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LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

U.S. top court blocks redraw of North Carolina congressional maps

RUTERS © Andrew Chung January 18, 2018

Jan 18 (Reuters) - The U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday blocked a lower court's order for North Carolina to rework its congressional map because Republicans violated the Constitution by drawing electoral districts intended to maximize their party's chances of winning.

The conservative-majority court granted a bid by Republican legislators in North Carolina to suspend the Jan. 9 order by a federal court panel in Greensboro that gave the Republican-controlled General Assembly until Jan. 24 to come up with a new map for U.S. House of Representatives districts. Two liberal justices, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor, objected to the high court's action. The Supreme Court's decision to stay the order reduces the chance that the current district lines will be altered ahead of the November mid-term congressional elections. The court offered no reason for its decision.

The three-judge panel ruled that the Republican-drawn districts violated the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of equal protection under the law by intentionally hobbling the electoral strength of

non-Republican voters. Two of the three judges also said the plan ran afoul of the Constitution's First Amendment by discriminating based on political belief and association. Those judges on Tuesday refused to put the ruling on hold.

North Carolina's congressional maps were challenged in two lawsuits by more than two dozen Democratic voters, the North Carolina Democratic Party and other groups. Under current North Carolina congressional boundaries, Republicans won 10 of the 13 House districts in 2016, despite getting just 53 percent of the statewide vote.

The North Carolina dispute centers on a congressional redistricting plan adopted by the Republican-led legislature in 2016. The Republican lawmaker in charge of the plan said it was crafted to favor his party because he thinks "electing Republicans is better than electing Democrats." "But that is not a choice the Constitution allows legislative mapdrawers to make," the lower court said in unanimously striking down the plan.

To view and read entire article go to: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/us-top-court-blocks-redraw-of-north-carolina-congressional-maps/ar-AAuROY4?ocid=spartanntp&ffid=gz>

WARNING

To be read by

MATURE AUDIENCES ONLY

Quotes from Former US Presidents and Scholars - Were They Predicting Our Government Today?

"As democracy is perfected, the office of the President represents, more and more closely, the inner soul of the people. On some great and glorious day, the plain folks of the land will reach their heart's desire at last and the White House will be occupied by a downright fool and complete narcissistic moron."

--H.L. Mencken, *the Baltimore Evening Sun*, July 26, 1920

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"To consider the judges as the ultimate arbiters of all constitutional questions [is] a very dangerous doctrine indeed, and one which would place us under the despotism of an oligarchy."

-- **Thomas Jefferson letter to William C. Jarvis, 1820.**

"...the opinion which gives to the judges the right to decide what laws are constitutional and what not, not only for themselves in their own sphere of action but for the Legislature and Executive also in their spheres, would make the Judiciary a despotic branch."

-- **Thomas Jefferson**

"It is the responsibility of the patriot to protect his country from its government."

-- **Thomas Paine**

"The issue today is the same as it has been throughout all history, whether man shall be allowed to govern himself or be ruled by a small elite."

-- **Thomas Jefferson**

"The greatest [calamity] which could befall [us would be] submission to a government of unlimited powers."

-- **Thomas Jefferson, [Declaration and Protest of Virginia, \[1825\]](#)**

A wise and frugal government ... shall restrain men from injuring one another, shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned. This is the sum of good government."

-- **Thomas Jefferson, First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1801**

"Democracy will soon degenerate into an anarchy; such an anarchy that every man will do what is right in his own eyes and no man's life or property or reputation or liberty will be secure, and every one of these will soon mould itself into a system of subordination of all the moral virtues and intellectual abilities, all the powers of wealth, beauty, wit, and science, to the wanton pleasures, the capricious will, and the execrable cruelty of one or a very few."

-- **John Adams, An Essay on Man's Lust for Power (1763)**

"Nip the shoots of arbitrary power in the bud, is the only maxim which can ever preserve the liberties of any people. When the people give way, their deceivers, betrayers, and destroyers press upon them so fast, that there is no resisting afterwards. The nature of the encroachment upon the American constitution is such, as to grow every day more and more encroaching. Like a cancer, it eats faster and faster every hour. The revenue creates pensioners, and the pensioners urge for more revenue. The people grow less steady, spirited, and virtuous, the seekers more numerous and more corrupt, and every day increases the circles of their dependents and expectants, until virtue, integrity, public spirit, simplicity, and frugality, become the objects of ridicule and scorn, and vanity, luxury, foppery, selfishness, meanness, and downright venality swallow up the whole society."

-- **John Adams, Novanglus Letters, 1774**

"I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies. If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issue of their currency, first by inflation, then by deflation, the banks and corporations that will grow up around [the banks] will deprive the people of all property until their children wake-up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered. The issuing power should be taken from the banks and restored to the people, to whom it properly belongs."

-- **Thomas Jefferson /Letter to the Secretary of the Treasury Albert Gallatin (1802)**

"A Constitution of Government once changed from Freedom, can never be restored. Liberty, once lost, is lost forever."

--**John Adams in a Letter to Abigail Adams (July 7, 1775)**