

WHERE WE STAND - REDISTRICTING & VOTER SUPPRESSION

In a democracy, the right to vote protects all of the other rights guaranteed to us by the Constitution. Unfortunately, those rights are under attack, as is the right to vote. Lacking confidence in their ability to win fair elections, MAGA Republicans brazenly change the rules of the game to maintain their hold on power. This means redrawing Congressional district maps to include their "base" and exclude voters whose race, ethnicity, and economic situation would lead them to lean Democratic. Our current array of 14 Congressional districts already features some bizarre geometry, and the latest next batch of maps are even more twisted through continued Republican gerrymandering.

Republicans are also making voting more difficult for target populations, hoping they'll be dissuaded from voting. By reducing the number of days of early voting, requiring photo identification, and limiting methods of voting by mail or drop box, MAGA Republicans hope you'll just stay home and give them another term of office unchallenged. If that doesn't work, then allowing MAGA "observers" at polling places might keep people home. They also hope Democratic opponents will see the difficulties of running in a "safe" MAGA district and abandon their dreams of representing North Carolinians.



North Carolina is not the only state where gerrymandering and voter suppression are occurring. It's a nationwide problem, clogging our courts with legal challenges and emboldening MAGA Republicans to stick with the plan because – for them – it's working very well. For the rest of us, it's a disaster. For a representative democracy to function, voters must be empowered and energized to turn out to vote.

We are committed to protecting your right to vote and having your vote matter in selecting the leaders who will represent you. We believe MAGA Republican efforts to gerrymander our districts in their favor and to make the voting process more cumbersome need to be reversed. Equitably drawn maps should be drafted and finalized by independent, non-partisan organizations, and legislation should be enacted to prevent partisan electoral malfeasance in the future.

Here's what DEMOCRATS are doing to PROTECT your right to vote:

- Filed a <u>lawsuit</u> charging that NC Senate Bill (SB) 749 violates the Separation of Powers and Faithful Execution Clauses of the NC Constitution.
- Filed a <u>lawsuit</u> charging that NC SB 747 creates an increased risk of disenfranchisement of young North Carolinians and violates the 1st, 14th, and 26th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution.
- Introduced the <u>Freedom to Vote Act</u> in the US Senate which would set basic national standards to ensure all Americans can cast their ballots in the way that works best for them, regardless of their zip code. This bill would ensure Americans can request a mail-in ballot and have access to drop boxes, have at least two weeks of early voting, and be able to register to vote on Election Day.

Here's what MAGA REPUBLICANS are doing to SUPPRESS your voting rights:

- Passed and overrode Gov. Cooper's veto of SB 749, which would:
 - ◆ Make State and County Boards of Elections (BOEs) evenly split half Democratic and half Republican appointees. RESULT: Gridlock, with the MAGA legislature empowered to break ties.
 - ◆ Create deadlocks on BOEs regarding Early Voting options, with the default being <u>one</u> early voting site per county, open only during business hours and one Saturday. RESULT: Disproportionately reducing voting options for working people, seniors, rural residents, and people of color.
- Passed and overrode Gov. Cooper's veto of SB 747, which would:
 - ◆ Sharply reduce access to Absentee Mail-in Voting, eliminating the 3-day grace period for mail-in ballots. RESULT: Suppress the votes of people with disabilities, the elderly, and rural residents.
 - ◆ Expose voters and election volunteers to harassment and criminal charges and allow partisan poll observers to follow voters around the polling place. RESULT: Fear of intimidation disproportionally affecting the poor, elderly rural, and minority voters.



TAKE ACTION!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: brunswickdem.org

CONTACT YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS (North Carolina General Assembly):

☑ Representative Frank Iler (R) District 17

Email: frank.ller@ncleg.gov; Phone: (919) 301-1450

Representative Charles Miller (R), District 19

Email: Charles.Miller@ncleg.gov; Phone: (919) 733-5830

Senator Bill Rabon (R), District 8 (Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover)

Email: bill.Rabon@ncleg.gov; Phone: (919) 733-5963

CONTACT YOUR U.S. CONGRESSMAN AND SENATORS

☑ Congressman David Rouzer (R), District 7

Email: rouzerforms.house.gov/contact/; Phone: (910) 253-6111

☑ Senator Thom Tillis (R)

Email: <u>tillis.senate.gov/email-me</u>; Phone: (202) 224-6342

✓ Senator Ted Budd (R)

Email: www.budd.senate.gov/share-your-opinion/; Phone: (202) 224-3154