

# 2011

- March 1  Census Bureau ships North Carolina's local census data to the governor and legislative leaders.
- June 17  Republicans release redistricting proposal for Voting Rights Act districts.
- July 27  NC Senate enacts State Senate plan "Rucho Senate 2", enacted.
- July 28  General Assembly enacts Congressional District Plan.
- July 28  NC House enacts State House plan "Lewis-Dollar-Dockham 4."
- September 2  North Carolina officials submit the state's redistricting maps for pre-clearance under the Voting Rights Act. At the time, the act required that certain states submit their redistricting maps to the U.S. Department of Justice (U.S. D.O.J) or the U.S. District Court for approval. North Carolina chose to submit to both agencies.
- November 1  U.S. D.O.J. pre-approves North Carolina's Congressional and legislative maps in accordance with the Voting Rights Act.
- November 4   
(Dickson v. Rucho) Despite U.S. D.O.J. approval, 45 North Carolina residents file suit against North Carolina's Congressional and legislative redistricting plans in Wake County Superior Court. Former state Senator Margaret Dickson and at least seven other former Democrat politicians are among the Plaintiffs in this case. In all, there are two former State Senators, four former State House members and two former Congressman. Among the politicians, one was drawn out of her district in 2011 and three lost re-elections in 2010.

November 4 

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(Dickson v. Rucho) NAACP, League of Women Voters, Democracy NC and A. Philip Randolph Institute join in opposition to North Carolina's legislative and Congressional maps, filing suit over the new plans in Wake County Superior Court.

December 19 

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(Dickson v. Rucho) Dickson and "NAACP" Cases consolidated.

## 2012

January 13 

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(Dickson v. Rucho) Legislative leaders seek dismissal of redistricting lawsuit.

February 6 

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(Dickson v. Rucho) The Superior Court allows in part and denies in part defendants' motion to dismiss.

## 2013

July 8 

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(Dickson v. Rucho) Three-judge panel for the Superior Court upholds the 2011 redistricting plans. The Court, in a unanimous decision, agrees that 26 of the 30 contested districts (VRA districts) had been drawn predominately on the basis of race, but plans served the compelling state interest because they were drawn to comply with section 2 of the VRA - Plaintiffs appeal Dickson v. Rucho ruling to the North Carolina Supreme Court.

## 2014

December 19 

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(Dickson v. Rucho) North Carolina Supreme Court affirms North Carolina Superior Court's decision - Plaintiffs appeal Dickson v. Rucho ruling to the North Carolina Supreme Court.

## 2015

April 20 

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(Dickson v. Rucho)

U.S. Supreme Court vacates the N.C. Supreme Court's opinion and remands back to North Carolina's Supreme Court for "further consideration in light of its recent decision in Alabama Legislative Black Caucus v. Alabama."

May 19

(Covington v. North Carolina)

Covington v. North Carolina filed in U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina. Plaintiffs contend that Republican lawmakers relied too heavily on race when drawing the districts in 2011, resulting in an increase in the percentage of black voters in districts where black voters had been successfully electing their black candidates in years prior.

December 18

(Dickson v. Rucho)

State Supreme Court reconsiders Dickson v. Rucho case and again found that the General Assembly was justified in using race to redraw the state's Congressional and legislative voting districts after the 2010 census. The Court vindicates the General Assembly's actions to avoid liability under the Voting Rights Act and ruled that the plans did not violate Plaintiffs' constitutional rights.

## 2016

February 5

(Cooper v. Harris)

Three-judge panel rules that the General Assembly in 2011 relied too heavily on race when drawing Congressional majority-minority districts 1 and 12.

February 19

(Cooper v. Harris)

Legislature enacts new Congressional district plan. New map drawn in response to ruling by the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina.

August 5

(Common Cause v. North Carolina)

Common Cause files a lawsuit in Federal Court claiming the newest Congressional plan (Cooper v. Harris) constitutes illegal partisan gerrymandering.

August 11

(Covington v. North Carolina)

U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina rules in a unanimous decision that North Carolina's state legislative district map constitutes an illegal racial gerrymander. The court specifically cites the minority-majority districts drawn to comply with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act - nine Senate districts and 19 state House districts.

August 22

(Common Cause v. North Carolina)

League of Women Voters files suit in U.S. District for the Middle District of North Carolina. The Common Cause case and the League of Women Voters' case were consolidated.

September 13

(Covington v. North Carolina)

Defendants appeal ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court.

November 29

(Covington v. North Carolina)

U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina enters an Order directing the Defendants to redraw legislative districts by March 1, 2017, file new maps with the Court within seven days of passage, and directs the State of North Carolina to hold special primary and general elections in the fall of 2017.

December 2

(Covington v. North Carolina)

Defendants ask U.S. District Court of North Carolina for stay of decision to draw new maps and hold election in 2017.

December 22

(Covington v. North Carolina)

Defendants appeal case to U.S. Supreme Court.

## 2017

January 4

(Covington v. North Carolina)

U.S. District Court denies Defendants Motion to stay the decision to draw new maps and hold election in 2017.

May 22

(Covington v. North Carolina)

U.S. District Court enters an order directing the Defendants to redraw legislative districts by March 1, 2017, file new maps with the Court within seven days of passage, and directs the State of North Carolina to hold special primary and General Elections in the fall of 2017.

June 5

(Covington v. North Carolina)

U.S. Supreme Court affirms lower court's ruling (that Republicans had relied too heavily on the use of race when drawing legislative districts in 2011. At the same time SCOTUS rejects the Federal Court's order for State lawmakers to immediately redraw the legislative districts in order to hold a special election in 2017 to elect new legislators.

June 7 

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(Covington v. North Carolina) With the General Assembly already in session, Governor Roy Cooper calls for an extra session (to commence on June 8) of the General Assembly in order to enact new legislative district plans.

June 8 

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(Covington v. North Carolina) Suggesting that the Governor's call for a special session is a political stunt, Republican leaders press on with the current session and indicated they were waiting for the Courts' direction before going forward with special election plans.

July 31 

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(Covington v. North Carolina) U.S. District Court denies Plaintiff's request to force a special legislative election before the scheduled 2018 contests. The three-judge panel gives the legislature a September 1, 2017 deadline to draw new legislative maps.

August 31 

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(Covington v. North Carolina) North Carolina legislators complete and submit new House and Senate district maps to the three-judge panel.

September 15 

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(Covington v. North Carolina) Plaintiffs suggest the appointment of a "Special Master"

October 12 

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(Covington v. North Carolina) U.S. District Judge Catherine Eagles orders the two sides in the case to come up with three people they agree would be qualified to draw new maps as "Special Master."

October 26 

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(Covington v. North Carolina) Three-Judge Panel issues, order appointing Nathaniel "Nate" Persily, a Stanford law professor, as a "Special Master" to assist the Court in further evaluating and, if necessary, redrawing" the revised maps.

October 30 

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(Covington v. North Carolina) Republican lawmakers file motion objecting to the appointment of a "Special Master". Arguing that there was ample time for the state legislature to make any Court-ordered amendments to the maps before the 2018 candidate filing period.

November 1 

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(Covington v. North Carolina) Three-Judge Panel officially appoints "Special Master." Sets December 1 deadline for Persily's report.

December 11 

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(Covington v. North Carolina) Defendants ask U.S. District Court to issue its final ruling no later than January 10.

December 12 

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(Covington v. North Carolina) Court denies Plaintiffs request to accelerate case.