

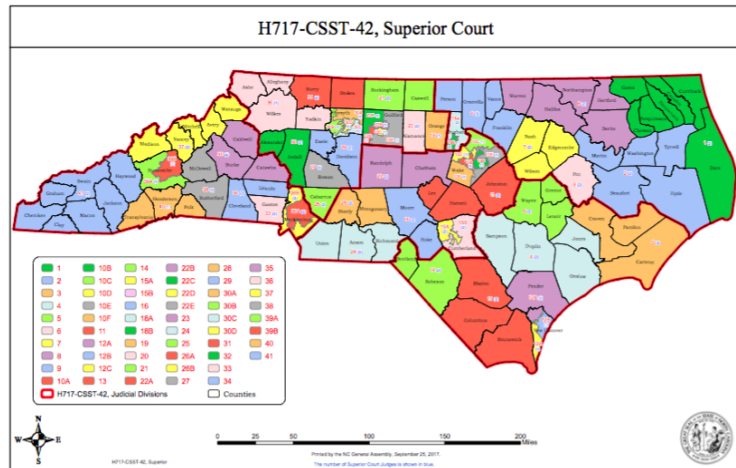
Redistricting Brief:

Gerrymandered Courts Bill Favors Republicans in Superior Court

Sept. 29, 2017



Tired of losing in the courts, Republican lawmakers are again 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.



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 current 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. Since June, one Superior Court Judge has [announced his retirement](#). Judge Donald Stephens in Wake County will retire effective November 1, that will subtract one Democrat from the 53 until a replacement is appointed.

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 58 of 98 seats. That's 59%, even though Republican and Democratic votes were split 50-50 statewide.

Superior Court Partisan Makeup

