



Redistricting Reform

NORTH CAROLINA
COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

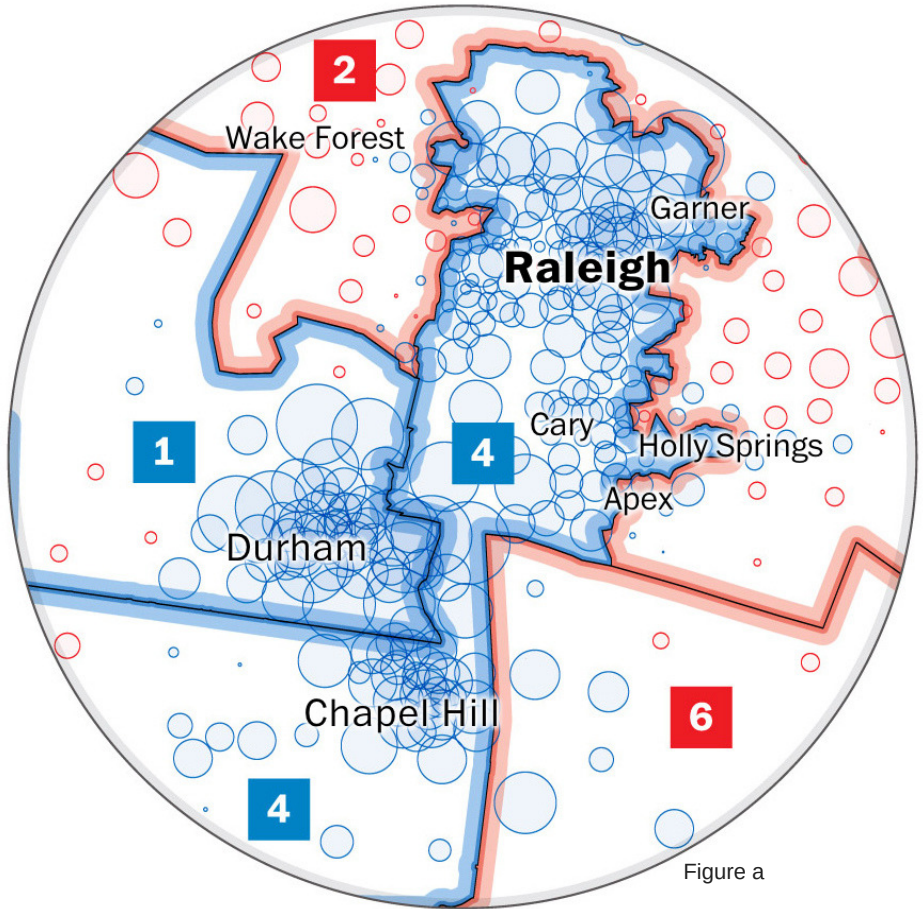
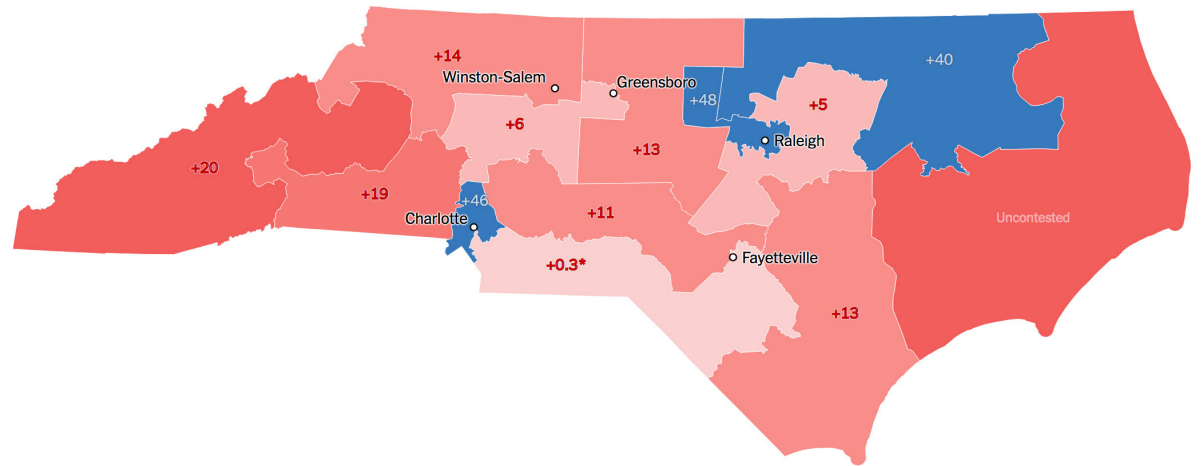


Figure a

Faith and Gerrymandering

What scripture says:

- So God created humanity in God's own image, in the image of God, God created them; man and female, God created them.
Genesis 1:27
- We are all created in the image of God; so each and every one of us should have a vote that counts
- My brothers and sisters, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of Glory.
James 2:1
- To show no partiality is not to favor one vote over the other, but to count each vote equally

The right to vote for every citizen is fundamental to democracy, rooted in the principle of consent of the governed, a core concern of Christian ethics just as it is of American political history. It is the primary means in a republic to allow the dispossessed, the poor, and the racial & ethnic minorities a voice in the public square. Indeed, the vote guarantees there is a public square.

The Council's View on Redistricting

The Governing Board of the Council unanimously endorsed Fair Districts NC's Five Principles for Reasonable Redistricting Reform (RRR).

The Council will work with Fair Districts NC to broaden discussion and dialogue on redistricting reform with particular attention to how gerrymandering reduces our ability to build a more just society meeting the needs of all North Carolinians.

Council Executive Director, Jennifer Copeland, stated:

"One of the major tenets of our faith is the sacred worth of each one created in the Image of God. If each one is so valuable in the eyes of God, it only stands to reason that each person's vote is valuable and should count. Partisan districts devalue the vote and, by extension, the voter."

- Fair District NC's Five Principles for Reasonable Redistricting Reform**
1. Include the legislature in the process, such as by naming some of the commission's members
 2. Include citizens and/or impartial experts as commission members
 3. Set strict rules for the commission's work that:
 - a. apply traditional redistricting standards (compact, contiguous, keep local government units and communities of interest whole)
 - b. do not allow the use of partisan data or partisan objectives
 - c. use voting rules that require bipartisan support for the maps
 4. Provide for extensive citizen participation and transparency
 5. Make the maps final on the commission's vote

The Practice of Gerrymandering

NC Election Results 2018

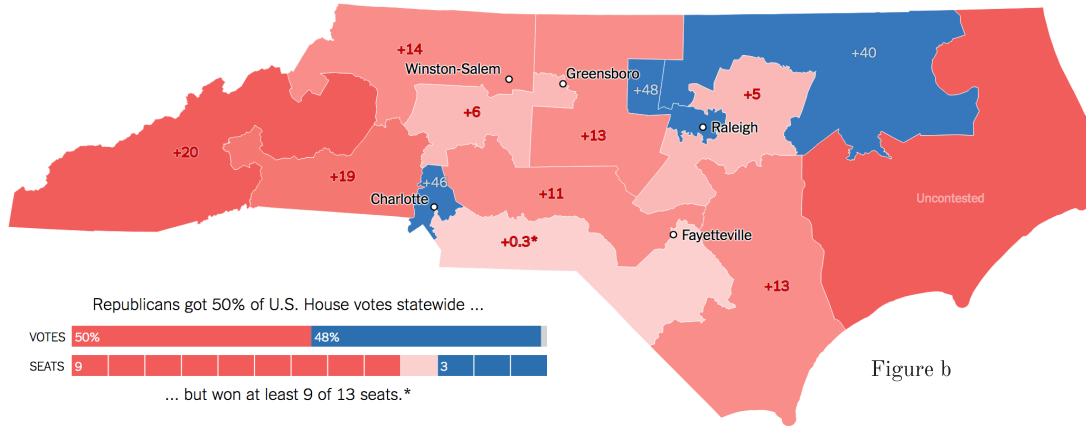


Figure b

*Note: In the Ninth District, the Republican candidate leads but the race is uncalled.

- In 2018, Democrats in North Carolina earned 48.3 percent of the total vote cast in House races but appeared to win only three seats.¹
- Republicans had 50.4 percent of the vote and won at least nine seats.²

North Carolina's Congressional Map Splits Major Cities

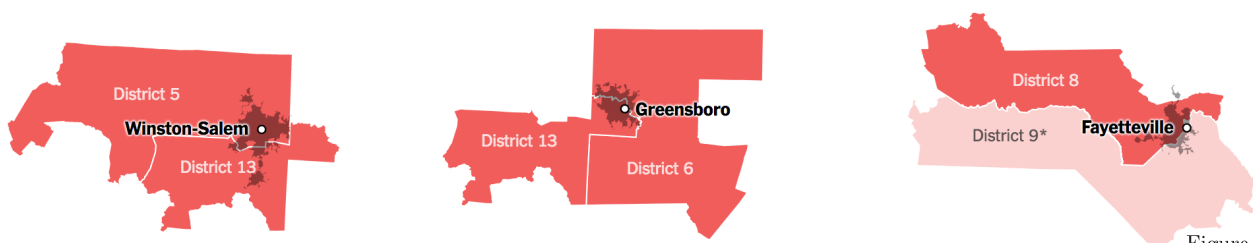
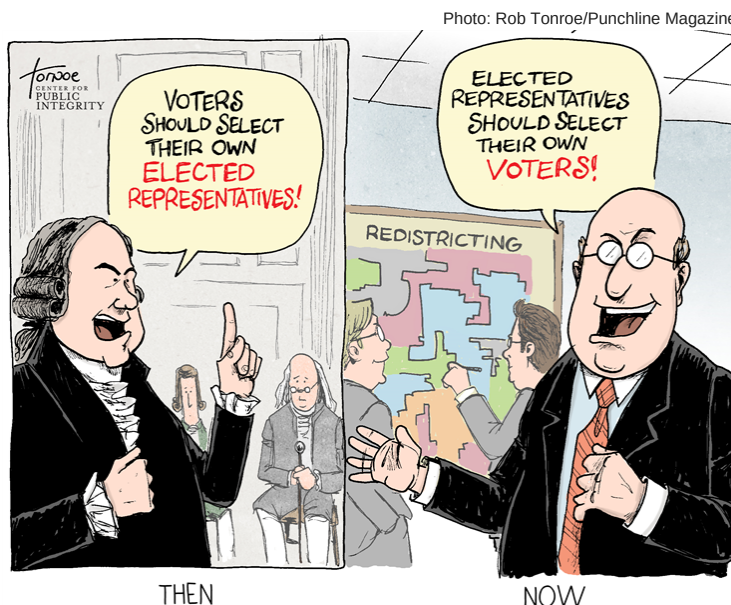


Figure c

The N.C. legislature split the major cities between the 5th and 13th Districts, the 13th and 6th Districts, and the 8th and 9th Districts. This had the effect of dissolving its Democratic voters into the red seas of North Carolinians outside the city limits, leaving the metropolitan area represented entirely by Republicans in Congress.³

Why is Redistricting Important?⁴

- Restores the connection between the voters and their elected officials.
- Make elected officials more accountable to citizens.
- Encourages bipartisan collaboration on the people's business.
- Makes it easier for our elected officials to agree on how to improve our schools, build our state's economy, and strengthen our communities.
- Leads citizens to engage in the political process.
- Builds trust of elected officials and the political process as a whole.



REDISTRICTING STATISTICS IN NORTH CAROLINA

Solutions to Prevent Gerrymandering in North Carolina

- How We Can Improve Redistricting in NC:
 - Protect **voters of color** by creating district lines that reflect the requirements of the **Voting Rights Act** and **Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment**.
 - District lines should be drawn to help communities obtain **meaningful representation**.
 - Invite debates and panels from community members, academics, and folks who have been impacted by gerrymandering, and **incorporate their feedback in the drawing of districts**.
 - **Reject partisan or racial gerrymandering** of districts.
 - Allow **politically neutral bodies** to determine the district lines to diminish partisan or political influence.



Redistricting is important because the diverse communities living in North Carolina deserve to be represented by an elected official who will advocate for legislation that directly impacts the members of that community.



Photo: Bill Clark/CQ Roll Call File Photo

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1,2,3. The New York Times, What's Stronger Than a Blue Wave? Gerrymandered Districts, 2018
4. League of Women Voters NC, Gerrymandering: A Primer, 2017
Figure a. The Washington Post, Why North Carolina's House District Lines Have Been Upended-again, 2018
Figure b. The New York Times, What's Stronger Than a Blue Wave? Gerrymandered Districts, 2018
Figure c. The New York Times, What's Stronger Than a Blue Wave? Gerrymandered Districts, 2018