



Fact Sheet: COMMON CAUSE V. LEWIS

In 2017, a federal court ordered the North Carolina General Assembly to redraw its own districts after finding that 19 House and nine Senate districts were illegal racial gerrymanders. Republican leaders refused to make their mapping consultant available to Democrats and added that “political consideration and election results data may be used in drawing up legislative districts in the 2017 House and Senate plans.” The resulting maps skewed political outcomes in favor of Republicans. Common Cause sued in state court to strike the maps down as partisan gerrymanders in violation of the North Carolina Constitution. *Common Cause v. Lewis* will go to trial on July 15, 2019.

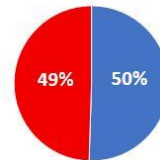
THE ISSUE

Partisan gerrymandering robs North Carolinians of the ability to elect their candidates of choice.

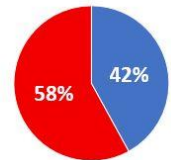
- As part of Operation REDMAP to control redistricting, the Republican State Leadership Committee spent millions of dollars in 2010 to win 18 of 22 targeted North Carolina General Assembly races. This gave Republicans control of the legislature for the first time since 1870.
- Republican leaders stated that they drew maps following the 2010 census “to ensure Republican majorities in the House and Senate.” In 2012, Republicans won veto-proof supermajorities in both chambers despite winning just above 50% of the vote in each. A federal court struck down these districts as racial gerrymanders.
- Using the same consultant who drew the skewed and unconstitutional racial gerrymanders, Republicans drew new districts for the 2018 elections that gave them majorities in the House and Senate despite winning fewer votes than Democrats in both chambers.

2018 N.C. General Assembly: Senate

Votes Won
Statewide (R vs. D)

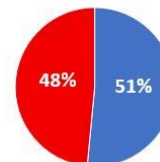


Total Seats
Won (29R-21D)

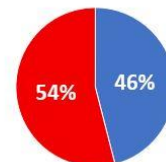


2018 N.C. General Assembly: House

Votes Won
Statewide (R vs. D)



Total Seats
Won (65R-55D)



THE CASE

In 2018, Common Cause challenged the redrawn state legislative maps as partisan gerrymanders violating the North Carolina Constitution.

- Common Cause, the North Carolina Democratic Party, and 22 North Carolina voters are the plaintiffs in *Common Cause v. Lewis*. The trial begins July 15, 2019.
- The plaintiffs argue that the Republican-led legislature violates the North Carolina Constitution’s Equal Protection Clause (Art. I, § 19), Free Elections Clause (Art. I, § 5), and Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Assembly Clauses (Art. I, §§ 12 & 14).

“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