



INTRODUCTION

Please see below for a breakdown of what's been happening on Jones Street.

REDISTRICTING:

After a busy week at the legislature, the state has new maps! The once-a-decade redistricting process has resulted in new congressional and legislative maps based off of changes in population from the U.S. Census. Although the General Assembly approved them, that may not be the final word on these maps. Legal challenges to the fairness of these maps are already beginning. Civil rights groups filed suit before they were even voted on, saying the failure to use racial data reduced minority representation in Congress and the General Assembly. The court fight that is just beginning is sure to be watched closely by policymakers, advocates and potential candidates alike.

Critics argue that the maps provide a disproportionate advantage to Republicans, who have the majority in both chambers and led the redistricting process. They argue that, under these maps, a nearly 50/50 partisan-split state will have Republicans holding 10-11 Congressional seats to Democrats' 3-4 seats. According to experts, these new maps could also result in Senate Republicans picking up two seats for a veto-proof majority in the Senate.

Republican leadership has held that there was no wrongdoing. Senate Redistricting Chairman Ralph Hise said the process was the "most transparent process as anywhere in the country and ever in North Carolina," a sentiment that has been shared by House counterpart, Chairman Destin Hall. "We drew a fair and legal map," Hise said Wednesday. "We drew a map without consideration of racial data, and we drew a map without consideration of political information or data."

The bills passed out of both chambers along party lines. Since redistricting maps are not subject to gubernatorial approval, these maps are officially passed into law without any opportunity for a veto. The State Board of Elections will now get to work under these maps to prepare for candidate filing beginning on December 6th.



NORTH CAROLINA SECURITY AND LOW VOLTAGE ASSOCIATION



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An analysis of the maps published by the News and Observer this week included this breakdown:

Congressional:

- The new congressional map grew from 13 to 14 seats due to North Carolina's rapid population growth in the 2020 Census.
- The new map will have eight safe Republican seats, three safe Democratic seats and three competitive seats, of which two would lean right and one would lean left.
- Possible Republican-Democrat balance: That means Republicans would be expected to win a 10-4 advantage if voters again split the statewide vote more or less evenly. It could increase to an 11-3 GOP advantage if Republicans have a strong year, and Republicans would still expect to hold an 8-6 advantage even in a strong year for Democrats.
- Democrats could expect to win the two seats that include Raleigh and Durham, one of the Charlotte-area seats and potentially the district in northeastern North Carolina that abuts the Triangle.

NC Senate:

- The new map would give Republicans 24 safe seats, which is two short of a 26-member majority. Democrats have 17 safe seats and would have to win every competitive district to win the majority.
- Possible Republican-Democrat balance: There would be nine competitive seats out of the 50 total. Five of those would lean Republican and four would lean Democratic.
- Republicans would be expected to likely win a majority and could also win a veto-proof supermajority by holding all of the right-leaning competitive districts and flipping one of the left-leaning ones.

NC House:

- Republicans have 55 safe seats, which is six short of a 61-member majority. Democrats would have 41 safe seats, so they would have to win 20 of the 24 competitive districts to win a majority.
- Possible Republican-Democrat balance: There would be 24 competitive seats, 13 of which lean Republican. Getting to a 72-member supermajority would require Republicans to win 17 of those 24 competitive seats.

BusinessNC published a breakdown of the incumbent members who are "double-bunked" under the new NC House and Senate maps, along with members whose political fortunes are endangered by the makeup of their new districts:

These lawmakers are in the awkward "double bunking" position as the maps are currently drawn:

House:

- Rep. Julia Howard (R-Davie) with Rep. Lee Zachary (R-Yadkin)
- Rep. Ed Goodwin (R-Chowan) with Rep. Bobby Hanig (R-Currituck)
- Rep. Jamie Boles (R-Moore) with Rep. Ben Moss (R-Richmond)
- Rep. David Rogers (R-Rutherford) with Rep. Jake Johnson (R-Polk)
- House Majority Leader John Bell (R-Wayne) with Rep. Raymond Smith (D-Wayne)

Senate:

- Sen. Ralph Hise (R-Mitchell) with Sen. Deanna Ballard (R-Watauga)
- Sen. Bob Steinburg (R-Chowan) with Sen. Norm Sanderson (R-Pamlico)
- Sen. Dave Craven (R-Randolph) with Sen. Tom McInnis (R-Richmond, who is changing his residence to Moore County to avoid the double-bunking)
- Sen. Natasha Marcus (D-Mecklenburg) with Sen. Vickie Sawyer (R-Iredell)

Several incumbents will have districts that could prove difficult to win in their new forms, with partisan leanings that favor the other party. They are:

- Sen. Ernestine Bazemore (D-Bertie)
- Sen. Toby Fitch (D-Wilson)
- Sen. Lisa Barnes (R-Nash)
- Sen. Sydney Batch (D-Wake)
- Sen. Natasha Marcus (D-Mecklenburg, who's double-bunked with a Republican incumbent)
- Rep. Brian Farkas, (D-Pitt)
- Rep. John Szoka (R-Cumberland)
- Rep. Diane Wheatley (R-Cumberland)
- Rep. Terence Everitt (D-Wake)
- Rep. Larry Yarborough (R-Person)
- Rep. Rachel Hunt (D-Mecklenburg)
- Rep. Raymond Smith (D-Wayne, double-bunked with Rep John Bell, R-Wayne)
- Rep. Brian Turner (D-Buncombe).

Please see the links below to view our state's new maps:

[NC Senate Map](#)

[NC House Map](#)

[Congressional Map](#)

BUDGET UPDATE

Don't lose hope on a budget just yet! Speaker Moore announced on the floor that they hope to have a voting session the week of November 15th to take up the budget. The Speaker did sound fairly confident about this schedule. This comes along with reports that the budget negotiations are souring between the Governor's office and Republican leadership. With that in mind, this could mean that the General Assembly is ready to roll on with their own budget by that date if an agreement still has not been reached.

BILL UPDATES

HOUSE BILL 264, Emergency Powers Accountability Act. This bill that would clarify the expiration of a statewide state of emergency and the exercise of certain powers under a statewide state of emergency, the abatement of statewide imminent hazards, and statewide quarantines was vetoed by the Governor on November 1, 2021. In his veto, Governor Cooper states that, "North

Carolina is emerging from a global pandemic with lives saved and a strong economy because of effective statewide measures to protect public health under the Emergency Management Act. Critical decisions about stopping deadly diseases, or responding to any other emergency, should stay with experts in public health and safety, not a committee of partisan politicians. We must be able to act quickly and thoroughly when deadly diseases, hurricanes, or any other dangers threaten people's lives and jobs. An emergency needs decisive, quick and comprehensive action, not bureaucracy and politics.”

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