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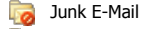
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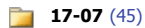
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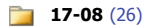
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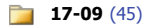

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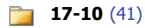
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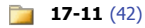
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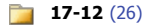
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## For Immediate Release - Senator Joyce Waddell's Redistricting and Judicial Issues

Jyrta Moore (Sen. Joyce Waddell) [Waddelljla@ncleg.net]

Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 11:05 AM



From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate  
Mecklenburg County



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, December 18, 2017

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### Redistricting and Judicial Issues

**Charlotte, NC** – On Tuesday, the North Carolina Democratic Party filed an injunction in federal court against Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger, House Speaker Tim Moore, the state of North Carolina, the State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcements and its Executive Director, Kim Strach, to overturn Senate Bill 656. The law, adopted by the Republican-led General Assembly in October after overriding the Governor's veto, eliminates judicial primaries for 2018. The North Carolina Democratic Party believes that the bill violates the rights given to citizens by the First and Fourteenth Amendments. The Democrats requested that the court make a decision before candidates file for the 2018 election in February.

On Wednesday, the Senate Select Committee on Judicial Reform and Redistricting held a meeting to discuss judicial reform efforts. Don Stephens, a retired Wake County Superior Court judge, was sent by the Governor's office to address the meeting. According to the committee's chairman, Stephens was not allowed to speak because he was not employed by Governor Cooper's office. Viewing this as unfair, the Democrats serving on the committee opted to walk out. During the meeting, a new set of proposed election maps for judges and district attorneys were presented and distributed. Statistical data on the maps were not provided. The introduction of these new maps was not on the public agenda for the meeting.

The racial gerrymandering case involving legislative districts will hold a hearing on January 5 in federal court in Greensboro on a special master's proposed plan for legislative redistricting. The three-judge panel is expected to rule on the constitutionality of the legislative maps submitted by legislators and review the maps drawn by Nathaniel Persily, the special master that they appointed. Republican lawmakers requested the hearing to be expedited and held on December 22 to help the state "seek meaningful Supreme Court review and take additional legislative action if necessary." The three-judge panel denied the request, saying lawmakers were attempting to "impose their own expedited schedule on the Court, the Special Master, and other parties at virtually the last moment."

**"The courts should remain independent from the legislative and executive offices. The legislature should not interfere with state voters' fundamental right to select their judge of choice," said Senator Joyce Waddell.**

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