Federal law outlines only three requirements for federal congressional districts within states:
1. They have equal geographical areas
2. A single district must be contiguous
3. A district must be compact

2.) US Census Bureau 2010 Decennial Survey for 2010 Race Data

North Carolina is a particularly good case study for visualizing gerrymandering due to both cracking and packing being clearly evident in numerous iterations of its districts. Further, North Carolina exhibits both a racial and class based gerrymander, both of which will be examined.

Additionally, its racial gerrymander in NC-12 is one of the most stark in the country. It was the topic of a Supreme Court Case (Shaw v. Reno in 1993) and numerous federal court cases since, having been declared illegal in 2017.

The Significance of Gerrymandering:
Gerrymandering is the manipulation of an electoral district's boundaries in order to favor a particular party or group. In gerrymandering, two key tactics exist: packing and cracking. The former involves concentrating the opposing party or group's voting power in order to decrease voting power in other districts. The latter involves spreading the opposing party or group's voting power across numerous districts.

Here, we will study examples in North Carolina as a whole following an analysis of NC District 12.

In 2012, Republicans took back the NC State House and subsequently the House of Representatives. This was achieved largely due to a lack of representation of core Republican counties and a lack of representation of core Democratic counties.

In 2010, the district map in the above map was selected by Republicans, who packed majorities of African American voters in four different districts, including the above district, leading to the gerrymandering case (Shaw v. Reno) being brought to court in 2006. The District Court of Appeals found in favor of the plaintiffs, as NC-12 was less compact than NC-13. This map was used from 2013 - 2017 and is notorious for its lack of compactness. In 2017, a federal judge declared the district unconstitutional and a new redistricting map was being created.

While the districts are clearly more compact, education, Amherst is cracked in half and packed with Democrats. Raleigh is cracked and concentrated in half to benefit Democrats. Rocky Mount and Louisburg, sharing a precinct, both fell to a single district.

Using the same processes forLECTION, the congressional district still has a concentrated effort to pack black voters from Forsyth, Guilford, and Wake counties into a single district. The 2010 race saw majority white NC-12 in 2010, it is still divided in the 2018 distribution of median household income.

According to the congressional district's races it is clear that the entire district of Charlotte shares lying on a density of black voters in the city; however, the wealthy and long-time white southern suburbs like Lake Norman have some suburbs.

North Carolina is a particularly good case study for visualizing gerrymandering

The forced and court-ordered mandate of Lake Norman’s inclusion into NC-12 is largely responsible for the district’s increased compactness and the splitting of the city, with Concord and south Charlotte, respectively. Greensboro remains cracked as do its surroundings, Alma Adams still won the district in 2018 with a landslide 73.1%.

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