

AOTL NC Draft Congressional Maps Talking Points

Summary Statement:

North Carolinians made it clear during recent public hearings that they want an end to partisan gerrymandering and for their communities to be kept together as much as possible. These maps show that Republican legislators chose to completely disregard their words. North Carolinians are sick and tired of these partisan tactics that dilute their voices in our democracy and they deserve better. These maps are not fair. They would diminish the voices of voters living in North Carolina's diverse, growing metropolitan areas and manipulate the maps to heavily favor Republicans for a decade to come.

We see the following alarming themes in Republican-drawn draft maps:

- **Dilutes the Voices of Diverse, Populous Urban Areas and Communities of Interest**
 - Urban areas including Mecklenburg, Wake, Guilford and New Hanover are divided more than is necessary. Meck, Wake, Guilford are split into three or more Congressional districts.
 - Mecklenburg County, for example, has a population of more than one million. The ideal population of a congressional district is 745,671. The only reason to split that county into more than two districts would be to dilute the votes of the people who live there.
 - Wake County, the most populous county in North Carolina with 1.29 million people, is divided into 3 congressional districts. Suburban southern Wake, one of the fastest-growing areas in the state, is lumped in with far-away rural districts that have different interests.
 - Communities of Interest are divided and connected with areas that are geographically distant and don't share common interests
 - For example, Guilford County is divided and connected with counties in the mountains, the Charlotte Metro region, and Southern Wake County. This is the opposite of what people in the Triad asked for.
 - NC-01 has historically been considered a minority opportunity district. These maps radically reshape this district in a way that would dilute the votes of rural communities of color.
- **Dismisses Public Testimony**
 - North Carolinians overwhelmingly asked for an end to partisan gerrymandering. These maps clearly divide communities for partisan advantage.

ALL ON THE LINE

- Over half the people who testified in the hearings in Cumberland and Robeson counties asked for a congressional district rooted in the Sandhills, yet these maps divide this clear community of interest.
- **Manipulates the Map in Favor of Republicans**
 - North Carolina is a 50-50 state and a fair map should reflect its competitive nature. In 2020, President Biden lost the state narrowly by just 1/8th of a percentage point, while Gov. Roy Cooper won with 51.5 percent of the vote.
 - North Carolina Republicans have sought to increase their disproportionate representation by putting forward maps that create 9 or more safe Republican congressional seats out of 14 total seats. One map even creates a minimum of 12 GOP seats out of 14.
- **Favors Politicians Over People**
 - The 2020 Census data indicates that most of the population growth in North Carolina occurred in metro Charlotte and the Research Triangle area.
 - All the submitted Republican maps anchor the new 14th congressional district in rural Cleveland County, which saw a loss in population according to the data.
 - This county also happens to be the home of Republican House Speaker, Tim Moore, who is rumored to be considering a run for U.S. Congress.
 - The new 14th congressional district should be reflective of where population growth has been highest, and be anchored in the Research Triangle area -- it shouldn't be drawn to favor a politician.