

# THE REAL STORY

## The February 2016 NC Congressional Maps

Many people have lost faith that the General Assembly can fairly represent them or, even worse, believe the General Assembly ignores the will of its constituents. The recent court ruling in *Common Cause, et al., v. Rucho* and *League of Women Voters, et al., v. Rucho* sadly shows that there's good reason to believe that.

One of the key things this case exposed is that the process used to redraw the maps was a sham by the NC GOP, who clearly acted in bad faith. The process appeared to take place with the formation of a committee, led by Senator Rucho and Representative Lewis; a public hearing; the solicitation of public input, both online and in person; and a committee meeting to outline map criteria. All of these components resulted in Thomas Hofeller drawing the maps in one day, the committee approving the maps on a party-line vote, and the General Assembly enacting the new maps shortly after.

### Here's what *actually* happened:

- Hofeller admitted to redrawing the maps on his own before Rucho and Lewis ever talked to him.
- On February 9, 2016, Rucho and Lewis, before they were appointed as committee chairs for redistricting, spoke to Hofeller and provided verbal instructions for the maps.
- Hofeller drew several drafts and met with Rucho and Lewis on February 10, 2016 for their input.
- On February 12, 2016, the leadership of the General Assembly formed the Joint Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting and appointed Rucho and Lewis as the co-chairs of the committee.
- On February 12 or 13, Hofeller showed the final version of the map to Lewis, who approved the map.
- On February 15, Rucho and Lewis held a public hearing about the redistricting, and solicited comments both in person and on the committee's website.
- On February 16, 2016, the committee met and approved criteria for the maps. Rucho and Lewis also got authorization to hire an outside consultant. They sent Hofeller an engagement letter, which he signed, and that same day he downloaded his map plans onto the General Assembly's computers.
- On February 17, 2016, Lewis and Rucho presented the map to the committee, which approved it on a party-line vote, and the General Assembly approved it shortly after.

What came out in this [court decision](#) was that **the map was finished being drawn by February 12 or 13, 2016 - more than 48 hours before the public hearing on February 15!**

**Hofeller also testified he was never given ANY of the public input that was solicited.**

**The public hearing was a charade designed to lend credibility to a process which, in reality, was completely rigged from the start.**

*If you think this sounds eerily familiar to the process that took place in redrawing the 2017 legislative maps, you are right. The NCGOP also used Hofeller to redraw those racially gerrymandered maps, created a bipartisan committee, and held public hearings as well. That case is still underway as we wait to hear if the recently appointed Special Master's maps will be accepted for the 2018 NC legislative elections.*