



Fact Sheet: COMMON CAUSE V. RUCHO

Common Cause challenged the congressional district lines drawn by North Carolina's legislature in 2016 as an unconstitutional partisan gerrymander. On Jan. 9, 2018, a three-judge federal district court panel unanimously agreed and ordered the lines to be redrawn! However, nine days later, the U.S. Supreme Court put the order to redraw districts on hold pending an appeal.

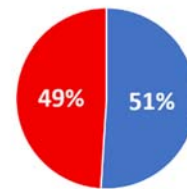
THE ISSUE

Partisan gerrymanders have robbed North Carolinians of their ability to elect the candidates of their choice.

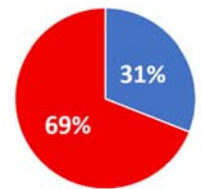
- North Carolina legislators were ordered to redraw the congressional map after a 2016 three-judge federal panel ruling that two districts were racially gerrymandered.
- During this redraw, Republican legislators publicly and repeatedly stated that their goal was to gerrymander congressional districts to ensure a 10-3 Republican majority.
- At the time, North Carolina had 2.6 million registered Democrats, 1.9 million Republicans, and 1.8 million unaffiliated voters.

2012 U.S. House Races in N.C.

Votes Won
Statewide



Total Seats
Won



THE CASE

In 2016, Common Cause challenged the redrawn congressional map as an unconstitutional partisan gerrymander.

- On January 9, 2018 a three-judge federal district court panel unanimously ruled that the 2016 remedial map is an unconstitutional partisan gerrymander.
- The court found violations of the First Amendment right of association, the Fourteenth Amendment Equal Protection Clause, and Article I, sections 2 and 4 of the Constitution.
- The court gave the legislature until January 24, 2018 to adopt new maps for use in the 2018 midterm elections.
- On January 18, 2018 the Supreme Court of the United States granted a stay request, putting the district court's order to immediately redraw congressional lines on hold. As a result, North Carolinians are likely to vote in unconstitutional districts for at least one more election.
- The Supreme Court is likely to hear arguments in Common Cause v. Rucho in 2018 or 2019.

“Justice delayed would be justice denied for the people of North Carolina who have yet to vote in an election with constitutional maps since the 2010 Census was completed.”

- Karen Hobert Flynn, Common Cause President