

FORUM

'I remain your representative and your strong voice in Congress'



Rep.
Alma
Adams
Guest
Columnist

A federal court struck down North Carolina's 1st and 12th Congressional Districts in February. The Courts determined that both districts were racially gerrymandered.

That decision mandated that the North Carolina legislature draw new Congressional Districts in accordance with the federal law. These newly drawn Congressional Districts, which take effect January 2017, dramatically restructure the 12th Congressional District and remove all parts of Guilford, Forsyth, Davidson and Cabarrus Counties.

However, the new Congressional District that we voted on in the June primaries of this year was to choose a party representative who will run in the Nov. 8 election. The new district will not take effect until January 2017, thus I remain your representative and your strong voice in Congress. You can continue to count on me to provide top-notch constituent services for you and your family.

As your representative, you can count on me to

fight for jobs and for greater economic opportunities throughout our district. I am making strides to bridge the skills gap between job seekers and employers and to create more opportunities for hard-working Americans.

In addition to job creation and growth, access to quality and affordable healthcare continues to be part of the American dream. Drastic cuts to Medicare and Medicaid are threats to that dream. I will continue to fight for access to healthcare, especially for our seniors.

Since taking office in 2014 in order to better serve you, I have opened District Offices in Greensboro and Charlotte. We host community office hours, which are announced weekly. My staff throughout the 12th District is ready to answer your call and is here to serve you. If you wish to host community office hours in your neighborhood, do not hesitate to contact my office in Charlotte at 704 344-9950 or in Greensboro at: 336-275-9950 or email us: nc12scheduler@mail.house.gov.

I also have six standing satellite offices throughout the 12th District located in East Spencer, Salisbury, Lexington, Thomasville, High Point and Winston-Salem. My satellite office



Photos provided by U.S. Rep. Alma Adams Office

U.S. Rep. Alma Adams speaks to people at the Safer 12th community forum in Winston-Salem.

hours will be available to you in these six locations until January 2017.

For additional information, I encourage you to visit www.AlmaAdams.com. Thank you for allowing me to serve you.

Our Standing Satellite Office Hours are available at the following locations:

*East Spencer, Town of East Spencer Municipal Building, 105 S. Long St., East Spencer, NC

28039, 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 9 a.m. to noon

NC 27360, 2nd Tuesdays 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*Salisbury, Salisbury City Hall, 132 Main St., Salisbury, NC 28144, 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

*Lexington, City Hall of Lexington, 28 West Center St., Lexington, NC 27292, 2nd Tuesdays 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

*Thomasville, City Hall of Thomasville, 10 Salem St., Thomasville,

*High Point, City Hall of High Point, 211 S. Hamilton St., High Point, NC 27261,

2nd Tuesdays, 2 to 4 p.m.

*Winston-Salem, Black Phillips Smith Neighborhood Government Services Center,

2301 N. Patterson Ave., Winston-Salem, NC 27105, 1st and 3rd

Our Weekly Community Office Hours take place:

*Tuesday Morning Breakfast Forum, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., Belmont Center, 700 Parkwood Ave., Charlotte, NC

*Charlotte District Office, 321 West 11th St., Suites 100 & 200, Charlotte, NC 28202, 704-344-9950

Racism makes people lose their minds



Bill
Turner
Guest
Columnist

Now 70, I am either losing my mind – and my memory – or people like the governor of Maine and Donald Trump are having similar reactions to the wounds on the collective flesh and souls of Americans, damages brought on by racism and its effects – discrimination and prejudice.

Just when I had forgotten that back in January the Republican governor of Maine, Paul LePage, asserted that drug dealers named "D-Money,"

"Smoothie," and "Shifty" were delivering cocaine, opioids, and other illegal drugs and then impregnating the Pine Tree State's white women before absconding back down I-95, he ups last week and leaves a cussword-filled message on the phone of one of his political critics who'd called him – the Governor – a racist for saying that he also has a binder full of photos of drug dealers and that "90 percent of them are black and Hispanic."

Meanwhile, further up the political food chain, Democrat Hillary Clinton said last week Republican Donald Trump has built his campaign on prejudice and paranoia and reliance on the emerging white nationalist supporters, now branded as the alt-right. Trump, in response, called Clinton a bigot. Am I going crazy or is the kettle calling the pot black? This old figure of speech means a person (Trump) is guilty of the very thing of which he accuses another (Hillary Clinton). Trump (the "pot") shares some quality (bigotry) with the target of his

accusation (the "kettle," Hillary Clinton).

How in the world of common sense can candidate Trump possibly mock Secretary Clinton, unless it's for her "lesser amount of soot," because many Hispanics, Muslims, women, and disabled people would say that he is thoroughly covered with it (bigotry)? How senseless and meaningless the narrative becomes when the words we used to agree on, are changed? Either words matter or we won't know what we're talking about; and the next thing you know, all of us will be talking out of our heads! Where I come from, when a person is talking out of their head, we call them "crazy!"

At one point during his

72 hour tirade about people of color, Governor LePage stormed out of a press conference, shouting at the gathered press corps: "You make me so sick."

Leading Maine Democrats have urged the governor to resign and seek treatment, that he, like a doped-up crack head, has lost touch with reality. It is hard to know what – or what else – the honorable governor of Maine is sick of or from, or what he needs treatment for, but it's high time the American Psychiatric Association included racism, prejudice, and bigotry on its diagnostic categories of mental disorders. These sicknesses are obviously doing as much damage – if not more – to America as cocaine, heroin, methamphetamines, and especially women impregnated in 97 percent white Maine by guys named "D-Money."

Mr. Trump asked black voters last week, challenging them to vote for him, "What the hell do you have to lose?" Secretary Clinton answered, "Everything!" I swear I could hear a chorus of Trump supporters singing an oldie by Sly and the Family Stone: "I want to thank you for letting me be myself again!"

Am I losing my freakin' mind?

Dr. Bill Turner is a noted educator, writer and thinker who called Winston-Salem home for many years. Reach him at bill-tuerner@comcast.net.