

**State Defendants' Response to Brooks, LULAC, and
MALC Plaintiffs' Joint Motion for Preliminary Injunction**

Exhibit E

Daniel LeDuc & Jo Becker, Md. Democrats Redraw Morella's District, WaPo (Jan. 24, 2002), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/2002/01/25/md-democrats-redraw-morellas-district/276e7cee-6962-4e96-9140-4b83084fea20/>.

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Md. Democrats Redraw Morella's District

Plan Aims to Defeat Popular Republican

January 24, 2002 More than 23 years ago

Summary

By Daniel LeDuc and Jo Becker

Maryland officials proposed a redistricting plan yesterday intended to help defeat U.S. Rep. Constance A. Morella, a Republican who confounds Democrats by continually winning reelection in liberal Montgomery County, and aid Democratic efforts to retake control of the House of Representatives.

The Democratic plan takes from Morella much of northern Montgomery, an area rich with Republicans, and adds 60,000 Prince George's County voters, including liberals in Takoma Park and African Americans inside the Capital Beltway.

"We knew they would try to achieve through geography what they couldn't achieve through the ballot box," said Morella, one of the two longest-serving members representing Maryland. "It's a shame that there was such partisan motivations instead of thinking about people who have been very happy with their representation."

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The proposal would end a political debate in Annapolis over whether to accommodate two promising Democratic state lawmakers who want to ascend to Congress by giving each his own district. Instead, it would pit Del. Mark K. Shriver against Sen. Christopher Van Hollen Jr. in a Democratic primary to determine who would take on Morella.

The plan also reconfigures congressional districts surrounding Baltimore and could determine whether U.S. Rep. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr., the favored son of Maryland's GOP, decides to abandon his seat and enter the governor's race.

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A commission of four Democrats and one Republican appointed by Gov. Parris N. Glendening (D) has been laboring over congressional redistricting for months. Population shifts marked by the U.S. Census require a redrawing of the district lines every 10 years.

In Maryland, where Democratic voters outnumber Republicans 2 to 1 and Democrats control all major political offices, party officials have long chafed over not electing more Democrats to Congress. The current split is four Democrats and four Republicans, and state Democratic leaders hope they can increase their number by two, which would help the national party as it seeks control of the House in November.

"If the pattern follows Democratic performance, this would pick up two seats," said Glendening spokesman Michael Morrill. "That would be more reflective of Maryland's voting patterns."

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Maryland House Speaker Casper R. Taylor Jr. (D-Allegany) said the plan was the best way to elect more Democrats. "We Democrats deserve six [Democrats] and two" Republicans, he said. "You've got to look at this thing as the game plan for the next five congressional elections."

Three of the four Democratic incumbents agreed to the plan, but Rep. Benjamin L. Cardin protested that it altered 60 percent of his suburban Baltimore district.

Secretary of State John T. Willis, who heads the redistricting commission, said he did not expect Glendening to make major changes to the plan. Once the governor signs off on a final version, it requires a legislative vote.

But Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr. (D-Prince George's) opposed the plan, saying it is not configured as well as possible to elect more Democrats.

"It's not an aggressive, partisan plan," Miller said. "Maryland Democrats would be saying there's no chance the Democrats are going to take back the House of Representatives."

He and many other Democrats fear that Ehrlich could defeat Baltimore County Executive C.A. "Dutch" Ruppersberger, who is weighing a run for Congress.

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they were pleased with the plan.

"We feel that opportunities are looking good for us in Maryland, and Maryland will be one of our central battle grounds in our fights to take back the House," said spokeswoman Jenny Backus.

The maps make beating Ehrlich more difficult than beating Morella, according to one Democratic House leadership aide. But based on past election results, the aide believed Ruppertsberger could do it. "I'm not saying it's a slam-dunk," the aide said. "It will be a close race."

The proposal makes Morella the leading target. Morella's last election was her closest when she defeated lobbyist and businessman Terry Lierman, 52 percent to 46 percent. It was the first time Morella had dipped below 60 percent, and Democrats have been salivating for another shot at her.

The two leading candidates for the Democratic nomination, Shriver and Van Hollen, were the subject of a political debate in recent months as Miller attempted to carve out separate districts for each of them.

Shriver, a nephew of President John F. Kennedy, has been aggressively fundraising and said yesterday, "I have always advocated that it is in the best interests of Montgomery County that a district with a majority of its voters in it be created, so that the representative would be focused on Montgomery County."

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Van Hollen, who has risen to vice chairman of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, said he always planned on a competitive Democratic primary.

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Ehrlich's home near Timonium has actually been put in the 1st District, which is now represented by Wayne T. Gilchrest (R). But there is no legal barrier to him from running in his old 2nd District, and he said he would, if he doesn't run for governor.

Ehrlich said U.S. House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) and Rep. Thomas M. Davis III (Va.), who heads the National Republican Congressional Committee, had urged him to make sure his seat stays in Republican hands if he runs for governor. Among the Republicans who've expressed interest in Ehrlich's seat is Ellen R. Sauerbrey, the Maryland GOP's gubernatorial candidate in the last two elections.

Staff writer Spencer S. Hsu contributed to this report.

GOP Rep. Constance A. Morella would lose much of northern Montgomery County and gain more Prince George's County voters.

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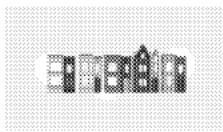
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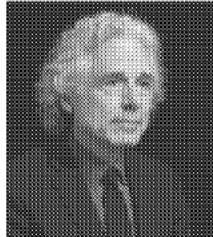
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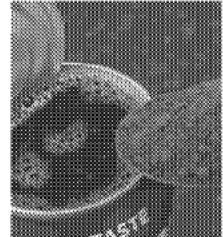
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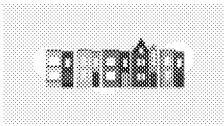
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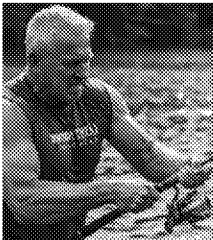
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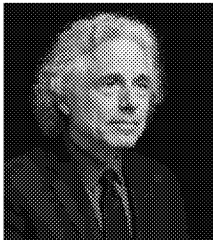
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