

N.C. NAACP rejects new voting maps

BY CASH MICHAELS
FOR THE CHRONICLE

State Republican lawmakers may be pleased with themselves after redrawing North Carolina's 13-district congressional maps last week, but the N.C. NAACP is not.

The civil rights organization told reporters Monday that they are asking the federal appeals court that ordered the new voting maps to now reject them and redraw new ones itself,

because GOP lawmakers substituted partisanship for race in their new maps, making them just as bad as the previous voting districts the federal court ruled earlier this month to be unconstitutional.

The N.C. NAACP insisted that the Republican lawmakers who drew the original maps cannot be trusted.

The original plaintiffs in the case have asked that the new maps be thrown out by March 18.

Attorneys for the N.C. NAACP are joining with the original plaintiffs in the lawsuit that forced the state Legislature to reconvene last week to redraw the congressional maps, in asking the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals to expedite its review and toss out the new maps. The N.C. NAACP also wants the U.S. Supreme Court to consolidate the various North Carolina cases involving congressional

and legislative maps and declare them unconstitutional so that voters will be able to have confidence in their voting districts.

A state court case involving the constitutionality of the 2011 legislative maps is scheduled to be heard in April.

Thanks to the Feb. 5 ruling by a three-judge panel of the Fourth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, the 2011 redistricting maps drawn by the N.C. General Assembly were determined to be unconstitutional because black voters had been "stacked and packed" into the First and Twelfth Congressional districts.

Race cannot be the primary reason for creating voting districts under the U.S. Constitution. Party affiliation, however, can be used.

The court ruling disallowed the 2011 maps, which had already been used in the 2012 and 2014 elections, from being utilized in the upcoming March 15 primaries and subsequent Nov. 8 general elections.

The N.C. NAACP says the two elections that were conducted under the 2011 maps were illegal, given the federal court's ruling that maps were unconstitutional.

State lawmakers were given until Friday, Feb. 19 to redraw the districts and submit them to the federal appellate court for review. Republicans had hoped that the U.S. Supreme Court would stay the lower court's order, thus allowing the 2011 maps to still be used for March 15, but the U.S. High Court refused to stay the order Friday, meaning that the new congressional maps drawn will be in force on June 7, the new North Carolina congressional pri-

mary day state lawmakers decided on last week.



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their new maps, which changed the configuration of several districts beyond the First and Twelfth, and now have several incumbent congressional members facing off against each other.

Much of 12th District, Congresswoman Alma Adams' district, for example, has now been absorbed into the 13th District. Adams still vows to run to represent the 12th District.

Adams is facing two challengers in the primary: Gardenia Henley of Winston-Salem and Juan Antonio Marin Jr. of Greensboro. Henley said she plans to keep running for the 12th District seat and hopes the district was redrawn fairly.

"I'm grateful to the NAACP for filing the lawsuit and the court for ruling in their favor," she said.

Marin also said he will continue to run in the 12th District. He said he felt the redrawn district is a good idea.

"I personally have no problem with the redistricting," he said.

The UNC-Charlotte graduate said that it'll make campaigning easier because he can now focus his energies on Mecklenburg County instead of the various counties that were formerly covered by the 12th District.

The N.C. Republican Party charges that there is nothing wrong with the new congressional maps, and the N.C. NAACP only wants them redrawn so that Democrats can have an easier way of winning in the upcoming elections.

Chronicle staff writer Todd Luck contributed to this report.

CAMPAIGN

2016

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'Remarkable' students gain awards

SPECIAL TO
THE CHRONICLE

A student from each public school in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County, as well as from some private schools, was honored on Feb. 18 during the 36th annual Human Relations Student Awards Banquet at the Embassy Suites Twin City Quarter. Close to 600 members of the community attended.

Mayor Allen Joines read a proclamation naming February as Human Relations Month in Winston-Salem. He also emphasized the importance of cultural diversity and inclusion. Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian H. Burke also brought greetings and

challenged the young people in the audience to remain selfless and service-oriented in the community.

The theme of this year's banquet was "Our Community, Our Responsibility." The Rev. Dr. Darryl Aaron, the pastor of Providence Baptist Church in Greensboro and the former pastor of First Baptist Church on Highland Avenue in Winston-Salem, was the keynote speaker for the evening.

In his remarks, Aaron encouraged the awardees to bravely continue to make a difference in their communities. He spoke of the need for our youth to

remain encouraged and to persevere in the face of diversity.

The Human Relations Commission partners with the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools to hold the banquet, which honors students who exemplify positive human relations in their dealings with others on such issues as race, religion and cultural differences.

The Human Relations Commission is proud to host an event that highlights so many remarkable Winston-Salem students," said Nora Baker, the chairwoman of the Human Relations Commission. "Whether a child is 6 or a senior in high school, the banquet shows that a young person can really make a noticeable difference in his or her community by being conscientious and respectful."

Dana Caudill Jones, the chairwoman of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education, brought greetings on behalf of the board.

Winston-Salem State University and move Hanes Middle students into WSPA is not part of the bond. The potential move is doubtful, but other types of partnerships between WSSU and Prep may happen in the future, she said. After toxicity concerns, Hanes moved to the former Hill Middle School last year. Another move or a new school for Hanes is not in the bond.

During the public comments, Frankie Santoro, who's been a teacher at Southeast Middle School for the last seven years, told school officials he supported building the new Smith Farm middle school, which would relieve overcrowding at his school. Southeast was built for 750 students but currently has 1,164 students, he said. Since student achievement is directly related to class size, he urged school officials to make sure the middle school becomes a reality.

"Please, please push for that," he said.

Comment meetings, which have been lightly attended so far, will continue in March. The school board will vote on the bond in April and present it to county commissioners in May or June for approval to go on the ballot in November.

"For me, it's more about are there programmatic changes we need to make in those school environments that would make it more attractive or appealing?" she said.

A potential idea the school system held meetings on last year to move the high school portion of WSPA to the campus of

She commended the student awardees for their demonstrating compassion and inclusiveness at such a young age. She stated that the program proved that there are many outstanding students in our local community.

Recipients were honored for a variety of community service activities, including participation on safety patrols, service at local nonprofit agencies, and development of school-wide environmental programs. Students were also recognized for less measurable deeds, such as babysitting siblings for

working parents, assisting teachers in the classroom with tutoring or Spanish translation, and reaching out a welcoming hand to struggling students.

In all, 86 students were recognized, and as a whole, they reflected the diversity of Winston-Salem, said Wanda Allen-Abraha, the city's director of human relations. "This group of student awardees tonight is representative of the positive relationships that have formed across our community," she said. "Not only do we see cultural diversity in our families, teachers, and students, but also in

our support." The banquet received a record amount of sponsorship this year from a wide variety of local businesses, individuals, and community organizations.

Dr. Kenneth Simington, the chief academic officer for the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, also welcomed and greeted the audience. He congratulated the student awardees and their schools for creating learning environments that promote compassion and service throughout the school year.

Forsyth County Board of Elections Early Voting Schedule

March 15, 2016 Primary Election

Main Office Location:

Thursday & Friday
Monday – Friday
Saturday

March 3 – 4.....8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
March 7 – 11.....8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
March 12.....9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Forsyth County Board of Elections
Forsyth County Government Center
201 N. Chestnut Street – Winston Salem

Satellite Locations:

Monday – Tuesday
Wednesday – Friday
Saturday

March 7 – 8.....10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
March 9 – 11.....10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
March 12.....9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Brown & Douglas Recreation Center
4725 Indiana Ave – Winston Salem

Kernersville Senior Center/Library
130 East Mountain Street – Kernersville

Mazie Woodruff Center
4905 Lansing Drive – Winston Salem

Polo Park Rec Center
1850 Polo Rd – Winston-Salem

Southside Library
3185 Buchanan St – Winston Salem

Clemmons Library
3554 Clemmons Rd – Clemmons

Lewisville Library
6490 Shallowford Rd – Lewisville

Old Town Recreation Center
4550 Shattalton Drive – Winston Salem

Rural Hall Library
7125 Broad Street – Rural Hall

St. Paul United Methodist Church
2400 Delabrook Road – Winston Salem



GOT ID?

Beginning with the
March 15, 2016 Primary Election

most voters must show acceptable photo ID at the polls.

For more information about the photo ID requirement, please visit www.voterid.nc.gov



School Bond Meetings

Thursday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. – West Forsyth High School, 1735 Lewisville-Clemmons Road, Clemmons

Monday, March 7 at 7 p.m. – North Forsyth High School, 5705 Shattalton Drive

Thursday, March 10 at noon – The Downtown School, 601 N. Cherry Street

Monday, March 14 at 7 p.m. – Speas Elementary School, 2000 W. Polo Road

For additional information contact the Forsyth County Board of Elections
(336) 703-2800 www.fvotes.com