Federal Court: N.C.'s Congressional Maps Must Be Redrawn

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RALEIGH, (SGRToday.com) - A federal court has ordered North Carolina lawmakers to redraw the state's congressional districts after ruling two of the districts were drawn using race as the main factor.

The ruling targets District 1 in northeastern North Carolina and District 12 along the Charlotte/south-central part of the state.

The three-judge panel gives legislators two weeks to draw new lines.

The impact on the March 15 primary election is unknown. Absentee voting has already begun. According to the State Board of Elections, more than 400 had been returned as of the time the ruling was issued, with more 8,000 having been requested.

In a joint statement, Sen. Bob Rucho (R-Mecklenburg) and Rep. David Lewis (R-Harnett), who led the redistricting effort, said they " will move swiftly to appeal this decision. "