Common Cause

North Carolina

Holding Power Accountable

Common Cause NC is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization working to:

- hold government accountable
- end gerrymandering
- empower HBCU students
- protect voting rights

NC Litigation: Past 12 years

- **Correct unfair gerrymandered districts**
- **Fight racist voting laws**
- **Maintain balance of power between state government and voters**
- **Working with partners such as**
  - Southern Coalition for Social Justice
  - The Brennan Center for Justice

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TIMELINE: Recent gerrymandering cases

June 2019	***Rucho v. Common Cause*** US Supreme Court	In 5-4 ruling, U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts says federal courts are not able to address partisan gerrymandering, **but that state courts can**.
Sept. 2019	***Common Cause v. Lewis*** NC Superior Court	NC Superior Court rules partisan gerrymandering violates the NC Constitution and **orders new legislative maps drawn for the 2020 election.**
Oct. 2019	***Harper v. Lewis*** NC Superior Court	This NC Superior Court case results in new **congressional maps** for the 2020 election.
2021	NC legislature draws new, extremely gerrymandered congressional and legislative maps as part of the decennial redistricting process after the 2020 Census.	
Feb. 2022	***Harper v. Hall*** NC Supreme Court	NC Supreme Court **strikes down** the legislature's gerrymandered congressional and legislative maps, orders new maps drawn for 2022 election.
Dec. 2022 - Jan. 2023	***Moore v. Harper*** US Supreme Court	U.S. Supreme Court will hear legislative defendants' appeal of North Carolina gerrymandering case Harper v. Hall.

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NC Congressional Maps Before/After

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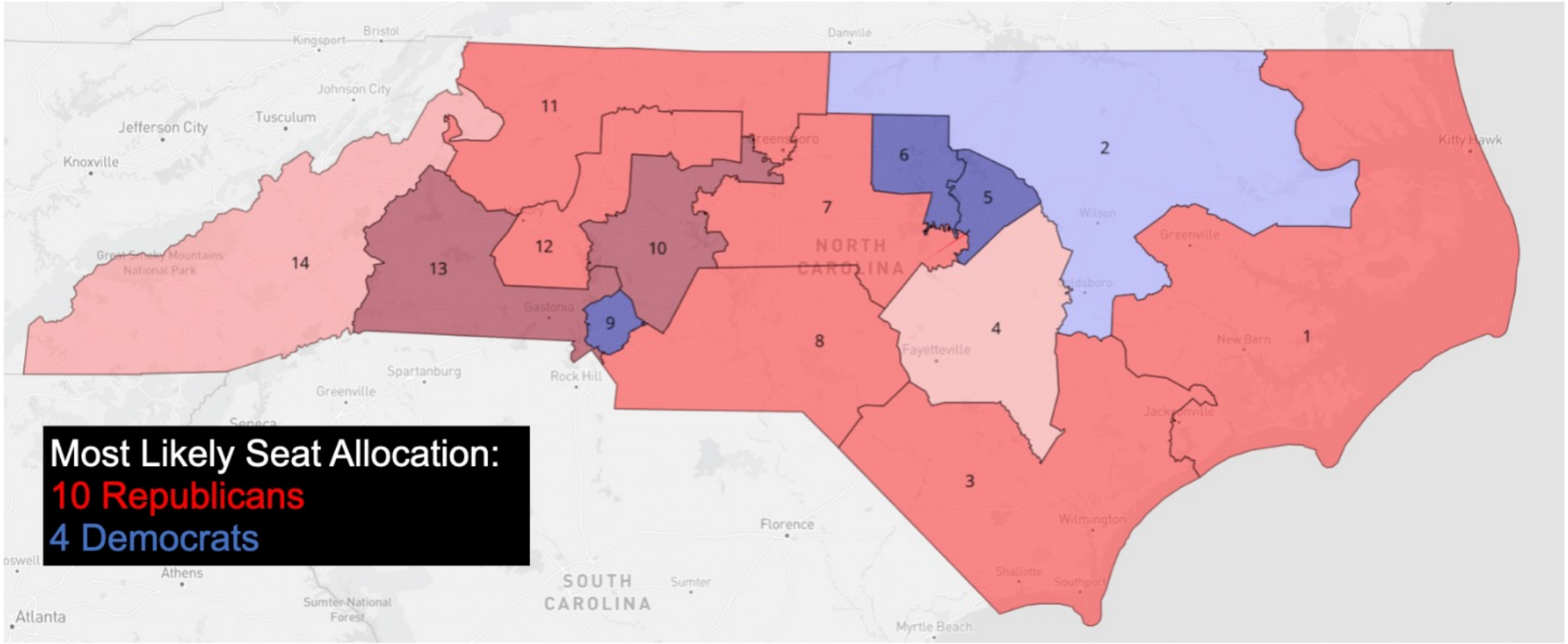
NCGA's Original Congressional Plan (Struck Down)



The analyses here reflect those generated by Dave's Redistricting App and do not constitute an opinion on or endorsement by Common Cause.

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NC Supreme Court Ruling: Harper v. Hall

- “unconstitutional beyond a reasonable doubt”
- “The General Assembly violates the North Carolina constitution when it deprives a voter of his or her right to substantially equal voting power on the basis of party affiliation.”
- “The trial court specifically found that the General Assembly diminished and diluted the voting power of voters affiliated with one party on the basis of party affiliation.”

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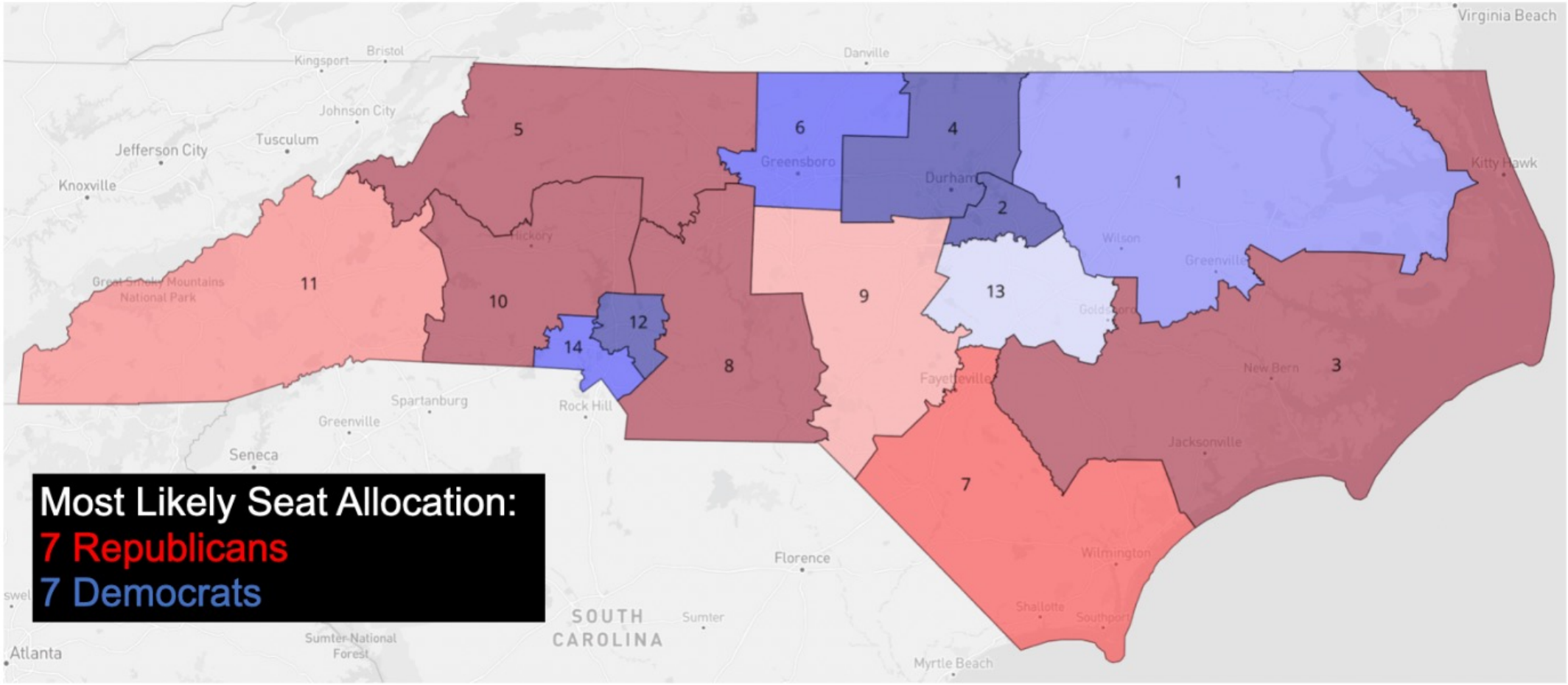
Special Masters' Remedial Congressional Plan (Approved by Courts)



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Moore v. Harper

On June 30, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court decided to take up *Moore v Harper*

- Will be argued December 7, 2022
- Decision expected in Summer 2023

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Moore v. Harper

In *Moore*, North Carolina lawmakers are essentially arguing:

> State legislatures should have near **absolute power** to run federal elections with **no checks and balances** from our state courts.

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Moore v. Harper

- Based on "**independent state legislature theory**"
- Could reverse our partisan gerrymander case
- Could negate state constitutional voting rights in federal elections

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Moore vs Harper

This case could provide an easier path for lawmakers **across the country** to:

- gerrymander congressional districts
- create barriers to voting access
- cast doubt on fair election results

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No matter what issues you care about, Moore v Harper is your issue.

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Common Cause NC is:

Hosting events about the critical importance of *Moore v Harper*

- **Bring *Moore* experts to every corner of North Carolina**
- **Ignite at least 100,000 individual conversations**
- **Help communities make vital connections** between this case and local needs

#MAPOURFUTURE:
People Over Politics

Common Cause NC is:

Preparing for the work ahead

- **Organize for next year's congressional redistricting work** (2023)
- **Anticipate and block state legislative attacks on voting access** (2023)
- **Protect our elections ahead of the upcoming presidential cycle** (2024)

Questions?

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