



## Fact Sheet: RUCHO V. COMMON CAUSE

Common Cause challenged congressional districts 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 and the court consolidated the cases. On August 27, 2018, the trial court ruled for a second time that the map violates the Constitution. The U.S. Supreme Court will hear the North Carolina General Assembly's appeal in March of 2019.

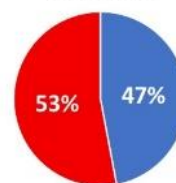
### THE ISSUE

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

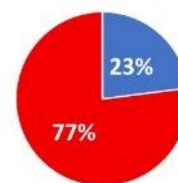
- In 2016, a federal court ordered North Carolina legislators to redraw the congressional map after ruling that legislators racially gerrymandered two districts.
- During this redraw, legislators publicly stated that their goal was to ensure a 10-3 Republican majority, which the map produced in the 2016 election.
- At the time, North Carolina had 2.6 million registered Democrats, 1.9 million Republicans, and 1.8 million unaffiliated voters.

#### 2016 U.S. House Races in N.C.

Votes Won  
Statewide



Total Seats  
Won (10-3)



### 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, Fourteenth Amendment, and Article I, sections 2 and 4 of the Constitution.
- On June 25, 2018, the U.S. Supreme Court vacated the ruling and remanded the case to the trial court for further consideration of standing issues following the Court's holding in *Gill v. Whitford* that political gerrymandering plaintiffs must claim district-specific standing.
- On August 27, 2018, the trial court again ruled that the plaintiffs had standing to sue and that the map was an unconstitutional partisan gerrymander.
- On January 4, 2019, the Supreme Court agreed to hear an appeal of the decision, setting up an opportunity for the Justices to rule partisan gerrymandering unconstitutional for the first time in U.S. history.

*“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*