

Limbo

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Writing for the panel, U.S. Circuit Judge Jim Wynn said they would normally allow the state to wait for districts to be redrawn in 2020.

In fact, when a similar panel that included Wynn struck down nearly 30 legislative districts in August 2016, the judges wrote that November's elections could continue under the old maps because it was too late to change them then.

But Wynn wrote there are "unusual circumstances" that make elections under new lines possible this fall. They include a showdown between

Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper and Republican lawmakers over proposed constitutional amendments that have delayed the printing of ballots.

The panel also plans to hire an outside expert to draw an alternative plan as a backup plan. They've asked the parties for some suggestions for a "special master" by Wednesday.

Appeal to Supreme Court?

Wynn suggested primaries for redrawn seats could be held in November, with a general election before Congress convenes. Or there could be only a general election, presumably with any number of candidates affiliated

with multiple parties running for each seat.

Republican legislative leaders disagree with the ruling and say they would ask the Supreme Court to block any lower-court decision requiring a new map be drawn so elections could be held under them now.

While justices have been wary in the past of altering the rules so close to an election, the retirement of Justice Anthony Kennedy means there are now eight people on the court. A 4-4 split would mean the lower court ruling would stand, and elections under new districts would be required. The justices could still hear the bulk of the case later.

Can it be done?

Election officials would face severe challenges holding congressional elections in November under a new map. Some say it's impossible.

Wynn mentioned Sept. 17 as a possible deadline for lawmakers to submit redrawn districts. That's just five days before federal law requires absentee ballots to be sent to military and overseas voters.

The plaintiffs would be allowed to file objections to that plan, Wynn wrote. Usually there's a new candidate filing period, while election officials would have to code new district information for nearly 7

million registered voters and prepare new ballots.

Gerry Cohen, a former longtime legislative staff attorney and election matters expert, said he can't see how elections could be held on Nov. 6. There are two workable options, Cohen tweeted — either wait until 2020 elections or hold elections in early January through a process in which party activists choose the nominees.

What's at stake

With control of the U.S. House on the line, the two major parties already were gearing up for competitive races in North Carolina and raising millions of dollars.

Democrats already

appear to be targeting the 9th and 13th Districts seats held by the GOP. And President Donald Trump planned to attend a fundraising luncheon Friday in Charlotte for 13th Rep. Ted Budd and 9th GOP candidate Mark Harris.

While the judicial panel found 12 of the 13 congressional districts violated the equal protection provision of the U.S. Constitution, all 13 would have to be altered. A rewrite would likely open more opportunities for Democrats to pick up more seats. Republicans currently hold 10 of the state delegation's 13 seats.



Winston-Salem native Max Maxwell speaks during a free seminar, part of the Triad Minority and Women's Business Expo on Friday, Aug. 24.



Local artist Leo Rucker was one of the entrepreneurs showcased during the fifth annual Triad Minority and Women's Business Expo on Saturday, Aug. 25.

Expo

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want it, it's out there, it's waiting on you, but you're going to have to pay a price. Learn everything you can about what you need to do and go ahead and do it."

Brown also encouraged those who attended to work together. He said, "Whether you're in community work or whether you're in business or whatever you're doing, we can get there together, but we need to help each other."

After Dr. Brown, Dr. George C. Fraser, the chairman and CEO of FraserNet, a company he formed 30 years ago to lead a global networking movement for African-Americans, took to the stage.

The self-proclaimed "networking guru" and author of six best-selling books, Fraser said there are three challenges African-Americans must attack aggressively to maximize their potential on a global scale. Those three obstacles are consciousness, effective relationship building and economics. He said although African-Americans have come a long way, there is still work to be done and it is

important that those looking to succeed in the business world use those obstacles as stepping stones to get where they want to be.

"Where there is no obstacle, there is no way. The obstacle is the way. Your job is to find a way over, around, through or under the obstacle," continued Fraser. "... Like oxygen in a fire, obstacles become the fuel to the blaze that is your ambition."

Rounding out the lineup of guest speakers was Winston-Salem native Max Maxwell, who is a real estate investor and U.S. Air Force veteran, said when he first decided to pursue a career in real estate, his mindset changed. He says that's when he stopped making excuses.

"That was two years ago. Since then, I've built a \$2.5 million company, and the only thing around me that changed was my mindset. Nothing changed around me. People were still doing the same things. The government was still the government. A dollar was still a dollar. The only thing that changed was in between my two ears," said Maxwell. "... Think as if the glass is already half full. When you look at life, you've already won the lottery;

you're here. The question is what are you going to do to fill the rest of the glass?"

Day Two was about showcasing minority-owned business in the Triad and across the state. From fresh baked goods to insurance providers, the expo had something for everyone.

According to Reginald McCaskill, founder of Maximum Exposure, host of the Triad Minority and Women's Business Expo, more than a dozen business owners traveled from Charlotte to participate in the event. Along with more than 100 vendors, several performers had the opportunity to showcase their talents as well.

"This is my first time attending the expo, but after seeing all this, I definitely will be back next year," said Teresa Jones while checking out the vendors on Saturday afternoon.

"There are so many businesses and services on display here today that I've never even heard of. A lot of Black-owned businesses don't survive because they don't get the support they need. I think it's a great idea to bring them together so people can see what they're all about. I

applaud everyone who had a hand in putting this together," Jones said.

Several business owners spoke highly about the expo as well. Artina Dawkins, owner of Events by Artina, said after hearing about the expo from a friend she knew it would be the perfect place to spread the word about her business.

Cheryl Martin and Janae Cotton, brokers with Headley Group Realty, were also on hand during the expo for the first time. Martin said, "The support has been super awesome. We're really excited to be here."

"... We've run into a lot of different people. People looking to buy, sell, or like the gentlemen I just talked to who is looking to invest. We can help with any leg of that process."

Cotton said, "I think this is one of the best things ever. I've met so many people within the last hour. I think this is great for the community, and business owners and I look forward to participating anytime this is held."

Ashley

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children."

While welcoming boys and girls on Monday morning, local entrepreneur Joe Watson said when he heard about the tunnel he felt it was his duty to get involved.

"It's just hit me; the impact of me greeting a young boy or girl who looks like me on the first day of school makes a powerful statement," Watson said.

Officer Ben Harrison, a veteran with the Winston-Salem Police Department, said although he doesn't respond to calls for high-fives and handshakes often, building relationships with children and the community is part of his job.

"It's always good to encourage them and let them see an officer's face who is going to work in their community as well," continued Harrison. "For a lot of students, the first day can be the toughest day of the year because of the unknown and all the new things going on, so when they get to come in and get a high-five, be encouraged, and see a bunch smiling faces, that can set the tone for the rest of the year."

According to Dr. Williams, the welcome tunnel was just the beginning. Throughout the school year, the volunteers will be expected to return to the school to serve as mentors for students. Williams said there are several mentoring events scheduled with the first set for next month.

For more information on how to serve as a mentor at Ashley Global & Cultural Academy visit www.triadmentors.org.

Correction

The Chronicle apologizes for an error made in the print edition on Aug. 23. In the page A1 story with the headline "Crystal Towers sale would displace 200," the article incorrectly stated which ward Crystal Towers is in. It's in the Northwest Ward. The Chronicle regrets any misunderstanding that may have resulted from this error. The Editor



More than 500 students at Ashley Academy for Cultural & Global Studies were greeted by smiling faces and handshakes on the first day of school on Monday, Aug. 27.



A student at Ashley Academy for Cultural and Global studies makes his way through the welcome tunnel on Monday, Aug. 27.

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