



## 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. League of Women Voters of NC filed a parallel suit shortly after; the court consolidated the cases. On Jan. 9, 2018, a three-judge federal district court panel unanimously agreed and ordered the lines to be redrawn! However, the U.S. Supreme Court put the order to redraw districts on hold.

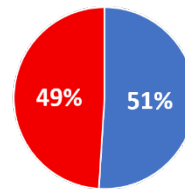
### THE ISSUE

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

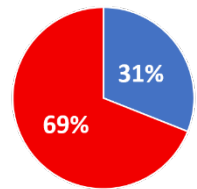
- North Carolina legislators were ordered to redraw the congressional map after a 2016 three-judge federal panel ruling that two districts were racially gerrymandered.
- During this redraw, Republican legislators publicly and repeatedly stated that their goal was to gerrymander congressional districts 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*