

Redistricting Brief:

Gerrymandered Courts Bill Favors Republicans in Superior Court

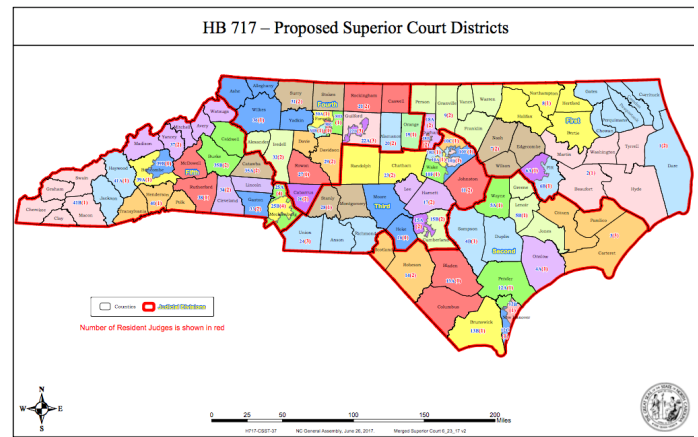
June 27, 2017



Tired of losing in the courts, Republican lawmakers are using a gerrymander to right the courts in their favor. Fourteen times, laws enacted by this unconstitutional General Assembly have been found unconstitutional. In Superior Court, judges have ruled against the GOP majority on judicial retention elections, local control, and the NCGA's authority over the coal ash commission.

Now, in the last week of session, and without consulting either the Administrative Office of the Courts or the Conference of District Attorneys, Republicans seek the first statewide redrawing of these districts in decades.

Republicans currently hold a minority of the Superior Court seats. Superior Court races were non-partisan until a 2017 bill changed that for future elections. Under the old maps and non-partisan races, Democratic-registered judges hold 53 Superior Courts seats and 11 seats are held by registered unaffiliated judges. There are 31 Republican-registered judges.



Based on Real Facts NC's analysis of the new Superior Court maps proposed by Rep. Justin Burr in H717 and using the 2016 gubernatorial election results as a benchmark, Republicans would hold an advantage in 62 of 98 seats. That's 63%, even though Republican and Democratic votes were split 50-50 statewide.

In District Court, Republicans would hold an advantage in 171 of 282 seats or 62%. And for prosecutors, the split is even more telling. There's a built-in GOP advantage in 29 of 41 prosecutorial districts. That's a whopping 70%!

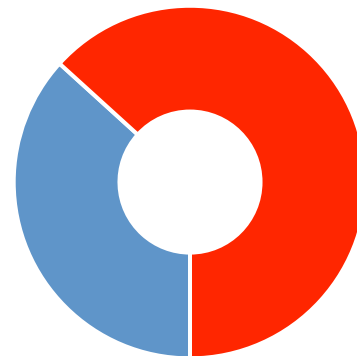
Superior Court

Current



■ Democrat ■ Republican ■ Unaffiliated

Under H717



■ Democrat ■ Republican