independent redistricting commission to insure a competitive election.

Christopher Guidry

Aug 8 2017  10:25AM

Please create a bipartisan commission for redistricting. Having one party control the process is not only unfair, but it has resulted in a huge waste of time and money in legal fights. In addition, as a voter I have less confidence in the government and the voting process based on unfairly drawn districts.

I strongly support a non-partisan, independent redistricting process to make voting fair for all North Carolinians. I would like to see an independent redistricting commission created who will give us a fair system, not one tainted by political agenda. Voters should pick their politicians, not the other way around!
Aug 8 2017 11:00AM Ms. Brittany Wyche  
Gerrymandering in North Carolina has been out of control, and based both on racial and political lines. I want these lines to be more fairly drawn to accurately reflect the communities being represented. Ideally, I think an independent, non-partisan group should re-draw these lines, or even a computer that can do so mathematically without preference for either political party. I hope such groups or algorithms will at least be consulted. As a resident of Winston-Salem, I have personally seen how the previous lines unfairly favor certain candidates, despite the overall votes of the county. This does not serve anyone well, and tarnishes the reputation of those entrenched in power through unconstitutional means. Consequently, state and national representatives do not reflect the interests of the state. They are able to play to specific or special interests based on the lines. A particular local example is how Representative Virginia Foxx has managed to maintain her congressional seat by only seeking out approval and votes from wealthy, white residents based on the crazy district lines in Forsyth County. She can ignore the area that she knows will not vote for her anyway. The 5th district (where I live) is one of the most cited examples of gerrymandering in the state and in the country, and it is extremely disheartening and infuriating as a voter.

Aug 8 2017 11:02AM Mr. Oscar Weinmeister  
It is time to stop the cycle of partisan redistricting backlash based on whichever party has controls of the legislature. I am strongly in favor of developing a non-partisan redistricting process by establishing a non-partisan redistricting commission, comprised of retired judges and diverse persons who have not held political office. Other criteria may be necessary to ensure that the commission selection process does not favor one party over the other.

Aug 8 2017 11:14AM Mrs. Kari Hippert  
Congressional districts should not be planned to benefit either political party. Rather, districts should be comprised of citizens who share geographical interests. They should only be set up by population, not by race, or socio economics or political party. I think the present districts are a disgrace to the American system. Our legislators should be working for the betterment of our state not for their personal advancement and reelection.

Aug 8 2017 11:22AM Mrs. Elizabeth Boulter  
I am a citizen of North Carolina and have taught in the NC public schools for twenty-seven years. I think that the severely gerrymandered districts in NC do not serve the people of this state and do not foster a healthy political environment here. We need to swiftly and thoroughly correct this problem by a complete redistricting, and this should be done in a transparent and non-partisan manner as possible.

Aug 8 2017 11:28AM Mr. James Mcwhirter  
Please, restore fairness to the voters of our state.

Aug 8 2017 11:29AM Dr. William Blau  
Gerrymandering is undemocratic, unrepresentative, and unfair. Legal challenges to partisan districting have been costly for our state. A well-designed nonpartisan districting system would return to a system where voters choose their representatives instead of representatives choosing their voters.

Aug 8 2017 11:37AM Mr. James DiMartino  
As a former precinct worker during elections (precinct assistant, precinct judge) I am most heartily in favor of an independent, unbiased commission to redraw district lines without bias from political influence. Gerrymandering has been around for a long time, how about letting North Carolina be “First in Fairness” (wouldn’t that be a catchy phrase for a license plate?) when it comes to democracy.

Aug 8 2017 11:41AM Lindsay Dinkins  
We must have a non-partisan committee to redraw lines without funding from one party or the other to sway their opinion along with an audit to ensure fairness. If you are against this, you’re against your constituents.

Aug 8 2017 11:46AM Deirdre Caudill  
I urge the GA to have an independent bipartisan commission redraw the maps.

Aug 8 2017 11:51AM Mrs. Amy Weinmeister  
I call for an independent redistricting commission to fix the gerrymandered districts in NC.

Aug 8 2017 11:56AM Wendy Reid  
Be fair. Is that possible?

Aug 8 2017 12:01PM Ms. Kat Turczyn  
An independent redistricting commission would insure fair elections and hold legislators more accountable to their constituents. This is important if we wish to uphold our democracy.

Aug 8 2017 12:06PM Mr. Keith Lunday  
Voters should get to choose their representatives, not the other way around.

Aug 8 2017 12:18PM Heather Watrous  
An independent redistricting commission would eliminate super-majorities for all time, insure a competitive election, insure fair elections and hold legislatures more accountable to their constituents, would not racially discriminate voters, and would not isolate target individuals from their neighbors. The vote is all non-political office holders have. We MUST have a fair election to be properly represented by legislators who will protect and represent his or her constituents interests accurately and fairly.

Aug 8 2017 12:36PM Mr. Jeffrey Ford  
We need independent redistricting. Voters should get to pick their representatives, not the other way around.
Mrs. Jane Willig  

Please move quickly and bipartisanly to correct the gerrymandering that has caused voters around the State of NC to feel unrepresented and unheard. 

An independent redistricting commission would not racially discriminate voters, which should be a priority for all of us! 

For credibility and acceptance of the redistricting process it must be independent of political parties.

Aug 8 2017 12:38PM  

Dr. Stephen North  

An independent redistricting commission would insure fair elections, hold legislators more accountable to their constituents, not racially discriminate voters, and not isolate individuals from their neighbors. For the sake of our Democracy, please move quickly on this crucial issue. Thank you from Western NC. —Melanie Restall

Aug 8 2017 12:52PM  

Ms. Melanie Restall  

An independent redistricting commission would insure fair elections, hold legislators more accountable to their constituents, not racially discriminate voters, and not isolate individuals from their neighbors. For the sake of our Democracy, please move quickly on this crucial issue. Thank you from Western NC. —Melanie Restall

Aug 8 2017 1:33PM  

Ms. Linda Vista  

I would like to see North Carolina set an example for the nation to be #1 for fairness to ALL it's residents...instead of the usual and shameful place at the bottom of the heap. KEEP POLITICIANS OUT OF THE REDISTRICTING PROCESS. I only support and trust an independent and professional third party to do this job.

Aug 8 2017 1:52PM  

Ashe Lockhart  

I would like to see redistributing at all local, state, federal levels be done in such a manner as to eliminate political party influence and control by elected representatives. I feel sure there are ways to make the process produce voting districts more representative, competitive, and fair. It's outrageous that the Dems locked up the process and tilted the field, but it's also a shame that the Republicans have stooped to the same level. You can be better than that.

Aug 8 2017 1:53PM  

Mr. Harry Phillips  

For years our redistricting methods have favored the party in power. This works against general principles of fairness. Now, the "surgical precision" used by the GOP to redistrict is an example of institutional racism and a source of great embarrassment to our state.

Other states struggle with how to redistrict fairly. California, Arizona, and Massachusetts have developed what appear to be sound guidelines.

The GOP seems to be delaying as long as possible. After researching the options, there's nothing really magical or confusing about how to redistrict fairly. Establishing a nonpartisan commission is one way to begin. I hope an independent panel emerges that will determine a way forward.

Thanks for this opportunity.

Aug 8 2017 2:02PM  

Kim Rose  

Partisan Advantage: Maintaining or establishing a partisan advantage for any party shall NOT be a criterion for the construction or approval of any House and/or Senate district plans.

Aug 8 2017 3:13PM  

Mrs. Carol Aycoth  

Please make the redistricting process as transparent as possible. Also try to do it as nonpartisan. It is a waste of tax payer money to keep having to redo the maps. We voted 49-48 for governor. This shouldn't have the district's 11-3 Republican. Do it right and you won't have to do it again!

Aug 8 2017 3:14PM  

Jeanne Tilley  

I strongly support nonpartisan redistricting, and encourage all members of the NC legislature to do the same.

Gerrymandering is undemocratic, unrepresentative, and unfair. Moreover, it decreases competition, and contributes to political polarization. In the 2016 NCGA elections, Republicans received 52% of votes for the House and 56% of votes for the Senate - but they won over 60% of House seats and 70% of Senate seats. I realize political parties are out for victory, but this outcome does not suggest that North Carolina voters *as a whole* are being properly represented.

Legal challenges to partisan districting have been costly for our state. I hope the NCGA is able to come together for the good of all North Carolina's citizens, and end partisan or other discriminatory district-drawing practices.

Aug 8 2017 3:43PM  

Dr. Patrick Brown  

Both political parties in North Carolina have a history of gerrymandering. While the GOP is clearly most recently guilty - the two establishment parties have proven time and again that they can't be trusted with voting maps. I believe that it a redistricting process independent of both parties is vital for fair maps and a process that cannot be abused by the parties in power in the future.
Hand the redistricting over to a non-partisan panel or a private firm.

Dr. Joni  McKeeman

I am calling for an Independent Redistricting Commission to fix, once and for all, the gerrymandered districts in NC. The fact that a large majority of our districts run un-opposed is not because there is complete homogeneity in a drawn district. It is the result of the district being so lop-sided one way or the other it’s not feasible to run opposing candidates. Which limits discourse, interest, and turnout.

I know this means elections would be more volatile but at least we will be sending representatives who will have to fight for what they say or potentially lose their job. I know that’s not in the interest of you who will be voting but I hope you remember how you felt about government before you became a part of the system instead of fighting for self-interest. You will be rewarded for your efforts and returning the faith in the government and the process.

Nothing short of an independent redistricting committee, free from political influence of either party, is acceptable. Especially if the state is going to usurp the ability of cities and counties to run their municipal governments, we should at least have representatives at the state level who reflect the districts they come from.

I strongly believe that the state of North Carolina will be much better served if nonpartisan redistricting is implemented. North Carolina was given a score of 7/100 by the Electoral Integrity Project, indicating that our elections do not represent a democratic process. I was recently attending a college recruitment event with my daughter in Virginia, and during a lunch discussion with other parents, one parent informed me that she was originally from North Carolina. She told me that when she tells people she grew up in NC, they often comment with disdain about the state of politics in NC. Our beautiful state has gained a very poor reputation, and the gerrymandering that has taken place in NC is one of the reasons others find our state to be so concerning. I hope that you will consider these issues as you meet to draw new districts. I am hopeful that NC can begin to regain its reputation as a fair and just place to live, one that attracts businesses and families to the state, allowing industry and jobs to grow. As things stand, parents will not be wanting to send their children to our universities and businesses will not be moving to the area because they will have difficulty finding employees who will move with the business. Thank you for considering these issues and my concerns.

I am writing to support the nonpartisan redistricting in North Carolina. I respectfully request a nonpartisan redistricting of North Carolina’s electorate.

Christine Henry

Hello,

I respectfully request a nonpartisan redistricting of North Carolina’s electorate. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Christine Henry

I urge you to adopt non-partisan redistricting reform. Whether Democrats or Republicans are in office, it is imperative to draw districts impartially, with full public transparency and citizen participation at all stages. Districts should not be drawn to favor one political party over another. I want, as I am sure you agree, our democracy to function so that the People select their representation, not vice versa. Thank you.

Hello,

I am calling for an Independent Redistricting Commission to fix, once and for all, the gerrymandered districts in NC. We've got to fix them anyway, so let's do it in a non-partisan manner that restores some faith in the government and the process.

Stephanie Berry

I am calling for an Independent Redistricting Commission to fix, once and for all, the gerrymandered districts in NC. We've got to fix them anyway, so let's do it in a non-partisan manner that restores some faith in the government and the process.

Mr. Alan Gratz

PLEASEx PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE institute an Independent Redistricting Committee to establish our state's voting districts in a fair and non-partisan manner! Both Democrats AND Republicans change the districts to suit their own agendas when they're in power. Let's put a stop to it all! North Carolinians deserve fair and equal representation.

Ms. Lily Oster

I'm writing to call for fair legislative maps that protect the right to vote of every North Carolinian. The process for drawing legislative maps should be fair and open and avoid racial and partisan gerrymandering. Best practices suggest that the new districts should be:

-compact, coinciding with cities and towns and avoiding splitting counties;
- contiguous, meaning that the districts are not merely joined at the corners;
- drawn to follow state and federal law, such as the Voting Rights Act;
- drawn fairly and without consideration of partisan factors such as voter registration, voter turnout, past election results, and the residence of incumbents.

Thank you!

Please work to make North Carolina a state where representative government operates fairly once again.

Sincerely,

Mr. Paul  Cash

Mrs. Patricia Howlett

I want to end political redistricting. This practice is in conflict with a true Democratic government. Every persons vote should carry equal importance.

Patricia Chylko

Hand the redistricting over to a non-partisan panel or a private firm. Let's get it out of the hands of politicians.

Ms. Lorelei DiBernardo

I'm writing to call for fair legislative maps that protect the right to vote of every North Carolinian. The process for drawing legislative maps should be fair and open and avoid racial and partisan gerrymandering. Best practices suggest that the new districts should be:

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I am writing to support the nonpartisan redistricting in North Carolina. I strongly believe that the state of North Carolina will be much better served if nonpartisan redistricting is implemented. North Carolina was given a score of 7/100 by the Electoral Integrity Project, indicating that our elections do not represent a democratic process. I was recently attending a college recruitment event with my daughter in Virginia, and during a lunch discussion with other parents, one parent informed me that she was originally from North Carolina. She told me that when she tells people she grew up in NC, they often comment with disdain about the state of politics in NC. Our beautiful state has gained a very poor reputation, and the gerrymandering that has taken place in NC is one of the reasons others find our state to be so concerning. I hope that you will consider these issues as you meet to draw new districts.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Lily Oster

An independent redistricting commission would ensure fair elections and hold legislators more accountable to their constituents. An independent redistricting commission would not racially discriminate voters. An independent redistricting commission would not isolate target individuals from their neighbors.
I'm extremely disappointed in Republicans in the NCGA for drawing up a racist districting map in the first place. Y'all should be ashamed of yourselves; and if you're not, you could at the very least please not repeat the same mistake. It's real easy: draw a map that's not extremely partisan or racist. Please don't embarrass North Carolina like that again.

Redistricting must be done as carefully, fairly, quickly, and thoroughly as possible. NC Republicans must stop violating the Constitution or they will face the consequences as the people of NC are fed up with their obsession with hurting the people of this state rather than helping them. Their proposals are archaic, medieval and based on obsolete ideas.

ONE person, ONE vote. Time for NC's good ole boy network to end. Racism is disgraceful! Shame on all of you!

I would implore that the committee consider sourcing an outside, unbiased organization or group to handle the redistricting. Our state has more registered Democrats than Republicans, and has become a battleground state in recent years, and even though it did swing slightly right in the past election, it does not account for the Republicans having over 70% of the voting power. This is NOT what the voters wanted, and our voices are not being heard or represented by the representatives elected. North Carolina has been held up as a shining example of gerrymandering and backwards politics these last few years - this is our chance to once again be seen as the standard to which everyone else should aspire. An outside organization would not only bring back the balance of power that is so desperately needed in our legislature, but it could prevent future abuses - from EITHER party. This is not a partisan issue, and should no longer be treated as such. Thank you.

The history of state and federal courts dealing with NC redistricting efforts in the past 20 years should be well known at this point. Both Democratic and Republican-controlled legislatures in this state have overreached and been overturned by the Supreme Court, as well as lower federal courts. Yet the same mistakes (or purposeful unconstitutional efforts) continue to be made. I humbly ask the members of the N.C. General Assembly, specifically the Republican leadership and redistricting chairs in both chambers, to learn from the mistakes of the recent past. The state legislative districts must not "pack" minorities into select districts — they should especially not "overpack," with lopsided percentages in specially created "minority majority" districts. I applaud the recent GOP efforts at compactness — while in and of itself not a guarantee of constitutionality, nevertheless the recent federal maps created districts that look more compact than any that have been drawn in decades. North Carolinians want districts that look like districts - compact, fair, representative, and competitive. I understand that the party in power wishes to remain the party in power. In the past, this has been the Democrats, and now it is the Republicans. However, especially in light of the upcoming Wisconsin redistricting case being heard by the U.S. Supreme Court this next term, maps and districts should be more competitive among the two parties (and, in light of increasing "unaffiliated" registrations), not less. The state districts we see from this General Assembly should be A) more compact, e.g., easily understood by voters, B) more diffusive of minority populations among the districts, with "majority minority" districts having a lower percentage and not being "overpacked" and C) more competitive state House and Senate districts than those currently in effect. These would create the basis for more constitutional districts under the 14th Amendment and the Voting Rights Act. Failure to do so will result in North Carolina, once again, entering the cycle of federal litigation -- and the state's record before the High Court is on the line.

The Legislative Redistricting process is an opportunity for North Carolina to embark on a new era, leaving behind the partisan battles of the past and working for the fair representation of ALL North Carolinians rather than putting party before people. It is, therefore,VERY IMPORTANT that new redistricting maps be guided by the following criteria:

Politically Neutral – No addresses of candidates or incumbents should be used, and residents’ voting histories (including primary voting histories) should *not* be considered.

Compact and Contiguous – Voters within a district should not be unnecessarily dispersed, and no voting district may be geographically divided, or split, by another district, i.e. all portions of a district must connect.

Respect Boundaries – Avoid dividing counties and municipalities where possible.

Protect Communities of Interest – Avoid dividing communities of interest where possible. Communities of interest typically have social, cultural, racial, ethnic, and/or economic interests in common.

Transparent Process – The process of creating maps should be TRANSPARENT, providing maps as soon as possible, live-streaming meetings, and allowing the public to provide suggestions for changes to the draft maps.

Thank you!
We need impartial, nonpartisan redistricting and a plan to prevent any gerrymandering. We need an independent redistricting committee to begin to have real elections in this state. I support forming such a committee which would use mathematics instead of greed to make these boundaries. It's time to let go the pettiness in this bickering partisan politics. You are all adults. Please, take a moment in the morning when you wake up and brush your teeth, look into that mirror, and examine, what kind of a person you want to be today. Take a look at yourself, and ask the question, "the way I behaved is acceptable on a school playground?"

Sincerely,

To whom it may concern,

It's time to let go the pettiness in this bickering partisan politics. You all were elected to represent the people of the greater North Carolina; the votes was not to show you we are in support of your extremely biased and often ill-intended policies that seemly destructive, not only to this great state, but to your personal political career.

You are all adults. Please, take a moment in the morning when you wake up and brush your teeth, look into that mirror, and examine, what kind of a person you want to be today. Take a look at yourself, and ask the question, "the way I behaved is acceptable on a school playground?"

Sincerely,

a concerned citizen

History has shown that the “elected” officials in charge of gerrymandering districts never act in the best interest of the voters of NC and want to stay elected and line their pockets. The state Democrats did it for years, but nowhere near as viciously and racist as the current GOP powers-that-be. When a conservative Supreme Court calls your district drawing racist and you hire the same racist fool who drew the lines in the first place to redraw them, you prove you are not interested in helping.

The only way to fairly solve this issue is to remove the political and human elements. An independent commission that uses census data and computer modeling to redraw the districts is the only way to go.

Redistricting should be non-partisan and focused on how to best serve the people of North Carolina in exercising their right to vote. There should be specific rules that bar changing districts to favor a particular party. Proposed changes should be required to clearly document the rationale for the changes and be required to demonstrate the benefits to the people.

Four words: Independent Computer-Modeled Districts.

Redistricting the state in a fair, legal, and non-partisan manner. The gerrymandering that has happened in NC is shameful.

I am asking for an Independent Redistricting Commission to fix, once and for all, the gerrymandered districts in NC. We’ve got to fix them anyway, so let’s do it in a non-partisan manner that restores some faith in the government and the process.

Four words: Independent Computer-Modeled Districts.

Follow state and federal law

Be compact and contiguous

Be drawn without considering partisan factors like voter registration, results of previous elections, voter turnout and where the incumbent lives

The criteria should require that the districts should be drawn by a non-partisan panel of experts. Gerrymandering encourages gridlock as a politician just needs to run to the far left/right to appeal to their base for re-election. With Gerrymandering, there is no incentive for politicians to find sensible compromise and real solutions. Elected leaders should serve their entire district, not just constituents in their party. Sadly politicians are about self interest and not public service.

I request that Independent Redistricting Commission be formed to fix, once and for all, the gerrymandered districts in NC.

We need an independent redistricting committee to begin to have real elections in this state. I support forming such a committee which would use mathematics instead of greed to make these boundaries.

An independent redistricting commission would not isolate target individuals from their neighbors. An independent redistricting commission would not draw districts in a racially discriminatory manner. An independent redistricting commission would also not draw districts in a racially discriminatory manner.

Anything less than an independent redistricting commission within a system of proportional representation is unfair and unacceptable.

Quit the gerrymandering.

I support an independent redistricting commission, which would make it more likely that we would have competitive elections. Why, for instance, is Asheville not included in our Congressional district?! An independent redistricting commission would insure fair elections and hold legislators more accountable to their constituents. An independent redistricting commission would also not draw districts in a racially discriminatory manner.

We need impartial, nonpartisan redistricting and a plan to prevent any party from manipulating boundaries to disenfranchise voters.
Redistricting should be done in a manner that does not include political parties. Both political ideologies have brilliant ideas for how this state should operate at a government level, and I strongly believe that removing political parties from map-making, and thus also removing gerrymandering, will force both sides of opinion to come together and to work together as one team to govern, a team that fashions both sides of opinion into pieces of legislation that work for the citizens of N.C. The rhetoric from both parties - whether it be local, statewide, or national - is that of two opposing sports rivals, which as a citizen of this state and country, is disturbing. We should not be separating ourselves between Democrat, Republican, etc., but instead unifying ourselves as one team, a team of North Carolinians and ultimately, a team of Americans.

Andrew Wall

The Supreme Court has ruled that a large section of NC districts are illegal and must be redrawn. They should not be redrawn by the man who drew the illegal districts in the first place! Nor should they be redrawn by a partisan group. The new district lines should be redrawn at best by a computerized system that will not respond to partisan interests, but to fair and just parameters. At least, the lines should be redrawn by a panel, independent of either party, whose make-up is balanced, fair, and honest. I believe our current one-party system is destroying our democracy and that fairly redrawing the district lines is the only way to end what is happening now.

Dr. Bok Baek

Ithe redistributing should be done without any political point of view.!!!

Ms. Kelli Keck

Please support a nonpartisan process for drawing new maps insuring that all North Carolinians are fairly represented in the state.

Ms. Aarati Ramanand

To my representatives,

As your constituent, I want to see districts drawn that accurately represent ALL the citizens of the state. I want to see these criteria used to create the districts for the NC Senate, the NC House and the US Congressional districts that represent ALL NC residents, not just those of any one party.

So what are the guidelines being used? Are districts being considered that are contiguous and make geographic sense? Are you making sure the districts are not diluting voting rights of the residents? Are you making sure there is no discrimination factoring in, racial, political, or otherwise?

Please know that I am not accusing NCGA of any of these things. But without a transparent process, we have no way of knowing.

Show us you are better than this.

Sincere Regards,

Mr. Everette Webb

Please drop the political partisanship when these unconstitutional state House of Representative and Senate districts are being redrawn. The Republican majority has gotten this state in trouble time and again trying to gerrymander the other party out of existence. Furthermore, you are trying to dilute the votes and influence of North Carolina’s African American voters and the courts have found you out. The courts are watching you and you will not be allowed to cheat the voters of North Carolina again.

I know you want to do everything in your power to keep your super majorities, but if these house and senate maps are drawn fairly and responsibly that will not happen. This is fairly equally divided state between the two parties, and you know it. And these legislative districts should reflect that balance. Perhaps we need to have a bipartisan/non partisan commission to draw these maps.

Finally, I simply don’t understand the hiring of Tom Hoffler to draw these maps for the Republicans again. This is the man who, as you know, racially gerrymandered this state the first time, and will try to do it again. It seems as if you all have learned nothing from the previous experience with this gentlemen. As the old adage goes, "Fool me once shame on you; fool me twice shame on me."

Let’s do better for all the citizens of this great State of North Carolina.

Dr. Chris Mansfield

Please establish fairly balanced voting districts by means of an independent, nonpartisan commission Save our democracy not your seats.
I urge you to draw Constitutional maps for the next elections. Let's get an independent organization to do the redistricting. I want political district maps that are:

- fair and open;
- avoid racial or partisan gerrymandering; and
- allow voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around.

Government should be an honor and a responsibility—not a game to see who ends up with the biggest gerrymandered advantage. If I was in school I was taught that districts should be contiguous. It seems like they always were until about 20 years ago, but I may be mistaken. One example of bad restricting is the city of Asheville. It seems like they always were until about 20 years ago, but I may be mistaken. One example of bad restricting is the city of Asheville. Please place it back in District 11 where it belongs. It seems like they always were until about 20 years ago, but I may be mistaken. One example of bad restricting is the city of Asheville. Please place it back in District 11 where it belongs. I will be following your actions, and I will respond according to whether you act for your personal gain or for the rights and equality of North Carolina citizens.

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. Whether you act for your personal gain or for the rights and equality of North Carolina citizens.

As public officials, you are required to deliver fair maps. Please adopt a nonpartisan process for drawing fair maps, exclude political information including where the incumbent lives from your considerations, and draw compacts districts that don't split communities. Please give us the fair maps we deserve. Thank you.

We need districts to be drawn without any consideration of party affiliation. They should be drawn based on population and natural communities. Please give us the fair maps we deserve. Thank you.

I strongly in favor of independent/non-partisan redistricting. Criteria for redistricting must guarantee a process that is fair and open to the public, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering.

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. When it comes to'affinity' this is a no-brainer. We need districts to be drawn without any consideration of party affiliation. They should be drawn based on population and natural borders. Please put an end to gerrymandering. It is undermining our democracy.

I urge you to draw Constitutional maps for the next elections. We need districts to be drawn without any consideration of party affiliation. They should be drawn based on population and natural borders. Please put an end to gerrymandering. It is undermining our democracy.

I want a fair, non-partisan, non-discriminatory, non-racial redistricting of voting districts that are contiguous, with boundaries that are geographic—not drawn with the intent of diluting votes from one party over the other. A 3rd grade class could do it in a day. Stop delaying, so you can maintain more power and stuff your pockets as much as you can before the end. Just be respectful human beings and maybe salvation won't be out of your reach. My God judges based upon what you have done for others and most of the GOP in this state surely don't pass that test in my eyes.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timestamp</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Message</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017 5:34PM</td>
<td>Dr. Marilyn Hartman</td>
<td>I live in North Carolina, and am concerned about how the new redistricting maps are getting drawn. The courts have spoken, and I urge you to create a process that is fair and transparent, without racial gerrymandering. I want everyone to be represented fairly so that each person can choose the representatives they want, without the maps diluting their voice. No gerrymandering!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017 5:34PM</td>
<td>Ms. Meredith Haggerly</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. The Supreme Court agrees! We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. The winner should be the choice of the people, not determined by whoever can draw the most beneficial map.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017 5:35PM</td>
<td>Mr. Bert Barry</td>
<td>I urge the state of North Carolina to take all necessary steps to end permanently the pernicious practice of gerrymandering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017 5:36PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Joyce Harvey</td>
<td>End gerrymandering now.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017 5:35PM</td>
<td>Mrs. veda roberts</td>
<td>We need fair and equal redistricting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017 5:35PM</td>
<td>Ms. Marie Zaret</td>
<td>It's time to end partisan gerrymandering. Please create geographical districts that make sense and give the voter back the right to choose their representatives and senators.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017 5:35PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Jennifer Walker</td>
<td>The drawing of the new districts MUST be done in a fair and nonpartisan way. Enough of this gerrymandering by either party! Hurry it up! The courts won't wait forever as they've told you!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017 5:35PM</td>
<td>Susan Grossoff-Feinblatt</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017 5:36PM</td>
<td>Ms. Susan Fletcher</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017 5:36PM</td>
<td>James Marsh</td>
<td>Please redistrict gerrymandering districts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017 5:36PM</td>
<td>Mr. James Baker</td>
<td>Stop the gerrymandering......start east to west draw 600M or whatever the number then move to district 2.......what are u oceans problem........blaker.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017 5:36PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Beverly Hammond</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.</td>
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<td>Aug 9 2017 5:36PM</td>
<td>Marvin Feinblatt</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017 5:36PM</td>
<td>Ms. Zola Packman</td>
<td>Hey, for once: Just do the right thing without chiseling. A lot of people will be grateful for it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017 5:36PM</td>
<td>Mr. Larry Hale</td>
<td>In order for our state to have genuine representation in it's elections the deliberate act of gerrymandering must be outlawed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017 5:37PM</td>
<td>Lynne Weborg</td>
<td>In Wisconsin we have been so gerrymandered that the 60% vote for the democratic candidates, we have been &quot;taken over&quot; by republicans in the gubernatorial office as well as the senate and assembly. This is NOT the way democracy should work!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017 5:37PM</td>
<td>Mr. Rick Wynne</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017 5:37PM</td>
<td>Ms. Agnes Crews</td>
<td>I urge you to prepare non-partisan districts open to all eligible voters. I am ready for a fair and equal approach to elections in North Carolina. Please, no more gerrymandering!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017 5:38PM</td>
<td>Dr. Gavin Dillard</td>
<td>Stop cheating and come clean. It's time to fix this. End gerrymandering NOW.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017 5:38PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Linda Kehev</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering! We deserve to have our maps drawn in a way that GUARANTEES everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017 5:38PM</td>
<td>Mr. Keith Cutler</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is FAIR, OPEN and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our maps drawn in a way that GUARANTEES everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want!</td>
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<td>Aug 9 2017 5:38PM</td>
<td>Dr. Marilyn Collins</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to be fair and equal to members of all races and both parties. Please make certain that there is no longer racial or partisan gerrymandering. We have too many challenges and opportunities to squander them by giving up our right to vote unhindered by these inequalities.

Let the best person win by the fairest method!

I believe it's imperative for our democracy that we use nonpartisan commissions to draw district lines. Gerrymandering done by any party is unacceptable.

I support ending gerrymandering. We need to make sure voting is fair and reflects all our citizens.

I am a long-time resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. We want our voice to count. The public overwhelming wants an independent committee to draw these maps. We all know the harmful impact that partisan and racial gerrymandering has had in our state. It's deprived us of our right to pick our representatives and instead lets politicians pick and choose their voters.

I supports a redistricting process that doesn't allow our legislative maps to be drawn along political lines and purposefully divides communities of color to weaken their political power. Please apply the golden rule. Restore our faith in our legislators.

Stop playing politics and give citizens a voice.

This Redistricting has put me in districts that adjoin Haywood county but don't seem to care much about a precinct or two over the mountain in another county. Makes no sense.

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. Some of the current are blatantly racist in the way they were drawn and is a stain on the state's reputation. Let's move into the next century folks and stop trying to keep us in the dark ages.

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We the people of North Carolina deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented. We need a process that lets us choose the representatives we want, without bias or gerrymandering.

I'm ashamed of our elected representatives that try to game the process - for either party. While one party may be in power now, we need a process that stands the test of time regardless of the current level of political power between the parties.

We all know the harmful impact that partisan and racial gerrymandering has had in our state. Actions by our gerrymandered elected officials (the notorious bathroom bill for one) have made North Carolina the butt of way too many late night talk show jokes - and deservedly so - so let's all stop acting for political self interests first, and take the right steps to strengthen our democracy!

As a resident of North Carolina, I strongly urge you to select criteria for redistricting that guarantees a process that is fair and open, and prevents ANY racial and partisan gerrymandering. We the people of North Carolina deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented. We need a process that lets us choose the representatives we want, without bias or gerrymandering.

I'm ashamed of our elected representatives that try to game the process - for either party. While one party may be in power now, we need a process that stands the test of time regardless of the current level of political power between the parties.

We all know the harmful impact that partisan and racial gerrymandering has had in our state. Actions by our gerrymandered elected officials (the notorious bathroom bill for one) have made North Carolina the butt of way too many late night talk show jokes - and deservedly so - so let's all stop acting for political self interests first, and take the right steps to strengthen our democracy!

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. We all know the harmful impact that partisan and racial gerrymandering has had in our state. It's deprived us of our right to pick our representatives and instead lets politicians pick and choose their voters.

As a citizen of North Carolina, I am firmly in favor of redistricting that is fair and equal to members of all races and both parties. Please make certain that there is no longer racial or partisan gerrymandering. We have too many challenges and opportunities to squander them by giving up our right to vote unhindered by these inequalities.

Please write legislation that will permanently prevent ALL gerrymandering of legislative districts. And then, PASS IT.

The Democrats got it wrong. The Republicans are getting it wrong. We really need a non-partisan redistricting plan. District lines that actually make sense.

We get to choose who represents us; you don't get to choose your voters. If you have any manhood, you won't be afraid to compete on a level playing field.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Message</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017</td>
<td>5:43PM</td>
<td>Mr. WAYNE ALLEY</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representative we want. We all know the harmful impact that partisan and racial gerrymandering has had in our state. It's deprived us of our right to pick our representatives and instead lets politicians pick and choose their voters. As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. I ask that you require an open, transparent algorithm drawing districts based on population and compactness as an improvement upon the status quo, where politicians draw the boundaries that best serve their interests. Require state legislators to voluntarily cede their redistricting powers to a computer program.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017</td>
<td>5:43PM</td>
<td>Ms. Kathleen Duffy</td>
<td>GERRYMANDERING DEBASES DEMOCRACY</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Ezra Farber</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want non-partisan, fair redistricting. Our state has spent way too much money defending racist districts. The Supreme Court of the United States has struck down this regressive, racist districting. I have been canvassing for months now and everybody, Republican and Democrat alike, is disgusted by the notion that self-serving legislators draw maps that ensure their re-election. Your cynical and corrupt gerrymandering must end. It's time for impartial districts that don't have to change every time the balance of power changes. In the meantime, I will continue to fight for fair and open redistricting and let that process be managed by a bipartisan committee in order for it to be respected and trusted by the people of our state. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017</td>
<td>5:43PM</td>
<td>Ms. Claire Marsh</td>
<td>Please make sure that the redistricting is done in a fair way. We do not want districts that are shaped strangely in order to help one party or politician to win. That's not how a democracy works. If people in power use their power to assure that they win again &amp; again, then people will be fed up with such a rigged system and may not participate at all. That is also not how a democracy works. Thank you.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017</td>
<td>5:44PM</td>
<td>Tom Kociemba</td>
<td>My left cheek is in one district my right in another. Democracy is in the middle. Politicians are choosing their votes instead of the voters choosing their politicians.</td>
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<td>Aug 9 2017</td>
<td>5:44PM</td>
<td>Mr. Robert McCurdy</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.</td>
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<td>Aug 9 2017</td>
<td>5:44PM</td>
<td>Mr. Greg Hamby</td>
<td>Please comply with the Supreme Court decision to redistrict the 28 NC districts found to be illegal...this is the law mandated by The Constitution</td>
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<td>Aug 9 2017</td>
<td>5:44PM</td>
<td>Ms. Rahni Sumler</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.</td>
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<td>Aug 9 2017</td>
<td>5:44PM</td>
<td>Dr. Sarah Squire</td>
<td>I am extremely concerned about gerrymandering. It is absolutely unethical and against the principles of a functioning democracy. As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. This process should be managed by a bipartisan committee in order for it to be respected and trusted by the people of our state. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.</td>
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<td>Aug 9 2017</td>
<td>5:44PM</td>
<td>Mr. Pat Vescio</td>
<td>The artificial structuring of districts is just wrong and unfair, regardless of who does it. Playing these games to benefit one party must not be allowed to continue.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017</td>
<td>5:45PM</td>
<td>Dr. Florence Dore</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.</td>
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<td>Aug 9 2017</td>
<td>5:45PM</td>
<td>Ms. ESTHER MEGILL</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.</td>
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<td>Aug 9 2017</td>
<td>5:45PM</td>
<td>Dr. Timothy Lindeman</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want fair and open redistricting, one that prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.</td>
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<td>Aug 9 2017  5:46PM</td>
<td>Ms. C. Andi Locke Mears</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. Please make this happen!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017  5:46PM</td>
<td>Mr. Alex Bishel</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.</td>
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<td>Aug 9 2017  5:47PM</td>
<td>Ms. Diane Fulcher</td>
<td>Representation for all, not just the few!!!</td>
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<td>Aug 9 2017  5:47PM</td>
<td>Mr. Larry Hannon</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. We all know the harmful impact that partisan and racial gerrymandering has had in our state. It's deprived us of our right to pick our representatives and instead lets politicians pick and choose their voters.</td>
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<td>Aug 9 2017  5:47PM</td>
<td>Mr. Edward Brophy</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017  5:48PM</td>
<td>Ms. Elizabeth Steele</td>
<td>NC residents need and want fair redistricting. It is discouraging to vote when you know your vote won't matter because you live in a gerrymandered district. NC is tired of partisanship and revenge politics. Legislators know what the right thing is. Just do it.</td>
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<td>Aug 9 2017  5:48PM</td>
<td>Dr. Brnda Rubens</td>
<td>North Carolina has been severely impacted by unfair gerrymandering of districts by Republicans who want to make sure their GOP candidates get elected. Only by redrawing the districts fairly can NC move forward and elect representatives who truly reflect the districts they serve. End gerrymandering now and redraw NC districts!</td>
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<td>Aug 9 2017  5:48PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Barbara Houston</td>
<td>I am a resident of North Carolina, and it is critically important to me that the criteria for redistricting guarantees a process that is both fair and open, and also prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and equitably represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.</td>
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<td>Aug 9 2017  5:49PM</td>
<td>Mr. Adam Versenyi</td>
<td>I have been a resident of North Carolina for twenty-nine years and believe that all residents of our state deserve a fair and open redistricting process that prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. All of us deserve legislative maps that are fairly and equally drawn and allow each citizen of North Carolina to elect the representative of their choice.</td>
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<td>Aug 9 2017  5:49PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Kathleen Craig</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. Please. It is time to restore faith in the democratic process. It is all too obvious that it is dangerous to allow this to continue. We the people are not being represented fairly. One person one voted equal weight. Our founding fathers set up this system in a very fair way with checks and balances. Manipulations of the system is a detriment to the continuation of the democratic process. Thank you, Kathy Craig.</td>
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<td>Aug 9 2017  5:49PM</td>
<td>Ms. Chris Ekstedt</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.</td>
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<td>Aug 9 2017  5:50PM</td>
<td>Ms. Jeanne hochstatter</td>
<td>Let us all vote, pleasee.</td>
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<td>Aug 9 2017  5:51PM</td>
<td>Ms. Barbara Mishoe</td>
<td>How would your parents and grandparents react to know that you, their child and grandchild, is working so hard in a dishonest manner to keep folks from voting in their normal area. Shame on each and everyone of you and may the votina wrath hit you hard!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017  5:51PM</td>
<td>Mr. Stephen Melott</td>
<td>Calling on you to ensure that redistricting is fair and equal, and that districts are not drawn along political party or racial lines. I want redistricting to be fair, open &amp; nonpartisan. Every citizen deserves to have their vote count equally &amp; not be put into oddly contrived districts that favor any political party over another.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017  5:52PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Sandra Riggs</td>
<td>Gerrymandering should be made illegal. The practice compromises democracy. Please stop this practice.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017  5:52PM</td>
<td>Ms. Bethany A. Dusenberry</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.</td>
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As a North Carolina resident, I want the criteria for redistricting to be

I want all people in this state to be guaranteed equal and fair

Please stop all gerrymandering. Voting districts should not be decided

Mrs. Terri Rosenberg

We need a permanent independent non-partisan commission with the

Ms. Lauren Zuckerman-

Anne C Dahle

Mr. George Czerw

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to

This is a Democracy

Mrs. Stacey Flur

Regarding gerrymandering in the district’s of NC. This needs to stop.

Aug 9 2017 5:53PM

Frances Waugh

Aug 9 2017 5:53PM

Kim Preish

Fair redistricting is the ONLY way to give voters the power to choose

Ms. Wilhelma Cooper

As a North Carolina resident, I want the criteria for redistricting to be

Mrs. Terri Rosenberg

I want all people in this state to be guaranteed equal and fair representation. Gerrymandering never has and never will accomplish this and it must be stopped.

M C

Aug 9 2017 5:56PM

Ms. Lauren Zuckerman-Booth

Fundamental to our democracy is trust in fair and open elections to

Mr. James Cooke

We need a permanent independent non-partisan commission with the authority to establish electoral districts. Research indicates numerous examples of such commissions that should be examined. Approximately 20 states currently have such commissions.

Mr. Richard Ashton

We need a permanent independent non-partisan commission with the authority to establish electoral districts. Research indicates numerous examples of such commissions that should be examined. Approximately 20 states currently have such commissions.

Mr. Jerry Goodnight

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Mr. George Czerw

As a citizen and resident of the State of North Carolina, I want to state that I believe that a true and representative democracy requires that voting districts be drawn up in a manner that accurately represents the makeup of the citizenry in that physical area. Partisan and racial gerrymandering has deprived the citizens of North Carolina of their right to choose who will represent their interests in government, whether it be at the state or federal level, and has, instead, unjustly institutionalized a system whereby incumbent politicians get to pick and choose voters who will re-elect them.

I firmly believe that any criteria for redistricting must guarantee a process that is fair, open, and will prevent any partisan and/or racial gerrymandering. The citizens of North Carolina deserve to have their legislative district maps drawn up in a manner which will guarantee that every citizen is: 1) equitably and fairly represented in government, and; 2) able to choose the representative that they want to see in government.

In this day and age, I believe that it is far overdue that we act to permanently get politics, partisanship and race out of the legislative redistricting process.

This is a Democracy to redistrict is to make a mockery of our Constitution.

Ms. Patricia Lawder

This is a Democracy to redistrict is to make a mockery of our Constitution.

Mrs. Karen Wagoner

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees that everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. That makes for a free and democratic society and not a totalitarian regime.

Anne C Dahle

We need to quickly prepare new voting districts that are fair based on number of voters, not by black, white, or nationality of origin. p. Please take care of this before November elections.

I appreciate your willingness to serve, but I think we need for you to take care of this before November elections.

Thank you for sending this opportunity to me. I am vehemently opposed to gerrymandering. I know it is the root of destroying democracy for all. Please continue to change this trend of North Carolina. NC redistricting MUST be fair and equal, and not done according to political party or racial lines.

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Regarding gerrymandering in the district’s of NC. This needs to stop.

Kim Preish

We need to quickly prepare new voting districts that are fair based on number of voters, not by black, white, or nationality of origin. p. Please take care of this before November elections.
Elections were designed to create a fair forum for people to vote. The extreme gerrymandering that exists in this state is designed to restrict, as much as possible, minority & democratic voting. It is the RIGHT for ALL of the people to be heard through the vote in North Carolina.

Gerrymandering erodes public confidence in the institutions of Democracy. History has never been kind to those who actively promote this kind of voter disenfranchisement.

We districts but let's determine them with logical, geographic districts not by politicians' desires for political gain.

This is illegal what you have done in This state with gerrymandering. Let make North Carolina great again and redistrict legally.

Stop the insanity.

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. I would also like to see presidential election day be designated a holiday, and automatic voter registration enacted to increase voter turnout, and insure fair elections.

I'm sick of your racial gerrymandering. You embarrass NC.

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Gerrymandering is an evil that must be eliminated.

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. Our state will be stronger if everyone's vote counts.

It is unfair and it should be unconstitutional.

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. As a life-long Tar Heel, I ask you to prove yourselves above such partisanship and provide us with districting that guarantees fair voting for all of us without regard to race or party affiliation.

As a Democrat, I know my party has contributed it's share to this problem in the past. As a life-long Tar Heel, I ask you to prove yourselves above such partisanship and provide us with districting that guarantees fair voting for all of us without regard to race or party affiliation.

Someone should look at the number of registered republicans and democrats in NC. Based on the overall ratio, the commission should put counties together such that the ratio of the number of districts with majorities in the parties mimic the overall ratio. Also, the districts should contain only whole counties, and not split counties between districts. There should also be a timeframe after which the process should be repeated based on new population ratios.

All elections must be fair and honest. The supreme court has determined that our current gerrymandered districts are neither. New districts should be determined by a non-partisan group of citizens, not by the ruling party. That is the ONLY way that our voting districts can be fair and honest.

Time to end gerrymandering!!!!!

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. Please assign a non-partisan, independent group to redraw lines going forward. We all need to work together to move our country forward. We cant do that if we don't do so with transparency and represent the whole of NC.

Drawing district to increased the power of some voters and decrease the power of others is inherently wrong. One person, one equally weighted vote. All else distorts our democracy. If a party cannot win an election without gerrymandering then they are not truly the people's representatives.
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| Aug 9 2017 | 6:15PM | Mr. Rod Chaney  | I ask the committee to consider a few items when addressing new maps for the 2018 and 2020 elections. I beg you to consider giving Northern Rural Orange and Rural Durham Counties some form of competitive district map. The Democrats have complained about "fairness" when it comes to district matchups for the last 3 election cycles, but the actions show they are not the least bit concerned about what is truly fair. One look at their actions rather than their words exposes how they make the rules to insure their definition of "fairness" is maintained in Orange County.  
Northern Orange has ZERO voice politically and the Democrats have arranged the system to keep it that way. About 20 years ago after much outrage, Democrats finally allowed Orange County Commissioners to be "elected" by district instead of "At Large." There would be 3 people representing district 1 (Chapel Hill), 2 people representing district 2 (Northern/rural Orange), as well as 2 "At Large" positions. Sounds good right? NO! They allow the primaries to compete by district but in the November/general election they allow Chapel Hill (district 1) to vote on who will represent Northern Orange County (district 2) thus insuring that the Orange County Commissioners remain 100% Democrat, not merely an overwhelming majority. Can you imagine what the Democrats would say if the situation was reversed? Now this is all "legal" by State statutes drawn up by the Democrats but in order to change it you must have standing in Raleigh and the Democrat "representing" Northern Orange and Durham adamantly refuses to even allow that to be a possibility.  
I beg you to consider creating a district that is somewhat "fair" in the truest sense of that word. The current "Common Cause" map does not address this inequity. |
| Aug 9 2017 | 6:15PM | Ms. Deborah Bair| I resent like all get out having to vote in what are basically illegal elections. |
| Aug 9 2017 | 6:15PM | Ms. Robin Sanchez| I have been watching this issue closely. I am reaching out today because I want my voice heard. As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. To do anything other than this is unconscionable. |
| Aug 9 2017 | 6:15PM | Ms. Kay Bedingfield| Our elected officials are supposed to represent the citizens who reside in specific geographic areas. To change the boundaries of the areas of residence is to cheat them of their right to decide who represents them as our Constitution allows. We are above the need to cheat! |
| Aug 9 2017 | 6:15PM | Ms. Mary Smyth  | Please put an end to unfair gerrymandering, which prevents the fair rights of the voters to be accurately represented. Fair maps now drawn by an independent commission.  
The people have spoken and now the courts have too. It's time, past time, to let the voters pick their representation. Fair maps now drawn by an independent commission. The health of our democracy depends on voters choosing their representatives, not vice versa. No matter which party is in the majority, this is a basic principle. |
| Aug 9 2017 | 6:15PM | Ms. Sharon Foster| The deadline for a new proposed plan re:existing gerrymandering: Today is 8-9, and nothing has been done. Party in power-We are watching and want you do-nothings to pay. |
| Aug 9 2017 | 6:15PM | Mr. Donald Harland| We need legislative districts that represent the population as it exists within logical geographical boundaries. Districts should not be drawn to promote racism, or for partisan interests. Party affiliation should not be a factor in forming legislative districts. Voting should be easy, convenient, fair, and free of efforts to manipulate the results of the vote. This is a democracy and our voting districts should represent all the people without any effort to bias the result. |
| Aug 9 2017 | 6:15PM | Mr. Michael Eisenberg| The people have spoken and now the courts have too. It's time, past time, to let the voters pick their representation. Fair maps now drawn by an independent commission. The health of our democracy depends on voters choosing their representatives, not vice versa. No matter which party is in the majority, this is a basic principle. |
| Aug 9 2017 | 6:17PM | Nicola Jordan   | Neither racial nor partisan gerrymandering is acceptable. Please ensure the redistricting process will be fair and open to the public. The health of our democracy depends on voters choosing their representatives, not vice versa. No matter which party is in the majority, this is a basic principle. |
| Aug 9 2017 | 6:17PM | Mr. James Grady | As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented in a fair and unbiased democratic process.  
As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. |
| Aug 9 2017 | 6:18PM | Mr. Thomas Liebtag| Remember fairness? Remember openness in politics? We need that again, and you are responsible for making it happen. 
As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. Thank you. |
| Aug 9 2017 | 6:19PM | Ms. Pam McNeil  | I want an independent body to draw our districts so neither party can manipulate them. |
| Aug 9 2017 | 6:19PM | Mrs. Juliana Wilson| I want an independent body to draw our districts so neither party can manipulate them. |
Dear Assembly Members;

North Carolina has become the focus and the laughingstock for our devolution from a state that supported cutting-edge technologies to a racist, uneducated miasma of a state that denies equal voter contribution and sponsors absurd, homophobic bills like the "bathroom bill" that cost taxpayers a billion dollars in lost revenue.

Gentleman, you work as REPRESENTATIVES of the electorate, not paid shoe-shiners of corporate sponsors. I am stating that the gerrymandering chaos that you perpetuate to maintain your gravy train will stop, whether by lack of votes or a Supreme Court mandate. I urge you to quit now and save our state any further embarrassment on your behalf, if that is indeed possible.

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

This is truly laughable; the thought of an organization (GOP) whose very existence depends on altering the electorate's actions as much as possible, being in favor, or acquiring in any manner, for fair districts is ridiculous. We know who you and we know your "values", Your survival depends on corrupting democracy as much as possible.

As a citizen of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open and prevents partisan gerrymandering. Our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

It is only right that our elections be conducted with integrity. We depend on you who represent us to keep our electoral districts drawn fairly and that no one has a thumb on the scale. No one. Let the people elect the candidates that best represent their philosophy and their needs.

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

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How can the people of North Carolina to fairly pick the representatives we would like to see representing us.

Gerrymandering is destroying the democratic process and drastically increases the problems of extremist views (both left and right) and public polarization. Holding office becomes a matter of retaining power rather than acting in the public interest. If we want real dialogue and moderate policies that address the interests of a diverse population, gerrymandering needs to end.

As a citizen of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open and prevents partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

As a North Carolina resident, I want the redistricting criteria to guarantee a process that is fair, open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We expect legislative maps drawn in a way that ensures everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

I am very disappointed and dismayed by the growing partisanship in gerrymandering, particularly in my district of Arden, which looks like a reptile, and goes all the way down to Gastonia. Do you really think the piedmont town of Gastonia and Asheville have anything in common except a manufactured political goal of electing as many Republicans as possible? I'm a native and I've never seen it this bad. We must stand together or fall apart... Lisa Blankenship

As a North Carolina resident, I want the redistricting criteria to guarantee a process that is fair and open and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

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Our current legislative districts are unconstitutional and, therefore, do not represent the will of the people of North Carolina. As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Partisan and racial gerrymandering have deprived us of our right to pick our representatives and, instead, has let politicians pick and choose their voters.

North Carolinians of every political stripe support a redistricting process that doesn't allow our legislative maps to be drawn along political lines and purposefully divide communities of color to weaken their political power.

We MUST have fair and independent redistricting now!

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

We all know the harmful impact that partisan gerrymandering has had in our state. It's deprived us of our right to pick our representatives and instead lets politicians pick and choose their voters.
Aug 9 2017  6:33PM  Mr. Dwayne Dvoracek  I support NON-PARTISAN redistricting OUTSIDE of the Legislature. I realize this will require a NC Constitutional amendment & can not be done in time to comply with the current court rulings. BUT I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Aug 9 2017  6:33PM  Mrs. Joan Jöbisis  We need redistricting that is free of partisan or racial bias. We deserve to have each vote count. We deserve to be able to choose our representatives fairly. End gerrymandering. Not rocket science guys. Follow the spirit of the law and let go of the desire to Gerrymander for political gain. Unfair gains due to subterfuge only leads to more corruption, high blood pressure and eventually jail and disgrace.

Aug 9 2017  6:37PM  Mrs. Eileen McMillan  It is time to stop all of the partisan politics and bickering and draw up fair and equitable voting districts as the courts have ordered NC to do. All residents have a right to be heard through the voting system. Let's end the gerrymandering that has persistently made NC the laughing stock of the country. What are the Legislators afraid of?? Voting participants make our democracy stronger! Do your job!

Aug 9 2017  6:41PM  Mrs. Barbara Phillips  As a resident of North Carolina, I believe that our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Aug 9 2017  6:51PM  Dr. Heide Coppotelli  We all know the harmful impact that partisan and racial gerrymandering has had in our state. It's deprived us of our right to be represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. It's time to be americans and quit the powers plays that leave everyone in the dark.

Aug 9 2017  6:55PM  Mr. Stephen Phillips  As a resident of North Carolina, I believe that our current legislative maps provide a poor example for our children and destroy their belief in democracy. They should be drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented.

Aug 9 2017  6:58PM  Ms. Charlotte Presswood  Please understand that no one should be restricting citizens right to vote in a district that makes sense. Please start working for and not against the citizens of North Carolina.

Aug 9 2017  7:01PM  Matthew Vande  We all know the harmful impact that partisan and racial gerrymandering has had in our state. It's deprived us of our right to pick our representatives and instead lets politicians pick and choose their voters.

Aug 9 2017  7:04PM  Dr. Linda Holland-Toll  Stop the gerrymandering. It's a blatant racist attempt to funnel power to Republicans by redistricting.

Aug 9 2017  7:07PM  Dr. Robert Voelker  The North Carolina house and senate seats should be redrawn without gerrymandering.

Aug 9 2017  7:10PM  Ms. Beth Alexander  Gerrymandering is evil and wrong. Fair districts are better because either side can win via people's votes. Do the right thing!
As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. The political atmosphere becoming so divisive, the preferential division to favor a particular party only further divides. Enough NC residents demand equality and to be fairly represented. Please do what's right and just for ALL North Carolina residents.

Jennifer Castillo

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. With the political atmosphere becoming so divisive, the preferential division to favor a particular party only further divides. Enough NC residents demand equality and to be fairly represented. Please do what's right and just for ALL North Carolina residents.

Ms. S. Elizabeth Routtree

Do the right thing for all the people of NC!

Dr. Jon Haebig

We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering.

Mr. Lee Miller

You politicians should stop this abominably practice of choosing your voters and let an independent commission draw political boundaries so that all elections are competitive. Why are you afraid of democracy upon which this nation was founded.

Mr. George Garcia

An attack on voters and redistribution of votes will be met with dire consequences in 2018. The voters are tired of being manhandled while paying their due taxes. No taxation without representation. We will send the culprits back to their masters.

Ms. Virginia Sullivan

Gerrymandering is anti-democracy, no matter who does it. Districts should be drawn up by a bipartisan group and be unaffected by voting records, race, party, or economic status. Virginia

Mrs. Denise Szumanski

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Mr. Thomas Dillon

We need computer-designed election districts that are not gerrymandered to favor one party or another. It's long past time this is done.

Deborah Wooley

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Ms. Diane Ilardi

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Ms. Katherine Scott

Please end gerrymandering! As citizens, we need to know we are fairly represented in the state legislature. I don't have specific advice on this, but I want you to know I care about what you are doing.

Mr. Barry Anderson

Gerrymandering hacks every single election. When will the USA find the will and courage to truly demand fair elections where everyone's vote really counts?

Mr. Thomas Pieracci

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Ms. Gayle Ruedi

Democracy requires legislative districts that represent contiguous areas that are drawn to ensure everyone's vote means something. It is unacceptable to have a population that regularly votes very close to evenly divided and yet have legislative representation that is heavily skewed toward representation by one party.

Mr. Mark Peters, PA-C

We are the only country that has free elections in the world where those elected draw the maps for voting districts. The courts have made it clear there are significant problems with map drawing in NC. It's time we set up a system like where the voters come first, and enact legislation, preferably setting up a redistricting commission which has authority to draw the maps for both state and US voting, as has been done in AZ and CA, and deemed constitutional (i.e., if you don't do it, we will!)

Mr. George Phillips

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. Gerrymandering has resulted in a situation where this state has moved backwards. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Ms. Sandra Resner

Just do sensible non-partisan redistricting, and the tit for tat cycle.

Dr. Stefani Engelstein

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.
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Mrs. Patricia Harms

Gerrymandering is as unAmerican as it gets. You people need to have an independent and transparent process guaranteeing elections that are fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. A non-partisan group, not the legislators currently in power, should use research-based peer-reviewed processes to draw voting districts. The public deserves to have our NC legislative maps drawn in a nonpartisan way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

As a resident of North Carolina, I am a new resident of North Carolina, and I am outraged about the current redistricting. It’s just something those in power that want to stay in power use to obtain their goal. It’s just something those in power that want to stay in power use to become a significant problem.

Mr. Ronald Godfrey

As a resident of North Carolina, the criteria for redistricting should be an independent and transparent process guaranteeing elections that are fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee an election process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Mr. Larry Martin

Gerrymandering is as unAmerican as it gets. You people need to have the guts to let democracy work like it’s supposed to and quit trying to become our rulers. STOP THE GERRYMANDERING NOW!!

Ms. Henrietta Jerrette

It is unAmerican to rig our elections. Gerrymandering tells voters that you have no convincing arguments and put winning over loyalty to our country.

Dr. Jill Slee

As a resident of North Carolina, the criteria for redistricting should be an independent and transparent process guaranteeing elections that are fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

I am sick and tired of this. We need a nonpartisan process for the creation of our electoral districts. Please create one.

Janice Sullivan

We do not need Gerrymandering in North Carolina. I want to support those legislators who are not in favor of Gerrymandering.

Mrs. Patricia Harms

Americans believe in fair play. A political party that consistently works for unfair advantages will eventually lose out. Let’s have fair redistricting.

Mr. Chas Griffin

Be fair.

Mrs. Heathare Payne

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Dr. William Yeager

Stop playing games with districts. We need an independent, non-partisan commission to define new districts for the NC legislature and judiciary.

Dr. Paul Brinch

I am sick to death of the fights over re-districting. I feel disenfranchised by the current districts; my vote counts less than many others here in North Carolina as I’ve been squeezed into a district that is “safe” for Democratic candidates. Gerrymandering corrupts the political process and leaves ordinary citizens feeling as though their votes don’t really count. Is that what we want? My answer is “NO!” but the NC legislature’s leadership -- whether Democratic or Republican -- has repeatedly tailored the districts so that my vote has no impact.

Mr. Edward Van Arsdale

We deserve that redistricting be fair and responsible not favoring any party. We have the right to select those who are to represent us.

Mr. Allen Grayson

Gerrymandering was, is, and always will be unethical. It’s just something those in power that want to stay in power use to obtain their goal.

Mr. Miles Varner

Be fair. Be honest. Be non-partisan.
Aug 9 2017 7:56PM  Susan Dodder  As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Aug 9 2017 7:56PM  Ms. Roberta Lombardozzi  Uphold the courts decision and end gerrymandering now. Thank you.

Aug 9 2017 7:57PM  Dr. Edna Beeman  It's time for fair elections, without gerrymandering. Let the districts be drawn by nonpartisan people, and let the voters truly decide who they want to represent them. How can you call it a true democracy, when a few biased people determine the outcome of elections before they even happen? If a candidate can't win in a fair election, they don't deserve to win. Let's give democracy a chance for a change.

Aug 9 2017 7:59PM  Dr. jamo smith  Stop the Gerrymandering

Aug 9 2017 8:00PM  Mrs. Sally Thomas  As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Aug 9 2017 8:01PM  Ms. Colette Fronberger  As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Aug 9 2017 8:06PM  Dr. Nicholas DeWito  An independent, nonpartisan commission for legislative redistricting is necessary to ensure proper representation and democracy itself.

Aug 9 2017 8:07PM  William McElveen  Dear Legislature, Please enact fair and equally balanced redistricting!

Aug 9 2017 8:09PM  Mr. Michael Lewandowski  NO to gerrymandering

Aug 9 2017 8:09PM  Mr. Neil Nichols ii  As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Aug 9 2017 8:10PM  Johnny Poole  Stop the gerrymandering

Aug 9 2017 8:11PM  Ms. cindy Vickery  NO! It should be totally illegal for any party to Gerrymander the districts ! We've had it! NO!

Aug 9 2017 8:12PM  Mr. Lance Ashdown  In the last election cycle, the GOP received roughly 50% of the popular vote, but holds 100% of legislative power. This extreme form of gerrymandering is anti-democratic, resulting in a ruling power with no incentive to represent the state as a whole. And based on what I've seen in practice, the current party leaders have absolutely no ethics: they simply want power by any means available.

My opinion is that neither party can be trusted to draw fair maps, so let the courts or a court-appointed commission do it. If the legislature must do it, then it should be held accountable using the efficiency gap or an alternative statistical tool.

Aug 9 2017 8:13PM  Ms. cindy Vickery  As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Aug 9 2017 8:14PM  Ms. Kay Pratt  As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Aug 9 2017 8:16PM  Mr. Dougmals Martin  Please don't redistrict areas so that voting becomes unfair to any group.

Aug 9 2017 8:16PM  Mrs. Sarah McGiverin  Please draw districts that make geographic sense - no more partisan gerrymandering - no more drawing lines squiggly lines selectively removing politicians from the districts they've been representing - no more long skinny snaking "safe districts" so that nobody's vote ever counts because we all know who is going to win. Honestly - the best thing would be for a non-partisan appointed commission to be doing this. Until we have an end to gerrymandering, we don't really have democracy in this state.
Is it too much to ask for fairness instead of shenanigans? Give all the people of North Carolina a fair shake. Everyone has a stake in our state's future.

Sincerely,
Juanita Brown

Is it too much to ask for fairness instead of shenanigans? Give all the people of North Carolina a fair shake. Everyone has a stake in our state's future.

For good government, end racial and political gerrymandering. Both parties are guilty of political gerrymandering in the past, and no one knows who will benefit after 2020 if it continues, so the time is now. Polarization is a huge problem for our state and country; ending gerrymandering is an important step we can take to restore balance and resort sense.

To try winning on your own merits? I don't want the other side cheating, and I don't want my side cheating. I want things to be fair and rational—THAT is what makes this country the best in the world, not who can bend the rules.

One person, one vote. That's what the Constitution says. But gerrymandering overrides that basic right! We need to have districts drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

We must create districts that offer equal opportunities for each party to win. Stop gerrymandering American.

When citizens observe the partisan process in operation, they become motivated district maps (on either side), by having an impartial commission of some kind to draw fair boundaries for our citizens.

We deserve that as residents of our beautiful state which has received so much bad publicity recently, including around the gerrymandering issue.

Sincerely, Juanita Brown

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One person, one vote. That's what the Constitution says. But gerrymandering overrides that basic right! We need to have districts drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.
As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. And NOT elected officials choosing their voters. Please do it in a way that will seem fair to anyone who looks at it, remembering that your constituents want a real democracy where each vote counts. Thank you.

I think we need an impartial commission to draw district lines so that all candidates can compete in fair elections and one party does not assert their power through gerrymandering to their favor. I realize that this probably happened in the past as well. Going forward, let us have districts that do not intentionally favor one party over another.

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. It makes no sense that we have more democrats voting than republicans yet 10 of 12 seats are held by republicans. Lets start representing the people and not just the party...

The citizens of North Carolina deserve to have district lines drawn to reflect the demographics of designated areas. They should be drawn fairly and with consideration for the one to be elected from said district will be able to serve as easily as possible. Well defined districts would seem to me to work best without squeezing all of one demographic into a single district. My two cents. Matilda Phillips

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

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As a resident of North Carolina, I, Dr. Mark Walters, plead with the General Assembly to allow our voting districts to be drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

As a resident of North Carolina, I, Mr. Gene Hanson, want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. Please ignore Gerrymandering, once and for all.

It is both morally and legally correct to have an equal voice in all districts. Our votes must not be skewed to accommodate anyone or a party! We have become a national disgrace with our petty, party crap. I am embarrassed.

As a resident of North Carolina, I, Ms. Susan Allen, want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. Fair and unbiased redistricting is imperative in NC. Everyone deserves a fair and equal chance to vote for the representatives of their choice. Let's make NC a state where equal representation happens.

Most NC citizens believe it is important that their vote counts and will express their choice for representation without the fear of gerrymandered results. It is time NC become the leader in fair and honest elections that represent the choices of its citizens not the legislatures.

As a resident of North Carolina, I, Ms. Wendy Stevens, am tired of both parties dividing up this state for their own benefit. I want to see true elections, without anyone of them non-contested.

STOP GERIMANDERING DISTRICTS LET THE CARDS FALL WHERE THEY MAY...

I'm a resident of North Carolina who votes and I, Ms. Karen Kaser-Odor, want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a fair and open process that prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. NC citizens deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

I'm a NC resident who votes and I, Mr. Steve Saxon, demand and deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. NC is a moderate state with a diverse population and that voting is not rigged either for or against them.

The GOP and the Dems are in a vice grip on the majority was unconstitutional. Stop playing games. I am embarrassed.

I am a long-time resident of North Carolina. I demand and deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. As a resident of North Carolina, I, Mrs. Brenda Robinson, I am a long-time resident of North Carolina. I demand and deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

It is both morally and legally correct to have an equal voice in all districts. Our votes must not be skewed to accommodate anyone or a party! We have become a national disgrace with our petty, party crap. I am embarrassed.

As a resident of North Carolina, I, Mrs. Marilyn Ridgeway, want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a fair and open process that prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. Fair and unbiased redistricting is imperative in NC. Everyone deserves a fair and equal chance to vote for the representatives of their choice. Let's make NC a state where equal representation happens.

I am a long-time resident of North Carolina. I demand and deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. As a resident of North Carolina, I, Ms. Karen Kaser-Odor, want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a fair and open process that prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. NC citizens deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

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As a resident of North Carolina, I, Ms. Wendy Stevens, am tired of both parties dividing up this state for their own benefit. I want to see true elections, without anyone of them non-contested.

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Aug 9 2017 9:48PM Mrs. Cama Merritt Give us fair districts. The representation of the people in our democracy is too precious to continue to make a mockery of it by gerrymandering the districts.

Aug 9 2017 9:49PM Mr. Joseph Sandoval Let's do fair, non-partisan re-districting. Winner take all politics is destroying our state.

Aug 9 2017 9:51PM Mr. Steve Stallings I have lived in N.C. most of my life, I was born here and the past is the past. It's time for fair play in our state. The old line of they did it first no longer gives any group the right to keep doing it the wrong way. The voters should be able to choose their representatives instead of the reps choosing their voters. The one sided, minority rules, does not work. Both parties should be able to be held accountable by the voters. It's time for all districts to be fairly represented by someone from that district who understands their constituents needs and values. Districts with no common borders between counties should not happen ever again. WE THE PEOPLE should be able to vote for those who are our neighbors and know their districts without traveling thru counties they do not represent. I am sick of people voting against the views and wishes of the majority of the citizens of North Carolina. Our people should be heard by our politicians and do the work of the citizens of our state. Outside money, outside views, outside groups and Washington, D.C. should not be able to control our General Assembly if our citizens do not agree with those ideas. Fair districts and their representatives owe the citizens of N.C. their allegiance instead of to people from other states or other political groups. North Carolina has been a leader thru the years and it's time we stopped being led by outsiders who are causing us to fail to lead. The Redistricting should be fair to all parties and all citizens of this Great State of North Carolina.

Aug 9 2017 9:53PM Mrs. Eileen Morgan As a resident and voter in North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. Voting is a privilege and a responsibility of every citizen in a democracy. Legislative maps need to be drawn in such a way that the voters are able to choose the representatives that they want, not that the candidate of any one party chooses who will vote for him or her. (Ultimately I believe an independent commission is the best way to ensure that fair districts are drawn.)

Aug 9 2017 9:54PM Dr. Donald Stanat I support democracy in its rational forms. People should be encouraged (perhaps required) to vote, and the votes should be tallied in a form that is transparent and based on democratic principles. Gerrymandering does not satisfy these criteria. Redistricting should be done so that the dreadful beast does not arise.

Aug 9 2017 9:54PM Tamara Lewis We have a court decision showing that our districts have been out of compliance. It's time for an immediate remedy. I think the best gesture to all parties would be to engage a non-partisan committee to draw up the new districts.

Aug 9 2017 9:55PM Mrs. Sharon Parker Please, please, please let NC lead the way to being truly democratic in redistricting so that all voters' choices count equally.

Aug 9 2017 9:56PM Joanne Heckel Please remove gerrymandering and divide our districts fairly.

Aug 9 2017 9:59PM Kate Torrey I want fair districts, without "packing" one party's voters diluting the votes of particular ethnic or racial groups to advance partisan or ideological agendas. In short, we need *impartially* drawn districts that are created without any particular outcome in mind. This won't take long, if done in a truly impartial and unbiased manner.

Aug 9 2017 10:00PM Mr. Bryson Palmer As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. I support an independent, non-partisan council or committee, outside of outsiders who are causing us to fail to lead. The Redistricting should be fair to all parties and all citizens of this Great State of North Carolina.

Aug 9 2017 10:06PM Mr. William Holcomb OUR FAMILY WANTS THE REDISTRICTING DONE BY AN UNBIASED, BIPARTISAN, ETHICAL COMMISSION.

Aug 9 2017 10:02PM Ms. Erica Burns As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Aug 9 2017 10:03PM Ms. Candice Davies As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Aug 9 2017 10:09PM Ms. C. Nettles Gerrymandering renders the ideal of ‘one person, one vote’ invalid. Return your state to the constitutional ideal.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Message</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017 10:11PM</td>
<td>Dr. Amy Musser</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. We all know the harmful impact that partisan and racial gerrymandering has had in our state. It's deprived us of our right to pick our representatives and instead lets politicians pick and choose their voters. You, as representatives of your constituents, need to know that the public supports a redistricting process that doesn't allow our legislative maps to be drawn along political lines and purposefully divides communities of color to weaken their political power. We cannot let you, the redistricting committee, ignore the opinion of the majority of North Carolinians anymore.</td>
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<td>Aug 9 2017 10:11PM</td>
<td>Mr. Bobby Padgett</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want rather than the representatives choosing their voters.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017 10:13PM</td>
<td>Karen Achor</td>
<td>I'm a resident of North Carolina seeking redistricting that is fair and open and prevents gerrymandering, whether racial or partisan. To preserve our rights and freedoms in this great state, our legislative maps must be drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented. That way lets us choose the representatives we want. We need to avoid gerrymandering because it deprives voters of our right to pick our representatives. Rather than let politicians pick and choose their voters, we want to maintain a democratic system in our state — and in our republic, the United States — for us and for our descendants.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017 10:16PM</td>
<td>Mr. David Ambaras</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.</td>
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<td>Aug 9 2017 10:21PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Evelyn Morehead</td>
<td>It's time to be fair to the citizens. Stop the gerrymandering. Now. Do what is right. Stop working only to make yourselves rich and powerful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017 10:22PM</td>
<td>Mr. William Phillips</td>
<td>The criteria for redistricting must guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. Our legislative maps must be drawn in a way that guarantees everyone equal and fair representation and lets us choose the representatives we want.</td>
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<td>Mr. Daniel Mulligan</td>
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<td>Mr. Jason Weil</td>
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<td>Aug 9 2017 10:27PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Jane Oakley</td>
<td>This gerrymandering must stop.</td>
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<td>Aug 9 2017 10:27PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Hattie Hair</td>
<td>We demand that you draw the lines fairly so that we have true representation in congress.</td>
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<td>Aug 9 2017 10:40PM</td>
<td>Mr. John Wiles</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.</td>
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2786  Aug 9 2017 10:47PM  Ms. Sandra Ricci  We have been blessed and I am so thankful to live in a country that has a participatory government, by and for the people with separation of powers that work together but also provide a checks and balance. We must have a fair, inclusive and non-partisan districting process that results in people exercising their right to vote. Please do the right thing. Thank you for taking my comment.

2787  Aug 9 2017 10:49PM  Mrs. Judith Barton  We need districts which have been properly drawn, not gerrymandered, so the people decide who will represent them, not the ones who drew up the districts.

2788  Aug 9 2017 10:50PM  Mr. Quando Gerst  As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

2789  Aug 9 2017 10:51PM  Mr. Charles Wickline  You moved me from district 3 to district 7. That made my Rep. someone that I did not vote for. That is wrong.

2790  Aug 9 2017 10:54PM  Mr. Gregg Johnson  I believe that voting districts should not be manipulated to gain racial or political advantage.

2791  Aug 9 2017 11:06PM  Mr. James & April Thompson  The intent of redistricting is to disenfranchise minority voters. In a true democratic republic the right for EVERYONE to participate in the electoral process is non-negotiable, and ANY attempts to undermine this right are viewed as Un-American.

2792  Aug 9 2017 11:09PM  Ms. Arleen Fields  Hello! Please ensure that when North Carolina is redistricted that the districts fairly reflect the residents of that area and do not once again fall along the lines of partisan politics. I am on the far eastern edge of Rep. Richard Hudson's district. Last fall when I was searching to find the name of my representative I kept thinking that I had the wrong guy since I kept coming up with references to Concord and Charlotte, and nothing about my town of Fayetteville. But, yup - the district splitters across half the state, right across Republican strongholds. Please don't let this happen to me again! Thank you for your consideration and commitment to fairness.

2793  Aug 9 2017 11:14PM  Mrs. Sharon Okeiley  We need to draw district lines that will benefit all the people of NC and make voting accessible for all.

2794  Aug 9 2017 11:17PM  Jeffery and Pamela Mastin  We expect you as our elected representatives to develop fair voting districts so that every NC citizen vote counts. If you do not, we will encourage the courts to step in and do so on our behalf. Please do the right thing by all! We're counting on you do so!

2795  Aug 9 2017 11:18PM  Mr. Lynn Bernhardt  As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevent racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

2796  Aug 9 2017 11:21PM  Ms. Kathryn Pedersen  I urge you have fair and nonpartisan maps drawn as soon as possible. I believe a nonpartisan commission should be established immediately for this task.

2797  Aug 9 2017 11:26PM  Mrs. Teresa Barefoot  We all know that our district maps look ludicrous. Districts should be drawn with sensible demarcation , not this grand reach to squiggle around picking up a few voters here and a few down yonder. Individually our votes should important, but so should the outlines of our districts be important. Time to quit playing these political games and draw districts as you should...then courts won't catch you in your [illegal under law]!...

2798  Aug 9 2017 11:29PM  Don Shafer  As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial as well as partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

2799  Aug 9 2017 11:32PM  Mr. Daniel Burns  As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

We all know the harmful impact that partisan and racial gerrymandering has had in our state. It's deprived us of our right to pick our representatives and instead lets politicians pick and choose their voters.

2800  Aug 9 2017 11:55PM  Ms. Carroll Harris  Partisan or racial gerrymandering should not be allowed to happen in the USA! It makes us less of a fair country!

2801  Aug 10 2017 12:00AM  Ms. Pamela Corbett  Stop partisan and lopsided drawing of districts. Use computer-generated algorithms to determine them.

Thank you, Pamela.

2802  Aug 10 2017 12:09AM  Ms. Vivian Barro  gerrymandering disenfranchises citizens and it needs to stop.

2803  Aug 10 2017 12:15AM  Mrs. Elaine Wood  The Gerymanndering of NC is shameful. Ethnic manipulation is one of the most detestable things and unconstitutional efforts ever done that affects our political process. It is Not Fair and Not Right.

2804  Aug 10 2017 12:39AM  Dr. Robert Reebber  With current districts declared illegal I as a citizen cannot consider any laws and budgets passed by the current legislature to be truly representative of the peoples's will and would stand behind a court that would make them nul and void. We need fair non-partisan districts that attract talented independents and members of all parties as candidates to do the peoples work.
Mr. Ralph Shannon

Redistricting should be done on a non-partisan basis as well as not partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

The most proportionate way to do that is with computer-generated district maps. It is also the fastest, cheapest, and mathematically precise. The whole process could be finished in a day's time (actually, it probably would take under an hour).

Let's get it done, and get on to correcting more problems in North Carolina that stand in the way of better lives for our citizenry-at-large!

Mr. William Webb

My opinion is that NC's politicians are a corrupt group who would spray pig feces in your face if it made them a buck or got them a vote. Pig shit politicians. Why would anyone expect them to govern fairly?

Ms. Jane Watson

Thank you, Terese Armstrong does not represent the people of NC. Please stop trying to undermine the state's and country's rules of law shall go down in the annals of history as SHAMEFUL, DISGRACEFUL AND UNPATRIOTIC!! JW

Mr. Robert Howland

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to be set in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

If you have to use voter suppression to win, maybe your message is acceptable and truly constitutional. All who hold party loyalty over the state's and country's rules of law shall go down in the annals of history as SHAMEFUL, DISGRACEFUL AND UNPATRIOTIC!!

Ms. Lisa Yarger

It seems like something we all could agree on: the criteria for redistricting need to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Do what the federal courts ordered or else they will have everybody running statewide and the democrats will for sure kick all of you out of office. You could still have an election that stands for all new offices running statewide and the democrats will for sure kick all of you out of office. You could still have an election that stands for all new offices and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Mr. Ben Mullen

Gerrymandering is cheating, plain and simple.

Thank you, Leonard E. Lopatin, Asheville, NC

Mr. Leonard Lopatin

Gerrymandering is cheating. Both parties have done it. Please stop it now.

Let's end gerrymandering now.

Mr. John Baker

The gerrymandering must stop. We need an independent non partisan committee to redraw the maps.

Mr. Ken Leary

We need fair election districts that represent the true popular vote.

Let's end gerrymandering now.

Mr. Michael McGowan

Redistricting should be done on a non-partisan basis as well as not being racist.

Mrs. Martha Spencer

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In the long run, this will benefit both Democrats AND Republicans!

Mr. John Baker

partisan gerrymandering is antidemocratic, the citizens of north Carolina require a redistricting plan that is fair and unbiased and strictly avoids party intervention.

Mrs. Claudia Thuring

Do what the federal courts ordered or else they will have everybody running statewide and the democrats will for sure kick all of you out of office. You could still have an election that stands for all new offices just for the year 2018, i.e. double elections.

rex burford

The most proportionate way to do that is with computer-generated district maps. It is also the fastest, cheapest, and mathematically precise. The whole process could be finished in a day's time (actually, it probably would take under an hour).

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If you have to use voter suppression to win, maybe your message does not represent the people of NC. Please stop trying to undermine the very fabric of democracy and start acting like Americans.

Mr. Leonard Lopatin

Mr. Leonard Lopatin, Asheville, NC

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If you have to use voter suppression to win, maybe your message does not represent the people of NC. Please stop trying to undermine the very fabric of democracy and start acting like Americans.

Mr. Terese Armstrong

Thank you, Terese Armstrong
Redistricting needs to happen in a non political way that does not use racial or political criteria. We need fair and open elections that are not rigged by politicians for their benefit but rather for a stronger democracy. You, as representatives of your constituents, need to know that the public supports a redistricting process that doesn’t allow our legislative maps to be drawn along political lines and purposefully divides communities of color. As a resident of Greensboro, NC, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Our state by not having to continually litigate these unlawful arrangements. Gerrymandering has further divided our country by red lines, and made North Carolina a poster child for duplicity and misrepresentation. There is no practical way to utilize this bargaining chip for the good of all citizens. The practice should be considered illegal, even for political gain. If North Carolina’s legislators dare to represent the will of all its citizens, the use of gerrymandering would cease immediately.

On August 8th, 2017, in the same week that marked the 52nd Anniversary of the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, Rev. William Barber II and the NC NAACP State Conference gathered to demand an illegal North Carolina General Assembly to cease any new legislative action until new legislative elections are held on the basis of an electoral map that complies with the constitution. I am in total support of this request. This legislature is an illegal and racist activity because of the gerrymandering of NC voting district. Cease and desist legislative activity until a fair and just redistricting and new elections.

The citizens of NC deserve fair elections that do not give advantage to one race or party because of gerrymandered districts. Gerrymandering must be completely and permanently removed from our state. It’s deprived us of our right to pick our representatives and instead lets politicians pick and choose their voters.

We know the harmful impact that partisan and racial gerrymandering has had in our state. It’s deprived us of our right to pick our representatives and instead lets politicians pick and choose their voters.

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

The voters should be able to choose their representatives, Gerrymandering allows the legislators to choose their voters. this is a** backwards. End gerrymandering. Gives us voting districts that don’t look like snakes. Gerrymandering allows the legislators to choose their voters. The practice should be considered illegal, even for political gain. If North Carolina’s legislators dare to represent the will of all its citizens, the use of gerrymandering would cease immediately.

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

The practice is Un-American and violates Law and our Principles of Democracy. End it NOW. If you want to be elected- come up with a better message than your opponent. Why not save the taxpayers of our state by not having to continually litigate these unlawful arrangements. Gerrymandering has further divided our country by red lines, and made North Carolina a poster child for duplicity and misrepresentation. There is no practical way to utilize this bargaining chip for the good of all citizens. The practice should be considered illegal, even for political gain. If North Carolina’s legislators dare to represent the will of all its citizens, the use of gerrymandering would cease immediately.

The practice of redistricting has long been considered “legal”, but has never been ethical, or in the best interest of the general public. It has been used as a political football...enabling the party in possession to score political points. Gerrymandering has further divided our country by red lines, and made North Carolina a poster child for duplicity and misrepresentation. There is no practical way to utilize this bargaining chip for the good of all citizens. The practice should be considered illegal, even for political gain. If North Carolina’s legislators dare to represent the will of all its citizens, the use of gerrymandering would cease immediately.

As a resident of Greensboro, NC, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

The citizens of NC deserve fair elections that do not give advantage to one race or party because of gerrymandered districts. Gerrymandering should follow the principles set forth by the League of Women Voters to ensure that each district is truly competitive and that every vote will count in the state. I urge the members of the General Assembly to work fairly and justly in drawing our new maps.
As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. To me, that would mean the establishing an impartial committee that could draw maps from census data.

I support non-partisan districting like the Iowa model. This is to the benefit of both parties who will sooner or later be the ones drawing the lines. The courts are not going to accept gerrymandered districts so we may as well go ahead and draw bipartisan, fair districts.

I write to ask that you redraw legislative districts to benefit us voters, rather than to ensure your job securities. We all pay taxes and all deserve fair representation at the state and national levels. My districts were drawn in a manner that negatively affected me when minorities were packed into one district as opposed to the two or three we had been in before. What was done before was shameful and has seriously damaged North Carolina’s image and its prospects for attracting new businesses. Do the right thing. Redraw the districts so we’re all represented fairly.

I support OBJECTIVE (non-political) redistricting. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

I am writing to express my great desire for fair voting districts. I am a resident of North Carolina. The criteria for redistricting must guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

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The whole state is watching. The whole nation is watching. We have a right to a DEMOCRACY. REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT. The Founding Fathers would be appalled at gerrymandering. Be a patriot and let the people's votes and voices count and be equally and fairly represented. To do otherwise is shameful and against the USA. This is something we should not have to even say.

Gerrymandering is an insidious and immediate threat to our democracy, and yet during the past decade it has been manifested here in North Carolina in its most dangerously successful form. This is not something to be proud of or to try to excel at...it is a shameful and cynical attack on the very integrity of our entire system of voting. Gerrymandering is a classic case of party over country, and I condemn it in the strongest terms, and as a voter I demand that every necessary action be taken to draw legislative districts fairly with all due haste and deliberation.

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I am writing to ask the North Carolina General Assembly to cease immediately any actions that support the gerrymandering of districts. Look what this unethical process has gotten us - Senators and Congressmen who vote to take away health care from millions of Americans. A republican president who is unstable to serve the office and the denial of the right to vote to hundreds of thousands of North Carolina residents -- ! STOP now you are destroying the United States and let the people's votes and voices count and be equally and fairly represented.  To do otherwise is shameful and against the USA. This is something we should not have to even say.

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

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Aug 10 2017 8:55AM  George Adams  Most North Carolinians have more concerns in their lives than tax cuts for rich folks, corporate welfare, and tired old social issues. But that’s not reflected in your politics because of the electoral gains you’ve received by your partisan redistricting. You don’t reflect the common sense ideals of the majority of people that put you in office. So instead of representing our interests, your over representation has made you cold, selfish, petty, and drunk with power. Just when I think I can’t be anymore ashamed to say I’m from NC, you folks always find a way to outdo yourself. I realize it’s a long shot, but I hope the courts finally break the siege you’ve put us through. It’s quite apparent you have no interest in running a fair election or finding practical solutions to the real problems we face.

Aug 10 2017 8:56AM  Mr. Lonny McSherley  As a long-time, high-taxpaying resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and that prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. The districting we now have is patently unfair and discriminatory. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. An impartial map-maker seems an essential step: there are many talented geographers out there, so why go with the one who drew up the districting maps the Supreme Court has ruled unconstitutional? I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. The districting we now have is patently unfair and discriminatory. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Aug 10 2017 9:04AM  Ms. LaVerne Smith  This has really been dragged out for much too long. Time for the legislators to get moving and stop stalling. This has been so unfair in so many ways anyone with common sense knows what has been going on. I am sure I am not the only person in North Carolina who is wondering why these people are so intent on destroying this state and are unfit for their positions. Get busy. Eventually there are going to be performance reviews. These are called elections.

Aug 10 2017 9:09AM  Mr. Robert O’Connor  The public supports a redistricting process that doesn’t allow our legislative maps to be drawn along political lines and purposefully divides communities of color to weaken their political power. Nor do we support redistricting that carves out entire geographic communities like the city of Asheville, placing its population within two districts! I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Aug 10 2017 9:12AM  Mrs. Anne Craig  The public supports a redistricting process that doesn’t allow our legislative maps to be drawn along political lines and purposefully divides communities of color to weaken their political power. Nor do we support redistricting that carves out entire geographic communities like the city of Asheville, placing its population within two districts! I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Aug 10 2017 9:21AM  Mr. Cody Hulme  As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Aug 10 2017 9:22AM  Rien Zabor  As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Aug 10 2017 9:23AM  Ms. Patricia Burks  End gerrymandering now!

Aug 10 2017 9:25AM  Mrs. Devon Burkhalter  There is nothing fair and equal about the methods y’all are using to redraw the districts. It’s one step shy of buying votes to split districts among socioeconomic or racial communities, ensuring votes swung one way or the other. I don’t have the solution, but it seems that y’all don’t, either. Back to the drawing board!

Aug 10 2017 9:26AM  Mr. Robert O’Connor  End partisan gerrymandering. We need FAIR elections not unconstitutional fake districts favoring bloated hypocrites. I am especially interested in establishment of a non-partisan redistricting commission. Several states have established such commissions, and based on all reports they work very well. It would be great if you could take advantage of this opportunity to create such a commission.

Aug 10 2017 9:27AM  Mr. Lonny McSherley  It is shameful that we rig elections through partisan gerrymandering. Both parties should stop. Currently it is the Republicans who are violating our rights. Please STOP!

Aug 10 2017 9:28AM  Ms. Ruth Talley  PLEASE HEAR US. As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.
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<tr>
<td>Jason Sullivan</td>
<td>Aug 10 2017  9:29AM</td>
<td>While I applaud the efforts of the NC General Assembly to finally get it all together and begin the redistricting process after stalling for as long as possible, I'm disappointed that they've chosen to use the same Republican operative responsible for the current preposterous maps. There have been many studies about how much more equitable district maps can be computationally generated (one was even done locally at Duke), and the importance of independent commissions; and yet I fear we're just going to go down the same path as before, but with more careful language so that the Supreme Court doesn't give us another embarrassing dubbing. While prior maps have been drawn to benefit historically marginalized groups (and that's a good thing), recent history has shown that we can't do that without specious complaints of &quot;unfairness&quot; and a dramatic swing in a regressive direction. We need a truly independent commission using open and independently reviewed algorithms to generate these maps with as little favor or bias as possible.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Wehling</td>
<td>Aug 10 2017  9:34AM</td>
<td>I would like to see redistricting done on a non-partisan, and certainly non-racial or ethnic basis. I vote very regularly, and have time to actively participate in campaigns to press the things I think are important. Fair representation is not a right, it is a responsibility. Fairness in voting requires that the voting districts/precincts be redrawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want and that best represent us in geographical nature. We need a truly independent commission using open and independently reviewed algorithms to generate these maps with as little favor or bias as possible.</td>
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<td>Joli Osgood</td>
<td>Aug 10 2017  9:39AM</td>
<td>Please do the right thing and correct the gerrymandering that has brought shame to our state. Create districts that promote fairness and strengthen our democracy. Gerrymandering is one of the most critical threats to our democracy. How NC leaders choose to remedy this problem will determine how I vote in 2018 and beyond. It is not good for North Carolinians to have to rely on appellate courts to keep our leaders in check. Everyone is paying attention now like never before. I urge you to do the right thing and fix the districts that were manipulated to concentrate certain voters' power and dilute others.</td>
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<td>John altisher</td>
<td>Aug 10 2017  9:35AM</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. I recommend using municipal, county and other established jurisdictional lines as the main basis for the new and future districts.</td>
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<td>Mr. Lewis Hawley</td>
<td>Aug 10 2017  9:35AM</td>
<td>Gerrymandering is so callous, so cold, so ANTI-DEMOCRATIC as to be UN-AMERICAN. Only thing more heinous is your attempts at voter suppression. SHAME ON YOU ! It was Lucifer who preferred to rule in Hell rather than serve in Heaven. I reels like you've knorf'en for the loss r n m !! Stop Gerrymandering now !</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Jeffrey Pilkinton</td>
<td>Aug 10 2017  9:37AM</td>
<td>Fairness in voting requires that the voting districts/precincts be redrawn to equalize the votes of all persons in North Carolina. The extreme gerrymandering must be changed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Noel Jones</td>
<td>Aug 10 2017  9:37AM</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. I recommend using municipal, county and other established jurisdictional lines as the main basis for the new and future districts.</td>
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<td>Mr. mark Klutts</td>
<td>Aug 10 2017  9:39AM</td>
<td>Mr. Neal Curran</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Laura Vanderbeck</td>
<td>Aug 10 2017  9:40AM</td>
<td>Gerrymandering is an unfair strategy that circumvents the basic tenants of Democracy. It should not be allowed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Charlisha Foster</td>
<td>Aug 10 2017  9:51AM</td>
<td>As a proud resident of North Carolina (born and bred), I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want and that best represent us in geographical nature.</td>
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<td>Mrs. Barbara Pangle</td>
<td>Aug 10 2017  9:53AM</td>
<td>For too long the peoples voice in NC has been silenced and manipulated as ruled by the courts. It is time for districts to be redrawn fairly . This must be done in a non patronic matter before the 2018 mid tern elections. Quit draggin yourfeet and do what is right for the state not the party. The people demand it and are watching and willing to speak out against any effort to dismiss the courts ruling. Barbara Elliott Pangle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Lester Stowe</td>
<td>Aug 10 2017  9:55AM</td>
<td>End partisan and racial gerrymandering NOW! Establish a nonpartisan commission to draw legislative maps.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Ms. Elizabeth Krijgsman</td>
<td>Aug 10 2017  9:56AM</td>
<td>Dear Republican legislators, You learned back in kindergarten that if you win by cheating, it doesn't count. Unfortunately, your cheating has been effective in denying many of your fellow North Carolinians a voice in elections. Please stop opposing nonpartisan gerrymandering. Try winning on your merits for a change. Thank you for your attention.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Rachel Campbell</td>
<td>Aug 10 2017 10:01AM</td>
<td>Time to take politics out of our voting rights and have independent redistricting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Frank Lorch</td>
<td>Aug 10 2017 10:01AM</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barbara Elliott Pangle</td>
<td>Aug 10 2017 10:01AM</td>
<td>Good luck.</td>
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I urge that the NC legislature do its job and make every effort to redraw the district maps in a way that does not lend itself to blatant racial and partisan gerrymandering.

I am a 60-year-old Southerner. I am proud Southerner, but what I am proud of is our civil rights movement and how it is always working to make sure every citizen has a stake in our democracy. The best way to do that is to ensure that no voter is prevented from voting and that their vote counts. I am ashamed and deeply angry that the Republican Party has chosen electoral victory over democracy by any measure they can, from voter suppression efforts, including gerrymandering, to drumming up a false emergency “voter fraud” issue to cover up these deeply unethical, and ultimately judged illegal methods to do so.

This is not a partisan issue, at least not to me. It doesn’t matter which party benefits from ensuring everyone’s right to vote. Ensuring that right is the bedrock of our democracy. There is no good reason or excuse for endangering that foundation, unless we want to become something other than a democracy: maybe an autocracy, or a theocracy, or a plutocracy? Because that’s where we are heading when we allow the false narrative that one side is pitted against the other side because it’s all about petty partisan politics.

I strongly urge that districts be drawn in a non-partisan, above-board, ethical manner, adhering only to accurately making districts congruent and logically drawn to most accurately reflect the true demographics of that district. Every Republican who is a true patriot should want the same thing. To win, but win fairly, and with no suppression of anyone’s constitutional right to vote.

We need fair elections with equal non-party based criteria. A non-party based commission is necessary for this task.

As a long-time resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

We need to regain our status as a great state for all citizens to live in. To our state and each and every one of its citizens who care about the same thing. To win, but win fairly, and with no suppression of anyone’s constitutional right to vote.

As citizens of NC we need a legislative slate that fairly represents us, and logically drawn to most accurately reflect the true demographics of our state which give unfair advantage to their party based commission is necessary for this task.

Please draw fair maps free of racial and partisan gerrymandering.

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I urge you to create districts that provide a voice to all of our citizens as is intended in our constitution. Healthy debate and democratic outcomes depend upon vigorous debate of the issues and voter choice. Predetermined electoral outcomes stifle our democracy. No individual issue is more important than our political heritage.

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Please draw fair maps free of racial and partisan gerrymandering.

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Aug 10 2017 10:33AM
Mrs. Susan Henning

Voting is supposed to represent the will of the people. Gerrymandering districts distorts reality. It is a trick to manipulate the will of the people. It is not befitting the role of our elected representatives to play this game and to disenfranchise any segment of our population.

Aug 10 2017 10:34AM
Mr. William Owen

It is not this difficult. Stop attempting to give advantage to one party or another and start giving representation to the people.

Aug 10 2017 10:35AM
Ms. Mary White

To the N.C. Legislators - We as N.C. citizens must urge that you immediately REFRAIN from making North Carolina the Top Bastion of Corruption in the USA these days. The majority of the representatives of the N.C. Legislature of the Party in Power are willing to accept any tawdry maneuvering that rends their will from what is just and proper regardless of any well-approved standards of conduct and action that have been heretofore set forth. The N.C. Congress has now shown themselves to become a sleazy bunch of criminals without any due reason and devoid of any proper judicial process. This goes for how they have stripped the current Governor from the very same rights, staffing policies, and funding resources that were made available for his predecessor of their own party and ilk, without tampering by the opposing party. Now they in their same misguided, controversial, and unprincipled, surly fashion are attempting to continue to strip right and right from the stricture in the re-drawing of the voting lines throughout the state which give unfair advantage to their party based on race. This embarrassing, sordid maneuvering brings gross shame to our state and each and every one of its citizens who cares about integrity. STOP THIS VICIOUS MISBEHAVIOR AT ONCE, we IMPLORE YOU!

Aug 10 2017 10:35AM
Ms. Kiele Goins

Voting districts should follow common-sense boundaries (for example: rivers, other natural divisions, communities, etc.), with a goal of having the overall map look more like a checkerboard than a collection of spiders or hallucinogenic paintings! Racial make-up and political partisanship should not factor in.

Aug 10 2017 10:38AM
Ms. Diana Bellgowan

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Aug 10 2017 10:39AM
Mrs. Ellie Mayer

It is not the spirit of the constitution to manipulate voting districts. This country was founded on the principle of Freedom for All (including voters!).

Aug 10 2017 10:40AM
Ms. Kiele Goins

Partisan redistricting is bad for democracy and creates unfair elections. If a political party must manipulate districts to unfairly favor them and hurt the other party’s chances, they are cheating and don’t deserve to be a party. North Carolina is the worst with this gerrymandering and it must stop. Asheville, for instance, is shoved into a House district that has a representative that frankly does not care about the city’s needs as he rather represent his rural population. This makes it seem that Asheville has a representative that frankly does not care about the city’s needs. It is not befitting the role of our elected representatives to play this game and to disenfranchise any segment of our population.

Aug 10 2017 10:41AM
Mr. Eric Everett

I am ashamed that NC is reknown for its political corruption and voter suppression. Do the politicians that serve themselves through Gerrymandering truly believe in democracy? As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Aug 10 2017 10:42AM
Mr. Larry Little

Voting districts should follow common-sense boundaries (for example: rivers, other natural divisions, communities, etc.), with a goal of having the overall map look more like a checkerboard than a collection of spiders or hallucinogenic paintings! Racial make-up and political partisanship should not factor in.

Aug 10 2017 10:48AM
Mrs. Ann Hess

I oppose the efforts of Trudy Wade and others to Gerrymander our districts to favor Republicans even though they are in the minority. A bipartisan effort is needed to draw the lines fairly so that each party is represented.
As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

The NC General Assembly has the opportunity now to do something historical and lasting, that is re-district NC to provide for fair and balanced elections. I sincerely request that this work be done in a manner that eliminates any sense of partisanship and discrimination.

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to prevent racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. Anything short of this is fraudulent and undemocratic and makes a mockery of the all-important right of voting.

We all know the harmful impact that partisan and racial attempts to manipulate elections are not prevented. Redistricting process must be fair and open, and must guarantee that redistrict NC to provide for fair and balanced elections. I sincerely request that this work be done in a historical and lasting manner that eliminates any sense of partisanship and discrimination.

Now is the critical time to institute, independent of party affiliations, a process that is and will continue to be fair and open. The voters must be able to elect their own legislators not a system where current official "cherry pick" their voters from a map. Do the right thing that will last 100 years from now.

Now is the time to institute, independent of party affiliations, a process that doesn't allow our legislative maps to be drawn along political lines and purposefully divides communities of color to weaken their political power.

As a NC resident, I find the gerrymandering done in our state appalling. It has compromised fair representation.

We recently retired to NC where we have stayed at least 3 times a year since 1968. We chose the Tar Heel State BC of friendly neighborhoods and welcoming attitudes. Therefore, when we went to register to vote we were shocked at the "hoops" we had to go through. More importantly, we were distressed to learn how horribly gerrymandering has compromised fair representation.

Now is the time to institute, independent of party affiliations, a process that is and will continue to be fair and open. The voters must be able to elect their own legislators not a system where current official "cherry pick" their voters from a map. Do the right thing that will last 100 years from now.

As a resident of North Carolina, I find the gerrymandering done in our state appalling. It has deprived us of our right to pick our representatives and instead lets politicians pick and choose their voters.

I want to let lawmakers know that the public supports a redistricting process that doesn't allow our legislative maps to be drawn along political lines and purposefully divides communities of color to weaken their political power.

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We cannot let you, the redistricting committee, ignore the opinion of the majority of North Carolinians anymore.

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<tr>
<td>Aug 10 2017 11:34AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Mary Britt</td>
<td>I believe that you should be able to vote in your county at any polling place. Do away with the districting all together. Simplify the process. It would be so much easier on those who work. It is hard to get to home polling place and wait in line. It would be even better if everyone just mailed in their ballot. That way people don't have to leave home and the postal system would track the flow of the ballots from Voting district to voter and from the voter to district and then the ballot number could be tracked internally by the Board of Elections of each office giving voters a piece of mind that their vote was truly counted. Go a step further and I think all citizens who are eligible should be registered to vote automatically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 10 2017 11:37AM</td>
<td>Mr. Anthony J Quartararo</td>
<td>Through legal obfuscation &amp; chicanery this immoral, cynical, illegal &amp; unrepresentative body has been able to stay in power for over 2,000 days. This has negated my vote and denied my 14 th Amenmet Rights to Equal Protection &amp; Representation. This has stripped powers away from Gov. Cooper &amp; AG Stein, AFTER their election in a blatant affirmation of their bias against fair and equitable government. We need to see these maps NOW so that an assessment can be made as to their fairness and to allow citizens time to decide how they may serve this great State. In prior generations Democrats gerrymandered for their own advantage, this generation of GOP politicians have taken gerrymandering to an art form. Both sides are wrong and have failed to serve the people of this state. It is time to reset the maps in a fair and equitable manner and release quickly to assure fair and equitable elections. Thank you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 10 2017 11:40AM</td>
<td>Virginia Marion</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. It's disgusting that a few politicians have abused their power to distort our legislative maps to favor themselves. I hope this issue can be remedied quickly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 10 2017 11:45AM</td>
<td>Ms. donna bender</td>
<td>These lines must be drawn to reflect the population, not the party.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 10 2017 11:48AM</td>
<td>Mr. Ed King</td>
<td>As a resident of N.C., I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and preventing racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. We all know the harmful impact that partisan and racial gerrymandering has had in our state. It's deprived us of our right to pick our representatives and instead lets politicians pick and choose their voters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 10 2017 11:51AM</td>
<td>Mr. David Sennett</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 10 2017 11:52AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Shannan Bogdanov</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 10 2017 11:57AM</td>
<td>Kathryn Pezzi</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, born and bred in this state, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 10 2017 11:58AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Deborah Kenyon</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I understand the Supreme Court heard the legislature's argument regarding the drawing of districts. I have done some research into this area and was shocked to see how each district looked, how it was racially drawn and I now believe, drawn to the benefit of the Republican party. This is not fair representative based on the number of Republicans, Democrats, Independents, etc. NO one party should be engaged in activity that favors one party over the other.

I am an Independent voter and fully expect ALL districts to be redrawn asap by a NON-PARTISAN committee. I am an Independent and vote for the person and what they stand for, NOT a party. I am not against a party system, BUT if these types of shenanigans are happening in the party system, should be looked into further in other aspects of our government.

Please fight for OUR democracy.

Gerrymandering is just a way to subvert our citizens' right to have their votes counted equally! It has to end! A computer program would do a better job than what has happened in NC in the past! Put in place a fair system!

Please support fair and equitable redistricting to restore the value of each citizen's vote. It is unconscionable that gerrymandering has led to such planned suppression of certain votes! Restore a just and equal representation system to serve the equal rights of all citizens. Thank you for your service to us, your constituents.

It is important that every citizen of North Carolina have - access to and reasonableness to assume - that their vote will count. Unlawful gerrymandering must stop.

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

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STOP GERRYMANDERING! As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

This is beyond a conflict of interest. It should be downright illegal. When drawing districts, put voters and constituents before personal electoral interests and what parties want. Make districts fair and non-partisan. Court cases have called out unfair and gerrymandered districts. End the games and if you can't win votes in fair districts find a new job cause you should be working for your constituents and not partisan interests.

Please stop this practice gerrymandering, because it is more to do with a politicians advantage over the people's voice.

Please stop this practice gerrymandering, because it is more to do with a politicians advantage over the people's voice.

This is a new job cause you should be working for your constituents and not partisan and special interests.

Simply put, gerrymandering, whether racial or political, is a slap in the face of all voters and discriminatory. When 48% of voters casting ballots receive 20% of the representation, their is a gross miscarriage of voter representation. I expect non-partisan designed voting districts. Please be less partial in drawing up the current re-districting maps, and move towards a non-partisan commission to draw the maps. Partisan gerrymandering is against the constitution any way you look at it.

Respectfully,

Please move forward on correcting the wrongful voting districts. The Supreme Court has ruled the current districts are racially discriminatory and are in violation of voting rights for all.

I support allowing constituents to study the proposed maps. Let the voters see what is proposed.

Maps should allow for the voters to choose their representatives. The districts should be drawn to give people a choice. Having 70% of districts as no contest districts is unacceptable. Dividing districts to weaken racial voting blocks or political voting blocks takes away the opportunity for choice. Districts should be geographically contiguous. Districts should provide a fair opportunity to all voters. Population wise the districts should be equal in size. The districts must be evaluated for racial and political bias.
The current voting districts in NC do not ensure fair elections and do not make legislators more accountable to their constituents. Voters are discriminated against ethnically and racially making sure these votes do not count, if in fact they are counted. An Independent redistricting commission would return fair and honest elections to our state.

Lines should be drawn geographically, not based on race, income, or ethnicity of the local population. This is America!!

Voting should be a right to every citizen of age and legislators should not try to influence the election by stacking the deck against minorities so that they can maintain control of the legislature. It is morally wrong and a disservice to our democracy.

The gerrymandering that takes place in NC is both grossly dishonest and an embarrassment! Both sides of the isle are guilty of this manipulation of voting for political gain. It's unchristian and undemocratic. I once upon all to let the people vote and fly straight!

Please end the (endless and ultimately fruitless and destructive) pursuit of partisan structural advantage through gerrymandering. Establish a fair and simple redistricting process and restore the public's trust. Rules should be simple, and can be listed on a note card:

1) Districts of equal population (the Constitutional mandate).
2) To the greatest extent possible (consistent with rule #1) do not sub-divide counties.
3) To the greatest extent possible (consistent with rules #1 & #2) keep districts geographically COMPACT (determined by mathematical formula).

That's it.

Anything less (or more) introduces the unclean hands of partisanship and leads inevitably to the failure of government to serve the needs of its citizens.

WE HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED IN ONE VOTE FOR EACH PERSON WHO IS ENTITLED TO VOTE. THIS IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE IN OUR STATE. GERRYMANDERING HAS MADE IT THUS AND WE NEED TO STOP GERRYMANDERING AND ENABLE EACH CITIZEN TO HAVE A VOTE COUNTED.

As a North Carolina citizen, I urge that we change to non-partisan redistricting in our state. The Electoral Integrity Project, which measures the the quality of elections worldwide, gave NC a score of 7/100 on the integrity of its voting districts, lower than any other state - or country - analyzed. Clearly, changes need to be made. Nonpartisan redistricting is the best way to break the cycle of escalating "payback" between the political parties. Let's be on the right side of history in ensuring that we have fair elections in our state.

My district changed twice, and I didn't move. Please, if you care about democracy and the will of the people, not just the parties, redraw maps based upon local needs. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

As a 20 year resident voter and taxpayer of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. To remain faithful to the American democratic system, we should have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees every voter is equally and fairly represented.

Partisan and racial gerrymandering has been practiced by both parties and has had a harmful effect on our State. It has deprived us of our right to pick our representatives and instead lets politicians pick and choose their voters. We the public in North Carolina support a redistricting process that doesn't allow our legislative maps to be drawn along political lines or to purposefully divide communities of color to weaken their political power.

Counties should be kept whole as prescribed by law. Cities and Towns should be kept as whole as possible. We should respect communities of interest. Race should not be a factor in the drawing of legislative districts. The courts should respect the role of the General Assembly, who under the Federal and State Constitutions and the laws of the State of North Carolina are responsible for redistricting ONLY TO THE EXTENT THAT THE MAPS ARE DRAWN TO ALLOW COMPETITIVE DISTRICTS.
As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Ms. Carol Hay

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Ms. Amy Zinn

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Emily Ford

North Carolinians are watching as the maps are redrawn, and we demand fair and impartial redistricting this time, in accordance with the court order. Only impartial criteria must be used to draw the maps, and the process to be completely transparent. Impartial criteria include creating districts that are compact and community-based; that are contiguous; that follow federal law; and that ignore partisan factors like voter registration, voter turnout in past elections, and the results of past elections. The home addresses of incumbent elected officials must not influence the maps. A transparent process means publishing the criteria used to draw the maps and making public comments public. Thank you.

Ms. Tamara Sanders

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Ms. Sandy Irving

Please move on non-partisan redistricting. That is the right thing to do to correct current problems and prevent problems in the future.

Ms. Joyce Shiffrin

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE ALWAYS END RACIAL GERRYMANDERING!!!

Ms. Martha Spann

I am strongly opposed to gerrymandering. It negates a person's vote. It destroys the meaning of democracy.

Mrs. Robin Hall

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Stephanie Scaramelli

It's 2017 - get a handle on it and quit trying to cut out voters of color by arbitrarily drawing district lines. Get a life folks, please.

Dr. Mikael Broadway

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Mr. Jeff Chandler

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

The current system unfairly favors one party and goes completely against the democratic norms established by our founding fathers. We might as well be living under a one party, totalitarian regime! The current system favors a power grab by one party over the other and amounts to political "cheating". America should **always** deal on the square. The current system, further, blackens our reputation in the eyes of our allies and enemies alike, and presents the appearance that America is a "failing" democracy instead of the leader of the free world we used to be. We used to be a country with high ideals and standards. Alas, it seems, more and more that our best days are behind us.

Mrs. Loraine Buker

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Take the power of districting away from the partisan legislature and create a multi-partisan, independent council to draw district lines. Using a computer to create bipartisan districts would allow elected officials to have to compromise to get elected and pass legislation.
As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. This is currently NOT the case. The courts have spoken, several times. Fair redistricting is what North Carolina needs.

One decade it will be one party that rules in another decade it could easily change. Please, short term wins for either party don't make our state better. Everyone should count equally. Our state should not be gerrymandered. Thank you.

Take the power of districting away from the partisan legislature and create a multi-partisan, independent council to draw district lines. Using a computer to create bipartisan districts would allow elected officials to have to compromise to get elected and pass legislation.

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

I opposed gerrymandering when the Democrats did it and I oppose it now. My vote deserves to compete fairly with the others in my district.

Arranging districts to favor one party or another is inherently undemocratic and not at all what the founders of our country intended. A fair system that insures that the will of the people will be implemented must be created immediately.

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

This comment is to state my opposition to any artificial means to affect voting and shape voting by either race, party or any other artificial criteria =gerrymandering
I have the reasonable expectation to vote for my politician, not the politician selecting the voters they want.
I have the reasonable expectation to vote in a district that has similar concerns geographically etc.
I know this has high bipartisan consensus and have attended sessions that show it is easy to convene a non-partisan group
To redraw new lines that do not require any input other than a stick figure for each voter, no need for race or party attributes.
Governing in the USA is getting manipulated at all levels, state and federal for a ‘WIN’ and the shenanigans are making me sick including voter rights erosion.
SO FOR THE SAKE OF THE STATE AND USA , re-establish fair, transparent and sound districts
Jillian Robson

You don't fool us. The only way you can win is by cheating. You just I opposed gerrymandering when the Democrats did it and I oppose it now. My vote deserves to compete fairly with the others in my district.

North Carolina has the dubious distinction of being known nationwide for gerrymandering, in a blatant attempt to suppress the vote in a partisan fashion. This cannot stand. A bedrock principle of democracy is that all eligible citizens be able to vote without undue difficulty. It has already been difficult at times for persons like myself, getting on in years and uncomfortable standing in very long lines, to register my preferences at the polls. What makes it worse is that my vote counts for little in my gerrymandered district, where the outcome is pretty much guaranteed. North Carolina cannot continue to hold the respect and confidence of its citizens if this state of affairs continues. Please, short term wins for either party don't make our state better. Everyone should count equally. Our state should not be gerrymandered. Thank you.

Dr. Karen Hodges

Fair redistricting is what North Carolina needs.
This is currently NOT the case. The courts have spoken, several times. Fair redistricting is what North Carolina needs.

You claim to be avid Christians. That means followers of Christ. Chris would never disrespect fellow human beings the way that you people do!

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Thank you for considering my views,
Dr. Karen Hodges

Please make any redistricting of maps fair for all NC voters. No more gerrymandering!

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

The people of North Carolina demand Legislative redistricting that draws new districts that are free from racial or partisan skewing. No more "safe" districts for either party.

Thank you, Martha Kennedy

Redistricting should keep counties intact where possible. I am extremely opposed to any redistricting that is designed to remove a conservative House or Senate member.
2991 Aug 10 2017 6:11PM Mr. William Blaine As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

2992 Aug 10 2017 6:50PM Dr. Marcia Frost As an American citizen I have the right to vote and to have my vote count. I have been repeatedly disenfranchised by the gerrymandered districts. Democracy requires that all citizens have their voices heard and their votes matter. Do you job as an American!

2993 Aug 10 2017 7:28PM Mr. Mark Taylor Please don't support Gerrymandering. It's clearly a highly undemocratic means to run a voting district system...regardless of party. There are fairer means to decide on districts. It's a cancer to our democracy. Please be a part of a fair solution. Step up as a true patriot.

2994 Aug 10 2017 8:20PM Mrs. Elizabeth Revis Gerrymandering is WRONG. It is shameful that our state uses it to such a gross extent. District lines need to be redrawn FAIRLY and without ANY partisan lines. Additionally, Tom Hoffeller has no business tainting the process by redrawing lines. Find someone who is fair and unbiased and make our state honest again!

2995 Aug 10 2017 8:31PM Mrs. Nancy Nance I urge you to be fair and unbiased in the redistricting bill. We do not need crooked business in our voting districts.

2996 Aug 10 2017 8:37PM Mr. Dave Walsh As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. The best solution would be to establish a non-partisan process so that the practice of partisan gerrymandering ends. I know there are models and proposals for how to do this.

2997 Aug 10 2017 8:51PM Dr. George Thompson Citizens of the State of North Carolina have a debt of gratitude to those patriarchs of wisdom who forged a new reality—the emergence of a free state from its colonial oppression. We do these visionaries an injustice when we support the practice of gerrymandering that defies the democratic process. Moreover, we irrevocably harm our sons and daughters by sustaining this practice as we move deeply into the 21st Century, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." The golden rule of politics, when applied, would end this disrespect for our founding fathers/mothers and secure a just future for our children.

North Carolina will only achieve greatness by adopting a fair and unbiased alignment of its voting districts so that every vote truly shall be considered sacred and valuable. --Rev. Dr. George E. Thompson

2998 Aug 10 2017 8:54PM Lois Roewade I am asking the legislators to draw district maps that are fair and representative of the population within that district. We have to end the racial and partisan drawing of districts that favor one political party or unfairly put people of certain ethnicity within one district. The current maps must be changed and going forward the state of NC must institute a policy of non-partisan, non-racial district maps drawn by an independent commission. This will ensure fairness for political parties and minorities.

2999 Aug 10 2017 8:56PM Mrs. Selene Russo I have heard there have been delays in the redistricting process. This can't happen, there is only one more year until the 2018 elections and as citizens of this country we have a right to know what district we are in early enough to begin researching the choices for our representatives. Delaying further is a violation of our rights and a disgusting way to get elected. If you want to get re-elected, earn it the right way, by working for the citizens you represent and doing good things for everyone, not special interests or the far right or left.

3000 Aug 10 2017 9:08PM Ms. Melyssa Allen As a citizen of North Carolina I believe our elections should be fair. The current districts have been ruled illegal and I don't believe the person who drew the current illegal maps should be involved in drawing the new ones. I think a nonpartisan group should draw our districts to ensure they are fair for all voters. Voters should get the representation that we want and that we vote for, not the part that is in control because of gerrymandering. This is why people become discouraged and just don't vote. Representatives should be for all citizens, not just their party. Thank you.

3001 Aug 10 2017 9:38PM Ms. Bepi Pinner As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

3002 Aug 10 2017 9:44PM Mr. Michael Barton I would like to see a bipartisan independent committee to do the redistricting.

3003 Aug 10 2017 9:44PM Ms. Stacy Hanna Voters should get to pick their representatives, not the other way around.

Anything less than an independent redistricting commission within a system of proportional representation is unfair and unacceptable.

3004 Aug 10 2017 10:10PM Ms. Lucretia Dickson As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.
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End gerrymandering now. We demand fair and equal redistricting not based on race and political party. Show the public the proposed maps.

NO racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented.

It is critical we eliminate the gerrymandered districts in NC. We voters should be electing our representatives. The way the districts are currently established, it results in public officials selecting their voters. This situation has put our Republic in great peril.

The time has come to implement redistricting to follow the courts' direction. North Carolina needs open and fair elections.

We NC voters deserve a process for drawing political district maps that is fair and open; avoids racial or partisan gerrymandering; and allows us to choose our political representatives. Follow best practice guidelines and ensure our districts are: Compact, coinciding with cities and towns and avoiding splitting counties; Contiguous, meaning that the districts are not merely joined at the corners; Follow state and federal law, such as the Voting Rights Act; and Ignore all partisan factors such as voter registration, voter turnout, past election results, and the residence of incumbents.

It is unfair and against the principles that this country was founded upon to deny lawful citizens the chance to fairly choose the representatives/senators of their choice to represent them in the government. The gerrymandering in effect now predetermines who will win and where, effectively stripping many people of their constitutional right to be represented! Gerrymandering MUST BE ENDED and a neutral panel must be created to fairly set district boundaries!

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Stop being childish and racist and comply with the Supreme Court ruling. Redistrict in a logical, simple manner and not based on race or political party registrations.

Current district US House Representative does not represent me. The redistricting that occurred a few years ago stretches all the way to northern Charlotte. I feel that he represents those people and not the needs of the people who live east of them to include Cumberland County. Equal representation for all North Carolinians should be a consideration to include race as a redistricting criteria.

District-drawing in NC has for too long been co-opted and abused for reasons that do not serve the benefit of the state or its people, but only the politicians and political parties. At its best, redistricting in NC has been nakedly partisan, and at its worst, it’s been racist, disenfranchising, and illegal. Our state’s record in this matter is appalling, and those who have manipulated it to their ends should be ashamed. Both Democrats and Republicans have proven themselves to be incapable of carrying out district-drawing in a fair manner, so it must be taken out of the hands of politicians. It is long past time for an independent, non-partisan redistricting committee to take the place of...
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timestamp</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 11 2017 8:55AM</td>
<td>Ms. Julie Short</td>
<td>My husband, Edward Short, and I are registered NC voters. Our zip code is 27939. I am writing to let you know that we both support Non Partisan Redistricting. It has already been established that the existing lines are racially discriminatory, and the citizens of North Carolina and our representatives are better than this. Non Partisan Redistricting is the ONLY way to maintain our democratic process and the retain public trust of our democratic system. Should this not occur, we are setting our state up for lawsuits that will result in a tremendous financial loss. These funds could be better spent in repairing our infrastructure, improving the educational system, promoting new business and marketing the state's many attributes to prospective tourists. This is a critical voting component for us, and we thank you for your consideration. Best ~ Julie Short</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 11 2017 9:01AM</td>
<td>Ms. Cam Choiniere</td>
<td>Please redraw the district lines in a way that does not skew towards party or racial divides. We need fair representation in our state.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 11 2017 9:13AM</td>
<td>Ms. Robin Raines</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. We all know the harmful impact that partisan and racial gerrymandering has had in our state. It’s deprived us of our right to pick our representatives and instead lets politicians pick and choose their voters. You, as representatives of your constituents, need to know that the public supports a redistricting process that doesn't allow our legislative maps to be drawn along political lines and purposefully divides communities of color to weaken their political power. We cannot let you, the redistricting committee, ignore the opinion of the majority of North Carolinians anymore</td>
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<td>Aug 11 2017 9:14AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Julia Howe</td>
<td>One person, one vote, and fair redistricting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 11 2017 9:16AM</td>
<td>Ms. Diana Gray</td>
<td>I favor fair competition in all district level elections with an equitable distribution of the voting population by party affiliation, racial-ethnic identity, gender and age. When that is possible, more people will vote knowing their vote counts and will have an impact. Stop voter suppression and frustration and allow democracy to work as it is intended.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 11 2017 9:18AM</td>
<td>Ms. Kate Capehart</td>
<td>It's past time for gerrymandered maps to be redrawn. I want the criteria for redistricting to be fair, and to ensure that the maps are free of racial and political bias. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.</td>
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<td>Aug 11 2017 9:24AM</td>
<td>Mr. Thomas Fehsenfeld</td>
<td>With a case working its way to the Supreme Court on partisan gerrymandering, it would be a shame if NC handled its problem with racial gerrymandering through redistricting and then had to go back in a year or two to redraw districts to eliminate partisan advantage. Rather than continually playing catch up with the law and court decisions, I recommend that the committee proactively anticipate a ruling against partisan gerrymandering and draw districts that minimize the &quot;wasted votes&quot; of having too many voters of a party crammed into particular districts. You have a chance to make North Carolina a leader in redistricting, rather than a laggard. I hope that you will take up the challenge and make us proud of our state.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 11 2017 9:27AM</td>
<td>Dr. Denise Finck-Rothman</td>
<td>It has been determined that North Carolina ranks very low for democracy on a recent study, worse then many third world countries. Our current system is not fair to the citizens of North Carolina. Both the State Assembly and Senate do not represent the voters of this state because of gerrymandering! Please create fair election districts. No more racial or political gerrymandering. Please draw the new electoral maps without regard to race (but conforming to the federal requirements), political affiliation or incumbency. Our state is dreadfully divided and needs healing - the healing that comes with basic respect for each other and an atmosphere of fairness and integrity. The courts have swatted down all the maps drawn through gamesmanship - do the right thing this time for ALL North Carolinians. Let the best ideas win at the ballot box without tricks to pre-determine the outcome, or to erode the power of the individual vote: it will restore faith in the democratic process.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 11 2017 9:34AM</td>
<td>Mr. Erica Kitchen</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.</td>
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</table>
Aug 11 2017 10:07AM  Ms. Anne Cerrano  I think that making the districts based on racial demographics was a deplorable choice by the state. It is also not right to make the districts based on distribution of voters registered to a particular party or to exclude particular candidates from a district and change the lines based on where their homes are. I do not think the people who made this decision should be allowed to redraw the lines. If possible we should have an independent commission to draw them if at all possible. Apparently our legislators can’t be trusted to do this correctly. I have seen multiple maps by independent entities that more evenly distribute the districts based on population. It can be done but I don’t think our current legislators are ethical enough to do the job correctly.

Aug 11 2017 10:18AM  Dr. James Boyles  As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. Your politics must not affect the process. The right of the citizens of North Carolina to a fully representative body of elected officials is what matters.

Aug 11 2017 10:30AM  Mr. Robert Hamby  Please create compact voting districts whose boundaries are determined by mathematical processes. Software that can accomplish that can be purchased off the shelf.

Aug 11 2017 10:49AM  Ms. JACQUELINE ABELL  As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Aug 11 2017 11:10AM  Dr. Sara Schneidmiller  As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Aug 11 2017 11:11AM  Ms. Laura Boggess  As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Aug 11 2017 11:12AM  Dr. keith roberts  Gerrymandering is an intentional process to control elections for partisan purposes and is anti-democratic. There is no place for it in ND. New districts should be drawn so yeah citizen’s vote actually and really counts.

Aug 11 2017 11:13AM  Mr. Jack Smalley  Last year Democrats won nearly 50% of the vote—yet hold only 38% of the seats in the State House and only 30% of the seats in the State Senate.

Aug 11 2017 11:22AM  Mr. Larry Reed  It is critical that the General Assembly not waste more public funding on partisan contractors such as Tom Hofeller to distort the NC democratic process. The redistricting process should be a non-partisan based effort. The partisan General Assembly will again embarrass our state and continue to subvert our democracy. The process should be transparent and decided early to allow both political parties to offer the citizens of North Carolina free electoral choices. Politically biasing the process is sleazy, ignorant, and short sighted.

Aug 11 2017 11:48AM  Mr. D. Rex Miller  North Carolina and its citizens deserve fair elections, with candidates elected on their (perceived) merits . . . not based on which voters they chose to help one party or the other win and remain in power. Stop fighting fair districting, stop fighting the redistricting directives, stop making our state a laughing stock as non-democratic.

Aug 11 2017 12:19PM  Laura Boggess  As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Aug 11 2017 12:25PM  Ms. Toni Wiker  Gerrymandering is wrong, it discourages the people from voting and minimizes the power of individual votes. The foundation of a democracy is built upon the strength of the people as exhibited through the voting process. Gerrymandering undermines our democracy and must end.

Aug 11 2017 12:35PM  Mr. James Janiga  STOP Redistricting NOW...it is wrong and should never happen, regardless of what party is in power.

Aug 11 2017 12:54PM  Mr. David Picher  As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Aug 11 2017 12:57PM  Sondra VanSant  Dear legislators, Do you truly believe there is a way to fairly represent all your constituents in this state body if you continue redistricting efforts as an “inherently political” endeavor. By definition this disenfranchises hundreds if not thousands of people in your county, not to mention discouraging real debate that makes more likely the chance that the best of divergent views can be discovered and implemented. Anything that is “inherent” to the point of disenfranchising is both un-American and undemocratic. Please get on the right side of North Carolina history and take a nonpartisan approach.
I'm a constituent of Nags Head, North Carolina and I support districts that accurately represent ALL the citizens of the state. Districts should represent the people, not the party who created them. Districts should not be drawn for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against any incumbent, political candidate or political party.

Sincerely,
Julie Walter

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

I am writing to express my strong support for non-partisan redistricting; let the people of NC choose their representatives fairly.

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented.

Sincerely,
Michael

We want voting maps drawn free from partisan politics. Please support non-partisan redistricting. Gerrymandering is undemocratic and unrepresentative. Gerrymandering decreases competition, and contributes to political polarization, which we have way too much of.

No racial or partisan redistricting; produce a fair and impartial map. In the longer run, establish a non-partisan citizen redistricting commission.

PLEASE ESTABLISH NON-PARTISAN REDISTRICTING! Thank you.

Lets do this in a nonpartisan,fair and honest way for a change.

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial, partisan or other forms of gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented.

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial, partisan or other forms of gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented.

I urge you to pursue redistricting as ordered by the courts and to strongly consider an independent commission to set legislative and congressional districts.

Gerrymandering. Democrats do it. Republicans do it. But the Republicans just got absurd with it. It almost seems like the GOP doesn't know how to wield power properly e.g.The NC Legislature, the U.S. Congress and and Trumo.

I support an independent commission for redistricting. This should not be a partisan issue. Other states have independent organizations in charge of districting and NC should too. Do not allow illegal gerrymandering to continue!
I request and support an independent bipartisan commission to draw redistricting maps. It is crucial that districts be redrawn to reflect real communities of interest, not党派利益。我希望你能找到一个过程，这个过程是开放和公平的，并且结果在一个计划中，这个计划将服务所有的人，而不是被排除在南卡罗来纳州的共和党权利之外。

I hope you can find a process which is open and fair and results in a plan that will serve all the people, and not be thrown out in the courts of partisan politics. Thank you. Laura Phail

I am aware that gerrymandering has been used (abused) by both parties over time. It is time to move forward and stop this practice! A transparent process means publishing the criteria used to draw the maps and making public comments PUBLIC.

Both houses of the NC legislature should vote to end the unjust, prejudicial practice of gerrymandering. It is unethical and immoral to draw districts so that one political party holds prominence over the other, or to change the racial composition of any district to one that characterizes or excludes minorities from voting. Also, all the OVM (old white men) in the Republican party should be replaced. No more gerrymandering!!!!

Please do what you can to promote fair redistricting. Our voting districts should be determined by a method that is fair and open and prevents racial and/or partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn such that everyone is guaranteed equal and fair representation. We want to pick our representatives; not have them pick us!

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to be based on non-partisan factors like voter registration, voter turnout in past elections, and the results of past elections. The home addresses of incumbent elected officials must not influence the maps. A transparent process means publishing the criteria used to draw the maps and making public comments PUBLIC.

I request and support an independent bipartisan commission to draw the redistricting maps. Using partisan commissions on either side will continue to favor the side drawing them, and will most likely end up back in court with fees to be paid by taxpayers. Let's do this properly on the first try rather than have court battles over districts.

We need to stop moving away from the democracy that some of the greatest Americans envisioned but as Langston Hughes voiced, "It is not America yet". This means taking it out of the hands of politicians and leaving the districting up to social scientists independent of the political process.

We need to use impartial criteria to draw the maps, and the process to be completely transparent. Impartial criteria include creating districts that are compact and community-based; that are contiguous; that follow federal law; and that ignore partisan factors like voter registration, voter turnout in past elections, and the results of past elections. The home addresses of incumbent elected officials must not influence the maps. A transparent process means publishing the criteria used to draw the maps and making public comments PUBLIC.

Mr. Allen Plaster

The country and our state have become so divided in the past few years. Wouldn't it be great if North Carolina could be the model for fair redistricting, not based on racial bias or partisanship? One that truly represents the wishes of the people, not the politicians. I hope you can find a process which is open and fair and results in a plan that will serve all the people, and not be thrown out in the courts of partisan politics. Thank you. Laura Phail

I request and support an independent bipartisan commission to draw redistricting maps. It is crucial that districts be redrawn to reflect real communities of interest, not party politics. It is unethical and immoral to draw districts so that every voter's vote is equal in value to every other voter's vote. In other words, "stacking the deck" by intentionally segregating certain voters into a few districts based on some criteria that the majority party deems suitable in order to limit the number of legislative positions available for those voters to have their popular votes organically and not be carved up into racial enclaves for the sake of Republican power mongering.

Districts should be drawn in a non-partisan manner without aiming to inappropriately gerrymander for racial or partisan advantage or disadvantage. Perhaps it is time to remove the redistricting process from the political stage and assign it to a non-partisan commission. Thank you.

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.
As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn fairly.

Mr. Derek Manning
Ms. Cornelia Whittlesey

Please use zip codes and county lines to geographically simplify district boundaries. I have to look up my 4-digit zip code to reach my congressman. I am also frequently directed to the wrong congressman when I go through an organization to comment on proposed legislation. It is also very confusing to see NC state senator boundaries extend like jagged fingers into adjacent counties, or realize how many rural counties are in two state senate districts.

Aug 12 2017 12:52PM  Dr. William R. Hoyt

I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. Our legislative maps should be drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Aug 12 2017 12:56PM  Ms. Rebecca Marks

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Aug 12 2017 1:11PM  Joseph Lyons

Gerrymandering is an attack on our democracy. No other law on the books is so pernicious and unfair; it makes a mockery of our values as American citizens. It is not as if we lack fair criteria for drawing non-partisan maps based on population shift. Our districts should be contiguous and compact and should not reflect race, gender, social status or party affiliation. But the maps drawn in 2011 by our Republican legislature completely ignore these criteria. This idiocy must stop. I am so sick of our rancid politicians—of both parties—who will do almost anything, including subverting our democracy, to stay in office. Shame! Shame on them all.

Aug 12 2017 1:14PM  Mrs. HELEN Reilly

Redistricting must be fair and prevent racial and partisan gerrymandering. Our maps need to guarantee that we elect who we want who.

Aug 12 2017 1:31PM  Ms. Arianne Hartsell-Gundy

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Aug 12 2017 1:48PM  Mr. Thomas Clayton

To ensure that every voter is equally and fairly represented—as intended by both our State and Federal Constitutions—redistricting should avoid racial as well as partisan gerrymandering, by ignoring such data as party registrations, previous voting patterns, and current officeholders. What “went round” will “come” round………..do the right and fair thing!

Aug 12 2017 2:24PM  Mr. MIKE ORINDOFF

Packing and cracking have been apparent to any third party that reviews North Carolina’s districts. End the partisan approach and remove legislatures from the process. We need local representation and competitive districts that drive our representatives to balance everyone’s needs with compromise and broadly appealing policies. The current approach to districts encourages extreme polarizing positions that only focus on winning primaries and then ensure an approximately zero chance of losing a re-election. Legislating to protect primary wins is a recipe for disaster. Please end the cycle with a non-partisan, non-legislature driven approach. Thank you

Aug 12 2017 6:54PM  Ms. Susan Howell

An independent committee must be the formed immediately, before November, to hasten and ensure legal redrawing of our voting maps. Anything less is not acceptable. The redistricting of maps to date and ‘gerrymandering’ by both sides of the aisle has been allowed for too long; this deplorable practice should have been made illegal from the start.

Aug 12 2017 11:39PM  Mr. Derek Manning

If one isn’t good enough to win an election without having it gerrymandered for their party, then one isn’t good enough to be elected. PEACE

Aug 13 2017 12:30AM  Mrs. Barbara Robertson

Gerrymandering by either political party and whether it is carried on in a racist manner, for political purposes, or for any other reason, is bad for our democracy and should not be allowed.

Aug 13 2017 11:32AM  Dr. Judith Porter

Please support fair non-partisan redistricting.

Aug 13 2017 1:16PM  Mr. William Walz

I am outraged at the contempt shown for the democratic process by the Republican controlled NC legislative bodies. I insist you draw district maps that show integrity of geographic and city and township areas. That you can draw districts so that Democrats have a plurality of votes in an area yet are represented by Republicans is simply un-American.

Aug 13 2017 1:36PM  Mollie Wildes

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We demand to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. Not the other way around.

Aug 13 2017 1:43PM  Mr. Neil Brown

There is absolutely no excuse to continue valuing some people’s votes over others, which is exactly what gerrymandering creates. My House rep, Chuck McGrady, has taken the lead in sponsoring corrective legislation and an intelligent approach to redistricting. Please join him, and out this bias to bed forever.
Mrs. Linda Furr
East Asheville should not be with Gastonia. All need changes so we get
to choose out Reps. This is why I left the Republican Party as did many
of my family and friend. You have Hi-Jacked the Republican Party.
Shame on you GOP map makers.

Mrs. Bessie Yarborough
When drawing lines, that divide Districts, please do not draw zig zags
as you did in Mt. Olive, NC. Example:On an alphabetical walking LIST,
USED FOR canvassing...you have as Jurisdiction...3 homes on Smith
Street...NC Senate District 5, County Commissioner/school board
Districts 2. Precinct #25. Three homes on N. Southerland ST NC
Senate District 7...Co. Comm. /sch bd Dist. 2...5. South Southerland
ST. 3 homes Pd. 25, NC Senate District 7, with County Comm/Sch. Bd.
District. 4. Then Precinct #30 Three more homes on Washington
Ave...Precinct #30, NC Senate District 5, County Comm. Dist./School
Bd District 2, ...then there is just one house at the 218 West
Williamson Street Precinct #25, NC Senate District 5, County
Comm/School Bd District 2. You have just 3 homes on Bell Ave. Two
are in Precinct #30 and the other in Precinct #28. Persons working on
this Committee need to CARE about drawing these Maps...These people
must “do the work” if he/she does not want to be Voted out of office

Ms. Allison Murray-Nikkel
As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to
guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and
partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps
drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly
represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Ms. Carolyn Wilson
As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to
guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and
partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps
drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly
represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Mr. Abraham Myles
Maps should be redrawn to meet the minimum requirements to satisfy
the requirements of the courts. The districts maps have always been
drawn basis upon which party control the redistricting process.

Dr. Matthew Zerden
I am a concerned NC citizen, and I want NC lawmakers to create
civil maps that are drawn FREE of partisan politics.
Thank you,
Matt Zerden, MD

Jane Kestenbaum
When redrawing the voting districts, I would urge my Legislators to
keep voting maps free a partisan politics. One person should have one
vote.Districts should be:
• Compact and contiguous as measured by Polsby-Popper, Convex
Hull, Schwartzber, Resock, or other similar tests.
• Politically neutral (not unduly favoring or disfavoring any political
party or individual) as determined by the Efficiency Gap measurement.
No individual addresses (such as the addresses of candidates or
incumbents) should be used.
• Compliant with the Voting Rights Act: Specifically, districts must be
designed so that, based on a totality of the circumstances, the election
process is equally open to participation by the members of a protected
class; and cohesive groups of minority voters usually have the
opportunity to elect the candidate of their choice, as determined by a
multi-year Polarized Voting Analysis or similar quantitative assessment
if the court schedule allows time for assessment.
• All information related to redistricting from legislators, legislative
staff, consultants, and contractor(s) whether paid by General Assembly
or not should be immediately available to the public.

Mrs. Brenda Denton
As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to
guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and
partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps
drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly
represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Randy Saelens
I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair
and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We
deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees
everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the
representatives we want.
Mr. James Riley  
Criteria 1, population equality, is both inadequate and too restrictive.

The NC constitution requires that districts have “as nearly as may be, an equal number of inhabitants”. This is the target, what you are aiming for. The 5% limits, based on equal protection clause of the US Constitution, is not a target, but simply a suggested outer limit that a state might achieve when taking things such as counties into account.

In the 2003 Post-Stephenson 2 plan, 63 of 120 (52.5%) districts had a deviation of greater than 4.5%, and 39 of 120 (32.5%) had a deviation of more than 4.9%.

Instead of the ideal population, the legislature was trying to get the worst possible score that would be accepted. It would be like a student who instead of striving for test scores of a 100 or at least 90s, deliberately tried to score 71 on every test.

In 2011, the legislature did somewhat better, but still had 36 of 120 or 30% outside 4.5% deviation. A reasonable, statistical, expectation would be half as many.

Whole County Groupings force the deviation one way or another. For example, the 12 Mecklenburg districts will have an average deviation of -3.56%, while the 11 Wake districts will have an average deviation of 3.08%.

Under the North Carolina Constitution it is presumed that each representative for a district (whole county grouping) will represent identical numbers of persons. An effort should be made to put this into practice.

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Proposed addendum:

**Point contiguity shall not be used in the creation of Whole County Groupings or drawing of districts within Whole County Groupings.**

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Dr. Jennifer Bremer  
1. Could you please confirm the time, date, and locations for the hearings? We have heard rumors that there may be hearings in cities such as Asheville and Wilmington that are not within or near to the “Covington districts.” We urge you to hold hearings in cities that are centrally located with regard to the counties that are most directly affected.

2. Please restore the “Who Represents Me” maps to their previous uncolored format so that users can see the street detail.


Thanks for your assistance.

Mrs. Jane Rose  
I am very disappointed that it isn’t an independent group redrawing the lines. Why hire the same one who drew the lines that were deemed unconstitutional? This time it is imperative that we have boundaries that give us competitive elections where the issues can be debated and everyone’s votes count.

Ms. Judy Lotas  
The #1 priority in our voting democracy is FAIRNESS. These partisan guidelines are a wedge pushing us all further and further apart. I’m sad that our Board of Education has been set up as a partisan contest. Why???? we’re all people, never mind race, color, gender, political party. Thank you.

Mrs. Brittany Sandefur  
My representatives don’t know me, my needs, or my community. We want fair redistricting that serves the interest of the state and its citizens, not the interest of powerful individuals.

Ms. Kelly Hofstatter  
As a resident of Charlotte NC, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee an electoral process that is fair and open, prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering, and stays in place regardless of the party in power. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a manner that assures that everyone is equally and fairly represented in choosing our representatives. The people must choose who they elect to office as opposed to the representatives choosing their voters.

Ms. Rev. Lara Musser Gritter  
I am a Minister in Greensboro. I am writing in response to the heinous weekend events in Charlottesville. While the world's eyes have been turned toward our neighbors to the north, the truth is, white supremacy and racism impact us every day in North Carolina. I see this as perhaps MOST evident in the gross gerrymandering of districts here in NC. As you all work towards redistricting I exhort you to take seriously the rules of Proposed 9, 5, 4, and 10. If this state is gerrymandered in 2020 AT ALL, you will be no better than those Nazis this weekend. You have power, in the name of Jesus Christ, I beg you to stand upon what is moral, just, and merciful.
As a lifelong resident of North Carolina, I have never felt that I had less of a voice with my vote. Maps should be drawn without partisan bias. This should be done regardless of which party has a majority. PLEASE put the interests of our state and ALL of its voters first. Because of such gerrymandered districts, extreme members of both parties end up winning primaries and going on to be the representative. To move our state and country forward, like it or not, we need moderation. The overwhelming majority of voters want moderation! The extreme gerrymandering that has happened in recent years has wasted millions of tax payer dollars on court battles. This is money that could actually be helping our schools, roads, law enforcement, etc. Please do what you know in your hearts is the right thing to do.

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to include creating districts that are compact and community-based; that are contiguous; that follow federal law; and that ignore partisan factors like voter registration, voter turnout in past elections, and the results of past elections. The home addresses of incumbent elected officials must not influence the maps.

Secondly, we want a transparent process - that means publishing the criteria used to draw the maps and making public comments PUBLIC.

Mrs. Holly Wood
Aug 14 2017 11:23PM

I would urge the redistricting committee to find a way to ensure that the maps are re-drawn in a nonpartisan manner. The current proposal to provide protection to incumbents is not a nonpartisan solution and should be rejected. Additionally, I fully support legislation that would create a nonpartisan redistricting commission.

Ms. Suzanna Geiser
Aug 15 2017 9:49AM

We want impartial criteria to be used to redraw districts. Impartial criteria include creating districts that are compact and community-based; that are contiguous; that follow federal law; and that ignore partisan factors like voter registration, voter turnout in past elections, and the results of past elections. The home addresses of incumbent elected officials must not influence the maps.

Ms. Mary Kaczmarek
Aug 15 2017 10:53AM

We implore the members of the General Assembly to work together to ensure a process that is fair and impartial. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose our representatives.

Ms. Sandy Hill
Aug 15 2017 10:59AM

As a resident of North Carolina, I have never felt that I had less of a voice with my vote. Maps should be drawn without partisan bias. This should be done regardless of which party has a majority. PLEASE put the interests of our state and ALL of its voters first. Because of such gerrymandered districts, extreme members of both parties end up winning primaries and going on to be the representative. To move our state and country forward, like it or not, we need moderation. The overwhelming majority of voters want moderation! The extreme gerrymandering that has happened in recent years has wasted millions of tax payer dollars on court battles. This is money that could actually be helping our schools, roads, law enforcement, etc. Please do what you know in your hearts is the right thing to do.

Ms. Jin Adams Parker
Aug 15 2017 12:06PM

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose our representatives.

Barbara Campbell
Aug 15 2017 2:19PM

I am very frustrated by the gerrymandering that apparently is designed to suppress the votes of some of our NC citizens and to boost the potential for election of one party over the other. Over the years, both parties have participated in this partisan gerrymandering for party success rather than for ensuring the rights of all citizens to have their votes matter. The overwhelming majority of North Carolinians want to be sure that the system for creating districts is fair and impartial. I implore the members of the General Assembly to work together to design a system for creating districts that is nonpartisan and in the best interest of the common good for All North Carolina citizens, not for one party over the other. Please do the right thing, not the partisan, party thing.

Ms. Gloria Gibson
Aug 15 2017 3:23PM

You must redistrict our state in a fair and just way. There is nothing fair in doing less. Put you personal gain aside and be true to your NC constituents.

Mrs. Jennifer Henley
Aug 15 2017 7:35PM

I am concerned that the redistricting that the Legislature is charged to do be done fairly without regard for past voting records or ethnicity. I am counting on you to treat all North Carolina voters with respect and dignity. The money that has had to be spent to correct inequities could have gone to help our schools, roads and other worthwhile projects. Please do the right thing for all of our citizens. Thank you.

Mrs. Deborah Steiner
Aug 15 2017 8:19PM

Please end allowing politicians (for either party) to organize voting districts. This needs to be done by an unelected, unbiased and independent commission. Raleigh and especially DC are way too partisan, and the continued polarization of the voting districts in our state is making this worse, and not better. It doesn't need to be this way any longer. Disclosure- I'm registered unaffiliated/independent.

Dr. Edward Altherr
Aug 16 2017 10:38AM
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<tr>
<td>Aug 16 2017</td>
<td>1:29PM</td>
<td>Mr. Eric Rice</td>
<td>The continual redrawing of voting districts is an abomination to the election process, and unsurprisingly it always occurs on the GOP’s watch. Not only do they seek to redraw district lines to their benefit, but they go further to make it impossible for demographics who traditionally vote against them and for Democrats to reach their polling destination, or in more egregious cases strip their ability to vote entirely. It should be staggeringly obvious every time these lines are redrawn then there’s a push to make them permanent—I mean is that not a 500-foot wide red flag to everyone? There seems to be short-term memory issues involving the Constitution, you know, like how amendments are designed to amend? It is bad enough there are underhanded politicians out there supporting such garbage as Kris Kobach’s voter intimidation and elimination campaigns, but it’s WAY worse when our supposed president is backing him/in his corner. This speaks to the level of corruption we’ve arrived at and are dealing with on a consistent basis, and it is far past time to do something about it. If we don’t put an end to this soon, the precedent and permanence could become a harsh reality...one that we’re already contending with whether some folks realize it or not. The voting process is a democratic one, but these ridiculous and egregious acts seek to undermine the fabric of not only democracy, but our society as a whole. It’s bad enough we have to contend with so many massive corporations and wealthy donors putting their stamp on day-to-day legislation, but that’s living in today’s Citizens United debacle...a United States where the elite and powerful decide what’s best for THEM while the rest of us foot the bill for such greedy and manipulative actions. I realize this is not about campaign finance reform, but it most assuredly plays it part in these unethical situations of gerrymandering, so I simply cannot let mum be the word on it within this conversation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 16 2017</td>
<td>2:27PM</td>
<td>Mr. Michael Eisenberg</td>
<td>We’re watching and so far don’t like what you’re doing. Remember the plaintiffs will draw a map too and if the courts don’t approve yours they can accept the plaintiffs or call for a master planner to draw one. If that’s the case you have no say so. Do the right thing.</td>
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| Aug 16 2017 | 4:41PM| Mr. Adrian Monte  | Please, for the love of a functioning democracy, put into effect a plan like this one: http://rangevoting.org/GerryExec.html Which utilizes the ‘shortest splitline algorithm’. "When Republicans and Democrats control the apparatus of Democracy, they seek only to consolidate power, and the government becomes Tyranny by committee."
| Aug 16 2017 | 5:14PM| Mr. Patrick Burch | How can we as voters support a redistricting process that is being controlled and created by the same people who gave us the unconstitutional House/Senate districts in 2011? If the NC General Assembly wants to assure some measure of non-partisanship in the process, the committee doing the work should be made up of equal numbers of both parties and must agree to fix the problem as a group. The idea of allowing senate and house members "pick their own voters" will continue as long as partisanship controls the process. |
| Aug 16 2017 | 8:14PM| Mrs. Joy Boothe  | Please take action to see that our districts are fairly drawn in a nonpartisan way. |
| Aug 17 2017 | 11:25AM| Dr. Jennifer Bremer | The rooms for the Guilford and Charlotte hearings are far too small. Surely these CDs have larger rooms. Please also post the counties to be affected, so people know which hearing to go to (e.g., Rockingham to go to the hearing in Jamestown or Hickory). It would be helpful if you would also list the districts affected for each location, so voters know whether it affects them. Even if the district boundaries aren’t final, the districts to be changed have presumably been identified. |
| Aug 17 2017 | 12:39PM| Mrs. Melissa Benfield | Why does my State have to be the poster child for the KKK???? Please stop. Draw the districts fairly and may the best man/woman win! |
| Aug 17 2017 | 3:46PM| Laura Arena       | I implore both the Senate and House redistricting committees to draw equitable boundaries that allow constituents to fairly elect their representatives. Race must be taken into consider as there is a correlation between race, place, and political affiliation. Gerrymandering to ensure re-election has no place in a true democracy. |
| Aug 17 2017 | 3:52PM| Dr. Sherry Shapiro | We need a sound government that balances the extremes and provides efficient and effective policy making for all of the citizens of North Carolina, there a fair voting map. This can only be done through an independent body who can redraw the district voting map. I implore you to use common sense and fair judgement to make sure that all citizens have a vote that counts. |
| Aug 17 2017 | 4:04PM| Bonnie Thompson  | I do not think it is fair or desirable to gerrymander in our country. Please do not use this process in our State to create party advantages. |
| Aug 17 2017 | 5:06PM| Mr. Rob Myers    | This is the time to establish a non-partisan redistricting process to make elections competitive and representative. |
Fair redistricting should follow these basic principles:
- **Race is Key:** Map drawers must ensure that it is possible for black voters to elect their candidates of choice, as required by the Voting Rights Act.
- "One person, one vote:" Districts must be very equal in population and obey other laws.
- **Geographic Compactness:** Map drawers must create compact districts, without odd tentacles. Districts must not skip over areas or join two areas at just one point.
- **Count Incarcerated Persons as residents of their pre-incarceration home or family residence for purposes of redistricting.**
- **No Favoritism:** Map drawers must not use the addresses of current lawmakers, or the party affiliation or voting history of voters, or other data to help a party or politician.
- **Respect Communities of Interest:** Map drawers must avoid dividing a communities with similar cultural, ethnic and economic interests; a local government district; etc.
- **Respect County Boundaries:** Maps should make every effort to keep counties whole.
- **Evaluate Fairness:** Before it is approved, a map must be evaluated for overall racial bias and partisan competitiveness, using tools recognized by courts to measure fairness.

I strongly believe that voting districts should be drawn impartially, and by people who don’t stand to benefit personally by those who draw them. Voters should select their representatives; representatives should not select their voters. The process as it is happening now, provides no opportunity for review.

Next week, the redistricting committee is set to hold public hearings on new legislative maps, but the maps still haven’t been released to the public. With the hearing only five days away and still no sign of the release of the new maps, the public won’t have enough time to review them beforehand.

This lack of transparency is not acceptable. It’s become clear that our legislators aren’t taking the opinions of people seriously. Don’t let the NC legislature draw our maps again in a way that silences some of us, particularly communities of color. We need a nonpartisan system in place to make sure our district maps are drawn fairly so that everyone is represented equally.

VERY disappointed to have comments on redistricting coming up on August 22 and yet nothing to comment on. This is NOT ENOUGH TIME for us to review and understand the redistricting plans. Really tired of Republican shenanigans regarding redistricting. The courts have made it clear that Republican racism has no legal rights. Exhausted by Republican antics. We want our representation at all levels to reflect the voters’ will. This is not true in NC. It must change.

I wish to state support for redistricting that meets the criteria of geographic compactness and equity for all registered voters in North Carolina.

We can’t let the NC legislature draw our maps again in a way that silences some of us, particularly communities of color. We need a nonpartisan system in place to make sure our district maps are drawn fairly so that everyone is represented equally.

We need a nonpartisan system in place to make sure our district maps are drawn fairly so that everyone is represented equally.

We deserve a non partisan redistricting so all of our voices are heard. Time is now to redraw districts per court order.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this important issue.

We can’t let the NC legislature draw our maps again in a way that silences some of us, particularly communities of color. We need a nonpartisan system in place to make sure our district maps are drawn fairly so that everyone is represented equally.

Gerrymandering is just plain WRONG. Our districts need to truly represent the actual population of the state. Gerrymandering puts party above country and undermines the democratic process. It should be banned. It is corruption and it needs to GO!

Gerrymandering is just plain WRONG. Our districts need to truly represent the actual population of the state. Gerrymandering puts party above country and undermines the democratic process. It should be banned. It is corruption and it needs to GO!

We need a nonpartisan system in place to make sure our district maps are drawn fairly so that everyone is represented equally.

We deserve a non partisan redistrict. ALL voters must be heard.

It’s high time the legislature addressed the gerrymandering in North Carolina. We citizens are well aware of the reasons for your reluctance and why you gerrymandered the state in the first place. Stop dragging your feet and act like decent public servants rather than self-serving politicians.
As a constituent and a citizen, I want to make it known that the process for drawing new legislative districts has been wholly unacceptable. After the courts ruled that the current districts had to be withdrawn because they had been racially gerrymandered, no steps have been taken to ensure the new districts are drawn using strictly non-partisan methods. Therefore, we the voters have no guarantee that the new maps will be any more fair than the old ones.

I submit this comment to express my profound disappointment with this process and to demand that citizens once again be empowered to choose their legislators rather than letting legislators choose their constituents.

Thank you.

My fellow citizens of North Carolina:

When I moved to NC in 1993, NC was a beacon of justice, now we are sliding into a morass of political gunk. One person one vote is a foundation of democracy that goes back to Athens, Greece over 2500 years ago. Think, do you want to be the people to end this just policy?

I am asking for fair maps that represent both parties. The gerrymandering carried out by the present party in power has been the most harsh, the most voter suppressive, the most racially directed, and with a frontal attack on our democracy in the Old North State. It is not RIGHT to draw voting district lines to insure victory for a political party. Every registered voter must feel confident that his or her vote counts. When that confidence is destroyed, turn-out at the polls is diminished and democracy dies.

It is the responsibility of political leaders to make voting easier for every citizen. It is the responsibility of this Republican House/Senate to give the public the opportunity to review the new lines that have been drawn by a Republican.

A non-partisan committee MUST be formed to draw voting districts.

I am tired of having my vote made irrelevant by gerrymandering. It doesn't matter whether it's the Republican party or the Democratic party -- both have been guilty of this and both have disenfranchised me for years. Please don't accept any redistricting that is designed to make my vote irrelevant.

I believe that redistricting should be done in a very non-partisan way. It is fair to all Americans to know that their vote will count and that it is being measured in as careful a way as possible to avoid the charge that it is benefiting one or the other party. I am American first and would like my vote to count as an American who cares about honesty, transparency and fairness to ALL Americans. This is supposed to be a DEMOCRACY!

When I moved to NC in 1993, NC was a beacon of justice, now we are sliding into a morass of political gunk. One person one vote is a foundation of democracy that goes back to Athens, Greece over 2500 years ago. Think, do you want to be the people to end this just policy?

The public deserves a fair effort and full transparency. The lines should be drawn by an independent commission. No more as contiguous as possible.

The public deserves a fair effort and full transparency. The lines should be drawn by an independent commission. No more constituents review the proposed districts without seeing them prior to the public hearings? We have a constitutional right to equal representation in our democracy. All citizens have the right to vote to choose their elected representatives. We need a bipartisan commission to give us fair voting districts.

I am angry that you have not released the new maps for the court ordered redistricting. How can we as constituents review the proposed districts without seeing them prior to the public hearings? We have a constitutional right to equal representation in our democracy. All citizens have the right to vote to choose their elected representatives. We need a bipartisan commission to give us fair voting districts.

For too long gerrymandering has been a wrongful practice, carried out by both political parties. The gerrymandering carried out by the present party in power has been the most harsh, the most voter suppressive, the most racially directed, and with a frontal attack on our democracy in the Old North State. It is not RIGHT to draw voting district lines to insure victory for a political party. Every registered voter must feel confident that his or her vote counts. When that confidence is destroyed, turn-out at the polls is diminished and democracy dies.

It is the responsibility of political leaders to make voting easier for every citizen. It is the responsibility of this Republican House/Senate to give the public the opportunity to review the new lines that have been drawn by a Republican.

Please create non-partisan districts for all of North Carolina.

I am angry that you have not released the new maps for the court ordered redistricting. How can we as constituents review the proposed districts without seeing them prior to the public hearings? We have a constitutional right to equal representation in our democracy. All citizens have the right to vote to choose their elected representatives. We need a bipartisan commission to give us fair voting districts.

We want fair districts. All eligible citizens have the right to vote for their representatives. The would-be or elected representatives are not supposed to choose their voters or make it hard for citizens to vote. That is not the democratic way.

Thank you.

William Heathcote

Mr. Richard Pierce

Dr. August De Hertogh

Mr. Joseph Walls

Mrs. Eugenia Goff

Mrs. Margaret Sharp

Dr. Kevin Speight

Ms. Ronnie Grabon

Ms. Joanna Hollingsworth

Dr. Vance Reese

Mrs. Barbara Benson
There is technology that would enable the state to draw districts without partisan gerrymandering. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/work/wp/2014/06/03/his-computer-programmer-solved-gerrymandering-in-his-spare-time/?utm_term=.28d1f79846dd

Why are we depending on people who all have axes to grind, as has been so clearly indicated?

I am disappointed that the legislature has not produced possible redistricting information as of today. With Public Hearings set for next week, we should be given more time to evaluate the proposal. This is a very dishonest way to handle the process. I think a non-partisan group should be doing this. You have not demonstrated fairness or respect for NC residents.

Just because partisan gerrymandering is legal doesn't give it legitimacy. In fact, the Supreme Court is taking this issue up next term. No matter what the Court rules, voting maps must be done in a non-partisan manner.

That's democracy.

So very unprofessional and typical of our Republican legislature to work secretly on redistricting and to deny their electorate adequate time to review their work. There is a backlash sweeping the country and it is calling out all legislatures that imitate the way the White House transacts business. Voters are mad and their wishes will be known in many elections to come. The North Carolina Republican Party is not the party of Lincoln. It is the party of self-interest, of party over state. Obama on you!

New maps must be drawn in a fair manner, nonpartisan way. You are subverting democracy, a fair voting system, and spending ridiculous amounts of taxpayer money with spurious lawsuits destined to fail because the actions are in fact unconstitutional. The rampant racism and the extreme efforts used to try to keep yourselves in office at all costs because you fear that you are now ridiculously unpopular and knowingly forcing harmful policies on NC constituents (e.g. shielding people who commit vehicular homicide/terrorism by car against protesters? And still on the books after Charlotte????) will no longer be tolerated by the voters of NC. We demand that the General Assembly be held accountable to their constituents. If the voting system is seen to be an actual fraud and the legal branch to be powerless or held in contempt by them then the people will eventually force a different manner of choosing our leaders and reform. I'm sure no reasonable person wants a return of the civil unrest of say the 60's. It is bad for business and ordinary people's ability to just live our lives. Let's instead be civilized and for once, do the right thing, instead of taking the action that makes us a running joke on late night television.

It is unacceptable that maps have not been released to the public five days prior to the vote of redistricting. Please don't let our children believe that we live in a non-democratic society where we the people have the right to participate.

We are pleased the General Assembly has drawn these maps in a colorblind manner. Both parties have tried to "game" the system by rigging districts to perpetuate their majorities. It is time for this to stop and for the parties and their "support groups" should respect the new maps and the NCGAs sovereign right to draw these maps on a strictly population based model. For too long both parties have tried to "game" the system by rigging districts to be drawn in a fair manner, nonpartisan way. You are subverting democracy, a fair voting system, and spending ridiculous amounts of taxpayer money with spurious lawsuits destined to fail because the actions are in fact unconstitutional. The rampant racism and the extreme efforts used to try to keep yourselves in office at all costs because you fear that you are now ridiculously unpopular and knowingly forcing harmful policies on NC constituents (e.g. shielding people who commit vehicular homicide/terrorism by car against protesters? And still on the books after Charlotte????) will no longer be tolerated by the voters of NC. We demand that the General Assembly be held accountable to their constituents. If the voting system is seen to be an actual fraud and the legal branch to be powerless or held in contempt by them then the people will eventually force a different manner of choosing our leaders and reform. I'm sure no reasonable person wants a return of the civil unrest of say the 60's. It is bad for business and ordinary people's ability to just live our lives. Let's instead be civilized and for once, do the right thing, instead of taking the action that makes us a running joke on late night television.

It is unacceptable that maps have not been released to the public five days prior to the vote of redistricting. Please don't let our children believe that we live in a non-democratic society where we the people have the right to participate.

We are pleased the General Assembly has drawn these maps in a colorblind manner, with no use of racial data. We believe these maps comply with the Voting Rights Act, as well as all existing and relevant court precedents. These new maps are fair and legal. They follow the letter of the law as understood today.

We hope the courts will respect the constitutional role that legislatures have in drafting district lines. The drawing of legislative districts is the responsibility of the elected branches of government. We respectfully request that the courts refrain from changing redistricting law and standards after the lines have been drawn. These districts comply with "one man, one vote" and contain roughly equal population based on the 2010 census. These districts respect the principle of contiguity, with all parts of each district being connected. These new districts are more compact than the current ones. These maps strictly follow the Whole County provision as allowed by law.

We respectfully request that the courts refrain from changing district being connected. These new districts are more compact than the current ones. These maps strictly follow the Whole County provision as allowed by law. These maps split fewer precincts: city and town boundaries are respected throughout the maps to the maximum possible extent. These districts respect our community and our shared interests with our neighbors.

New maps should have been drawn in a color blind manner, Both parties and their "support groups" should respect the new maps and stop wasting tax payer monies by endlessly suing. The courts and both parties should respect the new maps and the NCGAs sovereign right to draw these maps.

Any attempt to manipulate elections is an attack on the very foundation of our Democracy!

It's time to end partisan gerrymandering. It robs n c residents of the power of their individual votes. Level the playing field and make elections more fair!

It would be nice if hearings had been held in WNC so that those in the west could be heard. It is time to allow disinterested third parties to draw the maps on a strictly population based model. For too long both parties have tried to "game" the system by rigging districts to perpetuate their majorities. It is time for this to stop and for the districts to be drawn in a logical way irregardless of race or political party affiliation. Please end the nonsense that promotes division
Please, I beg you, as a school guidance counselor & Christian, will you please make fair redistricting maps? Two wrongs don't make a right - Democrats should NOT have done it either. How is THE BEST WAY to make redistricting maps FAIR FOR ALL THE PEOPLE in NC? It is FAIR when citizens have the ability to choose their elected officials - NOT when it is simply the representatives choosing their voters. What would Jesus do?

I find it abominable that maps drawn by my own legislature were deemed "racial gerrymanders." And the same legislative leaders continue to stall and avoid fixing these maps! Our legislature has hired the same consultant who drew the racially gerrymandered maps and has refused to reveal the new maps! Further, the legislature that is making these decisions are even from illegal districts. This does not look like democracy in my mind. I am ashamed to be from North Carolina. I am writing to demand reform. It's not fair for our politicians to draw their own districts (essentially picking their own voters). 80% of NC voters agree with me. The redistricting process should be open and avoid racial or partisan gerrymandering. Having districts that are actually competitive will make legislators more accountable to the folks who elected them! We should research practices used in other states and have a nonpartisan citizen group who puts together our maps.

What a shame in the Bible belt. North Carolina Legislative process is as fair as North Korea's and it has the same type of dictatorial leadership. Comprehensive and fair redistricting is a must.

This tactic of Gerrymandering if unfair to ALL residents of the UNITED states.!! This act of redistricting is synonymous to VOTER SUPPRESSION and is a sneaky attempt to effect the fair and legality of our AMERICAN rights!

I would like to comment my opposition on the fact that we are allowing the very same people who "attempted" to redraw the map the first time to work and/or have a hand in it's new formation. Clearly that map was purposely gerrymandered and it's a slap in the face to all North Carolinians that our state is allowing those same people have another shot of doing the exact same thing. Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me.

I hope you will consider that redistricting is free from partisan politics (ignore voter registration data, past election results, incumbent addresses, etc.) and ensure maps are not drawn to unduly favor a particular party, candidate or lawmaker. Additionally, legislative districts should be:

- compact
- respect communities of interest
- be contiguous
- comply with the Voting Rights Act to ensure that it's possible for black voters to elect their candidates of choice
- keep it that way!

It is time to replace the unconstitutional racially gerrymandered map drawn in 2011. Don't replace it with a politically gerrymandered map either.

I implore you to draw fair maps that allow people of all ethnicities to have a fair and equal opportunity to elect the candidate of their choice not the candidate that is slanted in a favorable environment to elect a candidate. I also think the GOP should be ashamed of themselves that they even find themselves in a position to have to do this as a result of their gerrymandering the districts. It's an abomination. It shouldn't have been done and has refused to reveal the new maps! Further, the legislature that is making these decisions are even from illegal districts. This does not look like democracy in my mind. I am ashamed to be from North Carolina. I am writing to demand reform. It's not fair for our politicians to draw their own districts (essentially picking their own voters). 80% of NC voters agree with me. The redistricting process should be open and avoid racial or partisan gerrymandering. Having districts that are actually competitive will make legislators more accountable to the folks who elected them! We should research practices used in other states and have a nonpartisan citizen group who puts together our maps.

This act of redistricting infringes on our constitutional rights for equal representation under the laws. Please fully comply with The Supreme Court Order on redistricting the 28 illegal districts that were found to be discriminatory to some voting groups.

I reject the computerized apartheid of our current district maps in our state. Black voters are 50% more likely than whites to live in split precincts. Please stop the insulting sham of a redistricting process and find a fair way to redraw the maps. Hiring the same consultant, not considering race in the redrawing, and considering past election outcomes is not living out the real spirit of the three-judge panels order.

This redistricting infringes on our constitutional rights for equal protection under the laws.

Gerrymandering, such as what exists now in NC, is anti-democratic. Legislators in NC are selecting their representatives. Just the opposite of what a "representative" Democracy should be. Please do everything possible to establish a non-partisan process for districting in our state. Iowa provides a very good model to emulate.
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| Aug 18 12:45PM | Mrs. Tal Lewin Wittle | Dear Honorable Members of the Joint NC House and Senate Redistricting Committee,  
It is unfortunate that the new voting district maps you are considering are not available for the citizens of NC to evaluate so close to the scheduled public hearings. So, while it is difficult to make specific comments or recommendations on the maps, here are the most pressing general concerns that I am interested in having addressed in the current court-ordered redistricting process:  
1) The maps should be free from partisan politics: they should ignore voter registration data, past election results, incumbent addresses, etc. and ensure maps are not drawn to unduly favor a particular party, candidate or lawmaker  
2) The maps should comply with the Voting Rights Act to ensure that it's possible for black and other minority voters to elect their candidates of choice  
3) The maps should respect communities of interest.  
4) The maps should be compact and contiguous.  
Thank you for your diligent attention to the important work of redistricting.  

| Aug 18 1:19PM | Karen Floyd | I cannot attend the public hearing on Tuesday but would like to make my comments here.  
The current redistricting process continues to be overly partisan and lack transparency. Maps are being drawn behind closed doors and voters are not being given sufficient time to review proposed maps before scheduled public hearings.  
New voting maps need to:  
-- be compact  
-- respect communities of interest  
-- be contiguous  
-- comply with the Voting Rights Act to ensure that it's possible for black voters to elect their candidates of choice  
-- be free from partisan politics (ignore voter registration data, past election results, incumbent addresses, etc.) and ensure maps are not drawn to unduly favor a particular party, candidate or lawmaker  

| Aug 18 1:22PM | Sean Pratt | It is disappointing that the committee decided to use political preference as a factor in making these maps. There shouldn't be a political bias that benefits any particular side disproportionately when making district maps. This is one of the things that led us to so many years in court for unconstitutional maps.  
The redistricting should be nonpartisan. We should be able to see the maps released & studied in Every County! And if that doesn't work - we need a group of hired Canadians down here to draw up fair maps.  

| Aug 18 1:51PM | Mrs. Connie Headrick | For the life of me, I do not understand why a showing of the old map & the new map cannot be done in EVERY COUNTY! Why only 5-6 Counties? This STINKS! I live in Wilson County which will be impacted & the new map cannot be done in EVERY COUNTY! Why only 5-6 Counties? This STINKS! I live in Wilson County which will be impacted and to draw up any map to ensure that incumbents remain is ILLEGAL! But what do you care, with the districts draw so illegally for all this time YOU ALL ARE AN ILLEGAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY! This is all too sickening! North Carolinians will only take so much! We need those maps released & studied in Every County! And if that doesn't work - we need a group of hired Canadians down here to draw up fair maps.  

| Aug 18 2:06PM | Dr. Judith Porter | We need maps fair to all not gerrymandered.  

| Aug 18 1:25PM | Catherine Stadelman | The overriding principle of redistricting is, and must be, that voters select their representatives. Representatives should not be selecting their voters; this is what leads to unfair gerrymandering and all the lawsuits that ensue. The redistricting process should be fair and impartial, and one that the current party in power would not object to if the other party were in power.  

| Aug 18 1:29PM | Carol Jones | It is disappointing that the committee decided to use political preference as a factor in making these maps. There shouldn't be a political bias that benefits any particular side disproportionately when making district maps. This is one of the things that led us to so many years in court for unconstitutional maps.  
The redistricting should be nonpartisan. We should be able to see the maps released & studied in Every County! And if that doesn't work - we need a group of hired Canadians down here to draw up fair maps.  

| Aug 18 1:33PM | Mrs. Lynn Chapin | Dear Honorable Members of the Joint NC House and Senate Redistricting Committee,  
It is unfortunate that the new voting district maps you are considering are not available for the citizens of NC to evaluate so close to the scheduled public hearings. So, while it is difficult to make specific comments or recommendations on the maps, here are the most pressing general concerns that I am interested in having addressed in the current court-ordered redistricting process:  
1) The maps should be free from partisan politics: they should ignore voter registration data, past election results, incumbent addresses, etc. and ensure maps are not drawn to unduly favor a particular party, candidate or lawmaker  
2) The maps should comply with the Voting Rights Act to ensure that it's possible for black and other minority voters to elect their candidates of choice  
3) The maps should respect communities of interest.  
4) The maps should be compact and contiguous.  
Thank you for your diligent attention to the important work of redistricting.  

| Aug 18 1:38PM | Suzanne Forbes | In order to achieve nonpartisan redistricting boundary lines I propose using scientific factors already in place: latitude and longitude lines to the 10th degree, i.e. 87.5, 37.5. No arguments And easy to administer.  

| Aug 18 2:06PM | Karen Floyd | The current redistricting process continues to be overly partisan and lack transparency. Maps are being drawn behind closed doors and voters are not being given sufficient time to review proposed maps before scheduled public hearings.  
New voting maps need to:  
-- be compact  
-- respect communities of interest  
-- be contiguous  
-- comply with the Voting Rights Act to ensure that it's possible for black voters to elect their candidates of choice  
-- be free from partisan politics (ignore voter registration data, past election results, incumbent addresses, etc.) and ensure maps are not drawn to unduly favor a particular party, candidate or lawmaker  

| Aug 18 3:22PM | Mrs. Tal Lewin Wittle | We need maps fair to all not gerrymandered.  

| Aug 18 3:32PM | Mr. Roger Williams | New redistricting lines must be fair at last giving equal importance to all voters. Do the right thing, please!
Courts (and the nation) require redistricting of our illegally and unconstitutionally gerrymandered districts.

Ms. Ida Leonard
We live in very dangerous times. NOW is NOT the time to let this spill into our glorious state. Gerrymandering is just another word for profiting against minorities and taking the legitimate vote away from others.

I would like to see every representative and Senator in the General Assembly fairly elected from districts designed by population data, and not by partisan politics. Gerrymandering is a shameful Jim Crow tactic that fuels the dangerous rise in white supremacy and racial injustice. If redistricting relegates my vote to meaningless, I have no voice. I am mute and I don't count because the gerrymanders have cheated me.

I am startled to be unable to find draft redistricting maps at this time. I would appreciate being notified when these may be available. Chris Berg

Mrs. Elizabeth Anne Etelman
It is time for non-partisan redistricting, each person's vote needs to count equally. We need to end gerrymandering by both parties.

Drs. Louis Gadol and Thomas Orth
Please stop gerrymandering and allow districts to be drawn by a non-partisan committee. Voting districts need to be redistricted so that they are compact, contiguous, comply with the Voting Rights Act and free from partisan politics. Maps should never be redrawn so as to favor a political party, candidate or representative from either party. The only way we can have a true democracy in NC is if each citizen has an equal right to vote. Currently our districts give more weight to some people's voices to others, which is against the very cornerstone of democracy.

The perception that voting districts are fair and equitable may prove to be the most critical issue to the ongoing success of our "democracy." Gerrymandering undermines the basic functioning of our democracy and is harmful to all citizens.

Mr. William Luffman
I live in the extreme eastern part of Wilkes County just yards from the Surry School District. I am a much closer to the county seats of Surry, Yadkin or Allegany than I am to Wilkes. People in this area have a lot in common with each other but not so much with central, northern and western Wilkes or Ashe County. We already pretty much live in a land of taxation without representation in regard to county matters we need and deserve a voice at the state level. Sen. Randleman does have great constituent service skills and has been responsive. But it's a waste of time to contact the current or past house representatives, they don't even acknowledge those they have pledged to serve. Wilkes County NEEDS to be separated during redistricting. People living in the East Wilkes School District needs to be part of a district including all or most of Surry, Southern Allegheny and West Yadkin Counties.

Mr. Douglas Neely
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I am calling on NC legislators to replace the current consultant, Thomas Hofeller, who drew the existing unconstitutional maps and cannot be trusted to draw fairer maps in the future. Additionally, NC lawmakers used unlawful gerrymandering to win elections in 2012, 2014, and 2016, and are therefore suspect in passing appropriate legislative maps in the future that are not designed purely to serve their own interests. A new poll indicates that 4/5 NC voters don't think the NCGA can draw a map which complies with these points, they should appoint an independent commission who will draw these districts for all future elections, regardless of which party currently holds power. Voting districts should only change to accommodate population, not partisanship.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timestamp</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Message</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 19 2017 10:18AM</td>
<td>Ms. Laurel Appleton</td>
<td>Districting should be based on impartial algorithms not based on the whims of whatever political party is in power. You represent the people and you take away their voice when you create districts to benefit your political party.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 19 2017 10:23AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Barbara Coulson</td>
<td>The redistricting that was conducted in 2011 produced district lines that bob and weave through certain neighborhoods in many areas of our State. For example, if current elected officials are not sharing our values for clean air and water, then we have the right to support a candidate who does. If they do not share our concern for a just economic structure for all we should be able to choose which candidate supports our values there as well. If Gerrymandered voting maps lead to electoral contests that are one-sided they strip away our ability to elect people who share our values. We should have the ability to choose to vote for those who are endorsing policies that benefit the whole state, not just certain special interest groups. Voting should not equal control. This is an issue of fairness as well as fair play. Elected officials who supported an independent redistricting when they were in the minority should now support it when in the majority. Hypocrisy is unattractive in an elected official. We need true representation, and that starts with maps that are fair.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 19 2017 10:29AM</td>
<td>Ms. Laurel Appleton</td>
<td>North Carolinians are tired of gerrymandering and we want to see the maps so that objective non-partisan groups can analyze and evaluate them before the maps are put into use. Every North Carolinian’s vote should count!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 19 2017 10:31AM</td>
<td>Ms. Chantel Money</td>
<td>North Carolinians are tired of gerrymandering and we want to see the maps so that objective non-partisan groups can analyze and evaluate them before the maps are put into use. Every North Carolinian’s vote should count!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 19 2017 10:58AM</td>
<td>Ms. Carolina Candelaria</td>
<td>Respectfully and absolutely demand immediate passage of the nonpartisan redistricting bills now stymied in our legislature: HB 200, and SB 209. It is time to stop wasting the taxpayers money in constant legal battles over gerrymandering for racial and partisan purposes on BOTH sides of the aisle. Its time to get things right. Your constituents appreciate those of you on both sides of the aisle who stand for fairness, and will remember you on election day. Please bar constituents appreciate those of you on both sides of the aisle who stand for fairness, and will remember you on election day. Please bar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 19 2017 11:05AM</td>
<td>Dr. Jill Sleen</td>
<td>I am concerned that redistricting maps have not yet been submitted for public review in enough time before the public meetings. I am concerned that the same partisan folks in power are doing the redistricting, which will continue to lead the public to not trust the voting process. I am aware of the existence of a nonpartisan electronic program that can draw district lines without fear of partisanship politics influencing the voting results. WHY don’t you use it? We need to be able to trust that WE are the ones to elect our representatives in a fair and transparent process.</td>
</tr>
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Mrs. Jennifer Miller

I live in Davidson County, in the Emmons township. Last presidential election. I drove my brother who lives in an Assisted Living community in Denton, NC. He has voted in every election for the past 50 years, at the same location. The Denton Fire Department. This past election. They would not allow him to vote at the Denton Fire Department, where he has always voted, but sent us to another fire department, 12 miles away. Made him sit at a table, vote on a paper ballot, put it into a envelop and hand it back at the desk. I thought that was odd, but complied. He got in the mail a few months after the election, his vote didn't count, because he put down the wrong, social security number. False! it was the correct social security number, so I am letting you know, about the tampering. Please look more closely at situations like this. Thank You

Ms. Maria-Cristina Moreno

There is an alternative to partisan gerrymandering in North Carolina. I support nonpartisan redistricting that will establish an equitable system for all of us North Carolina voters to elect our representatives. Although I am unable to be present at this meeting today, I thank you for the opportunity to add my voice to all North Carolina voters and elected representatives who have called on our State lawmakers to put in place a nonpartisan system for redrawing North Carolina's congressional and legislative districts.

As Mayor Vaughn of Greensboro has eloquently expressed: “For far too long, both parties have engaged in gerrymandering, which has divided our communities and deprived voters of a choice and a voice in our elections...” “It’s time for the legislature to end gerrymandering and adopt a fair system for drawing our state's voting maps.”

Thank you,

Cristina Moreno, Williamston

Mrs. Kathryn P.

Redistricting should be done on population densities and matgmatically. The fact that the state is continually redistricting due to outright bigotry is a national disgrace and a waste of taxpayer dollars. Do it right this time so my money is wasted on this mess one more time.

Ms. Ann Marie Dunn

I am forced to give you a written comment because I can not get to any of the meetings scheduled for this. The Districting Maps, as written, are wrong. They deny the people the right to their vote. These maps are designed to make sure Republicans stay in office regardless of the opinions of the voters. This has been declared illegal and it has to be corrected. The government is supposed to represent all the citizens not just the privileged WASPs. Let me stress here, I am white, but I am not blind to the privilege my race has given me. We, the White majority have to acknowledge that we are not the only people in this country. A country that we tore away from the Native people in the first place. A country that was built, as much by the Black and Asian and Latino people, as the White people. These maps have to be rewritten fairly for all the citizens of the state. There is no other option.

Thank you for your time.

Ann Marie Dunn.

Mrs. Janice McMurry

Please don't draw our maps again in a way that silences some of us, particularly communities of color. We need a nonpartisan system in place to make sure our district maps are drawn fairly so that everyone is represented equall. Thank you.

Ms. Kelly Prelipp

I would urge the state legislature to redraw district maps with geographic and community boundaries being the guiding factor rather than the racially (and politically) gerrymandered legislative districts that exist now. I urge lawmakers to make the redrawing an open process, allowing the public to see the maps so we citizens can make informed public comment. New maps should feature compact geographic districts, keeping communities (and counties, if feasible) whole, and should uphold the principles of fairness and “one person, one vote.” By doing so, North Carolina can end the racial gerrymandering and political disenfranchisement that currently plagues

Mr. Jim Smith

I strongly urge you to use a non-partisan process to draw the new districts - e.g., to use the committee of former Supreme Court Justices who drew maps recently. The use of maps drawn by the same person who drew the maps declared in-constitutional would be a travesty, and invite the court to reject the maps and draw them themselves.
The overriding principle of drawing voting districts should be that voters of a self-defined municipality should be able to select their representatives in order to advance the voters’ best interests. Lawmakers must be prevented from choosing their own voters. The result of well-drawn districts is representation that, taken statewide, roughly reflects the distribution of voters by party. North Carolina is truly a purple state that sometimes swings one way and sometimes the other. Our statewide election outcomes should therefore be usually somewhat unpredictable. Current districts guarantee that the Republican party will overwhelmingly control the state for the foreseeable future. What is the point in the rest of us bothering to vote? But perhaps that has been the intention. Drawing voting districts should be done by an impartial team of people working with proven impartial software that will keep communities intact, consider that Black voters must get fair representation, and result in fairly won elections with believable results. Never again should one party be allowed to choose their own voters to preserve party dominance. If power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely, then the districts we have now guarantee a corrupt government. Our citizens must recapture the ability to vote out of office representatives that do not look out for the interests of all North Carolina voters.

This isn’t complicated. Gerrymandering is wrong. It has always been wrong regardless of which party is in power. Stop looking for a perfect solution. Stop justifying Gerrymandering by saying “you did it when you were in power”. Power will shift. Wrong is wrong. Pass HB200.

The legislature’s attempt at redistricting is a sham. The legislature is using the same consultant who drew the original, illegal racially gerrymandered maps and are drawing the maps to give Republicans an advantage. Furthermore, because these current maps are illegal, the current legislature, which was elected based on the current maps, is illegitimate. This illegal, illegitimate legislature should not be in charge of redrawing the maps. If we are to have maps that truly represent the citizens of North Carolina, and that are fair and ethical, we need maps that are not gerrymandered. Racial gerrymandering is illegal and political gerrymandering is unethical and undermines the will of citizens and the entire democratic system. We need maps that follow these guidelines:

- Ensure that it is possible for black votes to elect their candidates of choice
- Districts are equal in population size and ensure that each vote represents one person
- Districts are compact
- Incarcerated people are considered residents of their pre-incarcerated home or family residence
- Maps do not use previous voting history to help a party or politician become re-elected
- Communities with similar cultural and ethnic backgrounds are not split
- Counties are kept whole

NC needs independent redistricting. Politicians simply cannot be trusted with this much power.

I believe that each person should be properly represented by districts that are nonpartisan. The earlier maps are absurdly unjust.

Please rescind all recent gerrymandering laws that restricts voting of some citizens in certain districts, this is unlawful and unconstitutional.

End this gerrymandering NOW. If the new districts aren’t fair there will be further lawsuits which will only waste more taxpayer money.

All NC citizens have a right to fair districting - not one that is biased in any way. Do our senators and congressmen really represent us? Do they believe that what they’ve done by way of racially biased districting is honorable?

These maps were drawn using the same consultants and software that the Republican legislature used to draw the maps deemed unconstitutional by the US Supreme Court. The Republican legislature has used every tool in their belt to reduce public scrutiny and comment on their newly proposed maps. This is completely unacceptable. The only solution to end the unjust practice of gerrymandering districts is to appoint a non-partisan special commission to draw North Carolina’s legislative maps.

Although I am unable to attend the public meeting on Tuesday, I would like to express that I am watching the redistricting issue closely as I feel this is of extreme importance to the functioning of our democracy. Please do everything you can to make it fair for all citizens. Thank you.

In 2012, Democrats won 51% of the popular vote but Republicans got two-thirds of the GA seats anyway. Therefore, the legislature does not proportionally reflect the will of the people. This has harmed our state and its reputation. It is undemocratic. Legislative districts must be redrawn so that they are compact, allow for a representative in each district who can truly represent the people who live there, respect the Voting Rights Act, and don’t meander all over the state in order to put Democrats into just three or four districts. They must be redrawn in a non-partisan manner or we do not have a democracy.
Redistricting should be done by an impartial group, not by the same people who did it poorly the first time.

It is disgraceful that the Republicans in NC unconstitutionally redrew district maps to ensure they would control the Legislature and that the Courts have allowed them to continue their unconstitutional legislation this long. We DEMAND that a proper, fair and equality based map be drawn by the Court NOW and that the Court require elections BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

Dear General Assembly Leaders,

I support fair districting, without racial or political gerrymandering. House and Senate districts should be drawn without dividing communities, respect county lines as much as possible, and follow the tenet of the Voting Rights Act to ensure African-American voters can elect their candidates of choice. I volunteer to help eligible NC citizens register to vote, and have been dismayed by the confusion and fear created by racial and political gerrymandering intended to deny all NC voters the ability to pick their legislators. Drawing these maps in secret—again—is just plain wrong. Revealing these maps just before the one day of public hearings without the background data or time to allow the public to analyze their impact is shameful. I urge you to listen to North Carolinians across the political spectrum who want fair, impartial redistricting and an end to gerrymandering.

As a registered voter in the Grissettown Precinct of Brunswick County, I encourage NC lawmakers to create just maps that accurately reflect our population. The redrawn map is just as unacceptable and illegal as the previous one. Bill 209 provide a solution to gerrymandering, an abuse of the system that both Democrats & Republicans have resorted to in order to stay in power. As a white, evangelical Christian, heterosexual, married male I feel an obligation to comment here and advocate for fair redistricting that avoids racial and partisan gerrymandering. It insults me to watch the Republican party that I grew up supporting achieve power in our state through such devious and racist means (I am now independent).

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I am tired of gerrymandering and the politicians who practice it. I am one of the four out of five North Carolina voters (80%) that say it’s not fair for politicians to draw their own districts. The redistricting process must be open, avoid racial or partisan gerrymandering, and allow voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around.

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It's time to end gerrymandering. North Carolina voters deserve an impartial, nonpartisan redistricting process - one that creates maps without regard to race or partisan information. It's embarrassing that the people of NC. You are supposed to represent us - not control us.

Put an end to gerrymandering! North Carolina voters deserve an impartial, nonpartisan redistricting process - one that creates maps without regard to race or partisan information. It’s time to end gerrymandering, North Carolina voters deserve an impartial, nonpartisan redistricting process - one that creates maps without regard to race or partisan information.

Mr. Jason Henkel

Mr. Alan Finkelstein

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Ms. Margaret Israelson

Mr. Andy Smith

Mr. John McClain

Mr. Sam Anderson

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We need a nonpartisan system in place to make sure our district maps are drawn fairly so that everyone is represented equally. Let’s do the best for the citizens of NC. Thank you- (Mindy) Lisa

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As a registered voter in the Grissettown Precinct of Brunswick County, NC I am requesting that the NC House and Senate pass a bill to legislate a fair redistricting process in NC. At a time when our country is deeply divided, bipartisan measures must be taken to strengthen our democracy and ensure that every vote counts. It is especially troubling that at a time when racial conflict is witnessed throughout the nation that the US Supreme Court determined that “28 North Carolina legislative districts constituted illegal racial gerrymanders that diluted the overall impact of black voters.” House Bill 200 and Senate Bill 209 provide a solution to gerrymandering, an abuse of the system that both Democrats & Republicans have resorted to in order to stay in power. At a time when the political parties are having extreme difficulty working together, passage of a redistricting bill will be the first step toward creating a productive atmosphere, which will enable the members of the NC General Assembly to improve the lives of all residents of our state and to make democracy a reality for all of the people of NC.
I believe that the drawing of North Carolina’s voting maps should be free from partisan politics. Thus, I believe an independent, non-partisan group should draw our state’s voting maps. The drawing of the current maps lacks transparency, with maps being drawn by a few behind closed doors. This does not reflect a fair, democratic process. The people of North Carolina deserve fairly and equitably drawn voting maps by an independent, non-partisan group.

Please let our districts actually be representative those whose live in the districts. End the gerrymandering that has, for too long, caused North Carolina voters’ voices to remain unheard. Let’s move towards a fair North Carolina, where every voice is heard no matter social status, race, creed or political leaning.

The current redistricting process continues to be overly partisan and lack transparency. Maps are being drawn behind closed doors and voters are not being given sufficient time to review proposed maps before scheduled public hearings.

I believe voting maps should:

- be compact
- respect communities of interest
- be contiguous
- comply with the Voting Rights Act to ensure that it’s possible for black voters to elect their candidates of choice
- be free from partisan politics (ignore voter registration data, past election results, incumbent addresses, etc.) and ensure maps are not drawn to unduly favor a particular party, candidate or lawmaker

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Gerrymandering is bad for everyone. It’s a system put in place by the big industries and aforementioned white old guys, is it? Why don’t you guys try something radical for once like representing the entire public?

Only a fool the courts into thinking the NCGA is complying with their Federal ruling to redraw certain districts. It seems the legislature is more interested in advantaging the Republican party than securing fair representation for the people of North Carolina.

Legislative districts should be drawn by a non-partisan panel appointed by the judiciary, based purely on population with the goal of one person, one vote. Professional ballplayers aren’t allowed to referee their own games, and representatives should not be able to create their own districts.

The district lines need to be redrawn. There should be standardized size and shape of a district. This would reduce biases.

In this day and age of computers, a non-partisan group should be able to create THE FAIREST redistricting possible, not slanted towards Republicans or Democrats, but that would truly reflect the composition of the state.

Please take the time to review the proposal for new district boundaries. They are in compliance with the Voting Rights Act. Please vote to approve the 2017 House Redistricting Plan.

The only way to stop this madness is to construct districts based EXCLUSIVELY on population, regardless of who the population consists of. That is how democracy works - 1 person/1 vote and the party with the most appealing platform will come out the winner and serve the people per their wishes. That's democracy. Please uphold democracy as you redraw these lines.

Sincerely, voter, Deirdre Barlaz in Raleigh

Christopher Wengert-Ramos

Ms. Deirdre Barlaz

Ms. Pamela Herbert

Ms. Joan Walsh

Mr. Zygmund Furmaniuk

Anne Martinelli

Dr. Margie Sved

Gerrymandering must end. We need a fair and independent commission to draw NC's new districts, not a Republican-majority committee that ignores its Democratic members. I saw this happening in Raleigh on August 10. We don't need more sly attempts to try to fool the courts into thinking the NCGA is complying with their judgment, when really it's just more of the same shenanigans. Only a fair and politically impartial commission can do this job as it needs to be done.

Folks, it is unbelievable to me that the proposal for new district boundaries has not been made public. I understand your motivations to gerrymander the entire state so as many white old guys as possible can be elected — but that really isn’t in the interest of anyone except big industries and aforementioned white old guys, is it? Why don't you guys try something radical for once like representing the entire public and working for the common good?

Ms. Lisa LaFountain

Mrs. Anne Whipple

Sincerely, Pamela Herbert Durham

Ms. Lisa LaFountain

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Christopher Wengert-Ramos

Ms. Deirdre Barlaz in Raleigh

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Mrs. Lisa LaFountain

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Gerrymandering is bad for everyone. It’s a system put in place by the big industries and aforementioned white old guys, is it? Why don’t you guys try something radical for once like representing the entire public?

Gerrymandering must end. We need a fair and independent commission to draw NC's new districts, not a Republican-majority committee that ignores its Democratic members. I saw this happening in Raleigh on August 10. We don't need more sly attempts to try to fool the courts into thinking the NCGA is complying with their judgment, when really it's just more of the same shenanigans. Only a fair and politically impartial commission can do this job as it needs to be done.

Folks, it is unbelievable to me that the proposal for new district boundaries has not been made public. I understand your motivations to gerrymander the entire state so as many white old guys as possible can be elected — but that really isn’t in the interest of anyone except big industries and aforementioned white old guys, is it? Why don't you guys try something radical for once like representing the entire public and working for the common good?
I am very displeased that our lawmakers, who purport to represent us, have scheduled this redistricting meeting at 3 p.m. solely on a Tuesday, the exact time when many parents must receive their children from school. Other people are working. If the NCGA were truly interesting in our comments, they would make sure to have several available times for our comments or at the least not exactly at the moment when people need to get their children. Furthermore, what exactly should the public comment on, when the completed maps have not been released? This is Kafkaan in its bureaucratic evils.

Maps should be drawn by a non-partisan staff and then submitted to the legislature for a vote, with independent judicial review. Redistricting should be based on clear, measurable, and appropriate criteria including population, equality, contiguity, unity of counties & cities, and compactness.

New maps should not be approved until lawmakers’ and independent evaluations have the chance to be conducted, based on demographic and geographic data. The public release of this data, and transparent evaluation, should be completed as soon as possible to achieve a fair process.

I am concerned about several aspects of the current redistricting process. The selection of Thomas Hofeller to lead the redistricting is a poor sign given his work in the previous districting-process which was declared unconstitutional. I am deeply concerned about the partisan nature of this effort and that racially biased districting will continue, causing further disenfranchisement of our citizens. I encourage the NCGA to seek for an independent voice to lead this and all future redistricting efforts and to make the redistricting process open, and inclusive of all North Carolinians.

As an American, we expect that elected officials will listen to the voices and concerns of their constituents. Due gerrymandering in NC, I do not feel heard or represented. This is not Democracy! I call for fairly drawn maps and not maps that guaranteed the outcome for one party or the other.

As I understand it the redistricting plans which the General Assembly created were illegal because they were racially gerrymandered and were intended to violate the political presence and the participation of racial minorities. New FAIR boundaries must be drawn. Thank you.

I stand with Democracy NC in declaring that “the redistricting process must be open, avoid racial or partisan gerrymandering, and allow voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around.” You MUST allow the public to comment on your redrawn maps to ensure they are fair.

I don’t trust a gerrymandered legislature to draw up new districts. I demand a non-partisan, impartial panel be designated to draw up geographically compact districts of equal population size with no preference on political party. Consider the following. Thank you.articles/nonpartisan-redistricting-panel-reveals-unofficial-nc-

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

We need fair maps drawn by an impartial third party. This seems like a no brainer! What we want as North Carolinians is simple: for voters to choose their political representatives, instead of politicians choosing their voters. I want fair, competitive maps that elect candidates who are responsive to the people that live in their districts and no more partisan maps.

I urge you to fight for the best maps possible and not to fret lawsuits. I see no way a grouping of Durham with Person Co and Granville can be done w/o cutting up portions of Durham... overiding one of the requirements. If the rural counties are to be drug down competitively by chaining us to urban hubs then you should cut Orange County in half back to the old 6th congressional district lines. This would give Northern Orange a chance for Republican representation on a state level and give the rural districts of Person and Granville a chance at a balance with Urban Durham....

This for both chambers. Do not go wobbly and give away our super majority no matter what you do. It will not fare well for those who remain, even with the detracting antics of the left factored in....

I am disappointed in the direction taken by the representatives elected to serve the people.

To speak at public hearing.

Are there any plans in place to ensure that the redistricting that occurs after the 2020 census doesn’t take more than 6 years? It does seem to defeat the purpose of the 10-year redistricting cycle. Going forward it might make sense to have lawyers look at these proposals to ensure that they are legal.

I urge you to fight for the best maps possible and not to fret lawsuits. I see no way a grouping of Durham with Person Co and Granville can be done w/o cutting up portions of Durham... overiding one of the requirements. If the rural counties are to be drug down competitively by chaining us to urban hubs then you should cut Orange County in half back to the old 6th congressional district lines. This would give Northern Orange a chance for Republican representation on a state level and give the rural districts of Person and Granville a chance at a balance with Urban Durham....

This for both chambers. Do not go wobbly and give away our super majority no matter what you do. It will not fare well for those who remain, even with the detracting antics of the left factored in....
Columbus County does not need to be divided or partially represented by Pender County!!!

My family and I have chosen to move back to my husband’s hometown of Whiteville to start and raise our family. We have certainly seen a lot of changes in the 16 years since we moved. We moved from Clayton and while we understand there may have been more to offer our family in that geographic area -the slower pace is what we wanted with more time spent with our children that are now 14 and 12 is important. We understood that there could be a tradeoff but our area was harshly affected by the downturn in the economy in 2007 and we have not been able to recover. While the stakeholders in our area have worked to bring industry back-it is my understanding that we are up against all of the areas that are similar in size and vying for the same businesses. We need to keep our county intact as a whole because we understand it will get increasing difficult due to population moving the redistricting in the future. Give us a chance-keep Columbus County together as a whole! Thank you.

Please DO NOT divide Columbus County with redistricting plan.

As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want. We live in a Democracy! Some of you seem to believe and act otherwise.

Every single person, every single American citizen has the right to vote and have their vote counted and as they cast it.

Do not split Columbus County.

I think that maps should be drawn with geography in mind, not which party is likely to be able to win the district. It is important that communities, like Asheville, not be divided into multiple districts so that we can have a representative who clearly represents our community’s interests. Districts like the one that follows I-85 are completely impossible to campaign in. When the constituents are chosen one house at a time based on voting affiliation, that is gerrymandering.

Please re-draw these maps WITHOUT FAVORING INCUMBENTS. Please re-draw these maps WITHOUT FAVORING ONE POLITICAL PARTY OVER ANOTHER.

I am requesting that the all maps and the methodology used to draw the maps be made public. I am also requesting that the names of all individuals and organizations who have provided input to Rep. Lewis and Sen. Hise be made public to allow for greater transparency on the process. I am very concerned that NCGA members are constructing districts in a way which disenfranchises and disempowers large portions of NC. Fair and competitive voting districts are the lifeblood of democracy. The efforts to squelch competition through gerrymandered districts is an affront to all citizens of North Carolina.

Fairness and the rule of law should be the factors in redrawing the maps. The people of NC expect this from the NCGA. Please, take this seriously and without playing partisan games.

As a NC voter, I am requesting that the all maps and the methodology used to draw the maps be made public. I am also requesting that the names of all individuals and organizations who have provided input to Rep. Lewis and Sen. Hise be made public to allow for greater transparency on the process. I am very concerned that NCGA members are constructing districts in a way which disenfranchises and disempowers large portions of NC. Fair and competitive voting districts are the lifeblood of democracy. The efforts to squelch competition through gerrymandered districts is an affront to all citizens of North Carolina.

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I support fair and equitable redistricting in North Carolina. I hope and believe that our House and Senate will work to accomplish that goal. Thank you!

I do not trust the consultant who drew the current illegal maps since he is known for rigging maps to help one party. Legislative leaders have declared you are considering past election outcomes and will draw districts for partisan advantage, which is hardly what the Court has ordered. Releasing the maps without the details makes this a charade. I believe that you want the Courts to reject your maps and give you more time to draw fair ones.

The redrawn map is still gerrymandered and most certainly does not reflect the spirit or the letter of the ruling to redraw districts. The maps need to be redrawn by an independent party.
The gerrymandering of N. C. legislative and congressional districts has been effective, but that doesn't make it the right thing to do. When Republicans win a seat in one of these districts, what do they have to celebrate except their own adeptness at manipulating the election process? A win using these methods is not the result of winning peoples' minds regarding Republican ideas about government. Instead, the rigged districts have made Republicans seem hypocritical and power-hungry. Why resort to gerrymandering if you believe that you stand for what the citizens of North Carolina want? And if the citizens of the state don't want the government that you envision, what gives you the right to ignore that fact by making it impossible for non-Republicans to elect someone to represent them in governing? Every vote by legislators elected under this system is invalid and every law so enacted should be overturned.

I believe redistricting should be done by a non-partisan group. For example, 3 republicans, 3 democrats, 3 independents making up the panel. Ideally, the legislature should reflect the voters. That is, if 60% of voters chose political party A then the legislature members should have as close as possible to 60% from political party A. Thank you.

The fact that 28 out of 170 House and Senate districts in NC were found by the Supreme Court to be racially gerrymandered is a travesty of democracy. Racial gerrymandering has reduced political competition and accountability, producing rigged elections that hurt all North Carolinians except the wealthy, white, and mostly male power brokers. Instead, the redistricting process must be open, avoid racial and partisan gerrymandering, and allow voters to pick their political representatives (not the other way around).

Why do we continue on this partisan merrygoround? New maps, court fight, lose in court, new maps,...The people of Iowa said enough and their districts are independently drawn.

I am naive enough to believe that I live in a democracy. In order for that to be true, voting maps need to be geographically as compact as population permits and they need to be drawn without consideration of voting history. NC needs a nonpartisan redistricting committee not composed of politicians and other elected officials. I find it against the Public Welfare for redistricting to be done by persons representing us in districts the Courts have determined are unconstitutional.

Because of the August 2016 three judge panel ruling that found that 28 of the 170 legislative districts in NC were "illegally Gerrymandered", our current legislature is also illegal and therefore illegitimate. This means that the legislative redistricting process is inherently corrupt and flawed because it's being carried out by this current illegal and illegitimate legislature. This is a shameful and insulting mockery of our democratic process. I hear so many Republican legislators here in NC denounce the actions of the white supremacists in Charlottesville, VA but the most powerful form of white supremacy is when politicians pass laws that disenfranchise black voters from having an EQUAL voice in our democracy. And that is exactly what has been happening in North Carolina since 2011 through the racially gerrymandered districts and the rollback on voting rights. A new poll shows that four out of five North Carolina voters (80%) say it's not fair for politicians to draw their own districts. That includes 85% of Democrats, 74% of Republicans, 80% of independents—as well as 70% of Trump supporters and 80% of African Americans.

The redistricting process must be open, avoid racial or partisan gerrymandering, and allow voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around. Before it is approved, a map must be evaluated for overall racial bias and partisan competitiveness, using tools recognized by courts to measure fairness.

My family is trusting our representatives to refer to experts to create a completely, demonstrably fair and NONPARTISAN maps. It is extremely offensive to us that previous maps have been drawn in order to disenfranchise particularly groups, including racial minorities. It is important to us that not only the maps be drawn fairly this time but that a very clear plan be shared with the public for how we can ensure that this NEVER happens again, no matter which party is currently in power.

Thanks so much,
Kelly Cosby
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<th>Timestamp</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 21 2017</td>
<td>Ms. Shannon Kauffman</td>
<td>I urge the NC Republican legislators in control of redistricting to consider the mistakes they made when they racially gerrymandered the map. When they drew the map to disenfranchise people of color, they hurt the entire state of NC and the reputation of their party. Please stand up for all of NC by creating compact districts without odd tentacles, don't skip over areas or join two communities at a narrow point. Don't divide communities with similar backgrounds, and don't divide based on party affiliation. If you're proud of your party's policies then you should not feel the need to win elections by gerrymandering. Gerrymandering is a covert form of racism and our state and country has been embarrassed enough. Please do the right thing and support the inclusion values of America. What you do lives on after you leave office.</td>
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<td>Aug 21 2017</td>
<td>Ms. Charlotte Phillips</td>
<td>Keep Columbus Together. We don't want another county making decisions for our county. Thanks.</td>
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<td>Aug 21 2017</td>
<td>Mr. Dan Kiger</td>
<td>We are happy with the representation given by our current Senator and do not wish to create a competition for the seat created by possible redistricting.</td>
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<td>Aug 21 2017</td>
<td>Ms. Diane Vannais</td>
<td>If you truly cared for and loved Democracy, you would believe in one person, one vote. These gerrymandered districts are like ghettos. Be brave. Do the right thing...make districts logical and fair.</td>
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<td>Aug 21 2017</td>
<td>Dr. Karen Wade</td>
<td>The process of drawing the district maps should be transparent and beyond reproach. We want legislators who win fair and square. We don't want there to be a bias on a legislator's victory. It is cheating the democratic process to draw the maps to favor a particular party, candidate or race. I think I speak for the majority in saying that we are sick of unethical and less-than-upright behavior from our political leaders. It tarnishes the reputation of all and not just those that support such measures that undermine our democracy. I think my legislators are ethical. I just ask that they have the courage politically to stand up for fairly drawn maps against others of their party who want to win at any cost. If you work for your constituents, you will be re-elected without any gerrymandering. Most people realize that we are all being cheated by gerrymandering. They realize that the politicians are attempting to nullify votes and get elected without actually earning the votes needed. Please stand up for democracy and help to restore respect and confidence in the legislature. Thank you.</td>
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<td>Aug 21 2017</td>
<td>Ms. Ellen Farber</td>
<td>Maps need to be done by an objective third party. This map is favoring republicans and should not be approved. It is critical for the well-being of our state and the exercise of our democracy that we have legislative districts that are fair and unbiased. Those are the foundation of effective governance in our great state. Please ensure that the process used to create these districts is itself fair and unbiased, a well as timely. District boundaries should be based on data and collaborative action in the best interests of all of our citizens.</td>
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<td>Aug 21 2017</td>
<td>Mr. Glenn Conway</td>
<td>Thank you. My family and I support non-partisan re-districting to be fair to all North Carolinians. We do not support gerrymandered districts, no matter whether the gerrymandering considers race or likely voting patterns. The NC GOP complains very vocally when Democrats do anything that can be considered partisan, so stop the hypocrisy and implement fair districts for truly representative and fair elections.</td>
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<td>Aug 21 2017</td>
<td>Mrs. Stephanie Brown</td>
<td>Please take partisan politics out of redistricting. The state of North Carolina votes about 50% republicans and 50% democrats in most of the polling (leaving aside the independents) -- and the NCGA DOES NOT reflect this balance. I feel strongly that the legislature should have the opportunity to represent ALL North Carolinians. The current districts are so stacked as to make that impractical. We want a democracy that we have legislative districts that are fair and unbiased.</td>
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<td>Aug 21 2017</td>
<td>Daniel Sipp</td>
<td>I urge all legislators in North Carolina to work together to redraw districting lines that are fair to all. It has been proven - and the US Supreme Court agreed - that the districting lines current in use in this state were created to disenfranchise citizens of this state on racial lines. That calls into question the legitimacy of many current office holders and the laws passed by our legislature. All of you have a duty and an obligation as representatives of all of the citizens of this state to create districts that are fair and reflect the true values of North Carolinians. You are public servants and owe the citizens of this state whatever you can do to assure that elections here are free and fair. I trust that you will do all you can to assure that elections here are free and fair.</td>
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<td>Aug 21 2017</td>
<td>mark hayes</td>
<td>Keep columbus county together no redistricting to pender and robeson county.</td>
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<td>Aug 21 2017</td>
<td>Mrs. Cindy Douglass</td>
<td>We should have clarity on voting districts. Redistricting should be done to be fair and easy for voters to vote, no matter who is voting. And the map areas should line up in a sensible manner. No sneaky votes behind closed doors. No funny stuff with the map, please. That's called cheating, no matter which side one is on. And I will ALWAYS vote against the party that does that sneaky stuff!</td>
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<td>Aug 21 2017</td>
<td>regene butler</td>
<td>please chose fair district lines for the whole state.</td>
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<td>Aug 21 2017</td>
<td>Ms. Jessica Stringer</td>
<td>Shame on you, NCGA, for shameful, unfair redistricting maps and for making it so dang hard for citizens to get to the meetings – 4pm on a Tuesday with no notice? Shame on you.</td>
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In order for elections in NC to represent the people and the will of the people in NC and not just to represent and maintain those in power, at the expense of the will of the people, I believe that voting maps should be:

• be compact
• respect communities of interest & therefore not drawn to minimize their voter impact
• be contiguous
• comply with the Voting Rights Act to ensure that it’s possible for black voters to elect their candidates of choice
• be free from partisan politics (ignore voter registration data, past election results, incumbent addresses, etc.) and ensure maps are not drawn to unduly favor a particular party, candidate or lawmaker

The process should also continue to be transparent, including the opportunity for the public to view maps and have public hearings.

If you are confident you are doing what is best for your constituents, then you should not be afraid of fair and unbiased district mapping.

The racist gerrymandering shown in the most recent redistricting map makes me ashamed to call you our representatives. North Carolina’s legislative maps should and must be drawn by an impartial third party without regard to race or socioeconomic status.

Please put an end to gerrymandered districts.

We need to have the right to fair maps that are not drawn to change the outcome of elections.

My hope is that redistricting is done correctly this time around. We are now allowing the voters to elect the lawmakers, or the party affiliation or voting history of voters, or other data to help a party or politician.

If you are confident you are doing what is best for your constituents, please put an end to gerrymandered districts.

If we want real democracy, we must stop gerrymandering districts to make maps that represent all populations and party affiliations in our state fairly, without gerrymandering, are ESSENTIAL to fairness in elections. In fact, democracy as practiced in America REQUIRES fair elections, and any/every time legislative districts are distorted to give one party or another unfair advantage in elections is a departure from the genuine practice of democracy in our state and country. Please desist from creating more of the discriminatory sort of maps and voter suppression laws you have created in the past, thereby practicing genuine democracy, as our founders intended!

As the analysis of Indivisible Flip NC has found, the new maps are even more gerrymandered than the old maps.

The racist gerrymandering shown in the most recent redistricting map makes me ashamed to call you our representatives. North Carolina's elections is a departure from the genuine practice of democracy in our state and country. Please desist from creating more of the discriminatory sort of maps and voter suppression laws you have created in the past, thereby practicing genuine democracy, as our founders intended!

We need to keep this issue bipartisan, so that everyone's vote is heard, regardless of which party is in majority control currently. This is a simple matter of equality, which our constitution and country are founded on. We demand fair maps!

New, corrected legislative district maps that represent all populations and party affiliations in our state fairly, without gerrymandering, are ESSENTIAL to fairness in elections. In fact, democracy as practiced in America REQUIRES fair elections, and any/every time legislative districts are distorted to give one party or another unfair advantage in elections is a departure from the genuine practice of democracy in our state and country. Please desist from creating more of the discriminatory sort of maps and voter suppression laws you have created in the past, thereby practicing genuine democracy, as our founders intended!

Send us a map where everyone's vote counts.

As the analysis of Indivisible Flip NC has found, the new maps are even more gerrymandered than the old maps.

We must do away with past gerrymandering and have honest geographical districts. Let democracy thrive move!!

If we want real democracy, we must stop gerrymandered districts to achieve a predetermined goal in voting. Let people have the freedom to speak out through their votes so that those elected truly represent the people who voted! We must do away with past gerrymandering and have honest geographical districts. Let democracy thrive move!!

New, corrected legislative district maps that represent all populations and party affiliations in our state fairly, without gerrymandering, are ESSENTIAL to fairness in elections. In fact, democracy as practiced in America REQUIRES fair elections, and any/every time legislative districts are distorted to give one party or another unfair advantage in elections is a departure from the genuine practice of democracy in our state and country. Please desist from creating more of the discriminatory sort of maps and voter suppression laws you have created in the past, thereby practicing genuine democracy, as our founders intended!

We demand fair maps!

Fair redistricting should follow these basic principles:
• Race is Key: Map drawers must ensure that it is possible for black voters to elect their candidates of choice, as required by the Voting Rights Act.
• “One person, one vote:” Districts must be very equal in population and obey other laws.
• Geographic Compactness: Map drawers must create compact districts, without odd tentacles. Districts must not skip over areas or join two areas at just one point.
• Count Incarcerated Persons as residents of their pre-incarceration home or family residence for purposes of redistricting.
• No Favoritism: Map drawers must not use the addresses of current lawmakers, or the party affiliation or voting history of voters, or other data to help a party or politician.
• Respect Communities of Interest: Map drawers must avoid dividing communities with similar cultural, ethnic and economic interests; a local government district; etc.
• Respect County Boundaries: Maps should make every effort to keep counties whole.
• Evaluate Fairness: Before it is approved, a map must be evaluated for overall racial bias and partisan competitiveness, using tools recognized by courts to measure fairness.
I want to see districts that are compact, contiguous, comply with the Voting Rights Act, are free from partisan politics (don’t take into account voter registration data, past election results, incumbent addresses) and do not unduly favor a particular party, candidate or lawmaker. I cannot see that the proposed maps do this. Please give it another try.

The current redistricting process continues to be overly partisan and lack transparency. Maps are being drawn behind closed doors and voters are not being given sufficient time to review proposed maps before scheduled public hearings.

Once again, Republicans have proven that this administration cannot be trusted to redraw voting maps. We demand a special master to draw our districts fairly so every NC resident has the ability to exercise their right to vote. NO GERRYMANDERING!

It’s a disgrace that the new districts are being created by those responsible for the current gerrymandered districts. No wonder the NC state legislature needs judicial oversight!

Redistricting Maps should:

- be compact
- respect communities of interest
- be contiguous
- comply with the Voting Rights Act to ensure that it’s possible for black voters to elect their candidates of choice
- be free from partisan politics (ignore voter registration data, past election results, incumbent addresses, etc.) and ensure maps are not drawn to unduly favor a particular party, candidate or lawmaker

We will no longer tolerate gerrymandering. Let’s not wind up back in court.

so we’ve seen some of the data….but not enough. I’ve see you’ve managed to remain creative in Mecklenburg County and somehow you’ve created a majority of districts favoring the GOP. Districts should be equitable. This doesn’t represent our state. Our state is much closer to 50/50 and the districts align with this. An independent group should be completing this task for all future districting and the people who created our current illegal districting should not be involved in any way.

I do not support the rest of profiling ES&PU is in the district. Give people the voice to vote

Please let the long term good of the state be your guide. Create redistricting maps that are truly fair and that are not solely designed to hold on to power. Surprise citizens across the state with statesmanship rather than partisanship.

There should be an independent redistricting committee to remove partisan politics from the redistricting process. No party or candidate should receive excessive benefit from voting districts. Those who hold elected office or wish to run for office should have no part in creating voting districts. Voters should select their representatives rather than representatives selecting their voters, which undermines democracy, diminishes voices and suppresses new ideas.

No member of the independent commission should be eligible to run for elected office during the time period in which the maps of his or her making are in effect.

Current NC General Assembly members who are responsible for the existing voting districts, which have been ruled unconstitutional, should not redraw the districts. These representatives were elected unfairly and are not true representatives of NC citizens. Allowing the current NCGA to redraw the districts will only further the existing partisan divide and unfairly quash the voices of many North Carolinians.

Please put an end to the bizarre politically motivated re-districting that has plagued North Carolina. Put a stop to the Legislature being allowed to manipulate the boundaries for political gain.

Fair maps! End gerrymandering now

Please take partisan politics out of redistricting. The state of North Carolina votes about 50% republicans and 50% democrats in most of the polling (leaving aside the independents) -- and the NCGA DOES NOT reflect this balance.

I feel strongly that the legislature should have the opportunity to redraw our districts fairly so every NC resident has the ability to exercise their right to vote. NO GERRYMANDERING!

Please let the long term good of the state be your guide. Create redistricting maps that are truly fair and that are not solely designed to hold on to power. Surprise citizens across the state with statesmanship rather than partisanship.

The other side did it to us for all of those years” is childish and is hurting our State. Please put aside the ideas.

To say that “The other side did it to us for all of those years” is childish and is hurting our State. Please put aside the one-sided practicing public in the NC state legislature needs judicial oversight!
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<tr>
<td>Aug 21 2017</td>
<td>Ms. JULIA THORP</td>
<td>The unfair drawing of districts has to stop sometime. Please take this opportunity to do the right thing and appear the bigger mer/party; either appoint an independent commission to redraw the districts or establish fair rules and order to the process - and then abide by them. I believe you all know in your hearts what the right thing is. Please do it.</td>
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<td>Aug 21 2017</td>
<td>Mr. Hal James</td>
<td>I'm very concerned that the re-districting places two champions of Constitutionally conservative government in danger of being placed in districts where the majority of the voters do not hold those beliefs. I'm speaking of Rep. of Senator Bill Coox from Eastern NC and Representative Larry Pittman in District 82. These two good men have represented their constituents well and deserve better treatment from their colleagues!</td>
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<td>Aug 21 2017</td>
<td>Edward McLean</td>
<td>These new maps are fair and legal. They follow the letter of the law as understood today. I hope the courts will respect the constitutional role that legislatures have in drafting district lines. The drawing of legislative districts is the responsibility of elected branches of government. I respectfully request that the courts refrain from changing redistricting law and standards after the lines have been drawn. It is not the job of the legislative majority to correct for the severe weakness of the minority, either politically or geographically.</td>
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<td>Aug 21 2017</td>
<td>Ms. Shel Anderson</td>
<td>I am incensed to have followed your process and see that you don't really care to inform the public fully about what you are doing. Very late reports to us, the citizens. And from preliminary analyses, it looks like you are continuing the gerrymandering to achieve Republican filling of the GA. Shame on you. Shame, shame.</td>
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<td>Aug 21 2017</td>
<td>Mr. Bryce Arghiere</td>
<td>Hello Representatives, You are in a unique position as public servants to sustain and strengthen the principles of equality and fair representation on which our democracy is built. As a North Carolina resident, I am ashamed of the current voting districts. To call our state government a democracy, we must draw voting districts that reflect not racial bias or party preference but the true demographics of our residents. It is your duty and privilege to help us reach this goal. I believe I speak for many North Carolinians when I say, “Push for equality in our state and redraw our voting districts to represent each person fairly and equally.” Thank you for your consideration.</td>
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<td>Aug 21 2017</td>
<td>Harriet Sayre McCord</td>
<td>The process by which you have &quot;redrawn&quot; maps is a sham. A criterion should NOT be to keep incumbents, who were illegally elected in the first place, in office. Districting should reflect the democratic bedrock of our country: all votes should count equally, and each vote should have as much chance of electing the candidate of the voter’s choice as any other. The proposed new maps are scarcely closer to this principle than the old ones. The rehiring of Mr. Hofeller, the delay and secrecy of the proposed new maps, the inconvenient time of the public hearings, all show that the process is not sincere in correcting the wrongs fomented by the last, illegal, set of maps. It is your DUTY to end voting apartheid and the white power grab conducted since 2011. Act for the greater GOOD of ALL North Carolinians, who support fair districting in large numbers, across party, race, and ideology.</td>
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| Aug 21 2017 | Mr. H Donald Capps    | First, these hearings are a sham, given that the General Disassembly will be voting on the maps, House & Senate, regardless of any comments made in their regard at the supposedly public hearings. Second, these maps were not developed by the General Disassembly but rather by the former Dixiecrats now known as the North Carolina Republican Party; that Rep. David "Gerrymander" Lewis could not even answer simple questions regarding the basic, broad criteria being used to re-Gerrymander the maps this past weekend, other than confirming that the only point of the effort was to continue to suppress any opposition to the autocrats controlling the General Disassembly, much less any of the real criteria being used to suppress the votes of African-Americans, Hispanics, and Democrats in North Carolina through the Gerrymander process. Third, the new Gerrymander maps simply confirm that the current North Carolina Republican Party, the former Dixiecrats, is basically chickenshit since it wants to avoid a fair fight in the elections; their fears regarding the possibility of having to encounter open elections that might mean that the North Carolina GOP (which is really a toxic combination of the John Birch Society/Alt-Right/Dixiecrats/ and Neo-Fascists) might not get its way in ruining the state. That the North Carolina GOP consistently goes out of its way to fuck with African-Americans, Hispanics, liberals, and anybody else it does not like -- gays, transgenders, etc. -- does not inspire confidence. Fourth, no surprise that Rep. David (Gerrymander/Dumbass) Lewis took his time to actually come up with the new re-Gerrymandered House & Senate maps since it was never a consideration to let the public have any say in this process in the first place; this is the sort of thing that Democrats do when they feel that they can do what they...
Aug 21 2017  7:38PM Ms. Pat Johnson After looking at the recently released maps, I can see that lines are still drawn to favor GOP, candidates and to disenfranchise minority and poorer districts. I thought that with the Supreme Court decision that 25+ districts were gerrymandered and unfair, that the supposed GOP map specialist would feel obligated and fair in redrawing these borders. Your devious actions with this and your obstructive bills in trying to prevent Governor Cooper from leading our state will be remembered at the polls in 2018. I want a legislature that is fair and represents the people.

Aug 21 2017  7:41PM Dr. Cindy Elmore How this entire court-mandated redistricting process has been handled has been appalling. 1. You had a year to get fair maps done and you obviously dragged your feet in defiance of court decisions. 2. Nonpartisan fair voting organizations need to have the maps to analyze in ADVANCE of public hearings, which has not been done. 3. You let the same people who drew the egregious racially gerrymandered maps in the first place draw them again. That doesn't even make sense, unless you WANTED to do the same thing. 4. It's been said that Republicans have actually had the new maps for quite a while, but withheld them in order to reduce the amount of time for Democratic opposition and candidates to organize before the November elections. 5. The new maps are slightly better but were still drawn to intentionally favor Republicans. 6. Most importantly, a neutral, nonpartisan organization needs to draw these maps -- certainly not the Republicans nor the Democrats. It is WRONG to intentionally disenfranchise people, as your maps egregiously did. I'm embarrassed for North Carolina. We are not this right-wing state that your gerrymandered maps have turned our representation into. And the rest of the nation is, honestly, looking down on us for this obvious, obvious vote-cheat.

Aug 21 2017  7:45PM Lynn Archbold So weary of all of the unfair party shenanigans the NCGOP has been pulling to win elections. If you have to cheat to win what does that say about your choices and the way you are governing? If the majority of your constituents are unhappy with your job performance then listen to them and fix it, and if you can't then step down to someone who can.

Aug 21 2017  7:52PM Mr. Frank Marcucci The new redistricting map is a joke. You are not fooling anyone with the redrawn map. You just don't get it do you. This is like the fox watching the hen house. Because of the gerrymandering we have a legislature that is hijacked by a bunch of extremists. I have only been a citizen of this state for ten years and I cannot believe what is going on. I talk often with my coworkers in Virginia about how undemocratic this state has become. I recommend that a nonpartisan committee redraw the map. The legislature for once needs to take the moral high road. There are so many people in this state who feel the way I do and are sick and tired of this crap. It really shows what a farce this is, especially with no public hearings in Northeast Carolina. Go ahead and approve this obscenity and it will be right back in court, with the court again ordering the map redrawn by a committee that considers all of the citizens of this state instead of the few white privileged.

Aug 21 2017  7:58PM Ms. Jessica McShea I would like the voice my opposition to the redistricting recently done by the NCGA. I was ashamed that my state was partaking in racial gerrymandering. Now that we had a chance to redeem ourselves, the GA made the process to do so terrible. The same consultant that was responsible for the racial gerrymandering was brought on to redraw the maps. They have declared they won't consider race but will consider past election results, which means they are redrawing the maps to again benefit the Republican party. Gerrymandering is illegal and is invoking white supremacy. I demand reform in this process to preserve our democracy. The maps need to be reviewed by an independent body to ensure there is no racial or partisan bias.

Aug 21 2017  8:07PM Mrs. Alisa Drum It is time for NC to have fair District in for ALL residents. I propose districts made strictly based on county. Counties should NOT be broken up into districts, Nor should districts run through more than one county.

Aug 21 2017  8:09PM Ana De La Cruz The beauty of America is having faith in our system, being able to vote where peace and peaceful transitions of power be honored. I urge that fair maps be redrawn so that the will of the people be accurately represented. Thank you, Ana De La Cruz.
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<tr>
<td>Aug 21 2017 8:26PM</td>
<td>Ms. Greta Nintzel</td>
<td>Fair redistricting should follow these basic principles: • Race is Key: Map drawers must ensure that it is possible for black voters to elect their candidates of choice, as required by the Voting Rights Act. • “One person, one vote:” Districts must be very equal in population and obey other laws. • Geographic Compactness: Map drawers must create compact districts, without odd tentacles. Districts must not skip over areas or join two areas at just one point. • Count Incarcerated Persons as residents of their pre-incarceration home or family residence for purposes of redistricting. • No Favoritism: Map drawers must not use the addresses of current lawmakers, or the party affiliation or voting history of voters, or other data to help a party or politician. • Respect Communities of Interest: Map drawers must avoid dividing a communities with similar cultural, ethnic and economic interests; a local government district; etc. • Respect County Boundaries: Maps should make every effort to keep counties whole. • Evaluate Fairness: Before it is approved, a map must be evaluated for overall racial bias and partisan competitiveness, using tools recognized by courts to measure fairness.</td>
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<td>Aug 21 2017 8:33PM</td>
<td>Dr. Maria Salgado</td>
<td>Leave politics out of the redistricting business. draw maps that are fair to all.</td>
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<td>Aug 21 2017 8:35PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Lelanna Capps</td>
<td>You have known for several months that you were to draw up new Congressional districts. Now as a typical student, you waited until the last possible moment to complete this assignment. To make matters worse you used the same person(s) to draw the districts that were deemed illegal by the courts. Same old business...If I were a teacher, you, the General Assembly of NC would be receiving a failing grade. You need to have hearings from your constituents. One day, depending where you live, and limiting time is totally unsatisfactory. Again, a grade of F is what you have earned in my books.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 21 2017 8:41PM</td>
<td>Mr. Robert Brown</td>
<td>Fair redistricting should follow these basic principles: • Race is Key: Map drawers must ensure that it is possible for black voters to elect their candidates of choice, as required by the Voting Rights Act. • “One person, one vote:” Districts must be very equal in population and obey other laws. • Geographic Compactness: Map drawers must create compact districts, without odd tentacles. Districts must not skip over areas or join two areas at just one point. • Count Incarcerated Persons as residents of their pre-incarceration home or family residence for purposes of redistricting. • No Favoritism: Map drawers must not use the addresses of current lawmakers, or the party affiliation or voting history of voters, or other data to help a party or politician. • Respect Communities of Interest: Map drawers must avoid dividing communities with similar cultural, ethnic and economic interests; a local government district; etc. • Respect County Boundaries: Maps should make every effort to keep counties whole. • Evaluate Fairness: Before it is approved, a map must be evaluated for overall racial bias and partisan competitiveness, using tools recognized by courts to measure fairness.</td>
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<td>Aug 21 2017 8:43PM</td>
<td>Ms. Stef Mendell</td>
<td>It is absolutely reprehensible that the newly drawn maps still have only about 10% of the races competitive. I want to choose my representatives; I don't want representatives choosing their voters. Please do the right thing to protect our democracy and draw independent, non-partisan districts. You know it's the right thing to do, so do it!</td>
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<td>Aug 21 2017 8:47PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Jane Rose</td>
<td>I am deeply disappointed in the redistricting. The legislature had a golden opportunity to draw fair and impartial lines instead you hired Tom Hofeller, a GOP consultant who drew the unconstitutional lines in 2011. This shows no desire to do what is right, but only a desire to hold power. Give the task to a nonpartisan group, and redeem yourselves.</td>
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<table>
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Author</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 21 2017</td>
<td>Ms. Patricia</td>
<td>Our country was founded on the basis of &quot;one man, one vote,&quot; and it is</td>
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<td>8:48PM</td>
<td>Walker</td>
<td>essential that voting districts be fairly and equitably drawn. The</td>
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<td>arrogant travesty of the 2010 redistricting should make every single</td>
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<td>person who voted for it hang their head in shame. Thanks to a</td>
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<td>unanimous vote of the Supreme Court, you now have an opportunity</td>
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<td>to redress the bigoted and racist actions of 2010 by drawing new</td>
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<td>districts that fairly represent ALL North Carolinians. That is the</td>
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<td>decent, honorable thing to do. It is not only what the citizens of</td>
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<td>North Carolina expect. It's what your mama expects, because she taught</td>
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<td>you better.</td>
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<td>Aug 21 2017</td>
<td>Ms. Cynthia</td>
<td>The gerrymandering in many districts in my beloved North Carolina is</td>
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<td>8:54PM</td>
<td>Byrne</td>
<td>simply indefeasible! Many of them look like you gave a 5 year old a</td>
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<td>bright crayon and asked them to make pretty pictures of snakes and</td>
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<td>stars and arrows!! How on earth you can think that reasonable people</td>
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<td>will see these crazy allocations as anything other than ideologically</td>
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<td>driven is a national disgrace. For instance, in the Senate Redistricting-</td>
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<td>what on earth is going on with 21? It's exactly like an arrow driven</td>
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<td>into the heart of 19. Or the upper left hand corner of 26? And the</td>
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<td>House map is even worse! The Court finding that your government had</td>
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<td>attempted voter suppression with &quot;surgical precision&quot; is very well</td>
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<td>known in the state and this is just a bald-faced attempt to do the</td>
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<td>same thing with map drawing. As a registered voter who votes as an</td>
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<td>independent I am seriously unhappy with you as my elected</td>
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<td>government and instruct you to go back to the table and make North</td>
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<td>Carolina not only a fair voting state but one which we can be proud of</td>
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<td>once again.</td>
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<td>Yours very seriously,</td>
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<td>Cynthia Byrne</td>
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<td>Aug 21 2017</td>
<td>Bryce Alexander</td>
<td>What is going on here Lexington and Davidson Co why were our</td>
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<td>8:54PM</td>
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<td>District still rigged for Republicans ? Why can't our districts be</td>
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<td>drawn to include Lexington and Salisbury together / Southeastern</td>
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<td>corner and northern Montgomery County. These districts are still</td>
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<td>gerrymandered I Please explain</td>
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<td>Aug 21 2017</td>
<td>Ms. Sylvia Neal</td>
<td>This is the same racially gerrymandered thing we already have. This</td>
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<td>8:58PM</td>
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<td>offers little improvement. Districts should, in order to be fair, be</td>
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<td>compact, contiguous, and must comply with the Voting Rights Act to</td>
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<td>give minority voters an opportunity to elect their candidates of choice.</td>
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<td>The maps must also be free from partisan politics, ignoring voter</td>
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<td>registration data and past election results. They must also ignore</td>
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<td>incumbent addresses. This map was generated by the same software as</td>
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<td>the last one.</td>
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<td>Aug 21 2017</td>
<td>Ms. Sandy Irving</td>
<td>I am writing to encourage our legislature to redraw our districts</td>
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<td>8:58PM</td>
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<td>fairly in an open process. Please remove the consultant Mr. Hofeiler,</td>
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<td>who drew the illegal maps, from the redistricting process. We must</td>
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<td>eliminate gerrymandering and restore public trust--a non-partisan</td>
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<td>redistricting committee is the ideal</td>
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<td>We must also remember the basic goal of one person, one vote and the</td>
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<td>basic commandment of doing unto others as you would have them do to</td>
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<td>you.</td>
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<td>Aug 21 2017</td>
<td>Michael Kelley</td>
<td>The American Revolutionary War was fought, in part, to provide fair</td>
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<td>8:58PM</td>
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<td>representation of the People in their government. Both the House and</td>
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<td>Senate draft redistricting plans grossly fail to uphold that principle.</td>
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<td>They are objectively unfair and undemocratic, and a legislature derived</td>
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<td>from such plans have no legitimacy to govern. Shame on you and your</td>
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<td>immoral behavior that corrupts our system of government. Go back, do</td>
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<td>the right thing, and draw maps that fairly allocate legislative</td>
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<td>representation according to how people have voted (i.e., almost evenly</td>
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<td>balanced).</td>
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<td>Aug 21 2017</td>
<td>Mrs. dVirginia</td>
<td>&quot;Fair redistricting should follow these basic principles:</td>
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<td>9:01PM</td>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>• Race is Key: Map drawers must ensure that it is possible for black</td>
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<td>voters to elect their candidates of choice, as required by the Voting</td>
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<td>Rights Act.</td>
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<td>• One person, one vote:&quot; Districts must be very equal in population</td>
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<td>and obey other laws.</td>
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<td>without odd tentacles. Districts must not skip over areas or join two</td>
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<td>areas at just one point.</td>
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<td>• Count Incarcerated Persons as residents of their pre--incarceration</td>
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<td>home or family residence for purposes of redistricting.</td>
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<td>lawmakers, or the party affiliation or voting history of voters, or</td>
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<td>other data to help a party or politician.</td>
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<td>• Respect Communities of Interest: Map drawers must avoid dividing</td>
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<td>for overall racial bias and partisan competitiveness, using tools</td>
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<td>recognized by courts to measure fairness.&quot;</td>
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<td>Aug 21 2017 9:15PM</td>
<td>Garry Vogelpohl</td>
<td>It is time to seek more neutral voting maps and cease - from all political parties - drawing voting maps in order to close out true choice for voters. Elections are meant to serve the public, not mere party interests. Our votes are to elect our representatives, rather than electoral races being decided via artificial boundary maps for the advantage of political parties. Let it be a true contest between viewpoints, rather than a system rigged to make voting pointless.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 21 2017 9:25PM</td>
<td>Ann Brady</td>
<td>You gave us one day’s notice before the hearings to study and learn about the new maps. There may be some improvement, but most districts are still solidly Dem or Rep, mostly to favor Republicans. I’m particularly upset that the whole process of redrawing has been unfair and far from transparent. I understand the new maps were made to preserve Republican power, not to give all of us a chance to participate in a democracy (which requires representative government). A bill has been introduced each year supporting a process of fair redistricting; it never even has been allowed to the floor despite having bipartisan support. If you can’t do better now, maybe for 2020 you will at least allow a fair redistricting bill to get to the floor for debate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 21 2017 9:29PM</td>
<td>Ms. Rane Winslow</td>
<td>As elected representatives of ALL North Carolinians, not just wealthy special interests and campaign contributors, I demand that the legislature start following laws about voter distribution. Your voters, white, black, wealthy, poor, and largely unaffiliated, expect this from you. Educated or not, we are not unintelligent and know your leaders want to keep their jobs and power, and apparently, are willing to break the law to do it. Whether we voted for you or not, you are our representatives. Stop hurting the people of NC by “following the leader” and destroying the state’s reputation with your actions and inactions. History WILL judge you. How do you want to be remembered?</td>
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<td>Aug 21 2017 9:32PM</td>
<td>Ms. Donna Roulic</td>
<td>Maps should be drawn and made by non-partisan individuals. Voters cannot trust Republicans to make the maps. Maps will only be once again illegal, unconstitutional. Republicans believe the only way they can win elections is to take away minority voters right to vote.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 21 2017 9:33PM</td>
<td>Virginia Hall</td>
<td>Please restore fairness and true representation to the districts of NC. Gerrymandering is unfair!</td>
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<td>Aug 21 2017 9:40PM</td>
<td>Mrs. ANNE WHIPPLE</td>
<td>After reviewing the newly released proposed Senate legislative maps, I conclude that the maps are fair and legal. The maps follow the Voting Rights Act guidelines. Please vote to APPROVE the 2017 Senate Redistricting Plan.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 21 2017 9:41PM</td>
<td>Ms. Linda Mullen</td>
<td>I find your plan to draw up redistricting maps appalling. It seems to be a thinly veiled threat to democracy. It will put a clear disadvantage in place to the African American community and to those who predominantly vote Democrats into office. If this redistricting plan is approved, it will only prove what so many have thought all along. Republicans, conservatives and the alt right will be denying a large chunk of their opposition the chance to vote. Doesn't seem fair considering we live in a country that was built on the idea that we are all equal and deserve the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. This is 2017. Do what you know is right and stop this gerrymandering. If your party ever wins control again (not going to happen) at least you can be sure you won fair and square.</td>
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<td>Aug 21 17</td>
<td>9:42PM</td>
<td>Ms. Chris Ekstedt</td>
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<td>Aug 21 17</td>
<td>9:42PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Janelle Hardee</td>
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<td>Aug 21 17</td>
<td>9:45PM</td>
<td>Ms. Kate Fisher</td>
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<td>Aug 21 17</td>
<td>9:58PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Debra Hughes</td>
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<td>Aug 21 17</td>
<td>10:18PM</td>
<td>Sarah Koonce</td>
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<td>Aug 21 17</td>
<td>10:32PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Pam Byrd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 21 17</td>
<td>10:36PM</td>
<td>Deborah McNeil</td>
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Aug 21 2017 10:39PM  
Ms. Keaton Hill  
As a North Carolina resident, I demand fair, constitutional and un-gerrymandered maps.

Legislative leaders continue to stall and avoid fixing their unconstitutional maps. Federal judges have rebuked these leaders for not "taking seriously" the urgency of correcting their illegal maps. I am very disturbed that Republican lawmakers declared they will not consider the race of voters, as if that would stop them from drawing biased maps. In fact, that approach ignores the directive of the courts to examine whether black voters have a fair chance to elect candidates of their choice in the new districts.

How can the public trust legislators elected from illegal districts to draw fair maps, especially when they use the same mapmaker and highly partisan goals? General Assembly leaders have spent $4.8 million of taxpayers' money to defend their maps in court -- this is a huge waste of our money.

Like the Klan violence of yesterday and today, racial gerrymandering must be ended in order to fulfill the N.C. Constitution's edict that government serve "the good of the whole."

We are tired of gerrymandering and the politicians who practice it. The redistricting process must be open, avoid racial or partisan gerrymandering, and allow voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around. Before it is approved, a map must be evaluated for overall racial bias and partisan competitiveness, using tools recognized by courts to measure fairness.

Aug 21 2017 10:40PM  
1. You should not allow partisanship to bias districts- that undermines our democracy and reduces the value of my vote  

2. The reps from districts that were illegal should not be allowed to run as uncontested incumbents or really even vote on legislation until their employment is confirmed by the people

3. This should have been done by an independent party with multiple levels of oversight

4. Data should have been released and public comment opened long before any deadlines

Aug 21 2017 10:48PM  
Ms. Marie Curran  
As a woman who works, votes, raises a child, and contributes in many ways to the city of Durham, I feel very left out of the political process.

Unfortunately, the new redistricting process is too partisan to ensure fair maps are drawn. The maps are being drawn behind closed doors, and voters are not being given sufficient time to review any proposals before the public hearings.

One must challenge the outcome of a process that was not open, fair, or transparent. As a concerned North Carolinian, I wish to make my voice heard by expressing my concern that the process of drawing maps has been skewed and biased by political forces.

We are tired of gerrymandering and the politicians who practice it. The redistricting process must be open, avoid racial or partisan gerrymandering, and allow voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around. Before it is approved, a map must be evaluated for overall racial bias and partisan competitiveness, using tools recognized by courts to measure fairness.

Aug 21 2017 10:56PM  
Bridget Leibold  
As a North Carolina resident, I demand fair, constitutional and un-gerrymandered maps.

The proposed redistricting maps are offensive and insulting to voters' intelligence. We do realize that they will have the same net effect as the current districts that are widely known to be purely partisan. The process of drawing them up was not transparent at all, but that is to be expected when people are trying to sneak in something underhanded. Come on, please. Do the right thing/what the courts have ordered. Give us districts that allow all voters to have a real chance at being represented, and are something other than partisan electoral cheat.

Aug 21 2017 10:59PM  
Laura Wamsley  
As a woman who works, votes, raises a child, and contributes in many ways to the city of Durham, I feel very left out of the political process.

Unfortunately, the new redistricting process is too partisan to ensure fair maps are drawn. The maps are being drawn behind closed doors, and voters are not being given sufficient time to review any proposals before the public hearings.

One must challenge the outcome of a process that was not open, fair, or transparent. As a concerned North Carolinian, I wish to make my voice heard by expressing my concern that the process of drawing maps has been skewed and biased by political forces.

We are tired of gerrymandering and the politicians who practice it. The redistricting process must be open, avoid racial or partisan gerrymandering, and allow voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around. Before it is approved, a map must be evaluated for overall racial bias and partisan competitiveness, using tools recognized by courts to measure fairness.

Aug 21 2017 11:08PM  
Ms. Ellen Perry  
This is so important. Please, let's get it right! Sadly, these maps are still being drawn by the same GOP lawmakers and consultants using the same software as the previous maps, and approved by the unconstitutional legislature that was elected using those racially gerrymandered maps. Surely we can do better!! Thank you.
Whether you are Democrat, Republican, or independent, everyone should recognize that the redistricting maps should be fair and not favor a particular party. The maps need to be nonpartisan, contiguous, and consistent with Voting Right Act requirements.

Please take the partisanship out of the legislative maps. Make the process and the maps nonpartisan and then fairly take your case for election to the people in the resulting districts.

Gerrymandering is a form of cheating. If you have to cheat to win, your policies aren't worth much. It's time for the NC legislature to act with honor and draw maps that are nonpartisan.

The proposed maps thus far do not meet that standard.

Thank you for your time and attention.

These new maps are even worse than the last ones. And you know it. We demand and deserve maps that truly represent our districts without all the race-based gerrymandering.

AS YOU KNOW, Fair redistricting should follow these basic principles:

• Race is Key: Map drawers must ensure that it is possible for black voters to elect their candidates of choice, as required by the Voting Rights Act.
• “One person, one vote:” Districts must be very equal in population and obey other laws.
• Geographic Compactness: Map drawers must create compact districts, without odd tentacles. Districts must not skip over areas or join two areas at just one point.
• Count Incarcerated Persons as residents of their pre-incarceration home or family residence for purposes of redistricting.
• No Favoritism: Map drawers must not use the addresses of current lawmakers, or the party affiliation or voting history of voters, or other data to help a party or politician.
• Respect Communities of Interest: Map drawers must avoid dividing communities with similar cultural, ethnic and economic interests; a local government district; etc.
• Respect County Boundaries: Maps should make every effort to keep counties whole.
• Evaluate Fairness: Before it is approved, a map must be evaluated for overall racial bias and partisan competitiveness, using tools recognized by courts to measure fairness."

Please do not lock the public out of the process anymore. Please share information with the democrats and work together in a true bipartisan effort (not the sham of fake bipartisanship you keep citing). You need a new expert and new software, and meaningful participation of BOTH...
Please follow the North Carolina Common Cause criteria for redrawing the voting maps of North Carolina as follows: Be Compact, Respect Communities of Interest, Be Contiguous, Comply with the Voting Rights Act to ensure that it’s possible for black voters to elect their candidates of choice, and Be Free of Partisan Politics (by ignoring voter registration data, past election results, incumbent addresses, etc.) and ensure maps are not drawn to unduly favor a particular party, candidate or lawmaker.

To the above criteria, I also add the following:

Racial gerrymandering is White Supremacy in one of most egregious forms - the disenfranchisement of the right to vote. North Carolina is better than this, and I thank the courts for upholding the rule of law and requiring the North Carolina General Assembly comply with the Constitution.

Specific Districts of Concern

Covington vs. State of North Carolina, 1:15CV399 (M.D.N.C) states that North Carolina House Districts 5, 7, 12, 21, 24, 29, 31, 32, 33, 38, 42, 43, 48, 57, 58, 60, 99, 102, and 107 and Senate Districts 4, 5, 14, 20, 21, 28, 32, 38, and 40 are unconstitutional. These are the districts that I am concerned be properly redrawn to become constitutionally adequate to avoid racial gerrymandering. I am also concerned that in redrawing these districts, other districts could be incorrectly redrawn to become unconstitutional. There should be no “collateral damage” to the constitutionality of other districts.

Robust Deliberations

The current redistricting process continues to be overly partisan and lacks transparency. Maps were drawn behind closed doors and voters were not given sufficient time to review proposed maps before scheduled public hearings.

A majority of the Joint House & Senate Redistricting Committee is on the record as supporting nonpartisan redistricting in the past. And yet, the committee rejected nonpartisan redistricting standards now.

Instead, these new maps once again perpetuate the cycle of gerrymandering. The proposed districts appear designed to give the majority party maximum advantage, shielding politicians from accountability to the public, while depriving voters of a choice and a voice at the ballot box.

End gerrymandering now!

Ruled or governed - which are we choosing?

What does it mean that the genius of our democracy is being undermined as if we could not see what is going on? Are we choosing to be blind?

We have a system that is meant to allow the people to elect those it chooses to govern them for set terms - a system that has generally leaned to a centrist choosing in the swing of differing party leadership. What seems to clearly be happening is that we are gradually being RULED by a plutocracy that scorns the wisdom and will of the general electorate in order to preserve inordinate privilege over supporting the common good for the most folks. When elections become a forgone event, where clever manipulation of voting divisions/Districting occurs - we have moved from a state of being governed according to the will of the general public to a state of being RULED by the few.

Historically, it seems that sooner or later, such collusion between marginally legitimate elected officials and the privileged results in violent reaction. Why do we expect to be different? Why are we selling our fallible but vibrant heritage for toxic posturing and rule/government via division of a people among itself?
As a resident of North Carolina for the past 10 years, it’s great to finally see progress toward addressing our gerrymandering issue, but I’m worried it’s not enough.

Republicans in power need to make every effort to sincerely fulfill the spirit of the court mandate to draw lines in a fair way. Having the very same consultant who drew the unconstitutional 2011 lines make a few GOP-friendly tweaks a few days before throwing together a few badly-timed and little-advertised public hearings isn’t enough. I know the courts issued a very tight timeline, but this is not the good faith effort needed.

Personally I still can’t believe it’s legal for the party in power to redraw lines in their political favor to begin with. We need to go further to correct the current Republican gerrymander mess. But in fairness, we can’t favor Democrats either. Districts should be be drawn in a nonpartisan manner based on the best balance of geography and population to reflect the voice of the people.

I find it very distressing that, after the last committee hearing, with attendance so packed that the overflow room had to be used and the “super-majority” of public comments 29 out of 30) pleaded for the discontinuation of gerrymandering, racial and partisan, and all of the anti-gerrymandering efforts taken up by so many North Carolinians over recent months, it has all fallen on disinterested ears.

Gerrymandering is non-Democracy. It is wrong. And, in my town of Apex, the proposed maps have splintered or town up in such a way that eliminates the town - which is the third-largest municipality in one of the state’s largest counties - from being represented by anyone who actually lives in the town, effectively sidelining our representation in our state legislature. And so my question to you, those of you who called these shots, how could you?

We want fair, competitive maps that elect folks responsive to the people who live in their districts – and no more partisan maps. Keep Columbus County together, as one.

I strongly object to the process by which voting districts were recently redrawn - even without having the time or expertise to fully analyze the exact implications of the new district lines. It is shameful that in a democracy elected officials are secretive about the methods and manner in which they are pretending to carry out the will of the people. One suspects that any public business carried out in the dark will not serve that public's interest. The people of this state have made it clear – we want electoral districts determined by a NON-PARTISAN commission in the clear light of day. Models exist that would guarantee fairness, one person one vote, and an outcome that best reflects the voters' will. I blame both parties for past misconduct. We are slithering into a system of "government" that bears absolutely no resemblance to democracy in this state. I am appalled.

The new redistricting maps should be drawn by an impartial third party. Considering the willfully illegal and dishonest job that was done last year, it is not surprising that the proposed new maps are also extremely partisan. Voters should choose their representatives and not the other way around. We’ve had to suffer 7 years of an illegal legislature which has disregarded the public’s wishes and enacted extreme legislation and, more recently, overridden their governor's veto. For the sake of our democracy and the interest of the public this must end and the only way to do this is to employ an honest, independent third party with the will to draw maps that represent the people's business and not the will of a few.

End Gerrymandering Now...All votes matter and we must make sure that politics do not dictate or control the redistricting or redrawing of the maps. We cannot expect a fair redistricting process and continuous tampering with the rights of voters using this current method. The proposed maps submitted for comment does not comply with the Voting Rights Act. Therefore, it is time to draw fair maps by an Independent Redistricting Commission. We, the People are calling for non-partisan redistricting. Let’s do the math and make sure all votes matter. Uplift all humanity with dignity and respect. END GERRYMANDERING NOW! Simply stated, a kindergartner can make better use of technology to crunch the numbers and achieve fairer and better maps. Remember, Blinders are for horses. Thank you, let’s do the people’s business and not the will of a few.

As a voter I expect that redistricting not be racially or politically gerrymandered, that redrawn maps evaluate fairness based on court sanctioned tools not political consultants. 4 out of 5 North Carolinian voters of all parties want an open and fair process, that a NON-PARTISAN body should be drawing maps, not sitting politicians.

Redrawn districts must reflect the democratic principle of 1 person 1 vote. Districts should be compact and respectful of county boundaries, not reshaped to maintain political advantage. More time for public hearings on maps must be allowed. The current process and the redrawn maps this legislature has finally presented are not what a healthy democracy looks like.

Sincerely,
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<tr>
<th>Timestamp</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 22 2017 7:10AM</td>
<td>Ms. Rebecca Showalter</td>
<td>The North Carolina voters are TIRED of gerrymandering. We are tired of politicians of any type being able to draw their own maps. It has been proven over and over again that our elected officials cannot seem to do this without trying to tilt the game in their favor. Elections, and election districts, should be fair and unbiased. I am extremely concerned that this GOP led legislature is not taking that ideal seriously, even though they have been rebuked over and over in the courts. The same consultant, known around the country for biased mapping, has been hired. The GOP leadership has said that although they are supposed to be solving racial gerrymandering and making sure African Americans are represented, they won't even take race into consideration. That makes no sense. And the worst yet, the GOP leadership has admitted that once again they will try and draw these maps for partisan advantage - this is simply cheating. Please, enough - just stop. One final thought: with what happened in Charlottesville high on everyone's mind, please understand that I view what the GOP led legislature has done - purposely disenfranchising people of color for their own gain and transferring power to rural whites - on the same spectrum as the ugliness of white supremacy we saw there. Perhaps that's not what the GOP legislature meant but that is its impact. And we should all be ashamed. It echoes the ugliest chapters of our history. Please. Prepare fair, unbiased, and non-gerrymandered districts.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017 7:32AM</td>
<td>Ms. Andrea Bacon</td>
<td>These maps are still awful. You had the same person redraw maps that were already deemed unconstitutional? You guys have been playing games long enough. Let us choose our representatives FAIRLY.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017 7:58AM</td>
<td>Mr. Jody Campbell</td>
<td>I think the proposed districts look fine for Iredell County.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017 8:00AM</td>
<td>Maria Bruzzo</td>
<td>&quot;As the analysis of Indivisible Flip NC has found, the new maps are even more gerrymandered than the old maps. WE DEMAND FAIR MAPS! Fair redistricting should follow these basic principles: • Race is Key: Map drawers must ensure that it is possible for black voters to elect their candidates of choice, as required by the Voting Rights Act. • &quot;One person, one vote:&quot; Districts must be very equal in population and obey other laws. • Geographic Compactness: Map drawers must create compact districts, without odd tentacles. Districts must not skip over areas or join two areas at just one point. • Count Incarcerated Persons as residents of their pre-incarceration home or family residence for purposes of redistricting. • No Favoritism: Map drawers must not use the addresses of current lawmakers, or the party affiliation or voting history of voters, or other data to help a party or politician. • Respect Communities of Interest: Map drawers must avoid dividing communities with similar cultural, ethnic and economic interests; a local government district; etc. • Respect County Boundaries: Maps should make every effort to keep counties whole. • Evaluate Fairness: Before it is approved, a map must be evaluated for overall racial bias and partisan competitiveness, using tools recognized by the court, as in the &quot;Fair Maps&quot; paper.&quot;</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017 8:01AM</td>
<td>Ms. Stephanie Biziewski</td>
<td>As a concerned NC citizen I demand that the redistricting process be open, avoid racial or partisan gerrymandering, and allow voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around. It would also be useful to research the fair practices used in other states and adopt principles that encourage deep community involvement. Fair redistricting must follow a few basic principles: - ensure that racial groups can elect candidates of their choice - no favoritism - &quot;one person one vote&quot; - respect county boundaries and communities of interest Do your job to ensure that all NC citizens have a real voice in the state - respect county boundaries and communities of interest.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017 8:08AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Katherine Shoffner</td>
<td>I am requesting that you re-draw the voting district maps in NC in order to ensure that every voter is equally able to vote and elect officials to represent them. I do not agree with the current map and I do not think you are representing the people of this State by using the same software and consulting firm to re-draw these maps. I am requesting that you fulfill your obligations to serve all, of the people of this State and uphold and safeguard everyone's constitutional right to vote. Thank you.</td>
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I believe the new district maps remain unfairly tilted toward the Republican party and the process for developing these maps was unacceptable. This obvious racial and partisan gerrymandering is deplorable - I expect much better from our NC legislative leaders. Please do the right thing!!

As the analysis of Indivisible Flip NC has found, the new maps are even more gerrymandered than the old maps. WE DEMAND FAIR MAPS!

Fair redistricting should follow these basic principles:
• Race is Key: Map drawers must ensure that it is possible for black voters to elect their candidates of choice, as required by the Voting Rights Act.
• “One person, one vote:” Districts must be very equal in population and obey other laws.
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The most recent Gerrymandering was accomplished with malice and forethought. I am hopeful that redistricting this time will be based on fairness for all the good people of NC. We are watching you. Sincerely,

Mr. Thomas Gray

Please consider use of a non-human form of redistricting as a first pass at least. Computer algorithms can group citizens by non-protected classes, by common interests etc., and create logical nonpartisan groupings. A nonpartisan board could

Stop with the political gamesmanship. It is not a democracy if there is effectively no choice. We are a better society and a better state when there is consensus and compromise between our elected officials. This map proposal offers more of the same - more lawsuits, more unfair districts, more of legislators choosing their constituents, rather than vice versa. It is time for the legislature to be leaders for all of North Carolina, not just Republicans. Please redo the maps in a fair and unbiased way.

The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. There is a hate and division going on in this country and this state. you, as our elected officials, need to stand up and say “enough is enough!” redraw the redistricting lines in a fair manner so that all voices are heard. please stop this partisan child play. we as a state have too much on the line for it. thank you!

In order to be fair, new maps must be compact, contiguous, and must comply with the Voting Rights Act to give minority voters an opportunity to elect their candidates of choice. The maps must also be free from partisan politics, ignoring voter registration data and past election results. They must also ignore incumbent addresses, to avoid intentionally “double-bunking” two incumbents in order to force one of them out of office.

More than anything, the citizens of North Carolina want a non partisan, third party organization redraw these district maps. Really. There is no reason either party should be knvolved in this. It shouldn’t even be a debate. Please have a non partisan third party redraw these districts so there is not a bigger interest involved in our elections. This is the only way to remain fair and democratic.

These new maps – like the oids maps – make clear that it is time for us to end partisan redistricting by one party or another. It is clear that its primary purpose is to punish the other party and to maintain political control - not to assure that voters get to determine who they want to represent them. We need fair districts, drawn by a nonpartisan (if possible) or bipartisan redistricting commission that assures that all districts are compact, respect county lines, don’t divide communities of interest, and follow the law, including Voting Rights Act, so that we voters get to choose our representatives and senators instead of our representatives and senators choosing us! Thank You.
I would be here but I have to work. There are 3 democrats vs. 10 republicans. Much of this is because of gerrymandering designed for republicans to win. I live in District 9, which has been represented by republicans since 1963. No party should have such a stronghold over a district. I want the lines to be redrawn by independent bipartisan organization--NOT Republicans--to better represent the overall diversity of our state. NC is a swing state in terms of general elections, so the representatives should be more 50/50. Make our local elections more competitive again where our representatives actually have to work hard for their constituents, even those who are not part of their

The North Carolina Legislature has consistently demonstrated its unwillingness or inability to design electoral maps that fairly represent all of the people of North Carolina and do not deliberately favor one party over the other. Other states have effectively addressed this failing through nonpartisan redistricting commissions. It is time that North Carolina followed suit. To refrain from doing so simply perpetuates an unfair practice that further erodes public confidence in our electoral system.

Fairly electing those that represent us in government is one of the most fundamental expectations of Americans. Please redraw the districting maps fairly so that all voters are equally represented now, and in the future. A two-party system is important for ensuring representation for all. Please don't take that away from North Carolinians with further gerrymandering that ensures one party will prevail now and in the future.

The district lines must be drawn fairly! The unconstitutional lines that were drawn before discriminated against so many of our state's tax payers including myself. The result of the redistricting will determine who receives my votes in my district for the next election!

There is a crucial need for districts, no matter who draws them, to be as impartial as possible, to be compact, to avoid dividing communities and especially diluting minority votes, and for an increase in the number of competitive districts statewide. This is an opportunity for the state of North Carolina to show leadership among our states as to how to offer citizens a fair way to voice their vote.

Don't make it another GOP project. Put an equal amount of Democrats and Republicans on the committee to redistrict. Don't do it "behind closed doors." Give ample time for voters to understand the new plan, to review and to comment on it before you pass something in the dead of night. Don't use the same old tricks you did last time. Comply with the Voting Act. MAKE VOTING IN NORTH CAROLINA FAIR!!!

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To our legislative leaders:

Our democracy is based on the principle that "we the people" elect legislators to be "our representatives". Legislators should not be allowed to "pick their own voters" through illegally drawn maps. This legislature is has a Republican majority gained through illegal means and has allowed a minority view to dictate policy and legislative actions that go against the wishes of the majority of voters. I have zero confidence that the current attempt to redraw the maps will result in any significant change since the same legislators and the same consult are drawing the new lines. The process is a charade and a stalling tactic to draw out the process, waste more tax dollars defending something that is still illegal and retain control for a minority view as long as possible. New polling shows that 4 out of 5 NC voters say it is not fair for politicians to draw their own districts. A Duke study has already produce redistricting guidelines that should take most partisanship out of the process. We should follow those guidelines.

Racial gerrymandering has reduced political competition and accountability. It has produced rigged elections that let some votes count more than others. This has hurt the majority of NC citizens and favored the wealthy, white, mostly male power brokers and unfairly burdened the rest of us. This kind of rigging is a slap in the face of our democratic principles and equality and justice for all. To protect our democracy and governance for the "common good" we must have non-partisan voting districts and no voter suppression laws. Please do what is morally right and support non-partisan redistricting.

Jane Harrison, Waynesville, NC 28785

After being directed by the courts to redraw congressional districts in NC due to cited gerrymandering "with surgical precision" to achieve racially divided districts, it would make the most sense to form a non-partisan commission in order to achieve districts that no longer discriminate by suppressing the votes of minorities. If we fail to do this properly now, we will end up in this same place again in the future.

I appreciate fewer precincts have been divided. BUT - this map does not reflect the actual diversity of the NC electorate. Democracy requires competitive districts. Most of the districts should be competitive.

Both house and senate plans are biased and partisan, and reflect the dismal state of NC politics, where the controlling party acts to divide and conquer. A new bipartisan effort is needed, with a new author to the redistriciting map. Do what's fair and right for NC.

Draw the district lines in a nonpartisan manner. When one party or another has a guarantee without opposition, we don't have a responsive government, with give-and-take between constituents and elected officials.
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<tr>
<td>Aug 22 2017</td>
<td>Mr. Thomas Drewes</td>
<td>Allowing legislators to cherry-pick their districts is unacceptable. Using the same consultant, Thomas Hofeller, who produced the maps found by our justices to be gerrymandered is unacceptable. Selectively ignoring the county, community, and cohesive boundaries that exist in our state with the sole goal of producing particular election outcomes is unacceptable. If our elected officials had followed some essential principles to ensure fair re-districting, we wouldn't have required judicial oversight in the first place. 80% of North Carolina voters, across all party affiliations, believe it is absurd for the legislators to draw their own districts. Please use these key points to guide your efforts:</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017</td>
<td>Ms. Beth Pensiero</td>
<td>NC's redistricting process must be open, avoid racial or partisan gerrymandering, and allow voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around. As a lifelong resident of this state, I am appalled that the General Assembly hired the same consultant, Thomas Hofeller, who drew the current maps that were ruled illegal by the Supreme Court of the United States. Hofeller is nationally known for rigging maps to help his Republican clients. As citizens of NC, we deserve better than this blatant show of contempt for our right to fair elections and representation in state government. We should, and by that I mean that our state representatives should, research the practices used in other states and adopt principles that encourage deep community involvement. If we want a more just North Carolina, North Carolina's elected officials need to consider the following redistricting principles:</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017</td>
<td>Darren Hunicutt</td>
<td>NC's redistricting process must be open, avoid racial or partisan gerrymandering, and allow voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around. As a lifelong resident of this state, I am appalled that the General Assembly hired the same consultant, Thomas Hofeller, who drew the current maps that were ruled illegal by the Supreme Court of the United States. Hofeller is nationally known for rigging maps to help his Republican clients. As citizens of NC, we deserve better than this blatant show of contempt for our right to fair elections and representation in state government. We should, and by that I mean that our state representatives should, research the practices used in other states and adopt principles that encourage deep community involvement. If we want a more just North Carolina, North Carolina's elected officials need to consider the following redistricting principles:</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017</td>
<td>Mrs. Anne Barnhill</td>
<td>#1 Map drawers must ensure that it is possible for Black voters to elect their candidates of choice, as required by the Voting Rights Act. [2] Districts must be very equal in population and obey other laws. [3] Maps must create compact districts, without odd tentacles. [4] Districts must not skip over areas or join two areas at just one point. [5] Count incarcerated people as residents of their pre-incarceration home or family residence for purposes of redistricting. [6] Map drawers must not use the addresses of current lawmakers, or the party affiliation or voting history of voters, or other data to help a party or politician. [7] Map drawers must avoid dividing communities with similar cultural, ethnic and economic interests; for example: a local government politician. [8] Maps should make every effort to keep counties similar cultural, ethnic and economic interests; a local government map; etc. [9] Before it is approved, a map must be evaluated for overall agenda! It's disgusting and it's got to change.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017</td>
<td>Mrs. Diana Kinney</td>
<td>It's time for gerrymandering to stop. Districts should accurately represent the wide range of diversity between all ethnicities, incomes and other socioeconomic factors that can take place in any focused area in North Carolina. It's time to stop cherry picking districts in order to manipulate the voting results you want. That's not fair to your constituents and doesn't give us an accurate chance of making our voices heard. Stop changing the rules to fit your agenda! It's disgusting and it's got to change.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Before the proposed map is voted on, we need to see the data, including the race, gender, political affiliation, income, and other characteristics used to make this map, so all members of the legislature can make an informed decision.

Far too long areas of lower income level which most of include people of brown hue have been disenfranchised by our government. Now is the time for our government to take notice and stop the gerrymandering and give these areas fair representation. Those lines need to be redrawn so that every citizens can be equally represented.

Redistributing maps MUST be drawn by an impartial third party, considering distribution of population and not race or party affiliation. The goal should be to be honest and fair. The goal should not be to maintain power of a political party. This constant redrawing and realigning over maps is a waste of tax payer money.

You guys jump through hoops with redistricting. They are requiring it too often for ridiculous reasons! It is going against our State Constitution. Redistricting is supposed to occur follow a census of the people. Linda is a yes man only. She does not represent the people maybe she will fail taking Pittman's place. We have not forgotten the mess she made in the past or her fight against removing the horrible scourge of Common Core!

Voting is the foundation of our representative government. It is shameful what each party has done to rig the outcome of elections in our state. Our current Assembly was elected with many districts the courts have found to be illegal. Even worse these districts were formed to promote white supremacy.

The fact that the General Assembly ignored the courts ruling and now has put the citizens at a disadvantage by rushing a process that should have been methodically reviewed is unacceptable. You are playing games with us and we should have had much more time to review and analyze the new maps.

Also, holding the only public hearings to discuss the maps at 4 pm on a Tuesday does not show a sincere attempt to engage citizens and get their input.

An independent organization should be formed to manage this process as it is obvious neither party in our state is willing to honor the citizen's voice.

If our representatives believe they need to rig elections to win, that pretty much says it all.

As enough time was not given for citizens to thoroughly analyze the new maps I am asking the courts to refuse this remedy and assign an independent council to create them.

I object to the fact that $50,000 of taxpayer money is going to Tom Hofeller to "fix" the problem he created in 2011. One GOP consultant redraws all these districts? We need more balanced input. If the GOP is interested in "bipartisanship" as it claimed to be when depriving Gov. Cooper of his powers to structure county and state boards of elections, then it should be bipartisan here too.

We, the people, are watching and we DEMAND fair maps!

These maps should accomplish several goals: - districts should be compact geographically - maps should not favor incumbents unnecessarily - districts should be as close to equal in population as possible - incarcerated persons should be counted as constituents in their home district - maps should meet fairness (racially and politically) guidelines established by legal precedents - most importantly, maps should not hinder the election of candidates of choice by black voters

Until these maps meet appropriate goals for fairness, you can expect to continue to hear public outcry and agitation. Why not simply set aside self-interest and racial bias and create fair maps now? Why wait for the court to impose maps when these are evaluated to fall short of the court-mandated goals? Why do you continue to waste time and taxpayer money in your effort to illegally hold onto power through racial bias?

We see you! And we see you falling short. Do better.

The new maps, released days before the Sept. 1 deadline after months of time to prepare and release them, do not fix the gerrymandering problem. They replace racial gerrymandering with partisan gerrymandering. This is not the democratic process: to permanently establish one party in power and then work to ensure that it stays, no matter what the majority of the voting population want.

Please allow an independent redistricting of NC.
Ms. Barbara Stanwick  
This gerrymandering of Districts is so obvious and so out of control. Districts should run along accepted county and town lines which are already in place and generally known. If you can't win on your platform and your message, maybe the majority of the population just doesn't want you!

Ms. Glencie Rhedrick  
As the Supreme Court has ruled the have been draw to weaken the voting strength of people of color. Now is the time to adhere to the court's decision and create a balance that gives every citizen an opportunity to experience fair and true representation in our government. Do the right thing!

Mr. VICTOR LANCASTER  
From a review of the new maps drawn, clearly the Republican party cannot be relied upon to provide un-gerrymandered districts. Therefore we need to revert to the last known good districts of 2010 before they were redrawn as totally fair to all regardless of race, creed or color. These would only be effective until the 2020 census can be evaluated and districts redrawn based on those new demographics.

Bests, Vic Lancaster

Mr. Michael Ogle  
August 22, 2017  
To: NCGA Redistricting Committee

The 350 members of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro branch of the NAACP have a simple request: Make North Carolina a Democracy Again.

We ask that the lawmakers of North Carolina's legislature place the cornerstone of democracy -- equal representation and access to the ballot for all -- ahead of their impulse to hoard power. We believe this is a more than reasonable ask. Without that cornerstone, we do not have a democracy. We do not have a bipartisan government. We have extremism and marginalization. We have one-party rule. And unfortunately the redrawing of the state House and Senate districts so far looks to be a process that has little resemblance to democracy.

Even if the maps were redrawn with fairness in mind, which does not appear to be the case, the process to make and review these maps, which were vigorously smacked down as racist by the courts, has been nakedly undemocratic. They've been redrawn in secret prior to receiving public comment, revealed with essentially no time for the public to evaluate them, no serious attempt was made to include input from anyone other than the Republican lawmakers. The voter data corresponding to the maps was not even released with the maps; instead it was released during the solar eclipse, one day before the public hearings. The hearings are being held during a workday and on the first day back to school for many parents. This is not what democracy looks like.

The public hearings scheduled with limited notice appear to be little more than cover for plausible deniability against accusations of lacking transparency and participation. Barely any advance notice was given.

Cynthia Gibas  
I have lived in North Carolina for 12 years. When I moved here, I was excited to be moving to such a great state. I'm a scientist; to people like me, North Carolina had an excellent reputation for commitment to public education and for fostering a dynamic biotechnology sector. However, 7 years of gerrymandered districts creating a GOP-dominated legislature have changed all that. Now North Carolina is a national laughingstock for disastrous policy like the bathroom bill, and we've seen legislative actions that hurt education, the environment, and future-oriented economic sectors like the film industry. Since I moved here, the districts that I have been assigned to have been packed so that my vote overall counts less than the vote of someone in a rural area, even though urban centers contribute a disproportionate amount to NC's economic growth and future well being. And that biased districting has produced some extreme, counterproductive policy.

We need fair districts. Not Democratic-gerrymandered districts, mind you. That was also not good for the state. We need fair districts (both NCGA and US House) impartially drawn by a nonpartisan commission. The same algorithms that the NC GOP has used to gerrymander on partisan affiliation and race can easily be turned around to produce fair districts.

Mrs. Anna Richardson  
Splitting Columbia County is an enormous mistake that will only cause more hardship for our county—one that has already been devastated by a failing economy and Hurricane Matthew. Brendan Jones is working hard to raise our county from the dead, and this redistricting will only create more turmoil for us.

Ms. Vickie Pait  
It would be detrimental to Columbus County to split the county. Please don't split Columbus County.
Dear Honorable,

During your redistricting deliberations, NCAE members implore you to make sure the districts are fair and that the process is transparent, impartial, and non-partisan. Unfortunately, what we have seen of the maps and process up to this point doesn't meet those simple expectations. Once again, the new maps have been drawn to secure a supermajority for the party in power instead of giving the voters what they deserve—a fair and reasonable shot at choosing who represents them in a competitive election.

For the last 25 years, nearly half of all legislative races have had only one candidate on the ballot, hardly a fair and reasonable expectation of electing who represents them. In last year’s legislative election, just one of ten races were actually competitive—the other 90 percent where decided by double digits. This does not constitute a fair elections process. When the state is as evenly divided as it is, we should have a large number of competitive races.

As a teacher, I would have to give the General Assembly an A for political gerrymandering and an F for a fair election and map drawing process. It's embarrassing in the political science textbooks when North Carolina is the poster child of gerrymandering. Just like we need to return our public school system to the beacon it once was, we should demand and expect more when it comes to creating fair redistricting maps and fair elections.

That's why NCAE supports the creation of an independent redistricting commission, which would review the best chance at an impartial and Legislative leadership did not provide adequate time for a review of the proposed maps and the supporting data. It is, however, plain that extreme partisanship and race were used to determine these new district lines, again giving an unfair advantage to Republican candidates for office and Republican voters. The efficiency gap is well above the level that experts say is unconstitutional. These maps do not resolve the constitutional problems that the Legislature was ordered to address. The public was not given a chance to comment on the criteria used for redrawing these maps, and using the 2011 maps as a starting point was unreasonably problematic, given that those maps were unconstitutionally racially gerrymandered. You cannot pass new districts that have the same problems as the old ones. All of us deserve an equal voice at the table for our state elections.

It is time to put an end to illegal, racist manipulation of Districts to accommodate Republicans.

The redistribution process should be done in a way that is transparent, fair for all demographics, and leaves time for public comment before becoming permanent. Anything short of that goes against the reality that you elected officials work for the people who elected you, not for yourselves.

I am writing to inform you about my concern with the transparency of NC redistricting process. As you know, the new maps were recently released and there are plans for the Redistricting Committee to vote this Thursday and the House this Friday. The only date for public input is today during business hours. I would have very much liked to attend the public session, but today is the first day of classes at UNC, Chapel Hill, where I work. Of course, others that work in any location will also have limited ability to attend this very important session. I would like to have it documented that there is only one speaking opportunity and that it was schedule for a Tuesday afternoon when most people will be unable to attend and that there was also very limited advance notice of this meeting, making it difficult or impossible for people to make arrangements to be able to participate.

I'm appalled to see that the newly "redrawn" maps look almost like the old ones. What happened to a fair redistricting process and fair maps? It's time for a fundamental change in the way we draw our maps. I demand an impartial, bipartisan committee be formed and tasked with redrawing these maps.

The redistricting for both house and senate should be done, as closely as possible, on a nonpartisan basis. This will ensure proper representation and vote validity for all citizens of North Carolina.
Ms. Charlotte Collins
This state has a duty to all its citizens to remove the stain of voter suppression. Voter suppression has a long, sordid and violent history, going back to when Democratic Party vigilantes terrorized newly enfranchised African-American citizens in the 1960's, signaling the end of the Reconstruction period in North Carolina and the entire south. It is no secret that legislators in this state consider the redistricting process an opportunity to advantage themselves in upcoming elections. Elected officials admit it. The biased viewpoint is that the Democrats “own” the African-American vote, so why not weaken the impact of their vote to enhance Republican numbers in the General Assembly. Now, that’s the action they take when they are in power. The impact is that there are so-called safe districts in which Republicans owe their constituents little if any accountability. This is not what democracy should be for citizens regardless of ethnic category, but this is where we are in NC. Republicans cry, “the Democrats did it when they were in power”. Maybe that’s true. The answer is to place the grave responsibility of redistricting in the hands of a non-partisan group. The current process will never be trusted if it’s in the hands of the same group that the federal court said suppressed the African American vote with “almost surgical precision”.

Mr. Sid Miller
Good morning, I’m writing as a concerned citizen of Columbus County. Dividing our county is not the right choice. We need cohesiveness...not division. Please reconsider these new redistricting lines. Thank you, Sid Miller

Mr. Reuel Castillo
Since the courts have declared that the districts composed by the legislature were demonstrably drawn to marginalize minority voters, why should the legislature be trusted to redraw them with a different intent and outcome? Why hasn’t the legislature left the redrawing to a non-partisan commission to ensure the districts aren’t gerrymandered?

Lorna Barnett
Redistricting must be done by an independent group to avoid any racial or partisan gerrymandering. Districts should be based on geographic common sense. The terrible practice of gerrymandering was begun by Democrats and perfected by Republicans. It’s time for the stability of non-partisan Districts for all political seats.

Mr. Josh Carroll
To whomever it may concern, who even thinks this is a great idea? When I first read the article, my first thought was “what? why?” I don’t want anyone representing my county that doesn’t live here, much less, having one half controlled by someone else. I’m sure there are other counties that feel the same that you are considering splitting as well.

Mrs. rebecca brady
Once again the NC GA has cheated the voters. First, by hiring the same manipulator who made the first UNCONSTITUTIONAL maps. No sensible person would suggest giving him the responsibility again after his first attempt was overturned by the courts. Second, by not being transparent with the process. Third, by not giving adequate time for public input. THE ONLY FAIR WAY TO DO THIS IS BY HAVING A NON PARTISAN COMMITTEE DO THE WORK IN A TRANSPARENT WAY AND THEN GIVING PLENTY OF TIME FOR THE PUBLIC AND COURTS TO SEE AND STUDY THE NEW MAPS. NON PARTISAN!!!!!!! No democracy in the world outside of the US allows elected politicians to draw the lines. Please respect the will of the voters and respect democracy.

Kathleen Knopeck
As a citizen concerned about the enormous responsibility of making sure that these maps are fair and just, I am asking that great care be taken to insure that every citizen has the opportunity to be part of this process. We need to allow ample time for everyone to study the affects that these maps will have on our election process. Failure to do so will be an abuse of power by our legislature.

Ms. Lyn Lacy
This process was ludicrous! The racial gerrymandering continues unabated, and the citizens of NC are outraged. Stand up for what is right to do! Size the passage of this flawed map!

Ms. Diana Garcia
The fact that you have hired the same alleged “expert” to redraw the maps that were racially biased and therefore illegal shows an unwillingness to abide by democratic principles and the law. An independent commission should be appointed to redraw the maps immediately if you dare to call yourselves democratic legislators.

Leslie Gaidi Schunk
My husband and I strongly urge you to adopt new rules for redistricting that are not gerrymandered by race or political affiliation. New maps should be drawn that comply with the Voting Rights Act, saving the state money we have squandered due to lawsuits resulting from unconstitutionl gerrymandering in the past. We ask for a fair, new process for drawing districts!

Dr. Christian Lentz
I write to register my concern with the limits that the NC legislature has placed on the public comment period for redistricting. Just one day is not enough for all to participate. Further, the vast majority of people must work in places distant from sites of comment. As a result of these sharp limits on public participation, the comments that are registered today will only reflect a small minority of public views.
Dear Colleagues, I beg you to consider non-partisan redistricting for our beloved state. Non-partisan redistricting is widely supported by Republicans, Democrats, and Independents. Following the Voting Rights Act, our system should allow African-Americans to choose their representatives of choice, using "one person, one vote" without the cracking and packing which recent redistricting has used to further one party. Districts should be roughly equal in population and keep counties as whole as possible, without the obviously partisan "tentacles" we've seen. You have a hard job, especially considering the districts you now represent have been declared unconstitutionally drawn by the US Supreme Court. I urge you to come together for the good of North Carolina's citizens, and to remember that our precious democracy is fragile. To hold together a legitimately elected legislature, elected leaders must derive their power from the consent of the governed. I wish you godspeed.

Ms. Emily Kahn

I am appalled at how you have chosen to run the redistricting process. Releasing the maps so close to the deadline and allowing only 1 day of meetings for public comment goes against what a democratic republic stands for. Also, to draw the new maps you went back to the same source who created the maps that the courts struck down. What about that is supposed to gain public trust?

I want my state government to represent the people of our state. That means a fair competition for seats so that all of votes count. Right now, your maps encourage a race to the extreme right in primaries which means these opinions are overly represented in the GA. Instead of this ridiculous game of gerrymandering, North Carolina must lead the way by creating a neutral body to redraw maps to create fair competition for the General Assembly. Let every vote count! What are you so scared of with that process?

I know, I know, you are already saying in your head "but they..." Let the past be the past and be leaders for our state now. Go back to the drawing board and allow a neutral body to create the map.

Sincerely,
Emily Kahn

Ms. Susan Archer

Nothing is more foundational to our nation than our democratic principles, each eligible voter gets one equal vote. Districting needs to be as balanced as possible, NEVER BASED ON PARTY AFFILIATION OR RACE. Please act responsibly as these urgent important criteria are examined and proposed boundaries considered. The most recent proposal does NOT do this well. Please do not accept this. Let us work until we get it right. Please stand up for ALL voters and please remember that our children are watching to see if we actually value every person's voice.

Ms. Bhavneet Birdi

Gerrymandering should be illegal. Elections should be fair and equal. Every citizen's voice should be heard. Gerrymandering does not allow every citizen's voice to be heard. Democrats and Republicans should be heard equally. However, Republicans in office think differently -- they redrew the North Carolina voting maps to directly benefit themselves. There is no way to excuse this.

Even the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a lower-court ruling that North Carolina lawmakers relied too much on race when redrawing two congressional districts after the 2010 census. If you believe in greed, power and suppressing people's right to vote you will vote to leave the maps as is. Hopefully, you do not vote for this.

If you believe in Democracy you will vote to redraw these voting maps and have a independent, unbiased party to be responsible for redistricting the maps.

Please do the right thing,
Sincerely,
To have fair elections one must have fair voting districts. Redistricting is a ridiculous, shameful, spiteful movement on the part of the GOP. The redrawing of maps needs to be an open, fair, process. I do not blame one party. The other party also had an opportunity to participate. I do not blame the NCGA. Why would you show true leadership and get this done in a participatory manner if you had an opportunity. Make no mistake, it is not a mathematical process, it is a political process. They want to maintain one party's dominance in the NCGA. An independent consultant should draw the districts based on new mathematical modeling, not by the same partisan person who drew the discriminatory districts in 2011. This rigging of the system is tantamount to huge electoral voter suppression and must end.

Fair and representative elections are the hallmark of a truly democratic republic. What this body has in the past and from my analysis attempting to do at present is to marginalize the citizenry of this state through racial and political gerrymandering. As the courts have definitively stated; you are guilty of racial gerrymandering. By gerrymandering for party advantage, you are still guilty of racial gerrymandering. I say this due to the overwhelming volume of bigoted, white supremacist legislation that comes from this and recent past GAs. The effort by the majority in both chambers to promote a discriminatory caste system and what is essentially slavery is abhorrent. Allowing a few wealthy PACs to guide this state and country in such a morass. Hiring the same firm to edit the previous rendition shows just how insincere you actually are to the spirit of democracy.

North Carolina citizens are in favor of a non-partisan approach to the redistricting process. This redistricting process is making a mockery of NC democracy as we know it. One day for meetings and public comment to review the fairness of the redrawn maps (which are not so much redrawn as just “redone” by the same source as the initial maps) is not what we your constituents had in mind when we heard fair redistricting.

This redistricting process is making a mockery of NC democracy as we know it. One day for meetings and public comment to review the fairness of the redrawn maps (which are not so much redrawn as just "redone" by the same source as the initial maps) is not what we your constituents had in mind when we heard fair redistricting.

Instead of this ridiculous game of gerrymandering, North Carolina must lead the way by creating a neutral body to redraw maps to create fair competition for the General Assembly. Let every vote count! What are you so scared of with that process?

We the people, the citizens of North Carolina, deserve better. We deserve fairness, rather than partisan political games, on something as important as the creation of our congressional and legislative districts.

If you cannot do your job in creating a fair and just society, then you should not be in office as a representative of ALL THE PEOPLE of North Carolina.

Ridiculous, shameful, spiteful movement on the part of the GOP legislative body. Voters won't forget these actions before the next election.

Congratulations for your true leadership and getting this done in a participatory manner. Why would you show true leadership and get this done in a participatory manner if you had an opportunity. Make no mistake, it is not a mathematical process, it is a political process. They want to maintain one party's dominance in the NCGA. An independent consultant should draw the districts based on new mathematical modeling, not by the same partisan person who drew the discriminatory districts in 2011. This rigging of the system is tantamount to huge electoral voter suppression and must end.

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John Wiseman

When we see state legislatures convening to pass voter suppression laws, that is white supremacy. That is an effort to try and deny the civil rights of African-Americans and Latinos.....we also have to recognize the role that we play and that elected leaders play in setting policies that further white supremacism for the purpose of their own political gain. And my hope is that Congress and that governors and that state legislatures will be prepared in this moment to take on the responsibility themselves of demonstrating that they want no traffic with white supremacy.” Ms. Ifill’s entire commentary can be seen here:

SHERRILYN IFILL, NAACP, said it better than I ever could this past Sunday on "Face The Nation". Here’s a part of her comments that I feel speak to the issue of fair voting: "...when we see state legislatures convening to pass voter suppression laws, that is white supremacy. That is an effort to try and deny the civil rights of African-Americans and Latinos.....we also have to recognize the role that we play and that elected leaders play in setting policies that further white supremacism for the purpose of their own political gain. And my hope is that Congress and that governors and that state legislatures will be prepared in this moment to take on the responsibility themselves of demonstrating that they want no traffic with white supremacy." Ms. Ifill’s entire commentary can be seen here: https://www.cbsnews.com/news/face-the-nation-august-20-transcript-tim-scott-tim-kaine/
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<tr>
<td>Aug 22 2017</td>
<td>10:43AM</td>
<td>Mr. Don Warren</td>
<td>North Carolina is becoming a joke among my friends who don’t live here. A failed democracy in progress. Please give me a reason to be proud of my home state again, instead of continuing the slide towards Central-American banana republic. Redistrict fairly, and let the free market of ideas determine who gets sent to the NC General Assembly.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017</td>
<td>10:43AM</td>
<td>Ms. Katharine Cannon</td>
<td>Both political and racial gerrymandering are below the dignity of a truly representative government. Gerrymandering by either party needs to stop if people are to believe in the democratic process. The extreme gerrymandering that the Republican party has brought us in recent years has only increased the harsh divisions in our country and discourages people from voting. The proposed plan brings little improvement. We need non-partisan and fair districts across the state so that there can be legitimate debate on issues and so that common people will have a voice in their government.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017</td>
<td>10:46AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Lisa Carter</td>
<td>I would like to express my supreme dissatisfaction at the process Republicans have once again used to redraw the state's voting districts. Instead of engaging in a bipartisan, transparent process, they have used the same veteran Republican mapmaker who drew the last racially gerrymandered maps. If you were truly interested in fair redistricting, you would have chosen someone different. I sincerely hope that you will listen to comments from your constituents and come up with a truly fair map after all is said and done. I am a female, small business owner who most of my life has voted Republican, but I am so disgusted with the antics and exclusionary tactics of the Republicans in NC that I am embarrassed to be a part of this state. Please find a conscience and do the right thing - not for yourselves, but for the citizens of NC. If you can’t win fair and square, then you don’t deserve to be in office.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017</td>
<td>10:46AM</td>
<td>Ms. Suzanne Langlois</td>
<td>Gerrymandering voting districts does not result in fair or effective government. Citizens deserve representation from officials who are familiar with the issues that most concern them.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017</td>
<td>10:46AM</td>
<td>Ms. Jennie Leichting</td>
<td>There is nothing about this entire process that I trust. As an extremely concerned citizen in NC, I feel that my vote doesn’t count here. These districts have been planned so that Republicans have a significant advantage. It is disheartening and discouraging to see the Republicans in control of this process have gone back to the same firm to create these maps which was just proven to use data in a racist manner in the 2011 creation of these maps. North Carolina should have a bi-partisan committee oversee the creation of these maps so they fairly represent the state and its constituents.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017</td>
<td>10:48AM</td>
<td>Ms. Elena Noble</td>
<td>It is imperative to establish an independent, impartial, non-partisan redistricting commission to re-draw maps for legislative seats, local elections, state judges, and the Boards of Commission and Education. At its core, gerrymandering is voter suppression, oppression and bigotry. It is important for this non-partisan, independent redistricting commission to: use scores based on population to determine compactness; protect communities of color; split precincts for population reasons only (not for partisan advantage). In addition, incumbents should not be protected by maps nor should there be a total black voting age population of greater than fifty percent. Please protect a free and fair democracy by establishing an independent non-partisan redistricting commission. Thank you for your time and consideration.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017</td>
<td>10:48AM</td>
<td>Mr. Bob LaGarde</td>
<td>We should enact NC House bill 200 and establish an independent redistricting commission but better yet, the Supreme Court should end partisan gerrymandering altogether and demand mathematically balanced redistricting. Over 50 years ago the courts recognized that the mathematical realities of population changes undermined the one man, one vote principle of democracy. But the Court's decision left open the loophole boundary manipulation resulting in partisan isoperimetric inequality. Think about this like the practice of medicine. We have developed excellent tools for imaging the human body and no surgeon would engage in surgery without using such tools and methods to precisely identify the area to be operated on. We have the same sort of tools and methods for drawing democratically fair non-partisan voting districts. Instead of engaging in a bipartisan, transparent process, they have used the same veteran Republican mapmaker who drew the last racially gerrymandered maps. If you were truly interested in fair redistricting, you would have chosen someone different. I sincerely hope that you will listen to comments from your constituents and come up with a truly fair map after all is said and done. I am a female, small business owner who most of my life has voted Republican, but I am so disgusted with the antics and exclusionary tactics of the Republicans in NC that I am embarrassed to be a part of this state. Please find a conscience and do the right thing - not for yourselves, but for the citizens of NC. If you can’t win fair and square, then you don’t deserve to be in office.</td>
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3483 Aug 22 2017 10:58AM Lee Langston I will say that a small a former Republican and now unaffiliated biter that I am disappointed in the way the initial districting was handled and the way the revisions and responses to to the court rulings have been handled. It is clear that the members of the general assembly are running out the clock while passing laws to benefit them and that hurt the people of this state.

I also am just old enough to remember when the democrats controlled everything and the republicans begged to have a non-partisan commission set up, but were denied by the party in power. Now is the chance to set a lasting legacy of fairness to the voters and people of this state. One that will benefit the current republicans as well as it is pretty obvious to a thinking person that things will be shifting soon and the ability to control the state on the backs of rural districts and a few gerrymandered urban ones will disappear.

3484 Aug 22 2017 10:59AM Gloria Whisenhunt Local government Works better for its citizens when General Assembly members represent the entire cities and towns. Please help with this problem.

Race should not play a role in the decision!!!!!!!

3485 Aug 22 2017 11:07AM Ms. Eileen Frost I oppose the new redistricting plan. Please vote against it, and arrange for another commission to start afresh and pledged to equity for the citizens of NC.

3486 Aug 22 2017 11:07AM Mr. Michael Lee What will the gain be for each district? What is the ultimate reason for the re-districting? It appears to me that we as a county is divided enough.

3487 Aug 22 2017 11:08AM Mrs. Kristen Hernandez I am writing to voice my concern over the redistricting process: The GOP-led team that is making the new maps is already engaging in a lot of bait-and-switch, smoke-and-mirrors activity that prevents transparency - a sure sign that they are planning to screw up the maps once again.

What are you guys afraid of? The VOTERS? Well, you should be. We are sick and tired of your gerrymandering and your lies to the voters. We're sick of you enriching your own pockets and then taxing us to death to make up the shortfalls in the budgets. You are crooked through and through, and the ONLY way you've managed to stay in office, is through CRIMINALLY gerrymandering the districts to give yourselves unfair advantage, and then CRIMINALLY ignoring the Federal Court's ORDER that you re-draw the maps in a more fair manner.

I'm sick of your shenanigans. Your time in office is getting shorter. In order to be fair, new maps must be compact, contiguous, and must comply with the Voting Rights Act to give minority voters an opportunity to elect their candidates of choice.

The maps must also be free from partisan politics, ignoring voter registration data and past election results. They must also ignore incumbent addresses, to avoid intentionally "double-bunking" two incumbents in order to force one of them out of office.

If you are not up to the job, then give it to an INDEPENDENT COMMITTEE of NONPARTISAN groups who are CAPABLE of being fair and actually keeping the elections from becoming the shams you criminals have wrought on this fair state.

NC is watching you. The nation is watching NC. Don't screw this up. If you are not up to the job, then give it to an INDEPENDENT COMMITTEE of NONPARTISAN groups who are CAPABLE of being fair and actually keeping the elections from becoming the shams you criminals have wrought on this fair state.

3488 Aug 22 2017 11:09AM Dr. Belinda Novik I traveled much of this great state yesterday to view the solar eclipse in South Carolina. I could see how living in Chapel Hill gives one a skewed perspective of the state. I saw towns with most of their downtown’s shuttered and closed near other towns, like Southern Pines showing great prosperity. I saw miles of agricultural land with large farming operations evident. What I didn’t see was anyone helping bring actual jobs back to those failing mill towns, or health care and hope to the people left behind in poverty. This legislature voted to keep our citizens from gaining access to ACA federal dollars. It voted to keep our rainbow citizens from being fully protected, and it continues to rape and pillage our resources without providing basic needs for so many. The ridiculous gerrymandered districts contribute to the disenfranchisement of our citizens rights. The new proposed districts are little improvement. You can, and must do better so the all the citizens of our state are represented and respected. Thank you.

3489 Aug 22 2017 11:10AM Mrs. Anne Maultsby Please leave the district like it is and do not change map.
Redistricting is in every sense is just another word for Voter Suppression...it means to use maps to direct the outcome of an election. It is also a way to ensure that a political party and an incumbent is provided with every possible advantage for holding onto his/her seat regardless of their willingness or ability to perform on behalf on ALL their constituents. It is also a way to create divisions among communities on the basis of race, ethnic backgrounds, and/or political affiliations. I see nothing good about it in an America that is becoming even more deeply divided.

On a national basis, this has become even more obvious as the House of Representatives has become a laughing stock with almost no ability to generate legislation that serves all Americans. It is not until you get to the Senate, where gerrymandering is not possible as a political tool, that a more level headed approach is taken toward governing and doing what is right across a broader spectrum of voters. If it is only the fear of losing their positions that drives politicians to do the right things, then we cannot mitigate that fear by allowing those same politicians to determine who their constituents are. And, is it really necessary that courts have to decree gerrymandering as a form of racism and order a fair approach to assigning voting districts before our representatives actually do the right thing.

In the end self preservation of this kind in politics is simply selfish and self serving. Honest and moral men would serve the state of North Carolina by doing what's right when it comes to drawing districts, and not just what is right for themselves or their political party. It is this win at all costs mentality in politics that has now produced an environment where debate of whether or not Nazism is or isn't allowed in our country is seemingly in play. How do we get here? For that answer, one need only look at how gerrymandering has become...
In order to be fair, new maps must be compact, contiguous, and must survive the continued process of gerrymandering pursued by both parties in North Carolina over the past 50 years. We need a non-partisan body to go in and draw maps purely based on population; not political persuasion, not race, not age, not creed, just population. They should be as square as possible while allowing for even distribution of representation. Only then can we have free and fair elections that are truly representative of the citizens of North Carolina.

I do not live in one of the districts being required by the Courts to be redrawn. I live in District 10 and I live in Asheville. However, our district is another example of very convoluted drawing as a way to disenfranchise voters. In our case, Asheville voters. We have been cut off from our obvious geographic region and aligned with Gaston County – not even a neighboring county. The time has come to eliminate Gerrymandering. We need logical non-partisan drawing of all districts in NC. That is the only way we can possibly elect officials who come into office prepared to actually cooperate and build coalitions across party lines around issues.

North Carolina needs fairer maps for the good of everyone.

In order to be fair, new maps must be compact, contiguous, and must comply with the Voting Rights Act to give minority voters an opportunity to elect their candidates of choice. The maps must also be free from partisan politics, ignoring voter registration data and past election results. They must also ignore incumbent addresses, to avoid intentionally "double-bunking" two incumbents in order to force one of them out of office. Unfortunately, the new redistricting process is too partisan to ensure that fair maps are drawn. The maps are being drawn behind closed doors, and voters are not being given sufficient time to review any proposed maps before the public hearings. At the end of the day, these maps are still being drawn by the same GOP lawmakers and consultants using the same software as the previous maps, and approved by the unconstitutional legislature that was elected using those racially gerrymandered maps.

For years, Republicans have waged a three-pronged war on democracy through racial and partisan gerrymandering, unconstitutional assaults on voting rights, and partisan meddling with the judicial system.

Unfortunately, the new redistricting process is simply another part of that assault on democracy.

Please go back to the drawing board. Under the proposed new maps about 90% of the new General Assembly districts are solidly tilted to favor one party or another – mostly to the advantage of the Republican mapmakers. The map drawing process was a farce and is only a slight improvement over the current maps that the courts have struck down. We need fair maps now that will allow voters to express their support for the policies that are being adopted in Raleigh.

Hi,

As a citizen of North Carolina, I am appalled by the way that both parties have played political games with district map drawing. The maps in the state should be drawn using non-partisan redistricting to accurately represent all citizens without regard to political party affiliation, race, religion, or any other class. I urge the Senate and House to pass House Bill 200 and Senate Bill 209. It’s time to get the government working again for all North Carolinians and to stop playing games with the district maps.

Dear Elected Officials: Your redistricting obligation was promulgated by racially biased past redistricting. This underlying racism has been with us from the beginning of our country's founding. It is time to put an end to it. As legislative bodies, you represent ALL the people of our state and you can demonstrate your awareness of this by drawing districts that are racially fair, respect county boundaries, and balance populations so that "one person, one vote" is maintained. You can make history or you can make sausage... and we are already fed up.

New maps are as bad as the last partisan maps, completely unfair and unconstitutional. NC has to find a new way for fair, unbiased redistricting instead of this single party take all farce that we are currently engaged. If not let the courts decide!!!

I strongly support the move to have the redistricting handled by an independent panel and not partisan politicians. Thank you for hearing our voices, Laura Flaherty

I have given input now but in retrospect i would like to simply summarize what i said before and make 2 main points: the fact that it was not done by an independent commission and is thereby automatically suspect and unacceptable. Also, the time given for review was totally unacceptable. The entire process was illegitimate and the maps should be rejected. We need an independent commission to handle it... period. We need an independent review was totally unacceptable. The entire process was illegitimate automatically suspect and unacceptable. Also, the time given for review was totally unacceptable. The entire process was illegitimate and the maps should be rejected. We need an independent commission to handle it... period.
Aug 22 2017 11:56AM   Kathleen Davidson

I do not believe this is a fair proposal, or that politicians should be the ones to draw up these maps unless there is a well-balanced group. There has not been sufficient time for the maps to be considered, and even a brief review suggests that both political and racial gerrymandering is still happening. I know that both parties have been responsible for tipping the balance at various times, but this seems egregious, and I advocate for a balanced approach to this very important task.

Aug 22 2017 12:03PM   Mr. Leslie Lang

Gerrymandering is inherently un-American in its unfairness. Government should never be stolen from its people. I am especially concerned about that districts be free from partisan politics (ignore voter registration data, past election results, incumbent addresses, etc.) and ensure maps are not drawn to unduly favor a particular party, candidate or lawmaker.

Aug 22 2017 12:06PM   Mrs. Sara Thompson

It is time for the ncgop to stop gerrymandering the state for their racist agenda. This maps signify a malignancy is once again among us. Hubris will not ensure their reelection while not making them face anything they don't want to hear. It is my sincere hope that this period of public comment signify a malignancy is once again among us. Hubris will not ensure their reelection while not making them face anything they don't want to hear. It is my sincere hope that this period of public comment

Aug 22 2017 12:23PM   Mrs. John Thompson

Columbus County does not need to be divided and placed with Pender County. The maps signify a malignancy is once again among us. Hubris will not ensure their reelection while not making them face anything they don't want to hear. It is my sincere hope that this period of public comment

Aug 22 2017 12:26PM   Mr. Jeffrey Lakin

Due to the short period between the release of maps and this comment period, the review and analysis on them from myself or others is scant. This in and of itself is a problem, but given what we do know, there isn't much unexpected. The majority party has drawn the maps as close as possible to the status quo to pass legal muster, protecting incumbents and preventing double bunking whenever possible. I don't blame them for this - legislators of any party or persuasion are going to act in self-preservation. Yet this is precisely why legislators should not be in the business of choosing their voters. The process can only be trusted as fair and just if turned over to a bipartisan and independent panel of appointed experts who don't have a direct stake in the outcome of the maps. The legislature could make this happen quite easily, they simply lack the political will, due to the self-perpetuating feedback loop of legislators selecting voters who will ensure their reelection while not making them face anything they don't want to hear. It is my sincere hope that this period of public comment represents an opportunity to break that cycle, as the NCGA hears from concerned citizens such as myself that want our state government to be fairly and democratically elected.

Aug 22 2017 12:26PM   Mr. Leslie Lang

The NC General Assembly continues to favor its own interests and not that of all North Carolina voters by perpetuating Republican districts. North Carolina for the last several elections has been a purple state - evenly divided, percentage-wise, between Republican and Democratic senators and presidential votes. And yet in the legislature, both chambers, the odds are weighted heavily in favor of the current Republican majority. The progressive voters of NC deserve to have our voices heard through representation that truly reflects the make-up of NC's electorate and residents. NC should join other states in creating an independent redistricting commission rather than the ongoing theatrics that harm the North Carolina electorate and soak up valuable tax dollars.

Aug 22 2017 12:30PM   Mr. JE Thompson

Dividing Columbus County and placing us with Pender County would be a disaster for Columbus Residents. We need to be together as a county. We have nothing in common with the fine folk of Pender County.
Mr. Russell Haddad: The proposed districts continue to favor politics over fair access to voting. They should be thrown out and redrawn by an independent nonpartisan group. It was neither anymore right for Democrats to gerrymander districts than Republicans. Two wrongs don't make a right. Put the power back in the hands of the people and let them choose fairly who they want to represent them. No more stacked districts by neither major party.

Aug 22 2017 12:31PM

Marissa Peterson: The public should have been allotted more advance notice regarding their input in this crucial decision. I want racial gerrymandering in NC to END. It has been stated by the court that our districts target African American people, “with almost surgical precision.” The only thing I’m asking for is fairness, re-draw the maps in a way that is fair to everyone, not to benefit any political party’s votes.

Also, Thomas Hofeller should NOT be a part of this process for obvious reasons.

Aug 22 2017 12:33PM

Mr. Andrew Ballard: District boundaries drawn by independent, nonpartisan commission are the only acceptable solution in a healthy democracy. The state of our district boundaries in North Carolina is a national embarrassment. Fix this now.

Aug 22 2017 12:35PM

Ms. Eleanor Penley: I am an independent voter and I strongly oppose gerrymandering voting districts. Our democracy is based upon non-partisan principles and drawing district lines must be likewise non-partisan. Gerrymandering will cause you, the party in power, to lose your mandate to govern and ultimately, your majority. It's "We the People" not "We the Politician". Get rid of Gerrymandering, let the people chose their representatives.

Aug 22 2017 12:39PM

Ms. Miriam Thompson: The Electoral Integrity Project gave our congressional districts the lowest in the nation. Please let our districts be drawn in a fair way that lets our voices be heard and democracy reign.

The proposed revised district have been drawn by the very same consultant who drew the maps the courts overturned based on racial gerrymandering.

The process that produced these maps was flawed and therefore the resulting maps are as well. It is interesting to me to note that the "map guru" couldn’t find a way to protect our Republican Senator Shirley Randleman. And in splitting Surry will force two Republicans (Randleman and Ballard) to go head-to-head for a position! For shame, for shame! Even when you wasted tax payer money to fight the battle in the courts all the way to the Supreme Court, you dragged your feet in meeting the deadline until you could give the public so little notice that you thought we would not have time to pay attention. Please do not underestimate us! Sincerely, Gloria Lawrence.

Aug 22 2017 12:46PM

Mrs. Dorothy Lebovitz: The only fair way to honor the Federal courts' rulings and the GA's process. The process is further flawed by the lack of space and time offered for public study and comment - further eroding public confidence in the process.

Using the exact same person who drew the gerrymandered maps to consult the criteria adopted for redistricting, the use of prior year(s) election results is inherently wrong. Congressional districts should be solely based upon population numbers and geographic contiguity in order to provide fair and adequate representation. The use of data regarding prior voting trends appears, to me, to be a direct attempt to draw districts which would provide a favorable voting climate to one party or another. This is wrong.

Additionally, the very late notice and limited numbers of sites where meetings are being held on 8/22 preclude the participation of the majority of concerned voters in the state. On its surface, this would seem to have been done intentionally in order to limit the amount of public comment on the process.

Mrs. Donna Anderson: The best solution for the citizens of North Carolina would be to have the districts drawn by nonpartisan leaders and have all county residents in the same district. Don't think "what's best for me and mine" but what's best for all citizens of North Carolina.

In reviewing the criteria adopted for redistricting, the use of prior year(s) election results is inherently wrong. Congressional districts should be solely based upon population numbers and geographic contiguity in order to provide fair and adequate representation. The use of data regarding prior voting trends appears, to me, to be a direct attempt to draw districts which would provide a favorable voting climate to one party or another. This is wrong.

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Mrs. Rhonda Dreggers-Newport: The only fair way to honor the Federal courts’ rulings and the GA’s integrity, is to select a non-partisan and independent and reputable consultant to redraw maps. The current process is deeply flawed.

1. The proposed revised district have been drawn by the very same consultant who drew the maps the courts overturned based on racial gerrymandering.

2. The process is further flawed by the lack of space and time offered for public study and comment - further eroding public confidence in the process.

With the GA’s record of voter suppression attempts, gerrymandering and additional work to disenfranchise voters - especially voters of color, that assures an unrepresentative government, now is the time to act nobly as publicly elected servants of the people.

Ms. Miriam Thompson: Just as you would not want a sports competition to be won by cheating, you should not want an election to be won by “fixing” the election districts. Cheating is cheating regardless.

I would like to know exactly what the population breakdowns are here.

Mr. Andrew Ballard: I am an independent voter and I strongly oppose gerrymandering voting districts. Our democracy is based upon non-partisan principles and drawing district lines must be likewise non-partisan. Gerrymandering will cause you, the party in power, to lose your mandate to govern and ultimately, your majority. It’s "We the People" not "We the Politician". Get rid of Gerrymandering, let the people chose their representatives.

Mrs. Donna Ambriano: I want racial gerrymandering in NC to END. It has been stated by the court that our districts target African American people, “with almost surgical precision.” The only thing I’m asking for is fairness, re-draw the maps in a way that is fair to everyone, not to benefit any political party’s votes.

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Mr. Andrew Ballard: The Electoral Integrity Project gave our congressional districts the lowest in the nation. Please let our districts be drawn in a fair way that lets our voices be heard and democracy reign.

http://www.newsobserver.com/opinion/op-ed/article122593759.html

Case 1:15-cv-00399-TDS-JEP Document 187-2 Filed 09/15/17 Page 285 of 382
If candidates can't be elected fairly then they don't deserve to be 
As a lifelong North Carolinian, I am deeply concerned about the 
Mr. Christopher Dragga

The proposed maps for the new districts fail to comply with the 
Dawn Comfort

Please hear us. We are "the people". We are your people. We 
Ms. Carynne Button

The process was hidden from the public and by using the same consultant, the committee indicated that it did honestly attempt to improve NC’s legislative districts. The outcome speaks for itself: the new maps continue extreme partisan and racial gerrymandering that does a disservice to the people of NC who deserve to have their voices fairly represented. As elected officials, it is your job to fairly represent the people of this state, not to protect partisan interests that infringe on the democratic process. I demand that maps be redrawn by an independent, nonpartisan expert to ensure that NC can have fair elections in the future and that ALL people in this state are 
Ms. Karen Rainey

Draw districts fairly so everyone’s vote will count. Using voter suppression, gerrymandering and redistricting is not winning. It is actually cheating. If you can't get enough votes from your constituents to win elections the honest way, then check your policies. Consider adopting policies that are fair to all, including the lower and middle classes, not just the rich and big business. Implement programs that will truly allow the citizens of this state opportunities to make a decent live for themselves and their families. That will help this state attract working families who will spend on those products. Doing the right thing is a win-win for everyone.

NC badly needs partisan-blind districts drawn along geographic and community lines. This will benefit all NC citizens by allowing more moderate candidates from both parties to be elected. I am very concerned that the new maps do not meet that standard considering the lack of public information about them and the assistance of the same consultant who worked on the previous unconstitutional districts. If candidates can’t be elected fairly then they don’t deserve to be elected. End gerrymandering now. It’s underhanded and akin to taking advantage of the same consultant to draw the maps as they previously did to unduly favor a particular party, candidate or lawmaker.

I am requesting a link or information concerning the process used and the people involved in preparing the new proposals.

Voter districts must be free from partisan politics (ignore voter registration data, past election results, incumbent addresses, etc.) and ensure maps are not drawn to unduly favor a particular party, candidate or lawmaker. The current redistricting process continues to be overly partisan and lacks transparency. Maps were drawn behind closed doors and voters were not given sufficient time to review proposed maps before scheduled public hearings. A majority of the Joint House & Senate Redistricting Committee is on the record as supporting nonpartisan redistricting in the past. And yet, the committee rejected nonpartisan redistricting standards now.

Instead, these new maps once again perpetuate the cycle of gerrymandering. The proposed districts appear designed to give the majority party maximum advantage, shielding politicians from accountability to the public, while depriving voters of a choice and a voice at the ballot box.
Aug 22 2017 1:19PM Ms. Vickie Atkinson

I am unable to attend the hearings today but I want to be heard. I am so frustrated and sad that the Legislature did not use this opportunity in redrawing the district maps to do so in a nonpartisan manner. The new maps will only feed into the sense that I and so many in NC have that our voices don't matter, that our votes don’t count. By ignoring the call of so many people (and the surveys that back this up) the NC GA is continuing to chip away at democracy. It may have been excusable to some people earlier (though not to me) that partisan politics entered into redrawing the maps. But because of the computer precision with which maps may now be drawn it should be inexcusable that EITHER party draws the maps. We need an independent commission or some other nonpartisan way of redrawing maps. The current maps are not acceptable.

Aug 22 2017 1:19PM Ms. Olivia Allen-Price

Gerrymandering in North Carolina has created a crisis where the elected officials do not truly reflect or respect the wishes of the people they govern. These new maps do little to solve that problem -- which I believe should be the TRUE goal of this redistricting process, not simply to fulfill the court requirements.

Over my life, I have mostly been proud to live in the moderate state of North Carolina -- which doesn’t teeter too far to the right or left. It’s an approach that has helped our state grow and prosper. The 2011 redistricting changed that, and we saw the state government jerked right. I do not trust legislators of EITHER stripe, Republican or Democrat, to be involved in drawing legislative boundaries. Instead of paying a REPUBLICAN CONSULTANT to redraw these lines, the job should be handed over to non-partisan group whose interests lie not with a political party, but with the people. Though it may suit Republicans to operate this way while they are in power, they should consider the longterm consequences.

I think many would agree that the political system in America is being ruined by money, political parties and the 24-hour news cycle. I hope North Carolina can start to turn that tide by making the right decision -- one that our forefathers would have made had they have known how things would devolve.

Aug 22 2017 1:19PM Rebecca McPherson

We, the citizens, have worked extremely hard to unite our county. Please do not tear our county apart.

Aug 22 2017 1:21PM Dr. Carol MacKusick

North Carolinians are tired of gerrymandering and the politicians who practice it.

A new poll shows that four out of five North Carolina voters (80%) say it’s not fair for politicians to draw their own districts. That includes 85% of Democrats, 74% of Republicans, 80% of independents – as well as 70% of Trump supporters and 80% of African Americans.

The redistricting process must be open, avoid racial or partisan gerrymandering, and allow voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around.

We should research the practices used in other states and adopt principles that encourage deep community involvement.

Fair redistricting should follow these basic principles:

Race is Key: Map drawers must ensure that it is possible for black voters to elect their candidates of choice, as required by the Voting Rights Act.

“One person, one vote:” Districts must be very equal in population and obey other laws.

Geographic Compactness: Map drawers must create compact districts, without odd tentacles. Districts must not skip over areas or join two areas at just one point.

Count Incarcerated Persons as residents of their pre-incarceration home or family residence for purposes of redistricting.

Aug 22 2017 1:26PM Mrs. Katherine Fogarty

I’m encouraged that there have been attempts to redraw the district voting maps. However, I, along with many other North Carolinians, am a bit disappointed in the rollout of this process. There has been no explanation given as to what criteria have been used, and therefore no way for us to judge for ourselves if the newly draw maps appear to be fair. You know that. That’s not the American way; shine a light on the process and tell us why you think these new maps are fair and how they meet the requirements the court has set. You are doing yourselves and voters a disservice by not providing this information clearly. Publishing maps with no supporting materials, and doing it two days before public hearings, is not what we expect out of a true democracy.
Dr. Adrienne Cox  The new redistricting maps revealed on Saturday are clearly still egregiously unfair and clearly not made in good faith. They even redraw districts not addressed by the court order, and wrongly shift the existing imbalance even more in favor of the GOP supermajority. Our state deserves better. We want bipartisan good faith efforts to draw maps that allow constituents to select their representatives rather than the other way around. Even the process by which the new maps were put out was highly disrespectful of our state's voters. By cynically using the same mapper that generated the previous redistricting maps disallowed by the courts, by the secrecy of the process, by the lengthy delay in providing the new maps, by allowing only minimal time for review and analysis, by scheduling only a single day of public hearings - at the last minute and during a workday - with little opportunity for public input, the NC GOP has demonstrated that they are very aware that these new maps will also not stand up to bipartisan scrutiny. We demand reform that includes independent bipartisan redistricting, that allows real competition of ideas and a real opportunity for voters to make their voices heard in a meaningful manner. Any outcome predetermined by the maps, which is the outcome that this attempt at redistricting would generate, is downright unethical and should be swiftly reversed by the courts. The court should also provide strong guidance as to what is acceptable in future maps. Constant delay and redrawing also results in voter disenfranchisement. NC deserves better. We can do better. Please do your jobs properly, be prepared to defend your goals and ideas through a competitive election process, and come through in good faith for the entire state.

Ms. Jessica Levasseur  According to criteria passed a little over a week ago by the joint House and Senate redistricting committees, racial data was not considered in the redrawing process but political data was. This is unacceptable. I am deeply concerned about the partisanship and lack of transparency in this latest round of redistricting. The House and Senate maps were released very close to the commenting period, with barely any time for constituents to review the data used to create the maps. This MUST be a more transparent process, with political and racial data not used in the process of drawing the new districts.

Lauren Burke  I'm furious that these maps continue to be gerrymandered to maintain an unfair, unrepresentative hand-out of districts to the Republican party. This is not democracy.

Ms. Susan Bender  Gerrymandering goes against the American ideal of every vote counting equally. The districts should be drawn by a bi-partisan commission. They should attempt to draw roughly equal blocks not crazy shapes which are clearly designed to benefit one party over another. Establishing fair, consistent redistricting laws will benefit all North Carolinians in the long run. Regardless of what party controls the House & Senate, every citizen will still be assured that their vote counts. I urge you to take action to ensure gerrymandering has no place in our state.

Dr. Joe Parry-Hill, Jr.  We need non-partisan redistricting to have voting maps that are compact, contiguous, and constitutional. Gerrymandering is still evident in the new maps.

Catherine Kastleman  The redistricting process must be open, avoid racial or partisan gerrymandering, and allow voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around. These new maps continue to be partisan, and the same lawmakers who used racial gerrymandering techniques (as ruled by a federal court) should not be allowed to redraw the new maps without oversight from the public. The public needs more advance notice in order to study these maps and make comments so that the will of the public can truly be implemented. We need a new, more transparent and fair process to redraw the maps so that all voices are actually heard and accounted for in our democracy - this process and these products are not acceptable. Thank you for your consideration.

Ms. Kimberley Rimmer  I am concerned that the same person who drew district maps last time is drawing them again this time. Partisan gerrymandering is still unacceptable. Elections should be more competitive so that more reasonable and compromising candidates prevail, rather than fringe candidates who do not best represent the people. I fear that the more we swing wildly right or left, the more disenfranchised and unrepresented a greater number of North Carolinians will be. If someone's ideas and platform are laudable and defensible, then why muddy the waters with unfair, uncompetitive redistricting? Please do the right thing; our democratic republic, along with everything it stands for, is at stake.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Message</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 22 2017 1:42PM</td>
<td>Kate Hill</td>
<td>I am writing to express my current dismay over the still clearly gerrymandered new maps for the state house. Instead of working to develop a fair and unbiased mapping that was the result of work by a nonpartisan group, the legislature has decided to in fact make the maps MORE unfair, swinging over 11 districts more of favor of their party in a closely guarded process with little input from those outside of the inner circle of Republicans. People in the state, both Democrat, and Republican agree that this type of work does not benefit anyone in the long run. Please throw out these maps and work together to create realistic, non-partisan maps to enfranchise all of North Carolina’s citizens, not just those whose party happens to be in power. Thank you, Kate Hill</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017 1:45PM</td>
<td>Mr. Adrian Patrick</td>
<td>The division of our county (Columbus) makes absolutely no sense. You are dividing counties to serve the purpose of votes, this is not right. We live in the same county but will have different representation. I do not agree and will not vote if our county is divided.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017 1:47PM</td>
<td>Sarah Harmon</td>
<td>I have studied the proposed redistributing maps and I do not think they have been improved to more bipartisan. A totally nonpartisan board needs to redraw these maps so that no political party has advantages over another.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 22 2017 1:51PM</td>
<td>Mr. Richard Wynne</td>
<td>The majority of Americans and the majority of North Carolinians oppose gerrymandering. After numerous lawsuits, the General Assembly has decided to ignore the will of the people by creating a new set of gerrymandered districts. The responses I've heard from the legislators range from “Let us handle this” to It isn’t easy to create fair maps”. The legislators did not pay a consultant $50,000 to prepare fair maps; a high school civics class could prepare fair maps. They paid $50,000 because it is difficult to create partisan maps that will appear fair to the general public but still ensure majority control. It is time for this to end. The public is tired of the divisions, the non-competitive races and the failure to govern, all of which are direct results of these unfair maps. Please reject these unfair maps and create truly non-partisan maps, so all of our votes can count.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 22 2017 1:59PM</td>
<td>Jane Heuser</td>
<td>Hello. I am concerned about the partisan redistricting process which negatively impacts voters of color across the state and leads to a dysfunctional state legislature. Please look closely at the new districts and ensure that they are fair and representative. Thank you.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 22 2017 1:42PM</td>
<td>Dr. Philip Lawless</td>
<td>In addition to the maps presented, the proposed districts should include numerical values for the voting efficiency gap. “The efficiency gap is simply the difference between the parties’ respective wasted votes in an election, divided by the total number of votes cast. Wasted votes are ballots that don’t contribute to victory for candidates, and they come in two forms: lost votes cast for candidates who are defeated, and surplus votes cast for winning candidates but in excess of what they needed to prevail. When a party gerrymanders a state, it tries to maximize the wasted votes for the opposing party while minimizing its own, thus producing a large efficiency gap. In a state with perfect partisan symmetry, both parties would have the same number of wasted votes.” <a href="https://newrepublic.com/article/118534/gerrymandering-efficiency-gap-better-way-measure-gerrymandering">https://newrepublic.com/article/118534/gerrymandering-efficiency-gap-better-way-measure-gerrymandering</a> This measure will likely be considered by the Supreme Court, so the people of NC deserve to know what to expect.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 22 2017 1:45PM</td>
<td>Ms. Brenda McGee</td>
<td>New districts should be drawn in a nonpartisan way by a non partisan group. Neither Democrats nor Republicans should be in charge of this. Districts should be compact geographically as well as balanced. District should comply with the Voting Rights Act. It is absurd that we still have to say that but apparently we do. These maps were drawn behind closed doors without public input and your hearings are not spread all around the state. Craven County does not have one. Did you not get the message from the court decision? These new maps once again perpetuate the cycle of gerrymandering. The proposed districts appear designed to give the majority party maximum advantage,shielding politicians from accountability to the public, while depriving voters of a choice and a voice at the ballot box. This is not acceptable. Reject this and start over. Thank you.</td>
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Aug 22 2017  2:00PM Mr. Andrew Hunsaker I find it absolutely insane that politicians have the ability to redraw their own districts in order to favor themselves politically. This is blatantly cheating the system designed to have free and fair elections in the United States of America, and even the conservative Supreme Court agrees that this behavior is illegal - and therefore criminal.

This power must be divorced from the congress and put into the hands of independent administrators - NOT men like Thomas Hofeller who are well known for actively rigging these districts for maximum partisan advantage. If you have to bend over backwards to disenfranchise minority voters in order to preserve your precious positions of power, you have to seriously consider how your behavior is echoed by the white supremacists of Charlottesville, and how seriously reviled that behavior makes you. If you could put aside these craven acts of self-serving cowardice and work honestly to better our community, you'd stand a much greater chance of retaining your position on your own merits rather than by trying to pass off these illegal acts as legitimate.

Please, do the right thing. That's all we constituents ask of you. It's what you swore to do by taking the oath of your office. Do not exploit us. Be the best of us.

REPRESENT US.

Aug 22 2017  2:01PM Joe Zinich

I was shocked to learn that the public is being informed only in the past day or two that there will be 7 public hearings today on the VERY important subject of redistricting, and today happens to be the first day of classes for students, teachers, and faculty across the UNC system. Clearly, there is no time to learn about the issues and no time to plan to travel to these public hearings. This does not seem serious at all. As a citizen and a voter, I feel my voice is being silenced so that the people who ostensibly represent me can go ahead with whatever map they please. And so, our elections will continue to be shaped and determined by factors that have little to do with the will of the voters.

This is insulting to those of us who care a lot about the way our democracy functions. I don't want gerrymandered districts to predetermine the outcome of elections, whether they are designed to favor Dems or Reps. It's un-American, plain and simple. I want my representatives to let the voters speak!

Thank you.

Victoria Rovine

Aug 22 2017  2:04PM Tom Carter

Partisan redistricting is killing both parties and this country. I am tired of legislators choosing their voters instead of voters choosing their legislators.

Partisan redistricting is about power and money and is a driving force for the divisiveness in this country.

The legislation being passed does not reflect the will of all voters. Just the voters the legislators selected.

Time to show you care more for your country than your party or personal power. Time for non-partisan redistricting.

Aug 22 2017  2:05PM Dr. Victoria Rovine

As a resident of North Carolina, the criteria for redistricting must guarantee a process that is fair and open and must prevent racial and partisan gerrymandering. The citizens of this state deserve to have our legislative maps drawn so that everyone is equally and fairly represented. We, the people, must be permitted to choose the representatives we want and not the party with the most power at any time.

The courts should give it to the nearest meeting to hear the citizens voices ( for whom you work for ) is such short notice and at an inconvenient time. Perhaps you are already aware of this. With that said I find this whole redistricting comical. If the courts found the first map illegal and racially targeted , why are we giving it back to the same people that made it up to begin with ? That is like giving a robber back his gun to try and rob you again. Makes no sense!! The courts should give it to the democrats only to decide ; ( there is no punishment to the republicans for racially manipulating or endless delays or games .) or at a minimum go back to the lines we had before they were illegally drawn. Lastly , if the lines were illegal , then some in the state house and senate are illegally in office and anything they vote on is illegal.

Someone in our legal system , who is not bought , needs to stand up and stop this gamesmanship!!

Aug 22 2017  2:06PM Ms. Anne Johnson

As a resident of North Carolina, the criteria for redistricting must guarantee a process that is fair and open and must prevent racial and partisan gerrymandering. The citizens of this state deserve to have our legislative maps drawn so that everyone is equally and fairly represented. We, the people, must be permitted to choose the representatives we want and not the party with the most power at any time. I was shocked to learn that the public is being informed only in the past day or two that there will be 7 public hearings today on the VERY important subject of redistricting, and today happens to be the first day of classes for students, teachers, and faculty across the UNC system. Clearly, there is no time to learn about the issues and no time to plan to travel to these public hearings. This does not seem serious at all. As a citizen and a voter, I feel my voice is being silenced so that the people who ostensibly represent me can go ahead with whatever map they please. And so, our elections will continue to be shaped and determined by factors that have little to do with the will of the voters.

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Victoria Rovine

Aug 22 2017  2:13PM Julie Jensen

We need a bipartisan committee to work on this issue. We need to stop wasting taxpayer money and resources. Both parties are guilty of gerrymandering and it needs to stop.

Aug 22 2017  2:16PM Joe Zinich

Politicians should not draw their own districts. The current process was done behind closed doors, and the new maps are basically the same as before; nothing has changed. We need an independent, nonpartisan commission to draw new district boundaries, not legislators who benefit from illegal racial and partisan gerrymandered districts.

Aug 22 2017  2:10PM Dr. Victoria Rovine

Dear NC General Assembly--

I find it absolutely insane that politicians have the ability to redraw their own districts in order to favor themselves politically. This is blatantly cheating the system designed to have free and fair elections in the United States of America, and even the conservative Supreme Court agrees that this behavior is illegal - and therefore criminal.

This power must be divorced from the congress and put into the hands of independent administrators - NOT men like Thomas Hofeller who are well known for actively rigging these districts for maximum partisan advantage. If you have to bend over backwards to disenfranchise minority voters in order to preserve your precious positions of power, you have to seriously consider how your behavior is echoed by the white supremacists of Charlottesville, and how seriously reviled that behavior makes you. If you could put aside these craven acts of self-serving cowardice and work honestly to better our community, you'd stand a much greater chance of retaining your position on your own merits rather than by trying to pass off these illegal acts as legitimate.

Please, do the right thing. That's all we constituents ask of you. It's what you swore to do by taking the oath of your office. Do not exploit us. Be the best of us.

REPRESENT US.

Aug 22 2017  2:10PM Ms. Irene Liao

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I find it absolutely insane that politicians have the ability to redraw their own districts in order to favor themselves politically. This is blatantly cheating the system designed to have free and fair elections in the United States of America, and even the conservative Supreme Court agrees that this behavior is illegal - and therefore criminal.

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Aug 22 2017  2:10PM Tom Carter

Partisan redistricting is killing both parties and this country. I am tired of legislators choosing their voters instead of voters choosing their legislators.

Partisan redistricting is about power and money and is a driving force for the divisiveness in this country.

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Time to show you care more for your country then your party or personal power. Time for non-partisan redistricting.

Aug 22 2017  2:15PM Julie Jensen

We need a bipartisan committee to work on this issue. We need to stop wasting taxpayer money and resources. Both parties are guilty of gerrymandering and it needs to stop.
Aug 22 2017  2:23PM  Ms. Alice Turner  I am disappointed to see the newly drawn maps. Let's have independent, nonpartisan redistricting and break this cycle of gerrymandering. All voters deserve to have a voice and a choice. And those considering running for office need to know that election results aren't a forgone conclusion; else why devote time and resources to a campaign? Gerrymandering stifles exchange of ideas and healthy debate and contributes to the heightened partisan atmosphere that we live in now.

Aug 22 2017  2:23PM  Mrs. Karen Bethune  The constituents of North Carolina should be able to elect their chosen representative. The proposed maps are unconstitutional. They are far beyond the acceptable limits. Furthermore, at this point the NCGOP has shown such disdain for the law and the constitution that I do not believe they care. I believe they will do whatever will keep them elected through the next election cycle. No politician should fear the votes of the citizens of North Carolina all having equal weight if their policies were for the benefit of ALL of its citizens. This is illegal, immoral, unethical, shameful legislation they are proposing, and as usual, coming from the individuals that spout their twisted fake version of a self-benefiting "Christianity" the loudest. Another day so far for NC. End this ridiculous cycle.

Aug 22 2017  2:24PM  Ms. Lisa Adams  The proposed maps are unconstitutional. They are far beyond the acceptable limits set by the legal standards proposed by Stephanopoulos and McGhee proposed constitutionality thresholds of bias. Furthermore, at this point the NCGOP has shown such disdain for the law and the constitution that I do not believe they care. I believe they will do whatever will keep them elected through the next election cycle. No politician should fear the votes of the citizens of North Carolina all having equal weight if their policies were for the benefit of ALL of its citizens. This is illegal, immoral, unethical, shameful legislation they are proposing, and as usual, coming from the individuals that spout their twisted fake version of a self-benefiting "Christianity" the loudest. Another day so far for NC. End this ridiculous cycle.

Aug 22 2017  2:32PM  Mr. Kerry Ortega  These districts appear to be as gerrymandered as the current ones. I don't believe the Legislature is capable of drawing fair maps and it should be turned over to an independent committee.

Aug 22 2017  2:34PM  Mary Hirsh  The way the district maps have been for the last few years is insulting, racist, and not made by or for the people.

The redistricting process must be open, avoid racial or partisan gerrymandering, and allow voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around.

It is clear that the legislative leaders continue to stall and avoid changing their unconstitutional maps. They even refused to reveal the new map until just before the hearing today August 22, 2017, as well as making it at a time inconvenient to many who work. This is clearly an attempt to undermine the people.

The people are angry and we want to feel represented, all of us.

Please let the people be involved with drawing the maps of districts.

Aug 22 2017  2:35PM  Mrs. Carol Cerra  We need to end partisan gerrymandering. Fair maps are needed so that everyone's vote counts. It's time for a change in how we draw our voting maps.

Aug 22 2017  2:37PM  Ms. Alec Gwenn  The constituents of North Carolina should be able to elect their chosen candidate and not the other way around. Preserve our democracy from extremist candidates. The maps need to be drawn nonpartisan and not by a handful of people backed by billionaires.

Aug 22 2017  2:39PM  Mrs. JoAnn Stevens  To our Constituents we advocate for fair, racially just, desegregated Maps. Thanks so much

Aug 22 2017  2:40PM  MS. Christiane Voisin  I would prefer that a non-partisan process and party be used to redraw the maps. Politically gerrymandered maps aren't much better than racially gerrymandered ones.

Aug 22 2017  2:41PM  Mr. Ray Stevens  To our Constituents we advocate for fair, racially just, desegregated Maps. Thanks so much

Aug 22 2017  2:42PM  Ms. Crutchfield  I am writing to uplift my concern regarding the current structure of the proposed maps.

The maps are very important yet the public was provided inadequate time to review and analyze and provided input.

There was not sufficient collaboration with parties

PLEASE DO NOT continue this our state can not continue going down this road.

Aug 22 2017  2:42PM  Mr. Dean Cron  You have to be joking with these "new" maps, correct? I mean paying the same partisan hack that drew the last one to draw these was a joke to start with, but when you start overlaying voter data against these, you can see they're just as gerrymandered as before. I know you think we're all idiots and are willing to be an embarrassment in front of the rest of the country, but we're not. Give me a map that shows voting clusters (no party affiliation, just a heat map of actual votes) and I'll feed it in to a non-partisan machine learning algorithm that will generate truly non-partisan maps. But then you might lose your jobs, so no way you'd want that, right?

How about you clowns actually do this in a non-rigged way. A way that doesn't visibly benefit either side? Or are you so scared that your party's platform sucks that you don't want to chance losing your careers?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Message</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 22 2017</td>
<td>2:47PM</td>
<td>Chad Jones</td>
<td>This process has been and continues to be too partisan and secretive. Voters don’t know how these maps were made because they were constructed behind closed doors. The public has the right to understand the process by which the maps were drawn. The public must be able to ensure that the maps were not drawn to favor a particular party. Why has the Joint House &amp; Senate Redistricting Committee rejected nonpartisan standards in creating these maps? It appears entirely to give the majority party maximum advantage, shielding politicians from necessary public scrutiny, and depriving voters of real choice at the ballot box. I hope that the members of this committee reconsider, and bring House Bill 200 to a vote. It’s time to move forward with a nonpartisan redistricting process.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017</td>
<td>2:47PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Charlotte Moore</td>
<td>Who do you think you are? You were elected to represent the people of this state fairly and equally? This proposal is just more of the same gerrymandering to prevent NC citizens from being fairly and equitably represented. This needs not to happen!</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017</td>
<td>2:50PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Sarah Morgan</td>
<td>I live in Durham County but was born and raised in Onslow County, where my parents still live and actively vote. The GOP's blatant gerrymandering efforts are an absolute embarrassment—you make us look like Jim Crow Era Mississippi with your efforts to suppress black voters. Young people vote with their money—and corporations are paying attention—you are going to drive jobs and high income earners out of the state with your blatant, partisan power grab. Voters are paying very close attention to your behavior, so get with the program or cast yourself out of office.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017</td>
<td>2:50PM</td>
<td>Mr. Cordell Garrett</td>
<td>Once again it looks like republicans are trying to make it so that they can come out on top. Were any liberal leaning organizations consulting on what a fair map would be for 2018? I may not go there and protest my objection to this but I can let you know you need to go back to the drawing board and make sure that things are equal and fair and based on what I'm seeing I'm not impressed with the new maps.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017</td>
<td>2:51PM</td>
<td>Ms. Jean Mosher</td>
<td>Please rid our state of gerrymandering. I want independent, fair redistricting. I support HB200 &amp; I vote!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 22 2017</td>
<td>2:51PM</td>
<td>Jennifer Keith</td>
<td>In order to be fair, new maps must be compact, contiguous, and must comply with the Voting Rights Act to give minority voters an opportunity to elect their candidates of choice.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017</td>
<td>2:52PM</td>
<td>Raven Chitalo</td>
<td>Racial gerrymandering promotes racial divisions to give white elites political power. This is disgusting and our state deserves better. (1) In 2011, N.C. Republicans purposefully packed black voters into a small number of districts to undermine the new fusion coalition that elected Barack Obama. (2) GOP lawmakers combined racial gerrymandering with an anti-voter &quot;Monster Law&quot; that targeted African Americans, as the court said, &quot;with almost surgical precision.&quot; (3) Racial gerrymandering is a tool of white supremacy. It produces rigged elections that hurt all North Carolinians except the wealthy, white, mostly male power brokers.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017</td>
<td>2:55PM</td>
<td>Karen Macklin</td>
<td>I am disappointed with the new proposed maps. It is not enough to have new maps. Maps need to be designed via a non-partisan procedure. The new maps perpetuate the cycle of gerrymandering. The new proposed districts appear designed to once again give the majority party maximum advantage, shielding politicians from accountability from the public. The current redistricting process continues to be overly partisan and lacks transparency.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017</td>
<td>2:58PM</td>
<td>Ms. Susan Stinson</td>
<td>I am writing with deep concern about both the process and content of the latest proposed maps for redistricting. I have long been a supporter of a NON-PARTISAN process for drawing districts, since both parties have shown they are incapable of putting public interest before partisan politics. The new proposed maps have not been submitted in time for the public to consider carefully before the hearings today. I decided not to bother to attend in person when I found out there were only 30 seats in the room where the Greensboro hearing is being held. It appears that the proposed districts continue to favor extreme partisan gerrymandering, creating safe seats with little or no partisan competition. Without such competition, too many races are decided at the primary level, excluding unaffiliated voters like myself as well as those from the minority party in a district. This pushes those who are elected to listen to only the most extreme voices in their parties, leading to the divisiveness we are experiencing today. The bi-partisan group of former judges that Tom Ross brought together to redraw boundaries did a much better job. As Republican Rhoda Billings said in a public presentation in Greensboro, it's really not hard to draw fair districts unless you are trying to gerrymander. The current maps are not good enough for North Carolina. I find the Senate districts especially problematic, dividing Guilford County into three different districts.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017</td>
<td>2:58PM</td>
<td>Ms. Linda King</td>
<td>The voter should choose their representative not vice versa. GOP have taken our democratic system and made a joke of it. It's becoming a corrupt institution where if you got the money, you can buy any elected position you want in government.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017</td>
<td>2:58PM</td>
<td>Ms. Jennifer Enright</td>
<td>End partisan gerrymandering. Hire a nonpartisan organization to redraw district lines so every North Carolinian's vote counts.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017</td>
<td>2:59PM</td>
<td>Ms. Joanne Kalp</td>
<td>The new maps are a farce. Not surprising, since they come from the same highly partisan source. We need an objective source, such as an outside Commission, like that used in California.</td>
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The "new" redistricting plan recently submitted is an insult to any voter seeking a legitimate system within which to elect our representatives. The state house and senate should allow an independent group to redraw the lines to comply with the court order. This "first draft" is more of the same cynical politics that our essentially illegitimate state legislature has foisted on voters for far too long.

It appears that the newly drawn districts are no different than the current set. There isn't really any difference between racial gerrymandering or political party gerrymandering. Both are dishonest and do not serve the interests of all NC citizens equally! The only way that we can start healing the deep political divisions at both the state and national level are if we have more moderates elected for both parties so that there is some possibility of compromise legislation being passed. Please put the interests of all NC citizens over the interests of the Republican Party and redraw new districts in a more equitable, non-partisan manner!

After so much money has been wasted by this legislature to defend illegal maps, and with the overwhelming majority of voters in disagreement with their continued attempts at racial and political gerrymandering, the Republican General Assembly has become an embarrassment to the nation and, specifically, their constituents. This is your opportunity to change that and show you're capable of fulfilling your duties as honorable representatives of the people of North Carolina. Don't throw away your shot.

As a registered voter in Cabarrus county I wish to commend the action in question involves determining if black voters have been given a fair chance to elect candidates of our choice in the new districts. And the short time between these hearings and when these new maps have been revealed are also of deep concern to me. The current redistricting seems to be going through another process of deceit as leaders have claimed to not consider the race of voters–even though the action in question involves determining if black voters have been given a fair chance to elect candidates of our choice in the new districts. And the short time between these hearings and when these new maps have been revealed are also of deep concern to me.

Let's be clear, racial gerrymandering is white supremacy, empowering white candidates and limiting the voices of black people like myself and the Supreme Court has clearly ruled that previous voting districts represented that.

I'm so tired of you guys drawing new gerrymandered districts over and over again and changing the individuals who are supposed to represent me and my family. We need an official non-partisan group to do this work, so that we can stop with the constant changes and court challenges. Put your state over your party and do the right thing, here.

As a young black man in America, I am in no way new to the effects of racism and white supremacy. Let's be clear, racial gerrymandering is white supremacy, empowering white candidates and limiting the voices of black people like myself and the Supreme Court has clearly ruled that previous voting districts represented that.

In creating new maps, it is insulting that leaders would hire the exact same consultant, in Thomas Hofeller, who drew the current illegal maps. Logical conclusion would lead me to believe that if someone made maps in the past that promoted racial divisions, they will continue in the same regard.

White supremacy is not limited to the rallies that we saw in Charlottesville just two weeks ago—it finds deep roots in systemic oppression of people of color in the United States, and this act of racial gerrymandering is doing the same thing.

The current redistricting seems to be going through another process of deceit as leaders have claimed to not consider the race of voters—even though the action in question involves determining if black voters have been given a fair chance to elect candidates of our choice in the new districts. And the short time between these hearings and when these new maps have been revealed are also of deep concern to me. Doing things like this help form the monster law that nearly led to the disenfranchising of black votes all across the state “with almost surgical precision.”
Aug 22 2017  3:28PM  Chris Fedor  A GIS analysis of past election data allows the public to simulate past election results over various districting schemes and to determine how fair the legislative representation of those districts would be. From one such analysis, I have data to indicate that the proposed 2017 districts result in elections that are even more unfair than they are now.

For example, Pat McCrory and Roy Cooper came very close to tying in the state popular vote in 2016. But if that same popular vote had been binned and segmented by the proposed 2017 districts for the North Carolina House, Republican candidates would have won > 61% of the districts (74/120). This makes the 2017 proposed house district even more unfair than the districts used in 2016 where, in this particular voting simulation, Republicans would have won 72/120 districts - despite achieving ~50% of the popular vote. The 2010 legislative district boundaries would have resulted in a Republican win of 70/120 districts.

We are on a path now where the representation in the North Carolina General Assembly is consistently veering farther away from the will of the general public. That public shouldn't have to settle for qualitative measurements and judgements of gerrymandering in any attempt to fix it.

Evaluation like the one above can be done quickly for a variety of proposed districting schemes and using a large number of past election dates and election types to simulate overall voter sentiment. I hope the state will conduct/publicize a numeric analysis of this nature before any vote.

Aug 22 2017  3:33PM  Julia Haslett  I'm really hoping that the General Assembly can do the right thing. We should be using the most democratic maps possible, and not ones that are purposely unfavorable towards one party. I will vote against any legislation that intentionally favors one political party. I will vote against any bill that is not non-partisan. Please do your jobs and complete this process fairly and in accordance with court rulings. If you do not, it will have a big impact on the next election cycle.

Aug 22 2017  3:36PM  Mrs. Jesse Kaufmann  I disapprove of the manner in which this redistricting procedure has taken place. Dragged your feet for many months forcing us into illegal districts, and then when you finally go ahead and hire the "expert" that made the districts illegal, you do not allow input from elected democrats and give the public no time to hear discussion on tv, the press, or with their officials how this will impact them. And if it gets rejected on 9/1 by the judges you get to drag your feet until no one can possibly familiarize themselves with new candidates. THIS IS NOT A DEMOCRACY. Sign me, Disgusted.

Aug 22 2017  3:40PM  Mr. Ethan Chrisawn  I'm a white NC native from a rural area, and I just want to say that the racial gerrymandering in our state has been beyond shameful. I'm really hoping that the General Assembly can do the right thing. I want a fair and representative who stands in the way of fair redistricting.

Aug 22 2017  3:46PM  Dr. April Fernandes  I oppose the current redistricting process, and its attendant disenfranchisement across racial and partisan lines. The redistricting process must be open to avoid racial and/or partisan gerrymandering, and ensure free, fair and representative elections. Thank you.

Aug 22 2017  3:47PM  Ms. Jean Hamilton  The NCGA has a chance to make history and be remembered as the legislature that started this state back on the road of American values - fairness, competitiveness, citizen participation in democracy. This history will be made by championing nonpartisan standards for drawing legislative voting districts and rejecting the proposed maps.

Aug 22 2017  3:48PM  Dr. Peter Anderson  These "new" districts are essentially the same as before, so those who present these as "new" are wasting more time and tax dollars, insulting NC citizens. These "new" districts will be found to be unconstitutional. The maps should be drawn utilizing nonpartisan, voter registration data, not political, partisan results from previous elections. The districts should follow all state and federal law, Voting Rights Act and state constitutional mandates. Avoid splitting counties and follow boundaries of state political subdivisions. Ignore results of past elections and residence of incumbents or challengers. If you check Tom Hofeller's references, you will find that his previous work (in NC) was found to be unconstitutional, most recently by a unanimous US Supreme Court. NC citizens deserve fairness, rather than political games, as the basis for the creation of congressional and legislative districts.

Aug 22 2017  3:49PM  Chris Fedor  These "new" districts are essentially the same as before, so those who present these as "new" are wasting more time and tax dollars, insulting NC citizens. These "new" districts will be found to be unconstitutional. The maps should be drawn utilizing nonpartisan, voter registration data, not political, partisan results from previous elections. The districts should follow all state and federal law, Voting Rights Act and state constitutional mandates. Avoid splitting counties and follow boundaries of state political subdivisions. Ignore results of past elections and residence of incumbents or challengers. If you check Tom Hofeller's references, you will find that his previous work (in NC) was found to be unconstitutional, most recently by a unanimous US Supreme Court. NC citizens deserve fairness, rather than political games, as the basis for the creation of congressional and legislative districts.

Aug 22 2017  3:50PM  Marly Roberson  I am very disappointed in the transparency and effectiveness of this redistricting process. Despite court rulings, republican members have continued with a very partisan intent that is clear in the little and last minute information they have shared. I want a fair and representative legislature in NC, as most NC citizens do. District maps should be non-partisan. Please do your jobs and complete this process fairly and in accordance with court rulings. If you do not, it will have a big impact on the next election cycle.
To that extent that a truly independent commission can be established, such would be an inherently more representative method of preserving equal access and communities of interest while avoiding gerrymandering or even the accusation of gerrymandering.

Is it really so hard to find an approach that at least _appears_ fair and unbiased? Hiring the same consultant to design the new maps as designed the previous ones was a dubious way to start. That the proposed maps now appear designed to flip seats to Republican advantage comes as no surprise. If the only way you can get elected is by stacking the deck in your favor, the NCGA remains illegitimately elected. NC deserves better. Take politics out of the redistricting process—or let the courts take care of redistricting for you.

I am absolutely appalled that we have gerrymandering in my state. As a citizen of North Carolina, I demand a government of, by, and for the people. Regarding redistricting, I have a few points I want to assure are understood, and I share these with the greatest respect.

1) The redistricting process must be open and fair, and should absolutely not be done by those already in power, as that leads to potential abuse of power.  
2) The process must not allow racial or partisan gerrymandering, and must allow voters to choose their political representatives. SERIOUSLY.
3) Legislative leaders continue to stall on this process, and it is insulting to the voters of North Carolina.  
4) The mapping must follow the courts directive to examine whether black voters have a fair chance to elect candidates of their choice.  
5) NC Lawmakers must stop with their unlawful gerrymandering that has been used to win elections, and be true to the people of North Carolina, allowing the governing to pass to lawfully elected officials where and when decided by the people.  
6) I absolutely demand that the General Assembly stop spending taxpayer money to defend the current illegal maps in court.
7) I am dismayed by the horrid combination of racial gerrymandering with the anti-voter "Monster Law" that targeted African Americans, as the court said, "with almost surgical precision." This unfair targeting based on skin color must stop.

Please be fair, not partial to one party above another, or onerace above another, in zoning for voting. All Americans are entitled to a vote. Winning by rearranging the districts to favor one party over another is not just or right. It is not why any of you were elected. You were elected by the people and for the people, all the people. So do the right thing, not the Republican or Democratic thing. Please be Just! No gerrymandering.

Hi, I would like fair and balanced redistricting. I think the people of North Carolina deserve districts that give each candidate a fair chance at winning an election. I hope the next topic for the NC General Assembly is the monument law and the danger they pose to public safety.

It's unfortunate the redistricting committee could not put the best interests of the state above politics and the need to win, instead of trying to find ways to actually represent the people of this state. The Legislature and Congressional representatives should represent the make-up of the state, not lopsided representation. Members of the committee should take a hard look at why they are serving the state. They should be serving all the people, not just one political party. They should be ashamed of themselves.

Undemocratic process to release proposed maps with so little time for public input. Maps remain unfair regarding racial and partisan gerrymandering. Elected legislators must comply with letter and spirit of court ruling. Adopt an independent redistricting commission.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 22 2017 3:55PM</td>
<td>Ms. Katherine Winslow</td>
<td>I have just retired after a long career as the Director of the Library at a small NC college. I have lived in NC since 1979, but my husband grew up in Tarboro, and his family has roots in NC going back to the 1700s. NC has been a wonderful place to raise our family, and I think it offers the promise of a strong future. I say these things as a resident who has voted for over 45 years. That history is important, because I can see in my own lifetime how elections have become more partisan, and how voters have begun to lose faith in the election process that is the foundation for our country and our freedoms. It is important for American citizens to believe that their votes matter and that they are represented both in Washington and in Raleigh by elected legislators who will represent their interests. Today, whether the voting districts are drawn by Democrats or Republicans, we can all see how gerrymandering has worked primarily to serve sitting legislators. The majority party is in control, and has little need to listen to their constituents. As a result, voters are discouraged and do not have faith that those elected to serve them will represent their interests. We must eliminate the gerrymandering that has developed such uneven districts, or voters will continue to feel that our political system is not working for us or for anyone. I strongly urge you to establish a nonpartisan system for redistricting in NC. It is critical for the future of our state and country, for my children and grand children and for yours.</td>
<td><a href="https://democracync.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/RedistrictingCoreMessagesFINAL.pdf">https://democracync.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/RedistrictingCoreMessagesFINAL.pdf</a></td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017 3:57PM</td>
<td>Mr. Jordan Branham</td>
<td>I support districts that promote both fair representation and logical demarcations. District lines should: 1.) Promote a proportional relationship between citizen interests and legislative representation. 2.) Facilitate a representatives ability to easily travel through and meet constituents in central locations (favoring district shapes that minimize the maximum end to end distance of a district). Following such principles is vital to our states social, economic, and political health.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017 3:57PM</td>
<td>Mr. Randall Pinion</td>
<td>While the points conveyed by this document are by and large exactly what I wish to say, I would particularly like to emphasize that using the redistricting process to establish a partisan advantage that does not accurately reflect the wishes and thoughts of our state’s citizens is a grave failing of your duty as statesmen. Allowing partisan bias to affect our elections—the very core of our national character and system of governance—is nigh unforgivable, and to begin the process of doing so again after being ordered by the court to undo previous wrongs is almost unimaginably selfish and wrong. Please, seek a neutral third party to establish clear, simple districts that will reflect the will of the North Carolinian people and not simply the whims of whichever party is in power.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017 4:00PM</td>
<td>Dr. Joseph Tanzini</td>
<td>Why are the maps drawn by mostly Republicans using partisan data. This process needs to be nonpartisan! This is making our votes ineffective and it weakens our democracy. Let's return NC back to the voters.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017 4:06PM</td>
<td>Naomi Spencer</td>
<td>One of the problems of the previous gerrymandering in NC is that there are over 2.7 million registered democrats in North Carolina compared to nearly 2.1 million registered Republicans in North Carolina. In addition nearly 1.9 million of those registered democrats voted in 2016 compared to nearly 1.6 million Republicans. And yet we still ended up with a Republican supermajority. And even though Republicans got only 53% of the vote they ended up with 77% of the state’s seats. The new proposed redistricting is not addressing this unequal representation because the districts are being redrawn by the Republicans to benefit the Republicans. We need a non partisan redistricting commission to fairly tackle redistricting in NC.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017 4:12PM</td>
<td>Ms. Alice Snell</td>
<td>We want fairly drawn maps in North Carolina. STOP GERRYMANDERING and do what’s right for just representation! The citizens of North Carolina are watching your actions and expect you to do this fairly.</td>
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I am writing to urge the Republican leadership to abandon its continuing efforts to gerrymander itself a majority, and to instead draw districts without regard to voting history, the presence of an incumbent, or any other factor designed to create districts "safe" for one party or the other. Our system of government works best when we all have a say in how it is run, and efforts to gerrymander districts to distort the will of the people are wrong, no matter which party is doing it.

I would also note that, when the GOP plays games with legislative districts, the message that it sends to the people of NC is twofold: (1) that the party is not confident enough in its ideas that it believes it can win without external help, and/or (2) that the GOP (and its leadership) simply doesn't care what the people of NC want if it means it/they may lose power.

It is long past time for NC to undertake non-partisan redistricting. Anyone seeking to serve the people of NC in the NCGA should be confident enough in their morals and their policy beliefs to be willing to fight for them on fair ground. I think you all know, however deep down, that NC is, or should be, better than this. Please, stop denying our citizens their voices. Reject the newly proposed maps, and draw them again, without partisan advantage in mind.

Hello,

I am asking that the NCGA please understand that I support a NONPARTISAN redistricting committee. I do not support in new districts or slight change that still favors either political party. We want FAIR maps for everyone. Please consider what other states have done in the past if this process is too much of a struggle.

Thank you.

I cannot attend the public hearing, which I'm very upset about. Luckily, I have friends who can who will make their voices heard loud and clear. We are DONE with the GOP nonsense when it comes to redistricting. The new maps put forward are no better than the previous and I do not support them. It is long past due that we have an independent panel, master, or whatever you want to call it to draw these maps. The North Carolina Republicans have created an undemocratic state and this new effort does nothing to convince me they care any more today about creating a democratic government than they did when they originally drew the current unconstitutional

As a native and life-long resident of North Carolina, I believe that it is the responsibility of the NC legislature to make sure the vote of each voter in this State carries the same weight, that each voter in this State has equal and fair access to casting those votes, and that every voter raised in this State has equal access to a quality education. If you don't believe that, too, you shouldn't be serving the citizens of NC. It's clearly time to bring in an impartial third party to draw the district lines; partisan bickering has held us back long enough.

Thank you the Redistricting Committees for their preparation of compact districts that do a better job to respect County jurisdictional boundaries and avoid "amoeba"-looking districts than prior redistrictings. My only suggestion for the future is to look at how to better balance respecting municipal and county jurisdiction boundaries, especially where municipalities cross multiple counties.

Also, the decision to reduce the number of districts containing portions of the City of Rocky Mount from 3 (in both the House and Senate) to 2 (in both the House and Senate) does have the effect of reducing the influence of the City and its residents to speak out on matters of legislation and policy. I do not believe this was an intent of the redistricting, but even as a side effect, it does have a noticeable impact.

Thank you for your continued work in this process.

The maps were not done in a transparent manner because they were drawn behind closed doors. Districts are not contiguous and the majority party still has maximum advantages. Draw the maps openly and fairly.

Politicians have no business defining the voting districts in our state. Voting districts should be carefully evaluated and established by independent working groups without racial or party bias. The current state of gerrymandered districts in North Carolina is shameful, and makes us look backwards and racist to the rest of the world.

Fix the district maps. Do it in transparently, open to review by voters, so we'll know who is responsible next time we go to the polls.
Aug 22 2017 4:28PM  Elma Hairston  The coordination of the redistricting meeting at GTCC is just an example of the true lack of concern that is being shown. In this matter anticipation of space requirement apparently is not an issue. In my estimation "going thru the motion" is the only definition how can we have confidence In This process when there is not equal representation from individuals across the spectrum to representing diversity overall. GTCC has facilities an auditorium to accommodate the numbers they choose to split the audience in different rooms just as they have split the state slanted toward one party over another. No confidence in this process.

Aug 22 2017 4:29PM  Ms. Terri Lytle-Holcomb  This has to be fair for ALL parties and cannot be weighed in favor of any one party. It is unconstitutional to favor one party over another. What the current committee has done is shameful.

Aug 22 2017 4:35PM  Mrs. Andtea George  Thank you for creating maps that are color blind, drawn without racial data. Drawing maps in any other way is 'rigging' maps and elections. Thanks for keeping the districts contiguous.

Aug 22 2017 4:35PM  Sarah Wagner  Rep. Lewis, I applaud your candor in regards to bias in the process of redistricting. Every time I have heard you speak to the topic of gerrymandering in North Carolina, you have consistently denied any racial animus in the intentions of the committee, but you have also never failed to clarify that whoever draws the maps will be biased towards benefitting their own party. Generally, this is presented as an immutable reality of politics - the party in power will draw the lines to benefit themselves, and that because of this immutable reality, voters will, or at least should, pay extra attention to ensure the majority represents them in redistricting years. This kind of belief undercuts the basic trust that North Carolinians put in our elected legislators to represent our best interests.

The question of the legitimacy of partisan advantage when drawing district lines lies on a fundamentally flawed assumption that the party who controls the majority of our legislature at one point in time represents the prevailing value alignment of North Carolina Voters. The simple reality that our legislators do not even try to hide their attempts to benefit their own party, at the cost of the integrity of OUR votes and the legitimacy of OUR democracy, betrays their true loyalties - not to their constituencies, or even their voters, but to their party above even their principles. It also highlights a frightening lack of foresight on the part of our majority legislators, for believing that their own party was somehow not vulnerable to the dangerous extremism and demagoguery that is always lurking at the fringes of our republic.

The reality of voter alignment in North Carolina paints a much different picture of what values we hold and who we feel represents us. By voter registration alone, the largest group of voters in North Carolina are those that identify as neither Republican or Democrat. Unaffiliated voters alone outnumber those who affiliate themselves with either major party. Unaffiliated voters alone represent 35% of the state's population. If the intent of the process was to avoid gerrymandering, that would require the areas being drawn to represent individuals across the spectrum to representing diversity overall. GTCC has facilities an auditorium to accommodate the numbers they choose to split the audience in different rooms just as they have split the state slanted toward one party over another. No confidence in this process.

Aug 22 2017 4:35PM  Ms. Taylor Daly  It's plain to see that these new maps are just as unfair as the ones before them. Districts should be decided by either a BIPARTISAN committee or an independent group outside of the legislature. I'm ashamed and embarrassed of our once-great state yet again.

Aug 22 2017 4:38PM  Dr. Molly Gregas  The practice of gerrymandering has become an outrageously misused political tool and is in effect diluting the role of the voters in what should be a democratic government. Other countries have applied a variety of fair and nonpartisan methods to draw fair and representative electoral districts; North Carolina (and other U.S. states) need to adopt a method that is fair to ALL NC citizens. I am disappointed that the courts have had to intervene and that the redistricting process ordered by the courts seems so similar to the previous attempts. We the citizens deserve fair representation in fairly drawn electoral districts. This issue will be on my mind for the upcoming elections in 2018 and 2020.

Aug 22 2017 4:38PM  Dr. Matthew McNally  I'm troubled by several aspects of this redistricting proposal. First, the use of the same (partisan) consultant who was used to draw the unconstitutional maps. Next, the "lack" of consideration of race is troubling because it pretends race is not highly correlated with certain geographic areas or political affiliations. I do not support this redo as it somehow not vulnerable to the dangerous extremism and demagoguery that is always lurking at the fringes of our republic.

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Aug 22 2017 4:39PM  Mrs. Traci Townsan  Every citizen of NC should be represented fairly. We demand fair maps now!

Aug 22 2017 4:42PM  Mrs. Sarah Abrahams  As a resident of North Carolina, I implore you to stop gerrymandering in North Carolina. The plans for new redistricting continue in an attempt to block the ability of North Carolinians to have their voter voice fairly heard in elections. The new plans utilize the same partisan, biased strategy to allow a pick and choose approach to their districts. I ask that you employ a non-partisan group for any redistricting and not to utilize the voting record history for districts in reconfigurations (which implicitly carries with it racial makeup).
Good afternoon,

My name is Hailey Wise, and I am a registered voter in Carrboro, North Carolina.

I am so discouraged to see how the NCGA is conducting their redistricting campaign. For the new maps to be released so last minute, drawn by the same consultant who created the original unconstitutional maps, is an insult to both the legislative process and the people of North Carolina.

Your constituents demand a seat at the table. We demand this process be performed with 100% transparency. We demand fair districts. We demand representatives who listen and look out for the best interests of their constituents, not themselves. We cannot tolerate how this process has been performed thus far.

We demand that redistricting process be open, avoid racial and partisan gerrymandering, and allow voters to pick their representatives - not the other way around.

I understand that redistricting is a difficult process. Even with automated software, we don't have things quite perfect. That being said, there is some glaring issues with the proposed redistricting - particularly around urban centers. What about taking Forsyth county and carving out the urban area and then needed to add Davie makes sense? Similarly, the long narrow 41st district in Mecklenburg makes no sense. Can't we just use to common sense on these things? Stop picking your voters and let us pick you.

This is the THIRD time you are redrawing the lines and ASSIGNING my Representative! I didn't vote for my Representative. YOU told me who he was because YOU decided YOU didn't like the way the lines were drawn. I'm tired of YOU picking my Representative for me! Especially when my neighborhood had a Republican Representative for YEARS and now YOU have decided to APPOINT a DEMOCRAT! Where do you get off changing our vote from one party to another? I feel we have been CHEATED of our vote and handed a different party because that party won the Governorship, even if by a hair. If you are going to change parties on us, then we should have a special vote so the PEOPLE can put the person they want in place, not YOUR APPOINTEE!

I am appalled that the same GOP consultant who drew racist & unconstitutional maps was engaged again to draw these new maps. This process should be non partisan and independent. Legislators should not draw their own maps, essentially choosing their own voters. This undermines democracy.

From what I can see of the new maps, they do not reflect the will of the people and continue to isolate voters. The maps must be independently drawn. Every citizen deserves a voice and fair representation. You are not providing that opportunity. Independent redistricting now!

North Carolinians want and deserve fair, independently apportioned districts!

I am very disappointed with the draft redistricting plan. It seems like the legislature is doing the minimum necessary when there are so many straightforward methods to come up with a fair plan. Do the right thing and give our citizens their voice back. I support contiguous regions, a neutral team to create the plan, and use of methods proven in other states to be fair and equitable.

Good afternoon my name is Russ Stephenson. I have been a Raleigh City Councilor for the past 12 years. When Council districts are updated, our staff selects the boundaries based on compactness and equal geographic distribution.

It is a non-partisan redistricting process that – as you might expect - leads to non-partisan decision making. What that means, is that our Council decisions serve all the citizens of Raleigh equally, rather than favoring one partisan base or the other.

In conclusion, I recommend you adopt a non-partisan redistricting process in order to better serve all the citizens of North Carolina.

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Raleigh City Councilor

This is not a fair way to obtain public comments. Having all the meetings at the same time makes no sense. There is no statement of the philosophy or decision system that was suggested immediately prior to the public comments. As a disabled sensor citizen in a rural part of NC, there is no way I can get to one of the telecom locations. The system is not set up for a fair input from our states citizens. It looks to me like the high dollar opinion makers are setting the districts up so they can stay in control. It is no wonder we have a lot of disenfranchisement in our state and country.
Mr. Ed Sheary  
Aug 22 2017  5:02PM  
This is an outrage! A fair and unbiased person should draw these maps, not the person who gerrymandered them in the first place. Bipartisan is the way we want it in this state and in this country. You are destroying what centuries of Americans have fought and died for by your actions! Recent NC deserves better leadership!

Mrs. Suzanne Gould  
Aug 22 2017  5:02PM  
Vote-rigging is illegal and undemocratic and unpatriotic. Draw fair maps.

Mr. Charles Hunt  
Aug 22 2017  5:21PM  
This entire process of gerrymandering of voting districts initially, which provided safe districts while also disenfranchising NC taxpayers, then hastily throwing together public hearings in venues too small to accommodate the public voice, is not only unseemly but unAmerican. Please ensure that districts are not only fairly drawn but offer a chance for true democracy and voice of the people. Do what it right to ensure that every NC citizen has a voice, and please ensure auto registration of all NC citizens.

Mrs. Jacky Mallory  
Aug 22 2017  5:03PM  
I believe in the following for redistricting: 
• be compact 
• respect communities of interest 
• be contiguous 
• comply with the Voting Rights Act to ensure that it’s possible for black voters to elect their candidates of choice 
• be free from partisan politics (ignore voter registration data, past election results, incumbent addresses, etc.) and ensure maps are not drawn to unduly favor a particular party, candidate or lawmaker 
The current redistricting process continues to be overly partisan and lacks transparency. Maps were drawn behind closed doors and voters were not given sufficient time to review proposed maps before the scheduled public hearings. A majority of the Joint House & Senate Redistricting Committee is on the record as supporting nonpartisan redistricting in the past. And yet, the committee rejected nonpartisan redistricting standards now. Instead, these new maps once again perpetuate the cycle of gerrymandering. The proposed districts appear designed to give the majority party maximum advantage, shielding politicians from accountability to the public, while depriving voters of a choice and a voice at the ballot box.

Mr. Jerry Gershenhorn  
Aug 22 2017  5:05PM  
Please reject this most recent attempt by the Republican-controlled legislature to gerrymander districts so that they perpetuate their power. This redistricting plan subverts our democracy and should be rejected by all democracy-loving people. It subverts the principle of one person’s one vote. We need a nonpartisan redistricting of legislative districts. Thank you.

Sam Robinson  
Aug 22 2017  5:15PM  
I just wanted to express my extreme dissatisfaction in the “new” NC maps. These maps are more of the same. It’s sad that we live in a day and time where you have to cheat in order to have a chance. If Dems win 10% of popular vote, republicans would still win & still have a majority. It is shameful that you are not doing the will of the people.

Betty Gunz  
Aug 22 2017  5:21PM  
Vote-rigging is illegal and undemocratic and unpatriotic. Draw fair maps with compact districts that keep communities together, exclude political data from consideration, and don’t tilt the map in favor of either party. Thank you.

Mr. Ed Sheary  
Aug 22 2017  5:24PM  
I’m truly sorry to see that the new maps do little to correct the racial inequities in the current districts and do nothing to correct the political gerrymandering that has effectively rendered one man one vote moot in our state. I presume the majority intent is to let the courts fix one or both concerns. I do wish the majority would adopt a non partisan approach to drawing districts. The level of data available since the 2011 districts were drawn simply makes too easy the opportunity for gerrymandering. The proposed districts appear designed to give the majority party maximum advantage, shielding politicians from accountability to the public, while depriving voters of a choice and a voice at the ballot box.

Mrs. Rhonda Bullard-Dutton  
Aug 22 2017  5:25PM  
i would like to express my concern on the redistricting that is being proposed and voice my vote to keep Brenden Jones and Danny Britt Jr. for all of Columbus County. These two have done so much for our county already and I am in total support of them to remain our representatives. We voted for them to represent us and the redistricting should not affect our right to keep who those we selected to represent us. Thanks so much for your willingness to listen to the people! God bless you in your positions and God bless America!!!!
As the analysis of Indivisible Flip NC has found, the new maps are even more gerrymandered than the old maps. WE DEMAND FAIR MAPS!

Fair redistricting should follow these basic principles:

• Race is Key: Map drawers must ensure that it is possible for black voters to elect their candidates of choice, as required by the Voting Rights Act.
• One person, one vote: Districts must be very equal in population and obey other laws.
• Geographic Compactness: Map drawers must create compact districts, without odd tentacles. Districts must not skip over areas or join two areas at just one point.
• Count Incarcerated Persons as residents of their pre-incarceration home or family residence for purposes of redistricting.
• No Favoritism: Map drawers must not use the addresses of current lawmakers, or the party affiliation or voting history of voters, or other data to help a party or politician.
• Respect Communities of Interest: Map drawers must avoid dividing communities with similar cultural, ethnic and economic interests; a local government district; etc.
• Respect County Boundaries: Maps should make every effort to keep counties whole.
• Evaluate Fairness: Before it is approved, a map must be evaluated for overall racial bias and partisan competitiveness, using tools recognized by courts to measure fairness.

The secretive, self-serving process; the pitiful notice given for the process. The NCGA should throw out the new maps and hand over the keys to an independent, nonpartisan commission.

NC has the form of a democracy, only as a cover for single-party rule. The NCGA, they would likely draw district borders that favor the Democratic Party. This is why the ONLY acceptable method for redistricting is the use of a NONPARTISAN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION. Redistricting is not a job for elected politicians of any party. The people of North Carolina are sick and tired of not having their voices heard- a majority of both Democrats and Republicans want an independent redistricting process. The NCGA should throw out the new maps and hand over the keys to an independent, nonpartisan commission.

We needed independent redistricting. That's not what we got. And now it's clear that the NCGOP doesn't care the tiniest bit that they look like power-hungry, corrupt goons. This new map is yet another abomination to democracy, and to the people of North Carolina. It should be rejected, the NCGOP should quit stalling, quit spending money defending this, and quit embarrassing our state - and get someone professional and independent to do this map.

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• No Favoritism: Map drawers must not use the addresses of current lawmakers, or the party affiliation or voting history of voters, or other data to help a party or politician.
• Respect Communities of Interest: Map drawers must avoid dividing communities with similar cultural, ethnic and economic interests; a local government district; etc.
• Respect County Boundaries: Maps should make every effort to keep counties whole.
• Evaluate Fairness: Before it is approved, a map must be evaluated for overall racial bias and partisan competitiveness, using tools recognized by courts to measure fairness.

As the analysis of Indivisible Flip NC has found, the new maps are even more gerrymandered than the old maps. WE DEMAND FAIR MAPS!

Fair redistricting should follow these basic principles:

• Race is Key: Map drawers must ensure that it is possible for black voters to elect their candidates of choice, as required by the Voting Rights Act.
• One person, one vote: Districts must be very equal in population and obey other laws.
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• Evaluate Fairness: Before it is approved, a map must be evaluated for overall racial bias and partisan competitiveness, using tools recognized by courts to measure fairness.
Aug 22 2017  5:38PM  Mrs. Laura Marsh  

Everything you need to know about the Republican's integrity and intent regarding redistricting is as plain as day in the sham, public redistricting hearings held at a time when pretty much all the citizens of the state have to be at work as well as in venues unequipped to handle the numbers of those who are able to attend. The Republican super-majority that runs this general assembly are racists, bigots, and true enemies of democracy. Shame on all of you. This state needs a non-partisan redistricting process that's open and transparent - everything the Republicans in power are not.

Aug 22 2017  5:38PM  Mrs. Katherine Fogarty

I am in attendance at the public hearing regarding redistricting. You asked for specific input and we've heard a lot of folks express their displeasure with partisan and racial gerrymandering. To summarize the words of others and provide you with that specific input: people don't have much faith in these new maps because it doesn't appear that a real effort went into this. To get more acceptance, you need to get a bipartisan committee to work on this, hire a different map maker, and give voters time and 'backup' to approve or disapprove. Then 'sell us' on it- show us how it improves voting districts- provide a report summarizing the positive improvements.

Aug 22 2017  5:39PM  Ms. Elizabeth Vazquez  

Please take partisan politics out of redistricting. The state of North Carolina votes about 50% republicans and 50% democrats in most of the polling (leaving aside the independents) -- and the NCGA DOES NOT reflect this balance.

I feel strongly that the legislature should have the opportunity to represent ALL North Carolinians. The current districts are so stacked as to ensure that minorities, Republicans, democrats and independents have no representation.

The foundation of a representative democracy is that elected officials fairly and accurately represent the will of the people. In North Carolina, gerrymandering has perverted this basic tenant, rendering our state a failed democracy. Last year, the courts ruled that our state legislative boundaries were unconstitutional because they unfairly packed too many minority voters into too few legislative districts. Since this ruling, state legislators have continued to undermine the will of the people for over a year. They have finally released new maps and part of the data required to evaluate them, but have done so only 24 hours before the only public hearings that are currently planned before they will take a vote. As a Ph.D. Biologist with expertise in geographic information systems (GIS), statistics, and spatial analyses, and as a native North Carolinian, I take issue with these maps for the following reasons:

1) These maps were drawn by the very politicians who were unconstitutionally elected and who have undermined the will of the people in our state for the last five years. This is the equivalent of letting a criminal choose his own punishment. They cannot be trusted to do the right thing.

2) In North Carolina, election results are a proxy for race since a) less than 3% of black active voters are registered as Republicans and b) with few exceptions, Republicans do not win elections in black-majority districts. Thus, the use of election results in drawing new maps leads to undermining the will of black voters, a practice that is unconstitutional.

3) Map-makers have skilfully used GIS-based technology to go from one unconstitutional extreme to another. On one end, districts are gerrymandered by packing too many black voters into too few legislative districts. Thus, the use of election results in drawing new maps leads to undermining the will of black voters, a practice that is unconstitutional.

Aug 22 2017  5:44PM  Ms. Jessamyn Randall  

Using the same consultant who drew the illegal voting districts in the first place is a sham and a disgraceful waste of tax payer money. North Carolina is entitled to fair maps. Use a bipartisan or non-partisan committee to create the maps.

As a voter, it is deeply important to me that the voting maps at all levels be made up of compact, contiguous districts that allow citizens the opportunity to have their votes count. I believe these districts should be designed on a non partisan basis, without consideration of the incumbent party’s ability to retain their seats, respecting existing communities and county boundaries, and that the process should have greater transparency and citizen input. Furthermore, it is important to me that members of the African American community and other communities of color have full exercise of their franchise.

Aug 22 2017  5:46PM  Mrs. Laura Marsh  

Using the same consultant who drew the illegal voting districts in the first place is a sham and a disgraceful waste of tax payer money. North Carolina is entitled to fair maps. Use a bipartisan or non-partisan committee to create the maps.

Aug 22 2017  5:47PM  Dr. Elizabeth Sbrocco  

I am in attendance at the public hearing regarding redistricting. You asked for specific input and we've heard a lot of folks express their displeasure with partisan and racial gerrymandering. To summarize the words of others and provide you with that specific input: people don't have much faith in these new maps because it doesn't appear that a real effort went into this. To get more acceptance, you need to get a bipartisan committee to work on this, hire a different map maker, and give voters time and 'backup' to approve or disapprove. Then 'sell us' on it- show us how it improves voting districts- provide a report summarizing the positive improvements.

Aug 22 2017  5:54PM  Ms. Arely Guevara  

It is a crying shame that the state of North Carolina has wasted so much money drawing these maps, simply because a certain party does not care about true democracy and can not bare to relinquish their power. The state of North Carolina should set an example for our divided country and create a bi-partisan redistricting plan that will truly represent ALL North Carolinians.

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Mr. Casey Stegman

Why wasn't this map drawn in a bipartisan fashion? We have two main political parties in this state. The only fair and democratic way to draw this map is to ensure that politics as usual has been taken out of the process. But right now only one party has had a hand in drawing these maps. As a citizen in this state, I want to believe that our state government attempts to adhere to the highest degree of democratic transparency. But continually, this legislature and its members prove otherwise. As these bills are now.

Ms. Taylor Daly

I have already submitted a personal comment but would like to add another that is more technical and relates to my role as an intern at Lillian's List. The NCGA needs to release a KML file of the new proposed maps to the public. I am aware that there is a Shapefile available, but many of us cannot afford the expensive software that is compatible with this format. KML files are compatible with Google maps, which are free. In order to make this process more transparent (which it is certainly NOT, so far), the public, as well as nonprofit organizations, should be able to view the maps in something other than a simple PDF. Feel free to contact me if there is any confusion.

Mrs. Mary Hines

Please abandon partisanship and restore sanity and fair representation for all the people of our State. For too long, North Carolina has been in an embarrassing position, and public opinion is justifiably appalled at recent developments in North Carolina. We the People deserve better than skewed or re-skewed Districts. It's up to you and we are watching and are expecting your best response to this great responsibility.

Mrs. LaSonya Barnes

Stop with the gerrymandering of NC Districts. No one vote is more valuable than the other. When you rig a district to hold more value than the other it's wrong and undemocratic. 1 vote 1 voice!

Mr. Todd Patton

I strongly oppose the newly proposed, highly gerrymandered maps presented by the NC General Assembly. The maps were drawn with the express purpose of maintaining a Republican supermajority in a state that has closely divided, 50/50 statewide elections. The maps maintain this advantage by substituting election results for the previous racially gerrymandered maps, but with the same effective result. These maps are still racially gerrymandered. NC voters deserve fair maps where they can choose their elected representatives, and not have representatives choose their voters instead. Prior election results should not have been a consideration in drawing these maps.

These new maps result in large number of wasted votes by creating Democratic-leaning districts that are 60%, 70%, or 80% Democratic, bleaching surrounding districts through the packing of minority voters and cracking of NC urban areas.

The expected value of the efficiency gap, based on the stat pack released by the State with the draft plans is -11.98% for the Proposed House Plan and -11.87% for the Proposed Senate Plan. This huge margin gives Republicans an unwarranted advantage purely to maintain their majority status.

EG analysis involves three steps. First, add up all of the votes each party wastes due to packing and cracking, across all of the races for a particular legislative body. Second, take the difference between the wasted votes cast for each major political party. Third, divide this difference by the total number of votes cast. The resulting percentage measures how much more effectively one party's voters are distributed compared to the other party's voters.

Mr. Thomas Jones

I am concerned for the country if gerrymandering continues. fairer districts must be made in order to preserve our country. it's our differences that make us stronger. sabotaging the voting districts will only weaken the country and our state. i implore the state legislators to do the job they were elected for and correct the gross injustice that has been done to so many citizens that reside in North Carolina. for what it's worth i have been a registered republican since 1954.

Michael Stone

As expected, the new gerrymandered districts are biased against Democrats. Our votes are not being counted, and this is anti-democratic. My vote should count as much as a Republican's. We need sensible, neutral district boundaries constructed by an independent commission, not by someone who created the illegal district boundaries that we have now. Protecting the incumbents from the previous bogus election should not have been a consideration in creating the new boundaries, because that simply perpetuates the related bias from those districts.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timestamp</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 22 2017</td>
<td>Julia Hardy</td>
<td>I am concerned that the newly proposed districts were presented with very little time allowed for analysis. The fact that the same firm that created the previous districts which were declared unlawful, was used again is suspect. The gerrymandering of my previous district has been corrected and the district now appears fair, but that may be only because it was so obviously poorly drawn before. That tells me nothing about other choices. Here's my primary concern, and it's a big one: the people of North Carolina are obviously not being fairly represented in the legislature. A fringe minority has taken control and has brought embarrassment, ridicule, and considerable financial loss to our state. It is well known that the changes in districts that led to this situation were orchestrated by outsiders who did the same in other states. North Carolina has always been evenly balanced and the races always close, so one would expect votes to be evenly divided and contentious. However, the current situation is beyond the pale. It is wrong when legislature is plainly not following the majority voice. It is wrong that a fringe minority and extremist voice is in control of the state legislature.</td>
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<td>Mrs. Jennifer Miller</td>
<td>Please take this historic redistricting opportunity to create non-partisan districts which are fair to all voters, one person, one vote, and support the idea and reality of democracy. To do otherwise is cynical and evil.</td>
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<td>Ms. Hunter Levinsohn</td>
<td>I am one of a majority of North Carolinians who want non-partisan redistricting.</td>
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<td>Mr. Gary Burnore</td>
<td>You KNOW the right thing to do, will you do it? Computer generated districts are the most fair. Stop the gerrymandering. Stop the voter suppression. We'd be a great state if you put as much effort into the things we need, like affordable healthcare and REAL jobs.</td>
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<td>Ms. Amanda MacLaren</td>
<td>These maps are a cynical and blatant attempt by the NC GOP to hold on to their illegally acquired power. The Court should reject for a number of reasons. Most flagrantly, they have reached well beyond the areas affected by racial gerrymandering and redrawn many districts that were completely unaffected by the Court ruling. The Court ordered the NC GOP to address a narrow set of districts it determined had been racially gerrymandered with &quot;near-surgical precision,&quot; and the NC GOP has used the Court's order as a chance to re-draw much of the legislative map in its favor. We need fair maps to restore a functioning democracy to our state.</td>
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<td>Mr. Ralph Flegal</td>
<td>Given that ncleg has simply thrown the proposed districts together, what is the plan to purge the voter rolls? By using bad data, ncleg will end up with bad results. Until the rolls are cleared and everyone re-registers there can not be any confidence of any election result. In all other aspects of doing business with the state, citizens must apply and re-apply for a long list of licenses, permits, pets, and registrations. Voter registration is more important than all others and should be designed correctly to get it right the first time, to a high percentage. Purge the rolls and stop playing politics. Six years between registration and expiration is a good number to start with. Require valid documentation to register and re-register for citizens.</td>
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<td>Ms. Bunny Simoneau</td>
<td>It seems the public was given very short notice for a meeting held during the workweek and during the day. This does not Bode well for trusting that you have redrawn the districts fairly. Voter suppression is on the forefront now along with Republican Politicians’ flirting with white supremacists for many years. Quit cheating and remember how your parents raised you to do What's right. I am tired of and ashamed to see NC on national news for disenfranchising voters and discriminating against people who are different and not white.</td>
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<td>Dr. Mary Curry</td>
<td>I expected to see something less like a long snake with tumors every place on the new district maps of NC House and Senate Districts. What would be truly fair would be your passing a law to create a completely General Assembly-free, non-partisan redistricting office for NC Government. Anything less--including what your same overpaid consultant has done this time is just more political cheating. Eventually it will bite Republicans on the nose just as it is now biting Democrats.</td>
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Aug 22 2017  6:16PM  Dr. Charles Tryon  The redistricting has been a farce. First, you offered only one day for people to attend public meetings and make their views known. For those of us who have to work or have families, it is incredibly burdensome for us to be able to attend. Meetings should have been held for weeks, and there should have been a genuine opportunity for people to participate in a truly nonpartisan process.

Second, this gerrymandering scandal belongs entirely to the NC GOP. You paid someone not once but twice to draw maps. The first time this person drew maps, it cost millions in state tax dollars to defend racist maps that few people in the state found defensible. This money could have been spent on roads, schools, or parks. Instead, we have to pay for illegally gerrymandered maps that make us the laughingstock of the entire country. They pay the same person who cost our state $4.8 million in court fees another $50,000 to draw more partisan (read gerrymandered) maps that will AGAIN go to court so that we can AGAIN pay potentially millions of dollars in court costs.

Once again, these maps seem deliberately designed not to be competitive. Only 19 of 120 House races are classified as competitive (16%) and only 10 of 50 Senate races (20%). This means that the vast majority of elected officials are not truly responsive to the needs and desires of their voters. This leads to polarization on a massive scale and has contributed to the toxic environment that permeates our NCGA. This is undemocratic. It perpetuates all of the flaws of the previous maps, and the state is approximately $5 million poorer as a result. Create better maps.

Aug 22 2017  6:18PM  Mr. Vince Beasley  David Lewis does not give a damn what anyone has to say about the legislative districts... he has again created "new" districts that give Republicans an advantage in a disproportionate number of districts. Republicans are choosing their constituents - the opposite of what true democracy should be. STOP GERRYMANDERING NOW!!

Aug 22 2017  6:19PM  John Fulton  What is your plan to fix this current violation of voters rights?

Aug 22 2017  6:20PM  Liesl Dineen  Please just stop. Stop wasting our money to keep us from voting fairly. Give us fair maps using real technology. It's actually how this whole thing is supposed to work. We vote, you earn our votes. Aren't you as sick of the cheating as we are? Surely it gets boring...

Aug 22 2017  6:25PM  Alanna Adams  As a North Carolinian, I am very disappointed with the legislative maps that have been newly proposed for the state House and Senate districts. This process has repeatedly been conducted in ways that are illegal, obscured from the public, entirely partisan, and at the expense of North Carolinian voters based on race and ethnicity. How can state senators fully and appropriately represent so many municipalities? The maps currently being offered were drawn behind closed doors and voters were not given sufficient time to review proposed maps before scheduled public hearings. I'm a proud resident of the state of North Carolina. I want and expect representatives to the General Assembly to deliver nonpartisan and contiguous districts through a transparent process. That means no longer using the same consultant who has unfairly and unconstitutionally drawn these maps in the past. A majority of the Joint House and Senate Redistricting Committee have at one time been on the record as supporting nonpartisan redistricting. These new maps continue the unacceptable practice of partisan gerrymandering (via taking prior voter registration and past election data into account), giving the majority party an unharmed advantage while shielding those same elected officials from accountability. Voters must be given a valid choice at the ballot box and it must start now with the rejection of the current proposal. I'm sick of this treatment of North Carolina's voters and I expect better.

Aug 22 2017  6:27PM  Mr. Matt Morain  Redistricting should be done by a nonpartisan committee, not by any party. Sure, we can't purge all bias or slant from the process, but a nonpartisan committee would give our state's citizens the best chance to perform their civic duty and their sacred right to vote. The last maps were unconstitutionally racist precisely because one party wanted to be in and stay in power; when the same person hired for that job is hired for this one, what kind of message is that sending to our voters? What kind of message is that sending to the rest of the country? Stop partisan gerrymandering. Start using nonpartisan committees. The former is cowardice; the latter is the right thing to do.

The people are watching, and we will not be quiet on this issue. Respectfully,
-Matt Morain

Aug 22 2017  6:29PM  Mr. Steven Kroeger  I support an open/transparent and bi-partisan or independent process for legislative redistricting. The new maps were not developed accordingly and I do not support the new districts.

I appreciated the statewide meetings held today (August 22, 2017) to solicit public comment.
Ms. Gina Cruz

My name is Gina Cruz. I'm the North Carolina State Director for Progressive Turnout Project. I'm also a concerned North Carolinian who lives here in Raleigh. Progressive Turnout Project has been working tirelessly to fight for fair maps for myself and my fellow North Carolinians.

We deserve fair voting maps that are drawn by a non-partisan redistricting commission.

We deserve maps that are drawn without the use of any partisan voter data.

We deserve maps that comply with the Voting Rights Act.

We deserve maps that don't protect incumbents who won based on maps that were ruled racially gerrymandered.

We deserve access to the map drawing process.

We deserve ample time to both review the maps and plan to attend these public comment periods. Four days is not sufficient time for new maps to be reviewed. It cuts the public out of the process. Holding these meetings at 4 pm on a Tuesday afternoon is unfair to the working class families who you represent.

We deserve representatives who actually represent North Carolinians.

We disagree representatives who actually represent North Carolinians.

My kindergarten teacher taught me that 2 wrongs do not make a right. Just because we drew partisan districts in the past does not mean we should allow it in the future just because "They did it to us now we'll do it to them".

Mr. Vance Miller

Although it may be legal to draw district lines based on the party affiliations of constituents, it is not ethical. Please draw our districts based on geography, population densities, and communities, not race, politics, or wealth.

Mr. Tanner Methven

We need to put an end to this undemocratic use of gerrymandering to keep one party in power. NC must be better than this.

Ms. Juliann Lanser

I could not come today as, like most people in North Carolina, I have a job and my day ends hours and hours after 4PM. I am depressed and angry that you choose such a time, it is obviously a purposeful effort to limit citizens access to the maps and open discussion. By choosing the limited number of venues that only allows a relatively small amount of occupants, you are again trying to suppress the voice of the people. You are additionally giving us very little time to see the data used to form the new maps. My father, who is still living, was a WW2 B52 bomber pilot. I wonder if you could look him in the eye and say that this was the democratic process that he fought for and to preserve. Please, do better by the people of NC. Be fair. Be American.

Mrs. Claudia Lange

While I appreciate the opportunity to attend this meeting, I am appalled at the lengths members of the NCGA will go to make it as difficult as possible for the public to express their thoughts and concerns about the issue of gerrymandering, as well as other issues. Let's look at this together, shall we? First, the meeting was at 4pm in the afternoon, a time when most working people are doing just that - working. Secondly, on June 5, 2017, the US Supreme Court affirmed the lower court ruling that 28 of North Carolina's legislative districts were illegally gerrymandered, which diluted the voting impact of black voters. The ruling took place in June but here we are at the end of August, given notice of only a few days to review the maps, and attend a public meeting to express our views. This is evidence, in my opinion, the many in the NCGA are really not interested in what the citizens have to say unless it furthers their own agenda or supports their reelection. There is a pattern of dismissive behavior of the NCGA towards the citizens of NC, from whom they get their power. Finally, the same man who drew the 2011 NC maps found unconstitutional was hired to redraw our maps at our expense. That is a complete disgrace and unconscionable waste of tax payer money. As one who is partially footing the bill for all of these political shenanigans, I demand better maps, I demand transparency in the process, and I demand that I be represented by those who care about the people - again, from whom legislator get their power - and not simply furthering their own careers.

Ms. Mary Goodkind

In order for North Carolina to have a representative government that works, we need to end gerrymandering. Neither the Republicans nor the Democrats should have control. We need a non-partisan redistricting commission that can make impartial and fair decisions that protect voters' rights and that ensures that the legislature really represents the will of the people.
Aug 22 2017  6:56PM  Mr. Jeffrey Marcus  The reports I hear about the new redistricting maps is that they are severely gerrymandered. This would be consistent with the stated intent of those working on the map: to substitute political data for racial data to end up with the same result of a severely tilted playing field. This is bad government. It was bad when the Democrats did it, and it is equally bad from the Republicans, perhaps even worse with the use of Big Data to surgically draw lines intentionally to create an unfair outcome. The result is an erosion of our democracy. Our government is not truly representative of the people. About 50% of North Carolinians vote Republican, but more than 2/3 of the representatives to Congress and state Legislature are Republican. This makes me feel disenfranchised. By either packing or stacking voters, it makes me feel that my vote doesn't really matter--the outcomes are predetermined. When politicians represent "safe" districts, they do not need to be accountable to their voters. The greatest threat to them politically is to be challenged from the fringe of their party when a greater percentage of activists (either left or right) vote in the primary. This has contributed to the polarization of our political discourse. There is no incentive for politicians to work together across the aisle, and every dis-incentive to do so. I strongly urge you to scrap this unfair, gerrymandered map making effort and enshrine a non-partisan system of delineating districts with a GIS-based system that avoids partisan bias. This would be the one biggest thing you could do to improve the citizens faith in our democratic system and to improve political discourse. It would mean a short-term diminishing of power for the Republican party, but would balance itself in the long run (Democrats will take over eventually) and would be much better governance. Please put the interests of the all people and of our democracy above the interests of your party. Thank you for your consideration.

Aug 22 2017  6:59PM  Alisa Thorne

Aug 22 2017  7:02PM  Mr. Thomas Shafer

3706  Aug 22 2017  6:59PM  Colin Thomson  The proposed map is especially troublesome because it strengthens the position of the controlling party without addressing--and perhaps reinforces--the racial bias that caused the old map to be rejected.

3707  Aug 22 2017  7:02PM  Ms. Carissa Trotta  I want to provide my input in regards to the redistricting of our maps. I want the new maps to comply with the Voting Rights Act and ensure that it's possible for black voters to elect their candidates of choice. I want the maps to be free from partisan politics (ignore voter registration data, past election results, incumbent addresses, etc.) and ensure maps are not drawn to unduly favor a particular party, candidate or lawmaker. This process should be left to an objective, scientific entity that is not the House nor the Senate. Not Democratic or Republican or Independent. I believe that the current redistricting process continues to be overly partisan and lacks transparency. Maps were drawn behind closed doors and voters were not given sufficient time to review proposed maps before scheduled public hearings.

A majority of the Joint House & Senate Redistricting Committee is on the record as supporting nonpartisan redistricting in the past. And yet, the current committee rejected nonpartisan redistricting standards now. Instead, these new maps once again perpetuate the cycle of gerrymandering. The proposed districts appear designed to give the majority party maximum advantage, shielding politicians from accountability to the public, while depriving voters of a choice and a univote at the ballot box.

3708  Aug 22 2017  7:11PM  Dr. Juanita Brown  To Whom It May Concern:

I am an Independent from Yancey County (and there are many of us here who are watching this process to see who we will be supporting in the next elections.)

We urge you to develop a fair and impartial re-districting process that can create a balanced approach that does not favor either Democrats or Republicans but favors our citizens and each persons fair opportunity to express their voting preferences without the boundaries "tripping" the outcome in any particular partisan direction. You might be happily surprised at the result of a fair and balanced approach!

Thank you for considering ALL of your constituents....we are watching and waiting to see your response.

Respectfully,
Juanita Brown

3709  Aug 22 2017  7:14PM  Alisa Thorne

3710  Aug 22 2017  7:14PM  Mr. Thomas Shafer

The reports I hear about the new redistricting maps is that they are severely gerrymandered. This would be consistent with the stated intent of those working on the map: to substitute political data for racial data to end up with the same result of a severely tilted playing field. This is bad government. It was bad when the Democrats did it, and it is equally bad from the Republicans, perhaps even worse with the use of Big Data to surgically draw lines intentionally to create an unfair outcome. The result is an erosion of our democracy. Our government is not truly representative of the people. About 50% of North Carolinians vote Republican, but more than 2/3 of the representatives to Congress and state Legislature are Republican. This makes me feel disenfranchised. By either packing or stacking voters, it makes me feel that my vote doesn't really matter--the outcomes are predetermined. When politicians represent "safe" districts, they do not need to be accountable to their voters. The greatest threat to them politically is to be challenged from the fringe of their party when a greater percentage of activists (either left or right) vote in the primary. This has contributed to the polarization of our political discourse. There is no incentive for politicians to work together across the aisle, and every dis-incentive to do so. I strongly urge you to scrap this unfair, gerrymandered map making effort and enshrine a non-partisan system of delineating districts with a GIS-based system that avoids partisan bias. This would be the one biggest thing you could do to improve the citizens faith in our democratic system and to improve political discourse. It would mean a short-term diminishing of power for the Republican party, but would balance itself in the long run (Democrats will take over eventually) and would be much better governance. Please put the interests of the all people and of our democracy above the interests of your party. Thank you for your consideration.

The process of redistricting in response to the Court's determination that the current districts were drawn along racial gerrymanders has been filled with fraud and deception as Republicans continue to create safe districts for themselves and caged-vote districts for Democrats. The only way to insure fair representation in our General Assembly and in Congress is through a BIPARTISAN REDISTRICTING PROCESS. No one party should ever again dominate the redistricting.
Aug 22 2017  7:16PM  Bryan Shalloway  I support districts that promote both fair representation and logical demarcations. District lines should...

1.) Promote a proportional relationship between citizen interests and legislative representation.

2.) Facilitate a representatives ability to easily travel through and meet constituents in central locations (favoring district shapes that minimize the maximum end to end distance of a district).

Following such principles is vital to our states social, economic, and political health. We need to make "one person, one vote" a reality in our democracy so we make better decisions for all of us.

As our state legislator considering our electoral maps, they must:
1. Be transparent, impartial, and fair for all North Carolinians.
2. Take partisan politics out of the process. Instead, give the people of North Carolina a real say in the map drawing process.
3. Ensure the communities of interest aren't broken up and geographies distorted for political gain.
4. Lead to outcomes that fairly represent the will of the people.

Sincerely,
Jon Fox
Senior Democracy Campaigner
Friends of the Earth - United States

Aug 22 2017  7:21PM  Mr. Jon Fox  Every voice in North Carolina should count equally, but this is not the case due to a broken redistricting process. Our legislators efforts to game North Carolina's voting maps to their advantage has left all of us—especially, people of color, native people, students and the poor—to bear the brunt of superstorms, polluted water, and poor health. We need to make "one person, one vote" a reality in our democracy so we make better decisions for all of us.

Aug 22 2017  7:24PM  Ms. Irene Godinez  If you had planned to make the public hearing today frustrating you with your maps. We, the voters, are supposed to elect legislators. You are not supposed to choose us. The discrepancy between the numbers of democratic vs republican votes overall and the number of GOP vs democratic legislators reveals how skewed this partisan redistricting process is. It is fundamentally unfair and antidemocratic. The current legislature was illegally elected based on illegal maps. They have no business being in charge of redrawing them again.

Aug 22 2017  7:26PM  Ms. April Coggins  I am very disappointed with the new maps the legislature has drawn for our state districts. This was an opportunity for our state to show we can be better. That we can rise above partisanship. That we can be brave enough to enfranchise all North Carolinians, not just those of one party or the other. We have had enough gerrymandering. Do better. Do better. Do better. BE better.

Aug 22 2017  7:26PM  Kelly Jarrett  Please appoint an independent nonpartisan redistricting committee. The voters, are supposed to elect legislators. You are not supposed to choose us. The discrepancy between the numbers of democratic vs republican votes overall and the number of GOP vs democratic legislators reveals how skewed this partisan redistricting process is. It is fundamentally unfair and antidemocratic. The current legislature was illegally elected based on illegal maps. They have no business being in charge of redrawing them again.

Aug 22 2017  7:26PM  Cynthia Campbell  I am very disappointed with the new maps the legislature has drawn for our state districts. This was an opportunity for our state to show we can be better. That we can rise above partisanship. That we can be brave enough to enfranchise all North Carolinians, not just those of one party or the other. We have had enough gerrymandering. Do better. Do better. Do better. BE better.

Aug 22 2017  7:27PM  Mr. Lee Rafalow  1. If you had planned to make the public hearing today frustrating you couldn't have done a better job. Multiple sites all in one hearing, terrible technology, couldn't hear 90% of testimony, freeze frame images, Spectrum commercials,.... You did not have a public hearing, you demonstrated your lack of interest in public input.

2. 80% of NC polled said they don't want you deciding who gets to vote for you: with crosstab: 70% of Trump voters & 88% of Clinton voters. Ie., a significant majority of YOUR constituents don't want you deciding who votes for whom.

3. You released new maps just 2 days ago and without any demographic data. There's no way to make any reasonable comments on your maps.

4. I'm tired of paying for both sides in law suits against the NCGA on redistricting: I voluntarily contribute to plaintiff organizations and then my taxes pay to defend your uniformly illegal district maps. I'm mad and I'm not alone.

5. I'm tired of my vote not counting. You have disenfranchised me and millions of others by packing and cracking districts. It doesn't matter how I vote, you've predetermined the outcome. Hopefully the Supreme Court will put an end to this partisan gerrymandering nonsense but if you have an ounce of integrity you'll put an end to it now.

6. I was mad when Democrats did partisan gerrymandering and I'm mad that Republicans are gerrymandering. Act as if you're a nonpartisan redistricting commission for this set of maps and then formalize an independent commission for all future maps. Be for state and country first, then be a partisan; not the other way around.

Aug 22 2017  7:32PM  Ms. April Coggins  We need fair redistricting, not gerrymandering that benefits one party. Our government should be a voice of the people and represent the people of NC. The mapping of districts should not be politicized.
Partisan redistricting is wrong no matter which party does it. Please approve districts that are fair to all voters, no matter their party. Legislators should not choose their voters. Voters should choose their legislators, with each person’s vote having equal weight. The maps you have proposed do not do this. Do the right thing.

Dear NCGA:
I am writing to suggest that the General Assembly is a politically neutral approach to determining the new districts in NC. There are many mathematical techniques that could create convenient balanced by factors such as similar geography and making the districts as physically compact as possible.
I do not feel there has been enough opportunity to evaluate your process. Let’s get this right this time!

It’s time to stand up and move to nonpartisan redistricting.
Ms. Sophia Bessias
Mr. Robert Sowa
Dr. Alice Stewart
Daniel Campbell
Ms. Stefanie Bullard
Mr. Clarence Henderson

I strongly support nonpartisan redistricting. It is time to have the best plans for the state than prove it without gaming the system. Otherwise, any victory will be tainted. Be strong. Make it right.
Ms. Patricia Reed

The courts have given the General Assembly a wonderful opportunity to restore trust in the legislative branch and our institutions. I sincerely hope that our legislators take it. Early signs, however, suggest that the General Assembly plans on pulling the same gerrymandering shenanigans they pulled in 2011. They’ve hired the same mapmaker who drew the unconstitutional maps last time. They’ve given the public approximately 48 hours to review their maps before holding a public hearing. And the districts are still designed to maximize the GOP’s advantage. Early analysis shows that Democrats would have to win the statewide vote by 9% just to eke out a majority in both chambers. There is nothing fair about these maps, and I suspect they don’t pass legal muster either. For instance, in Wake County, House Districts 33 and 38 were ruled racial gerrymanders. Instead of remedying the underlying problem of inequity in Wake County, the GOP has simply used this as an opportunity to draw slightly safer districts for the three Republican representatives in the county. At best, this is in accordance with the letter of the court’s ruling and not the spirit. At worst, it shows flagrant disregard for the courts. The legislature needs to seek input from nonpartisan analysts and use their insights to help craft maps that are fair and legal. For the well-being of democracy in this state, please pursue a non-partisan solution to the redistricting process.
If you believe you have the best plans for the state than prove it without gaming the system. Otherwise, any victory will be tainted. Be strong. Make it right.
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It’s time to stand up and move to nonpartisan redistricting.
Ms. Sophia Bessias
Mr. Clarence Henderson

NC’s redistricting voting maps must be fair and allow EACH and EVERY North Carolinian an equal say in all elections- with no obstacles placed and fairness for all. The new maps are not good or fair for ALL North Carolinians or North Carolina.
Aug 22 2017  8:18PM  Betsy Williams

I object to the districts proposed by the NCGA, House and Senate, which have been drawn by the same person who drew the districts found illegal in the court case. The only fair way, for both parties, is to have the districts drawn by a non-partisan and independent commission agreed to by all parties. Districts must be compact, without dividing communities and which preserve the strength of each vote. Politicians should not choose the voters, we choose the representative. The districts need to be based on population only and not designed to use voting history or built in protections for incumbents. Illegal districting resulted in what are considered unbreakable majorities in both branches of the legislative assembly and these are the people doing it again, against the demands from the court. We need fair representation for everyone in North Carolina. Use an independent commission to draw the districts.

Aug 22 2017  8:24PM  Lindsay Rivera

The newly released map perpetuates a shameful history of gerrymandering, specifically in regards to race, in North Carolina. This gerrymandering is in direct opposition to free and open elections which is a necessary foundation of our democratic government. In particular, this technique is being used as a tool to marginalize people of color and suppress their votes. This is not okay.

In the new maps, 90% of the districts are non-competitive. Maps must be redrawn without partisan advantage on either side.

Aug 22 2017  8:38PM  Ms. Jeanette Burlock

By creating districts that do not reflect the population and the way North Carolinians vote, instead creating districts stacked to keep the Republicans in power with veto proof majorities this group of legislators is serving a great injustice on the people of NC. I ask that you do the just and moral thing by making the districts better represent the population. The lack of trust in state government in this state is because of the legislators consistently choosing to do what is in their best interest rather than what is in the people/voter’s best interest. Please nix these maps and start again to create maps that are fair and impartial. It is the right thing to do.

Aug 22 2017  8:27PM  Jamie Bradway

None of these maps will be fair or conducive to representative democracy until they’re drawn scientifically by impartial parties. You may think you’re getting back at the Democrats after a century as the minority party, but you’re just perpetuating harm to our democratic institutions. It’s not about winning or revenge. It’s about doing the right thing.

In the new maps, 90% of the districts are non-competitive. Maps must be redrawn without partisan advantage on either side.

Aug 22 2017  8:24PM  Susan Pfeiffer

YOUR tactics of confusing and inconveniencing YOUR constituents is reprehensible. Sunday and Monday new maps were apparently released somewhere. For two days I have been researching what data I could find to attempt to educate myself to YOUR unconstitutional gerrymandering of my North Carolina voting districts. Not only was I unsuccessful in finding a comprehensive presentation of YOUR proposed re-districting, I am also aware that had I chosen to drive a long distance to YOUR inconvenient hearing venue for my district 11, I would not have had a seat. THIS IS NOT DEMOCRACY. YOU GERRYMANDER THE DISTRICTS SO THE CURRENT MEMBERS OF MY CONGRESS WERE ELECTED ILLEGALLY. THEN YOU HIRE THE SAME MAN WHO DREW THE UNCONSTITUTIONAL MAPS TO REDRAW THEM, SO THE SAME ILLEGALLY ELECTED OFFICIALS CAN BE ILLEGALLY ELECTED AGAIN???? My ability to understand YOUR proposed legislation and attend public hearings is my right and YOU HAVE NOT ALLOWED ME TO DO SO. YOU ARE ALLOWING MY VOTE NOT TO MATTER.

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All new districts should abide by the federal district court’s ruling in Whitford v. Gill. It is simply the right thing to do. Partisan gerrymandering undermines the one human, one vote principle. It makes government less accountable and responsive. It is bad for all Americans, including North Carolinians. If that won’t persuade the legislature, do you want to be back in the same position in two years, redrawing districts that will only last one election cycle? Save yourselves and the people of North Carolina the time, effort, and frustration, and draw fair nonpartisan districts now.

Save yourselves and the people of North Carolina the time, effort, and frustration, and draw fair nonpartisan districts now.

But how are we to know if the districts are fair and nonpartisan? The redistricting must release the data it used to design 5 districts. It must also release a more detailed map so that constituents in boundary areas can see what district they would love it if the plan passes. The redistricting committee’s lack of transparency this summer has been shameful. Senator Meredith, we are watching.

The people of NC clearly want independent and fair redistricting, something this legislature has repeatedly ignored.

Representative Lewis stated on Twitter last night that he openly acknowledges the party gain and feels that pretending to be nonpartisan is “self serving”. How is this man allowed to preside over a “bipartisan committee”?

Another $50k to Hofeller, added to the over $5M in legal fees this state has spent on redistricting lawsuits, only for us to be in the exact same situation we were in a week ago, a year ago, 2 yrs ago....

The people of NC do not trust the NCGA. We don't want Democrats drawing the maps and we definitely don't want Republicans drawing the maps. More than 1/3 of the nation now identifies as unaffiliated and it's because of things like gerrymandering.

We want INDEPENDENT redistricting and oversight according to the latest methods, including the efficiency gap analysis, contiguity excepting bodies of water and non traversable area, but most importantly, we want to choose our reps- not our reps choosing us.

I’d like to think public comment will have some impact on this body, but I doubt it. Mostly likely will see this in court. Again. And Again until the 2020 Census where we can start all over. In the meantime, consider how many votes you're losing by continuing in this lack of representation of people.

To whom it may concern,

The proposed general redistricting shows a clear intent to undermine democracy in this state. People in this state must have a way to participate in this democracy by voting, and by providing an opportunity for their vote to be heard. This map was drawn with the intent to disenfranchise voters, which is entirely unacceptable. It makes elections in this state no better than the undemocratic farce that got dictators like Putin re-elected. Please re-draw this map to ensure that everyone has a voice in this state's politics.

Thanks, Matthew Bailey
Mr. Kenneth Dalsheimer  
I for one would like to thank the committee for their hard work with this redistricting plan. While no plan is perfect and someone will always be unhappy with the results, I believe that this plan is fair and is the best that can be done for now. I have heard several groups suggest this week that race was not taken into account and minority populations would not be represented. I do believe that what has gotten us into this position was the maps that had taken race into consideration. The very thing that caused us to redraw the districts is what some groups want us to take back into consideration again.

I believe there are certain groups that are simply asking for redistricting until they win. It is akin to a child changing the rules of a game of tag because they did not achieve the winning result they had hoped for. It is my firm opinion that pretty much no matter how you slice the cake short of disregarding the state constitution that advocates for continuity (that has been achieved in as many areas as possible), the results of the state legislature would remain roughly the same.

So once again, I commend the work accomplished under such conditions and with the rushed timeline and believe that these new districts do accomplish a fair and legal drawing of the districts, are contiguous and compact, observe the single county principle, I believe that the courts should respect the authority of the state legislature and the state Constitution.

Ms. Katherine Spangler  
I am a registered Independent voter who is concerned about gerrymandering in North Carolina. I am strongly in favor of nonpartisan districts that reflect the will of the voters, NOT partisan politics! Let us have our voice.

Dr. Holly Sopko  
I demand that rationales and data be provided with new maps. When the highest court in the land calls your maps racist, a new and transparent approach is needed. Mathematicians have models and methods that draw fair maps. Why isn’t the committee using them?

Mr. Douglas Shartzer  
I would like to propose that districts be drawn using computer software.

Computer software has lots of advantages, such as transparency. Anyone can review the software and see the methods and logic used to determine the boundaries. The merits of these methods can be discussed openly when the bill detailing the requirements are drafted. Discussions on that bill will provide the opportunity to understand the motivations of those requirements. People don’t have the opportunity to assume the worst because the process is available for anyone to understand.

A computer program can also provide consistency in applying the logic uniformly and assure that all data is read and interpreted in the same manner. It also eliminates the potential for simple calculation errors or false assumptions.

Lastly, a computer program can provide a lot of flexibility where you can integrate all sorts of different data from many different sources to determine boundaries. You can make sure, if desired, that all districts are similar size, have similar population sizes, are as compact as possible or meet whatever demographic goals are necessary.

I really appreciate the opportunity to share my views and thank you for your service to our state!

Mr. Parish Moffitt  
attorney in the area of civil liberties and voting rights. He is a past cr  
I attended today’s hearings in Raleigh and echo the majority of opinions expressed opposing the maps presented and demanding that new maps be created by an independent, non-partisan committee. Some of the items I would like to echo which you heard many, many times today are:

- a majority of North Carolina citizens believe it is unfair to politicians of either party fo  
- the redistricting process must be transparent (which this was not), oppose any racial or partisan gerrymandering (which the new and old maps do), nor allow politicians (e.g. the group that drew these maps) to pick their voters (e.g. it is the citizen voters of NC that should pick our representatives)

- The hearing today and the limited time allowed for public input and review is insulting and you should be ashamed

- I was appalled and angered to learn that the same consultant responsible for creating illegal, racist maps just a few years ago was PAID to draw these new maps.

- The new maps are racist and represent a continuation of White Supremacist electoral policies the GOP majority has promoted to retain power

- Any claim that the new maps are driven by partisan data is bogus. These maps continue the racist voting rights practices of the NC GOP

- This process is not transparent and the process was intentionally made to make it almost impossible to review the maps and data and begin an important public process of critique and analysis. Based on what I heard today, the maps presented need to be tossed.

- The maps presented represent an attack on our democracy and on voting rights of all North Carolinians.

Mr. Kenneth Dalsheimer  
1. Binary is by default by allowing lawsuit to abate from illegal districts to.
Please please PLEASE rise above politics and appoint a true bipartisan commission. These maps are completely self serving and unfair. A false promise you made. The General Election should be required to win an election. Allow the people to decide. Let’s not perpetuate political malarkey. It’s time to remove the partisan divide. Let the people have a voice. I am disappointed in the NCGA in their failure to provide adequate transparency into the redistricting process and adequate time to review the proposed new districts. Due to the short duration between the maps being released and the public hearing I did not have time to properly review the maps. However even if I had been afforded the time I would not have been able to attend due to the hearings being held at 4pm. It is disappointing that the NCGA does not value feedback from professionals. Had there been adequate notice of the hearing I could have taken time off but at such short notice it was not possible. However the full maps and accompanying data have been released I have reviewed them now. Disappointment redoubled! Nearly every redrawn district is more not less partisan. Every time the NCGA is given an opportunity to act in a responsible manner they fail, and they fail because they are unwilling to address their own shortcomings. SAD!

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Mr. Justin Conley

I was unable to give my comments due to large lines and too small rooms.

I was happy to be able to discuss these partisan maps today, but before I begin I want to point out that it's only due to the flexibility of my work that I could have stood there and defend the idea of impartiality in how we elect our leaders.

At this very moment millions of my fellow North Carolinians are hard at work unable to take part in this process.

Need we be reminding that America was founded on the ideal of government — of, by, and for the people. Our great state deserves qualified leaders fairly elected to represent their interests in Raleigh.

But that's not happening.

I'm sort of a new Mecklenburg County resident, I like a lot of rural North Carolinians who move to our large municipalities for work. We're joined by the hundreds of people coming to North Carolina daily from around the country seeking a better future right here. Our state is changing and in order to harness the potential we have as a state, we need to ensure we have a government that reflects its people.

Elections should be simple. The party that gets the most votes should win the most seats in Congress and in our state legislature.

But that is not what is happening.

By drawing maps that protect incumbent legislators of the majority party, you're showing that you are more interested in gaming the system than in serving the people.

Ms. Patricia Rieser

I was fortunate to be able to attend the Aug 22 hearing at the NCGA in Raleigh. I wish I had been fortunate enough to hear and see the proceedings in the overflow room I was in. A significant percentage of the time was spent dealing with AV issues that kept us from hearing and seeing what was happening. Having these hearings at 4pm on a Tuesday with so little advance notice prevented many citizens from attending.

The maps that have been released remain ENTIRELY UNSATISFACTORY, continuing to reflect the hyper-partisanship that voters have demonstrated they do not support (e.g., by electing Gov Cooper, AG Stein and Judge Morgan when national offices went Republican).

I fully expect these sham bills to be passed by the NCGA on Thursday, as they have shown that the wishes of voters are irrelevant to them.

I know these comments are part of a court record, so JUDGES, PLEASE SAY NO THESE MAPS! There is no separating race and party in NC, these maps and 28 of the legislators currently seated are illegal.

Thank you.

Patricia Rieser, RN, FNP (retired)

Mr. Perry Woods

The City of Raleigh utilizes staff to draw districts in a non-partisan fashion utilizing only population. They are compact and include communities of interest that are easily identifiable. 1 district is SE Raleigh, One SW, One NW, One N, and one NE. That combined with our non-partisan jungle primary has lead to governance of cooperation seeking the middle to find solutions, not governance by sabotage seeking the edges and issues rather than solutions. These district in now way achieve balance that will result in true competition, and gives the middle a chance. I urge to consider our people over power, and come up with fair and balanced districts that consider nothing but population, no voter history, no demographics, no model scores. Just people. Thank you.

Thad Wengert

INDEPENDENT VOTER

I attended the Hearing this afternoon in Charlotte. It was unfortunate that the Committee did not provide data about the proposed districts. A printed map is insufficient information for the voters to give you complete feedback. While the GA has the power to redistrict as it chooses, I urge you to look for restraint and fairness for two reasons: 1) for North Carolina itself. I am not proud to have the label of surgically precise racist put on my state and I will vote accordingly. 2) for the Republican Party. The recipe for ruining a good sports team is to schedule a slate of weak opponents. The short term wins are fun. But when the important games come, the team is not ready. In the same way, weakening the opposition will give only a short advantage, poor policy, and an eventual loss. I'm an independent voter - compete for my vote with good ideas rather than hiding behind manufactured - but fleeting - advantage.
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<td>Aug 22 2017 9:58PM</td>
<td>Mr. Mark Harris</td>
<td>I completely support non-partisan redistricting. Gerrymandering is arguably the greatest contributor to the polarization crisis that currently grips our state and our nation. Until we get competitive districts, we the voters are the victims of extreme candidates, extreme ideology, and an ineffective, unpopular, and divided government. If the General Assembly won’t fix this, hopefully the federal courts will.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017 9:59PM</td>
<td>Dr. Karen Daniels</td>
<td>I attending the hearings today (Aug 22) in Raleigh, but had to leave before my name was called. I later found out that this was at 8pm. Below, I attach the statement I would have made had time allowed. My name is Karen Daniels, and I am a 15 year resident of Carrboro, NC who works here in Raleigh. I have looked over the maps provided during the few days, and have some serious concerns. These new maps were drawn by the Republican Party, rather than a non-partisan group, effectively tilting legislative power in favor of some groups over others. Republican lawmakers are on record as saying that they would use prior election outcomes as a way to draw districts which favor their candidates. How is that equal representation for all citizens of the state? The reason we are here is that the courts have directed the Legislature to ensure that the new districts give black voters fair representation. Where is the data for these new districts, showing that this is the case? The North Carolina Constitution calls for the government to serve &quot;the good of the whole.&quot; Instead, I see a Legislature drawing maps which best serve the present Legislature. And North Carolinians agree: 80% of us say that the Legislature should not be able to draw its own districts.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017 10:04PM</td>
<td>Ms. Kate Nangle</td>
<td>To whom it may concern, I am disheartened by our state's continued lack of concern regarding blatant gerrymandering. I spent the first 18 years of my life in this state and am appalled to see the exact same issues present at the age of 30. While I am, it surprises me little that after decades of doing little to resolve the issue it continues with utter disregard for our justice system. You can do better, you have been told numerous times to do better, and have certainly had plenty if time to do it. We are all paying you to do a job you’ve refused to do for decades. Please consider starting to do it correctly in the next decade.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017 10:07PM</td>
<td>Mr. Darrin Vicsik</td>
<td>The re-drawn Districts still seem to fail the basic principles of fair representation: 1. Contiguity 2. Consistency with natural and political boundaries (county lines, for example) 3. Compactness (low perimeter to area ratio or a similar measure) As an example, what is up with Senate District 18?!? It appears to have a tumor jutting South. I hope this re-do is also rejected by the Supreme Court and that the Legislative Body’s map making privilege is revoked. Major (Retired) Darrin M Vicsik U.S. Army Cary, NC</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017 10:16PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Marnie Ross</td>
<td>I am in no way in favor of the maps that were redrawn. I am completely disgusted with the GOP, and the way they are acting only in favor to themselves, and in no way are representing the state as a whole. I urge a non partisan 3rd party redraw the maps to be fair and end the gerrymandering.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017 10:18PM</td>
<td>Dr. Joseph Woolley</td>
<td>It seems to me that the crux of this matter lies in the idea of the legitimacy of the NCGA in the eyes of the populace across the state of North Carolina. It is not restricted only to those districts identified by the court as having been subjected to racial gerrymandering, but the whole process of setting boundaries to legislative districts. If the citizens of NC do not believe the boundaries are drawn fairly, then the NCGA (and to a certain extent the courts reviewing those boundaries) can not, and will not, be accepted as legitimate legislators or arbiters of the laws of the state. This seems to be the current state of affairs, and the newly redrawn districts do little or nothing to address this sense of fairness, and therefore legitimacy, of the elected representatives. We MUST have a legislature that we can agree on as legitimate representatives of the populace.</td>
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I am disheartened but not surprised to see that the legislature is once again treating their constitutional duty like a partisan game. As the analysis of Indivisible Flip NC has found, the new maps are even more gerrymandered than the old maps.

WE DEMAND FAIR MAPS!

Fair redistricting should follow these basic principles:
• Race is Key: Map drawers must ensure that it is possible for black voters to elect their candidates of choice, as required by the Voting Rights Act.
• "One person, one vote:" Districts must be very equal in population and obey other laws.
• Geographic Compactness: Map drawers must create compact districts, without odd tentacles. Districts must not skip over areas or join two areas at just one point.
• Count Incarcerated Persons as residents of their pre-incarceration home or family residence for purposes of redistricting.
• No Favoritism: Map drawers must not use the addresses of current lawmakers, or the party affiliation or voting history of voters, or other data to help a party or politician.
• Respect Communities of Interest: Map drawers must avoid dividing communities with similar cultural, ethnic and economic interests; a local government district; etc.
• Count Incarcerated Persons as residents of their pre-incarceration home or family residence for purposes of redistricting.
• Respect County Boundaries: Maps should make every effort to keep counties whole.
• Evaluate Fairness: Before it is approved, a map must be evaluated for overall racial bias and partisan competitiveness, using tools recognized by courts to measure fairness.

The new maps are pretty, but it’s clear your computer expert has designed them with the same overall goal of protecting the incumbent party. You’re drawing district lines to pick and choose your voters, which is the opposite of what we want in a representative democracy.

Because of your fetish for protecting Elephants, you voted to use partisan election outcomes to draw the new maps – and as a result, many districts are rigged to make them less competitive than they are now. In a few cases, your eagerness for partisan advantage may have violated the state constitution’s ban against redistricting in mid-decade. In Wake and Mecklenburg counties, for example, you’ve changed House Districts 36, 40 and 105 to increase the Republican advantage in elections, even though these districts don’t need to be redrawn at all. That’s illegal redistricting in mid-decade. Bottom line: the new maps are partisan gerrymandering in the extreme. Here are two way to see this.

First, over 90% of the districts are not competitive, based on data you furnished. Your data included 5 statewide elections where the candidate won by 2 percentage points or less – the Tillis v Hagan, Cooper v McCrory, etc. – 5 very competitive statewide elections in your “Stat Pack,” each decided by 2 percentage points or less. BUT in nearly all the new districts you’ve drawn, the candidates in these elections won by more than 10 percentage points. There are four, 15% of...
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<td>Aug 22 2017 10:37PM</td>
<td>Diana Young-Paiva</td>
<td>Thank you for providing an opportunity to comment about this very important issue. I wish that I had been able to attend the public hearing and speak in person, but I was not able to attend based on the short notice. I was however able to listen to the audio stream of the Raleigh hearing, and it was very inspiring to listen to the sincere and heartfelt comments of my fellow citizens. Thanks for making that audio stream available. My comments actually pertain more to the process that was followed for drawing the boundaries rather than the proposed maps themselves. Because the data was not provided to the public until Monday, there hasn’t been enough time for me to do any kind of thoughtful analysis. From what I can see initially, it appears that some improvements have been made in terms of compactness, but that work remains to be done before the boundaries can be considered sufficient to meet the legal standards set for fair districts. I am disappointed that the republican members of the redistricting committee hired the same outside consultant with national Republican party ties that created the current maps that have been ruled illegal, to prepare the new maps. I am disappointed that the process hasn’t been more transparent. I disagree with the presumption that in our state, voter party affiliation but not race can be used to draw fair boundaries that protect the voting rights of black voters. As I understand it, one of the criteria used for drawing the new boundaries was established to protect the districts of the current elected officials. That is wrong. The opportunity for people to fairly elect the people of their choice should be protected, not the position of those currently in office.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017 10:43PM</td>
<td>Amy Hanson</td>
<td>The new maps for the house and senate are full-on political gerrymandering. It is shameful that politicians are proud of using their power to rig the system in their favor. It harms all Americans by diluting votes and creating candidates that hold more and more extreme positions, which then leads to gridlock and politicians only working to keep themselves in power, when they should be working to compromise and help average people. NON-PARTISAN REDISTRICTING NEEDS TO BECOME THE LAW IN NORTH CAROLINA.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017 10:53PM</td>
<td>Mr. John Carella</td>
<td>Redistricting should, at a minimum, serve to ensure a “republican form of government” in which people elect their leaders. For the sustained health of our democracy, the maps should also maximize the number of “open” districts while still protecting minorities. These maps are undermine representative government and would be terrible for both our political discourse and the accountability of our elected leaders. Please try again.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017 11:05PM</td>
<td>Jonathon Waldes</td>
<td>I am very disappointed that the redrawn maps we’re only recently made public. Also there is no public input being taken. As a proud NC citizen I want fair maps that allow our lovely communities to elect the best representatives for them. Put an end to this racially motivated gerrymandering because it is illegal, immoral and holds our state back from being one of the very best states in the United States of America.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017 11:15PM</td>
<td>Ms. Margaret Peeples</td>
<td>I want districts to be redrawn so that every citizen is encouraged to participate in elections believing that their representatives want fair elections that result in fair representation. Without fair representation our government becomes more separated from the people, less representative, less reflective of the views of the people.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017 11:22PM</td>
<td>Ayla Ficken</td>
<td>I think the process should be one where the principles are clearly articulated and agreed to by a bipartisan group. I have not heard of any principles that are being used so how can we judge if the resulting maps meet the guidelines? I think it is ridiculous to put out maps over a weekend and ask people to comment on them on Tuesday. Clearly, input is not welcome. I want my democracy back!</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017 11:40PM</td>
<td>Ms. Shirley Butterworth</td>
<td>We are not rid of McCrappyPants...now you (and his cronies) are next! Please have an INDEPENDENT commission analyze and redraw the maps for both House and Senate. A fair representation of the people in our state is what is needed so that ALL constituents’ voices are heard.</td>
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I attended the redistricting hearing held 8/22 at the Legislative Office building in Raleigh. I am appalled at the cavalier manner in which this hearing was conducted. The hearing was scheduled with little time for attendees to review the new maps. Meeting places were scheduled with little regard for the numbers who would be interested, with the result that those in overflow rooms missed much of the speakers' words. The process of live streaming was managed poorly: even in Raleigh, where you would expect the GA to have access to the latest technology, the streaming was slow, sound was terrible, and we lost the feed many times. If the GA wanted to set up a process to ensure little public response and great frustration, it could not have been done better. I believe you showed disdain for the public and for the process.

As for the maps, this round looks little better than the previous maps. You have still used political data and voter registrations in order to draw districts that protect the Republican super-majority. The rehiring of Thomas Hofeller is a slap in the face to all who want to see a fair process. There was total secrecy in the drawing, with open embrace of partisan advantage.

In my part of Wake county (Apex), you have obviously set out to protect Nelson Dollar and Tamara Barringer, drawing Dollar's challenger out of NC36 and moving Barringer's district into more rural areas that vote more Republican. In defiance of "one person, one vote," you have put too many people in each Wake county district, so that we are under-represented while the more rural areas of the state get more representation.

This past year, a bipartisan panel of former judges showed how you can draw fair lines by ignoring past voting patterns and working along county lines while preserving population distribution within Voting Rights Districts. I am in support of the new maps. They are fair and legal.

The rule should be a representative for any elected position may only receive votes from voters who are registered in the district for which they are running. Also, only registered voters may vote, and all voters must provide a bona fide government-issued picture identification card.

Please throw out the politics, redraw fair, sensible districts quickly so NC can move forward. Please understand that every citizen has a right to be represented and elected officials. I expect our fine state to govern fairly to all citizens. Above and do right by NC! As a good citizen, I hope more from my elected officials.

I find it increasingly hard to trust and support those I have voted for when you continue to embarrass and ignore the good people of NC.

It is despicable that people elected by districts deemed to be illegal are going to the legislature. It is a slap in the face to all who want to see a fair process. These districts should be drawn by an impartial, independent third party using publicly available algorithms to ensure the fairest distribution of votes and that all voters are fairly represented.

Please understand that every citizen has a right to be represented and know their Vote counts. Gerrymandering is the Achilles heel of our democracy.

I feel very strongly about a process for non-partisan redistricting in NC. I want districts that are drawn that do not favor one party over another and that ignore voter registration and past voting history. The districts should be compact, and not wiggling in funny shapes over the map. They must also comply with the Voting Rights Act. Please stop putting the legislators in charge of redistricting, who will continue to draw maps to favor keeping themselves in power.

The citizens of NC deserve and demand fairly drawn districts not gerrymandered for political purposes. We are in the 21st century. This is easy. Use an algorithm and a computer and set up districts based on population distribution.

It is imperative that North Carolina rectifies the gerrymandered mess which unfairly under-represents Democrats. The shortest splittline method is easy and transparent. Do not fail to act! Thank you.

The proposed map divides my county in half and lumps me in with an entire coastal county that is not aligned with my county's local interests. With a much larger population than the portion of Columbus County that has been included, Pender County residents will hold interests. With a much larger population than the portion of Columbus County that has been included, Pender County residents will hold one person, one vote.

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It is imperative that North Carolina rectifies the gerrymandered mess which unfairly under-represents Democrats. The shortest splittline method is easy and transparent. Do not fail to act! Thank you.

As I review the latest Legislative Redistricting maps that are being considered for NC, I am saddened to see the partisan map drawing skills are still at work. Even without the supporting data being released to the public along with the maps (which is an insult in itself), one can see many districts that are contorted. Please, please rise above and do right by NC! As a good citizen, I hope more from my elected officials. I expect our fine state to govern fairly to all citizens. I find it increasingly hard to trust and support those I have voted for when you continue to embarrass and ignore the good people of NC. Please throw out the politics, redraw fair, sensible districts quickly so NC can move forward.
I strongly support a less partisan redistricting process and outcome that more accurately reflects the purple state that North Carolina is today. No party - neither Republican nor Democratic - should use the redistricting process to achieve a stranglehold on power. Please - put good government ahead of partisan politics and draw new maps that are fair to all. Thank you!

From the color maps, it is very difficult for me to tell if or to what degree any of the districts are skewed. Despite this, I suspect they were drawn by a bunch of people whose only goal was to retain and secure the advantage to Republicans. Why would you pay $50,000 to the person who drew the illegal maps to draw new maps? Why not enlist a bipartisan group to develop new maps? I guess that might jeopardize the continued power grab. The courts will decide, as will the people in 2018.

If my Representative or Senator votes for this or any other gerrymandered districts they will never again get my vote. End this charade and give us fair non-partisan districts that represent you constituents and not your Party preferably drawn by an open transparent mutually agreed computer algorithm that is based on each voter's actual residence within a county.

Surely, you have heard the age-old idoms, "haste makes waste" and "measure twice, cut once"; your goal is not a quick process but success in ending gerrymandering.

Yes, an independent commission pushes against the time limit, but it provides the Court a significant showing of good faith. The potential expense must be weighed against the certain litigation costs that will continue to accumulate if this process is unfair or inadequate. If we had done this to begin with, how much healthier would our state be financially, emotionally, and spiritually?

As a NC citizen, I am ALWAYS in favor of NC showing good faith in its dealings. In this case, I strongly urge that we place ourselves humbly at the mercy of the court, if necessary, and show such good faith in good government ahead of partisan politics and draw new maps that are fair to all. Thank you!

Please find a way to toss the old maps as well as these newly redrawn maps, and establish new district maps with neutrality and fairness. If the legislators cannot do this themselves because they cannot play well together, then acknowledge your limits and hand-off the responsibility for drawing maps to a completely independent, non-partisan commission.

I am Rev. Christina Auch, a resident of Cleveland County, NC and a pastor in the NC Lutheran Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America.

The public hearings scheduled with limited notice appear to be little more than cover for plausible deniability against accusations of lacking transparency and participation. Surely, you have heard the age-old idoms, "measure twice, cut once"; your goal is not a quick process but success in ending gerrymandering.

Please adjust for fair representation. Thank you.

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To: NCGA Redistricting Committee

The 350 members of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro branch of the NAACP have a simple request: Make North Carolina a Democracy Again.

We ask that the lawmakers of North Carolina's legislature place the cornerstone of democracy -- equal representation and access to the ballot for all -- ahead of their impulse to hoard power. We believe this is a more than reasonable ask. Without that cornerstone, we do not have a democracy. We do not have a bipartisan government. We have one-party rule. And unfortunately the redrawing of the state House and Senate districts so far looks to be a process that has little resemblance to democracy.

Even if the maps were redrawn with fairness in mind, which does not appear to be the case, the process to make and review these maps, which were vigorously smacked down as racist by the courts, has been nakedly undemocratic. They've been redrawn in secret prior to receiving public comment, revealed with essentially no time for the public to evaluate them, no serious attempt was made to include input from anyone other than the Republican lawmakers. The voter data corresponding to the maps was not even released with the maps; instead it was released during the solar eclipse, one day before the public hearings. The hearings are being held during a workday and on the first day back to school for many parents. This is not what democracy looks like.

The public hearings scheduled with limited notice appear to be little more than cover for plausible deniability against accusations of lacking transparency and participation. Surely, you have heard the age-old idoms, "measure twice, cut once"; your goal is not a quick process but success in ending gerrymandering.

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Even if the maps were redrawn with fairness in mind, which does not appear to be the case, the process to make and review these maps, which were vigorously smacked down as racist by the courts, has been nakedly undemocratic. They’ve been redrawn in secret prior to receiving public comment, revealed with essentially no time for the public to evaluate them, no serious attempt was made to include input from anyone other than the Republican lawmakers. The voter data corresponding to the maps was not even released with the maps; instead it was released during the solar eclipse, one day before the public hearings. The hearings are being held during a workday and on the first day back to school for many parents. This is not what democracy looks like.

The public hearings scheduled with limited notice appear to be little more than cover for plausible deniability against accusations of lacking transparency and participation. Surely, you have heard the age-old idoms, "measure twice, cut once"; your goal is not a quick process but success in ending gerrymandering.

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I am appalled at the lengths members of the NCGA will go to make it as difficult as possible for the public to express their thoughts and concerns about the issue of gerrymandering, as well as other issues. Let's look at this together, shall we? First, the meeting was at 4pm in the afternoon, a time when most working people are doing just that - working. Secondly, on June 5, 2017, the US Supreme Court affirmed the lower court ruling that 28 of North Carolina's legislative districts were illegally gerrymandered, which diluted the voting impact of black voters. The ruling took place in June but here we are at the end of August, given notice of only a few days to review the maps, and attend a public meeting to express our views. This is evidence, in my opinion, the many in the NCGA are really not interested in what the citizens have to say unless it furthers their own agenda or supports their re-election. There is a pattern of dismissive behavior of the NCGA towards the citizens of NC, from whom they get their power. Finally, the same man who drew the 2011 NC maps found unconstitutional was hired to redraw our maps at our expense. That is a complete disgrace and unconscionable waste of tax payer money. As one who is partially footing the bill for all of these political shenanigans, I demand better maps, I demand transparency in the process, and I demand that I be represented by those who care about the people - again, from whom legislators get their power - and not simply furthering their own careers.

I object to the way the new maps have been drawn in order to heavily favor republican candidates. This is particularly unjust since the republican legislators in NC only have the power to draw these maps through gaining a majority, by means of illegally racially gerrymandered districts.

The new maps need to be drawn again to fairly represent ALL voters in this state, not just republicans, especially since their majority has been ruled to be illegal.

I am appalled that the NC General Assembly has drawn these maps as instructed by the US Court of Appeals. I believe these maps comply with the Voting Rights Act, as well as all existing and relevant court precedents. These maps follow the letter of the law as understood today. The proposed State Legislative Districts comply with "one person, one vote" with each district containing roughly equal population based on the 2010 census numbers.

I hope the courts will respect the Constitutional role that legislatures have in drawing district lines. The drawing of legislative districts is the responsibility of the elected branches of government. I respectfully request that the courts refrain from changing redistricting law and standards after the lines have been drawn, this is a purely Legislative function.

I am a resident of NC, I am deeply concerned that our elected officials ensure a nonpartisan and fair election process. Please use subject matter expertise to draw maps.

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I am a Charlotte, NC constituent and I don't understand why the NC General Assembly districts, so here is my corrected follow-up. My earlier submitted comment had to do with US Congressional Districts, not NC General Assembly districts, so here is my corrected follow-up.

In general, my comments are the same.

1. Don't split up counties
2. Eliminate gerrymandering by any party
3. Ensure districts are more compact than current districts
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Aug 23 2017  9:23AM  Ms. Della Martin  I support an independent commission to develop new redistricting maps.

Why would you hire the same person to redraw the maps when he drew the illegal, gerrymandered districts in the first place? This does nothing to give me confidence that you are trying to draw fair districts.

The hearings were held in five locations across the state, in tiny rooms with bad audio, with a notice of only three business days (five calendar days), and held during a time when most people find it extremely inconvenient. This does nothing to tell me that you are trying to draw fair districts.

Please use an independent, non-partisan source to redraw the maps. Give me confidence that my state government is doing the right thing for me and all the citizens of North Carolina.

Aug 23 2017  9:24AM  Dr. Jeff Braden  It is time for NC to join other states and move to nonpartisan redistricting. The new maps continue to practice of making elections noncompetitive, and elected representatives therefore unresponsive to the broad range of constituents.

Stop gerrymandering now!

Jeffery P. Braden

Aug 23 2017  9:25AM  Rachael Barker  We need a nonpartisan, transparent process to ensure that fair, unbiased (particularly in the area of race-no more racial bias against NC black citizens) maps are produced by. They also need to be produced in a timely manner by individuals with appropriate expertise that allows for review. The current set of maps fails on all counts. Please do better.

Aug 23 2017  9:31AM  Rita Lewis  This is becoming a government for the powerful, by those who want to stay in power. It certainly doesn’t look like a government of the people.

Please. Hold public hearings, involve ALL parties. Take the time to do it right. We have a chance to take the high road and avoid gerrymandering of ANY kind. Look at all possibilities, including an open primary/top-two system. Anything to ensure fair representation for the entire citizenry. If we can be better to one another while we’re on the face of this earth, let’s do it.

Aug 23 2017  9:32AM  Mrs. Diane Jordan  Redistricting should be done without out regard for partisan interests. The people of North Carolina deserve an unbiased election process that does not devalue their vote. Gerrymandering is distorting election results and should be outlawed whether based on race or party affiliations.

Aug 23 2017  9:33AM  Mrs. Rachel Lichte  Representation is our right! And the committee has used their jobs to undermine this fundamental right. This is fundamentally undemocratic.

How are we supposed to respect the outcomes when the process of developing them is undemocratic, unjust, and lacks interest in true representation? The use of election data was sneaky - and given the Republicans (those leading the process) come out ahead, it’s hard not to think that the intention was to secure the Republican lead. Given the process involved the same consultants who led NC to previously gerrymandered maps that were not in our best interest, it’s hard to believe that this process or this outcome was designed to be in the best interest of the voting population. Given the maps were released only 3 and 4 days before and the public comment period was only announced 4 days before a weekday afternoon public comment session, it’s hard to believe you actually wanted the public to see the results of your plan.

Reject these maps. Put a fair, non-partisan process in place. Make our government representative. This should be the goal of new maps.

Aug 23 2017  9:37AM  David Foland  Please discontinue unfair gerrymandering in the state, representatives should not be able to choose their own bespoke voting bases. Voting is an American institution and this perversion of it to such unscrupulous ends is sickening.
While I appreciate the opportunity to attend this meeting, I am appalled at the lengths members of the NCGA will go to make it as difficult as possible for the public to express their thoughts and concerns about the issue of gerrymandering, as well as other issues. Let’s look at this together, shall we? First, the meeting was at 4pm in the afternoon, a time when most working people are doing just that—working. Secondly, on June 5, 2017, the US Supreme Court affirmed the lower court ruling that 28 of North Carolina’s legislative districts were illegally gerrymandered, which diluted the voting impact of black voters. The ruling took place in June but here we are at the end of August, given notice of only a few days to review the maps, and attend a public meeting to express our views. This is evidence, in my opinion, the many in the NCGA are really not interested in what the citizens have to say unless it furthers their own agenda or supports their reelection. There is a pattern of dismissive behavior of the NCGA towards the citizens of NC, from whom they get their power. Finally, the same man who drew the 2011 NC maps found unconstitutional was hired to redraw our maps at our expense. That is a complete disgrace and unconscionable waste of tax payer money. As one who is partially footing the bill for all of these political shenanigans, I demand better maps, I demand transparency in the process, and I demand that I be represented by those who care about the people — again, from whom legislators get their power - and not simply furthering their own careers.

This legislature, elected by gerrymandered maps in the first place, continues to exercise white supremacy by ignoring the ruling of the courts and the details of the Voter Rights Act. You have hired the same consultant and are consulting election results to determine districts. What is more, you are not allowing everyone access to the new proposed maps before the time you will discuss them. Fair maps cannot be drawn up by politicians whose jobs depend on them. I am strongly requesting an independent committee and an open process/ directive/ instructions provided for required revisions, some information regarding the basis of the revisions that were made, and then some information on how the data for districts has changed with the proposed revisions. As you have presented the redistricting maps, how can you possibly say that you fairly got meaningful input from the public? The way you are proceeding with the public input portion of the process is very suspect.

I understand the details of the ‘new’ redistricting plan were released this last week … and today is last/only day for comments? What a mean joke to play on us citizens! We do notice such stuff.

I was unable to access the bill with this, your on-line access. Is that deliberate on your part?

None the less, here’s some of what I think:

Re the small note on your so-called access form: Feb 15, 2016 … The 1st Congressional District and all districts affected by the ….. at this moment as this will cost our state millions of dollars to redo ballots &…

Ok, charge the millions to re-do to those who made the mess. Also charge them for wasting our time/money that first time.

We want FAIR TO ALL voting districts. We are tired of hate, greed, anger, etc. That, actually is NOT the American Dream nor Great America, inspire of plagiarism by unethical people.

Kindly get on with governing for all of us. NAACP, ACLU, other citizen groups have provided great examples. Try reading them.

Anorilv. dispairinolv. Susan

Regarding the redistricting map itself, how can I or the average citizen possibly evaluate a map at that scale, with no road references, etc. What would have been helpful would have been before and after maps available for each community at meaningful scale, a link to the legal directive/ instructions provided for required revisions, some information regarding the basis of the revisions that were made, and then some information on how the data for districts has changed with the proposed revisions. As you have presented the redistricting maps, how can you possibly say that you fairly got meaningful in put from the public? The way you are proceeding with the public input portion of this process is very suspect.

The drawing of districts should be done by a nonpartisan commission. Districts should be competitive, not heavily skewed in the direction of one party. Enough of this mess. We are a democracy. We need to act like it.

Looking at the proposed map, I see that gerrymandering is alive and well. Why can’t you do the right thing and appoint an independent and nonpartisan commission to draw up the redistricting map?

As an unaffiliated voter and lifelong resident of North Carolina, I am extremely disappointed in the ultra-partisan nature of the new district maps. It’s deeply saddening that NC Republicans see this as a game in which their only goal is to win rather than a sacred trust to fairly and honestly represent the people of our great state. They do not seem to care about the long-term damage partisan redistricting has on civic health. If people know their votes won’t count, why vote at all?

NC Republicans are acting like banana republic dictators rather than public servants. It’s disheartening, and they should be ashamed of themselves for their selfish and unpatriotic behavior.
Aug 23 2017 10:07AM Deepa Bhatt-Mackin

I was raised, and my entire family still live, in Forsyth, Ashe and Wilkes districts. These districts continue the gerrymandering of our state elections. Based on actions of the NCGA and the Redistricting Committee, I have concluded that both the redistricting maps and the process followed in the court ordered effort have made a mockery of public input and the actual outputs are nothing more than a sham of an effort to make the districts reflect true votes. Public input was deliberately prevented both by the NC.GA delaying any effort required by court orders for about a year, then hastily releasing maps and data two days before hearings and three days before voting. Obviously, the NCGA never intended to consider any public input because they haven't allowed reasonable access or time for public input. As to the maps, they are nothing more than a calculated attempt to maintain the same failed districting alignment used to maintain the status quo and limit true voting impacts. As is clear, redistricting needs to be taken away from partisan groups (the GA) and completed by non-partisan or bipartisan groups or organizations. The extreme gerrymandering in NC must stop now!!

Aug 23 2017 10:20AM Mr. bob leker

I do not approve of this new redistricting map. I find that it maintains the race-based principles of the first one, which was struck down as illegal in Court. This is a very poor attempt at correcting the gerrymandering found on the first map, and continues to minimize the impact of the votes of entire groups of people. This must not be approved.

Aug 23 2017 10:21AM Janice Blunt

I have lived in North Carolina for many decades, so I remember when the majority party in the general assembly only released the new NC district maps Sunday and held a limited public meeting the following Tuesday. That's obviously intended to limit analysis and debate by the public. Given this limited information, I sincerely question the district maps Sunday and held a limited public meeting the following Tuesday. That's obviously intended to limit analysis and debate by the public. Given this limited information, I sincerely question the gerrymandered appearance of the following House districts: 114, 117, 66, 96, 89, 107, 103, 81, 75, 57, 58, 45, 44, 46, 21, 10, 18 and 1.

Aug 23 2017 10:24AM Dr. Jennifer Stanton

The most recently drawn maps do not attempt to represent the diversity of our voters in NC. It is geared only to further the interests of the party in power. I don't care if the Democrats did such in the past. Can we not begin to consider what is good for the people of North Carolina? And "No" that does not equate to either party having a veto proof majority in districts drawn to accomplish such majorities. Such is a travesty of democracy. Let's win because he actually won. That's the sign of a coward, not a leader. Let's win because he actually won.

Aug 23 2017 10:25AM Janice Blunt

I was raised, and my entire family still live, in Forsyth, Ashe and Wilkes counties. These are not maps of North Carolina. They are guides to district boundaries, not a process that favors one party over another, or negates the votes of any group. The public is watching. These maps could have been drawn months ago with true non-partisan groups. You are rigging the system. Shameful that you resort to these tactics to try to hold on to your power.

Aug 23 2017 10:26AM Mr. Larry Reed

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Aug 23 2017 10:35AM Janice Blunt

I have lived in North Carolina for many decades, so I remember when the Republicans wanted an independent redistricting commission, but the Democrats in the General Assembly refused it, just like the Democrats now want an independent redistricting commission, but the Republicans in the General Assembly are refusing it. Frankly this kind of thing is why I'm an independent. The only logical, rational solution to redistricting is an independent commission. Please use a nonpartisan process to BY EXAMPLE, as well as BY LAW. Please use a nonpartisan process to draw district boundaries. Use zip code boundaries.

Aug 23 2017 10:37AM Mr. Phillip Morrison

To break up the county or city using political demography proposes. Buncombe County in a "whole" is unique and unlike adjacent counties and cities. From our water supply issues to our diverse and vibrant community we should be treated as a single entity in one district and served by a single representative that understands us as a community. To break up the county or city using political demography does not serve the community but only the individual. We are a vibrant community bound and cherished by our differences.

Aug 23 2017 10:39AM Mr. Craig White

I have lived in North Carolina for many decades, so I remember when the Republicans wanted an independent redistricting commission, but the Democrats in the General Assembly refused it, just like the Democrats now want an independent redistricting commission, but the Republicans in the General Assembly are refusing it. Frankly this kind of thing is why I'm an independent. The only logical, rational solution to redistricting is an independent commission. Please put the long term good of North Carolina ahead of the immediate interests of your different political parties. Thank you.
As stated and analyzed by Elizabeth Jones Sbrocco:
The foundation of a representative democracy is that elected officials fairly and accurately represent the will of the people. In North Carolina, gerrymandering has perverted this basic tenant, rendering our state a failed democracy. Last year, the courts ruled that our state legislative boundaries were unconstitutional because they unfairly packed too many minority voters into too few legislative districts. Since this ruling, state legislators have continued to undermine the will of the people for over a year. They have finally released new maps and part of the data required to evaluate them, but have done so only 24 hours before the only public hearings that are currently planned before they will take a vote. As a Ph.D. Biologist with expertise in geographic information systems (GIS), statistics, and spatial analyses, and as a native North Carolinian, I take issue with these maps for the following reasons:

1) These maps were drawn by the very politicians who were unconstitutionally elected and who have undermined the will of the people in our state for the last five years. This is the equivalent of letting a criminal choose his own punishment. They cannot be trusted to do the right thing.

2) In North Carolina, election results are a proxy for race since a) less than 3% of black active voters are registered as Republicans and b) with few exceptions, Republicans do not win elections in black-majority districts. Thus, the use of election results in drawing new maps leads to undermining the will of black voters, a practice that is unconstitutional.

3) Map-makers have skillfully used GIS-based technology to go from one unconstitutional extreme to another. On one end, districts are gerrymandered by packing too many black voters into too few districts, and on the other end, districts are gerrymandered by diluting the power of minority voters.

Legislators elected from illegal districts have created new maps to protect themselves. N.C. lawmakers have used unlawful gerrymandering to win elections in 2012, 2014 and 2016; they keep passing laws in an illegal General Assembly that can ignore voters. The new maps continue extreme partisan gerrymandering. About 90% of the districts clearly favor one party, creating safe seats, with little or no partisan competition. General Assembly leaders have spent $4.8 million of taxpayers' money to defend their maps in court, but they keep losing. Stop cheating, stop wasting our money.

Racial gerrymandering promotes racial divisions to give white elites political power. In 2011, N.C. Republicans purposefully packed black voters into a small number of districts to undermine the new fusion coalition that elected Barack Obama. GOP lawmakers combined racial gerrymandering with an anti-voter “Monster Law” that targeted African Americans, as the court said, “with almost surgical precision.” Racial gerrymandering is a tool of white supremacy. It produces rigged elections that hurt all North Carolinians except the wealthy, white, mostly male power brokers.

The recent maps drawn by the GOP do nothing to answer the court ruling. Indeed, these maps are another stalling scheme that will allow NC voters to have yet another election under unconstitutional maps. They keep the GOP supermajorities in both Chambers. The maps are hyper-incumbent protection vehicles. Legislators continue to pick their voters instead of voters choosing their elected officials. Most of the seats drawn are not competitive, they double-bunk members of the same party and put Democrats in Republican-leaning districts.

The original maps should never have received pre-clearance from the Obama DOJ in the first place. We have seen appeal after appeal to courts that have been too patient and accommodating to the outlandish power grabs by the NC GOP. The same man who lead the "Red Map" plan that resulted in unconstitutional maps in NC and nationwide was hired again to draw these maps.

I recommend that the court reject these maps and draw fair maps for NC with all deliberate speed.
Aug 23 2017 11:04AM Phyllis Demko  “We are on to you!” We citizens understand how you got to your position of power and how you stay there. And the new maps show you are not willing to learn. The last time the Supreme Court looked at partisan gerrymandering, it told the plaintiffs they had not offered a workable standard to distinguish between permissible political line-drawing and unconstitutional partisan gerrymandering. On October 3, oral argument will begin for a case from Wisconsin, Gill v. Whitford. This case presents such a “workable standard” and more refinements are in development. Some of the brightest minds in the country are doing substantive research to explain why our democracy is not working like it should. For example, some really smart mathematicians at Tufts University, "The Metric Geometry and Gerrymandering Group" have just finished a major conference which they will duplicate through workshops around the country. One of these workshops, called “Geometry of Redistricting” will be at Duke, and many of your critics will be banging the doors down to be admitted. Eventually we will have the tools needed for the courts to determine when partisan gerrymandering has gotten totally out of hand and needs to stop.

Aug 23 2017 11:09AM Aug 23 2017 11:39AM Rebecca Perry Mrs. Mindu Kim End gerrymandering! A new poll shows that four out of five North Carolina voters (80%) say it’s not fair for politicians to draw their own districts. That includes 85% of Democrats, 74% of Republicans, 80% of independents – as well as 70% of Trump supporters and 80% of African Americans. The redistricting process must be open, avoid racial or partisan gerrymandering, and allow voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around. We should research the practices used in other states and adopt principles that encourage deep community involvement. Fair redistricting should follow these basic principles:

- Race is Key: Map drawers must ensure that it is possible for black voters to elect their candidates of choice, as required by the Voting Rights Act.
- “One person, one vote:” Districts must be very equal in population and obey other laws.
- Geographic Compactness: Map drawers must create compact districts, without odd tentacles. Districts must not skip over areas or join two areas at just one point.
- Count Incarcerated Persons as residents of their pre-incarceration home or family residence for purposes of redistricting.
- No Favoritism: Map drawers must not use the addresses of current lawmakers, or the party affiliation or voting history of voters, or other data to help a party or politician.
- Respect Communities of Interest: Map drawers must avoid dividing a communities with similar cultural, ethnic and economic interests; a local government district; etc.
- Respect County Boundaries: Maps should make every effort to keep counties whole.

Aug 23 2017 11:14AM Mr. Alex Panek Beth Jezek If you are not afraid of what the electorate thinks about what you’re doing in the legislature, you should have no problem drawing districts so that they represent all voters, not just Republicans. Please consider using the Iowa model for drawing district lines.

Aug 23 2017 11:11AM Aug 23 2017 11:27AM August 23 2017 11:39AM Rebecca Perry Mrs. Mindu Kim Ms. Katherine Wulff Ms. Katherine Wulff We want and deserve fairly drawn district maps that are a true reflection of the voters of North Carolina. We are tired of being the most gerrymandered state in the union and our legislators should be ashamed of themselves.

Aug 23 2017 11:22AM Mrs. Mindu Kim The districts you have drawn is motivated by race rather than basic right of people. These maps let representatives choose voters rather than people elect the officials inline with their persuasions. We ask legislators to research the practices used in other states and adopt principles that encourage deep community involvement. What you are proposing does not follow fair redistricting basic principles. Districts must be very equal in population and obey other laws. Evaluate your maps based on fairness; before it is approved, a map must be evaluated for overall racial bias and partisan competitiveness, using tools recognized by courts to measure fairness. The maps presented do not follow any of these principles.
The Republican supermajorities have chosen to make this a politically-based redistricting, using primarily previous voting patterns to preserve their tremendous electoral advantages. In the last election, a bare majority of voters somehow managed to deliver over 70% of seats to the Republican party, an amazing feat that the recipients of these seats wish to make permanent. The fact that the same GOP operative who drew up the unconstitutional maps was chosen to draft these tells a lot, as does the way they were so quickly rushed out to avoid serious public comment. The public meeting last night in Greensboro was clearly chosen to further this downplaying of public participation, as over 2/3 of the citizens attending were forced into a completely different room where hearing and seeing what was going on was difficult. But this pattern of behavior seems to be typical of the North Carolina legislature now. Silencing opposition, conducting business as much in the dark as possible, and not even pretending to listen to the other side of the story on anything is what we've come to expect. It is scant wonder that much of the state considers itself to be completely unrepresented by its government in Raleigh.

As a North Carolinian, I am very disappointed and angry with the legislative maps that have been newly proposed for the state House and Senate districts. This process has repeatedly been conducted in ways that are illegal, obscured from the public, entirely partisan, and at the expense of North Carolina voters based on race and ethnicity. How can state senators fully and appropriately represent so many municipalities? The maps currently being offered were drawn behind closed doors and voters were not given sufficient time to review proposed maps before scheduled public hearings. I'm a proud resident of the state of North Carolina. I want and expect representatives to the General Assembly to deliver nonpartisan and contiguous districts through a transparent process. That means no longer using the same consultant who has unfairly and unconstitutionally drawn these maps in the past. A majority of the Joint House and Senate Redistricting Committee have at one time been on the record as supporting nonpartisan redistricting. These new maps continue the unacceptable practice of partisan gerrymandering (via taking prior voter registration and past election data into account), giving the majority party an unharnessed advantage while shielding those same elected officials from accountability. Voters must be given a valid choice at the ballot box and it must start now with the rejection of the current proposal. I'm sick of this treatment of North Carolina's voters and I expect better.

I am strongly opposed to the proposed redistricting as shown on the newly released map. This partisan redistricting is fundamentally no different than the maps rejected as illegal by the courts. Districts drawn to protect incumbents would preserve the illegal disenfranchisement of minorities that allowed for the election of those incumbents in the first place. The GOP majority is NOT trying to obey the rule of law, and instead is playing games to retain illegally gained power. This map will be taken to court, and you will lose yet again. The disparity between the relative proportion of Democrats vs Republicans in the NCGA compared to number of votes cast for each party demonstrates the inappropriateness of the district maps, and the undemocratic nature of the process. Stop this outrageous disregard for Democracy and give us FAIR DISTRICTS! Rather than cheat, try to win us over through proposing good laws.

In an era when divisiveness and intolerance are dominating our public discourse and attitudes, it seems downright unethical for leaders to continue to support their own seats of power rather than act in an equitable way that demonstrates the glory of a democracy. When those on top continually vote for those on top, it sets up an opening for eventual take over by those on bottom who become those on top then vote themselves into greater and higher seats of power. When will this stop? Global warming demonstrates that those bulwarks with the power of money don't give a hoot about correcting their behavioral privileges in order to even the playing field and preserve life. I beg our Republican and Democratic state leaders to find a way to draw districts that pertain solely to fairness to all voters.

The new legislative redistricting does not fix the problems of gerrymandering and gives one party a significant and lasting advantage over another through line drawing when in reality the people should be deciding and not the parties. Please redraw and make the new legislative districts fair and equal.

NGCA response to court-ordered redistricting? This is surely a bad joke:

• pay $50,000 to the same guy who drew the 2011 maps that the court declared racially gerrymandered;
• apply partisan gerrymandering this time around;
• redraw many districts not under court order, making one-party control over the state even more entrenched in the new maps;
• release the maps without supporting data at the 11th hour, limiting public access;
• limit public comment. Done deal.

Holy cow! You just need to roll up democracy and stuff it in a bag, because this makes perfectly clear that free and fair elections are not a goal of the controlling powers in the NCGA. Shame on those of you who complicit in this absurd political theater—these shenanigans are directly oppositional to your role as public servants and representatives of the people.
Aug 23 2017 12:25PM  NANCY WESTFALL  Please insist on fair redistricting now. Racial gerrymandering is a tool of white supremacy, and is profoundly immoral. The eyes of the nation are on NC, and our redistricting process must be open and allow voters to pick their representatives, not the other way around.

Aug 23 2017 12:25PM  Ms. Marlene Greer  I object to the criteria the committee is using to draw the district maps. No political data should be allowed. No past election results and no addresses of incumbents. Maps should not be drawn with the specific goal of protecting incumbents. The committee should be limited to clear criteria and what is required by federal law - population, contiguous, compactness, and effective vote for minorities. Some of the districts (3, 11, 21, 32, 33, 44, 47) in the proposed 2017 Senate district map appear very questionable. I do not want to see my tax dollars spent on defending yet another unjust district map. And I am tired of all the anger. The only way to stop the lawsuits and give the people of NC assurance of fair representation is to have redistricting done by an independent, non-partisan committee and not by legislators. Please end this practice of cheating to win elections. Then maybe we can all move forward in relative peace.

Aug 23 2017 12:47PM  Mr. Roy Bentley  I am disappointed to find, yet again, the district maps drawn in a partial way. Please hand this responsibility off to a non-partisan commission who will act in the best interests of the citizens. Citizens ought to pick their representatives, not the other way around.

Aug 23 2017 12:54PM  Mr. Steve Humphrey  Please insist on fair redistricting now! Racial gerrymandering is a tool of white supremacy and is profoundly immoral. The eyes of the nation are on NC, and our redistricting process must be open and allow voters to pick their representatives, not the other way around. Failing to act properly on this issue will plunge our opinion of our "elected representatives" to an all-time low and will be reflected clearly at the ballot box.

Aug 23 2017 1:02PM  Ms. Laurel Ferejohn  I am an independent voter residing in Orange County. I urge the General Assembly to make respecting the principle of "one person one vote" its highest priority. Attempts to make some votes count more than others by the way districts are drawn should be avoided. I am deeply concerned that the current maps do not reflect this basic principle because of the way they have been provided without any supporting statistical context. Using the same consultant who drew unconstitutional maps is an added source of worry for citizens like me who are interested in preserving the integrity of the vote.

Aug 23 2017 12:57PM  Mr. Steve Humphrey  Please insist on fair redistricting now! Racial gerrymandering is a tool of white supremacy and profoundly immoral. The eyes of the nation are on NC. Our redistricting process must be open and allow voters to pick their representatives, not the other way around.

Aug 23 2017 1:04PM  sandee washington  Our legislature should NOT draw out political district maps. A third, objective party, should do this. Our votes should count.

Aug 23 2017 1:14PM  Mr. Randall Hendrick  I am an independent voter residing in Orange County. I urge the General Assembly to make respecting the principle of "one person one vote" its highest priority. Attempts to make some votes count more than others by the way districts are drawn should be avoided. I am deeply concerned that the current maps do not reflect this basic principle because of the way they have been provided without any supporting statistical context. Using the same consultant who drew unconstitutional maps is an added source of worry for citizens like me who are interested in preserving the integrity of the vote.

Aug 23 2017 1:19PM  Patricia Young  I signed up to speak in Raleigh but had to leave. Here is what I would have said. It is hard in the limited time we were given to review the maps and have substantive comments about the districts. There is also limited information available to understand the logic behind the maps. But in looking at the western districts vs. the central and Eastern districts, it seems quite obvious that a key factor was to design districts to benefit incumbents. Incumbents, might I add, that were elected on illegal distracting practices. What data did I look at to draw this conclusion? Incumbents are living on the line or in niches too small to be obvious on the size maps you provided on districts east of I85. It is also obvious from the time frames defined in the process that you really are not interested in public comment and are doing this as a way to show fulfillment of that step in the process rather than truly meet the intent. It is my hope the court sees through this as a partisan power play designed to maintain incumbents rather than a fair process where every vote counts. I know you feel it is the Republicans turn since Democrats did this for years. And I think you think that the people who oppose this are disgruntled liberals. But that is not true. I am a conservative who believes in the constitution and the bill of rights. The over riding principle, one you seemed to easily dismiss, is that every vote should count equally. To the Republican majority... we cannot call ourselves a constitutional party of Lincoln and not live up to the ideals he set. We have become fully the party of Nixon, going beyond even his ambitions. Having spent a Saturday talking with Concord citizens, I want to share what I learned. I did not seek out the poor who you minimized in your earlier map. I talked with some of the most affluent citizens, some "old Concord money" living on Union Street. Not once did I have to explain what gerrymandering meant.... They were informed and knew what was going to happen. Everyone, 100% were against the earlier map. I talked with some of the most affluent citizens, some "old Concord money" living on Union Street. Not once did I have to explain what gerrymandering meant.... They were informed and knew what was going to happen. Everyone, 100% were against the earlier map. I talked with some of the most affluent citizens, some "old Concord money" living on Union Street. Not once did I have to explain what gerrymandering meant.... They were informed and knew what was going to happen. Everyone, 100% were against the earlier map. I talked with some of the most affluent citizens, some "old Concord money" living on Union Street. Not once did I have to explain what gerrymandering meant.... They were informed and knew what was going to happen. Everyone, 100% were against the earlier map.

Aug 23 2017 1:30PM  Mrs. Sherry Shepard  As a resident of Columbus County I think that it is not a good decision to redistrict Columbus County. As a rural area it is difficult to find representation for the specific needs of our county. I have only been in the County and state for 4 years but I feel that it is home and the needs of this county need to remain under one district and should not be divided into 2 districts. Columbus County residents already feel a distinct division amongst Whiteville and the rest of the county this division would continue to divide the county economically. Thanks.

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August 23, 2017 1:36PM

Mrs. Mary Lynn Kargman

North Carolina committees have consistently manipulated the district maps to sway elections in favor of Republican candidates. They have done so by dispersing minority communities and voters that they predict will vote for democratic candidates across multiple districts, so as to lessen the impact of their vote. Not only does this create an unfair playing field for the two parties, but the process of intentionally drawing convoluted district lines — also known as gerrymandering — devalues an individual's vote. The right to vote is the most sacred right in a representative democracy. When district lines are manipulated, each vote loses its value and more importantly, people lose their voice. North Carolina's committees have undermined the spirit of democracy.

Additionally, when people's votes lose their value, individuals lose the incentive to vote in the first place. Participation rates in America are among the lowest in developed countries, and they are even lower in local elections. If maps remain gerrymandered and individuals continue to feel as though their vote is manipulated, participation numbers will only get lower.

Under these conditions, can North Carolina even be considered a democracy? Please vote to redraw our districts. Thank you.

3861

August 23, 2017 1:47PM

Ms. Abigaile Pi

By drawing maps that protect Republican incumbent legislators, Republicans have shown that they are more interested in playing partisan games than setting up a fair process for North Carolinians. Stop playing games and protect our electoral process!

3862

August 23, 2017 1:54PM

Ms. Kate Thomas

I write to strongly advocate for an independent, nonpartisan commission to redraw our NC voting maps. We have already suffered through illegal, racially biased gerrymandering, and the new maps are a very slight improvement that still give unfair advantages to GOP candidates in most districts. This partisan gerrymandering does not allow our state's residents to have a democratic voice in our government, as our districts do not truly represent our citizens. Please do the right thing and reject these new maps and have an independent, nonpartisan commission redraw district boundaries in a way that will accurately reflect the political beliefs of North Carolinians and allow us to fairly participate in our democracy.

3863

August 23, 2017 1:55PM

Ms. Christine Hale

A Sham Redistricting Process Is Insulting. Why have legislative leaders hired the same consultant (Thomas Hofeller) who drew the current illegal maps? He is nationally known for rigging maps to help his Republican clients. Why do legislators declare they would not consider the race of voters, when, in fact, that approach ignores the directive of the courts to examine whether black voters have a fair chance to elect candidates of their choice in the new districts? Why do legislators not consider past election outcomes and the ability of their party to win elections in the new districts when they admit they drew the old districts, now declared illegal, for partisan advantage? Why do legislators refuse to consider the new maps until just before this hearing? The answer appears to be that legislators are again, not taking this process seriously and intend to dupe the public. We are your constituents, not your servants. Well over 60 percent of your constituents want fair districts drawn in a non-partisan manner. Why do you obstruct the will of your constituents?

Sincerely, Christine Hale

3864

August 23, 2017 1:56PM

Richard Broaddus

The mathematical procedures now available for taking residential data and precinct boundary information and creating voting districts with measurable population equality and compactness would be ideal. A non-partisan redistricting commission should be created to use tools like this. Voters choosing representation, not the other way around, please!

3865

August 23, 2017 1:56PM

Ms. Mona Couts

I urge you to adopt fair, nonpartisan standards for drawing the new voting districts. The ones you have drawn up do not use these standards. I am a member of the voting public, desire better. I want to see fairness on something as important as the creation of our congressional and legislative districts. Please stop the partisan political games and protect our electoral process!

3866

August 23, 2017 2:16PM

Ms. Cynthia Allen

We need non-partisan, fair districts please!!!

3867

August 23, 2017 2:23PM

Ms. Randee Gordon

Based on actions of the NCGA and the Redistricting Committee, I have concluded that both the redistricting maps and the process followed in the court ordered effort have made a mockery of public input and the actual outputs are nothing more than a sham of an effort to make the districts reflect true votes. Public input was deliberately prevented both by the NCGA delaying any effort required by court orders for close to a year and then hastily releasing maps and data two days before hearings and three days before voting. Obviously, the NCGA never intended to consider any public input because they haven't allowed reasonable access or time for public input. As to the maps, they are nothing more than a calculated attempt to maintain the same failed districting alignment used to maintain the status quo and limit true voting impacts. As is clear, redistricting needs to be taken away from partisan groups (the GA) and completed by non-partisan or bipartisan groups or organizations. The extreme gerrymandering in NC must stop now!!!
I oppose the new districting from the Legislature! The Legislature chose to ignore public comment and draw more extremely gerrymandered districts. The Court should reject this new effort at gerrymandering and require a new, real drawing of the maps. Thank you.

I strongly oppose political gerrymandering and feel the new districts should be redrawn by a third party bipartisan group. North Carolina should have Senators and Representatives that are selected by the people and represent the people of each district. Gerrymandering creates districts that represent the general assembly member. It is time to move past partisan politics and create fair districts across this state created by a third party or computer generated. Thank you.

Legislators elected from illegal districts have created new maps to protect themselves.

Nonpartisan districting is IMPORTANT

Although the maps I saw were not perfect, they are such an improvement over the status quo, that there is no excuse not to implement it. This state and its residents have suffered too long from the effects of gerrymandering to allow the status quo to continue.

Ladies and gentlemen of the NC General Assembly:
To accept gerrymandering is to accept the lie that it makes of the principles of democracy as espoused in this country. Further, it is to accept that the United States Constitution is indeed for the benefit of an exclusive segment of this nation, and that the others of us are only deserving of what that segment deems us worthy of. I do not accept that I am less a citizen of this nation because I am a Black man, nor do I accept that gender, economic status, sexual orientation, or religion are legitimate measures of who deserves to participate fully in the benefits granted said citizens. No one, especially no partisan individual or group, has the right to dilute the power of my vote nor your vote. And that is why I demand an end to the racist, elitist practice of gerrymander.

Redistricting needs to be done by a non-partisan outside body to ensure fairness.

North Carolina committees have consistently manipulated the district maps to sway elections in favor of Republican candidates.

These districts have dispersed minority communities and voters that they predict will vote for democratic candidates across multiple districts, so as to lessen the impact of their vote. These districts create an unfair playing field for the two parties, but the process of intentionally drawing convoluted district lines — also known as gerrymandering — devalues an individual’s vote. The right to vote is the most sacred right in a representative democracy.

When district lines are manipulated, each vote loses its value and more importantly, people lose their voice.

Participation rates in America are among the lowest in developed countries, and they are even lower in local elections. If maps remain gerrymandered and individuals continue to feel as though their vote is manipulated, participation numbers will only get lower.
I made the trip to Beaufort County from Atlantic Beach yesterday to watch Norm Sanderson pay more attention to his tablet than to any of the speakers and to eventually completely leave the room. Granted, it was extremely difficult to hear many of the speakers and since none of us had seen the maps in a timely fashion or had any data to go along with the lovely colors, we were less able to make substantive comments. What is clear is: the committee has no interest in drawing fair maps, listening to their constituents, or doing anything other than wasting taxpayer dollars. These maps are more of the same and do not address the problems created by gerrymandered districts. We need a non-partisan group to draw these maps. What this group has proposed is useless, will continue to suppress the voices of many citizens, does nothing to encourage competition and fair representation, and in no way gives political parties an equal opportunity to translate votes for their candidates into legislative seats.

Would some responsible adult stop this gerrymandering attempt? This is not rocket science - just draw equal adjacent areas and stop the fingers of each district intruding into other districts. The map drawers who created the original districts that were ruled unconstitutional has not learned how to be fair and equal. The balance of power will shift over the years, so do this redistricting effort without partisanship - hopefully the courts will step in and fix this. Unacceptable.

The citizens of NC must have fair redistricting now in a process that is open and that results in a solution that allows voters to pick their representatives, not the other way around. Make no mistake: Racial gerrymandering is a tool of white supremacy and profoundly immoral. The eyes of the nation are on the NCGA.

We do not operate under a democratic form of government with the current districts, and the new ones will be no better. 1/3-1/2 of North Carolina residents have no say in our government. A supermajority by any party prevents a government from operating as it is designed to. I believe that if North Carolina was an independent state, Jimmy Carter would be flying in to observe our elections. But we have no one to him to fix this.

While I understand it is in the informal right of lawmakers to draw voting districts along party lines, it is not *morally* right to do so and never has been. Only an independent body can have any hope of drawing lines that are fair for all, and forever. Please, please don't gut our democracy – it is what our founding fathers fought for and veterans in all wars died for.

I join the majority of NC voters who want NC to return to a democracy where voting districts are fair, non-partisan, and not full of racial suppression. Voters deserve to choose their representatives, not the reverse. This General Assembly has made the bulk of its legislation to consolidate as much power as possible in the legislature to further the legislators' personal agendas at the expense of the voters. I strongly encourage the legislature to go back to the founding principles of this country and allow voters to have fair elections which reflect the will of the voters. Thank you.

This General Assembly has made the bulk of its legislation to consolidate as much power as possible into the hands of a nonpartisan commission with judicial oversight. Corruption for power requires that legislators be left out of the process.

It is painfully obvious to the public that neither the Democrats nor the Republicans can act in the best interest of the common good. Apparently, the only method to provide equal protection will be to place the redistricting process in the hands of a nonpartisan commission with judicial oversight. Corruption for power requires that legislators be left out of the process.

The legislative committee on redistricting has been very open about its undemocratic acts of drawing boundaries to give partisan advantage and to protect incumbents, though this particular openness is hard to applaud. We can classify your harm to N.C. into two major categories. First, the rights of all of us in N.C. to determine the organization of what should be our General Assembly have been denied. This is the immediate blow to democracy: the people cannot choose its representatives. Although Democrats have also limited democracy in the past by their own gerrymandering, with the new computer tools and databases available you Republicans have perfected the art. For example, the bias towards Democrats in the 2002 Congressional redistricting has been measured to have been 10%, whereas the 2012 redistricting bias towards Republicans was 36%. Not exactly an equivalence, but nevertheless, we should not allow either party to determine the redistricting. Let's totally remove partisan bias from the process, regardless of the party in power.

The second harm produced by the post-2010 redistricting is in the quality of the legislative output. This we can judge by the quality of the legislation produced. For example:

- the shameful bathroom bill (now partially reversed);
- the voter suppression bill (tossed out by the courts);
- the refusal of Medicaid expansion to cover around a half million of the voters. Thank you.

- the refusal to protect incumbents, though this particular openness is hard to applaud.
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- the refusal to protect incumbents, though this particular openness is hard to applaud.
I wholeheartedly object to the continued partisan gerrymandering that is on full display this week. For the sake of our democracy, I urge you to embrace the independent commission recommended by Common Cause NC.

We need to have fairness in voting. One person one vote. Our racist legislature needs to stop trying to suppress the African-American vote. You should be ashamed of trying to take our state back to Jim Crow!

We need to have fairness in voting. One person one vote. Our racist legislature needs to stop trying to suppress the African-American vote. You should be ashamed of trying to take our state back to Jim Crow!

I believe we are trading race for political party gerrymandering. Can we not have a non biased redistricting that doesn’t favor one party over the other? I’m so disappointed that our republican legislators want to be sure they are re-elected based on party and not on policy.

I’ve been appalled by the actions of the NCGA with respect to the process and the result. What I want from my government is: an OPEN PROCESS, HONESTY, and redistricting that set districts lines based on equal numbers of citizens without attempts to skew boundaries to accomplish goals based on race, political affiliation, income, or other artificial factors. The result from you so far is EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE. I request that you do the right thing, the thing the courts have ordered you to do: Create FAIR DISTRICTS for all State and Federal offices and CEASE TRYING TO ENRICH AND EMPOWER YOURSELVES.

I am 73, Black, and held two jobs for a total of fifty years. I do not like feeling my vote is wasted because the republicans are gerrymandering, controlling who I vote for. Republican controlled house and senate tried their damnedest to reelect your former governor, thank God all the crooked things done he did not make it. All the crooked things done by republicans is how this mess ended up being your president, if you all are satisfied with 45, fine but this country is being torn apart and for what? black people are not going back to the fifties and sixties. Stop interfering with my vote.

Having studied the posted maps, charts, and well as the previous random attendees at a Saturday morning street fair in Wake Forest that, from direct experience in asking alright approximately 100 maps are to proper functioning of our government. I would like to add: Be smart.

I am writing in opposition to the process being used for redistricting. Others have made the points I would make about how important fair maps are to proper functioning of our government. I would like to add that, from direct experience in asking alright approximately 100 random attendees at a Saturday morning street fair in Wake Forest about this issue, I found overwhelming support for fair maps, even from those whose party might lose seats of the districts were more competitive. It seems that demographics and public opinion are shifting in such a way that politicians will be rewarded for moderating their positions on this issue. So, while I see this as a fundamental issue of fairness, those who are not in the safest of districts may want to consider the negative implications of being grouped in with those who put raw partisanship ahead of the interest of the people. You’ll likely need independents to win and independents are not fond of partisanship (by definition). Be smart.
I was unable to attend a public hearing yesterday but I wanted to add my voice to those calling for fair electoral maps. I would like North Carolina to become known for protecting and upholding the democratic process, for ensuring that everyone's voice and vote is heard, and for its constituents to be represented well. Currently we are known for being one of the most divisive and gerrymandered states in the country and I think fighting for a fair process and representative districts is the first step in repairing our reputation. Please make sure that the redrawing of legislative maps is done by an impartial committee to ensure fair maps. Thank you.

North Carolinians Demand Reform

We are tired of politicians rigging elections to reduce competition and protect themselves from being held accountable. We demand a government of, by and for the people.

(1) A new poll shows that four out of five North Carolina voters (80%) say it's not fair for politicians to draw their own districts. That includes 85% of Democrats, 74% of Republicans, 80% of independents – as well as 70% of Trump supporters and 80% of African Americans.

(2) The redistricting process must be open, avoid racial or partisan gerrymandering, and allow voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around.

The maps should NOT use voter affiliation to draw districts but rather a computer program that creates the most concise and compact districts. I do not want to attend a town hall meeting halfway across two counties!

Quit spending taxpayer money and let a computer program draw districts - that will lead to elections where politicians actually have to run on their abilities to lead and govern!

A Sham Redistricting Process Is Insulting.

Legislative leaders continue to stall and avoid fixing their unconstitutional maps. They:

(1) hired the same consultant (Thomas Hofeller) who drew the current illegal maps. He is nationally known for rigging maps to help his Republican clients.

(2) declared they would not consider the race of voters, as if that would stop them from drawing biased maps. In fact, that approach ignores the directive of the courts to examine whether black voters have a fair chance to elect candidates of their choice in the new districts.

(3) declared they would consider past election outcomes and the ability of their party to win elections in the new districts. They admit they drew districts for partisan advantage.

(4) refused to reveal the new maps until just before this hearing – and then didn't provide data about registration or race to fully analyze the new maps Attempt to Protect an Illegal Legislature.

Legislators elected from illegal districts have created new maps to protect themselves.

(1) N.C. lawmakers have used unlawful gerrymandering to win elections in 2012, 2014 and 2016; they keep passing laws in an illegal General Assembly that can ignore voters.

(2) The new maps continue extreme partisan gerrymandering. About 90% of the districts clearly favor one party, creating safe seats, with little or no partisan competition.

(3) General Assembly leaders have spent $4.8 million of taxpayers' money to defend their maps in court, but they keep losing. Stop cheating, stop wasting our money!

New Maps Attempt to Protect an Illegal Legislature.

I am writing to express my support for a non-partisan redistricting process. This is essential to ensure equal representation for all North Carolinians, regardless of which party happens to be in power now or in the future.

Please appoint a non partisan committee to redraw the voting districts. End gerrymandering now!
My name is Melva Fager Okun. I have lived in Carrboro for forty years. During that time, I have regularly walked these halls speaking to Senators and Representatives about environmental and health protections. These include making our schools, restaurants and bars, and hospitals tobacco-free. I never thought some day I’d return to ask for protection of the vote.

We desperately need new, fair and legal voting districts. I’ve waited a year for new maps and instead got them the day before this public hearing. That immediately tells me how much you value the public’s input. I wondered how a group with leaders from 28 illegally drawn voting districts could possibly be charged with drawing the new maps. And I was shocked to hear that the same company that drew the illegal maps was rehired to draw the new maps.

Your actions are stunning and memorable. You are creating and solidifying your legacy. I am currently reading a book about the fight for the right to vote by African-American leaders returning from WW II. The top leaders, such as Medgar Evers, knew that they risked their lives in doing so; and too many were murdered fighting for this right.

Instead of denying the right to vote, you are engaged in something as horrific. You have worked tirelessly to make people’s votes meaningless, while also making it harder to vote. This is your legacy. You are the equivalent of White Supremacists.

But I, and millions of North Carolinians, are paying attention. Some of us are here today to let you know we will do everything we can to stop you from your ill-intended deeds. We see this as a vital issue - the keystone to a democracy.

It is with great sadness that all my life Bertie and Hertford Counties has always been a part of the same district. I am not please with how Bertie County will join with counties that we have no connection. Bertie County needs good representation in Raleigh.

I agree with REP Howard Hunter III, I do not think that Bertie and Hertford Counties should be separated. These two counties have always been together and to separate these two counties would not be good for the citizens of Bertie County.

Everybody has a right to have people represent them in office black, red or white?

I’m disgusted by the Republicans that think they can run roughshod over our rights. There is absolutely NO normal reason that we can’t go by zip codes or counties. NO need to reinvent the wheel, use one of those methods. Picking voters is deplorable.

Turn the redistricting process over to a nonpartisan panel where the number one priority is the voters not political advantage to one political party.

It is time to stop setting up voting districts for political gain. It is time to adopt NON-PARTISAN procedures for drawing districts. Please consider the proposals by Common Cause.

Add my name and voice to those outraged by redistricting efforts to silence NC residents. We need representatives who represent citizens - not their own self interests.

It is fundamentally unfair for politicians to draw their own districts. The redistricting process must be open and transparent. It must avoid racial or partisan gerrymandering. It must allow voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around.

Anything less is a betrayal of the public trust.

It is past time for legislative districting in North Carolina to properly reflect the vibrant diversity of this great state. The people demand fair and equal representation in government, and an abolishment of unfair, partisan and unconstitutional gerrymandering. In addition, we demand a transparent and just process using independent parties to ensure that districts are drawn in a manner that accurately represents North Carolina’s fine democracy.
North Carolinians are tired of gerrymandering and the politicians who practice it.

1. A new poll shows that four out of five North Carolina voters (80%) say it's not fair for politicians to draw their own districts. That includes 85% of Democrats, 74% of Republicans, 80% of independents – as well as 70% of Trump supporters and 80% of African Americans.

2. The redistricting process must be open, avoid racial or partisan gerrymandering, and allow voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around.

3. We should research the practices used in other states and adopt principles that encourage deep community involvement. Fair redistricting should follow these basic principles:
   - Race is Key: Map drawers must ensure that it is possible for black voters to elect their candidates of choice, as required by the Voting Rights Act.
   - "One person, one vote: Districts must be very equal in population and obey other laws.
   - Geographic Compactness: Map drawers must create compact districts, without odd tentacles. Districts must not skip over areas or join two areas at just one point.
   - Count incarcerated persons as residents of their pre-incarceration home or family residence for purposes of redistricting.
   - No Favoritism: Map drawers must not use the addresses of current lawmakers, or the name, affiliation, or reelection history of candidates, or other... What you are doing is shameful. It is 100% transparently unethical and immoral. The general public is overwhelmingly against you. If you really believe in the democratic process and have any faith that the laws you are trying to legislate are just, do the right thing and let the people of this great State be represented in a fair and honest way. If you would like someone to help you draw an honest map, I would gladly do it for free.

4. We need redistricting maps that are fair, contiguous, evenly drawn with geographic landmarks as borders that fit the region and free of any effort or plan to support partisan objectives or racial discrimination. The districts should be drawn without any regard to racial make-up, past voting history, or party affiliation. This is a democracy and the wishes of the voters should be heard without manipulation by the State government.

5. As I understand it, there are honorable legislators from both parties willing to work out an equitable redistricting solution. I urge you to reach a bipartisan conclusion to this horrible mess that has made us the redheaded step child and laughing stock of the nation. If you were up to me you would all be gone Democrat and Republican and we would start fresh.

6. I am appalled at the new redistricting done by the same group who did the last one. Every vote should count. I strongly recommend an independent non partisan committee do the new maps. We need to reach a bipartisan conclusion to this greedy, power grabbing mess. Fix it fairly, "justice for all". If you don't work for us, you are against greedy, power grabbing mess.

7. There is a new poll shows that four out of five North Carolina voters (80%) say it's not fair for politicians to draw their own districts. That includes 85% of Democrats, 74% of Republicans, 80% of independents – as well as 70% of Trump supporters and 80% of African Americans.

8. We are suppose to live in a democracy! Let's make sure we maintain that system with fair, non partisan districts!

9. Redistricting should not result in partisan advantages for one political party over the other. Such an outcome would clearly be un-American.

10. North Carolina has been gerrymandered by the Republican Party to the extent that we are no longer a democratic state. The lines that have been drawn not only violate the rights of North Carolina citizens, but are blatantly drawn to suppress the African-American vote. We North Carolina citizens deserve nothing less than a non-partisan voting process.

11. We need redistricting map that are fair, contiguous, evenly drawn with geographic landmarks as borders that fit the region and free of any effort or plan to support partisan objectives or racial discrimination. The districts should be drawn without any regard to racial make-up, past voting history, or party affiliation. This is a democracy and the wishes of the voters should be heard without manipulation by the State government.

12. We strongly urge lawmakers to act with integrity and lead by choosing to restore democracy to NC. Everyone deserves the freedom to choose their political representatives. Every vote should count. If it were up to me you would all be gone Democrat and Republican and we would start fresh.

13. We are suppose to live in a democracy! Let's make sure we maintain that system with fair, non partisan districts!
Restore the power of each vote by using nonpartisan mathematical algorithms or the efficiency gap to cease gerrymandering and cease packing and cracking voters. Here are links to articles including scholarly articles on these simple, transparent methods: Algorithms specifically for demoralizing districts: https://www.nature.com/news/the-mathematicians-who-want-to-save-democracy-1.22113 Research paper on the same: https://arxiv.org/abs/1704.03360 Efficiency gap: https://www.chicagomaroon.com/article/2017/6/24/law-school-professor-helping-scutts-rethink-gerrymandering/ Abstract of research on the same: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2457468 If you have trouble with any of these links or these concepts, email me and I'd be happy to walk you through the methods.

You can't fool people with your sham attempt at complying with the laws. Stop gerrymandering and go to apolitical committee! We need a nonpartisan commission! These latest maps continue to gerrymander districts. Let North Carolinians vote and stop playing politics with representation.

I insist on fair redistricting now. Racial gerrymandering is a tool of white supremacy, and is profoundly immoral. The eyes of the nation are on NC, and our redistricting process must be open and allow voters to pick their representatives, not the other way around.

Current legislative maps reveal that our legislature is attempting to manipulate the system so that the representatives and senators our people really want to elect are maneuvered about so that we are forced to elect people that we really don't want. Shame on the Republican legislators who are attempting to disrupt our right to vote the way we as citizens see fit. Maps should reflect the true makeup of voters to remedy the unconstitutionality of many the previous district delineations. There is strong evidence of packing and cracking districts. The new Senate district for the Winston-Salem area is entirely packed with the area precincts that have voted Democratic in the last eight major elections, while there is hardly any blue in the other Forsyth County district. One cannot ignore the Campaign Legal Center's analysis indicating nearly a -1.22113 efficiency gap for both House and Senate districts. We can approve these maps and then have to do it all over again depending on the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the upcoming case of Vill v. Whitford. Let's get transparency, equity, racial balance, and non-partisan drawing right this time rather than waste more money, time, and frustration.

We are concerned that the GOP Redistricting of the voting map is not reflective of the 2008, 2012 district maps. We are requesting that you use the map to re-draw those districts affected.

We are watching!!

We want districts that fairly and accurately represent the people of NC.

We are watching!!

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the changes you propose. I have a few comments about the process and a few about the content.

First, in presenting this to the public, the people you serve, with a very short window for discussion and without the complete data to evaluate the maps are inappropriate. The lack of transparency has eroded trust in you and your ability to represent me. The delay tactic further signifies your inability or unwillingness to appreciate another view.

In terms of the outcomes: Drawing districts for partisan advantage is not in the spirit of a true democracy. Please start over.

Competition is good. As you have drawn the districts with an intended outcome, it stacks the deck and undermines competition. Please start over.

The maps as presented create further divisions - they separate further and call out or accentuate the differences among people, not the sameness. Promoting these differences leads to social unrest, aggression, and ultimately a fractured society. Please start over.

The newly proposed maps appear to show some improvement over previous maps. In particular, they are more compact and more oriented around municipal and county lines. But these new maps still expose significant problems. Race must be taken into account in order to remedy the unconstitutionality of many the previous district delineations. There is strong evidence of packing and cracking districts. The New Senate district for the Winston-Salem area is entirely packed with the area precincts that have voted Democratic in the last eight major elections, while there is hardly any blue in the other Forsyth County district. One cannot ignore the Campaign Legal Center's analysis indicating nearly a -1.22113 efficiency gap for both House and Senate districts. We can approve these maps and then have to do it all over again depending on the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the upcoming case of Vill v. Whitford. Let's get transparency, equity, racial balance, and non-partisan drawing right this time rather than waste more money, time, and frustration.

You can't fool people with your sham attempt at complying with the laws. Stop gerrymandering and go to apolitical committee! We need a nonpartisan commission! These latest maps continue to gerrymander districts. Let North Carolinians vote and stop playing politics with representation.
Because I fear you will only read the first line of this comment, if any, here is part of the comments I could not deliver in Hudson, NC yesterday due to your convoluted attempts at a public comment meeting on NC’s Redistricting Plan. I was the 16th person to sign up in Hudson, but would have been the 75th to speak, an estimated 4 hour wait, clearly an attempt to delay and deny that any opposition voices be heard.

“The NC Legislature has consistently used power plays to undermine fair and equitable voting which is currently based solely on conservative voting preferences. 90% of state legislators now have safe seats with little to no competition. You have used $4.8 million of taxpayer money to defend maps that you know do not comply with court decisions to continually engage in expensive court battles to delay fair redistricting. I consider this an assault on my pocket book as well as voting rights in NC."

Taxation without representation caused a revolution that helped found our proud Democracy. The response of bi-partisan voters in NC to your shenanigans is that voting be fair and that our voices be heard. Winning by undermining democratic principles is not a "win" but a "power play."

Your "new" redistricting maps are as racial and generally anti-democratic as your previous capers. Cut the stuff and make us all as equal as you can in the impact of our votes. Some of us don't like it when the legislators pick their voters, which is exactly what you, our legislature, are and have been doing. We want democracy, not plunder.

I formally request that my public comments recorded on Tuesday, 08/22/2017 at Beaufort Community College be entered into the official record and delivered to the Court for the Court's consideration. I further request that the Court take notice of my claim that the hearings should fail due to lack of Notice and Opportunity due to the intentional failure of the NC Legislature to provide appropriate public notice for the hearing, and the failure to release the data necessary for an authentic and effective analysis until less than 24 hours before these 'hearings'.

I am so disappointed in these new maps--let's have non-partisan designed districts and give every citizen of voting age the opportunity to vote and have his or her vote count.

North Carolina is better than what the GOP's partisan maps are offering us. The development of modern mapping technology has allowed the GOP majority to abuse the system, flaunt the spirit of the law and defy the courts. It is my hope that the courts will act in order to ensure that the voices of the voters are not neglected. With these new maps, the GOP is flaunting the court's orders -- they hired the same mapmaker using the same software, excluded race (which may violate the Voting Rights Act), drafted their maps in secret and included partisanship. Looking over the House map, in particular, the GOP has unnecessarily redrawn districts that were not even affected by the Court ruling. The current crop of lawmakers have shown themselves to be either unable or unwilling to follow the court's' orders and draw fair maps.

In order to be fair, new maps must be compact, contiguous, and must comply with the Voting Rights Act to give minority voters an opportunity to elect their candidates of choice. The maps must also be free from partisan politics, ignoring voter registration data and past election results. They must also ignore incumbent addresses, to avoid intentionally "double-bunking" two incumbents in order to force one of them out of office.

The conduct of the Legislature in North Carolina has been unacceptable. It is time to solve this problem before it creates a backlash that damages you permanently and tarnishes your party as well. This household will not vote for Republican candidates while they rely on illegal and unconstitutional measures to retain power.

It is the duty of the Legislature to represent ALL citizens. It is the responsibility of the Legislature to ensure that every vote counts, not to stack the deck against one party to ensure that the majority party stays in power despite the votes of the state's citizens. Failure to accomplish this turns the state into a tin pot dictatorship, and risks the well-being of the Republic as a whole. The conduct of the Legislature in North Carolina has been unacceptable. It is time to solve this problem before it creates a backlash that damages you permanently and tarnishes your party as well. This household will not vote for Republican candidates while they rely on illegal and unconstitutional measures to retain power.
I am a long time North Carolina resident working to provide social support services to fellow North Carolinians. I wholeheartedly oppose the maps that were released on Monday. I think it is ridiculous that the maps were not revealed until the day before the hearing, without time for adequate time for public comment. In addition, the maps that were released continue to demonstrate partisan gerrymandering and currently, 90% of districts continue to favor one party. I do not believe that politicians should draw their own districts. I do think that this process of racial gerrymandering creates racial divisions and continues to reinforce white supremacy. The process of drawing maps should be open, with voters picking their political representatives.

Dr. Victor Vance

Public confidence in the election process is declining in North Carolina because the Legislature 1) Has been found guilty of rigging the voting by the Federal Court system and 2) The re- drawn lines are also rigged to throw the vote toward a certain political party. Unless you balance districts where where candidates from all political parties have a fair and equal chance at being elected, citizens of North Carolina will lose confidence in the NC Legislature. The next step will be a loss of confidence and disregard for any law the legislature passes.

Mrs. Mary Barzee

To whom it may concern:

I am deeply troubled by the process by which the new voting maps we're drawn as well as the fairness of the maps.

I am angry that my tax dollars are being used to draw partisan, racially gerrymandered maps - again.

Let's get this right, already!

The redistricting process must be open, avoid racial or partisan gerrymandering, and allow voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around.

Fix it, by appointing an independent organization that can and will create non-biased maps.

Sincerely,

Mary Barzee

Ms. Cynthia Charles

The new legislative district maps seem to continue partisan gerrymandering, clearly favoring one party and discouraging competition. I would like to see them redrawn to be more fair and competitive.

Ms. Marnie Thompson

The maps -- exchanging partisan gerrymandering for racial gerrymandering -- and the process surrounding "public input" on the maps are a sham. I and hundreds of NC residents wrote to the redistricting wrote committee members early in the process, asking to see the maps they were considering, but we were provided nothing. The maps come out a day before hastily scheduled public hearings, and these hearing are held simultaneously in tiny inaccessible places. It is obvious that partisan concerns are what is dominating the legislature's process, so there is no sincere interest in what the public has to say. This sham process is almost certainly going to result in more litigation, costing the state time and money, But as far as the legislature is concerned, that's okay, because all that litigation takes time, and while things are tied up in court, the partisanship just continues and solidifies. This is not what US democracy is supposed to look like!

Ms. Kimberly Gotwals

1. I oppose any redistricting plan whose aim is to protect incumbents, some of whom are in the racially gerrymandered districts determined to be unconstitutional. Why protect people illegally elected?

2. The News and Observer reported August 23 that only 10 out of 50 Senate seats (a paltry 20%) are likely be competitive and only 19 of 120 (an even more dismal figure - 16%) would be competitive. If districts are drawn to be so skewed that it's not even worth attempting an opposing campaign, I ask, is this a fair, representative democracy? No. The process followed to redraw the new districts was appallingly misguided. Using the same consultant who helped draw the unconstitutional districts was not a wise move. Besides which, politicians should not draw the districts. This job needs to be done by an impartial third party, such as a panel of judges.

4. Racial gerrymandering is a blatant assertion of white supremacy. We are better than that. Our state needs balanced representation for all citizens.

Thank you,

Kim Gotwals
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Text</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 23 2017 10:29PM</td>
<td>Mr. Richard Pigossi</td>
<td>There really is no constitutionally valid alternative other than independent, professionally and transparently conducted redistricting. This surely is in the best interest of EVERYONE in the long run, across the political spectrum. Let open debate and fair, truly representative voting alone determine our future political direction, whatever it may be.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 23 2017 10:31PM</td>
<td>Chris Powers</td>
<td>The Senate's redistricting proposal is a joke and blatant misuse of power. We as North Carolinians deserve to be represented by people who represent their district.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 23 2017 10:31PM</td>
<td>Dr. Jay Newhard</td>
<td>I am disappointed and, frankly, angry, that it has been so difficult to convince the North Carolina General Assembly and its committees that we need to have fairly drawn voting districts, not based on race or political party. I understand that only the former is illegal. But the fact is that the benefits of democracy can be achieved only when there is a genuine and fair competition between the two major political parties. I also understand that this request is more challenging to accomplish than one might think at first. But it is quite clear that the mandated proposed districts were not drawn in good faith, but to preserve the same gerrymandered forfeiture of democracy we've endured for the past several years. Please do what you can to draw the districts impartially, i.e., without regard to race or political affiliation or voting tendency. The system works well if it is set up this way, and there is widespread and bipartisan support among citizens for it. Thank you for considering my remarks.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 23 2017 10:40PM</td>
<td>Ali Nininger-Finch</td>
<td>Three years ago, I was inspired by the actions of the NC legislature to go to law school. I graduated in May and took the bar exam last month. The State's maps have already been declared unconstitutional once, and now you've got a new lawyer ready to challenge the maps again if they continue to be racist. Be non-partisan and do it right this time.</td>
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<td>Aug 23 2017 10:55PM</td>
<td>Mr. Robert Schultz</td>
<td>We live in a democracy...or so we're told. But when the candidates of one political party win a majority (50.6%) of the total votes and 81,000 more votes statewide than those of the losing party, but 9 of the 13 congressional seats are awarded to the runner-up party's candidates, something stinks, and it's obvious that democracy was undermined. This was the outcome in NC in the 2012 US House races, due to gerrymandering. (Source: <a href="http://results.en.clarityelections.com/NC/42923/123365/Web01/en/summary.html">http://results.en.clarityelections.com/NC/42923/123365/Web01/en/summary.html</a>) We can't come up with data for a comparable analysis for recent State House and Senate races since so many seats go unchallenged by candidates of parties that don't stand a chance of winning in super-gerrymandered districts, but it's evident that the party in power is represented in the General Assembly in numbers far disproportionate to the votes they received and the will of the People. It's disgraceful and disgusting that a political party resorts to stealing elections and undermining the will of the People to retain their power when their destructive ideas and unpopular platforms aren't good enough to win victories at the ballot box. This behavior and usurpation of power is abhorrent to those who believe in democracy and fairness, and it's destructive to our freedom. We have an unconstitutional legislature, and it's time to restore democracy to our great and proud state. A good place to start would be with the implementation of district maps drawn by a bipartisan or non-partisan commission; not by an unconstitutionally (as determined by the courts) elected legislature that hired a map creator whose previous work has been discredited and thrown out by the courts for being out of compliance with the law.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 23 2017 11:06PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Ellen Weiner</td>
<td>I do NOT support including previous voting records as a factor to consider in re-drawing our NC voter districts! Why can you not simply make &quot;compact, contiguous as much as possible, and equal amounts of the population as much as possible&quot; the guide? I'm a tax-paying registered Independent, and I do not trust a super-majority legislature to re-draw our illegal voting districts in a nonpartisan manner. If it turns out the court agrees a second time, I think the court should re-draw our maps and then an independent commission be established to do the job from here on. I want to get the partisan politics out of the redistricting process as much as humanly possible. I attended the public hearing in Jamestown on Tuesday, Aug 22, and (once again) was so discouraged and disillusioned by the majority party's handling of this issue. That said, history shows neither political party in NC can be trusted to draw nonpartisan voting districts, so I want an independent commission to be in charge in NC. As former NC Supreme Court Justice Rhoda Billings (Republican) said in January about the re-districting exercise she and Justice Henry Frye (Democrat) led, &quot;It's not difficult when you're not trying to gerrymander.&quot;</td>
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A fair and impartial election system is the foundation of our democracy. The drawing of electoral districts should be done with an eye to the responsibility that implies. When maps are drawn to favor the party in power or to weaken the voices of specific voters, the very bedrock of our country's principles are violated, and the America that stands for equality, fairness and playing by the rules fades in to the past. I need to be able to tell my children that regardless of whether they agree with government, they can trust the system that elected that government, and this I cannot do at present. I call on the NC State Legislature to honor our country's democracy and their responsibility to it, and produce fair, clean districts for the state of NC.

Maps redrawn to ensure preconceived bi-partisan goals based on race and class lines are degrading, undemocratic, and, frankly, appalling. It's a base from of using loopholes to cheat one's way into office and make it look official. Representatives should actually *represent* their constituency and the fact we even have to have a debate regarding whether gerrymandering is wrong is patronizing to all decent people, with a grain of common sense and knowledge. People already have little faith in political policy; don't give us another reason to lose faith and raise our voices even higher until we are heard. It will happen. We will do it. We are the people. Do what's right and remember that when you are making this decision.

Please create legislative districts that are sway our legislative bodies either Republican or Democratic.

As a registered and active Republican voter, I am utterly appalled by the ongoing partisan gerrymandering of districts in our state. Using the biased consultant, Thomas Hofeller (who drew the illegal districts that have been struck down), once again is a disgrace, and a clear indication of the lack of integrity that the current Republican party leadership, and the current redistricting plan, has.

The maps for redistricting in North Carolina need to be done by an independent, and bi-partisan, or even better, nonpartisan, committee of citizens. The members of the redistricting commission should be from the business community, clergy, educators, and other ordinary citizens. Politicians need to stay out of the process. Period.

An ETHICAL party wins elections by having better candidates and better ideas - not by drawing gerrymandered districts and squandering insane amounts of money into campaigns. If candidates of the Republican Party can not compete with candidates from the Democratic and other parties on a level playing field on the basis of policies and ideas, then the Republican candidates DESERVE to lose. It means your policies and ideas do not address the needs and desires of the voters.

The great Republican President, Dwight D. Eisenhower warned us, in his farewell speech: "In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. This potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced faith was a principal concern of the Council of National Security. I was very disappointed when I saw the proposed maps. The NCGA was mandated by the Courts to draw fair maps. But these maps are in insult and injustice to the voters of North Carolina. These are simply another version of the gerrymandered maps that were deemed unconstitutional. Do not insult us with these games. It is VERY simple to draw fair and balanced districts. Once again we ask you to draw districts that are geographically compact - without these crazy shapes. Elections and districting should be for the rights and protections of voters. They should not be a means for incumbents to pick their voters. You have several maps drawn by nonpartisan groups that would work well. Use them and stop jerking the constituents of NC

It's time for the Republicans in the legislature to stop playing partisan politics, stop drawing illegal maps, and stop making our state the laughingstock of the nation. If the members are afraid to face voters in honest and representative districts, they need to consider what they are doing to cause the voters to question their suitability for their jobs.

Gerrymandering needs to go the way of the dinosaurs! Both parties can benefit from Fair Redistricting. Manipulation of districts approaches squashing voter rights! The current legislature has done enough damage to the confidence of the People of North Carolina!
My 9 year old daughter and I attended the public hearing in Raleigh to discuss redistricting plans. There were hundreds of attendees in Raleigh alone. We were among 50-70 people situated in the 3rd overflow room. I did not have the opportunity to speak, because I needed to leave for 4th grade orientation at 6:30pm at North Raleigh Christian Academy. So I have decided to write to you instead. I humbly ask you to give North Carolinians fair maps and the justice we deserve. I, along with 80% of NC voters say that it is not fair for politicians to draw their own redistricting maps. Please dismiss the maps you had consultant Thomas Hofeller draw. They are just as flawed as his previous maps. Rather than hire the same consultant (whose previously drawn maps the courts have declared unconstitutional), please appoint an independent and bipartisan group to draw non partisan, fair maps. Please support HB 200 which does this very thing. Or I appeal to the courts to strike down your current maps and draw the maps themselves, as the judges have suggested will be done if you, our legislature (elected using unconstitutional and illegal maps) do not draw fair maps for your constituents. The current redistricting maps are insulting and embarrassing to our state. You are leading us backwards in time, not forwards. You are suppressing voters, especially African American voters, just as has been done historically in the old south. These maps ignore the directive of the courts to examine whether African American voters have a fair chance to elect candidates of their choice to office in new districts. At a time when states like North Carolina and Virginia are embroiled in controversy over confederate monuments and white supremacy, you propose maps which, suppress democratic leaning districts and in so doing you continue to suppress the African American vote. You are making North Carolina a laughing stock and embarrassment to the rest of the nation. The current redistricting maps are insulting and embarrassing to our state. You are leading us backwards in time, not forwards. You are suppressing voters, especially African American voters, just as has been done historically in the old south.

Some words I shared last night at GTCC with the NC Legislature after the US Supreme Court's unanimous judgment that our districts stand out as the most egregiously racially divided in the nation:

I don’t know if y'all heard about this, but there was a total solar eclipse yesterday!

That means the 2 celestial bodies that provide light to our world—in an incredibly rare display—worked together yesterday, and the results were life altering!

Millions of Americans—millions—stood in awe to catch just a glimpse of this magnificent phenomenon. For many people, this was a once in a lifetime event.

Yesterday, I stood in the backyard where I grew up in South Carolina, and during totality, we were able to look directly at the sun for over 2 minutes. How on earth is that possible?

It’s possible because these 2 bodies worked together—and the world was amazed at the result!

You—the NC legislature—have the same power to amaze the world—by working together!

I know. It’s as rare—sorry, it’s more rare than a solar eclipse. But for the people of NC—the people you represent...or the people you should be representing—for these people it will truly be even more life-changing.

And it will still be black-hurtin’ for you...our representatives. Because...Appropriate districting, per the Brennan Institute:

"How should the lines be drawn?
A good redistricting process should help a community secure meaningful representation. Other than meeting the constitutional requirement that all votes should count equally, there is no magic formula."

Just keep ‘em fair, folks, lest the two party system dissolve.

Our legislative districts need to be free from bias, especially along partisan, racial, classist lines. Each vote should have equal voice - that's the great equalizer in a democracy. It is ridiculous to me that many in the legislature have stymied efforts to make these districts more democratic, and reflective of the people who live in this state. Do the right thing and make fair, non-partisan districts!

If legislators can only keep their jobs by drawing districts that favor them, then they don’t deserve the job.
Biased districts increase polarization. Constructing districts with a partisan bias is harmful to both political parties and harmful to the state of North Carolina because this reduces the number of competitive districts. Without competitive elections it is difficult to hold representatives accountable. Politically polarized candidates have an advantage over moderate candidates, because in the majority of districts the primary election is more likely to be competitive than the general election. The proposed districts are designed to give Republican incumbents an unearned electoral advantage.

One person one vote. Any voter in North Carolina should have an equal chance of casting a vote that matters. The proposed house and senate maps disproportionately place Democratic leaning voters in safe districts thus diluting their voting power. One way to measure whether a proposed map is "fair" is to examine whether a voter has an equal chance of living in a competitive district regardless of what politically cohesive groups they belong to. The competitiveness of a district can be measured based on how individuals in that district voted in at large elections such as US Presidential, US Senatorial, or NC Gubernatorial elections.

The proposed districts may be illegal. While the redistricting committees did not use racial data to draw the maps, the committees' proposed maps may still illegally disenfranchise African American and other minority voters. If an African American voter is more likely to live in a noncompetitive district than a Caucasian voter is then the proposed maps are still racially gerrymandered which the Supreme Court of the United States has held to be unconstitutional. It is a mistake to see non-minority race as race. It is clear that the Joint Committee on Redistricting should take a step back and reconsider Rules for using non-partisan criteria to draw legislative maps, adopting the nonpartisan criteria of House Bill 200 that has wide spread support from members of both parties. HB200 would take redistricting power out of the hands of partisan lawmakers and instead have nonpartisan legislative staff draw voting districts completely blind to partisan politics. They should set aside the Hofeller maps and do what is right for all North Carolinians.

Moving forward with the Hofeller maps is sure to incur more lawsuits and millions of dollars defending a blatantly master minded power grab. It is also likely to incur the wrath of the Federal Judiciary Panel reviewing the maps and cost the assembly any power to draw maps in the future.

With respect to fair redistricting, I wish to share a quote from Alice Ristroph, Brooklyn Law School professor (The Atlantic): We have figured out, more or less, how to count every person. We have not yet found a political system in which every person counts equally. The new districts remain wrong. I hope the reviewing judges will examine how many districts are heavily biased (packed) with Democrats or Republicans. These districts have no real opposition in general elections and safely protect Representatives and Senators who have no reason to even listen to those with whom they disagree. And these districts are admittedly carefully crafted to create more Republican districts and maintain the large current party majorities in our General Assembly despite the fact state-wide votes come in at about 50-50.

What we need is a fair redistrictring law. In 2015 HB 92 had bipartisan sponsorship by 63 representatives; it was killed in committee and not allow it to even go to the floor for debate. Subsequent attempts met similar fates. Such a bill should be introduced in the general assembly for discussion!

We need fair opportunities to participate in our government. Each of us should count equally.

Our government was established by the people for the people............GREAT to see the people's will heard and respected. Congratulations to the elected officials for representing those who elected you....

I oppose any efforts to dominate state and county voting boards and voter mapping that created unfair and unlawful districting for our state elections. This behavior is not democratic nor does it represent the American fair election process. Republican law makers resort to unfair practices... I strongly oppose this shameful and deplorable behavior.
As part of the democratic process, it is imperative that redistricting is done to be non-competitive for the security of whatever party happens to be in power. Standards need to be set to make the districts more competitive.

I support Enacting fair representation voting by requiring an independent, impartial commission to draw new districts that would use ranked choice voting, to the end of ensuring partisan fairness, creating competition in every district, and enhancing the representation of racial minorities. The current redistricting map needs to be reknown to include those factors.

Please appoint a non-partisan commission to draw legislative districts. It prevents equal or fair representation, and allowing "public servants" to pick their voters instead of the other way around. When the maps were found to be unconstitutional, and then y'all decided to have the same team/persons make the next set, ... was and is suspicious.

Restore the power of each vote by using nonpartisan mathematical algorithms or the efficiency gap to cease gerrymandering and cease packing and cracking voters. Here are links to articles including scholarly articles on these simple, transparent methods: Algorithms specifically for democratizing districts: https://www.nature.com/.../the-mathematicians-who-want-to-sav...


As part of the democratic process, it is imperitive that redistricting lines be drawn fairly. This means that demographics such as race, political persuasion, age, etc. should NOT be a consideration when determining where voting districts are located. It is time to develop an impartial commission in NC to establish voting districts in such a way that regardless of which party is in power, districts are drawn fairly as intended by our founding fathers. I strongly feel that gerrymandering is unfair and undemocratic.

Please appoint a non-partisan commission to draw legislative district lines. It is the right thing to do and will eliminate issues when the state swings back to a Democratic-controlled legislature.

America isn't easy at times, but when our elected legislature continues to chip away at our basic ideals and the belief that everyone is "created equal" our democracy is diminishing. How does someone "love" America with the pretense of American ideals, yet take away one of the basic tenents of what this country was founded on? Instead of the continuation of your duplicitous acts why not try a new approach by putting America first instead of party. America citizens deserve what you have been elected to do when you take the oath of office, which, it seems that many of you spoke the words without understanding, or even caring the true meaning of them. So, I would like to remind you............

"I, __________, do solemnly and sincerely swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States; that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of North Carolina, and to the constitutional powers and authorities which are or may be established for the government thereof; and that I will endeavor to support, maintain and defend the Constitution of said State, not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States, to the best of my knowledge and ability; so help me God."

I can only hope and anticipate that your actions will start representing those words that you "faithfully" took and allow ALL Americans to participate in a just system that we all can accept, support and have pride in. I am so sad, angry and embarrassed by the underhanded, sick gerrymandering that has gone on in the past. Please stop this and make your momma proud.

I am very disappointed by the attitude republican legislators, including those that represent my district, have taken towards fair representation. I know, and maybe now you know, that racial gerrymandering is illegal. But gerrymandering to gain political advantage should be illegal too. In a word, it is unseapting. You must ask yourself, if you can't win in a fair fight, maybe your views and goals aren't as noble as you'd like to think. I encourage the legislators who are drawing the new districts to do so without regard to political advantage and to be on the right side of history. Do the right thing, please.
I'm appalled by the North Carolina legislature engaging in what several courts determined is racial gerrymandering. Racial gerrymandering is tantamount to white supremacy, and I find the NC legislature's ongoing efforts to suppress certain kinds of voters' rights to be a blatant form of racial discrimination. This behavior is worse than the ugly demonstrators shouting hate in Charlottesville and elsewhere, because it's systemic and official. Legislatures are supposed to uphold democratic ideals, not tear them down for partisan advantage.

ALL citizens must be encouraged to vote because our democracy demands it, whether it suits your personal ideological agenda or not. Efforts to reduce political competition and accountability only serve to demonstrate fear and a lack of integrity on the part of those who purposefully limit voters' rights. If you truly believe your political agenda merits consideration, then you should tell the people your policy goals and let the voters decide what they want. To do anything else is cowardly and distinctly un-American.

Jonathan Holt

I am very troubled and disappointed by the new maps, particularly the way they have been drawn up. Going back to the same consultant who drew up the maps that the courts have said are unconstitutional is not acceptable. Undemocratic supermajorities propped up by radical gerrymandering done behind closed doors are wrong, no matter which party is the beneficiary. Every citizen in our state deserves to be represented by a legitimately elected state senator and house member who are accountable to the people. It is time to take the politics out of the maps by handing this job over to a non-partisan or at the very least bipartisan commission.

Mr. Tom Mould

Releasing the maps and information on the redrawn districts maps so late and so last-minute on the day before public hearings disrespects all the people of the state. We need time to study and respond to them. You have not given us our due. This last-minute release maneuver smacks of dishonesty and secrecy and a lack of openness, which is a disgrace for public officials paid for with public dollars.

The current maps are clearly an example of partisan gerrymandering and it gets the same results that we had with the old maps. According to a recent analysis by the nonpartisan Campaign Legal Center, the new redistricting plan will give a substantial boost to Republicans. This is again the legislature being guilty of being partisan gerrymandering. These maps will allow the elected officials to select their voters, instead of voters selecting their representatives in government. Per Campaign Legal Center's senior legal counsel, "Assuming a statewide uniform swing in the vote, in order for there to be a Republican majority in the House, Republicans will only need a statewide vote of 45.7%. By contrast, a Democratic statewide vote share of 54.8% will be needed to secure a Democratic majority in the House. This is asymmetrical, and evidences a severe bias in favor of Republican voters." This is totally unacceptable.

Mr. Kicab Castaneda-Mendez

Does this map uphold our most sacred and fundamental democratic right, to a free and fair election?

I respectfully ask that you consider one question: if you were on the other side of this argument, would you vote for this map? Take every advantage that currently favors Republicans and tip it towards the Democrats. Would you vote for it? Another way to consider this is to step into the shoes of Democrats. Assume they are as committed to tipping the scales in their favor as you are. Would you approve it? If the answer is no, then your answer should be clear. Simply put, you cannot in good conscience, if you truly uphold your office to fairly represent the people of NC, vote for this map.

If winning at all costs is your bottom line, then we are all lost. But if upholding our democratic ideals and giving everyone a chance to be heard, to have their vote truly count, then please reconsider this map and draw one that ensures no one has a monopoly on our democracy, not right, not left, no one. It must remain a democracy of the people. Right now, it is not.

Mr. Tom Mould

The redistricting map and supporting data released is an extreme disappointment to me. It would not result in fair elections. It demonstrates that his process can not be trusted to those who are accountable to the people. It is time to take the politics out of the maps by handing this job over to a non-partisan or at the very least bipartisan commission.

Mr. Dennis Brown

The cynicism and dishonesty reflected in the new maps is simply breathtaking. Do you people really care so little for the rule of law and fundamental fairness? I hope you all get ripped a new one when you next face the federal court, and that the court finally takes it out of your hands and awards a new map.

Laura Wetsch
Mr. Mark Granville  Partisan driven redistricting from either side constitutes politicians picking their voters, as opposed to the Founding Fathers goal of representative democracy where voters pick their politicians.  Gerrymandering isn’t the way to go for any of us and is destructive for our country.  I strongly encourage you to change the redistricting approach to a nonpartisan redrawing as recommended by Common Cause NC - information here.  Thank you.

Mark Granville

http://www.commoncause.org/states/north-carolina/

Mr. RONALD DE SHON  The Republican Party strategy for states has been to gerrymander voting districts in a way that gives republicans a huge advantage over democratic party voters in the voting districts they draw up.  This is not the way a democracy is supposed to work.  The courts have sided with fairness and have ordered state legislators to re-draw their voting districts to show equitable distribution of voters in each.  You have to do the right thing and open up fairness to all voters in our state.

Dr. Kathleen Hayden  Partisan driven redistricting from either side constitutes politicians picking their voters, as opposed to the Founding Fathers goal of representative democracy where voters pick their politicians.  Gerrymandering isn’t the way to go for any of us and is destructive for our country.  I strongly encourage you to change the redistricting approach to a nonpartisan redrawing as recommended by Common Cause NC - information here.  Thank you.

Mrs. Linda Seligman  Aug 24 2017  7:34AM

Dr. Karen Ziegler

Kathryn Pezzi  This redistricting attempt was a sham.  The redistricting process must be open, avoid racial or partisan gerrymandering, and allow voters to pick our political representatives, not the other way around.  I am disgusted that Republicans waited until the last minute to "unveil" a seriously flawed "new" districting map that does little to change the gerrymandered districts from the previous one.  Did you honestly think this would go unnoticed?  Please try again and this time make an honest effort.

Mark Granville

Mrs. Ulana Stuart  Aug 24 2017  7:37AM

Ms. Ulan Stuart

Dr. Kathleen Hayden  Aug 24 2017  7:58AM

I am disappointed with the general assembly but I am not surprised.  The racial gerrymandering that has been implemented - and continues to be implemented with these new maps - amounts to nothing more than the antics of a group of white supremacists.  You cannot deny the changing demographics of the US and of North Carolina.  This will not be too many years.  The race is on.  Will we allow the bolt-cutters and the chainsaw to stay in our communities or will we work together to maintain and improve our communities.  Only the citizens of NC can make that decision.

I strongly encourage you to change the redistricting approach to a nonpartisan redrawing as recommended by Common Cause NC - information here.  Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Kathleen Hayden

Mr. RONALD DE SHON  Partisan driven redistricting from either side constitutes politicians picking their voters, as opposed to the Founding Fathers goal of representative democracy where voters pick their politicians.  Gerrymandering isn’t the way to go for any of us and is destructive for our country.  I strongly encourage you to change the redistricting approach to a nonpartisan redrawing as recommended by Common Cause NC - information here.  Thank you.

Mr. Mark Granville

I object to the redrawn maps released this week.  They need to be drawn by a non-partisan group.

Mrs. Karen Scheidler

Mrs. Mark Granville  Aug 24 2017  7:23AM

Partisan redistricting just as unacceptable as racially biased redistricting. Citizens who lose their voice in government lose faith in government and the NCGA is responsible for growing cynicism in NC. It’s time for the citizens of NC to regain their voices in state government, reduce polarization, and give the people back the power to choose their representatives. We are paying attention. Do the right thing and redraw those districts so that we all have a voice in our government and let’s fix this process so that we don’t need to endure blatant political power grabs like this in the future. A nonpartisan committee for redistricting or the equivalent would be a big step forward for NC. Do not rehire the consultants that were used for the last two attempts at new maps; they have proven themselves unable to do the right thing and redraw these districts to show equitable distribution of voters in each.  You have to be open, avoid racial or partisan gerrymandering, and allow voters to pick our political representatives, not the other way around.  I am disappointed that practically the same partisan outcome was the result of the Republican party’s efforts to comply with the court’s ruling.  You all know this is unfair and designed to keep a Republican supermajority.  This needs to be changed. It is un-American to disenfranchise such a high percentage of voters from representation. Please do the morally right thing and make districting fair to all!  Get a nonpartisan map team!!! Then you’ll be of the right side of history for both North Carolinians and Americans approval. I teach small children and even they know what’s fair when they see it!

I strongly encourage you to change the redistricting approach to a nonpartisan redrawing as recommended by Common Cause NC - information here.  Thank you.

Gerrymandering isn’t the way to go for any of us and is destructive for our country.  I strongly encourage you to change the redistricting approach to a nonpartisan redrawing as recommended by Common Cause NC - information here.  Thank you.

Mark Granville

http://www.commoncause.org/states/north-carolina/

Mrs. Robin Jenkins  Aug 24 2017  8:00AM

Partisan redistricting is just as unacceptable as racially biased redistricting. Citizens who lose their voice in government lose faith in government and the NCGA is responsible for growing cynicism in NC. It’s time for the citizens of NC to regain their voices in state government, reduce polarization, and give the people back the power to choose their representatives. We are paying attention. Do the right thing and redraw those districts so that we all have a voice in our government and let’s fix this process so that we don’t need to endure blatant political power grabs like this in the future. A nonpartisan committee for redistricting or the equivalent would be a big step forward for NC. Do not rehire the consultants that were used for the last two attempts at new maps; they have proven themselves unable to do the honest effort.

Mark Granville

Mrs. Karen Scheidler  Aug 24 2017  8:01AM

Mrs. Jean Link  Aug 24 2017  8:04AM

Myma Doernberg  Aug 24 2017  8:06AM

The redistricting maps as presently drawn allows elected officials to represent all of us, do you not?  I am very disappointed that practically the same partisan outcome was the result of the Republican party’s efforts to comply with the court’s ruling.  You all know this is unfair and designed to keep a Republican supermajority.  This needs to be changed. It is un-American to disenfranchise such a high percentage of voters from representation. Please do the morally right thing and make districting fair to all!  Get a nonpartisan map team!!! Then you’ll be of the right side of history for both North Carolinians and Americans approval. I teach small children and even they know what’s fair when they see it!

I strongly encourage you to change the redistricting approach to a nonpartisan redrawing as recommended by Common Cause NC - information here.  Thank you.

Mr. Mark Granville

I object to the redrawn maps released this week.  They need to be drawn by a non-partisan group.

Mrs. Karen Scheidler

Mrs. Jean Link  Aug 24 2017  8:04AM

Districts should 1) be compact and keep communities together 2) comply with the Voting Rights Act 3) be nonpartisan by ignoring political information like voter registration data, past election results or where incumbents live when drawing maps

Myma Doernberg

The redistricting maps as presently drawn allows elected officials to select their voters. That is not the way our democracy works. Our system can only function as it was designed if voters select their representatives. Creating a map in which 10 of 50 Senate districts and 19 of 120 House district are likely to be competitive is blatantly gerrymandered and not democratic.
One of the charges against King George III listed in the Declaration of Independence was that he denied the right of representation in the legislature to large groups of people. The Constitution of the United States guarantees to the people the right to vote, and notes in the 9th amendment the existence of rights not enumerated in the Constitution, which are retained by the people. The Constitution of the state of North Carolina guarantees the people free and FAIR elections.

I contend that radical partisan gerrymandering denies large groups of North Carolina citizens the right to representation in the legislature and fair elections. Such gerrymandering makes the right to vote null and void, when the outcome of elections does not reflect the will of the electorate.

The only Constitutional way forward is to establish an independent redistricting commission, drawing from successful models in states like Idaho, Montana, Hawaii, and New Jersey. This commission should establish district boundaries for seats in Congress and the General Assembly.

I urge you to adopt this immediately, by amending the State Constitution, so the people can approve this in 2018.

Districts should
1) be compact and keep communities together
2) comply with the Voting Rights Act
3) be nonpartisan by ignoring political information like voter registration data, past election results or where incumbents live when drawing maps.

I believe that any redistricting map should be drawn by a bi-partisan committee. Common Cause has a map that should be considered as it was created by a bi-partisan group.

Any map should:
1) be compact and keep communities together
2) comply with the Voting Rights Act
3) be non-partision by ignoring political information like voter registration data, past election results or where incumbents live when drawing maps.

I am a resident of North Carolina (in central Charlotte). I am writing in response to the General Assembly’s reconsideration of voting districts in the state, following the court-ordered re-drawing of maps. In my view, the recently released maps do not go nearly far enough in ensuring fair voting in the state. Given that they were drawn by the same consultant who drew the previous maps, voters may not have confidence that they do not continue to favor the party in power and constitute political as well as racial gerry-mandering.

To alleviate any hint of favoritism in districting, I urge the legislature to pass a measure (such as the one proposed by State Senator Jeff Jackson) to have the voting map drawn by an independent, bipartisan commission. Both sides have wrongly abused the current system in the past. Going forward, it is essential to the health of our democracy that we resolve this problem and ensure fair voting and representation for all citizens of our state.

Thank you in advance for seriously considering these comments.

Sincerely yours,
Christine Haynes
1725 Chestnut Ave.
Charlotte, NC  28205

Since the NC Legislature made a point to attempt to keep the vast majority of the district for Republicans, the maps show this prejudice. Whether by race or by voting records, this is a partisan view of creating fair maps and discriminatory. One example I experience, these and the last maps divide the city of Asheville into two different district one section linked by a small line to a largely republican district. This makes both parts of Asheville most likely get Republican representation when Asheville is a largely democratic city.

Try again and make fair maps, draw straight lines, the people will watch what you do, especially now.

I am opposed to the legislative redistriction plan proposed by the GOP. This is gerrymandering, and gives an unfair advantage to republicans, and under represents the voices of minorities, and the disadvantaged.

90% of the new General Assembly districts are solidly tilted to favor one party or another – mostly to the advantage of the Republican mapmakers.

With these new maps, you continue to rig our elections, reduce competition, and protect yourselves from being held accountable for your actions in Raleigh. we won’t settle for “taxation without representation.”
I am asking for a process that draws political district maps in a way that is fair and open, avoids racial or partisan gerrymandering, and allows voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around. I urge the N.C. General Assembly to support an independent, redistricting process that follows those guiding principles.

It is baffling to me that NC GA would shit on democracy so much and wont agree to a bipartisan committee to draft the new districts. This is a note to tell you WE the people of NC are watching and will hold you accountable.

This is not Democracy! What a sad admission that the only way you can win is by cheating. Voting districts should be drawn along straight line, county boundaries and roadways. No cherry picking of voters.

To the Members of our General Assembly,

Margot Ammidown

You need to legislate the use of a computer algorithm that creates
Redistricting must be done in a fair manner. Prior maps have been
districts with the smallest perimeter while still including the correct
representation away from many of our NC citizens, and furthering the
favor whites and Republicans, wrenching the right to fair and equal
representation away from many of our NC citizens, and furthering the
systemic oppression of people of color. I was disappointed to learn that
the 2011 maps were used as a benchmark of success when drawing the
new maps (the 2011 maps were ruled unconstitutional), and that
the Legislature chose to work with the SAME consultant who drew the
illegal maps that the Supreme Court threw out in June of 2017. The
representatives in the NCGA have an obligation to serve their people,
and removes the political process.

This is why people are fed up with politics and the political process,
both of the major parties from abusing their power and, hopefully,
a non-partisan group to draw reasonable and ethical maps will keep
Democrats were not much better when they were in power. Enabling
democracy and is a blight upon this state. History shows that the
current General Assembly has made a mockery of our Constitution:
"We the People". Is this the government my ancestors gave their lives for?

It is astonishing to me that you could do this in good conscience. I love
North Carolina for its diversity of views. Since 2011, we havent been
able to see or hear that diversity. Appoint an independent commission to
redraw these maps without gerrymandered districts. Do your job. Be better. Represent us better.

This is the new legislative maps are still gerrymandered. I call for non-
partisan redistricting. ... I repeat NON PARTISAN redistricting!

Please ... adopt non-partisan redistricting standards. You are
accountable.

A concerned citizen,
Catherine T Palmer

More evidence of a government that has lost touch with the heart of our Constitution: "We the People". Is this the government my ancestors gave their lives for? Please ... adopt non-partisan redistricting standards. You are destroying our Constitution.

We need a non-partisan group/panel/committee to draw up the
legislative district maps. Neither of the two major parties can or
should be trusted to do it. The temptation to draw the maps to favor themselves is far too great. The point of the General Assembly is to REPRESENT the people of this great state. There is no current representation of the people, there's a power grab by the party currently in power to continue that power for as long as possible, regardless of whether they have the competency to even be trusted with that power. The current General Assembly has made a mockery of democracy and is a blight upon this state. History shows that the Democrats were not much better when they were in power. Enabling a non-partisan group to draw reasonable and ethical maps will keep both of the major parties from abusing their power and, hopefully, guaranteeing a continued democracy for those that are left to deal with the fallout. The continued gerrymandering of this state means that there is no accountability for those in power. If there's no accountability, there is certainly no representation. It seems as though we're just one small step away from a state dictatorship.
These maps are as gerrymandered as the last set of maps the Republicans have been putting forward. This is just another form of voter suppression and an attempt to hold onto control of the state legislature house and senate. These maps represent the bigoted views of those who drew them. It is time for North Carolina to move forward fair maps for everybody in all districts everywhere with everybody who has the right to vote having equal access to the ballot booth.

The Republican-led effort to "un-gerrymander" unconstitutional districts is a failure and a face. The new districts are almost as bad as the old ones in terms of the partisan advantage they confer on the Republican party, and the continuing influence of partisan map-drawing consultant Hofeller is unmistakable. The current redistricting proposal does not correct the problem noted by the courts in rejecting the old maps, and in fact does literally as little as possible in that direction. My confidence in the constitutionality of North Carolina's voting districts will not be restored until they are re-drawn yet again by either a truly non-partisan commission or else by the court itself.


Aside from racist gerrymandering, I believe the maps violate the "one man one vote" principle that is central to our democracy. My math abilities aren't too sophisticated, but looking at the pitiful Democratic representation in NC, I believe it doesn't even rise to the level of 3/5ths of a person that was originally assigned to numbers of Blacks in a state. Under the 3/5ths rule, Democrats would actually done better! The 3/5ths rule, Democrats would actually done better! Partisan politics in a given, but this in effect disenfranchises most of a state. Under the 3/5ths rule, Democrats would actually done better! Partisan politics in a given, but this in effect disenfranchises most of the one third of NC citizens who are Democrats. How that is Constitutional, I can't understand.

Gerrymandering is cheating. Win votes by prioritizing your constituents over corporate and donor interests. Enough with the cheating and corruption.

It is costly in time and money to keep going over the same efforts to keep control of the state legislature house and senate. These maps represent the bigoted views of those who drew them. It is time for North Carolina to move forward fair maps for everybody in all districts everywhere with everybody who has the right to vote having equal access to the ballot booth.

The current redistricting plan does not go far enough to dismantle the NC GOP need outside oversight in order to be fair and relinquish their grip on the legislative process. The new redistricting map does not resolve the issue. As it stands now, the Republican party, and the continuing influence of partisan map-drawing consultant Hofeller is unmistakable. The current redistricting proposal does not correct the problem noted by the courts in rejecting the old maps, and in fact does literally as little as possible in that direction. My confidence in the constitutionality of North Carolina's voting districts will not be restored until they are re-drawn yet again by either a truly non-partisan commission or else by the court itself.

We demand fair legislative district maps. End North Carolina's shame. Raleigh NC

To Whom It May Concern

It is time to draw fair legislative districts and end gerrymandering. Voters should choose their representatives not the other way around. Start with independent redistricting commission or let the federal courts appoint a master to do it. Henry Jarrett

Dr. Rachel Younger

The current redistricting plan does not go far enough to dismantle racist gerrymandering. In this way, it upholds white supremacy and diminishes the voting power of African-American North Carolinians. I recommend consulting mathematician Moon Duchin's research on gerrymandering to create new and fair maps.

On Tuesday (8/21/17), I attended the redistricting hearing at Beaufort County Community College in Washington and listened intently to speakers across the state who stated and reiterated my personal view that the current redistricting map is seriously flawed. First, it is flawed as a result of a flawed process. I was angered to discover that I had driven all the way home from Charleston, SC, in order to attend this meeting only to discover that an "open" meeting had limited seating in a small room. Obviously your choice of an inconvenient time led you to think attendance would be small. Your tactics are so blatantly obvious that I am amazed you have no shame in the public eye. Second, the present map remains gerrymandered, created by an expert (the same expert who created the first map discounted by the courts). Do the right thing and create an unbiased committee of logistions not legislators who can create an unbiased map based on representation rather than on political retention. If you cannot do this, I trust the courts will cut your faltering and fake efforts short and do the job themselves. This country is too great to be represented by politicians of your ilk who flaunt its ideals and the core concept of one man one vote.

Candace English

We demand fair legislative district maps. End North Carolina's shame. Stop gerrymandering please. Let's have a fair elections in North Carolina.

Aside from racist gerrymandering, I believe the maps violate the "one man one vote" principle that is central to our democracy. My math abilities aren't too sophisticated, but looking at the pitiful Democratic representation in NC, I believe it doesn't even rise to the level of 3/5ths of a person that was originally assigned to numbers of Blacks in a state. Under the 3/5ths rule, Democrats would actually done better! Partisan politics in a given, but this in effect disenfranchises most of the one third of NC citizens who are Democrats. How that is Constitutional, I can't understand.

Gerrymandering is cheating. Win votes by prioritizing your constituents over corporate and donor interests. Enough with the cheating and corruption.

It is costly in time and money to keep going over the same efforts to control voting districts, and I think NC should show some exceptionalism by following the example of other states in drawing up non-partisan districts. This has gone on too long under both parties, and the public is sick and tired of state government. Show some character. Review the maps, now. It is time for North Carolina to move forward fair maps for everybody in all districts everywhere with everybody who has the right to vote having equal access to the ballot booth.

The new redistricting map does not resolve the issue. As it stands now (the current revision), a NC Citizen may as well not vote as the choice is already made for you with the maps drawn like they are. It appears the NC GOP need outside oversight in order to be fair and relinquish their grip on the legislative process.

For our state to claim a legislative body that represents the population it is necessary for true and objective redistricting be done ASAP. This could probably best be achieved by computer algorithms based on population numbers.

Anything else is a theft of our political process.

Voting is a right and should be done fairly and equitably. Districts should be drawn fairly with total respect for the voters, not for incumbents or to handicap future political candidates.
Mr. Ernest Hahn
Tom Ross and an impartial committee redrew the maps with 13 districts. It's time for rational, logical, reasonable maps. Districts shouldn't be drawn in a fair and reasonable manner.

Mr. Brendan Younger
I am completely opposed to the efforts of Republican legislators to redraw electoral districts which clearly favor their party.

Mr. Richard Branda
I am completely opposed to the efforts of Republican legislators to redraw electoral districts which clearly favor their party.

Ms. Marni Goldshlag
I am here today because I feel strongly that the legislature, which was given lawful reasons to change districts’ boundaries? I was born in and love NC, but right now what’s happening in Raleigh is an embarrassment.

Ms. Nancy Forrest
As a voter in North Carolina, I demand that the voting districts be redraw in a fair and reasonable manner.

Mr. Ernest Hahn
The people of NC want and deserve fair, non-partisan redistricting maps that do not favor either party. That is the ONLY way we can elect officials that truly represent our interests. We are watching very move. We really do know the difference between a fair process and one that is merely a sham to promote self interest. You were elected to serve the people, not your own interests. It is time to man up and do that!

Mr. Brendan Younger
I am completely opposed to the efforts of Republican legislators to redraw electoral districts which clearly favor their party.

My ability to elect the candidate of my choice is severely curtailed. This is a fundamental denial of equal protection under the law.

I cannot trust the legislature to represent my interests if my elected officials are sure of their own reelection; instead, they represent those people and corporations that give freely to campaigns or offer other perks to officials once they leave office.

I hope that at least a few of the current state lawmakers desire to serve the people of North Carolina and I hope they will have the courage to reject the current and proposed maps so as to be more accountable to individual voters rather than monied interests and perks to officials once they leave office.

Mr. Winthrop Southworth
North Carolina certainly does not have a good historical record justice-wise – from slavery to the Jim Crow era and beyond. There are many admirable considerations about our beautiful state; e.g., it’s rich ecological diversity and opportunities to enjoy nature and rich educational benefits. We can and we must improve our political system to be fair and just for everyone and establish enduring redistricting maps throughout our state via a totally nonpartisan commission that is committed to a totally fair voting system. Let’s show the rest of our nation that our voting system is not a joke but rather evidence of a civilized just system.

Ms. Cathy Cole
I am extremely distressed and concerned about the new redistricting maps. Once again, you have structured these new maps to disenfranchise Black voters. These maps are not acceptable and need to be redrawn.

Mr. Ernest Hahn
Many Carolinians believe that the State’s Republican party is hell bent on maintaining their supermajorities in the General Assembly at any cost. If true, I believe the GOP’s actions, especially with regards to legislative redistricting, are quite shameful. I believe redistricting maps should be drawn, not by lawmakers and consultants and their fancy mapping software, but by an independent and bipartisan body as demonstrated last year when a panel of retired judges created a series of sample maps. Every sport needs a referee; politics more so than any other event.

After looking at the redistricting maps I feel I was in a maze.
I hope the appeals judge will do the right thing and throw this out. This state is equally divided between Republican and Democrat on maintaining their supermajorities in the General Assembly at any cost. If true, I believe the GOP’s actions, especially with regards to legislative redistricting, are quite shameful. I believe redistricting maps should be drawn, not by lawmakers and consultants and their fancy mapping software, but by an independent and bipartisan body as demonstrated last year when a panel of retired judges created a series of sample maps. Every sport needs a referee; politics more so than any other event.

Ms. Loveeta Baker
It’s time for rational, logical, reasonable maps. Districts shouldn’t be devised to maximize one party’s favor. You know this. What are the lawful reasons to change districts’ boundaries? I was born in and love NC, but right now what’s happening in Raleigh is an embarrassment.

It’s time for a non-partisan commission to be the entity to                               Ultimately, it's time for a non-partisan commission to be the entity to

Ms. Marni Goldshlag
I am here today because I feel strongly that the legislature, which was elected from gerrymandered districts which the courts have declared illegal, should not be the body redrawing the districts. I don’t believe that this legislature will draw maps which are any more fair than the old ones. This is especially true because they are using the same map maker and clearly have partisan goals in mind. These legislators have used unlawful gerrymandered maps to win elections in 2012, 2014 and 2016.

They have spent millions of tax payers dollars defending these bad maps in court while writing terrible laws and being totally unaccountable for their actions. Enough is enough!!!

It is time that NC have districts which are drawn fairly, without racial or partisan bias. It’s time for our districts to allow competition for the legislative seats.

It’s time for the legislature to stop playing these games and for the court to take this process over.

Ultimately, it's time for a non-partisan commission to be the entity to

Ms. Nancy Forrest
As a voter in North Carolina, I demand that the voting districts be redraw in a fair and reasonable manner.
I would like to record my opinion that although the proposed maps are superficially prettier than the existing maps, the partisan ugliness underneath is still obvious. Maps should not be drawn to protect incumbents – particularly since it's been determined that many current incumbents come from unconstitutional districts. Maps should not permit politicians to choose their voters instead of allowing voters to choose their government. Maps should not use partisan registration or previous partisan election results to determine boundaries. Maps should be drawn by an independent, non-partisan staff using non-partisan and legal criteria. I think the use of partisan criteria, although sadly quite common, is unethical. I also think many legislators actually know this – they are just going to do this because they think they can get away with it. But the people are watching, and the courts are watching, and I hope blatant partisan gerrymandering will soon be declared unconstitutional. While I am not a constituent of NC, I live in a heavily gerrymandered portion of Pennsylvania, and know this to be a toxic practice that means that every vote does NOT count. For the sake of this country, I ask for fairness for every voter. I am appalled that gerrymandering districts by political party is legal. In an attempt to ensure political party power, the use of gerrymandering means that a significant portion of the citizenry have no real voice in their own government. There is enough computing power available to create a district map that relies solely on populations numbers; please use this process to redraw the districts in a fair, non-partisan way. The fact that North Carolina Republicans (NC GOP: Worst of the Worst) continue to suppress the voting rights of people of color in this state despite the courts consistently shooting down their gerrymandering efforts is reprehensible. They obviously think that we, their constituents, are unaware of their efforts is reprehensible. I think the use of partisan criteria, although sadly quite common, is unethical. I also think many legislators actually know this – they are just going to do this because they think they can get away with it. But the people are watching, and the courts are watching, and I hope blatant partisan gerrymandering will soon be declared unconstitutional. The time between when the leadership of the NC Assembly released the re-drawn legislative districts (Sunday, August 20) and when it scheduled hearings for public comment (August 22) manifests a dismissive contempt of NC citizens that further undermines the credibility of the legislature and the peoples' faith in the democratic process. The legislature has known for over a year that it would most likely have to draw new maps, but waited to release them, giving the public less than 48 hours to study them. In addition, the leadership provided no information about party affiliation or race in the new districts is performed. The new maps were created by the Gerrymandered general assembly GOP in secrecy (who have no interest in a fair system), without openness to underlying data, with minimum ability for the public to comment. This reeks of unfair political gerrymandered districts (again) by the GOP in NC which are counter to American laws and values, and thus counter to our democracy. Create fair districts with a fair body that is representative of the people of this state. We the people deserve representation by our government. Fix it correctly. If you are truly representative - the people will re-elect you fairly. This is how democracy works. The lines should be drawn in the most closely bound areas possible, not stretched out along a path in order to make up some imaginary configuration of a group of particular people. We want our votes to count. We are in danger of losing the effectiveness of individual votes if you do; make the lines fair, cols blind and politically blind. The reason for this is simple: the criteria used to draw the maps are arbitrary, partisan and legal criteria. Maps should not use partisan registration or previous partisan election results to determine boundaries. Maps should not use partisan registration or previous partisan election results to determine boundaries. Maps should not use partisan registration or previous partisan election results to determine boundaries. Maps should be drawn by an independent, non-partisan staff using non-partisan and legal criteria. I think the use of partisan criteria, although sadly quite common, is unethical. I also think many legislators actually know this – they are just going to do this because they think they can get away with it. But the people are watching, and the courts are watching, and I hope blatant partisan gerrymandering will soon be declared unconstitutional. 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Create fair districts with a fair body that is representative of the people of this state. We the people deserve representation by OUR government. Fix it correctly. If you are truly representative - the people will re-elect you fairly. This is how democracy works.
brandy sullivan  
Aug 24 2017 10:17AM  
I demand fair maps for our constituents. We’re watching every move you make. Not backing down & not going away! You represent us! Do your jobs and fix gerrymandered maps.

Margaret Harris  
Aug 24 2017 10:21AM  
To be fair to both parties, the districts should be drawn by an INDEPENDENT commission!

Mrs. Michelle Swart  
Aug 24 2017 10:29AM  
The Electoral Integrity Project, led by UNC-Chapel Hill political scientist Andrew Reynolds, is a nonpartisan project that grades democracies worldwide on a 100-point scale. The ratings are based on multiple factors including districting. The EIP has measured 213 elections in 153 countries and is widely accepted as the most accurate method for evaluating how free and fair democratic elections are. For the last election, the EIP concluded that the state of North Carolina had the least democratic redistricting in the world. North Carolina is the worst entity ever analyzed by the Electoral Integrity Project. Our score was a horrific 7/100. No democracy in the world outside of the U.S. allows the elected politicians to draw the lines, and neither should we. Respect for fair elections is not a partisan issue. Democrats and Republicans alike want the opportunity to be represented in their legislature. We need to implement an independent commission to define voting districts as soon as humanly possible to recover democracy in North Carolina.

Dr. Susan Weaver  
Aug 24 2017 10:31AM  
The new redistricting maps are very poor. They produce competitive races for only 15 of the 170 legislative seats. This gives free options for legislators to do the bidding of lobbyists rather than work for the good of the people. The person(s) at the top of the heap get to call the shots as they are negotiating with lobbyists for the big bucks. The best people do not run because they cannot represent their voters because they have to back the leadership or lose backing for re-election. Voters do not vote because there is no point. Please bring back our democracy. Do not support these redistricting maps.

Lisa Zerkle  
Aug 24 2017 10:31AM  
Dear General Assembly-
I urge you to adopt non-partisan redistricting. Your 8/17 redrawing of voting districts still heavily favors Republican lawmakers. We live in a diverse, swing state and your maps do not reflect this. My current lawmakers are in iron clad districts and as such, do not listen or care about half of the electorate. Their only concern is being primaried from the far right. This perpetuates dangerous and extreme division in our state and country and amounts to disenfranchisement for Independents and Democrats. Please put the wellbeing of our state ahead of party politics.

Lonna Harkrader  
Aug 24 2017 10:34AM  
We want redistricting maps where political parties have an equal chance of winning. That way the candidates will listen closely to what their constituents consider important issues. The redrawn maps are a failure. Appoint a non-partisan group to redraw the maps.
We need fair maps to accurately represent and defend the citizens of North Carolina. Unlike many of my peers, I do not expect to alter your perspectives or your desire to be reelected, maintain majorities, or serve your fellow citizens. We are a country of free elections for all. Our districts must represent the justice for all. Technological redistricting should be handled by an independent commission. It doesn't make sense to have either party in complete control of the process. We are a so-called purple state. In the past 10 yrs, we have voted for Senators, Governors, and Presidents from each major party. Yet, Republicans currently hold supermajorities in both houses of our General Assembly. The only explanation is illegal and unfair maps drawn by our current crop of Republicans. What's more, since the maps are illegal, it is fair to say that many of our state representatives should not even be in office, much less have a say in how these maps are drawn. But here we are, letting the thieves choose how the bank is guarded yet again. Why do we continue to let the fox guard the henhouse? Our state will not progress and solve problems if we don't hold each other accountable. Voting analysts watching the results say that most of these districts will lean Republican, even though North Carolina as a whole is very balanced. As of Aug. 19, of the state's 6,777,881 registered voters, 2,640,045 are Democrats; 2,054,423 are Republicans; and 2,050,096 are unaffiliated. The redrawn maps are crooked! It must stop, for the good of all citizens. I summon you to heed the call of justice, not of political manipulation. We are a representative democracy. They are solely interested in taking and retaining power. Their interests are not shared by their constituents. As our nation's courts have repeatedly confirmed, NC Republicans consistently draw unfair and illegal maps. For some reason, they continue to be involved in the process of redrawing the maps despite the fact that they can't stop breaking the law when they do it. Why would we ask them to do something they aren't interested in, and don't have the capacity for doing? We are a so-called purple state. In the past 10 yrs, we have voted for Senators, Governors, and Presidents from each major party. Yet, Republicans currently hold supermajorities in both houses of our General Assembly. The only explanation is illegal and unfair maps drawn by our current crop of Republicans. What's more, since the maps are illegal, it is fair to say that many of our state representatives should not even be in office, much less have a say in how these maps are drawn. But here we are, letting the thieves choose how the bank is guarded yet again. Why do we continue to let the fox guard the henhouse? Our state will not progress and solve problems if we don't hold each other accountable.

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<tr>
<td>Aug 24 2017 11:30AM</td>
<td>Ms. Barbara Gibson</td>
<td>I am extremely concerned, frustrated, and angry at the Republican legislators of the NC GA who continue to act as though the state of North Carolina belongs to them and they can cheat and trick the residents through unfair gerrymandering of the voter maps of our state. Even though they have been legally directed by judges to change this to a fair representation, they decidedly work behind closed doors to do the opposite.</td>
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<td>Aug 24 2017 11:33AM</td>
<td>Mr. Kevin Koplin</td>
<td>Meaningful hearings on re-districting depend on everyone having the necessary information in a timely manner to evaluate the proposed re-districting maps. That was not done here. That was wrong. It was also wrong to schedule the hearings at 4:00 p.m. and in a room (in Charlotte) that did not have enough chairs. Speakers were also not allowed to speak on a first come first serve basis. There was no effort to rank speakers based on when they signed up to speak. Everyone should be full and fairly represented in re-districting. Our state is fairly evenly balanced between Republicans and Democrats. Re-districting should reflect this. Re-districting should not be designed to protect incumbents. It should be designed to create as many competitive districts as possible. To do otherwise, is to undermine democracy. To re-district in such a partisan manner is not moral, it is not right, and it hurts our State. Without full and fair re-districting, we will continue to have divisive partisanship and extremism. Without fair re-districting, too many of our representatives will have no incentive to cooperate with one another, to respect different viewpoints, to compromise or to work together. This will hurt North Carolina. Other states (Iowa, California, Arizona) have made progress in minimizing partisanship in re-districting. This can be done in North Carolina starting with this re-districting process and going forward in future re-districting by passing House Bill 200.</td>
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<td>Aug 24 2017 11:43AM</td>
<td>Ms. Mary Tharp</td>
<td>North Carolinians deserve an impartial districting system in which every vote counts. The latest redistricting scheme is overly partisan and does not take into consideration racial data that should be used to insure equal representation. the process of arriving at this plan did not allow sufficient transparency, time or opportunity for citizens to make their concerns heard.</td>
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<td>Aug 24 2017 11:53AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Janis King</td>
<td>The actions of the NC legislature have become embarrassing and is getting national attention. The voters need to be able to pick their legislators without the obstructions which the current legislators are trying to put in place. The redistricting must be done fairly without gerrymandering to account for race or political party. We deserve fair and open elections. That is our constitutional right. Do the right thing and let the maps be drawn fairly. If the republican agenda is what the people want, they will win the election if it is not what the people want, they will lose. This is how the election system was created and it needs to be upheld.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 24 2017 11:54AM</td>
<td>Ms. Judith Butts</td>
<td>Gerrymandering and voter suppression violate our rights and we will keep fighting until districting allows equal representation!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 24 2017 11:56AM</td>
<td>Ms. Carol Thompson</td>
<td>It appears the new maps don’t solve the gerrymandering problem. North Carolina has the right for fair districts for a fair chance to balance the legislative body. Power grabbing by the republican party has become outrageous. Serve the people, not your warped ideology.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 24 2017 12:05PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Ellen Gaskill</td>
<td>Once again I am writing to request that you draw districts where there is a chance for people to make a choice. When the districts are drawn so that in 70% of them there is no contest for legislative seats something is wrong. Don't be scared of your people. Allow them to make choices that are fair.</td>
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I am disappointed that the legislature has chosen to take this opportunity to double down on its strategy of extreme gerrymandering during the construction of these new maps. While the partisan gerrymandering here is not illegal, it is shameful. This kind of anti-democratic action cannot be explained away with finger pointing or legalese and it will continue to taint this legislature and this state for many years to come.

I know that the legislature is aware of this because I can see how the process was run: releasing maps at the eleventh hour with limited time for commentary or review. These districts directly affect my ability to participate in the democratic process of our state and they are being handled recklessly in the name of extreme partisanship. You have failed to engage the outside expertise and independent review which could cleanse the name of this state to both its citizens and the rest of the country. Maps built in a backroom and then ramrodded through can never represent the will of the people.

I have referred to the partisanship at play here because it is so disgustingly flagrant, but I’d also like to point to the continued wielding of these maps for the suppression of voters of color. The allegation that race was not considered may seem like a neat party trick to argue in front of the Supreme Court, but it bears no weight with voters like myself. I’ll leave the legal decisions up to the judges, but I can speak to the moral side of things. Allowing racial gerrymandering, regardless of intent, is tantamount to active participation in white supremacy. By taking steps to follow the Supreme Court in name only, this redistricting plan firmly chooses to support white supremacy. I am also too certain that future generations will look back at this moment as we have with so many moments of the civil rights struggle: with sadness and shame. We will wonder how a government built on racial reconciliation could ever come up with something so dreadfully antithetical. If the current districts have been ruled illegal, then the people elected using those districts are also illegal. This seems straightforward. But because greed and power are driving their attempts to protect themselves, they must be removed from the redistricting process. This is clearly not a non-partisan issue. Both sides, all ideologies and races agree on this… take the politicians out of the redistricting process. We are tired of politicians rigging elections to reduce competition and protect themselves from being held accountable. We demand a government of, by and for the people.

I support fair balanced maps of our voting districts and I am tired of our GOP costing the state so much money by refusing to do their jobs correctly. Fair maps and not gerrymandering is what we deserve in NC and we intend to fight until you comply. You work for us and we pay your salaries. Thank you Mrs. Ball for your attention to this matter.

I am so disheartened that you, as representatives of the people, could not rise above partisan politics and support a fair and just redistricting plan instead of looking out for you own self interests. We are living in a time that it is more important than ever to encourage everyone to vote and guarantee that their votes count. It also is more important than ever that our representatives uphold the ideals of this great state and act ETHICALLY, not just to the letter of the law. (1) A new poll shows that four out of five North Carolina voters (80%) say it's not fair for politicians to draw their own districts. That includes 65% of Democrats, 74% of Republicans, 80% of independents – as well as 79% of Trump supporters and 80% of African Americans. (2) The redistricting process must be open, avoid racial or partisan gerrymandering, and allow voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around.

For the sake of all that is fair and just, let the people speak. We should pick our representatives and not the opposite. It is a very sad situation when you create districts that are blatantly prejudiced against people of color. Creating this veto proof majority for one party is truly undemocratic. You might as well just outlaw democrats. To me that race was not considered may seem like a neat party trick to argue in front of the Supreme Court, but it bears no weight with voters like myself. We are living in a time that it is more important than ever to encourage everyone to vote and guarantee that their votes count. It also is more important than ever that our representatives uphold the ideals of this great state and act ETHICALLY, not just to the letter of the law. This new districts are a sham. The fix is in. Gerrymandering is wrong, please stop messing with democracy! I appeal to you to draw lines WITHOUT regard to party. Don't we already have a legacy of white supremacy that needs repair— not reinforced?

Unfortunately, the Republican leadership has shown clearly that they don’t care about democracy or the people of North Carolina. Gerrymandering is illegal, but it is in obvious, our legislature is in violation of the people’s right to vote and guarantee that their votes count. We want our representatives to be elected by the people, not by the people’s representatives. The new maps remain an embarrassment and an affront to democracy. The High Court has spoken. The current district lines are based on racial bias and are clearly intended to control the vote in favor of Republican legislators. This shows the weakness of the Republicans in that, in order to retain power, they must cheat. North Carolinians are fed up with this obvious abuse of power and we demand that legislative redistricting be based on lines that create a fair playing field. If Republican policies are so good, there should be no need to rig the system. I believe that the only answer is to establish a non partisan board to draw district maps that we can believe in.
Dr. Vivian Chen: I object to the way the new maps have been drawn in order to heavily favor republican candidates. This is particularly unjust since the republican legislators in NC only have the power to draw these maps through gaining a majority, by means of illegally racially gerrymandered districts. The new maps need to drawn again to fairly represent ALL voters in this state, not just republicans, especially since their majority has been rule to be illegal. Draw fair maps now!

Dr. Paul Brinich: I am sick and tired of having our voting districts gerrymandered in ways that undermine our democracy. It doesn’t matter whether it’s Democrats or Republicans – they’ve both used this to cement their power in the legislature . . . and to make my vote worthless. We need to remove redistricting from partisan politics NOW.

Ms. Erin Carrier: The new maps are not fair and are being drawn by the same legislators elected via illegal racist maps to secure their illegally gained positions. Stop cheating. If you want to win, stop gerrymandering and vote suppressing and actually create policies that earn you votes.

Mr. Hiram Reynolds: To bring this to your attention the following is a very good definition for gerrymandering. Gerrymandering is a practice that attempts to establish a political advantage for a party or group by manipulating district boundaries to create partisan-advantaged districts. The resulting district apportionment is known as a gerrymandering. The new districts maps were a vale attempt to meet the supreme court order and you have failed. The entire process is disrespectful to the citizens and voters of this state. Gerrymandering undermines the fundamental principle of American democracy by depriving voters of a choice in who represents them. It gives the impression that what you are creating is a dictatorship and with that, why do you need voters? Fix the maps!

Mr. Leslie Lee: To date, the N.C. General Assembly has not seen fit to support democracy with an open and fair process to create election districts in North Carolina. I urge the assembly to turn away from its radical agenda to racially and politically subvert voters. If the Assembly does not feel it can do its job, maybe it needs to create an independent, non-partisan commission to draw maps for the state.

Ms. Cornelia Barr: I was at the public meeting at GTCC on August 22 about the newly drawn district maps but did not get a chance to speak. The proposed maps, unveiled last weekend after a secretive process, were drawn by the same legislators and the same consultant that drafted the 2011 boundaries.

If legislators were elected under a system of unconstitutional districting, how can any action they have taken since 2011 be constitutional, let alone moral? Especially redrawing the boundaries when, as the Winston-Salem Journal states (8/23, “North Carolina legislative map favors GOP, but how much?”) the legislators who are doing so have the goal of “protecting incumbents and considering how areas voted in the past.”

This self-serving manipulation is shameful. Our voting rights are the cornerstone of American civil society. We have the right to know that our vote is not going to be gerrymandered out of all meaning.

I call on the General Assembly to reject the proposed maps as unconstitutional. We need an independent commission that will draft districts that are fair and represent the interests of the people of North Carolina.

Mr. Peter Lourekas: I am disappointed and disgusted with the terrible results from the redistricting plans carried out by the NC General Assembly. It is obvious that no serious attempt was made to create balanced, realistic districts that took into account the real distribution of Republican and Democratic voters and dealt with the issue of racial bias.

The Assembly needs to redo these maps with the help of an independent mapping agency so the results do not yet again show signs of reduced party competition and favoritism for the Republican party. In a state that has an almost equal number of Republican and Democratic voters, there is no justification for a lop-sided House and Senate—as is the current status in elected representatives.

Please listen to the voters in NC and withdraw these bogus “new” district maps and initiate an honest attempt to redraw existing districts.

Mr. Richard Fouke: I feel strongly that redistricting needs to be done by a nonpartisan committee rather than whichever party is in the majority. Based on this belief I do not believe the republican House and Senate have fairly redrawn the districts without partisan gerrymandering and feel that the job needs to be one by the courts until such a nonpartisan committee can be established.

Dr. Jennifer Watson: Empower, not neutralize so ALL votes matter.

Mrs. Lisa Neylan: Let’s not fail at this 400 year experiment in Democracy. Each of us must trust that our vote counts or the system doesn’t work. All sides now and in the future deserve fair maps. Don’t choose your voters, trust your voters to choose you.
Aug 24 2017  1:18PM
Mrs. Sara White
If you unblock and pass HB 200 then let a computer draw the map

Aug 24 2017  1:46PM
Mrs. Mindy Kim
Extreme Gerrymandering must be stopped. It is destroying the

Aug 24 2017  1:46PM
Ms. Jeanne Langley
It is time to do the ethical, moral thing and draw maps with no

Aug 24 2017  1:42PM
Mr. Tony Quartararo
Good afternoon
When my family & I moved to NC 11 years ago we fell in love with a
place we believed was the heart of the New South, a place of
progress; where people valued education, the planet, civil rights, racial
and social justice and a collaborative / open exchange of ideas &
thoughts for the good of ALL the people.
Sadly, we subsequently feared we have moved to a Tarheel version of
the Hatfield & McCoys; where, because of what one grandfather did to
another grandfather 40 years ago---- one political party felt entitled----
because they CAN, to crush the very soul of North Carolina and return to
the ways of the Old South with its implicit, if not, explicit White
Supremacy
In the Dec. Special Session, this fear was confirmed as we watched the
Super Majority immorally & unethically getting even (and more) for
their grandfathers—as they used phrases such as
"It is Constitutional’’;
"It is Legal’’;
"this is what you did before’’;
-----
But NEVER did I hear
"This will help people’’;
"This will make our State better’’;

I am disgusted with both parties. NC has devolved to a “Lord of the
Flees” scenario, with the Super Majority picking on the weak and
marginalized.
I am disgusted with a gerrymandering & voter suppression that allows an
irrational & immorally flawed conmovie to exist which claim role... I
expect my elected officials to look out for the welfare of all citizens
and to protect the power of the vote equally for all citizens, not to let
partisanship enter in. I want to see totally unbiased redistricting with
lines drawn with blinders on as to party affiliations and race. Our
country as a whole is badly in need of politicians who believe in equity
and fairness, not ones who see politics as a game they can win if
clever enough and underhanded enough. Please see that a stop is put
to partisan lines in redistricting this time and forever more.

Aug 24 2017  1:24PM
Dr. Virginia Richter
The maps should be drawn fairly, with no party favoritism. Our
representatives need to represent all the people so that the NCGA can
be constituted legally.

Aug 24 2017  1:24PM
Mrs. Ruby Coughenour
The maps should be drawn fairly, with no party favoritism. Our
representatives need to represent all the people so that the NCGA can
be constituted legally.

Aug 24 2017  1:30PM
Ms. Ann Anderson
Redistricting should be done so that districts are compact. They
should be based on density and not consider registered voters’ party
affiliation or past election history. Districts should not consider where
an incumbent is located.

In my opinion, redistricting should be done mathematically, through a
contractor selected by a bipartisan committee. It is important to
democratic integrity that redistricting be a neutral, rather than
partisan act.

Aug 24 2017  1:39PM
Dr. John Lingle
Extreme Gerrymandering must be stopped. It is destroying the
democracy. NC has become a poster child for Republic morphing into a
Oligarchy. It’s clear the make up of the state legislature does not
reflect the political thinking of the citizens. Save our democracy and
support non-partisan redistricting. I will not vote in the future for any
democrat or republican who cannot show a record of fighting for non-
partisan redistricting. Instead, he will vote in the future for an
democrat or republican who cannot show a record of fighting for non-
partisan redistricting.

Aug 24 2017  1:45PM
Ms. Mindy Kim
If you unblock and pass HB 200 then let a computer draw the map
there will be no problems. Imagine, restoring Democracy to our
suffering state. Tjis is only one small step, but it merds yo start here.

Aug 24 2017  1:46PM
Mrs. Sara White
It is time to do the ethical, moral thing and draw maps with no
reference to voting patterns, incumbent location and race. Draw the
maps based municipal and county boundaries, equality of number of
voters and and ensure equal treatment of communities of interest. It
may be legal to adopt maps that favor one party or another but is not
the right thing to do. Our state has spent millions of dollars to defend
these maps— it is time to draw good maps.

Aug 24 2017  1:46PM
Karen Rindge
After hoping the legislature would take seriously the ruling from the US
Supreme Court to create constitutionally valid legislative districts, I am
deeply discouraged. The newly proposed districts were drawn by the
same consultant who drew the unconstitutional lines. The public is
asking for districts that are more concentrated and that do not skew
political representation unfairly. These newly proposed districts will
end up in court again, only to continue the illegality of the current
legislative representation. It is time for independently drawn districts.
Aug 24 2017 1:48PM  Mrs. Ann Kaplan  It is long past time that the NCBA creates a fair and nonpartisan redistricted map for our state. This can be accomplished by having a nonpartisan group of citizens create the districts so that they are not skewed to one party or the other for either partisan or racial biases. The districts should not be constructed to favor incumbent legislators who are there now because the previous maps were built for partisan reasons. We are a 50/50 state and our districts should reflect this as closely as possible.

Aug 24 2017 2:03PM  Ms. Tatiana Adams  Charlotteitesville should be a warning to all of you elected officials re how critical it is to have a sense of legitimacy around political decision making! If people feel they are being "ruled" by an illegitimate minority they will likewise resist to violence as the only means they have left. You owe it to your children to hand them a legitimate non-partisan democracy they can have faith in.!!!!

Aug 24 2017 2:07PM  Mr. Jonathan Redman  Explain to me how a state that is pretty evenly split Democrat and Republican is governed by veto proof majorities in both house and Senate? Gerrymandering kills democracy. Maps need to be drawn for compactness not politics. Get politics out of it.

Aug 24 2017 2:08PM  Ms. Mary Eubanks  The people are speaking. You are the "representatives." The Courts have spoken. Courts and people desire and demand that you fulfill your duty to empower voters in the fairest creation of voter district lines.

Aug 24 2017 2:11PM  Mr. JACK BURGER, CPA  I believe in impartial voting districts and not ones that are gerrymandered

Aug 24 2017 2:13PM  Mr. Philip Quinones  redrawn maps look very similar and should be looked more for revision. I am curious why we need so many reps/jen in charloe and Raleigh?

Aug 24 2017 2:13PM  Mr. Steven McCallister  The legislature's proposed new redistricting maps trade overt racial gerrymandering with overtly political gerrymandering that likely functions, as a practical matter, as racial gerrymandering in both its intent and its discriminatory impact. The proposed maps have efficiency gaps of nearly 12%, and they have been intentionally drawn to maximize the power of Republican voters over Democratic voters. This incredibly aggressive gerrymandering is unconstitutional, it is undemocratic, and it violates the rights of NC voters, to include both registered Democrats as well as registered Unaffiliated voters; together, these voters make up over 2/3 of the voters in NC. In a state that votes roughly 50/50 Democratic/Republican, it is absolutely outrageous that Republicans have illegally drawn themselves into holding a supermajority in our NC legislature. And you are now compounding the effects of your illegal power grab by taking that illegally obtained power to continue to perpetuate your illegal, unconstitutional, undemocratic stranglehold on our State government. Shame on you! You have also failed to follow the Voting Rights Act by failing to appropriately consider race as required by federal law. Your maps are illegal, they are a bad faith effort at compliance with the Federal Court's order, and I hope they are rejected by the Court.

Aug 24 2017 2:14PM  Ms. Mary Ward  When the lines were redrawn the objective was polarization. I have confidence in our elected officials to create voting maps that are inclusive and does not polarize a particular party, race, or other category. We are an inclusive state so our voting lines should be inclusive, not exclusive. Thank you for representing the integrity of those who voted for you.

Aug 24 2017 2:16PM  Mr. Richard Greene  I implore you to move forward with a non-partisan commission to redraw our states electoral maps. It is imperative we have competitive districts to ensure our democracy is served. Both parties have been guilty of distorting abuses that slant the tables in their favor.... this is wrong. It is time for honest and fair competition so all citizens are confident there voices are heard.

Aug 24 2017 2:33PM  Ms. Joan Jolliff  Federal judges stated our state is discriminating in our current voting districts. As a voter I expect this to be corrected to include every citizen in NC can have a convenient and easy accessible day and time to vote in our state.

Aug 24 2017 2:34PM  Dr. Elizabeth Wagner  The people of North Carolina are asking you to proceed with the redistricting process in a open, honest fashion that strives to ensure every person's vote counts equally. Instead you have pursued a process that demonstrates your cynicism and disregard for the people of North Carolina. You don't want our votes to count, that is clear, because if they did, most of you would be out of a job. We know that. We see what is going on. Please go back to the drawing board using a new consultant (not the same person who made the old, unconstitutional maps) and pursue the redistricting process in good faith, with the intention to allow every person's vote to be counted equally, which is what our democracy demands.

Aug 24 2017 2:35PM  Jennifer Keith  The redistricting process must be open, avoid racial or partisan gerrymandering, and allow voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around.

Aug 24 2017 2:49PM  Rhonda Zeller  I am appalled at the house and senate trying to take away the voters power in North Carolina. Please reject the plan and have a new map drawn by outside sources with no ties to our elections. I am so discussed in the Republican Party...
All the people of NC who are registered to vote deserve a fair vote. Districts that are gerrymandered to ensure that one segment of our population determines the probable party breakdown of that district and targets voter outcome to favor one party over the other is unfair. When districts are drawn to discourage voter equality based on race and ethnicity, the result is not only unjust, it is illegal in that it disenfranchises voters. The courts have ruled that we must have fairly drawn districts in NC. It is the responsibility of our elected representatives to follow the rule of law and make certain that redistricting is fair and available.

I support a process for drawing political district maps that is fair and open, avoids racial or partisan gerrymandering, and allows voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around. We urge the N.C. General Assembly to support an independent redistricting process that follows those guiding principles.

The supreme court has ruled twice that NC is illegally gerrymandered in a way that both disenfranchises people of color and benefits the GOP. The new maps are no different, and laughably favor the GOP. It is TIME to redraw the districts fairly and in a way that accurately represents the state of NC.

It’s simple math: More of us are registered Democrats (40 percent, at least according to a UNC analyses) and another 29 percent are unaffiliated, only 31 percent of our registered voters are GOP - why is 2/3 of both the NC House and NC Senate officials GOP?

We are tired of rigged elections making sure that politicians are insulating themselves from the will of the people. This includes shoddy insulting practices like refusing to reveal the new maps until just before the hearing, not providing data about registration or race or giving the public a chance to fully analyze the maps.

You have wasted millions of our dollars trying to defend the gerrymanders, and now you waste even more to draw another crappy one. It will result in you going back to court. Meanwhile the GOP brand continues to follow Trump straight down the toilet.

We demand equal representation, including a redistricting process that is OPEN, non partisan, and without racial bias. Do not think that you can get away with gerrymandering districts again to protect illegally alerted GNB politicians that do not work with these districts.

The citizens of North Carolina deserve fair non-partisan voting districts. Do not base legislative maps on partisan or racial considerations. Vote against Senate Bill 691 and House Bill 927, the newly proposed redistricting maps.

I have been appalled at the utter sham of legislative districting in the past, and the recent "attempt" to redistrict was of little help to solve the insult of gerrymandering. The public hearings held recently seemed to be an attempt to suppress our efforts to have our voices heard rather than any attempt to seek just public input. I will be watching closely and will do all I can to force NC congress to stop it's gerrymandering, which was NOT resolved following federal intervention recently.

The controversial issues and unlawful political configurations by N C Legislative Republican leaders surrounding "redistricting" are symbolic of and more dangerous than the nationally condemned racist and violent protest conducted in Charlottesville, Va. The destructive impact of the current direction is proof of the narrow logic and vengeful goal to not only discriminate against people of color but included is the goal to exhaust and make these voting citizens into puppets with no fair and equitable representation. We are so tired of being disfranchised and treated as though we are idiots. Ignoring federal court rulings is nothing new in North Carolina. We continue to have state sponsored segregated school districts 60 years after Brown vs. Board of Education. Republican leadership continues to ignore federal court rulings regarding these unlawful redistricting schemes, and voting rights atrocities.

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We are not fooled by your coded language and unconscionable "2017 House Redistricting Plan." In your so-called "public session" Tuesday, August 21, 2017, we noticed there is no meaningful public dialogue about the map because decisions are already locked in with no real purpose for public descent or for conflict resolution.

On Tuesday, the teacher in the room was right when she compared the aggravated stark reality of the map to her kindergarten and first grade students coloring outside the line. Gone are the days when Republican leaders can fool us with this false phenomenal religious propaganda to justify keeping the poor and people of color in their so-called place. Our instinct fight and proudly take responsibility for our own freedom and religious rights, and for
Aug 24 2017 3:50PM Mrs. Inez Parker

As a Christian, we should all try and do the right thing for each other. Be honest and fair. Everyone should have the right to vote. God is watching all of us because life is too short and we do not know when it is going to end!! I am a true believer "YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW".

Aug 24 2017 3:59PM Mr. Charles Oliver

I am against the new maps being proposed. I am against the approach being taken and believe that a more measured approach is necessary. My state (North Carolina) has spent millions to defend maps in legal battles, this needs to end. A super majority of the districts proposed most certainly favor one party over the other; this needs to be a non-partisan effort that benefits the state.

These maps are still racially gerrymandered and at the end of the day, promotes white supremacy, this must end.

Aug 24 2017 4:10PM MARGARET PRITCHARD

The proposed Senate and House redistricting maps do not meet the needs of the citizens of NC as we heard loudly and clearly at the state wide public hearings held on 23Aug2017. We need a nonpartisan process for revising districts in NC that is similar to the process that is used in Iowa. It’s time to end the gerrymandering game in NC once and for all. It’s embarrassing to me that NC is famous for having 3 of the 10 most gerrymandered districts in the entire USA.

Aug 24 2017 4:17PM Mr. John Emerson

Districts must be redrawn to ensure that only contiguous areas are represented by one representative, and that each area includes about the same number of people. The party of the representative shall not be a consideration in drawing the boundaries of an area.

Aug 24 2017 4:20PM Mrs. mae basye

Please give over the redistricting of NC voting counties to either the courts or an independent body. The GOP-controlled NC legislature is making a mockery of the court order to redraw the districts and proposing the same tired old formulas, disguised as compliance. The people of NC are neither stupid nor blind - we will not be silenced for another election!

An independent neutral entity should redraw the districts, so that the section viable of all ara protected.

Aug 24 2017 4:33PM Ms. Joyce Black

It is plain that in several areas of both the House and Senate proposed maps, the constitutional violations are not cured and, indeed, the racially gerrymandering continues. We need bipartisan drawn maps. Voters choose the candidates, not the other way around.

Aug 24 2017 4:36PM Ms. Julia Fussell

I think that the new redistricting should be drawn by an independent group who is paid for by the state, not Republicans. I don't feel as though I have representation. Oh, to have some of the former legislators who knew how to govern.

Aug 24 2017 4:37PM Ms. Eileen Schneider

I am opposed to the current plan as it continues to foster racial partitioning and continued gerrymandering.

Aug 24 2017 4:49PM Ms. Caren Lobo

DRAW UP NEW AND FAIR MAPS

It appears to me that the Republican legislature is CONTINUING to use citizen's money to create illegal districts for their own self enrichment. Why else hire the same firm to redraw maps that were illegal and have cost the taxpayers millions of dollars in legal fees? Why continue to waste more of 'our money defending the indefensible? From the Charlotte Observer:Lawmakers spent another $3.7 million defending redistricting plans that were also overturned. http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/politics-government/article116795138.html#storylink=cpy Winston Salem Journal: Last August, the judges ruled that 28 of the 170 districts used to elect North Carolina's legislature were drawn to weaken the influence of black voters across the state, the Raleigh paper reported. They ordered a correction. An appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court led to a unanimous affirmation of the ruling in June.

Republicans have asked Thomas Hofeller, a veteran mapmaker for the party, to help redraw the districts, according to the Raleigh paper. But Hofeller was behind the 2011 maps that caused so much trouble. The GOP-controlled NC legislature is proposing the same tired old formulas, disguised as compliance. The Republican legislature is CONTINUING to use partitioning and continued gerrymandering. Legislators who knew how to govern.

Aug 24 2017 4:54PM Mr. Stephen Beaulieu

Perhaps the single greatest threat to our democracy is gerrymandering because it subverts the will of the people in favor of the will of the controlling party. NEITHER Republicans or Democrats should have ANY input into the methodology for creating voting districts. Both political parties are guilty of this and it needs to stop. Permanently. Appoint an impartial commission, develop rules for the creation of districts, and implement those rules in a GIS-based framework that would automate the process. The rules should be based on representation as a function of census data, not political affiliation, economic status, or race. This is NOT complicated unless the decision rules are driven by political gain rather than the desire for fair representation. This is an important step in strengthening our democracy such that we can have open, if not honest, dialogue about our values and policies.
| Timestamp       | Name                | Message                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
Aug 24 2017  5:42PM  Mr. Ron Donson  The US is supposed to be a democracy where people choose their representatives NOT where representatives choose their voters. NC is becoming a laughing stock in the nation between the stupid bathroom bills and districting. 
Play like adults and do the fair thing. Draw maps that don’t heavily favor Republicans OR Democrats. What you’ve produced so far are something a 3rd world country or dictatorship would create.

Aug 24 2017  5:42PM  Mrs. Marcia Boyle  We the people - remember us? 
Respectively, North Carolina Democrat, who deserves an equal voice.

Aug 24 2017  5:47PM  Mrs. Kathryn Garcia  The Public Hearings on the proposed NC House and Senate Redistricting Maps drew hundreds of attendees at five locations with over 200 public comments during a five hour period. These comments reflect the widespread and strong dissatisfaction with our current gerrymandered state.

There has been too much time and taxpayer money spent defending the 2011 voting district maps. Historically the party in control at the time of redistricting works to create maps that will cement their power. We must take this process out of the hands of politicians and develop criteria for maps based on economic, geographical and voter representation for all North Carolinians.

It is time for the Judiciary to appoint an Independent Commission to work on this issue. We need this problem solved so elected officials will hear all our voices and respond to the varied needs of our large and dynamic state.

Kathryn Garcia

Aug 24 2017  5:49PM  Ms. Jasmine Barcelona  The voting lines need to be drawn such that the citizens choose their candidate said. Not that the district vote is predicted by the lines. We need imparial committee to redraw lines.

Aug 24 2017  5:49PM  Mrs. Sylvie Horvath  I was taught every vote in our country counts. Due to gerrymandering of districts, it appears that many citizens’ votes are not equal. By fixing districts so there is not competition this legislature no longer fairly represents the will of the people of this state. The other party did it in the past is no excuse. We are suppose to improve,voting rights, not regress .When will gerrymandering end?

Aug 24 2017  5:57PM  Mrs. Barbara Pangle  It is time for redistricting maps to follow to the letter the guidelines presented by the courts. You are being watched carefully and will eventually suffer the consequences if you do not obey the courts and stop partisan Gerrymandering. 
Thank you for finally listening to your constituents and giving us districts which will allow our votes to count.

Aug 24 2017  5:57PM  Mrs. Mary Ann Minor  I am writing to request gerrymandering in NC stop. The Supreme Court has ruled, so stop stalling and redraw those lines in a fair and unbiased manner. I and many others are upset about the many ways the Republicans are being unethical,sneaky and conviving in trying to gain and hold an unfair advantage in the government in our state. Remember you work for all of us not just the Republicans.

Aug 24 2017  6:00PM  Mrs. Mary Goodkind  As a voter I am sick and tired of gerrymandering. Your blatant voter suppression results in a non-democratic form of government in our state. You will be remembered for your arrogance and lack of civility towards your colleagues and constituents. I do not accept your behavior or the resulting districts you are trying to force on the people of North Carolina. We need a non-partisan process that does not insulate we’re party’s wishes.

Aug 24 2017  6:11PM  Ms. Peggy Ray  An 84-year-old native North Carolinian, I am embarrassed, angered and ashamed by the continuous efforts of the State’s Republican controlled legislature to make voting as difficult as possible, especially in areas of minority citizens’ majority!! Now there is an effort to deny a Supreme Court order to re-draw redistricting maps by using, not only the same map-drawer, but in also much the same way!! This must be rectified before November, 2017 elections!!

Aug 24 2017  6:13PM  Ms. Jasmine Barcelona  Fair maps protect our democracy. Let the truth rise to the top. Stop the gerrymandering. It is ridiculous. North Carolina has to come to it’s senses. We’ve made the news for the wrong reasons for too long. Let’s be crusaders in the fight for democracy.

Aug 24 2017  6:14PM  Mr. Ron Coble  Fix the district disasters created by the Republican Party!! NOW!!!
Ron Coble  Mint Hill, NC

Aug 24 2017  6:17PM  Mr. Robert Clark  Stop the corrupt agenda with regards to district maps. Fair maps...not maps drawn in order isolate certain community members.

Aug 24 2017  6:19PM  Mrs. Judy Carter  It’s is my opinion that the redrawn districts are still unacceptable and unfairly help the Republicans/conservatives in NC. The districts also are biased racially and against lower income voters. Please redraw the districts using persons who are independent and not in the pockets of either party.

Aug 24 2017  6:29PM  Mr. Bill Carley  As a citizen of this once great state, I am appalled that the very same people that drew the last re districting lines, are getting the chance to do it again. I say no to this! I want an independent non partisan commission to draw the lines. The people have no trust in the state lawmakers to draw these lines again. PERIOD!!
The issue of legislative redistricting is an important one for me. I am incensed, but not surprised, at the results of the partisan re-

Mrs. Demia Wright

I am ashamed of our state. We have elected officials who are ignoring the rulings of our national Supreme Court and completing disrepe

Mr. Greg Seaton

It is time for the Republicans to put aside their partisan redistricting efforts at partisan gerrymandering are eroding democracy in this state. C

Aug 24 2017  7:48PM

Jody Smith

I urge you to draw only NON PARTISAN voting districts. It’s what a majority of North Carolinians want and what we deserve, to preserve d

Aug 24 2017  6:35PM

Mr. Geoffrey Butler

The issue of legislative redistricting is an important one for me. I believe very strongly that North Carolina should support independent redistrict

Aug 24 2017  7:13PM

Mrs. Peggy Wright

A North Carolinian, yes. A proud one, no, not with the legislature showing contempt for the judicial system by continuing to gerrymander voting districts. Democratic legislature never gerrymandered as viciously as this. We have more Democratic votes than Republican votes and only have token Democratic representation in Raleigh. This is immoral.

Aug 24 2017  7:37PM

Mr. Jonathan Farmer

These maps continue a process, started by Democrats and perfected by Republicans, of creating districts that do not represent the citizens of this state. It is long past time to create nonpartisan districts in order to stop opportunistic democracy.

Aug 24 2017  7:48PM

Dr. Karen Hodges

Citizen feedback on the latest redistricting plans was made difficult by late release of information and difficult scheduling in inadequate venues. This was shameful and disrespectful to voters. Continued efforts at partisan gerrymandering are eroding democracy in this state. They must and will be opposed by all who, regardless of party affiliation, want elections to reflect the will of the people.

Aug 24 2017  8:14PM

Ms. Anne Geer

I am incensed, but not surprised, at the results of the partisan redistricting process. Legislators (of either party) should not be the people deciding the districts. The results in this case, continuing the unrepresentative Republican dominance, show this. Please have an NON PARTISAN commission to decide our districts, and let each vote count.

Aug 24 2017  7:53PM

Dr. Karen Hodges

Citizen feedback on the latest redistricting plans was made difficult by late release of information and difficult scheduling in inadequate venues. This was shameful and disrespectful to voters. Continued efforts at partisan gerrymandering are eroding democracy in this state. They must and will be opposed by all who, regardless of party affiliation, want elections to reflect the will of the people.

Aug 24 2017  8:14PM

Ms. heather rodin

It is clear to me that the map drawn up by Common Cause North Carolina would be a sensible place to start.

Aug 24 2017  8:18PM

Ms. Robbin Brooks

Using unfair practices to rig elections is a crime against the citizens of North Carolina. As a voter, I demand to have my vote mean as much as any other citizen. Having unfair voting districts makes that impossible. Please do the right thing for all of North Carolina not just what it takes to keep the Republicans in leadership. Two wrongs don't make a right!

Aug 24 2017  8:20PM

Thank you, Robbin
**Kyle Reynolds**  
Aug 24 2017 8:27PM

Hello,

Regarding the recent issue of redistricting, I don't understand why we don't use math to determine how districts should be drawn. This would remove all questions about partisanship and gerrymandering during redistricting.

Thank you,

Kyle Reynolds

**Mr. Evan Harrison**  
Aug 24 2017 8:43PM

Dear Redistricting Committee,

The only redistricting process that North Carolinians can trust is one carried out by a nonpartisan group (as proposed by Representative McGrady in HB200). Hiring Thomas Hofeller, who drew the previous maps that targeted “African Americans with almost surgical precision” according to the federal court, is about as far in the wrong direction as you can go.

Your new maps take politics and incumbents into consideration, but do not take race into consideration. Race (racism, really) is the reason you’re redrawing these maps, so to ignore race altogether and focus on political advantage for Republicans is deeply troubling. You’ll likely be wasting more tax dollars in court in the near future.

I attended the hearings on Tuesday in Raleigh, but left early because I was put in an overflow room where they pulled up wral.com and subjected everyone to a choppy livestream of the hearings that froze every 5-10 minutes. Your execution of Tuesday’s hearings was on par with your overall execution of this redistricting process. Do better.

Best,

Evan Harrison

**Ms. Joan Brockman**  
Aug 24 2017 8:45PM

Since when did America get so ugly that it requires cheating to win.

**Mrs. Rosemary Carton**  
Aug 24 2017 8:54PM

Your map redistribution drawing is completely unfair! It is gerrymandering at its worst! It needs to be redone and done correctly! Come on people-- you were elected to represent all of the people. Be fair!

**Ms. Meredith Emmett**  
Aug 24 2017 8:56PM

The proposed maps are not any fairer than what we currently have. Make the process non-partisan.

**Braxton Malan**  
Aug 24 2017 9:04PM

The party in power has run roughshod over democracy and seem to have no shame and no care. I'd like to think we are better than Cuba which our state government is now being compared to. Think of it, our state government is being compared to a Communist country!!


If there is any patriotism left at all, turn this over to an independent commission made up of BOTH parties to decide how voting districts should be drawn. By hiring the very same group that created the court-rejected lines before, the party in power has shown blatant disregard for democracy and blatant disregard to the people of this great state.

Gerrymandering has gone on in both parties for years. This we know. But now, with all of the data capabilities we have now, it's not the same thing. It's like gerrymandering on steroids. It is cheating, it is stealing, it has severely damaged the democracy in this state and it is WRONG. We need a bipartisan commission NOW.

**Ms. Elaine Nalee**  
Aug 24 2017 9:28PM

I am disgusted with the Republican Party and it's blatant disregard for the basic tenets of a Representative Democracy. You are administering rules as if you were operating in a Banana Republic, NOT in the Republic of the United States of America. In your proposed idea of what would rectify the illegal racial gerrymandering and manipulation of legislative districts, you demonstrate a contempt for fairness. Your self-serving, self-agrandizing is despicable. Who do you think you are kidding? Not, we, the people. NC Legislators must implement a plan for independent, NON-PARTISAN redistricting. Being worthy of representing the people means the people endorsed who you are, and what you stand for with their vote in an open, fair, contest. Not a rigged, skewed system implemented in the middle of the night by a bunch of tiny-minded, self-serving good 'ol boys.

**Mr. Jake Poysti**  
Aug 24 2017 9:49PM

Please stop the partisan gerrymandering and instead implement an independent group to do redistricting in a fair manner that gives everyone equal representation and strengthens our democracy

**Mrs. Evelyn Morehead**  
Aug 24 2017 9:51PM

I want my vote to count. I do NOT want gerrymandering to render my vote useless. I cannot stress this enough. Redraw districts fairly!

**Sandra Bundgaard**  
Aug 24 2017 10:02PM

It seems clear that certain positions are being protected in the newly drawn maps. Protect democracy and draw fair, ungeremandered maps! NC citizens deserve better than you are giving them. These maps are a disgrace to the notion of democracy in NC.
The districts newly drawn is motivated by race rather than basic right of people. These maps let representatives choose voters rather than people elect the officials in line with their persuasions. The illegal maps have protected legislators from being held accountable by voters since 2012. General Assembly leaders have spent $4.8 million of taxpayers’ money to defend their maps in court. There are many projects eliminated because of lack of fund. The actions of General assembly are irresponsible; they are stalling. Districts must be very equal in population and obey other laws. The maps must be evaluated for overall racial bias and partisan competitiveness, using tools recognized by courts to measure fairness. Our constitution must be supported and strengthened.

The new maps invalidate my vote. You are manipulating the electorate to get your predetermined results. Why can’t you designate a representative committee that uses fair criteria and computer technology to set up voting districts that give the voters in NC a representative voice.

I am very concerned about fairly drawing congressional districts. I believe it should be based purely on population distribution, NOT on how one believes any part of that population is going to vote. Please do it mathematically, not politically.

I believe that redistricting should be done by an impartial and unaffiliated commission. No person’s vote should be more or less important than any other voters. Districts should be drawn in a straightforward commonsense way, not one that creates areas resembling contortionist spiders.

The question of boundaries can be an objective question, though. Why can’t we just take the population of NC (approximately 10.1 million) and divide by the number of districts (in this case, approximately 84,000 people)? Then, start in one corner of the state—say, Ashe County. Tell a computer your criteria, and a model can objectively spit out districts. This is the only fair way. Anything drawn by the current legislature (or their GOP consultant) is going to lean toward preserving their own power. The question of boundaries can be an objective question, though. Why can’t we just take the population of NC (approximately 10.1 million) and divide by the number of districts (in this case, approximately 84,000 people)? Then, start in one corner of the state—from, for example, Brunswick County. Brunswick County has approximately 122,000 people. Make the southern 90% of that county the first district. Then combine the remaining 38,000 people with 46,000 people in the contiguous area of New Hanover County, and so forth across the state until you have 120 districts of equal population, with no consideration given to previous voting records OR race. To determine Senate districts, you could start from the other corner of the state—say, Ashe County. Tell a computer your criteria, and a model can objectively spit out districts. This is the only fair way. Anything drawn by a human is inherently nonpartisan. Thank you for taking public comment. I hope the legislature will do what is fair, and look out for true democracy and not just your own power.

I am very concerned about fairly drawing congressional districts. I believe it should be based purely on population distribution, NOT on how one believes any part of that population is going to vote. Please do it mathematically, not politically.

It’s unfortunate that we are the number one state when it comes to projects eliminated because of lack of fund. The actions of General Assembly leaders have spent $4.8 million of taxpayers’ money to defend their maps in court. There are many projects eliminated because of lack of fund. The actions of General assembly are irresponsible; they are stalling. Districts must be very equal in population and obey other laws. The maps must be evaluated for overall racial bias and partisan competitiveness, using tools recognized by courts to measure fairness. Our constitution must be supported and strengthened.

It is time to REMOVE PARTISAN POLITICS from the process of establishing voting districts. Districts should be apportioned primarily according to population ("one person one vote"), substantially equal population in each, geographically contiguous, with respect for boundaries of municipalities and counties. Party affiliation or racial makeup of the citizens should have absolutely NO INFLUENCE on the resulting district boundaries.

I believe that redistricting should be done by an impartial and unaffiliated commission. No person’s vote should be more or less important than any other voters. Districts should be drawn in a straightforward commonsense way, not one that creates areas resembling contortionist spiders.

Do not hallucinate.

**Case 1:15-cv-00399-TDS-JEP Document 187-2 Filed 09/15/17 Page 364 of 382**
I was at the meeting in Charlotte on the redistricting maps. The meeting was a total disaster. The room was very small with not enough room and seating for more than maybe 40 people which left the back of the room with standing room only and people lined up outside that could not get in so lots of people left. Also I was there at 3:15PM to sign up to speak for the 4PM meeting. Needless to say I was never able to speak since at 7PM things seemed to be breaking up with the meeting from the organizers, I asked how many more were ahead of me (14) which would have been about 10-11PM before I could speak. Since I had been there since 3:15PM, it was impossible for me to stay so I left as did others. Also the sound system was terrible, we could not hear the speaker or speakers in the room, nor could we hear the sound on the feeds coming in from the other locations. I did advise the person in charge of this situation and was told they had nothing to do with the sound set up and it was set up so it could be sent rather than our being able to hear what was being said. This was not a meeting to get input from the voters, it was a sham, it was set up only for them to say they had voter input. 

This is not how a Democracy is run, this disenfranchises voters as I have talked with voters to get them to vote and their answer is why bother, it's a waste of time the system is rigged and after seeing the previous maps and these latest maps, I agree with them, the system is rigged. When we use these techniques to suppress voters we are tampering with the very root of our Freedom. This is how we turn a Democracy into a Dictatorship by taking away one freedom at the time. My Heart was broken to see this happening to our Great Country. Freedom is not Free, we must guard it every day and take the time to know the issues and vote and we all must learn that my freedom only extends to the infringement of my freedom and visa versa.

I feel that it is inappropriate that the people who created the first set of maps, were selected to create the new maps. There has not been enough time for people to review the new maps. I feel that the GA should have an independent commission draw the maps in a non-partisan manner. The process should be changed so that the party in power cannot draw the maps in their favor. I believe that North Carolina needs a NON-PARTISAN way to draw voting maps. I also believe that gerrymandered districts is voter suppression. And I also believe that if a party wishes to "win" an election, all they need do is REPRESENT ALL THE PEOPLE. Thank you.

The clock and the calendar are not instruments to disadvantage people. The public needed more time to receive, review and respond to the redistricting maps. The voting district maps are not fair or just. Judges or none political citizens should draw the new districts. It is not right. Not fair. Current politicians will be voted out if you don't do better. Please stop the corruption. There is no reason to look at information besides population when drawing these maps. None. How can communities have true representation any other way? You were elected to serve citizens and the communities of this state. Not your party. Not special interests. Citizens in communities. Don't draw them so you only have to represent those that agree with you. That's extremely self serving and not in the interests of communities. Why do you do what you do? If it's to represent the people of the state, then truly represent them and not your own interests.

Racial gerrymandering is white supremacy. Do the right thing with this process. I don't want another redistricting that discriminates with "surgical precision".

North Carolina's proposed redistricting plan is a sham and changes effectively nothing as regards the effect of the currently illegal districting. When is the legislature going to use its right to redistrict in a way that creates a level playing field. At some point one party or the other must decide to do the "right" thing, the benefit of which will be 1) a very favorable electoral response from the general public; 2) a clear conscience knowing you did the morally, ethically and legally "right" thing; and 3) restore trust in the legislature and the Republican party.

I am vehemently opposed to the new maps drawn for the General Assembly districts. 90% of the new General Assembly districts are solidly tilted to favor one party or another – mostly to the advantage of the Republican mapmakers. With these new maps, legislative leaders continue to rig our elections, reduce competition, and protect themselves from being held accountable for their actions in Raleigh. They want us to pay our taxes and shut up – but we won't settle for "taxation without representation." We are not asking for anything except what is FAIR AND REASONABLE.
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 25 2017 10:04AM</td>
<td>Mr. Ed Mathis</td>
<td>Why can't you guys draw maps that are TRULY nonpartisan and fair? You have always deprived me of the chance to be represented by people who I agree with, instead ensuring that YOUR candidates always win. That is not the democratic process!</td>
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<td>Aug 25 2017 10:15AM</td>
<td>Marcia Perry</td>
<td>You should do the RIGHT thing, NOT the partisan thing. Gerrymandering is wrong; every vote should count equally. It is role of our Legislature to LEAD BY EXAMPLE, as well as BY LAW. Please use a nonpartisan process to draw district boundaries, not a process that favors one party over another, or negates the votes of any group. The public is watching and will be casting votes, no matter how difficult you try to make it.</td>
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<td>Aug 25 2017 10:24AM</td>
<td>Mr. Robert Jordan</td>
<td>The Republican party controls the NC House and Senate at least partially due to illegally drawn voting districts. After being ordered by the Supreme Court to draw fair maps not based on the race of voters, they have done it again. The current maps drawn by known map rigging experts have repeated the same crime. There appears to be no limit to what the Republicans will do to destroy democracy and stay in power.</td>
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<td>Aug 25 2017 10:26AM</td>
<td>Jack Dainty</td>
<td>Please Stop the Gerrymandering of Voting Districts and draw them up fairly and evenly to allow for true honest citizen voting in the State and Federal Elections. Integrity is important and ethical standards must be followed. The Citizens of North Carolina deserve honest government action form all government officials regardless of political affiliation.</td>
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<td>Aug 25 2017 10:26AM</td>
<td>Ms. Susan B. McClanahan</td>
<td>My name is Susan B. McClanahan. I am from Orange County. I am speaking as a NC citizen, voter, and taxpayer. When you entered the NC General Assembly, you placed your left hand on the Bible and raised your right hand in the air to swear an oath to “support the Constitution of the United States.” One year ago a federal three-judge panel ruled that you had violated that oath by using illegal, illegitimate, unconstitutional, racially discriminatory voting maps in three different NC elections. Republican lawmakers appealed to the US Supreme Court. On August 1, 2017, all members of the US Supreme Court UNANIMOUSLY agreed that your maps were unconstitutional. Yet you have continued to use those illegal maps as the basis for these new maps for 2018. Plus, you have used the very same consultant, Thomas Hofeller, who drew those illegal maps. In your repeatedly failed attempts to litigate and defend these illegal and racially discriminatory maps, you have wasted millions of taxpayer dollars. You have continued to drag your feet to delay and...</td>
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<td>Aug 25 2017 10:46AM</td>
<td>Judy Thomas</td>
<td>I believe that gerrymandering is a major disabling blow to the fundamental structure of our democracy. The impact of one's free vote should not depend on one's housing venue. If you realize that the percentage of too often disadvantaged Black &amp; Hispanic US residents is soon to approach 50%, it mandatory that these people have a strong voice now, not later. Beyond fairness, this is essential for the safety of our union. Gerrymandering panders to the concept of oligarchy; we know from history that oligarchies as well as monarchies do not survive the rage of impoverished and under-represented citizens. If you really love North Carolina and the US, please put an end to gerrymandering. It threatens to unravel this democracy.</td>
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<td>Aug 25 2017 10:47AM</td>
<td>Mr. WILLIAM PIRKEY</td>
<td>The only fair way to draw district maps is to have an independent organization do it. There are plenty of suggestions available on the Internet (for free even), and they are FAIR—not rigged by party or race. Keep one-person/one-vote alive, and do not suppress any groups’ votes! Let North Carolina set the example for the rest of the country.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 25 2017 10:54AM</td>
<td>Chester Noble</td>
<td>Drawing district lines unfairly to guarantee a win for your party is not only wrong and undemocratic, it is growing a dictatorship. Shame on all involved in the cheating. The lines need to be drawn fairly without regard to party by a group of independent people interested in fairness and the intent of our constitution.</td>
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</table>
Aug 25 2017 11:14AM
Mrs. Cindy Palay
A democracy only survives as long as we have fair elections. What you are doing on the redistricting is so clearly partisan that if and when the Democrats get in, they will do this back to you. This has got to stop on both sides. If you proceed with these new districts you will create the end of democracy in North Carolina. Or the Supreme Court will hopefully intervene in the next year and bring sanity to our politics. You have stopped believing in representative government and believe too much that your ideas are “right” and have forgotten that if you diminish the processes of our representative government, you will kill it. I am appalled that you are planning on doing this, and hope that you will reconsider, although I don't have great faith that you will. My only hope is that the current overseeing court will stop you, and if not, the Supreme Court will. This is not the country I love if either side has the deck stacked. Non-partisan redistricting is the answer.

Aug 25 2017 11:17AM
Ms. Mary Garren
Let's make NC great again by not stacking the deck with either party. Only a fair and non-partisan voting map can truly represent NC voters. I want my neighbor's vote to count just as much as mine.

Aug 25 2017 11:19AM
Mr. Brandon Trump
The illegal partisan mapmaking process that the NCGA has engaged in once again taking away the rights of voters in NC. Republicans have purposely wasted tax dollars on the same partisan mapmaker from Virginia and once again we have gerrymandered maps that lean heavily Republican that were released last minute without all the data. The GOP knows they can't win fair elections. We need a new non-partisan mapmaker from within the state of NC and this districts must be redrawn immediately.

Aug 25 2017 11:46AM
Mr. David Brown
I want to state my objection to the recent redistricting process and the actual proposed redrawn districts.

Aug 25 2017 12:11PM
Grace Kelly
No to Senate Bill 691 and House Bill 927! They are not fair. North Carolina needs fair voting maps, similar to those in the state of Iowa. Enough of shenanigans by republicans! Democracy must win.

Aug 25 2017 12:21PM
Ms. Kate Capehart
You've seen my name before, but I have to reiterate my intense disgust at the “new” maps. Since they were drawn by the same people who drew the excessively gerrymandered “old” ones, they're almost just as bad. And I'm not surprised. What I ask-- what I demand on behalf of all the citizens of North Carolina-- is a fair, bipartisan redistricting committee and a process whereby the citizenry can give their input and create new maps totally free of racial or partisan bias of any kind. Until that happens, you will continue to see my name and my face, and many more.

Aug 25 2017 12:21PM
Ms. Cynthia Britt
You have been elected to serve your constituents, not yourselves. Do you feel so inept & unethical you don't think you can win honestly? Then perhaps you should NOT be in office! Please start acting like grownups and create a fair, just NC.

Aug 25 2017 12:56PM
Ms. Cynthia Tatum
I know both parties, Democrats and Republicans, gerrymandered voting districts in the past. It is time to put North Carolina citizens before party loyalty. We deserve fair independent redistricting. If you have to cheat to get elected what does that say about you? Fairness at the ballot box should be non partisan!!!

Aug 25 2017 12:59PM
Ms. Elisabeth Smith
I am opposed to the policy that the party in power gets to decide who draws the legislative maps. I am opposed to the fact that gerrymandering in any way, including political, is legal. I am offended by the sham of a public hearing that was given for constituent to weigh in on this issue that affects us. Legislative maps should be drawn by an independent third party.

Aug 25 2017 12:59PM
Suzanne Hubbell
Gerrymandering for any reason is just plain wrong!! The people of NC deserve fair and impartial voting districts, based on neither race nor political gain, to ensure that all votes count. This is basic democracy! Please hire a fair and impartial entity to redraw the districts - or the Courts will do it for you!!!

Aug 25 2017 1:09PM
Ms. REMY JAMES
Proposed maps show that protection of incumbents and securing Republican wins are more important to you than representing the true makeup of the state. Those are some ugly carved up city districts. You should be ashamed and embarrassed. Your dirty politics are still too strong and has resulted in unfairness for many years. I believe that redistricting should be done by an impartial person or group so that elections can be fair to all.

Aug 25 2017 1:19PM
Ms. ANN WILLOUGHBY
I feel very strongly that the redistricting should not be done by either political party as the temptation to favor the party in power is too strong and has resulted in unfairness for many years. I believe that redistricting should be done by an impartial person or group so that
I am a retired businessman. I'm a veteran. I served my country, I paid my taxes and I want my vote to count for something. The citizens of NC have the right to fair elections, to choose their representatives based on merit, not on politics. I call upon our legislative body to help restore our democracy by ending partisan gerrymandering, once and for all. Give the people their voices back.

The public hearings held on August 22 were ridiculous. I'm sure I'm not the only person who would have liked to attend and/or comment who could not because I had to be at work at that time.

Stop gerrymandering. It wastes the taxpayers' money on legal fees defending the maps, and at the same time unfairly represents those same taxpayers in the legislature. Redistricting maps created by a non-partisan commission will eventually prevail. Until that happens, the legislators supporting the unfair maps are only demonstrating that they have no real interest in the welfare of the people of North Carolina.

I urge the General Assembly to serve the people of North Carolina in re-drawing our districts fairly. Our representatives should be doing the job of the people, not the parties. Stop gerrymandering. It wastes the taxpayers' money on legal fees defending the maps, and at the same time unfairly represents those same taxpayers in the legislature. Redistricting maps created by a non-partisan commission will eventually prevail. Until that happens, the legislators supporting the unfair maps are only demonstrating that they have no real interest in the welfare of the people of North Carolina.
Political gerrymandering has the same result as racial gerrymandering.

Dr. Tom Munk
Katherine Rowe
As a long-citizen of North Carolina, I find it to be immoral, embarrassing, and un-American to see ridiculous-looking districts that I prefer a process where everyone gets a vote and each vote counts.

Mary Mayer
Katherine Rowe
Please! We need fair maps drawn by independent commissions. We need districts, no matter who draws them, to be compact, to avoid dividing communities and diluting minority votes. We need an increase in the number of competitive districts statewide. We need politicians who are accountable to the people they represent. That begins with fairly drawn maps. End gerrymandering! Obey the recent ruling of the North Carolina to greatness! Thank you. Sincerely, Catherine Schaller

Patty Courtright
Mr. Alan Rosenthal
John Taylor
Patty Courtright
The citizens of North Carolina are weary of the anti-democratic moves of this state's GOP. Gerrymandered districts - for racist considerations or for party advantage - are not acceptable. Stop hampering the democratic process - it's time to work with all sides and create fair districts, acceptable to all.

Ms. Leesa Brieger
Ms. Leesa Brieger
The process to revise North Carolina's voting districts to eliminate race as the key factor is crucial to our state, and to our democracy. The people of North Carolina deserve to know how the new proposed maps were developed, what data were used in redrawing the severely gerrymandered districts, and what the racial breakdown is. I am very concerned that the Republican committees are... more gerrymandering! I support a process for drawing political district maps that is fair and open, avoids racial or partisan gerrymandering, and allows voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around. We urge the N.C. General Assembly to support an independent redistricting process that follows those guiding principles.

Ms. Catherine Schaller
Ms. Catherine Schaller
With each passing day, I am more embarrassed to live in North Carolina. Our legislature has become the laughing stock of US politics. It's well past time to stop legislating in secret in our state. The process that follows those guiding principles.

Dr. Tom Munk
Dr. Tom Munk
As a long-citizen of North Carolina, I find it to be immoral, embarrassing, and un-American to see ridiculous-looking districts that I know are designed to ensure that our system is rigged to favor white Republicans. Deceptive Protectionists! What a sham!

Ms. Catherine Schaller
Ms. Catherine Schaller
If GOP policies were so great for our state, it would not be necessary to cheat in order to remain in power. Why not try just governing fairly and justly, with the interests of our citizens at heart? Then you won't have to cheat to stay in power - you'll just be elected fairly. In the meantime, the current tactics to cheat and stay in power despite democratic will are worthy of illegitimate, criminal gangs rather than the leaders of a state government. Knock it off and start acting like democratic leaders who respect the will of your constituents. You may not always get your way, but our state will certainly have a better chance of becoming a state of healthy, happy, successful citizens, democratically represented by their leaders.

Mr. Alan Rosenthal
Mr. Alan Rosenthal
With the right thing for ALL North Carolinian's. Republicans = Shameful Deceptive Protectionists! What a sham! Republicans and Democrats alike, to do their part and take this mandate seriously and act conscientiously. Thank you.

Mr. Alan Rosenthal
Mr. Alan Rosenthal
Your attempt to comply with the Federal judge's orders and redraw gerrymandered districts in North Carolina is a joke! All you Republicans are shameful protectionists, trying to ensure that redrawn districts provide favorable voting majorities for incumbent Republican candidates. The Federal judges will recognize your actions for what they are... more gerrymandering! The judges will reject your attempt to remove illegal race-based districts and replace with districts lines favorable ONLY to Republican incumbents... Get back to work and reject your feeble effort and remove the politics from this effort. Do the right thing for ALL North Carolinian's.

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<tr>
<td>Aug 25 2017 9:10PM</td>
<td>Ms. Lekha Shupeck</td>
<td>The maps submitted to the public on the 19th of August, 2017 are woefully insufficient to the task mandated by the court. In the first place, the court has ruled that several districts are unconstitutional racial gerrymanders. And yet, the redistricting committee has seen fit to make no use of racial data in drawing its districts. How then can the committee know whether or not racial gerrymanders have been created? Or whether or not the new maps comply with Section 2 of the VRA? How can the NCGA meet the court's requirement to point out and explain the reasoning behind the creation of any districts with over 50% Black Voting Age Population if, ostensibly, no racial data was used or is available? These maps are clearly a farce. Republicans on the committee wish to drag litigation out for as long as possible so that they can reach 2018 elections with their gerrymanders intact. I would urge the court to reject these maps and either adopt plaintiff’s maps or appoint an independent, non-partisan commission to draw maps. The NCGA has clearly shown itself to be unable to create fair maps or use a fair process.</td>
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<td>Aug 25 2017 9:32PM</td>
<td>Mr. Glenn Fink</td>
<td>I have not been following all the details of the redistricting activity. It would be nice to know the all the criteria being used to draw the new districts. Based on what I have seen it is not clear. I know one of them is to win more republican elections. My concern is there seems to be a bias toward strong constitutional principled members being placed at risk by double bunking or being pushed out of their current district based on no longer living in the new boundaries. Examples of these being Rep Pittman &amp; Sen Cook. Rep Speciale will have a tougher time keeping his seat by losing Pamlico county. I ask you to evaluate the impact of current boundaries and protect those general assembly members that are really working to protect we the people.</td>
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<td>Aug 26 2017 12:02AM</td>
<td>Ms. Chris Chato</td>
<td>The new redistricting maps are no better than the old ones. Please give us fair districts!</td>
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<td>Aug 26 2017 1:30AM</td>
<td>Ms. Susan Glover</td>
<td>I don’t want Sen. Cook and Rep. Pittman to be put in districts that are unfavorable to their views.</td>
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<td>Aug 26 2017 6:55AM</td>
<td>Ms. Trish Gembia</td>
<td>These maps have been redrawn by the same joker who did the UNCONSTITUTIONAL ones...you need better perspective! DO IT RIGHT</td>
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<td>Aug 26 2017 7:02AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Judy Varter</td>
<td>I support a process for drawing political district maps that is fair and open, avoids racial or partisan gerrymandering, and allows voters to pick their political representatives, not the other way around. We urge the N.C. General Assembly to support an independent redistricting process that follows those guiding principles.</td>
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<td>Aug 26 2017 7:04AM</td>
<td>Dr. Melinda Rosenbaum</td>
<td>I am embarrassed and disgusted by the continued manipulation of the redistricting process. Our leaders are supposed to represent our interests and values, not push their own ideologies. If a fairly-drawn district isn’t comprised of people who would elect you for your ideas, then you’re not the right person for that district. This is a Democracy! Let us choose our own representatives, not the other way around.</td>
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<td>Aug 26 2017 8:07AM</td>
<td>Ms. Lauren Nelson</td>
<td>These latest maps were drawn by the SAME people who created the unconstitutional maps, and the maps clearly continue to support their agenda, which was intended to suppress the vote (by reweighting mine so that it is meaningless) and stalls our democratic process. We need a bipartisan process moving forward so that the actual number of votes matches the outcome. I oppose this continued gerrymandering for: House, Wharton's seat.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 26 2017 8:32AM</td>
<td>Mr. Robert Peterson</td>
<td>It’s simple: voters should pick their representatives, not the other way around. As a North Carolina native, it is distressing to see the current crop of lawmakers work to disenfranchise numerous citizens due to the color of their skin. If you’re certain that your way is right, then it will prevail. Otherwise, the extreme gerrymanders of 2011 smack of payback for your rich benefactors at the expense of democracy. In a fair world, legislative districts would be draw by non-partisan teams. Each district would have equal population. Regions and cities wouldn’t be split for the sake of one party or the other. Communities deserve to pick their representatives through fair and equal elections.</td>
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Fairly redistrict without delay.

Mrs. Lara McKinnon

With each passing day, it becomes increasingly clear that the courts have determined that the republican legislature's "vote integrity" laws (voter id, changes to early and sunday voting) were racially discriminatory, and that much of the redistricting was racially discriminatory. Now, the leader of the republican party, President Trump, has demonstrated himself to be willing to pardon racists, aligns himself with white supremacists and neo-nazis, and is recognized by the KKK and nazis as "their president." The court ordered redistricting is the opportunity for the republicans in North Carolina to demonstrate that they are not aligned with racists and the interests of white supremacists. I would urge you to adopt districts that fairly apportion race, ethnicity, or party, their right to vote and their ability to participate in a genuine way in the democratic process.

Mrs. Evelyn Coltman

Please redraw NC legislative voting maps with a bipartisan group of legislators so that our US democratic voting process is fair for every North Carolinian regardless of political affiliation. Thank you!

Ms. Stefanie Bullard

I think its time we make political gerrymandering a thing of the past. Everyone knowing he had resorted to cheating in order to win. How satisfying it must have been to win this years Super Bowl, and have no one doubt his abilities. Stop deflating footballs, and just draw fair maps.

Ms. Margaret Raitz

Partisan gerrymandering is like deflating footballs. We all know the it is wrong because it creates an unfair advantage. Tom Brady's 4 game suspension and teams $1,000,000 fine was only compounded by the same consultant, Tom Hofeller who drew the unconstitutional maps to begin with.  If Mr. Hofeller was acting in good faith, he would include Democratic members as part of the redrawing. Importantly, by using the same consultant, Tom Hofeller who drew the racially gerrymandered maps that were declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court to create the current ones. You gave Democratic Members of the General Assembly no chance to provide input on these new maps. You openly acknowledged that one of your goals in redrawing voting districts was protecting GOP incumbents. You gave us little time to review the new maps and the data used to design them before scheduling time for public comment. This is a mockery of the democratic process, a process which requires voters to pick lawmakers, not lawmakers to pick voters. North Carolinians have spoken: We want to pick our lawmakers. And to do that we need fair non-partisan redistricting maps. It is time for you to take seriously the words of one of our country's Founding Fathers: "Government is instituted for the common good; for the protection, safety, prosperity, and happiness of the people; and not for profit, honor, or private interest of any one man, family, or class of men..." John Adams

Mr. Michael Connolly

This "they did it, so it's ok if we do it" is very immature and needs to stop. I think it's time we all grow up and make redistricting a non-partisan priority. If you have to cheat to win, then maybe your party is the problem, not the voters!

Mr. Lars Simonsen

I am outraged that the Republicans are in violation of drawing fair maps. When redistricting, please (a) use race as a factor only to the minimum extent necessary to comply with law, and (b) gerrymander as far as legally permitted to tilt as many districts as possible toward Republicans. If you can improve on the current ratio, that would be wonderful.

Ms. Stefanie Bullard

Please give each voter a fair consideration when voting in NC! End Gerrymandering.

Ms. Donna Wooster Raleigh

Lawmakers choosing to divide the citizenry to their advantage is wrong. When Dems did it, it was the people's fault. When the GOP did it, it is they who have cheated. Tom Brady's 4 game suspension and teams $1,000,000 fine was only compounded by the same consultant, Tom Hofeller who drew the unconstitutional maps to begin with. If Mr. Hofeller was acting in good faith, he would include Democratic members as part of the redrawing.

Ms. Margaret Raitz

I strongly advocate for a bi-partisan redistricting commission to redraw maps.

Mr. Christopher Fulmer

When redistricting, please (a) use race as a factor only to the minimum extent necessary to comply with law, and (b) gerrymander as far as legally permitted to tilt as many districts as possible toward Republicans. If you can improve on the current ratio, that would be wonderful.

Ms. Donna Kaye

I am outraged that the Republicans are in violation of drawing fair districts by first dragging their feet to address this and more importantly, by using the same consultant, Tom Hofeller who drew the unconstitutional maps to begin with. If Mr. Hofeller was acting in good faith, he would include Democratic members as part of the redrawing.

Mr. Michael Connolly

Partisan gerrymandering is like deflating footballs. We all know the it is wrong because it creates an unfair advantage. Tom Brady's 4 game suspension and teams $1,000,000 fine was only compounded by everyone knowing he had resorted to cheating in order to win. How satisfying it must have been to win this years Super Bowl, and have no one doubt his abilities. Stop deflating footballs, and just draw fair maps.

Ms. Donna Kaye

Eliminate the so-called non-partisan commission and replace it with computer software developed in the public domain so that it can be reviewed for accuracy. Draw the US House districts without influence of race, sex, or any other factor.

Mrs. Lara McKinnon

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Mrs. Evelyn Coltman

Fairly redistrict without delay.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>7:02AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Cassie Blackwelder</td>
<td>The redistricting should be completed by a bipartisan group to prevent</td>
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<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>9:59AM</td>
<td>Ms. Jennifer Smyth</td>
<td>I feel elected officials should NOT be the ones to draw district lines, I</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>10:06AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Carla Harrell</td>
<td>We in the 5th District ask that you keep the Roanoke Chowan Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 5 2017</td>
<td>2:39PM</td>
<td>Stephanie Agnied</td>
<td>I strongly support fair and nonpartisan voting districts to be drawn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>8:50AM</td>
<td>Dr. Michael Justice</td>
<td>I feel elected officials should NOT be the ones to draw district lines, I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>11:10AM</td>
<td>Ms. Jeanette Van Vickle</td>
<td>As you move forward in the redistricting process please 1) provide a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>10:06AM</td>
<td>Daniel Orr</td>
<td>Why haven't you submitted a Bill to require the use of a program that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4 2017</td>
<td>10:11AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Wanda Hunter</td>
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<td>Jo-Dee Collins</td>
<td>Partisan gerrymandering is like deflating footballs. We all know the it</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 8 2017</td>
<td>8:53PM</td>
<td>Mr. Christopher Charland</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017</td>
<td>1:59PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Evelyn Poole-Kober</td>
<td>NC District 50 I believe the map would be more equitable by adding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 3 2017</td>
<td>9:16PM</td>
<td>Ms. Jennifer Smyth</td>
<td>The House map is a flagrant effort to split the vote in NENC. Hertford,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 9 2017</td>
<td>5:39PM</td>
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<td>Dr. Heathier Simon</td>
<td>The house should use the following criteria when designing new maps: 1)</td>
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<td>Aug 6 2017</td>
<td>8:38AM</td>
<td>Jo-Dee Collins</td>
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<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 10 2017</td>
<td>3:38PM</td>
<td>Bonnie Morrison</td>
<td>As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 19 2017</td>
<td>4:18PM</td>
<td>Ms. Cornelia Whittlesey</td>
<td>I saw a proposed district map that showed a district from Pittman in Cabarrus County to a small area around Ford in Rowan County. That's crazy to have such a small area and population in Rowan in a separate district. Rowan County should only have two districts. Follow county lines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 19 2017</td>
<td>6:13PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Deborah Williams</td>
<td>I reviewed the proposed map for the 65th. I would prefer to see all of Rockingham County in one district. As opposed to the Western region absorbed into the Stokes county majority. Personally, I don't have anything in common with Stokes county and rarely visit there. So I can't understand the logic in how the lines are drawn. Thanks!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 21 2017</td>
<td>7:42AM</td>
<td>Mr. Terry Mann</td>
<td>As Mayor of Whiteville the County Seat of Columbus County I request you reconsider dividing Columbus County into two House districts. The eastern part of our county would be placed with Pender County. With their growth from the Wilmington area it would be hard for our County to get much attention from whoever should represent that section of the County. Columbus County is one of the eastern North Carolina counties that is suffering and we need to have a single representative so we can be united on what might help us improve or economic situation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 21 2017</td>
<td>8:15AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Jennifer Holcomb</td>
<td>It is critically important for Columbus County’s future to remain intact when it comes to our House district. Please reconsider dividing our county. Thank you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 21 2017</td>
<td>3:17PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Stephanie Miller</td>
<td>To whom it may concern, I am very concerned over the proposed redistricting for Columbus County. Regardless of anyone’s political party affiliation, this change would be detrimental to our county. We need strong representatives who care about and who need support from the county they are serving to be successful. With all due respect, please revisit this proposal and do not divide Columbus County! Best regards, Stephanie Miller</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Aug 21 2017  | 6:34PM | Mrs. Cheryl Thomas | The definition of gerrymander per dictionary.com is “to manipulate boundaries of an electoral constituency so as to favor one party or class.” This appears to be the case in Cabarrus County. Not manipulation between parties, but within one. Even though the districts in our county were not ordered to be redrawn, they have been drastically changed, with the result being that two of the top conservative house members (Pittman and Ford) in adjoining counties have now been combined into one district. This would result in the loss of at least one member, if not both. Government is to be “…of the people, by the people, FOR THE PEOPLE…” The purpose of redistricting is to give fair representation to all people, and not to carve out special districts to favor/disadvantage current/future politicians. I object to the redistricting in Cabarrus County for the following reasons: (1.) Under the current map, Cabarrus County has two complete districts in our county uniting the voice of our constituents. Now District 83 has been redrawn to include a portion of Rowan County. Has the population decreased so that there is no justification for our county to fill two complete districts? If not, the lines should be redrawn so that our residents have representatives that can speak for the unique needs of Cabarrus County residents. (2.) The line between Districts 82 and 83 should be drawn east to west and not north to south. Because Kannapolis is in Cabarrus and Rowan County, I agree that there is some justification for joining this area on the northern border of Cabarrus County so that one representative can serve the entire city and all areas west of Interstate 85. But if you do...
I am writing regarding the 2017 House Redistricting Plan, which almost evenly divides Columbus County into two districts. Given its population of 58,098, Columbus County — in totality — has an ideal population to continue serving as the base for a House District.

Under the proposed plan, I am concerned that a large portion of Columbus County is added to Pender County to form House District 16. The incumbent in this district resides approximately 1 hour and 10 minutes from the Columbus County seat of Whiteville. And the most direct driving route would take him through New Hanover and Brunswick counties before reaching Columbus. Pender and Columbus County have little geographic connection and their shared cultural and socioeconomic factors are diminishing given Pender County’s status as one of the state’s fastest growing counties thanks to its beaches and proximity to Wilmington and Jacksonville/Camp Lejeune.

Columbus County’s communities disproportionately suffer from a struggling economy, which affects many aspects of life including public health and education. Only through solidarity and strong representation, both of which are currently in place, will the county improve its trajectory.

---

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the proposed redistricting of the North Carolina General House of Representatives.

I support the House redistricting plan for Cumberland County, my county of residence, for the following reasons:

1) The number of split VTDs between 2 or more districts in Cumberland County is reduced from 31 of 77 precincts to 6 of 77 precincts. The plan confines the splits to between only 2 house districts while current plan includes several VTDs split between 3 house districts.

2) The boundaries of House District 43, my district, is tightened up considerably to look more like an ink spot rather than ink splatter.

Believe the benefit of these changes to Cumberland County will result in:

1) Fewer ballot types which may reduce the cost of elections.
2) It will reduce opportunities for poll workers to make errors in selecting the correct ballot and should result in fewer spoiled ballots and more accurate contest results with more voters using the correct ballot type.
3) May provide better constituent representation with tighter district boundaries.
4) Will benefit candidates for the House of Representatives by reducing the number of precincts and possible election campaign costs to conduct a competitive campaign. District redesign should make it easier for GOTV activities such as door knocking and neighborhood walks. Lower campaign costs could be an enticement to attract additional citizens to run for election to the House of Representatives.

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Please keep Columbus County as one District. We will never be able to adequately field a candidate of either party. Columbus County has traditionally provided hard working responsible representatives.

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As an 18 year resident of south-western Cabarrus (Prec.01-04), I hope I confidently can speak for the families of this area that we would be thrilled and honored with Rep. Linda Johnson as our voice in Raleigh. However, in what might be termed ‘reverse gerrymandering,’ while the plan keeps the current “3 House member” arrangement for Cabarrus, it awkwardly jams Ford and Pittman into central Concord / Kannapolis, and -- to meet the goal of approx. 81,000 residents -- extends the territory of H-67 (Burr, Stanley) rather deep into eastern and certainly across southern Cabarrus, making for a rather ‘far flung’ configuration away from the Albemarle core of that district.

Further, the population density of western Cabarrus is growing at such a rapid pace that the proposal will not remain stable for long, before adjustments will be needed. The boundaries of H-67 (Burr, Stanley) soon will have to be revised (affecting H-82 and/or H-83).

Many thanks to all legislators and staff for your dedication and effort on this proposal, and for the opportunity to comment!

Municipality District Total Muni Pop / Total District Pop / Muni Pop in District / Percent of Muni Pop in District / Percent of District Pop in Muni

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Total Muni Pop</th>
<th>Total District Pop</th>
<th>Muni Pop in District</th>
<th>Percent of Muni Pop in District</th>
<th>Percent of District Pop in Muni</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harrisburg</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>3,156</td>
<td>27.38%</td>
<td>3.81%</td>
<td>10.28%</td>
<td>0.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>83</td>
<td>8,335</td>
<td>72.31%</td>
<td>0.30%</td>
<td>0.04%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mr. Terry Mahaffey  
House districts 36, 37, and 41 divide up the Apex municipality. At around 50,000 people, Apex is the 3rd largest municipality in Wake after Raleigh and Cary and deserves it’s own representative. As it stands, it’s a victim of partisan gerrymandering, having it’s left leaning districts sliced into a district centered in Cary and it’s center to right leaning precincts divided between two right leaning districts primarily representing other parts of Southern Wake.

This is a disservice to the citizens of Apex. I ask that you abandon your attempt at partisan gerrymandering in this area, and instead create a single competitive district centered on Apex.

Mr. Dennis Jones  
I want to voice my disappointment and concern with the new redistricting proposal that will affect my community. District 46 currently includes all of Columbus County and part of Robeson and Bladen counties. It is vitally important that all of Columbus county remain as part of District 46 and not splint in half. We have been building and growing economic and political coalitions in Columbus county that are essential to have a real voice in Raleigh. To divide our county between two districts and representatives would undermine the progress made and be detrimental to Columbus County residents. I ask that you review this and make changes necessary to keep Columbus county whole in District 46. Rap. Brenden Jones is doing an outstanding job representing us currently and we look forward to his continued service.

Regards,
Dennis Jones

Mr. Matthew McLean  
The proposal of the house redistricting of Columbus County is completely unacceptable. Our Columbus County community has made great strides since Hurricane Matthew to begin moving in a positive direction under the leadership of Brendan Jones. We need a representative from our area to continue to improve on our local economy. The areas of Pender County and Columbus County couldn’t be any more different in terms of the economic development of the area. Please reconsider this proposal. We are finally making strides.

Mr. Carlton Williamson  
Please add my name to those in Columbus County (and perhaps Pender County, too) that strongly oppose the proposed plan to split Columbus County's House district and make the eastern portion of Columbus part of the Pender County District. Though sparse in population (approx 55,000) relative to its physical size, Columbus is the 3rd largest county in the state. It should have a single Representative. Thank you.

Mr. Stephen M Smith  
Re: Columbus County   I am strongly opposed to the proposed redistricting , moving the northeastern two-thirds of Columbus County, including the county seat of Whiteville, and the municipalities of Brunswick, Lake Waccamaw, Riegelwood and Sandyfield, into House District 16 with Pender County. District 16 would be comprised by 64% of Pender County residents, and would hardly give a Columbus County resident a chance at being elected to the N.C. House for that seat. For as long as I know, Columbus County has had a resident Legislature. Columbus County is the third largest physical county in the State, but one of the poorest. We need a fair opportunity for a resident member of the House. The District 16 incumbent resides in Hampstead, which is 69 miles from the county seat of Whiteville. Hampstead is just a few miles from the New Hanover County line, and economically and culturally is a northern suburb of Wilmington. Columbus and Pender counties have little or no existing relationships, and this is not a good cultural or economic fit. I also want to comment on the lack of transparency in this process. It was very difficult to find out where the satellite public hearings would be held, up until August 22, even after a thorough web search. Also, I have still not been able to find any street-level maps of proposed District 16. This is very important due to the odd configuration of the lines in Columbus County. It appears that Southeastern Community College needs to be in District 46 with Whiteville, the county seat, and all the other municipalities.

I came to the conclusion that the District 16 configuration in Columbus resembles a thumbs down depiction ( actually two thumbs down), which is symbolic. All of Columbus County needs to reside in House districts 46, 37, and 41.

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RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE 2017 HOUSE REDISTRICTING PLAN THAT PLACES PAMLICO COUNTY IN HOUSE DISTRICT 6

WHEREAS, on or about August 18, 2017, the North Carolina General Assembly released 2017 House Redistricting Plan; and

WHEREAS, the plan placed Pamlico County in House District 6 that includes Hyde, Dare, and Currituck Counties; and

WHEREAS, the Pamlico River and Pamlico Sound separate Pamlico County from other counties in House District 6 such that it is not contiguous to any other county within the proposed district; and

WHEREAS, the current representative of House District 6 resides approximately 3 hours drive time from Pamlico County; and

WHEREAS, due to geographic barriers, Pamlico County has little commonality with other counties within the new district regarding issues such as transportation, economic development, and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, factors cited above diminish the fair representation of Pamlico County; and

WHEREAS, the proposed 2017 Senate Redistricting Plan places Pamlico County in Senate District 2 that also includes Carteret and Craven Counties; and

WHEREAS, proposed Senate District 2 provides fairer representation for Pamlico County regarding issues such as transportation, economic development, and infrastructure.

Even though Cabarrus County’s districts was not ordered to be re-drawn, they were drastically changed. From comparing before-and-after maps, it’s not difficult to imagine that these new lines were gerrymandered by the establishment Republicans to silence conservatives. The results are that (1) two of the top conservative voices in the house (Pittman and Ford) are now within the same district and would be forced to run against one another, thus eliminating a conservative voice; (2) Johnson, who was on the committee, has a neat, compact district; and (3) the City of Concord (which already has concentrated representation on the County Commission) now is more compact. What next? Will one of the commissioners or City Council members who has failed to maintain our current schools, allowed rampant building while ignoring the infrastructure, and increased our debt want to replace that conservative voice and run to represent us in Raleigh?

I’m here to add one more voice of dissent to this blatantly self-interested political maneuvering.

I adamantly oppose the proposed redistricting of Cabarrus County. It is unreasonable to add precincts from Rowan County. This district cracking results in a dilution of the representation of our county. Precinct 1 is a populated and growing area of Cabarrus County and these residents deserve representation within our county. It is incomprehensible that if our county has sufficient population to warrant two districts, that the two largest cities in our county cannot retain representation within our county. You’ve managed to do that for Mecklenburg and Wake Counties, so surely you can afford Cabbarus County the same treatment. Instead of adding another county’s voting area to ours, you should consider adding Precinct 4 to Rowan County because Kannapolis borders both counties.

There are currently three house seats in Cabarrus County. This redistricting unfairly punishes the majority of citizens of Cabarrus County by denying each district the opportunity to reelect their current representative. We have invested considerable time and money cultivating relationships with our representatives and expressing our concerns. Now you want to remove all of this and assign us new districts?!

The proposed redistricting map is not detailed enough to allow citizens to determine the actual assignments, but I would like to formally request that you provide me (based on the information you used): the number of Cabarrus County voters who would maintain their current representation, the total number of voters in Cabarrus County, and the total number of Cabarrus County voters who would maintain representation with Rep. Johnson. I think this information should be made available to all the citizens of Cabarrus County.

As the ninth largest county in North Carolina, I do not know what

The fact that your maps, still are racist? Is disgusting. How in hell are you supposed to help make it easier for Black people if even the maps are fucking racist? Seriously? Get your shit together.

Please take St. John and Hogan Farm precincts out of NC House 50 and plus them NC House 56 where they belong. These 2 precincts should not have more say so than Caswell County. Simple and more fair than the way they are currently proceed.
In reviewing the proposed map to reconfigure many districts, I am struck at how, once again, there are configurations that defy logic. What is the thinking behind the odd patterns in Wake, Mecklenberg, and Guilford counties? Why does part of the district covering Lenoir county reach up in a nonsymetrical way into Pitt County? What is the thinking behind district 21 that snakes through Wayne and Sampson Counties? This does not seem to me to be the product of good faith efforts. I say back to the drawing board.

Hope these new districts are non-partisan and, of course, not racially districted. Do it right - the right to vote is what makes democracy worthwhile.

Please consider the possibility that Proposed District 16 has the effect of disenfranchising the residents of north central and eastern Columbus County. There's very little in common between these folk and the wealthy residents of coastal Pender County. A representative would spend her/his time catering to the major population areas and moneyed areas.

There is a large difference in the House Rep districts 99 and 67. It looks similar to a fat cat that my neighbor had growing up. Rep Moore, the incumbent in Charlotte, lives at least 50 mins from Albemarle where Rep. Burr lives. This cannot be in the best interest for any of the voters involved. This cannot best serve residents in Oakboro, Locust, Midland or Hickory Grove, Robinson Church, Mint Hill or Idlewild. How might a representative of this district effectively vote on key issues related to school funding, business development, transportation, land use, environmental protection (both urban and rural) and many other issues that require deliberate thought, discernment and consensus building that are important to all of our citizens?

Please accept these comments as my revised input on August 22, 2017 with both on-line and Fayetteville FTCC public hearing comments.

Thank you for providing the opportunity for citizen input on the proposed redistricting of the North Carolina General Assembly House of Representatives.

I am not representing any organization.

These comments are based upon an analysis of several public documents.

1) Cumberland County Board of Elections document titled Jurisdictions by Precinct dated July 26, 2017. This document provides a listing of the 77 Cumberland County precincts and the respective local, state, and federal office jurisdictions for each precinct.

2) House Redistricting Plan

3) House Split VTD details

I support the House redistricting plan for Cumberland County, my county of residence, for the following reasons:

1) The number of split VTDs between 2 or more districts in Cumberland County is reduced from 31 of 77 precincts under the current 2011 district assignments to 6 of 77 precincts under the proposed plan. The proposed plan confines the splits to only 2 house districts while the current plan includes several VTDs split between 3 house districts.

2) The boundaries of House District 43, my district, is tightened up considerably to look more like an ink spot rather than ink splatter.
I am the secretary for the Pamlico County Chamber of Commerce and the Director of Economic Development for Pamlico County. Pamlico County Government and Pamlico County Chamber of Commerce both oppose the proposed house redistricting plan. The letter below explains the Chamber of Commerce concern. The resolution below explains our County’s concern.

August 22, 2017

Honorable Sirs and Madams,

We thank you for taking the time to gather input from local towns, counties, individuals and agencies that would be impacted by the proposed House District lines. This is a very important matter that impacts every citizen in the State of North Carolina. We request that due to the inadequacies listed below, you reconsider the proposed redistricting plan, and leave our district as is or, at the very least, leave Pamlico County in a district with Craven County.

We understand that the parameters you have been given to set new districts are extremely difficult to meet. However, we as citizens and businesses of Pamlico County, as well as, many of our surrounding neighbors, have grave concerns regarding the current House Redistricting proposal and its impact on the historic, economic, social, and civic wellbeing of our communities.

If you move forward with this proposed district, which includes our county, there will be severe impact on small rural economically distressed communities, including minority communities in our county and surrounding counties. Many of these communities already lack an adequate electoral voice due to low population counts.

In addition, contiguous counties within current districts have lost their electoral voice due to low population counts.

August 22, 2017

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If you move forward with this proposed district, which includes our county, there will be severe impact on small rural economically distressed communities, including minority communities in our county and surrounding counties. Many of these communities already lack an adequate electoral voice due to low population counts.

We are very disappointed with the late release of the proposed house redistricting map, the lack of details provided about the precinct assignments, the very limited amount of time to respond, and the lack of proper notification to North Carolina citizens to provide their input.

I understand that redistricting is necessary and complicated. I appreciate the work that has been done to compact voting precincts and allow for contiguity. However, the consequences of the proposed redistricting map disproportionally disadvantages the citizens of Cabarrus County and should be reevaluated.

Because the proposed redistricting map does not disclose the specific precincts and a map of Rowan County’s precincts was not available online, I had to use the tools available to me: the November 2016 election results on the NC Board of Elections website and a State House Districts of Cabarrus County, NC online map. I had to use estimates and guess at the proposed precinct assignments.

From the NCBOE website, I estimate that around 10% of the current Cabarrus County residents will be allowed to reelect their current House representative. When you consider that we have 132,505 registered voters, that means that almost 120,000 voters will be denied the right to continue with our current representative. This means we will suffer a loss of influence. We will lose the consistency of our elected representatives - whose terms range from 3 to 9. It also disadvantages us by putting us in a conflicted situation. How do we know that our current representative will be voting in our best interest and not in the best interest of his/her future constituency? Will our representatives have as much time to promote our interests if they have to campaign and raise funds in new areas? How many other counties will have almost 120,000 voters, or even 90% of their voters...
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Message</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 24 2017</td>
<td>3:51PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Jacky Mallory</td>
<td>Public Hearings on Redistricting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 25 2017</td>
<td>4:15PM</td>
<td>Mr. Tony Moore</td>
<td>I am trying to find out which section of Winterville is not in the 9th House District.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 24 2017</td>
<td>10:47PM</td>
<td>Ms. Nancy Baldauf</td>
<td>Redistricting needs to treat all Americans as equals, and create a division that fairly represents all the members of our country. Areas should reasonable conform in shape and population sizes, not run all over the place following a narrow stream of like voters. Ideally, each district would represent a population in similar proportions as the entire state.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 25 2017</td>
<td>3:50PM</td>
<td>Mrs. Karen Fink</td>
<td>In looking at the maps, and reading several newspaper articles, it sure looks to me like there has been some attempt to reduce the influence of some of the most constitutional conservatives in the state. To reduce Michael Speciale’s district by removing Pamlico county does not make any sense, considering the sizes of the adjoining districts. What can the possible objective in this move be? I suggest Pamlico County stay with Craven County. Additionally, the “double bunking” of conservatives is also concerning, ex: Chad Barefoot (though he announced he will not run now), and Larry Pittman. Moving Bill Cook out of his current district is suspect. Looks to me like the GOP establishment trying to wrestle the constitutional conservatives out of their seats. Those maps can be better!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>9:08PM</td>
<td>Mr. FLOYD ADSIT</td>
<td>At the moment, all of rural Granville County is joined with an urban portion of Durham County, an inequitable combination of communities unlike each other. I urge the redistricting committee to consider a new Senate district composed of rural counties including Granville, Person, Caswell, and perhaps rural portions of Durham County.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>9:30PM</td>
<td>Ms. Suzanne Tho-mas</td>
<td>I have been a Life long Republican/Voter and Donor who lives in Durham County. We Have Waited Decades to have a Senate Seat that Represents Durham County- Granville And Person Counties. Predominantly Republican County! Now is The Time to give us that Senate Seat. You have determined to give the city of Durham to the Democrats- Liberal crazies and to Duke University and also with the Liberal courts maps made the City of Durham an African American Democrat Majority with The Corrupt G.K Battlefield leader of the Cities Black Congressional Caucus! Republicans in Durham County -Granville And Person Deserve A Republican Seat That Represents Us. I ask You to consider this that we do not lose Even More Republicans from our Party to become Federalist- Independents who abandon the GOP altogether. Its been far too long that we have waited and been kicked aside because You feel the issue is not Pressing enough for all of You. When we lose important Republican seats even further in 2018-2019-2020 because Republicans Have abandoned the GOP is that going to make you take notice then? Waiting and Absolutely Watching This Decision with Millions of Other #Conservatives on the brink.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>10:38PM</td>
<td>Ms. Lee Green</td>
<td>Please create a Caswell-Person-Granville-Durham Senate district so that Republicans in these areas will finally have a voice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2 2017</td>
<td>2:18AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Lara McKinnon</td>
<td>Redrawing the district maps for a partisan advantage is Communism. Competition is a tenant of Capitalism and has been a rallying cry of the Republican Party for decades. You should be able to win reelection on your merits, not because you rigged the election.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Speaking for myself and if I may take the Liberty to do so ...many others here in Person County, we would love to see a Senate District crafted consisting of Caswell Person Granville and Durham and quite possibly the top half of Orange County following the old 6th District Lines. As a former native of Orange I know this top portion of that County to be extremely conservative. None-the-less any redrawn District that gives conservatives a competitive chance at electing a Republican senator is welcome. As chair of the party here in Person County I will do my part.

The Common Cause redistricting map would make northeast NC a very minor player in NC politics. Multiple counties only having the power given to some single counties is not fair representation. While we are losing population, the way this map is drawn is unconstitutional and gives the power to the mid portion of the state. How can it be fair for 8-9 counties being the same as one or two.

The current Senate map while having several counties together allows us more equal representation as well as keeps like counties together.

Please do not change the current Senate 1 map.

In former 6th Congressional District and would like an opportunity to be in a competitive District for the North Carolina Senate. Orange County residents who live outside of the Chapel Hill area (northern part of the county) are never given a chance to be represented fairly.

I believe that as they statutes were written counties should be kept whole whenever possible. I think Iredell County being a TOP Tier Economic County in North Carolina should not be split in two. We should have 1 Senator representing our entire County.

I would like to see the NC Senate District 22 re-drawn to include Caswell, Person, Granville, and Durham counties. The current boundaries essentially ensure a Democrat gets elected every time. But a district including Caswell, Person, Granville, and Durham counties would be much more balanced.

The Senate map is even worse than the House map. Why in the world would anyone split Hertford and Bertie Counties, which are bound historically, geographically, economically, and genetically? One would be hard pressed to find two counties in NC that have more in common, but y’all are fine with disregarding that as long as you get to split up all those Black folks and dilute the Black vote. Halifax, Northampton, Bertie, Hertford, and Gates Counties need to stay together. Period.

Doing anything else is gerrymandering, and we have had ENOUGH of that.

Districts should be created by an independent, unbiased, third party!

The citizens of NC deserve fair and honest elections, not gerrymandered elections. I don't care who does it, who has done it, or who feels entitled to do it because their opponents did it. Gerrymandering is wrong, because it games the system.

One day the democrats will have a majority again despite your best efforts to gerrymander yourselves. Unless you wish to reap the fruits of unconstitional and shameful ways you can only protect yourselves by moving this process out of the political arena.

To be drawn fairly, districts must reflect all of the demographics of a given region. Sensible, fair, districts that reflect the diversity of North Carolinians can readily be drawn IF partisan bias is put aside in the interests of the people of our state. Please do so. Please consider consulting the algorithm developed by Brian Olson ([https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2014/06/03/this-computer-programmer-solved-gerrymandering-in-his-spare-time/]).

I am a registered independent dent voter.

I feel the redistricting process should be turned over to non elected, bipartisan officials permanently.

One day the democrats will have a majority again despite your best efforts to gerrymander yourselves. Unless you wish to reap the fruits of your unconstitional and shameful ways you can only protect yourselves by moving this process out of the political arena.

Establish an independent council for the purposes of determining how the voting districts in North Carolina should be drawn, ensuring that new boundaries are created in order to best serve all North Carolinians, and for complete transparency both during the establishment of said council and while our new voting map is being created.

Redrawing the House district maps for a partisan advantage is a rallying cry of the Republican Party for decades. You should be able to win reelection on your merits, not because you rigged the election.

NC needs an independent redistricting commissions. These have been proven successful in other states who no longer have issues with illegally drawn districts. We deserve fair elections and legislators who are still held accountable to their constituents.
Aug 9 2017 1:23AM Mr. Albert Pacer I favor a nonpartisan redistricting committee. An unconstitutionally elected legislature should not be allowed to redraw the districts. An illegitimate legislature can only produce illegitimate results.

At a minimum, it should be legislative staff that does the redrawing—not an outside consultant.

Aug 9 2017 5:48PM Mr. Fred Mull every person has the right to vote if they are of age and the idea of someone trying to stop them from their right to vote is shameful and a disgrace.

Fred Mull Asheville NC

Aug 9 2017 8:32PM Dr. Brock Downward As a resident of North Carolina, I want the criteria for redistricting to guarantee a process that is fair and open, and prevents racial and partisan gerrymandering. We deserve to have our legislative maps drawn in a way that guarantees everyone is equally and fairly represented and lets us choose the representatives we want.

Aug 15 2017 5:15PM Ms. Zoe Litaker Please appoint an independent, nonpartisan commission to choose our maps. I am tired of hearing about our state in the news as racist and gerrymandered. Are we afraid of how the people will vote? Why the racially divided maps? This is a government for and by the people, not by the few who can draw the maps to please themselves. Let’s keep both biases out of it. I would love to know what the whole of NC thinks and have a government that represents everyone as best we can.

Aug 17 2017 10:22PM Mrs. Sakeenah Majediah-ishaq Do not suppress our votes!

Aug 17 2017 11:19PM Mr. Edgar Hazell Why where a group of radical supremisists granted permission to have an incumbent? The answer is simply. You are trying to rig the system against blacks and Democrats. Some day I would like to meet a Republican lawmaker with ethics.

Aug 18 2017 4:40PM Mr. Hugh Barnes As a resident of Caldwell County, a former campaign staff member of gubernatorial candidate James E. Holshouser, Jr., and having later served as his Special Assistant for Appointments and further have been a delegate to the 1972 Republican National Convention, I STRONGLY ADVOCATE THE PLAN to move Senator Ballard into the same district as Senator Randleman of Wilkes.

Aug 21 2017 10:19AM Mrs. Raynor James It looks like you are poised to put Senator Bill Cook out of his district and into a district in which he would have a very difficult time winning. Senator Cook is a very good friend to conservatives who actually believe in the Republican Platform. It would be very unwise and wrong to treat Senator Cook that way. Please revise your plan!!!

Aug 21 2017 12:45PM Mr. David Mosley Yadkin County has a very civic minded, hard working and conscious senator in Joyce Krawiec and we don't want to lose her. Placing Forsyth and Davie Counties together puts two incumbents in the same district and Yadkin County without an incumbent Senator. Yadkin County is more connected and engaged with Forsyth County as well as being better informed out of Forsyth County with their newspaper and tv station. Yadkin County uses the Winston Salem Journal for some of its official notices as it is read by many Yadkin County Residents. Keep Yadkin County with Forsyth County for our Senatoral District.

Aug 21 2017 3:20PM Mr. Lance Ashdown I see a lot of funny-looking squiggly districts, which makes me immediately suspicious. For example, why doesn't 49 take up the whole of Buncombe? Why are 28 and 29 so irregularly shaped? Why is 20 smushed down instead of extending to the whole of Durham county? What is going on with 14 and 15? Why does 21 extend in such a strange way into Cumberland? The answer is simply: You are trying to rig the system against blacks and Democrats. Some day I would like to meet a Republican lawmaker with ethics.

Aug 21 2017 8:02PM Mr. Peter Larson The 27th district is still gerrymandered, when ALL districts must be compact and contiguous, to insure competitive elections in all of them. My current Senator does not represent me just because I disagree with her positions or because she does not make herself available to constituents or the press. It is also because my vote and any others' cannot make any difference to a election's outcome here. Make every district's election competitive, if this is a real and not a sham democracy.

Aug 22 2017 11:55AM Dr. Penne Prigge I have lived in my house for 24 years and in that time have been in so many districts most of my neighbors don't even know where we are anymore! Over the last few years we have been "misrepresented" by a senator from Rockingham County who neither lives in Guilford County nor Greensboro. The new maps appear to now put us in districts where incumbents live in either Alamance or Randolph Counties. When do we actually see REAL representation??? Stop the partisanship and divide the geographic areas in a non-partisan and reasonable and rationale manner! Let us have true democracy for once.
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<th>Timestamp</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Message</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 22 2017 1:30PM</td>
<td>Luther Eggers</td>
<td>My concern is the 45th district. By having all of Wilkes County in this district surrounded by smaller counties you are making a Wilkes Senate seat that doesn't reflect the smaller counties like Ashe. Also, why is it that the redistricting primary would be between two strong female Senators?</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017 4:46PM</td>
<td>Ms. Kathleen DeVore</td>
<td>Linking Martin County with Warren and Vance Counties for a senate seat is absurd. Why can't Martin County voters vote for a NC senator that represents a county next door to us, say Beaufort, Edgecombe, Washington, and/or Bertie Counties. Of course, I know the answer. You are trying to get a Repub elected, and so you want to make our Dem Senator run against an incumbent Republican. I resent the way you folks have redrawn these districts, and I hope the judge draws his own.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017 5:35PM</td>
<td>Mr. James Bazán</td>
<td>&quot;...and to secure these rights governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.&quot; These partisan districts undermine the ability for the people to grant &quot;just powers.&quot; Powers seized and held by venal careerists are anything but &quot;just powers.&quot; I live in Senate District 39. It will probably be a GOP seat no matter how it is drawn. So why does it follow the &quot;white wedge&quot; from Matthews &amp; Ballantyne up to the peak in Myers Park? Could it have anything to do with packing East Charlotte? What you are proposing is an affront to democracy.</td>
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<td>Aug 22 2017 6:57PM</td>
<td>Mr. Hood Richardson</td>
<td>Proposed Senate District 3, Beaufort County is a part. 1. Combining Beaufort with Martin, Bertie Northhampton, Warren and Vance counties denies us of our historic relationship and common interest with other tidewater counties. We have no common interests with these counties. 2. The shape and long travel distance is unbearable. I takes an good three hours to get from Washington, NC to Henderson. 3. There are rumors that the Republicans deliberately concocted a district in which incumbent Bill Cook (resident of Beaufort County could not get elected in. It seems punishment is being handed out for his populist brand of conservative politics. 4. Senator Cooks present district is one o the most conservative in the state. 5. There are several viable alternatives to reconfigure this district to be representative of the tidewater area and at the same time other counties to be grouped together for the benefit of their common interests.</td>
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<td>Aug 23 2017 10:31AM</td>
<td>Ms. Laura Budniakiewicz</td>
<td>I'd like an explanation for the new Senate map boundary between districts 14, 15 (northern borders) and 18 (southern border). Specifically, there appears to be excessive jutting in/out and zig-zagging (suspicious, frankly) whereas a smoother border could be drawn. Districts 14 and 15 are thus heavily democrat and 18 slightly republican, and I am very curious to know what effect a smoother border would have.</td>
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<td>Aug 24 2017 12:22AM</td>
<td>Andrew Stern</td>
<td>This comment is specifically addressed to the Federal Court that required redrawing of the maps, as it is apparent the majority party in the Senate has no interest in adhering to the ruling of the Court. One only has to look at the proposed Senate map for Guilford County to see that unconstitutional districts continue to be drawn. If anyone can determine that the proposed District 28 is anything but a partisan and racial gerrymander, please explain it to me. It certainly is not compact; and the Senate has just used prior voting/registration patterns in lieu of a racial gerrymander. Please rule these new maps as unconstitutional and draw the maps or order an independent group to draw the maps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 24 2017 9:32AM</td>
<td>Ms. BreAnna VanHook</td>
<td>I do not support the map redistricting. I want Don Davis to remain my state senator.</td>
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</table>

Total 4351