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### For Immediate Release - Senator Joyce Waddell's Judicial Redistricting in Mecklenburg County

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Sent: Friday, June 08, 2018 9:21 AM



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



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, June 8, 2018

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#### Judicial Redistricting in Mecklenburg County

**Charlotte, NC** – As the short session of the North Carolina General Assembly progresses, an election bill has passed the House and Senate which would make changes to the structure of judicial districts in Mecklenburg County. Senate Bill 757, Various Court Districts Changes, would create eight identical judicial districts for Superior and District Court races, which means voters in each area would only elect judges residing in their district. This bill has passed both the House and the Senate, with Democrats opposing the measure, and was presented to Governor Roy Cooper this week. If the bill becomes law, the re-establishment of judicial districts for the Superior Court districts in Mecklenburg County will begin, effective January 1, 2023.

Senate Bill 757 would subdivide Mecklenburg County into districts so that judicial candidates would not be able to run countywide. Several District Court judges in Mecklenburg County have noted several impacts this bill could have. Senate Bill 757 would concentrate Mecklenburg County by race and lead to high caseloads in higher crime areas. Judges that currently serve in the District Court would have to run in another election in 2018 or move in 2020 as a result of limitations being placed on seats in each district. Most judges in Mecklenburg County prefer to be elected countywide. Restructuring the judicial districts in Mecklenburg County would jeopardize the current racial, ethnic, and economic background diversity that is on the Judicial Bench.

**“Senate Bill 757 limits the ability of the public to decide who should serve as judges in their community. This gerrymandered bill eliminates the diversity on the bench and allows for the expansion of people of the majority race, male or female Republican, to have a better opportunity of receiving a judicial assignment as a District Court judge. Every judge should be elected by the people in the communities they serve,”** said Senator Joyce Waddell.

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