

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

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JACOB CORMAN, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

ROBERT TORRES, et al.,

Defendants,

and

CARMEN FEBO SAN MIGUEL, et al.,

Intervenor-Defendants.

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No. 1:18-cv-00443-CCC

Circuit Judge Jordan  
Chief Judge Conner  
Judge Simandle

*(filed electronically)*

**PLAINTIFFS' OMNIBUS BRIEF IN OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANTS'  
MOTION TO DISMISS (DOC. 87) AND INTERVENOR-DEFENDANTS'  
MOTION FOR JUDGMENT ON THE PLEADINGS (DOC. 90)**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
PRELIMINARY STATEMENT .....	1
COUNTER-STATEMENT OF FACTS & PROCEDURAL HISTORY .....	6
LEGAL ARGUMENT .....	11
I. Standard of Review .....	11
II. <i>Rooker-Feldman</i> Does Not Bar This Case.....	12
A. Plaintiffs Were Not Parties To The <i>LOWV</i> Action.....	13
B. Plaintiffs’ Claims Are Not An “Appeal” Of The Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s Decision.....	15
III. Plaintiffs Are Not Collaterally Estopped From Bringing This Action; Issue Preclusion Does Not Apply To Plaintiffs’ Claims .....	16
A. The Issues In This Case Were Not Decided In The <i>LOWV</i> Action.....	17
B. Plaintiffs Were Not Parties To Or In Privity With The Parties in the <i>LOWV</i> Action.....	18
C. Plaintiffs Did Not Have A Full And Fair Opportunity To Litigate The Issues In This Case In The <i>LOWV</i> Action .....	23
D. The Court Cannot Apply Issue Preclusion Because The Underlying Decision Is Unconstitutional .....	24
IV. Judicial Estoppel Does Not Apply .....	25
V. Plaintiffs Have Sufficiently Alleged Standing.....	29
A. State Plaintiffs Have Standing .....	29
B. Federal Plaintiffs Have Standing .....	35
C. Plaintiffs’ Injuries Are Redressable.....	38
VI. The Abstention Principles Of <i>Colorado River</i> Are Inapplicable Here .....	41
VII. <i>Younger</i> Abstention Under <i>Pennzoil</i> Does Not Apply .....	45
VIII. Plaintiffs Have Stated Valid Claims .....	50
A. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court Engaged In Legislation, Not “Interpretation” .....	50

B.	Defendants’ Attempt To Recast The Facts Alleged In The Complaint Contradicts The Record, And Is Inappropriate When Considering The Pending Motions .....	56
CONCLUSION .....		61

## TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

	<b>Page(s)</b>
<b>Cases</b>	
<i>Abrams v. Johnson</i> , 521 U.S. 74 (1997).....	58
<i>ACRA Turf Club, LLC v. Zanzuccki</i> , 748 F.3d 127 (3d Cir. 2014) .....	47, 48
<i>Agre v. Wolf</i> , No. 17-4392, U.S. Dist. LEXIS 4316 (E.D. Pa. Jan. 10, 2018) .....	4, 5, 37, 48, 51
<i>Alaska Legis. Council v. Babbitt</i> , 181 F.3d 1333 (D.C. Cir. 1999).....	30
<i>Arizona State Legis. v. Arizona Indep. Redistricting Comm’n</i> , 135 S. Ct. 2652 (2015).....	1, 34, 39, 48, 52, 53
<i>Arizonans for Official English v. Ariz.</i> , 520 U.S. 43 (1997).....	29
<i>Ashcroft v. Iqbal</i> , 556 U.S. 662 (2009).....	12
<i>Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly</i> , 550 U.S. 544 (2007).....	12
<i>Benavidez v. Eu</i> , 34 F. 3d 825 (9th Cir. 1994) .....	45
<i>Bergdoll v. Com.</i> , 858 A.2d 185 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 2004) .....	20
<i>Branch v. Smith</i> , 538 U.S. 254 (2003).....	39, 51
<i>Brown v. Sec’y of State of Florida</i> , 668 F.3d 1271 (11th Cir. 2012) .....	51
<i>Bush v. Palm Beach Cnty. Canvassing Bd.</i> , 531 U.S. 70 (2000).....	4

<i>Caprio v. Healthcare Revenue Recovery Grp., LLC</i> , 709 F.3d 142 (3d Cir. 2013) .....	12
<i>City of Philadelphia v. Klutznick</i> , 503 F. Supp. 663 (E.D. Pa. 1980) .....	36
<i>Coleman v. Miller</i> , 307 U.S. 433 (1939) .....	30, 31, 33, 34
<i>Collins v. E.I. DuPont de Nemours &amp; Co.</i> , 34 F.3d 172 (3d Cir. 1994) .....	21
<i>Colorado River Water Conservation District v. United States</i> , 424 U.S. 800 (1976) .....	41, 42
<i>Common Cause v. Rucho</i> , 1:16-CV-1026 (M.D.N.C.) .....	40
<i>Cook v. Gralike</i> , 531 U.S. 510 (2001) .....	36, 51
<i>Dennis v. Luis</i> , 741 F.2d 628 (3d Cir. 1984) .....	31, 32
<i>Diamond v. Torres</i> , 5:17-cv-05054-MMB (E.D. Pa. 2017) .....	25, 26, 27, 28
<i>Doran v. Salem, Inn, Inc.</i> , 422 U.S. 922 (1975) .....	45, 46
<i>EEOC v. U.S. Steel Corp.</i> , 921 F.2d 489 (3d Cir. 1990) .....	20
<i>Erfer v. Commonwealth</i> , 794 A.2d 325 (Pa. 2002) .....	1, 56
<i>Exxon Mobil Corp. v. Saudi Basic Indus. Corp.</i> , 544 U.S. 280 (2005) .....	13
<i>Franco v. D.C.</i> , 422 F. Supp. 2d 216 (D.D.C. 2006) .....	45

<i>Great Western Mining &amp; Mineral Co. v. Fox Rothschild LLP</i> , 615 F.3d 159 (3d Cir. 2010) .....	13
<i>Greenway Ctr., Inc. v. Essex Ins. Co.</i> , 475 F.3d 139 (3d Cir. 2007) .....	26, 28
<i>Guy v. Miller</i> , No. 11 OC 00042 1B, 2011 Nev. Dist. LEXIS 32 (Nev. Dist. Oct. 14, 2011) .....	54
<i>Hicks v. Miranda</i> , 422 U.S. 332 (1975).....	46
<i>Hollingsworth v. Perry</i> , 558 U.S. 183 (2010).....	3
<i>In Re Michael C. Turzai, Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, et al.</i> , No. 17-631 (U.S.) .....	51
<i>Johnson v. Mortham</i> , 915 F. Supp. 1529 (N.D. Fla. 1995) .....	35
<i>Kelly v. Maxum Specialty Ins. Grp.</i> , 868 F.3d 274 (3d Cir. 2017) .....	42, 43
<i>Kennedy v. Sampson</i> , 511 F.2d 430 (D.C. Cir. 1974).....	30
<i>Kilgarlin v. Hill</i> , 386 U.S. 120 (1967).....	41
<i>Kremer v. Chem. Constr. Corp.</i> , 456 U.S. 461 (1982).....	24
<i>Lance v. Coffman</i> , 549 U.S. 437 (2007).....	37
<i>Lance v. Dennis</i> , 546 U.S. 459 (2006).....	13, 14
<i>Larios v. Cox</i> , 5 F. Supp. 2d 1335 (N.D. Ga. 2004), <i>aff'd</i> , 542 U.S. 947 (2004) .....	58

<i>League of United Latin Am. Citizens, Council No. 4434 v. Clements</i> , 884 F.2d 185 (5th Cir.1989) .....	35
<i>League of Women Voters of Fla. v. Detzner</i> , 172 So. 3d 363 (Fla. 2015) .....	55
<i>Loc. 194, Int’l. Fed’n of Prof’l and Tech. Engineers, AFL-CIO v. N.J. Turnpike Auth.</i> , No. 11-cv-1653, 2011 WL 1547473 (D.N.J. Apr. 21, 2011) .....	46
<i>Loeper v. Mitchell</i> , 506 U.S. 828 (1992).....	58
<i>Lujan v. Defenders of Wildlife</i> , 504 U.S. 555 (1992).....	29
<i>LULAC v. Perry</i> , 548 U.S. 399 (2006).....	5, 34
<i>Mellow v. Mitchell</i> , 607 A.2d 204 (Pa. 1992).....	54
<i>Metro. Edison Co. v. Pa. Pub. Util. Comm’n</i> , 767 F.3d 335 (3d Cir. 2014) .....	16, 17, 23
<i>Morris v. Rumsfeld</i> , No. CIV.A. 101-CV-1729, 2007 WL 951450 (M.D. Pa. Mar. 27, 2007) .....	26
<i>N.J. Carpenters &amp; the Trustees Thereof v. Tishman Constr. Corp. of N.J.</i> , 760 F.3d 297 (3d Cir. 2014) .....	11, 35
<i>Nat’l Collegiate Athletic Ass’n v. Corbett</i> , 25 F. Supp. 3d 557 (M.D. Pa. 2014).....	42
<i>Nat’l Collegiate Athletic Ass’n v. Corbett</i> , 79 F. Supp. 3d 536 (M.D. Pa. 2015).....	24
<i>Nationwide Mut. Fire Ins. Co. v. George V. Hamilton, Inc.</i> , 571 F.3d 299 (3d Cir. 2009) .....	18, 19, 42, 43

<i>New Hampshire v. Maine</i> , 532 U.S. 742 (2001).....	26
<i>New Jersey-Philadelphia Presbytery of the Bible Presbyterian Church v. New Jersey State Bd. of Higher Educ.</i> , 654 F.2d 868 (3d Cir. 1981) .....	46
<i>New Orleans Public Service, Inc. v. Council of City of New Orleans</i> , 491 U.S. 350 (1989).....	47
<i>Pearson v. Koster</i> , 367 S.W.3d 36 (Mo. 2012) .....	55
<i>Pennzoil Co. v. Texaco, Inc.</i> , 481 U.S. 1 (1987).....	45, 47, 48, 49
<i>Perez-Guzman v. Gracia</i> , 346 F.3d 229 (1st Cir. 2003).....	21
<i>R.S. by R.D.S. v. Butler Cty., Pa.</i> , 700 Fed. App’x 105 (3d Cir. 2017) .....	14
<i>Raines v. Byrd</i> , 521 U.S. 811 (1997).....	32, 33, 34
<i>Reynolds v. Sims</i> , 377 U.S. 533 (1964).....	24, 41
<i>Robinson v. Stovall</i> , 646 F.2d 1087 (5th Cir. 1981) .....	45
<i>Russell v. DeJongh</i> , 491 F.3d 130 (3d Cir. 2007) .....	30
<i>Ryan Operations G.P. v. Santiam–Midwest Lumber Co.</i> , 81 F.3d 355 (3d Cir.1996) .....	28
<i>Ryan v. Johnson</i> , 115 F.3d 193 (3d Cir. 1997) .....	42
<i>Semerenko v. Cendant Corp.</i> , 223 F.3d 165 (3d Cir. 2000) .....	11



<i>Sprint Communications, Inc. v. Jacobs</i> , 134 S. Ct. 584 (2013).....	47
<i>Storer v. Brown</i> , 415 U.S. 724 (1974).....	35
<i>Sullivan v. City of Pittsburgh</i> , 811 F.2d 171 (3d Cir. 1987) .....	45, 46
<i>Taylor v. Sturgell</i> , 553 U.S. 880 (2008).....	19, 20
<i>U.S. ex rel. Moore &amp; Co., P.A. v. Majestic Blue Fisheries, LLC</i> , 812 F.3d 294 (3d Cir. 2016) .....	11
<i>U.S. Term Limits, Inc. v. Thornton</i> , 514 U.S. 779 (1995).....	51
<i>Upham v. Seamon</i> , 456 U.S. 37 (1982).....	2, 40, 57
<i>Vote Choice, Inc. v. DiStefano</i> , 4 F.3d 26 (1st Cir. 1993).....	36
<i>Warth v. Selden</i> , 422 U.S. 490 (1975).....	37
<i>Watson v. Witkin</i> , 22 A.2d 17 (Pa. 1941) .....	53
<i>Wells v. Rockefeller</i> , 394 U.S. 542 (1969).....	40
<i>Williams v. State Bd. of Elections</i> , 696 F. Supp. 1563 (N.D.Ill.1988).....	35
<i>Wittman v. Personhuballah</i> , 136 S. Ct. 1732 (2016).....	35
<i>Zedner v. United States</i> , 547 U.S. 489 (2006).....	26

**Statutes**

2 U.S.C. § 2a(c).....38, 39, 40, 41

**Other Authorities**

Pa. Const. art. II, § 9 .....22

Pa. Const. art. II, § 16 .....55

Pa. Const. art. II, § 17 .....22

Pa. Const. art. IV, § 14.....22

U.S. Const. art. I, § 4, cl. 1.....1, 51

## **PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

“Redistricting involves lawmaking in its essential features and most important aspect.” *Arizona State Legis. v. Arizona Indep. Redistricting Comm’n*, 135 S. Ct. 2652, 2667 (2015) (internal quotation marks omitted). But for the first time in United States history, a state court, assuming the role of “lawmaker,” has invalidated a congressional districting plan absent that plan’s violation of either (1) the U.S. Constitution or (2) specific districting criteria located within a state’s constitutional or legislative framework.

In this action, Plaintiffs assert that Article I, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution limits the ability of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to invalidate the 2011 Plan<sup>1</sup> based solely upon such Plan’s purported violation of “mandatory” criteria found nowhere within Pennsylvania’s Constitution or statutory scheme. Not only does the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s legislation through reliance upon such nonexistent criteria directly violate the U.S. Constitution’s Elections Clause, U.S. CONST. art. I, § 4, it directly contravenes an earlier decision by that same court (when assessing Pennsylvania’s 2001 Congressional plan) expressly *disclaiming* the applicability of any such requirements to Pennsylvania Congressional districts. *See Erfer v. Commonwealth*, 794 A.2d 325, 334 n.4 (Pa. 2002).

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<sup>1</sup> Capitalized terms used herein shall have the meanings afforded such terms within Plaintiffs’ Verified Complaint (Doc. 1; the “Complaint”).

But, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s derogation of the Elections Clause and federal law did not end with its unconstitutional invalidation of the 2011 Plan. To the contrary, the court compounded its constitutional violation by first failing to afford Pennsylvania’s Legislature an “adequate opportunity” to craft a remedial plan, *see Upham v. Seamon*, 456 U.S. 37, 41 (1982), and then by using the aforementioned “mandatory” criteria to craft the Court Drawn Plan. As Pennsylvania legislators possessing a direct and principal role in the crafting of any necessary remedial legislation, and U.S. Congressional incumbents, Plaintiffs have been directly, personally, and significantly harmed by the state court’s actions, and pursue this action to vindicate these harms.

Executive Defendants in their motion to dismiss (Doc. 88), and Intervenors in their motion for judgment on the pleadings (Doc. 91),<sup>2</sup> assail Plaintiffs’ claims with a coordinated smokescreen. First, they attempt to alter the landscape of this litigation by repeating – frequently, and in unison<sup>3</sup> – that Plaintiffs’ Election Clause claims are really a “collateral attack” on a state court judgment, and thereby attempt to excuse

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<sup>2</sup> Executive Defendants and Intervenors are collectively, “Defendants.”

<sup>3</sup> The lockstep and redundant nature of Defendants’ briefs – in which they make identical and overlapping arguments notwithstanding this Court’s admonition, *see* Executive Defendants’ Memo. of Law in Support of Motion to Dismiss (“Def. Br.”) at 8, n.1 (Doc. 88) – evidences Defendants’ shared agenda and entirely overlapping interests.

the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's actions as a mere "interpretation" of a state constitutional issue.<sup>4</sup> Next, Defendants proclaim that this case involves the same claims and same parties as the state court action – denouncing Plaintiffs as mere "deputies" and "proxies" of the legislative defendants in the state court action (even though none of Plaintiffs here were parties thereto) – and thereby conclude that Plaintiffs' Complaint should be dismissed based upon the *Rooker-Feldman* doctrine, issue preclusion, claim preclusion, various abstention doctrines, judicial estoppel, and lack of standing. Finally, Defendants contend that Plaintiffs' Elections Clause claims are meritless. In actuality, Defendants' arguments, although numerous, are unfounded.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> See Def. Br. at 7 ("Plaintiffs ask this court to sit in judgment on the propriety of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's determination that a Pennsylvania redistricting law violates the Pennsylvania Constitution, and they ask this Court to second guess the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's remedy for this state constitutional violation."); *id.* at 20 (Plaintiffs' case "amounts to nothing more than a claim that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court has incorrectly interpreted the Pennsylvania Constitution."); *see also* Intervenors' Brief In Support of Motion For Judgment On The Pleadings Or Alternatively To Dismiss ("Int. Br."; Doc. 91) at 1, 7, 13, 15.

<sup>5</sup> Defendants also reference two stay applications brought by the legislative defendants in the state court action (the first of which was denied, the second of which is pending), in an effort to imply that Plaintiffs' claims herein are meritless. Of course, these stay applications do not reflect upon the propriety of Plaintiffs' claims advanced here, given, *inter alia*, the disparate standards applicable to Defendants' pending Motions versus those applications. *See Hollingsworth v. Perry*, 558 U.S. 183 (2010) (identifying standard for securing emergency stay from U.S. Supreme Court).

For starters, Plaintiffs’ claims are viable; the Pennsylvania Supreme Court violated the Elections Clause by: (1) employing criteria found nowhere within Pennsylvania’s Constitution or legislative scheme to invalidate the 2011 Plan; (2) failing to afford Pennsylvania’s Legislature an “adequate opportunity” to craft a remedial plan; and (3) using the aforementioned non-existent criteria to craft the new, Court Drawn Plan. *See* Compl., ¶¶ 98-114. The Elections Clause prohibits this arrogation of legislative power by a state judicial branch; under this Clause, “the legislature is not acting solely under the authority given it by the people of the State, but by virtue of a direct grant of authority” from the federal Constitution. *Bush v. Palm Beach Cnty. Canvassing Bd.*, 531 U.S. 70, 76 (2000).

A court’s proper and very limited role in congressional districting was recently reaffirmed in *Agre v. Wolf*, No. 17-4392, U.S. Dist. LEXIS 4316 (E.D. Pa. Jan. 10, 2018), a case also challenging the 2011 Plan. Writing for the majority, Third Circuit Chief Judge Smith declined a similar invitation to legislate congressional districting criteria (and crystalized the issue presented here) observing:

State legislatures exercise the discretionary power afforded to them by the Elections Clause when those legislatures draw election districts. Similarly, Congress exercises the discretion afforded to it by the Elections Clause when Congress decides against upsetting those State regulations. Yet Plaintiffs ask this Court to assume the roles of state and federal legislatures, urging us to exercise the *discretion* that has been explicitly reserved to those political bodies. Accepting Plaintiffs’ invitation to do so would require this Court to declare that the current political climate calls for action rather than inaction – a political

declaration that Article III of the Constitution constrains us from making.

*Id.* at \*10-\*11. Also, as noted above, while federal law unequivocally requires that a state legislature be afforded an adequate opportunity to enact a remedial map, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court stripped the Legislature of any such reasonable opportunity here. *See also LULAC v. Perry*, 548 U.S. 399, 415-16 (2006) (“[D]rawing lines for congressional districts is one of the most significant acts a State can perform to ensure citizen participation in republican self-governance....As the Constitution vests redistricting responsibilities foremost in the *legislatures of the States* and in Congress, a lawful, legislatively enacted plan should be preferable to one drawn by the courts.” (emphasis added)).

Defendants’ various doctrinal, abstention, and standing arguments are equally misdirected, many for similar, if not identical, reasons. For example, Plaintiffs’ claims were not litigated – and could not have been litigated – in the state court action, because they did not arise until the conclusion of that action. Nor is there commonality between Plaintiffs in this action and certain parties in the state court action – either in name, or as “proxies” – thus precluding dismissal by application of *Rooker-Feldman*, issue preclusion, claim preclusion, and abstention. Finally, Plaintiffs, individuals directly and significantly harmed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s constitutional violations, have standing to advance their claims.

In the end, Defendants advance a slew of arguments aimed at insulating the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's constitutional violations from any and all assault. But, such activity is incapable of insulation, and Defendants' Motions do not justify any other conclusion.

### **COUNTER-STATEMENT OF FACTS & PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

Plaintiffs herein are (1) two Pennsylvania state senators – Senate Majority Leader Jacob Corman, and Senator Michael Folmer (“State Plaintiffs”), and (2) eight Pennsylvania Congressmen who are currently running for reelection (“Federal Plaintiffs”). *See* Compl., ¶¶ 11-20. As Majority Leader, Senator Corman serves as the head of the 34-16 majority controlling Pennsylvania's Senate, one of two chambers vested with legislative authority, including the passage of congressional districting legislation. Senator Folmer serves as head of the Senate State Government Committee, the Senate committee entrusted with passage of congressional districting legislation. *Id.*, ¶¶ 11-12. Federal Plaintiffs are each incumbent Congressmen who have expended large sums and great effort in connection with their reelection campaigns, and whose Districts have been greatly and adversely impacted by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's unconstitutional actions. *Id.*, ¶¶ 13-20.

In June 2017, Intervenors brought an action in the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania challenging the 2011 Plan, alleging that it violated three provisions of



the Pennsylvania Constitution (“*LOWV* Action”). Prior to the *LOWV* Action, seven elections had been held under the 2011 Plan. *Id.*, ¶¶ 25-29. Among the named respondents in the *LOWV* Action were Joseph Scarnati, III, President Pro Tempore of the Pennsylvania Senate, and Michael Turzai, Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives (collectively, “*LOWV* Legislative Parties”). *Id.*, ¶ 27. Plaintiffs herein were not parties in that litigation.

A trial in the *LOWV* Action was held before the Commonwealth Court, and on December 29, 2017, that court submitted a report finding that while the 2011 Plan was driven by certain partisan motives, the Plan complied with the Pennsylvania Constitution. That court also held that a judicially manageable standard for differentiating between permissible and impermissible partisan considerations had not been identified, and that further review of the 2011 Plan was therefore inappropriate. *Id.*, ¶ 33. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court thereafter assessed the Commonwealth Court’s finding on an expedited basis, and on January 22, 2018, issued the PCO, holding that the 2011 Plan violated the Pennsylvania Constitution, and enjoining its use in connection with the upcoming May 2018 primary elections. *Id.*, ¶¶ 34-35.

The PCO afforded Pennsylvania’s General Assembly only 18 days (14 business days) to submit to Pennsylvania’s Governor “a congressional districting plan that satisfies the requirements of the Pennsylvania Constitution...,”

requirements the court would not explain in more detail until a later opinion. In the meantime, the PCO advised that any new plan must consist of “congressional districts composed of compact and contiguous territory; as nearly equal in population as practicable; and which do not divide any county, city, incorporated town, borough, township, or ward, except where necessary to ensure equality of population.” *Id.*, ¶ 38. If the Legislature was able to “submit” a remedial plan within the limited time afforded by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, the Governor would then have 6 days to accept the plan and submit it to the Court. On the other hand, if a new plan was not passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor by February 15, 2018, the court advised that it would create its own plan. *Id.*, ¶¶ 36-38.

Two justices dissented, pointing out, *inter alia*, the PCO’s lack of clear guidance, and the serious federal constitutional concerns the court’s majority’s proposed remedy raised. A third justice dissented as to the remedy, and noted the possibility of “chaos” if the 2011 Plan was not used. *Id.*, ¶ 39-45.

The PCO’s requirement that the Legislature pass a law in only 18 days created an impossible task. *Id.*, ¶ 48. Worse yet, the court did not issue its detailed, 137-page Majority Opinion until the evening of February 7, 2018 – after 16 of the 18 allotted days had elapsed. *Id.*, ¶ 65. As a result, the Legislature did not know the criteria – and indeed, the process – that any new congressional districting plan would have to satisfy until only 2 days before the Legislature was required to pass

legislation containing that plan, or even what constitutional provision had been violated. *Id.*, ¶ 109. The court’s delay was significant, as the Majority Opinion applied – for the first time – what it termed “mandatory” criteria, albeit criteria memorialized nowhere within Pennsylvania’s Constitution or legislative scheme for use in connection with congressional districting. *Id.*, ¶ 68. The Majority Opinion also identified for the first time that it was the Pennsylvania Constitution’s Free and Equal Elections Clause that served to invalidate the 2011 Plan, and provided for the first time previously absent guidance concerning proper compliance with that clause and these newly-established criteria. *Id.*, ¶¶ 66-67, 69.

In his attendant dissent, Chief Justice Saylor articulated his profound concerns regarding the majority’s unilateral grafting of criteria applicable to Pennsylvania’s legislative districts onto congressional districting in contravention of the Elections Clause. *Id.*, ¶ 71. He warned: “The consideration of whether this sort of rule should be imposed by the judiciary upon *a process committed by the federal Constitution* to another branch of government seems to me to require particular caution and restraint.” *Id.*, ¶ 72 (emphasis added). Justice Mundy, in her attendant dissent, highlighted her concerns about not only the clear violation of the Elections Clause through the imposition of mandatory criteria found nowhere within Pennsylvania’s Constitution or statutes governing congressional redistricting, but also the extremely limited timeframe afforded the General Assembly to enact a substitute plan. *Id.*, ¶

74. Justice Baer echoed these concerns, noting that the Elections Clause does not imbue courts with legislative authority, and that because Pennsylvania’s “Constitution is silent in regard to the criteria to be applied by the Legislature in establishing congressional districts,” he was “unwilling to engraft into the Pennsylvania Constitution criteria for drawing congressional districts when the framers chose not to include such provisions[.]” *Id.*, ¶ 81. He also criticized three weeks as not being a “fair opportunity” for the General Assembly to create a map and pass legislation to adopt it. *Id.*, ¶ 83.

With only two days left before the court’s deadline, the Legislature was unable to pass a new districting bill. *Id.*, ¶¶ 64, 111.<sup>6</sup>

On February 19, 2018, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court issued the Court Drawn Plan, and ordered that it be used in the upcoming primary and general elections. *Id.*, ¶ 86. The Court Drawn Plan does not appear to comply with the court’s own criteria, and is riddled with pro-Democratic partisan considerations. *Id.*, ¶¶ 89-91. Defendants are charged with implementing the Court Drawn Plan. *Id.*, ¶ 92.

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<sup>6</sup> On February 9, 2018, *LOWV* Legislative Parties presented Governor Wolf with a new congressional districting plan per his request. Four days later, the Governor rejected that plan and advised that he would veto it, even if the Legislature passed it. *Id.*, ¶¶ 61-63.

Plaintiffs commenced this action and filed their Motion for Preliminary Injunction on February 22, 2018. Plaintiffs contend that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court directly violated the Elections Clause in the ways detailed above. *Id.*, ¶¶ 98-114. Plaintiffs request that the 2011 Plan be used for the 2018 elections, since (1) Federal Plaintiffs have already expended substantial time, money, and resources in reliance, and their constituencies will be dramatically altered if the Court Drawn Plan is allowed to go forward, *id.*, ¶¶ 11-20; and (2) permitting the 2018 elections to proceed under the Court Drawn Plan in the face of these Elections Clause violations would be palpably improper, and could only serve to encourage similar violations in the future.

## **LEGAL ARGUMENT**

### **I. Standard of Review**

Under Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6), the movant bears the burden of establishing that the complaint has failed to sufficiently state a claim. *U.S. ex rel. Moore & Co., P.A. v. Majestic Blue Fisheries, LLC*, 812 F.3d 294, 299 n.4 (3d Cir. 2016). “A court must accept all factual allegations in the complaint as true and draw all reasonable inferences in favor of the plaintiff.” *N.J. Carpenters & the Trustees Thereof v. Tishman Constr. Corp. of N.J.*, 760 F.3d 297, 302 (3d Cir. 2014). The question on such a motion is “not whether a plaintiff will ultimately prevail but whether the claimant is entitled to offer evidence to support the claims.” *Semerenko v. Cendant*

*Corp.*, 223 F.3d 165, 173 (3d Cir. 2000). To overcome such a motion, a complaint must only contain sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to “state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009) (citing *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007)).

“[A] motion for judgment on the pleadings based on the theory that the plaintiff failed to state a claim is reviewed under the same standards that apply to a motion to dismiss under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6).” *Caprio v. Healthcare Revenue Recovery Grp., LLC*, 709 F.3d 142, 146–47 (3d Cir. 2013).

Plaintiffs’ Complaint contains sufficient factual matter to state a claim to relief, and Defendants’ Motions must be denied.

## **II. Rooker-Feldman Does Not Bar This Case**

Defendants argue that the *Rooker-Feldman* doctrine precludes this Court from hearing this case. In so arguing, they claim Plaintiffs are “counterparts” of the named defendants in the *LOWV* Action and are “asking this Court to undo the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s judgment....” Def. Br. at 9; *see* Int. Br. at 28 (adopting Executive Defendants’ position). This is untrue factually (as the Complaint discloses) and legally.

A defendant asserting the *Rooker-Feldman* doctrine must prove that “(1) the federal plaintiff lost in state court; (2) the plaintiff ‘complains of injuries caused by the state-court judgments’; (3) those judgments were rendered before the federal suit

was filed; **and** (4) the plaintiff is inviting the district court to review and reject the state judgments.” *Great Western Mining & Mineral Co. v. Fox Rothschild LLP*, 615 F.3d 159, 166 (3d Cir. 2010) (emphasis added) (citing *Exxon Mobil Corp. v. Saudi Basic Indus. Corp.*, 544 U.S. 280, 284 (2005)). Defendants cannot satisfy the doctrine’s first or fourth prongs; Plaintiffs were not parties to the *LOWV* Action, and they are challenging the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s overreach in direct violation of the Elections Clause – an issue not litigated in the *LOWV* Action (indeed, an issue that did not arise until, at the earliest, the state court’s issuance of the PCO). The U.S. Supreme Court faced a similar situation in *Lance v. Dennis*, 546 U.S. 459, 462 (2006), and rejected this precise argument.

**A. Plaintiffs Were Not Parties To The *LOWV* Action**

Defendants do not contend that any of Plaintiffs were parties to the *LOWV* Action, nor could they. Instead, they contend – on the basis of two statements in the press (absent from the pleadings) – that State Plaintiffs are nothing more than mere “deputies” of Senator Scarnati and Speaker Turzai, who they contend are the “real” plaintiffs in this case. *See* Def. Br. at 10. Defendants’ argument is unfounded.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Although Defendants assert that *LOWV* Legislative Parties are the “counterparts” of Federal Plaintiffs, Def. Br. at 9, they advance no basis supporting such conclusion.

Defendants cannot impute *LOWV* Legislative Parties’ participation in the *LOWV* Action to State Plaintiffs here, as their “privity” argument has been expressly addressed and rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court in an Elections Clause case. *See Dennis*, 546 U.S. at 462. In *Dennis*, involving an Elections Clause challenge to a redistricting plan created by the Colorado Supreme Court, the Court held “[t]he *Rooker-Feldman* doctrine does not bar actions by nonparties to the earlier state-court judgment simply because, for purposes of preclusion law, they could be considered in privity with a party to the judgment.” *Id.* at 466.<sup>8</sup> This ends the inquiry.

Defendants admit the *Rooker-Feldman* doctrine’s reach has been tightened by the U.S. Supreme Court in recent years. Def. Br. at 10. However, they claim that the Court “left open the possibility that in certain ‘limited’ circumstances ‘*Rooker-Feldman* may be applied against a party not named in an earlier state proceeding.’” *Id.* (citing *Dennis*, 546 U.S. at 466 n.2). But Defendants leave out that the Court identified what type of “limited” situation it was contemplating: “where an estate takes a *de facto* appeal in a district court of an earlier state decision involving the decedent.” *Dennis*, 546 U.S. at 466 n.2. This plainly does not apply here. *See R.S. by R.D.S. v. Butler Cty., Pa.*, 700 Fed. App’x 105, 108 (3d Cir. 2017) (rejecting privity argument for *Rooker-Feldman* purposes).

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<sup>8</sup> The Court did not find that the plaintiffs in *Dennis* were in privity with the plaintiffs from the underlying litigation. It simply found that a privity argument does not apply in the *Rooker-Feldman* context.



Further, the press statements Defendants identify in their briefs do not establish that *LOWV* Legislative Parties are the “real” plaintiffs. Simply put, statements that “House and Senate Republican leadership will be initiating action” in federal court surely does not equate with Senator Scarnati or Speaker Turzai doing so. *See* Def. Br. at 11 (citing Jonathan Lai (@Elaijuh), Twitter (Feb. 21, 2018, 11:08 AM), *available at* <https://twitter.com/Elaijuh/status/966389198923157506>).<sup>9</sup> Defendants cannot satisfy *Rooker-Feldman*’s first prong.

**B. Plaintiffs’ Claims Are Not An “Appeal” Of The Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s Decision**

Defendants incorrectly assert that Plaintiffs are “using this suit as a vehicle to collaterally attack the judgment of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.” Def. Br. at 9. The *LOWV* Action was about whether the 2011 Plan violated Pennsylvania’s Constitution. Although Plaintiffs disagree with the state court’s determination that the 2011 Plan violated Pennsylvania’s Constitution, they are not now asking this Court to assess the 2011 Plan’s constitutionality. What Plaintiffs *are* challenging are Elections Clause violations resulting in the Court Drawn Plan which Defendants are currently implementing. These violations include the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s (1) use of criteria found nowhere within Pennsylvania’s Constitution or legislative scheme to invalidate the 2011 Plan, (2) failure to afford the Legislature

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<sup>9</sup> This presupposes that these outside-the-pleadings statements could even be considered.

an “adequate opportunity” to craft a remedial map, and (3) use of their phantom criteria to craft the Court Drawn Plan, all in direct violation of the Elections Clause. Compl., ¶¶ 98-114. None of these issues were litigated in the *LOWV* Action; indeed, none of these issues could have been properly litigated in the *LOWV* Action because the court’s actions giving rise to these violations and resulting claims did not occur until, at the earliest, the court’s issuance of the PCO on January 22, 2018. *Id.*, ¶¶ 65-92. Hence, *Rooker-Feldman*’s fourth prong is not satisfied.

### **III. Plaintiffs Are Not Collaterally Estopped From Bringing This Action; Issue Preclusion Does Not Apply To Plaintiffs’ Claims**

Defendants assert that Plaintiffs’ claims are barred by issue preclusion, arguing Plaintiffs “are in privity with the legislative defendants in the state court action – defendants who previously presented the same Elections Clause arguments and lost.” Int. Br. at 20. In claimed support, Defendants note that Plaintiffs’ counsel represented Senator Scarnati in the state court action, and cite the aforementioned press statements by Senator Scarnati and Speaker Turzai as proof that they “planned this lawsuit for weeks.” *Id.* at 21. Defendants’ desired loose application of issue preclusion law should be rejected.

Federal courts apply Pennsylvania preclusion principles when assessing the preclusive effects of a Pennsylvania judgment. *See Metro. Edison Co. v. Pa. Pub. Util. Comm’n*, 767 F.3d 335, 350 (3d Cir. 2014). Under Pennsylvania law, issue preclusion applies when:

- (1) the issue decided in the prior case is identical to the one presented in the later action;
- (2) there was a final adjudication on the merits;
- (3) the party against whom the plea is asserted was a party or in privity with a party in the prior case;
- (4) the party...against whom the doctrine is asserted had a full and fair opportunity to litigate the issue in the prior proceeding; **and**
- (5) the determination in the prior proceeding was essential to the judgment.

*Id.* at 351 (emphasis added). Defendants cannot satisfy these requirements.

**A. The Issues In This Case Were Not Decided In The *LOWV* Action**

Defendants claim that “the Elections Clause ‘issues decided’ by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court are ‘identical to’ the ones Plaintiffs have presented in this action.” Def. Br. at 14; *see* Int. Br. at 19 (alleging the state court “squarely ruled” on the same issues as presented here). This is patently false as explained above; the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s actions giving rise to the Elections Clause claims being pursued in this matter arose subsequent to trial in the *LOWV* Action and, at the earliest, with the issuance of the PCO.

Faced with this reality, Defendants are left to rely solely on a footnote on page 137 of the Majority Opinion as support that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court addressed the Elections Clause claims being advanced in this action. Int. Br. at 19; Def. Br. at 14. But, this reliance only underscores the flawed nature of Defendants’ argument, because the Elections Clause violations at issue in this action arise, in large part, from the “mandatory” districting criteria fashioned for the first time *in*

*that very opinion.* Moreover, Defendants offer absolutely no explanation as to how the state court has addressed Plaintiffs' claim that the Legislature was divested of an "adequate opportunity" to enact a remedial plan.

Put simply, it is nonsensical to suggest that the Elections Clause issues advanced in this action are, or even could be, identical to those issues assessed in the *LOWV* Action when all such issues did not even arise until that matter's conclusion. This reality should serve to end any issue preclusion analysis.<sup>10</sup>

**B. Plaintiffs Were Not Parties To Or In Privity With The Parties in the *LOWV* Action**

But even if the issues raised in this action were somehow deemed identical to those raised in the *LOWV* Action, issue preclusion would not prevent this action from proceeding because no privity exists between Plaintiffs and *LOWV* Legislative Parties. To establish privity, Defendants must demonstrate one of the six traditional categories. *Nationwide Mut. Fire Ins. Co. v. George V. Hamilton, Inc.*, 571 F.3d 299, 312-13 (3d Cir. 2009). Defendants plainly cannot satisfy this requirement.

Instead, Defendants argue that Plaintiffs here were "adequately represented" by *LOWV* Legislative Parties because they share the same interests as all members of the Legislature, and that Plaintiffs have brought this suit "as the designated

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<sup>10</sup> Even setting the foregoing aside, accepting Defendants' argument is tantamount to appointing the Pennsylvania Supreme Court judge, jury, and executioner. It is entirely illogical that the court would be left the sole arbiter of its own Elections Clause violations; this is surely not the law.

representative[s] of” *LOWV* Legislative Parties. Int. Br. at 19-20. Using terms like “adequate representation” and “designated representatives,” Defendants are, in fact, advancing a “virtual representation” argument of privity – a concept rejected by the Third Circuit and U.S. Supreme Court. *Nationwide*, 571 F.3d at 312; *Taylor v. Sturgell*, 553 U.S. 880, 885 (2008).

“Under the ‘virtual representation’ version of privity, a nonparty may be estopped in a second action where a party acted as the ‘virtual representative of the non-party,’ meaning that ‘there is such an identification of interest between the two as to represent the same legal right.’” *Nationwide*, 571 F.3d at 311. This is a nebulous and fact-driven concept (and therefore inappropriate for resolution on a motion to dismiss), resulting in preclusion when “the relationship between a party and non-party is ‘close enough’ to bring the second litigant within the judgment.” *Id.* at 312. In *Nationwide*, the Third Circuit rejected the virtual representation theory notwithstanding the application of Pennsylvania preclusion law, following the U.S. Supreme Court’s “emphatic[.]” statement that it “disapprove[d] the doctrine of preclusion by ‘virtual representation.’” *Id.* at 312 (quoting *Taylor*, 553 U.S. at 885). In fact, the U.S. Supreme Court recognized the theory’s “amorphous balancing test” could violate due process and rejected the doctrine. *Taylor*, 553 U.S. at 898, 901.

Despite this clear denouncement, Defendants nevertheless seek to invoke the “virtual representation” theory, contending that privity will be found when the party

and the non-party “share ‘such an identification of interest ... with another as to represent the same legal right.’” Int. Br. at 19 (citing *Bergdoll v. Com.*, 858 A.2d 185, 197 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 2004)); *see also id.* (citing *EEOC v. U.S. Steel Corp.*, 921 F.2d 489, 493 (3d Cir. 1990) for the proposition that privity means that “the relationship between one who is on the record and another *is close enough* to include that other within the res judicata”) (emphasis added)). But, this is the very definition of virtual representation, and this Court is compelled to reject Defendants’ theory.

Additionally, even if this Court were inclined to determine the question of whether Plaintiffs were “adequately represented” in the *LOWV* Action or if they are the “designated representatives” of *LOWV* Legislative Parties, the answer is clearly “no” to both. To demonstrate “adequate representation,” Defendants must show (1) the interests of the nonparty and the alleged representative are “aligned” and (2) “either the party understood [themselves] to be acting in a representative capacity or the original court took care to protect the interests of the nonparty.” *Taylor*, 553 U.S. at 900. Defendants cannot establish either.

In the *LOWV* Action, Legislative Parties’ interests were in defending the 2011 Plan against attack. The case revolved around the constitutionality of the 2011 Plan and *LOWV* Legislative Parties defended that Plan’s constitutionality on the merits. Plaintiffs here, by contrast, are not arguing that the 2011 Plan was constitutional or that the state court lacked authority to assess its constitutionality. Rather, Plaintiffs

challenge that court's unconstitutional usurpation of the Pennsylvania Legislature's legislative powers in imposing new "mandatory" (albeit nonexistent) districting criteria, failing to provide the Legislature an adequate opportunity to enact remedial legislation, and drawing a replacement plan utilizing the new criteria.

Separately, Defendants argue that there was "adequate representation" of Federal Plaintiffs because counsel for Federal Plaintiffs, Mr. Haverstick, also represented Senator Scarnati in the *LOWV* Action. Int. Br. at 21. This reeks of desperation; lawyers frequently represent different clients with divergent interests in different litigations. Further, federal courts routinely refuse to find privity or substantial control over the litigation merely because a nonparty retained the same attorney who represented a party to the earlier action. *See, e.g., Collins v. E.I. DuPont de Nemours & Co.*, 34 F.3d 172, 178 (3d Cir. 1994) (holding the fact that plaintiff "had the same attorney as the plaintiffs in the first suit" did not make preclusion appropriate); *Perez-Guzman v. Gracia*, 346 F.3d 229, 234 (1st Cir. 2003) (finding no inference of control over litigation when plaintiff's attorney also represented his political party in prior litigation).

Additionally, Defendants claim that Federal Plaintiffs "are acting in a 'representative capacity' for, or 'as designated representatives' of, Speaker Turzai and Senator Scarnati in this case." Int. Br. at 21. Yet, the only alleged "proof" cited is that Speaker Turzai and Senator Scarnati commented on the possibility of a

lawsuit being filed in federal court and that their lawyers filed a stay application raising similar arguments to those asserted by Plaintiffs here. Here again, this at best circumstantial evidence, located entirely outside the pleadings, should not be considered by the Court, and surely does not demonstrate that Plaintiffs agreed to represent *LOWV* Legislative Parties' interests here.

Finally, State Plaintiffs also do not represent *LOWV* Legislative Parties' interests. Each Pennsylvania State Senator is independently elected from his or her own senate district. No Senator is – under the Pennsylvania Constitution – a servant or deputy of another Senator. Each casts an equal vote when the State Senate is considering legislation. Moreover, the role of the President Pro Tempore (“Pro Tem”) is distinct from that of the Senate Majority Leader, with different responsibilities. The Pro Tem is an institutional office created by the Pennsylvania Constitution, whereas the Senate Majority Leader is the elected leader of the Republican Caucus, selected by his colleagues. While the Senate Majority Leader is responsible for the Caucus, the Pro Tem serves both Republicans and Democrats and has the duties and authority of the office set forth by the Pennsylvania Constitution, Senate Rules, and the Legislative Officers and Employees [sic] Law. *See* Pa. Const. art. II, §§ 9, 17(b); art. IV, § 14; Rules of the Senate of Pa., *available at* <http://www.pasen.gov/rules/2017SenRules.pdf>; Act of Jan. 10, (1968) 1967, P.L.



925, No. 417. State Plaintiffs are not the “designated representatives” of *LOWV* Legislative Parties.

**C. Plaintiffs Did Not Have A Full And Fair Opportunity To Litigate The Issues In This Case In The *LOWV* Action**

Issue preclusion is also not applicable here because there was not a full and fair opportunity to litigate this case in the *LOWV* Action. The Third Circuit has held that a “full and fair opportunity” includes the opportunity to be represented by counsel in the original action, file briefs and evidence, and participate at any oral argument held. *See Metro. Edison Co. v. Pa. Pub. Util. Comm’n*, 767 F.3d 335, 351 (3d Cir. 2014) (finding fair opportunity when parties were “represented by counsel, filed multiple briefs, pointed to evidence from the [underlying administrative] hearing, and presented oral argument to the [court]”). Defendants do not even attempt to show that there was a full and fair opportunity to litigate the instant issues in the *LOWV* Action – because there was not one.

As described above, the issues in this case – *i.e.*, the Elections Clause violations alleged here – each occurred *after* the trial. They did not arise until the state court issued its orders and opinions, and *LOWV* Legislative Parties therefore simply could not have litigated these issues. Accordingly, even assuming privity between *LOWV* Legislative Parties and Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs plainly did not have a full and fair opportunity to litigate the issues in the state court action.

**D. The Court Cannot Apply Issue Preclusion Because The Underlying Decision Is Unconstitutional**

The U.S. Supreme Court has instructed that “[a] State may not grant preclusive effect in its own courts to a constitutionally infirm judgment, and other state *and federal courts* are not required to accord full faith and credit to such a judgment.” *Kremer v. Chem. Constr. Corp.*, 456 U.S. 461, 482 (1982) (emphasis added); *see also Nat’l Collegiate Athletic Ass’n v. Corbett* (“*Corbett II*”), 79 F. Supp. 3d 536, 542 n.5 (M.D. Pa. 2015) (noting “federal courts need not afford preclusive effect to state judgments that are...constitutionally defective” on due process grounds).

Here, Plaintiffs claim that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s actions violate the Elections Clause in several ways, but each subsumed within that court’s judgment. As such, Defendants are simply not permitted to rely upon that unconstitutionally infirm judgment to bar Plaintiffs’ claims. Of course, this makes perfect sense: were the result otherwise, state courts (particularly the highest court in any state) could simply insulate their actions from further review based upon issue preclusion principles even if those actions resulted in a judgment violating the U.S. Constitution. The U.S. Constitution’s Supremacy Clause countenances no such result. *See Reynolds v. Sims*, 377 U.S. 533, 584 (1964) (holding provisions of a state constitution were unconstitutional under the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution because the provisions violated the Equal Protection Clause).

In addition to being “constitutionally infirm,” the state court’s failure to provide the Legislature with an adequate opportunity to create a remedial plan violates due process principles. Justice Baer, who joined in the court’s majority holding that the 2011 Plan was unconstitutional, dissented from the court’s “remedial” actions, expressing his concern that the remedy encroaches on due process rights. *See* Compl., Ex. I at 3 (stating “the Court’s remedy threatens the separation of powers dictated by Article I, Section 4 of the United States Constitution by failing to allow our sister branches sufficient time to legislate a new congressional districting map, potentially impinges upon the due process rights of the parties at bar as well as other interested parties, and foments unnecessary confusion in the current election cycle.”); *id.* at 11 (objecting to remedy as violating “constitutionally-mandated due process”).

#### **IV. Judicial Estoppel Does Not Apply**

Intervenors contend that Plaintiffs’ claims are barred by judicial estoppel because *LOWV* Legislative Parties argued to stay *Diamond v. Torres*, 5:17-cv-05054-MMB (E.D. Pa. 2017) (“*Diamond* Action”) pending the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s decision in the previously-filed *LOWV* Action. Int. Br. at 22-26. Specifically, Intervenors argue that *LOWV* Legislative Parties’ argument in *Diamond* – that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court should be given the opportunity to adjudicate the *LOWV* Action – is “clearly inconsistent” with Plaintiffs’ claims in this

action, and that judicial estoppel therefore applies. Intervenor is wrong for multiple reasons.

First, judicial estoppel applies only if “the party against whom it is sought has taken a position inconsistent with a position previously taken.” *Greenway Ctr., Inc. v. Essex Ins. Co.*, 475 F.3d 139, 151 (3d Cir. 2007). *See also New Hampshire v. Maine*, 532 U.S. 742, 750 (2001) (“a party’s later position must be ‘clearly inconsistent’ with its earlier position”). As detailed above, Plaintiffs are not Speaker Turzai and Senator Scarnati (the parties in the *Diamond* Action); they are not in privity with Speaker Turzai or Senator Scarnati; nor did they take any prior inconsistent position in the *Diamond* Action. Moreover, the facts that Defendants advance to propel their theory that Plaintiffs are “closely aligned” with Speaker Turzai and Senator Scarnati and are their “proxies,” Int. Br. at 14-15, 22, reside outside the pleadings, and thus cannot be considered.

Second, judicial estoppel would not apply even if *LOWV* Legislative Parties were parties to this action because the position that they advanced in the *Diamond* Action is not “clearly inconsistent” with Plaintiffs’ position here. *See New Hampshire*, 532 U.S. at 750; *Zedner v. United States*, 547 U.S. 489, 506 (2006) (no judicial estoppel where positions were not “clearly inconsistent”); *Morris v. Rumsfeld*, No. CIV.A. 101-CV-1729, 2007 WL 951450, at \*3 (M.D. Pa. Mar. 27, 2007) (same). In fact, they are not inconsistent at all.

Plaintiffs claim that the state court usurped the authority granted to the Pennsylvania Legislature by the Elections Clause by legislating new criteria and issuing the Court Drawn Plan. Conversely, *LOWV* Legislative Parties argued that the *Diamond* Action should be stayed because the state court had by that point already exercised jurisdiction over virtually identical gerrymandering challenges to the 2011 Plan, demanding the same relief, *i.e.*, invalidation of the 2011 Plan under the (as then-understood) coterminous federal and state gerrymandering standards. Under such circumstances, they argued, *Grove v. Emison* counsels the state court should take the lead in *adjudicating* the case and applying existing standards to the facts. *Diamond*, 5:17-cv-05054-MMB, Doc. 26-4, at 3, 25-26 (E.D. Pa. 2017). At that time, the federal and state standards were “coterminous,” and *LOWV* Legislative Parties argued before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court that they should remain coterminous. But, in seeking a stay of the *Diamond* Action, *LOWV* Legislative Parties never contended, much less conceded, that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court was free to *legislate* a new standard completely untethered from any legislative act. Quite the opposite; they contested before both the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and Commonwealth Court that state courts lack the right under the Elections Clause to

adopt any criteria not ratified in a bona fide legislative process. *See* Compl., Ex. F at 93-94.<sup>11</sup>

Further, when *LOWV* Legislative Parties sought continuance of the stay in the *Diamond* Action in January 2018, it was not because they endorsed the state court’s decision, but rather because the Pennsylvania Supreme Court had granted the remedy sought in the *Diamond* Action: striking down the 2011 Plan.

Third, judicial estoppel requires a showing of bad faith and “is an ‘extraordinary remedy’” that should be employed only “when a party’s inconsistent behavior would otherwise result in a miscarriage of justice.” *Ryan Operations G.P. v. Santiam–Midwest Lumber Co.*, 81 F.3d 355, 365 (3d Cir.1996); *Greenway*, 475 F.3d at 151 (inapplicable because no evidence party acted in bad faith). In this context, bad faith means, for instance, deliberate concealment of material information in a bankruptcy proceeding. *See Ryan Operations*, 81 F.3d at 362-63 (“An inconsistent argument sufficient to invoke judicial estoppel must be

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<sup>11</sup> Although *LOWV* Legislative Parties argued in the *LOWV* Action that the Elections Clause vests exclusive rights in the state legislature the parties did not fully and fairly litigate the issue before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, nor could they have. First, the *LOWV* Action focused almost entirely on the First and Fourteenth Amendments and their corresponding Pennsylvania provisions – not the Elections Clause. Second, and more importantly, the violations that give rise to Plaintiffs’ claims and the specific issues presented in this case – the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s creation of new districting criteria and issuance of the Court Drawn Plan – occurred *after* argument, precluding any opportunity to fully and fairly litigate it.

attributable to intentional wrongdoing.”). Intervenors have not made any showing of bad faith on Plaintiffs’ part.

## **V. Plaintiffs Have Sufficiently Alleged Standing**

Defendants argue that State Plaintiffs and Federal Plaintiffs lack standing to bring this action because (1) the rights asserted are not personal, but really belong to the Legislature; (2) Plaintiffs cannot prove injury-in-fact; (3) Plaintiffs have not pled causation; and (4) Plaintiffs’ injuries are not redressable. *See* Def. Br. at 16-19; Int. Br. at 5-13. Defendants’ arguments are unfounded.

### **A. State Plaintiffs Have Standing**

“To qualify as a party with standing to litigate, a person must show, first and foremost, ‘an invasion of a legally protected interest’ that is ‘concrete and particularized’ and ‘actual or imminent.’” *Arizonans for Official English v. Ariz.*, 520 U.S. 43, 64 (1997) (quoting *Lujan v. Defenders of Wildlife*, 504 U.S. 555, 560 (1992)). As leaders of the Pennsylvania Senate, State Plaintiffs have suffered and will continue to suffer particularized injury by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s issuance, and the Executive Defendants’ enforcement of, the Court Drawn Plan. Specifically, State Plaintiffs were deprived of (1) their legislative authority to apportion congressional districts; and (2) the federally-mandated “adequate opportunity” to craft a remedial plan — both violations of the Elections Clause.

Defendants contend that State Plaintiffs lack individual standing because they are not the General Assembly. *See* Int. Br. at 6-7. But, this position is unfounded. With respect to a legislator’s standing, “[t]he courts have drawn a distinction ... between a public official’s mere disobedience of a law for which a legislator voted – which is not an injury in fact – and an official’s ‘distortion of the process by which a bill becomes a law’ by nullifying a legislator’s vote or depriving a legislator of an opportunity to vote – which is an injury in fact.” *Russell v. DeJongh*, 491 F.3d 130, 135 (3d Cir. 2007).

Here, State Plaintiffs are similarly situated to those in *Coleman v. Miller*, 307 U.S. 433 (1939). In *Coleman*, a group of Kansas state senators, whose votes would have been sufficient to defeat a resolution ratifying a proposed federal constitutional amendment, challenged the state lieutenant governor’s tie-breaking vote. *Id.* at 446. The Court held they had “an interest in the proceeding” sufficient for standing. *Id.* The Court reasoned:

Here, the plaintiffs include twenty senators, whose votes against ratification have been overridden and virtually held for naught although if they are right in their contentions their votes would have been sufficient to defeat ratification. We think that these senators have a plain, direct and adequate interest in maintaining the effectiveness of their votes.

*Id.* at 438; *see also Alaska Legis. Council v. Babbitt*, 181 F.3d 1333, 1337 (D.C. Cir. 1999) (“[L]egislators have a judicially recognized, personal interest in maintaining the ‘effectiveness of their votes.’”); *Kennedy v. Sampson*, 511 F.2d 430, 436 (D.C.



Cir. 1974) (“No more essential interest could be asserted by a legislator” than to vindicate the effectiveness of his vote).

Similarly, in *Dennis v. Luis*, 741 F.2d 628 (3d Cir. 1984), legislators of the Virgin Islands were held to have standing when they brought suit after the Governor ignored their rejection of his choice for commissioner of commerce and appointed him “acting” commissioner anyway. *Id.* at 629. The legislators argued that the effect of the appointment was “to usurp the doctrine of separation of powers and circumvent the process of advice and consent, thus violating a basic constitutional power conferred upon the Legislature ... by the United States Congress.” *Id.* at 629-630. The court reasoned that the allegation that the legislators’ right had been usurped by the Governor was sufficiently personal to constitute injury in fact and satisfied the minimum constitutional requirements of standing. *Id.* at 631.

As in *Coleman* and *Luis*, State Plaintiffs here have a plain, direct, and adequate interest in maintaining not only their votes, but also their responsibilities as leaders of the Pennsylvania Senate to craft a remedial plan. Senator Folmer is Chairman of the Senate State Government Committee, and is responsible for setting and managing the committee agenda for the crafting of a remedial plan and eventually reporting it out of committee. *See* Compl., ¶ 12. Similarly, Senator Corman, as Majority Leader (of a 34-16 majority), acts as chief spokesperson for the majority party in the Senate, oversees the committee chairmen, and sets the floor agenda

regarding any remedial plan — as well as acting to pass it. *See id.*, ¶ 11. In these roles, they are primarily and particularly responsible for passage of a remedial plan, and maintain responsibility for any districting legislation. Indeed, these Senators serve as the “tip of the spear” for any remedial plan.

Consequently, the implementation of the Court Drawn Plan will distinctly harm State Plaintiffs by depriving them of rights guaranteed to them by the Elections Clause, by usurping their authority to establish congressional districting criteria, and affording them less than an “adequate opportunity” to craft, vote for, and enact a remedial plan. *Id.*, ¶¶ 4-5. Thus, they have alleged facts sufficient for Article III standing, injury-in-fact, and causation.<sup>12</sup> *See Luis*, 741 F.2d at 631.

Defendants argue that State Plaintiffs have suffered no injury-in-fact, citing *Raines v. Byrd*, 521 U.S. 811 (1997), for the proposition that individual legislators lack standing to sue over purported usurpations of legislative power unless they personally could have changed the legislative outcome but-for the usurpation. Def. Br. at 17-18; Int. Br. at 8. *Raines* is not controlling here.

In *Raines*, four Senators and two Congressmen challenged the Line Item Veto Act, which afforded the President the authority to “cancel” certain spending and tax

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<sup>12</sup> Defendants’ causation argument appears focused on Federal Plaintiffs, and does not articulate if and how State Plaintiffs have failed to plead causation. But even assuming *arguendo* such an argument is being advanced, the Complaint makes clear that State Plaintiffs’ rights as legislators and Senate leaders were harmed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s actions. *See id.*, ¶¶ 98-114.

benefit measures after he has signed them into law. 521 U.S. at 814. The legislators argued, *inter alia*, that the Act injured them in their official capacities. *Id.* at 815. Noting it had “never had occasion to rule on the question of legislative standing presented here,” *id.* at 820, the Court held the legislators lacked standing to challenge the Act, because they did not have a sufficient personal stake in the dispute. *Id.* at 830. The Court reasoned that to allow legislators standing anytime an act resulted in a diminution of authority would mean that several Presidents, Attorneys-General, and other federal office-holders throughout U.S. history would have had standing to challenge various congressional acts. The Court was unwilling to extend the role of courts under Article III in such an instance. *Id.* at 826-828.

Significantly, the Court in *Raines* took into account its prior holding in *Coleman*, which it summarized as follows:

[O]ur holding in *Coleman* stands ... for the proposition that legislators whose votes would have been sufficient to defeat (or enact) a specific legislative act have standing to sue if that legislative action goes into effect (or does not go into effect), on the ground that their votes have been completely nullified.

521 U.S. at 823. The Court, however, distinguished *Coleman* because in *Raines* the federal legislators’ votes were given full effect; “[t]hey simply lost the vote.” *Id.* at 824. Moreover, because there was “a vast difference between the level of vote nullification at issue in *Coleman* and the abstract dilution of institutional legislative power that is alleged here”, the Court declined to extend *Coleman*. *Id.* at 826.

The situation presented here squarely reflects the vote nullification scenario present in *Coleman*. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s actions – in usurping the Legislature’s districting role, and in not granting the Legislature sufficient time to pass a remedial plan – have effectively nullified State Plaintiffs’ votes, and ability to lead the enactment of a remedial plan. *See LULAC*, 548 U.S. at 415-16 (“As the Constitution vests redistricting responsibilities foremost in the *legislatures of the States* and in Congress, a lawful, legislatively enacted plan should be preferable to one drawn by the courts....Underlying this principle is the assumption that to prefer a court-drawn plan to a legislature’s replacement would be contrary to the ordinary and proper operation of the political process.” (emphasis added)). Thus, *Raines* – which involved the “abstract dilution of institutional legislative power” and separation of powers concerns, and where the Act in question was actually passed by the legislature, 521 U.S. at 826 – is inapposite. *See Ariz. State Legis.*, 135 S. Ct. at 2664-66 (applying *Coleman* rather than *Raines*, and finding standing for Elections Clause claim brought by state legislature).

But even assuming *arguendo* that *Raines* controls, State Plaintiffs still meet the *Coleman*-based exception articulated in *Raines*, because their votes and efforts, if they were provided an “adequate opportunity,” likely would have sufficed to enact remedial legislation. Senator Corman, as Senate Majority Leader, presides over a 34-16 advantage in the Pennsylvania Senate – a majority more than sufficient to pass

a new districting plan, or if necessary, garner the two-thirds vote needed to override any veto by the Governor.<sup>13</sup> And, given the standard applicable to these Motions, State Plaintiffs are entitled to the benefit of any doubt that this is so. *N.J. Carpenters*, 760 F.3d at 302.

### **B. Federal Plaintiffs Have Standing**

Federal Plaintiffs have also alleged sufficient individualized harm to establish standing.<sup>14</sup> Courts have long recognized that “[e]lected officials have personal interests in their office sufficient to give them standing when the district they represent is subject to a constitutional challenge.” *Johnson v. Mortham*, 915 F. Supp. 1529, 1537-38 (N.D. Fla. 1995) (citing *League of United Latin Am. Citizens, Council No. 4434 v. Clements*, 884 F.2d 185, 188 (5th Cir.1989)); *Williams v. State Bd. of Elections*, 696 F. Supp. 1563, 1569-73 (N.D.Ill.1988)); *c.f. Wittman v. Personhuballah*, 136 S. Ct. 1732, 1737 (2016) (finding lack of standing to pursue appeal because no intervenor member of Congress was seeking re-election in the challenged district).

The U.S. Supreme Court and Third Circuit have also recognized the particular interest that candidates have in the regulation of elections. *See Storer v. Brown*, 415

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<sup>13</sup> Consequently, Plaintiffs’ injury-in-fact is not predicated upon the legislature agreeing with the Governor, as Defendants claim. Int. Br. at 10-11.

<sup>14</sup> Defendants’ filings do not appear to allege that Federal Plaintiffs lack “prudential standing,” thus this point is not in dispute.

U.S. 724, 728 n.9 (1974) (recognizing standing of candidates for office who sought to have declared unconstitutional statutes which required candidates to be politically disaffiliated for at least one year prior to the immediately preceding primary election); *Cook v. Gralike*, 531 U.S. 510, 531 (2001) (Rehnquist, C.J., concurring) (“Actions such as the present one challenging ballot provisions have in most instances been brought by the candidates themselves, and no one questions the standing of respondents ... to raise a First Amendment challenge to such laws.”); *Vote Choice, Inc. v. DiStefano*, 4 F.3d 26 (1st Cir. 1993) (candidate had standing to challenge to a state financing law).<sup>15</sup>

Plaintiffs allege that each of Federal Plaintiffs’ current districts is radically altered by the Court Drawn Plan. *See* Compl., ¶¶ 13-20. Pursuant to the Court Drawn Plan, Federal Plaintiffs will no longer represent a substantial percentage of their prior constituents, destroying any incumbency advantage they once possessed. *Id.* Moreover, Federal Plaintiffs have invested time and energy campaigning to voters who are no longer in their districts, and incurred significant expense in running for reelection in their current districts. *Id.* The benefits of those expenditures

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<sup>15</sup> Defendants’ reliance upon *City of Philadelphia v. Klutznick*, 503 F. Supp. 663 (E.D. Pa. 1980) is misplaced. *Klutznick* involved allegations of improprieties with a city census, and three of the plaintiffs, who were legislators, were merely concerned that the undercount “would result in an inaccurate reapportionment of Congressional and legislative districts.” *See id.* at 672. Unlike here, no curtailment of legislative rights and duties was at issue in *Klutznick*.

will be severely curtailed, if not lost entirely if the Court Drawn Plan is implemented.<sup>16</sup> *See* Amicus Brief, Brian McCann et al. (Doc. 66), at 4.

These allegations notwithstanding, Defendants nonetheless contend that Federal Plaintiffs have not alleged a causal connection between the radical changes in their districts created by the Court Drawn Plan, and the resulting harm and waste Federal Plaintiffs are incurring as a result. Intervenor postulate that “Plaintiffs could establish causation only if the General Assembly would have passed a new plan, and the Governor would have signed it, had the General Assembly been given more time.” Int. Br. at 10. Yet, not surprisingly, Intervenor fail to cite even a single case for this proposition.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Consequently, *Lance v. Coffman*, which involved a generalized grievance claim brought by voters, 549 U.S. 437, 441-442 (2007), is inapposite. Here, Federal Plaintiffs have suffered real and personal harm not shared generally by others. *See* Compl. ¶¶ 13-20. *See also* *Agre*, 2018 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 4316 at \*112-\*113 (distinguishing *Coffman* because plaintiff-voters identified personal harms).

Further, Defendants’ argument that Federal Plaintiffs did not specify in their affidavits that they expended personal monies is beside the point; the Complaint clearly alleges that they incurred these campaign expenses. *E.g.*, Compl., ¶¶ 14-17. As all well-pleaded allegations as to standing are assumed to be true, Defendants’ attempt to twist the Complaint’s language should be rejected. *Warth v. Selden*, 422 U.S. 490, 501 (1975). It is also self-evident that Federal Plaintiffs have expended personal time seeking re-election under the 2011 Plan.

<sup>17</sup> Defendants’ argument is basically that no one has standing – or authority – to assess the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s unconstitutional actions, save perhaps for the U.S. Supreme Court if and when it chooses to act. In the meantime, Defendants’ preferred unconstitutional map is “good enough,” as they see it. This

Simply stated, causation here is evident: the state court's actions were hasty, ill-advised, and unconstitutional – and have caused Federal Plaintiffs harm. The harm described in the Complaint shows that this harm flows directly from the improper invalidation of the 2011 Plan, and unconstitutional imposition of the Court Drawn Plan. *See* Compl., ¶¶ 9-20. By way of example, with respect to Plaintiff Congressman Scott Perry's district: "Under the Congressional districting plan recently crafted by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Congressman Perry will only represent 59% of the voters from his previous district. As such, *the new map destroys any incumbent advantage he enjoyed under the previous plan.*" *Id.*, ¶ 17. No case requires Federal Plaintiffs to speculate at the pleading stage (as Defendants suggest) to what extent they might have been harmed if a different map had been properly and constitutionally adopted. Defendants' causation argument fails.

As Federal Plaintiffs have alleged concrete, particularized and imminent harm that can be redressed by this Court, they have standing.

### **C. Plaintiffs' Injuries Are Redressable**

Defendants argue that Plaintiffs' injuries are not redressable because 2 U.S.C. § 2a(c) supposedly bars this Court from ordering use of a map that was not enacted

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is nonsense – and is exactly why injunctive relief is available and appropriate in these situations.



“in the manner provided by [state] law.” Int. Br. at 12-13. Defendants’ argument is specious.

For starters, the case upon which Defendants rely clarifies that the mapmaking process is left to the redistricting procedures adopted by the state, which here is Pennsylvania’s Legislature and Pennsylvanians – not the courts. *See Ariz. State Legis.*, 135 S. Ct. at 2670. That, of course, is not what happened given the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s usurpation. Surely, a state court has not acted properly – even if it operated “in the manner provided by state law” – when in doing so it has violated the U.S. Constitution, as the court did here. Defendants’ implication that U.S. constitutional violations are permissible so long as one follows state law flies in the face of both the Supremacy Clause and common sense.

But more importantly, 2 U.S.C. § 2a(c) is an arcane and obscure statute that seldom, if ever, applies. *See Branch v. Smith*, 538 U.S. 254, 273 (2003); *Ariz. State Legis.*, 135 S. Ct. at 2670. In fact, the Court has held that a court may invoke Section 2a(c)’s stopgap provision only when an election is so imminent that redistricting pursuant to state law cannot be completed without disrupting the election process. *Branch*, 538 U.S. at 273-275.<sup>18</sup> Surely this is not the case here. As Justice Wecht pointed out during oral argument before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, primary

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<sup>18</sup> Plaintiffs have not discovered any situation where § 2a(c) was employed.

elections here can be pushed back at least as far as August 2018 – possibly even September – and Defendants’ counsel agreed this was possible. *LOWV* Oral Argument Tr. 35:6-38:7 (Mr. Aronchick noting the Executive Branch has “complete power, to order moving the primary,” and agreeing to work with Justice Wecht’s suggestion of August or later).<sup>19</sup> Thus, allowing the legislative districting process to proceed – as it should have in the first instance – is still very much a viable option, and Section 2a(c) simply does not apply.<sup>20</sup>

Further, federal courts have repeatedly ruled that holding elections under an unconstitutional districting plan is preferable to disrupting the election process. *See, e.g., Upham*, 456 U.S. at 44 (“It is true we have authorized District Courts to order or to permit elections to be held pursuant to apportionment plans that do not in all respects measure up to the legal requirements, even constitutional requirements.”); *Wells v. Rockefeller*, 394 U.S. 542, 547 (1969) (affirming conduct of elections under

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<sup>19</sup> The full transcript of the January 17, 2018 oral argument before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court was provided to this Court as Exhibit A to Intervenor’s Brief In Opposition To Plaintiffs’ Motion For A Preliminary Injunction.

<sup>20</sup> Common Cause has submitted an *amicus* brief wherein it identifies its position as a “lead plaintiff” in *Common Cause v. Rucho*, 1:16-CV-1026 (M.D.N.C.), *see* Doc. 99 at 2, and argues for the application of § 2a(c). *Id.* at 4-6. Curiously, a review of the filings in the North Carolina matter discloses that Common Cause never argued for the application of § 2a(c) there. Given that the districting plan in that matter was struck very close in time to election activities, one can only wonder why not.

an invalidated map because the “primary election was only three months away.”); *Kilgarlin v. Hill*, 386 U.S. 120, 121 (1967) (affirming a district court’s order conducting state legislative elections under the current “constitutionally infirm” apportionment law).<sup>21</sup>

With the foregoing in mind, it is axiomatic that using the 2011 Plan (in place for seven years) for the upcoming 2018 elections will cause the least amount of disruption, while allowing the Legislature ample time to pass a new districting plan. Alternatively, this Court should not be reticent to enjoin the Court Drawn Plan and allow the Legislature an appropriate timeframe to enact a new plan, as sufficient time still remains for it to do so, particularly in light of the Executive Branch’s aforementioned concessions. Failing that, this Court is free to draft its own temporary plan. *Reynolds v. Sims*, 377 U.S. 533 (1964). Any of these three foregoing options would be preferable, if not required from a constitutional standpoint, over permitting the unlawful Court Drawn Plan to be implemented or resorting to Section 2a(c). Plaintiffs’ claims are redressable.

## **VI. The Abstention Principles Of *Colorado River* Are Inapplicable Here**

Defendants argue that this Court should abstain from hearing this case under the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling in *Colorado River Water Conservation District v.*

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<sup>21</sup> Common Cause’s *amicus* brief fails to cite any of this precedent in arguing that the 2011 Plan is a legal nullity and therefore cannot be used, and instead relies exclusively on state court decisions for this infirm position. *See* Doc. 99 at 3-4.

*United States*, 424 U.S. 800, 817 (1976). Specifically, they argue that the *LOWV* Action is a “parallel state proceeding that raises substantially identical claims and nearly identical allegations and issues” and there are extraordinary circumstances meriting abstention. Def. Br. at 12. Intervenor, while feigning fealty to the Court’s instruction to avoid duplicative arguments, advance the same point. *See* Int. Br. at 26-27. But, *Colorado River* abstention is inapplicable to this case.

As Defendants note, the threshold inquiry for *Colorado River* abstention is whether the state and federal proceedings are “parallel” and “raise substantially identical claims and nearly identical allegations and issues.” Def. Br. at 12 (citing *Nationwide*, 571 F.3d at 307). “The proceedings must involve substantially similar *parties and claims* at the time the federal court is deciding whether to abstain.” *Kelly v. Maxum Specialty Ins. Grp.*, 868 F.3d 274, 285 (3d Cir. 2017) (emphasis added). *See also Ryan v. Johnson*, 115 F.3d 193, 196 (3d Cir. 1997) (“Generally, cases are parallel when they involve the same parties and claims.”).

Here, neither the parties nor the claims are identical to those in the *LOWV* Action. As discussed above, neither State Plaintiffs nor Federal Plaintiffs were parties to the *LOWV* Action. This alone means that the “threshold requirement for *Colorado River* abstention is not met.” *Nat’l Collegiate Athletic Ass’n v. Corbett* (“*Corbett I*”), 25 F. Supp. 3d 557, 572 (M.D. Pa. 2014) (finding cases not parallel

because the two suits included “different parties, as well as identical parties in different procedural postures”).

Furthermore, the claims in this action are distinct from those in the *LOWV* Action. Indeed, as explained above, none of the issues involved in this action even could have been at issue in the *LOWV* Action, as they only arose by virtue of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s orders and opinions disposing of that case. Additionally, Defendants’ claims regarding the possibility of a petition for *certiorari* to the U.S. Supreme Court raising similar arguments is premature, speculative, and irrelevant. *Kelly*, 868 F.3d at 285 (collecting decisions holding that the “parallelism” analysis must focus “on matters as they currently exist, not as they could be modified”). *Colorado River* abstention only applies when there is a parallel *state* court action, and does not apply “just because there is the potential that issues” will overlap. *Id.* (emphasis in original).

But even setting this aside, there are no “extraordinary circumstances meriting abstention.” *Nationwide*, 571 F.3d at 307-08. In this regard, Defendants assert that (1) a federal forum is inconvenient; (2) abstention would avoid piecemeal litigation; (3) the fact that the state courts obtained jurisdiction first weighs in favor of abstention; and (4) Plaintiffs are forum-shopping. *See* Def. Br. at 12-13. Defendants’ assertions are misdirected.

This federal forum clearly is not inherently or practically inconvenient when the claims in the Complaint concern violations of the U.S. Constitution and Executive Defendants are located in Harrisburg. Second, the argument that piecemeal litigation will result because a petition for *certiorari* to the U.S. Supreme Court may be filed soon is misdirected. Surely there is no guarantee that any such petition will be granted. Moreover, nothing substantive remains pending before the state court and no federal policy exists preferring the disposition of federal claims in state court. Third, even though the state courts obtained jurisdiction first, this is immaterial given the substantive difference in claims. Finally, Plaintiffs are not forum-shopping by bringing Elections Clause claims in federal court. These are new claims which were not, and could not have been, adjudicated in the state court in the first instance. No grounds for *Colorado River* abstention exist.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Intervenors also request that this Court stay this action “until the conclusion of U.S. Supreme Court review.” Int. Br. at 27. As even Executive Defendants note, the “certiorari process often takes months, and if the Supreme Court grants review, the parallel proceedings may remain pending for more than a year.” Def. Br. at 12. During the pendency of this months-long delay, the harms described in the Complaint will be made permanent by the intervening primary and general elections. Indeed, even if a stay of this case is granted until the Court decides Speaker Turzai and Senator Scarnati’s emergency application for a stay, the election process will continue, causing more chaos. This Court should not allow a violation of the Elections Clause, affecting millions of Pennsylvanians, to continue while the U.S. Supreme Court embarks upon its deliberative process. Doing so could only entice challenges to congressional maps close in time to elections in the hopes that a state court will unconstitutionally create its own map, leaving the losing party without relief due to the timing associated with a petition for *certiorari*.

## VII. *Younger* Abstention Under *Pennzoil* Does Not Apply

Defendants argue that this Court must abstain under *Younger* and *Pennzoil* because it is “inappropriate for the federal court to proceed on an injunctive claim to render [a] state judgment nugatory.” Def. Br. at 14 n. 5; Int. Br. at 15-17. Defendants misread *Younger* and *Pennzoil*, and for several reasons, *Younger* abstention does not apply.

To begin, not one of Plaintiffs is a party to the *LOWV* Action. This is fatal to the application of *Younger*. In fact, in attempting to shoehorn Plaintiffs’ case into *Younger* abstention, Defendants utterly elide this rule: “*Younger*’s scope is closely circumscribed to parties actually involved in state litigation; even the presence of co-plaintiffs representing identical interests in state proceedings does not extend *Younger* to parties not actually involved in those proceedings.” *Benavidez v. Eu*, 34 F. 3d 825, 832 (9th Cir. 1994) (finding *Younger* abstention inapplicable to parties challenging California Supreme Court’s redistricting plan where federal parties were not state court parties, citing *Doran v. Salem, Inn, Inc.*, 422 U.S. 922, 927-29 (1975)); *Sullivan v. City of Pittsburgh*, 811 F.2d 171, 177 (3d Cir. 1987) (“As the Supreme Court made clear in [*Doran*], where the plaintiff in a federal action is not a party to the state proceeding, *Younger* concerns about federal adjudication do not arise.”); *see also Robinson v. Stovall*, 646 F.2d 1087, 1090-91 (5th Cir. 1981); *Franco v. D.C.*, 422 F. Supp. 2d 216, 223 (D.D.C. 2006). Just because Federal

Plaintiffs may have similar interests to State Plaintiffs, they should not be “thrown into the same hopper for *Younger* purposes[.]” *Doran*, 422 U.S. at 928.

Instead, federal parties who are nonparties to the relevant state proceedings are subject to “derivative preclusion” *only* in the “limited” circumstances where there is “an identity of economic activities and interests” between the two sets of plaintiffs. *See, e.g., New Jersey-Philadelphia Presbytery of the Bible Presbyterian Church v. New Jersey State Bd. of Higher Educ.*, 654 F.2d 868, 878 (3d Cir. 1981) (“*Bible Presbyterian*”); *Sullivan*, 811 F.2d at 178 (citing *Bible Presbyterian*). The only examples of this are “an employer’s federal suit when its employees assert identical interests in state court,” and cases where federal plaintiffs are “too intertwined with the state defendants ‘in terms of ownership, control and management[.]’” *Bible Presbyterian*, 654 F.2d at 878 (citing *Hicks v. Miranda*, 422 U.S. 332, 348-49 (1975), and *Doran*, 422 U.S. at 929); *Sullivan*, 811 F.2d at 178 (“This Court specifically interpreted *Doran* as requiring unitary treatment under *Younger* only where there exists “an identity of economic activities and interests.””); *see also Loc. 194, Int’l. Fed’n of Prof’l and Tech. Engineers, AFL-CIO v. N.J. Turnpike Auth.*, No. 11-cv-1653, 2011 WL 1547473, at \*3 (D.N.J. Apr. 21, 2011) (Linares, J.) (citing and applying *Sullivan*).

Intervenors fail to cite the limited reach of derivative preclusion. Instead, they rely on readily distinguishable out-of-circuit decisions to claim that Plaintiffs are



barred from federal court. *See* Int. Br. at 17. Yet, as required by the Third Circuit, Intervenor did not, because they cannot, show any identity of *economic* activities and interests between these Plaintiffs and those parties in the *LOWV* Action, especially with regard to Federal Plaintiffs, who are plainly independent of any involved state officials. This is fatal to Defendants’ *Younger* defense.<sup>23</sup>

Additionally, *Younger* abstention is substantively unjustified. As a preliminary matter, when the Supreme Court recently reset the rampant expansion of *Younger* abstention by lower courts, it reminded that “*Younger* extends to the three ‘exceptional circumstances’ identified in [*New Orleans Public Service, Inc. v. Council of City of New Orleans*, 491 U.S. 350 (1989)], but no further.” *Sprint Communications, Inc. v. Jacobs*, 134 S. Ct. 584, 593-94 (2013) (emphasis added). The chief fallout from this is a “forceful reminder of the longstanding principle that federal courts have a ‘virtually unflagging’ obligation to hear and decide cases within their jurisdiction.” *ACRA Turf Club, LLC v. Zanzuccki*, 748 F.3d 127, 138 (3d Cir. 2014) (citing *Sprint*).

Against this backdrop, Intervenor misguidedly argue that abstention is warranted under *Pennzoil Co. v. Texaco, Inc.*, 481 U.S. 1 (1987). That brand of

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<sup>23</sup> Intervenor’s argument that Plaintiffs’ claims are “intertwined with” and “essentially derivative” of *LOWV* Legislative Parties is conclusory and suspect. In the very same brief, they undermine this claim by arguing that State Plaintiffs lack prudential standing entirely because only the General Assembly has standing to assert harm. Int. Br. at 6.

*Younger* abstention prevents federal courts from interfering with state “civil proceedings involving certain orders ... uniquely in furtherance of the state courts’ ability to perform their judicial functions.” *ACRA*, 748 F.3d at 136-37. Abstention like this is a “unique breed” that has only been applied twice by the Supreme Court: to proceedings involving civil contempt and proceedings involving the posting of a bond pending state court appeal. *Id.* at 138 n.8. Of course, neither situation is present here.

In *Pennzoil*, the Court held that when a litigant challenging the constitutionality of a state court procedural mechanism (in *Pennzoil*, the requirement to post bond pending appeal) had the opportunity to present its federal claims in the state court but failed to do so, the federal court should assume that state procedures will afford an adequate remedy, in the absence of unambiguous authority to contrary. 481 U.S. at 107.

This case is nothing like *Pennzoil* for several reasons. First, this case is not about a typical state court judgment and it is not a constitutional challenge to a regular state court procedure. This case is about violations of the Elections Clause. It impacts congressional districts, items for which the Elections Clause vests exclusive power in the state legislatures and the people of the state. *Ariz. State Legis.*, 135 S. Ct. at 2677; *Agre*, 2018 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 4316, at 30-31 (Smith, C.J.). Defendants have cited no case applying *Pennzoil* in remotely similar circumstances.

Second, key to *Pennzoil*'s holding was that the plaintiff therein could have raised its constitutional challenge in the state court proceeding, but failed to do so. In the *LOWV* Action, by contrast, the state court created new criteria for districting and issued the Court Drawn Plan *after trial*, depriving *LOWV* Legislative Parties of any opportunity to challenge their actions on U.S. constitutional grounds. Simply stated, there was no opportunity in the *LOWV* Action to challenge the state court's violation of the U.S. Constitution.

Intervenors' suggestion that the only recourse now should be direct review by the U.S. Supreme Court ignores these critical distinctions and is unrealistic. Indeed, if the Elections Clause could be read to afford a state court the right to trample upon it simply because the challenge was asserted in state court, the power of the state court to interfere with congressional elections would be essentially unchecked. Thus, a state's highest court could unilaterally and explicitly hold, for example, that 75% of congressional districts must be drawn to ensure the election of a Republican, but thereafter avoid review by a federal court because, after all, that court is the ultimate arbiter of that state's laws. Surely this cannot be the case, but it is the logical and inevitable outcome if a federal court cannot, as Defendants' contend, step in to

remedy a violation of the U.S. Constitution.<sup>24</sup> Where does a state court’s power end?<sup>25</sup>

### **VIII. Plaintiffs Have Stated Valid Claims**

#### **A. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court Engaged In Legislation, Not “Interpretation”**

Defendants attempt to excuse the state court’s usurpation of the General Assembly’s legislative authority by characterizing those actions as an “interpretation” of the state constitution, and contending that Plaintiffs’ claims are merely an unsupported attempt to challenge that “interpretation.” Def. Br. at 20-23; Int. Br. at 29. Both the record and the law establish that this was not an act of “interpretation,” but rather, overt *legislation* by the state court, in violation of the Elections Clause.

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<sup>24</sup> Campaign Legal Center (“CLC”) has submitted an *amicus* brief dedicated primarily to extolling the purported virtues of the Court Drawn Plan. *See* Doc. 100 at 10. But, as explained herein the Pennsylvania Supreme Court violated the Elections Clause in various ways prior to and during deployment of the Court Drawn Plan. Hence, that such Plan may be to CLC’s liking is inapposite.

<sup>25</sup> Commentators quickly acknowledged that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court “gave state courts a blueprint to strike down political gerrymandering” by resorting to “interpretations” of state constitutions without reference to or regard for the U.S. Constitution or federal court precedent. *See* Mark Joseph Stern, *How to Kill Partisan Gerrymandering*, SLATE (Feb. 11, 2018), <https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2018/02/pennsylvania-gave-state-courts-a-blueprint-to-strike-down-partisan-gerrymandering.html>.

The Elections Clause provides that “[t]he Times, Places and Manner” of congressional elections “shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof” unless “Congress” should “make or alter such Regulations.” U.S. CONST. art. I, § 4, cl. 1. Put simply, the Elections Clause vests authority over congressional elections in two locations: (1) the state legislature and (2) Congress. State courts enjoy none of this delegated authority.<sup>26</sup>

Thus, mandatory criteria governing the drawing of congressional districts are among the “Regulations” this provision delegates to “the Legislature” and Congress. *See, e.g., Branch*, 538 U.S. at 266; *Brown v. Sec’y of State of Florida*, 668 F.3d 1271, 1273-85 (11th Cir. 2012). And any such rules that do not emanate from a state’s legislative process or Congress are *ultra vires*. *See U.S. Term Limits, Inc. v. Thornton*, 514 U.S. 779, 805 (1995) (holding that state constitutional amendment barring candidate from ballot if he or she had already served a set number of terms violated Elections Clause); *Gralike*, 531 U.S. at 523 (holding that state constitutional

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<sup>26</sup> The Elections Clause was a source of significant debate during the Constitutional Convention, and its allocation of authority is not an accident. *See Agre*, 2018 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 4316, at \*9 (Smith, C.J.) (quoting and citing THE FEDERALIST NO. 59 (A. Hamilton)). As noted in *Agre*, “the States’ authority to redistrict is a power delegated by Art. I, § 4, and not a power reserved by the Tenth Amendment.” *Id.* at \*22 (analyzing decisions from this Court in so concluding). The *Agre* decision has been appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. *Agre v. Wolf*, 2:17-cv-4392-MMB (Doc. 214-15) (*In Re Michael C. Turzai, Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, et al.*, No. 17-631 (U.S.)).

provision requiring asterisk next to candidate's name on ballot if he or she failed to pledge support for term limits violated the Elections Clause).

Consistent with that plain language, the U.S. Supreme Court has held “that redistricting is a legislative function, to be performed in accordance with the State’s prescriptions for lawmaking.” *Ariz. State Legis.*, 135 S. Ct. at 2668. While five Justices in *Arizona State Legislature* construed “prescriptions for lawmaking” broadly enough to include “the referendum,” and four believed only the state’s formal *legislature* qualifies, (*compare id.*, with *id.* at 2677-92 (Roberts, C.J., dissenting)), *all* the Justices agreed that redistricting is *legislative* in character. Most importantly for present purposes, no Justice suggested that state courts might share in that legislative function.

The majority opinion in *Arizona State Legislature* drove home the legislative nature of redistricting in holding that the initiative process that established a new redistricting regime in Arizona was justified as “[d]irect *lawmaking* by the *people*.” 135 S. Ct. at 2659 (emphasis added). Specifically, the majority opinion held that the “Clause doubly empowers *the people*” to “control the State’s *lawmaking* processes in the first instance” or to “seek Congress’ correction of regulations prescribed by state legislature.” *Id.* at 2677 (emphasis added); *id.* at 2671-72 (emphasizing “*the people* of Arizona”); *see also id.* at 2658 (emphasizing the “endeavor by *Arizona voters*”), *id.* at 2659 (emphasizing the “[d]irect lawmaking by the people”); *id.* at

2659 n.3 (emphasizing “the people’s sovereign right to incorporate themselves into a State’s lawmaking apparatus”); *id.* at 2660 (emphasizing “direct lawmaking” under the “initiative and referendum provisions” of the Arizona Constitution); *id.* (emphasizing the role of the “electorate of Arizona as a coordinate source of legislation”); *id.* at 2661 (emphasizing “the people’s right...to bypass their elected representative and make laws directly”). *Arizona State Legislature* surely does not support the notion that a state judiciary, an antonym of both “people” and “legislature,” may seize the lawmaking power from both.

It is beyond dispute that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court does not exercise a legislative function when it decides cases. *See Watson v. Witkin*, 22 A.2d 17, 23 (Pa. 1941) (“[T]he duty of courts is to interpret laws, not to make them.”). Yet, that court has now *legislated* criteria the Pennsylvania Legislature must satisfy when drawing a congressional districting plan, such as contiguity, compactness, equal population,<sup>27</sup> and limiting subdivision splits, *see* Compl. Ex. B at 3, Ex. F at 123, and has seized upon these previously non-existent criteria to invalidate the 2011 Plan. *See id.*, ¶¶ 67-69; Ex. F at 121 (relying upon application of such criteria to assess violation of the Free and Equal Elections Clause); *see also id.* at 128 (same).

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<sup>27</sup> The PCO actually requires districts be drawn “as nearly equal in population as practicable.” Ex. B at 3.

These standards plainly amount to mandatory redistricting criteria of the type typically found in a legislatively enacted elections code. But no Pennsylvania legislative process — not the Legislature, not a constitutional convention, not a referendum, not even an administrative agency with delegated rulemaking authority — adopted or ratified those criteria. Rather, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court wove them from whole cloth. *See id.*, Ex. F at 123 (“These neutral criteria provide a ‘floor’ of protection for an individual against the dilution of his or her vote in the creation of such districts.”); *id.* (“When ... it is demonstrated that, in the creation of congressional districts, these neutral criteria have been subordinated, in whole or in part, to extraneous considerations such as gerrymandering for unfair partisan advantage, a congressional districting plan violates [the Free and Equal Elections Clause] of the Pennsylvania Constitution.”); *id.* at 124 (“[T]his standard does not require a showing that the creators of congressional districts intentionally subordinated these traditional criteria to other considerations in the creation of the district in order for it to violate [the Free and Equal Elections Clause]; rather, it is sufficient to establish a violation of this section to show that these traditional criteria were subordinated to other factors.”).<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> In prior litigation, state courts have reviewed congressional districting only in limited circumstances where a statutory or constitutional provision plainly empowered such review. *See e.g., Mellow v. Mitchell*, 607 A.2d 204 (Pa. 1992) (implementing a congressional redistricting plan when the political branches failed to adopt a map following the 1990 census); *Guy v. Miller*, No. 11 OC 00042 1B,



In fact, the Pennsylvania Constitution *does* enumerate very similar redistricting criteria, which were carefully crafted by the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention of 1968, for state *legislative* districts, but not *congressional* districts:

The Commonwealth shall be divided into fifty senatorial and two hundred three representative districts, which shall be composed of compact and contiguous territory as nearly equal in population as practicable. Each senatorial district shall elect one Senator, and each representative district one Representative. Unless absolutely necessary no county, city, incorporated town, borough, township or ward shall be divided in forming either a senatorial or representative district.

*Compare* Pa. Const. art. II, § 16, *with* Compl., Ex. B at 3:

[T]o comply with this Order, any congressional districting plan shall consist of: congressional districts composed of compact and contiguous territory; as nearly equal in population as practicable; and which do not divide any county, city incorporated town, borough, township, or ward, except where necessary to ensure equality of population.

But no criteria or other restrictions on the General Assembly's legislative power to enact congressional district plans exist in the Pennsylvania Constitution, and have never existed. Indeed, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court itself has

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2011 Nev. Dist. LEXIS 32 (Nev. Dist. Oct. 14, 2011) (outlining procedure for state court review of proposed plans for congressional districts following the political branches failure to adopt a map following the 2010 census); *League of Women Voters of Fla. v. Detzner*, 172 So. 3d 363 (Fla. 2015) (holding that congressional plan violated the "Fair Districts" amendment to the state constitution); *Pearson v. Koster*, 367 S.W.3d 36 (Mo. 2012) (upholding congressional maps under a challenge asserting a violation of the state constitutional requirements for compactness of Congressional districts).

confirmed that, in the “context of Congressional reapportionment,” there are “*no analogous, direct textual references to such neutral apportionment criteria.*” *Erfer*, 794 A.2d at 334 n.4 (emphasis added). Yet now, a decade and a half later, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court has found that they have magically appeared in the state constitution. But, in reality, the court’s imposition of nearly identical criteria to those duly enacted by Pennsylvania’s “prescriptions for lawmaking” was simply legislation from the bench. And, in this context, such judicial activism violates the Elections Clause.

It follows that the Complaint alleges facts sufficient for an Elections Clause violation, Compl., ¶¶ 35-47, 65-92, and Defendants’ argument that this was merely an “interpretation” of Pennsylvania law should be rejected.

**B. Defendants’ Attempt To Recast The Facts Alleged In The Complaint Contradicts The Record, And Is Inappropriate When Considering The Pending Motions**

Defendants argue – amazingly – that there is “*no support*” for the fact that the remedial process ordered by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court violated the Elections Clause; that the U.S. Supreme Court has “accepted” court-drawn maps following similarly constrained timelines in the past; and that the Legislature had plenty of time and guidance from the Court to enact a new plan. Def. Br. at 24-28; *accord* Int. Br. at 30-31. None of Defendants’ assertions are accurate.

Far from there being no support, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court violated the Elections Clause by adopting new congressional districting criteria from whole cloth *and* also by implementing a remedial phase that did not give the Legislature an “adequate opportunity” to enact a new map. *See Upham*, 456 U.S. at 41. This ensured that the court would get to draw the map it wanted, instead of a map being crafted through the legislative process. *See, e.g., Compl., Ex. D* (Mundy, J., dissenting) (noting the majority put the General Assembly on a three-week timeline “without articulating the complete criteria necessary to be constitutionally compliant”); *id., Ex. E* (Baer, J., dissenting) (compressed schedule failed to provide a reasonable opportunity for General Assembly to legislate a new map in compliance with the Elections Clause).

First, the court’s January 22 PCO provided the Legislature a mere 18 days to pass a new plan. But a redistricting plan, like any other statute, must go through the normal legislative process, which involves the time-consuming political process of obtaining enough votes in both chambers, and the back-and-forth, give-and-take negotiations required to reach the necessary compromises. Eighteen days was utterly inadequate in light of these realities – particularly given the court’s failure to issue its full opinion until 2 days prior to the court-imposed deadline.<sup>29</sup> The General

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<sup>29</sup> The cases cited by Defendants do not show that the U.S. Supreme Court has “accepted” court-drawn maps following similar constrained timelines in the past. The denial of a petition for *certiorari* does not signify the Court’s blessing. *E.g.,*

Assembly was therefore left to speculate on exactly which provision of the Pennsylvania Constitution the 2011 Plan purportedly violated – which was important knowledge, since the court’s finding would largely dictate how such violation(s) could be remedied in any new map. Under these unprecedented and unreasonable constraints, it is little wonder that the Legislature was unable to pass a new map. Defendants’ characterization that the Legislature did not “get to work on a new map” in good faith, Def. Br. at 1, is both unfair and a disingenuous misrepresentation of the facts.

Further, although the January 22 PCO articulated creation of the newly-mandated criteria, it was silent on exactly how those criteria needed to be applied and how they would be evaluated. For example, the January 22 PCO stated that a political subdivision could only be split for population equality. But what if such a split was necessary to comply with the Voting Rights Act?

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*Loeper v. Mitchell*, 506 U.S. 828 (1992) (denying *certiorari* with no analysis). Further, they are distinguishable from the present situation. For instance, in *Abrams v. Johnson*, the district court enacted its own plan only after giving the legislature time to develop a new one, and ultimately being informed by the legislature that it was deadlocked. 521 U.S. 74, 82 (1997); *Larios v. Cox*, 5 F. Supp. 2d 1335, 1336 (N.D. Ga. 2004) (hearing a motion to stay application in the middle of the 19-day deadline, and where a court-drawn map could occur only if the plaintiffs petitioned the court after the deadline), *aff’d*, 542 U.S. 947, 949 (2004) (declining invitation to weaken the one-person, one-vote standard by creating a safe harbor for population deviations of less than 10%, and not addressing 19-day court-imposed deadline). Most of all, none of these cases involved a situation where the court failed to issue its opinion on what the constitutional violations were, and how to cure them, until only 2 days before the court-appointed deadline.

In fact, it was not until the court’s February 7 Majority Opinion where the court indicated that a showing of compactness or split subdivisions was “not the exclusive means by which a violation of [the Free and Equal Elections Clause] may be established.” Compl., Ex. F at 124. The Court’s Majority Opinion also for the first time imposed the notion of proportional representation – a requirement that would greatly dictate how the lines can be drawn. Other newly-minted guidelines included:

- “When ... it is demonstrated that, in the creation of congressional districts, these neutral criteria have been subordinated, in whole or in part, to extraneous considerations such as gerrymandering for unfair partisan advantage, a congressional districting plan violates [the Free and Equal Elections Clause] of the Pennsylvania Constitution.” *Id.*;
- “[T]his standard does not require a showing that the creators of congressional districts intentionally subordinated these traditional criteria to other considerations in the creation of the district in order for it to violate [the Free and Equal Elections Clause]; rather, it is sufficient to establish a violation of this section to show that these traditional criteria were subordinated to other factors.” *Id.*;
- A congressional plan violates the Free and Equal Elections Clause when it splits 28 counties and 68 municipalities. *Id.* at 126, 128, 130;
- A congressional plan violates the Free and Equal Elections Clause when its “mean-median vote gap” is 5.9% or higher (as an acceptable range is between 0 and 4%). *Id.* at 128, 130; and
- A congressional plan violates the Free and Equal Elections Clause when its “efficiency gap” is between 15% and 24% relative to statewide vote share. *Id.* at 128, 129, 130.

Compl., ¶ 69.

But the seizure of the process from the Legislature and State Plaintiffs herein in violation of the Elections Clause did not stop there. The PCO further indicated that even if the Legislature were to pass a plan that the Governor signed, it still needed to be submitted to the court for review. *Id.*, Ex. B at 2.

Separately, while the court allowed the parties to submit proposed remedial maps, it appears the court never had the intention of giving them any meaningful review. The court's PCO required proposed plans to be submitted by February 15, but indicated that a new redistricting plan would be available February 19, just four days later. The court in fact adopted its own map on February 19, just 10 days after *LOWV* Legislative Parties submitted their plan and 4 days after the other parties submitted their proposed plans. The court's February 19 Order does not indicate that any of the proposed plans failed to meet the court's criteria; it only summarily concludes that its plan was "superior." *Id.*, Ex. J at 7. As Chief Justice Saylor described it in his dissenting opinion:

The latest round includes: the submission, within the past few days, of more than a dozen sophisticated redistricting plans; the lack of an opportunity for critical evaluation by all of the parties; the adoption of a judicially created redistricting plan apparently upon advice from a political scientist who has not submitted a report as of record nor appeared as a witness in any court proceeding in this case; and the absence of an adversarial hearing to resolve factual controversies arising in the present remedial phase of this litigation. In these circumstances, the displacement to the judiciary of the political responsibility for redistricting – which is assigned to the General

Assembly by the United States Constitution – appears to me to be unprecedented.

*Id.*, Ex. G (Saylor, C.J., dissenting) at 2.

In short, although the court acknowledged that the primary responsibility for drawing congressional districts rests with the legislature, *id.*, Ex. B at 3, its orders were issued in a calculated manner to avoid just that. The court's actions ensured that the judiciary would draw the lines. In failing to provide the Legislature a meaningful opportunity to re-draw the congressional districts, the court violated the Elections Clause. Certainly on a motion to dismiss/judgment on the pleadings, the allegations in the Complaint are complete enough to state a claim, and any disagreement by Defendants about the adequacy of the time allotted is, at a minimum, a fact question subject to discovery.

### **CONCLUSION**

Defendants' Motions should be denied.

Dated: March 7, 2018

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**WORD COUNT CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing brief complies with the word-count limitation set forth in this Court's Order dated March 5, 2018 (Doc. 98), granting Plaintiffs leave to file a single omnibus brief in opposition to Executive Defendants' Motion to Dismiss and Intervenors' Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings, totaling 15,000 words. Based on the word count feature of the word-processing system used to prepare this brief, I certify that it contains 14,918 words, exclusive of the cover page, tables, and the signature block.

Dated: March 7, 2018

/s/Matthew H. Haverstick

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on March 7, 2018, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Plaintiffs' Omnibus Brief in Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss (Doc. 87) and Intervenor-Defendants' Motion For Judgment on the Pleadings (Doc. 90) was electronically filed with the Court and served upon all counsel and parties of record via the CM/ECF system.

Dated: March 7, 2018

/s/Matthew H. Haverstick



KeyCite Blue Flag – Appeal Notification

Appeal Filed by [IN RE: LOUIS AGRE, ET AL v. GOVERNOR OF PENNSYLVANIA, ET AL](#), 3rd Cir., January 24, 2018

2018 WL 351603

Only the Westlaw citation  
is currently available.  
United States District  
Court, E.D. Pennsylvania.

[Louis AGRE](#), et al.

v.

Thomas W. WOLF, Governor of the  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,  
Jonathan Marks, Commissioner of the  
Pennsylvania Bureau of Commissions,  
Elections, and Legislation, Robert  
Torres, Acting Secretary of the  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,  
Joseph B. Scarnati, III, President Pro  
Tempore of the Pennsylvania Senate,  
and Michael C. Turzai, Speaker of the  
Pennsylvania House of Representatives,  
in their official capacities.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 17–4392

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Signed 01/10/2018

### Synopsis

**Background:** Pennsylvania residents filed § 1983 action seeking declaratory judgment that Pennsylvania General Assembly exceeded its authority under United States Constitution when it enacted congressional redistricting plan that was intended to favor candidates from one political party. Bench trial was held.

**[Holding:]** A three-judge panel of the District Court, [Smith](#), Chief Circuit Judge, held that residents were not entitled to declaration that redistricting plan violated Elections Clause.

Ordered accordingly.

Shwartz, Circuit Judge, concurred in judgment and filed opinion.

[Michael M. Baylson](#), District Judge, dissented and filed opinion.

West Headnotes (1)

### [1] [Election Law](#)



Pennsylvania residents were not entitled to declaration that state legislature's allegedly gerrymandered congressional redistricting plan violated Elections Clause by favoring candidates of Republican Party. U.S. Const. art. 1, § 4.

[Cases that cite this headnote](#)

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Joseph B. Scarnati, III, President Pro Tempore of the Pennsylvania Senate, and Michael C. Turzai, Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, in their official capacities.

BEFORE: Smith, Chief Circuit Judge; Shwartz, Circuit Judge; Baylson, District Judge.

## Opinion

### MEMORANDUM

Smith, Chief Circuit Judge

#### I. Introduction

\*1 Plaintiffs seek a declaratory judgment that the Pennsylvania General Assembly exceeded its authority under the United States Constitution when it enacted a congressional redistricting plan that was intended to favor candidates from the Republican Party. Amended Complaint, ECF No. 88 at 1, 6, 11. Invoking 42 U.S.C. § 1983, Plaintiffs allege a direct violation of the “Elections Clause.” *Id.* at 2. The Elections Clause, Article 1, Section 4, Clause 1 of the Constitution, provides state legislatures with authority to prescribe “[t]he Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives.” U.S. Const. art. I, § 4, cl. 1.<sup>1</sup> Under Plaintiffs' theory, the Clause gives States very limited power: to promulgate procedural rules, and to do so in a neutral fashion. ECF No. 88 at 2. Plaintiffs argue that the General Assembly exceeded this authority when it redrew Pennsylvania's federal congressional districts in 2011. They contend that the General Assembly

prioritized partisan, political ends over “neutral districting criteria,”<sup>2</sup> and, in so doing, violated the Elections Clause’s fairness requirement. *Id.* at 8–9; Plaintiffs’ Post-Trial Memorandum of Fact and Law, ECF No. 204 at 9.

1 The full text of the Clause reads: “[t]he Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing Senators.” U.S. Const. art. I, § 4, cl. 1.

2 The districting criteria identified includes compactness, respect for municipal boundaries, and preservation of communities of interest. “Compactness,” as the term is used in the redistricting context, is a measure of the “aerial or territorial density” of a district. *See* Testimony of Prof. James Gimpel, Trial Tr. Dec. 7, 2017 PM 9:5–6. A related term used in the redistricting context is “contiguity,” which means that the entire district is connected. *Id.* at 59:22–25, 60:1–2.

Plaintiffs allege that Republican members of the General Assembly employed a line-drawing practice known as “packing” and “cracking.” ECF No. 88 at 9. Packing and cracking, also referred to as “stacking” and “splitting,” *see Davis v. Bandemer*, 478 U.S. 109, 116–17, 106 S.Ct. 2797, 92 L.Ed.2d 85 (1986) (plurality), is a technique meant to limit a political party’s electoral success in State districts by “packing” voters who are likely to vote for candidates of a particular party into super-majority districts, where those candidates will likely receive well over 50% of the vote, and “cracking” that party’s remaining likely voters across other districts, dispersed so that its candidates will likely fail to obtain a majority of votes. *Id.* If successful, the disfavored

party’s candidates obtain overwhelming electoral success in the few “packed” districts, but lose (even if narrowly) in the numerous “cracked” districts. *See Whitford v. Gill*, 218 F.Supp.3d 837, 854 (W.D. Wis. 2016) (discussing allegation that “packing” and “cracking” leads to “wasted votes,” or a “dilut[ion]” of the disfavored party’s votes).

\*2 Through this lawsuit, Plaintiffs seek a sea change in redistricting. They are forthright about this intention: they desire a judicial mandate that Art. I, § 4, of the Constitution prohibits any political or partisan considerations in redistricting.<sup>3</sup>

3 *See* Statement of Alice Ballard, Counsel for Plaintiffs, Hearing Tr. Nov. 7, 2017 14:23–25, 15:1–4 (“We’re offering an easily manageable standard to evaluate gerrymandering, and that easily manageable standard is no more gerrymandering. If we win this case, the era of gerrymandering in federal elections is over. That’s our case.”).

[1] Plaintiffs’ ambitious theory suffers from three fatal flaws. First, the Framers provided a check on state power within the text of the Elections Clause, but it is a political one—action by Congress. The language and history of the Clause suggest no direct role for the courts in regulating state conduct under the Elections Clause. Second, the Elections Clause offers no judicially enforceable limit on political considerations in redistricting. Plaintiffs’ partisan blindness theory was long ago rejected by the Supreme Court, and for good reason. The task of prescribing election regulations was given, in the first instance, to political actors who make decisions for political reasons. Plaintiffs ignore this reality. In fact, they ask the

Court to enforce the supposed constitutional command by requiring the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to develop a new process that will somehow sanitize redistricting by removing political influence.<sup>4</sup> Courts cannot mandate new processes for creating election regulations. The Elections Clause leaves that to state legislatures and to Congress—bodies directly accountable to the people. Third, Plaintiffs' Elections Clause claim is an unjustifiable attempt to skirt existing Supreme Court precedent. Partisan gerrymandering claims under the First Amendment and/or Equal Protection Clause are justiciable, but a majority of justices have yet to agree on a standard. Despite the lack of agreement, the justices favoring justiciability uniformly acknowledge that the courts should not assume a primary role in redistricting. Out of concern for a healthy separation from this most political of matters, the justices have proposed high bars for judicial intervention. Contrary to that concern, Plaintiffs offer an Elections Clause theory that invites expansive judicial involvement. Plaintiffs suggest that the Elections Clause offers an easily manageable standard. What they really mean is that it offers a lower bar—an easy path to judicial intervention.

<sup>4</sup> See Amended Complaint, ECF No. 88 at 11 (asking the Court to “[d]irect and order that defendant State officers develop [alternative districting plans] *through a process that has reasonable safeguards against partisan influence, including the consideration of voting preferences.*”) (emphasis added); Plaintiffs' Post-Trial Memorandum of Fact and Law, ECF No. 204 at 10 (“In the [C]omplaint, [we] sought not to impose a particular plan *but to require the defendants to devise a neutral process that will guard against the abuses that led to this unconstitutional map.*”) (emphasis added).

Plaintiffs seek to chart a new path,<sup>5</sup> one that ignores the constitutional text, casts aside persuasive precedent, and brings with it inevitable problems that should counsel restraint before entering the political thicket of popular elections. For these reasons, I would hold the Plaintiffs' Elections Clause claim to be non-justiciable.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Until very recently, no court has granted relief from a redistricting plan, or much less considered the merits of a claim for relief, under the Elections Clause. See *Common Cause v. Rucho*, Nos. 16–1026, 16–1164, — F.Supp.3d —, —, 2018 WL 341658, at \*74 (M.D.N.C. Jan. 9, 2018) (finding North Carolina's 2016 Congressional Redistricting Plan to violate the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause, the First Amendment, and Art. I of the Constitution.); cf. *Lance v. Coffman*, 549 U.S. 437, 127 S.Ct. 1194, 167 L.Ed.2d 29 (2007) (dismissing on standing grounds Colorado voters' claim that a court's drawing of a congressional map violated the Elections Clause).

<sup>6</sup> The views expressed herein are my own. Judge Shwartz joins me in entering judgment in favor of the Defendants, but does so for separate reasons as set forth in her opinion. Judge Baylson would enter judgment in favor of the Plaintiffs, as explained in his detailed opinion.

### a. Procedural History

\*3 The procedural history of this matter is a brief one. Plaintiffs, who began as a group of five Pennsylvania residents and eventually grew to a group of twenty-six, filed a Complaint on October 2, 2017, in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. ECF No. 1. The Honorable Michael M. Baylson, to whom the matter was assigned, promptly executed his duties pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2284 and notified me, as Chief Judge of the



United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, that the matter required a three-judge panel.<sup>7</sup> Oct. 5, 2017 Letter, ECF No. 37. Recognizing the time-sensitive nature of this matter, and pursuant to statutory authority, Judge Baylson conducted a pre-trial scheduling conference and entered a Scheduling Order. *See* ECF Nos. 2, 20, 24. The Scheduling Order provided for expedited discovery and a trial to begin on December 4, 2017. ECF No. 20. On October 19, 2017, pursuant to my authority under 28 U.S.C. § 2284, I appointed the Honorable Patty Shwartz of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and myself, to adjudicate this matter with Judge Baylson. ECF No. 34. After ruling on various pre-trial matters, a four-day trial was held from December 4–7, 2017. Post-trial briefs were filed on December 15, 2017. ECF Nos. 204, 206, 207.

<sup>7</sup> Under 28 U.S.C. § 2284(a), a district court of three judges is required, *inter alia*, for actions “challenging the constitutionality of the apportionment of congressional districts.” The chief judge of the circuit assigns the panel, which includes the originally assigned judge and two others, “at least one of whom shall be a circuit judge.” 28 U.S.C. § 2284(b) (1). Actions challenging state redistricting plans fall within the statutory requirement. *See, e.g., Shapiro v. McManus*, — U.S. —, 136 S.Ct. 450, 454, 193 L.Ed.2d 279 (2015) (noting that an action challenging Maryland’s redistricting scheme is plainly an “apportionment” challenge).

For the reasons outlined in my opinion below and the opinion of Judge Shwartz, *post*, judgment will be entered for Defendants.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> The record having been fully developed and the parties having received a fair opportunity to present their arguments, I would enter summary judgment

under Rule 56(f) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. *See Gibson v. Mayor & Council of City of Wilmington*, 355 F.3d 215, 222–25 (3d Cir. 2004) (discussing permissible circumstances for *sua sponte* entry of summary judgment). Judge Shwartz would enter judgment under Rule 52.

\* \* \*

Because I would rule this action non-justiciable as a matter of law,<sup>9</sup> I dispense with any discussion of the factual record.<sup>10</sup> I proceed by discussing the history of the Elections Clause, the relevant jurisprudence, and finally why I believe Plaintiffs’ Elections Clause claim is not cognizable. Before doing so, I note the extensive work of my two colleagues on this panel and commend their energy and effort in drafting thorough opinions in what has been a demanding timeframe.

<sup>9</sup> The Legislative Defendants challenge the Plaintiffs’ standing to bring suit. *See, e.g.,* Legislative Defendants’ Post-Trial Submission, ECF No. 207 at 10 (“While [we] do not deny that Plaintiffs are passionate and civic-minded individuals, the fact remains that their generalized grievances about proportional representation and some alleged violation of the Election Clause simply do not suffice for Article III standing.”). As my colleague Judge Shwartz discusses in her concise and well-written opinion, *post*, standing to bring partisan gerrymandering claims remains unsettled. Because I would enter judgment in favor of the Defendants on other jurisdictional grounds, I take no position on the Plaintiffs’ Article III standing. *See DaimlerChrysler Corp. v. Cuno*, 547 U.S. 332, 335, 126 S.Ct. 1854, 164 L.Ed.2d 589 (2006) (“The doctrines of mootness, ripeness, and *political question* all originate in Article III’s ‘case’ or ‘controversy’ language, no less than standing does.”) (emphasis added); *Sinochem Int’l Co. v. Malaysia Int’l Shipping Corp.*, 549 U.S. 422, 431, 127 S.Ct. 1184, 167 L.Ed.2d 15 (2007) (quoting *Ruhrgas AG v. Marathon Oil Co.*, 526 U.S. 574, 584,

119 S.Ct. 1563, 143 L.Ed.2d 760 (1999)) (“[T]here is no mandatory ‘sequencing of jurisdictional issues.’”).

10 My colleagues provide detailed identification of the parties and summaries of the evidence presented at trial. I dispense with any such discussion as unnecessary for my legal conclusion, and express no opinion as to my colleagues' weighing of the evidence.

## II. History of the Elections Clause

\*4 Plaintiffs argue that the Elections Clause prohibits the drawing of congressional districts based on partisan motivations. Because the Clause's text explicitly assigns the power to prescribe election regulations to *political* bodies—specifically, state legislatures and the federal Congress—Plaintiffs must look outside of the constitutional text in order to support their theory. History, however, provides no support for Plaintiffs' theory. Historical records surrounding the Constitutional Convention and succeeding State ratification proceedings evince no basis upon which this Court might read Plaintiffs' desired limitations into the Elections Clause. In this section, I examine that history.

The purpose of the Elections Clause was to ensure orderly elections for the House of Representatives. Rather than attempt to spell out a detailed election code within the Constitution itself, the Framers decided to confer a discretionary power over elections to politically accountable legislatures. Noting that it could “not be alleged that an election law could have been framed and inserted into the Constitution, which would have been always applicable to every probable change in the situation of the country,” Alexander Hamilton argued that “it will therefore

not be denied that a discretionary power over elections ought to exist somewhere.” THE FEDERALIST NO. 59 (Alexander Hamilton). Writing in 1787, Hamilton went on to identify “only three ways[ ] in which this power could have been reasonably modified and disposed.” *Id.* First, the discretionary power over elections could be “lodged wholly in the National Legislature,” second, it could be lodged “wholly in the State Legislatures,” and third, it could be lodged “primarily in the latter, and ultimately in the former.” *Id.* The members of the Constitutional Convention ultimately settled on the third manner—allowing state legislatures to use their localized knowledge to prescribe election regulations in the first instance, but “reserv[ing] to the national authority a right to interpose, whenever extraordinary circumstances might render that interposition necessary to its safety.” *Id.*

Notably, Hamilton made no reference to either state or federal courts when he identified “only three ways” that “a discretionary power over elections” could be “reasonably modified and disposed.” *Id.* Rather, Hamilton argued in favor of assigning this *discretion* to state and federal legislatures. By contrast, Plaintiffs identify partisan gerrymandering as a problem that the federal judiciary is well situated to correct. Plaintiffs' argument, however, ignores the discretionary nature of the power afforded to state and federal legislatures. Quite simply, their argument conflates legislative *inaction* with legislative *inability*.

State legislatures exercise the discretionary power afforded to them by the Elections



Clause when those legislatures draw election districts. Similarly, Congress exercises the discretion afforded to it by the Elections Clause when Congress decides against upsetting those State regulations. Yet Plaintiffs ask this Court to assume the roles of state and federal legislatures, urging us to exercise the *discretion* that has been explicitly reserved to those political bodies. Accepting Plaintiffs' invitation to do so would require this Court to declare that the current political climate calls for action rather than inaction—a political declaration that Article III of the Constitution constrains us from making.

Providing Congress with the ability to override election regulations prescribed by the several states was the subject of significant debate at the time of the framing. Examining this history counsels against concluding that the judiciary has an expansive role to play under the Elections Clause. Such a conclusion would require us to assume that, although significant debate was had over providing Congress with the power to override state regulations, the Framers covertly provided a similar power to the courts but without textual reference. As examined below, the intensity of the debate over empowering a single federal body—Congress—to override State regulations necessarily casts doubt on any theory which would require doubling that power by granting it to the judiciary as well.

**\*5** At the time of the framing, the main rationale put forward in support of a congressional power to make and alter election regulations was a rationale

grounded in self-preservation. As Alexander Hamilton put it, the “propriety [of the Elections Clause] rests upon the evidence of this plain proposition, that *every government ought to contain in itself the means of its own preservation.*” THE FEDERALIST NO. 59 (Alexander Hamilton) (emphasis in original). Here Hamilton expresses a fear commonly expressed at the time of the framing—namely, that the several States would simply thumb their noses at a newly-formed federal government and decide against establishing any federal elections at all. Examining an earlier draft of the Elections Clause brings this fear into focus.

One early draft provided:

The times and places and manner of holding the elections of the members of each House shall be prescribed by the Legislature of each State; but their provisions concerning them may, at any time, be altered by the Legislature of the United States.

Records of the Federal Convention, August 9, 1787. One difference between this early draft and the ultimately-ratified version is that, while the above-quoted draft refers to “each House,” the ultimately-ratified version explicitly disallows Congress from regulating “the Places of chusing Senators.” U.S. Const. art. I, § 4. This change stemmed from a motion by James Madison and Gouverneur Morris,<sup>11</sup> and was intended to protect the States from congressional

interference when it came to electing federal Senators.<sup>12</sup> Another amendment to the early draft language quoted above was more controversial. It empowered Congress to not only alter State regulations, but to make election regulations itself in the first instance. Records of the Federal Convention, August 9, 1787.

<sup>11</sup> As an intermediate step, the motion put forward by Madison and Morris altered the reference to “Each House” to simply “the House of Representatives.” Records of the Federal Convention, August 9, 1787.

<sup>12</sup> Prior to the ratification of the Seventeenth Amendment, federal Senators were chosen by state legislatures. The Seventeenth Amendment altered this framework, establishing the popular election of federal Senators. *U.S. const. amend. XVII*. (“The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each state, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote. The electors in each state shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the state legislatures.”).

Empowering Congress to make election regulations out of whole cloth was seen by some as an intrusion into the realm of the States' prerogatives. *See, e.g.,* FEDERAL FARMER NO. 3 (“[B]ut why in laying the foundation of the social system, need we unnecessarily leave a door open to improper regulation? ... Were [the Elections Clause] omitted [from the Constitution], the regulations of elections would be solely in the respective states, where the people are substantially represented; and where the elections ought to be regulated”); FEDERAL FARMER NO. 12 (“It has been often urged, that congress ought to have power to make these regulations, otherwise the state legislatures, by neglecting to make provision for elections, or by making improper elections, may destroy the general

government.... Should the state legislatures be disposed to be negligent ... they [already] have a very simple way to do it ... they have only to neglect to chuse senators.... These and many other reasons must evince, that it was not merely to prevent an annihilation of the federal government that congress has power to regulate elections.”); Debate in Pennsylvania Ratifying Convention (“If the Congress had it not in their power to make regulations, what might be the consequences? Some states might make no regulations at all on the subject.”); Debate in Massachusetts Ratifying Convention (“[I]f the states shall refuse to do their duty, then let the power be given to Congress to oblige them to do it. But if they do their duty, Congress ought not to have the power to control elections.”); Debate in North Carolina Ratifying Convention, July 25, 1788 (“But sir, [the Elections Clause] points forward to the time when there will be no state legislatures—to the consolidation of all the states. The states will be kept up as boards of elections.”).

\*6 Including this congressional power within the Elections Clause led to a proposed amendment from the North Carolina ratifying Convention that would have prohibited Congress from making election regulations in the first instance, “except when the legislature of any state shall neglect, refuse, or be disabled by invasion or rebellion.” James Iredell, Proposed Amendment, North Carolina Ratifying Convention, August 1, 1788. Notably, this debate continued even after New Hampshire became the ninth and last state necessary for ratification of the Constitution in 1788.

Considering the Bill of Rights in 1789, the House of Representatives considered an amendment that would have prohibited Congress from “alter[ing], modify[ing], or interfer[ing] in the times, places, or manner of holding elections of Senators, or Representatives, except when any State shall refuse or neglect, or be unable, by invasion or rebellion, to make such election.” House of Representatives, An Amendment to [Art. I, § 4, Cl. 1](#). James Madison acknowledged the benefit of such an amendment, stating that “[i]f this amendment had been proposed at any time either in the Committee of the whole or separately in the House, I should not have objected to the discussion of it.” *Id.* Considering the Amendment in August of 1789, however, Madison concluded that he could not “agree to delay the amendments now agreed upon[ ] by entering into the consideration of propositions not likely to obtain the consent of either two-thirds of this House or three-fourths of the State Legislatures.” *Id.*

It appears, then, that empowering the federal Congress to override State election regulations was not a power that the Framers surreptitiously inserted into the Constitution. Rather, it was a power that was subject to considerable debate—a debate that continued even after the Constitution was ratified. I concede that this history is not dispositive. Yet I am satisfied that it strongly cautions against concluding that a similar power to override state election regulations was provided to the federal judiciary without mention in the text and without any similar debate having taken place.

This is not to say that the courts were entirely absent from the Framers' minds when they were debating the merits of the Election Clause. North Carolina delegate John Steele, for example, suggested that “[t]he judicial power of [the federal] government is so well constructed as to be a check” against Congress misusing the power granted to it in the Elections Clause. Debate in North Carolina Ratifying Convention, July 25, 1788. The commonly complained of misuses to which Steele referred included Congress regulating the “place” of elections so that elections would be held only in geographic locations that favored a particular class of candidates, the “time” of elections so that elections would be held less frequently than the relevant congressional terms called for, and the “manner” of elections so that elections be carried out in a way that ignored a State's preference for an electoral majority. *See, e.g.*, Debate in Massachusetts Ratifying Convention, January 16, 1788 (“[S]uppose the legislature of this state should prescribe that the choice of the federal representatives should be in the same manner as that of governor—a majority of all the votes in the state being necessary to make it such—and Congress should deem it an improper *manner*, and should order it be as practised in several of the Southern States, where the highest number of votes make a choice.... Again, as to the *place* ... may not Congress direct that the election for Massachusetts shall be held in Boston? And if so, it is possible that, previous to the election, a number of the electors may meet, agree upon the eight delegates, and propose the same to a few towns in the vicinity, who,

agreeing in sentiment, may meet on the day of election, and carry their list by a major vote.”); Debate in North Carolina Ratifying Convention, July 25, 1788 (“[Congress] may alter the time from six to twenty years, or to any time; for they have an unlimited control over the time of elections.”).

As Steele argued, however, such concerns were overblown because *other* provisions of the Constitution would prohibit Congress from acting in such a way, and the courts could enforce those other provisions. Debate in North Carolina Ratifying Convention, July 25, 1788 (“If the Congress make laws inconsistent with the Constitution, independent judges will not uphold them, nor will the people obey them.”); *see also id.* (“Does not the Constitution say that representatives shall be chosen every second year? The right of choosing them, therefore, reverts to the people every second year.” (Iredell)).

\*7 Steele's reference to “independent judges” actually cuts against Plaintiffs' theory in two ways. First, it illustrates that to the extent the federal judiciary was considered in the debates surrounding the Elections Clause, it was seen as a check on *Congress*. In other words, the ability for the judiciary to act as a check on congressional interference in State regulations was used as a selling point to convince skeptical delegates that they should not fear granting an Elections Clause power to Congress. This is at odds with the argument that Plaintiffs advance here: that the federal judiciary was not seen as a limit on federal interference with state regulations, but that

it was silently empowered to act as a second source of federal interference. Second, the ability for the federal judiciary to act as a check by enforcing *other* constitutional provisions undermines Plaintiffs' argument that the Election Clause itself acts as a source of substantive limitations on state regulations. As discussed in Part III below, the Supreme Court has identified other constitutional provisions that restrict state and federal action in the elections context. Although the Framers were fearful of State legislatures “mould[ing] their regulations as to favor the candidates they wished to succeed,” Records of the Federal Convention, James Madison, August 9, 1787, the constitutionally prescribed remedy for that fear was plenary oversight by Congress, and a federal judiciary capable of ensuring that other provisions of the Constitution were not violated.

### III. Jurisprudence

As the preceding section demonstrates, the Framers did not envision such a primary role for the courts, and the text of the Clause reflects as much. So too, Supreme Court precedent supports a limited role for the judiciary. That role is primarily limited to enforcing the guarantees of the First Amendment and the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protections Clause. The protections afforded by those provisions are robust, yet generally unobtrusive to States in promulgating election regulations. Likewise unobtrusive are the Supreme Court cases interpreting the Elections Clause. The Court has interpreted the Clause as providing great leeway to the States and their citizens to determine how regulations will



be promulgated. To be sure, the Elections Clause permits only procedural regulations, and that limitation is enforced most often through the First Amendment or the Equal Protection Clause. The Supreme Court has struck down state regulations as directly violative of the Elections Clause in very few cases—two to be exact. By limiting its intervention, the Court has emphasized the power the Elections Clause gives to the people in controlling election regulations.

#### a. Source of State Authority

Before considering Plaintiffs' claim regarding state power to draw district lines, one must be clear as to the source of that power. Legislative Defendants<sup>13</sup> suggest that the power to draw district lines existed prior to ratification, and thus falls within the States' sovereign authority. See ECF No. 168–1 at 7.<sup>14</sup> If they are correct, the Elections Clause claim easily fails: Pennsylvania cannot exceed its authority under the Elections Clause by exercising a reserved power. However, Legislative Defendants provide no evidence that drawing lines for federal districts is a power reserved by the Tenth Amendment.

<sup>13</sup> “Legislative Defendants” refers to Joseph B. Scarnati, III, in his official capacity as President Pro Tempore of the Pennsylvania Senate, and Michael C. Turzai, in his official capacity as Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

<sup>14</sup> Given the expedited schedule in this case, the Scheduling Order did not provide for motions under Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Nonetheless, the Legislative Defendants' tendered a Motion for Summary Judgment and Memorandum

in Support on December 1, 2017. ECF Nos. 168, 168–1. The panel acknowledged and denied the Motion at the start of trial. Trial Tr., Dec. 4, 2017 AM 33:6–15.

Indeed, Legislative Defendants' argument appears to be foreclosed by the Supreme Court's reasoning in *U.S. Term Limits, Inc. v. Thornton*, 514 U.S. 779, 115 S.Ct. 1842, 131 L.Ed.2d 881 (1995). As discussed in greater detail below, *Thornton* dealt with the States' power *vel non* to add term-limit qualifications for members of Congress, including Senators. *Id.* at 783, 115 S.Ct. 1842. The threshold question in *Thornton* was whether the States have sovereign authority to add qualifications for their congressional representatives. The Supreme Court held that they do not: “the states can exercise no powers whatsoever, which exclusively spring out of the existence of the national government, which the constitution does not delegate to them.... No state can say, that it has reserved, what it never possessed.” 514 U.S. 779, 802, 115 S.Ct. 1842, 131 L.Ed.2d 881 (quoting 1 Story § 627). Because “electing representatives to the National Legislature was a new right, arising from the Constitution itself” the Court held that “[t]he Tenth Amendment ... provides no basis for concluding that the States possess reserved power to add qualifications to those that are fixed in the Constitution.” *Id.* at 805, 115 S.Ct. 1842.

\*8 The Court adhered to this view of reserved powers in *Cook v. Gralike*, 531 U.S. 510, 121 S.Ct. 1029, 149 L.Ed.2d 44 (2001). *Gralike* concerned Missouri's power to use ballot labels as a means of advising voters about candidates support for federal term limits. *Id.* at 514, 121 S.Ct. 1029. The Supreme Court had to consider whether

States, as sovereigns, possessed reserved power to instruct their representatives. It reasoned: “[n]o other constitutional provision gives the States authority over congressional elections, and no such authority could be reserved under the Tenth Amendment. By process of elimination, the States may regulate the incidents of such elections, including balloting, only within the exclusive delegation of power under the Elections Clause.” *Id.* at 522–23, 121 S.Ct. 1029.

In the face of such robust language, Legislative Defendants cite *Chapman v. Meier*, 420 U.S. 1, 95 S.Ct. 751, 42 L.Ed.2d 766 (1975), as suggesting that “redistricting falls within the [S]tates' inherent powers.” ECF No. 168–1 at 7. Yet no support for such suggestion can be found in *Chapman*, a case concerning the reapportionment of a North Dakota's *state* legislative body. While the Court acknowledged that “reapportionment is primarily the duty and responsibility of the State through its legislature or other body,” *id.* at 27, 95 S.Ct. 751, that statement hardly speaks to the basis for such authority, much less to States' authority with respect to *federal* elections.

In the absence of support for Legislative Defendants' argument, I adhere to the rationale of *Thornton* and *Gralike* and conclude that the States' authority to redistrict is a power delegated by Art. I, § 4, and not a power reserved by the Tenth Amendment.

## **b. Elections Clause Cases**

Having concluded that the Elections Clause is the source of state redistricting authority, I turn to the primary cases interpreting the meaning of the Clause. The Court has defined the structural features of the Elections Clause. It has interpreted the word “Legislature” as giving leeway to the States and their citizens, and it has interpreted the phrase “Times, Places, and Manner” as giving States power to develop a complete code for elections. However, the Court has also made clear that state authority is limited to *procedural* regulations. And while the Court generally enforces the latter regulation through the First Amendment or Equal Protection Clause, it struck down two term-limit-related laws after concluding that they were not procedural, but substantive. The Court has never suggested, however, a role for itself in policing the fairness of procedural regulations under the Elections Clause.

### **1. Defining “Legislature” and “Times, Places, and Manner”**

In *State of Ohio ex rel. Davis v. Hildebrant*, 241 U.S. 565, 566, 36 S.Ct. 708, 60 L.Ed. 1172 (1916), Ohio voters challenged the use of the State's referendum system to override redistricting legislation passed and duly enacted by the state legislature. The voters argued that the referendum was not part of the “Legislature” and hence could not, per the Elections Clause, have a role in the redistricting process. *Id.* 566–67, 36

**S.Ct. 708.** The Supreme Court rejected the argument, holding that Ohio's referendum process “was contained within the legislative power.” *Id.* at 568, 36 S.Ct. 708.

In deciding the issue, the Court recognized Congress's power over state election regulations. It looked to whether Congress had expressed an opinion on States' use of the referendum. *Id.* It found that Congress, in passing the 1911 redistricting legislation replaced the phrase “the legislature of each state” with “in the manner provided by the laws thereof.” *Id.* (quoting act of February 7, 1891, chap. 116, 26 Stat. 735; Cong. Rec. vol. 47, pp. 3436, 3437, 3507). This modification, according to the Supreme Court, was meant specifically to prevent challenges to States' use of the referendum. *Id.* at 568–69, 36 S.Ct. 708.

\*9 Lastly, the Court considered the allegation that referendum systems were “repugnant to” the Elections Clause, “and hence void,” such that Congress had no power to permit them. *Id.* at 569, 36 S.Ct. 708. The Court held that the claim necessarily raised a non-justiciable question. That is, the claim rested upon a theory that “to include the referendum in the scope of the legislative power is to introduce a virus which destroys that power, which in effect annihilates representative government, and causes a state where such condition exists to be not republican in form, in violation of the guaranty of the Constitution.” *Id.* (citing U.S. Const. art. IV, § 4). “[T]he proposition and the argument disregard the settled rule that the question of whether that guaranty of the Constitution has been disregarded

presents no justiciable controversy, but involves the exercise by Congress of the authority vested in it by the Constitution.” *Id.* (citing *Pac. States Tel. & Tel. Co. v. State of Oregon*, 223 U.S. 118, 32 S.Ct. 224, 56 L.Ed. 377 (1912)).

In summary, the Court in *Hildebrand* defined the term “legislature,” but was unwilling to entertain the suggestion that Congress was excluded from permitting use of the referendum. The latter argument, according to the Court, was necessarily a Guarantee Clause argument, and was thus non-justiciable.

The Supreme Court again considered the meaning of the term “Legislature” in *Smiley v. Holm*, 285 U.S. 355, 52 S.Ct. 397, 76 L.Ed. 795 (1932). In *Smiley*, a Minnesota voter alleged that the State's 1931 redistricting plan was inoperative because it had been vetoed by the Governor, and not repassed as required by state law. *Id.* at 361–62, 52 S.Ct. 397. The Court had to decide whether the Elections Clause gave state legislatures, as institutions, a unique role in prescribing election regulations, or whether the power was instead vested in the states' ordinary lawmaking function. “The primary question now before the Court is whether the function contemplated by article 1, § 4, is that of making laws.” *Id.* at 365, 52 S.Ct. 397.

The *Smiley* Court used expansive language in defining the power given by the Elections Clause:

The subject-matter is the ‘times, places and manner of holding elections for senators and representatives.’ It cannot be

doubted that these comprehensive words embrace authority to provide a complete code for congressional elections, not only as to times and places, but in relation to notices, registration, supervision of voting, protection of voters, prevention of fraud and corrupt practices, counting of votes, duties of inspectors and canvassers, and making and publication of election returns; in short, to enact the numerous requirements as to procedure and safeguards which experience shows are necessary in order to enforce the fundamental right involved.

285 U.S. at 366, 52 S.Ct. 397. The Court recognized that this gave power, as well, to prescribe criminal laws to protect the right to vote. *Id.* In short, “[a]ll this is comprised in the subject of ‘times, places and manner of holding elections,’ and involves lawmaking in its essential features and most important aspect.” *Id.*

The Court further recognized, relative to Congress:

This view is confirmed by the second clause of article 1, § 4, which provides that ‘the Congress may at any time by law make or alter such regulations,’ with the single exception stated. The phrase ‘such regulations’ plainly refers to regulations of the same general character that the legislature of the State is authorized to prescribe with respect to congressional elections. In exercising this power, the Congress may supplement these state regulations or may substitute its own. It may impose additional penalties for the violation of the state laws or provide

independent sanctions. It ‘has a general supervisory power over the whole subject.’

285 U.S. at 366–67, 52 S.Ct. 397 (citation omitted).

The *Smiley* Court held that “[w]hether the Governor of the state, through the veto power, shall have a part in the making of state laws, is a matter of state polity.” 285 U.S. at 368, 52 S.Ct. 397. “Article 1, § 4, of the Federal Constitution, neither requires nor excludes such participation. And provision for it, as a check in the legislative process, cannot be regarded as repugnant to the grant of legislative authority.” *Id.* at 399–400, 52 S.Ct. 397. Ultimately, the Court held that the Elections Clause refers to the States’ lawmaking power. “Article 1, section 4, plainly gives authority to the state to legislate within the limitations therein named.” *Id.* at 372, 52 S.Ct. 397.

\*10 In addition to recognizing that the term “Legislature” refers to States’ lawmaking function, the *Smiley* Court recognized the authority given by the Elections Clause “to provide a complete code for congressional elections.” *Id.* at 366, 52 S.Ct. 397.

Finally, in *Arizona State Legislature v. Arizona Indep. Redistricting Comm’n*, — U.S. —, 135 S.Ct. 2652, 192 L.Ed.2d 704 (2015), the Supreme Court considered a challenge to Arizona Proposition 106, which established the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission (“AIRC”) and removed the redistricting process wholly from the State’s institutional legislature.



Proposition 106 was “[a]imed at ‘ending the practice of gerrymandering and improving voter and candidate participation in elections.’ ” 135 S.Ct. at 2661 (citing *Ariz. Const., Art. IV, pt. 2, § 1, ¶¶ 3–23*). As such, it “amended the Arizona Constitution to remove congressional redistricting authority from the state legislature, lodging that authority, instead, in a new entity, the AIRC.”<sup>15</sup> *Id.*

<sup>15</sup> The AIRC “convenes after each census, establishes final district boundaries, and certifies the new districts to the Arizona Secretary of State.” 135 S.Ct. at 2661. The State Legislature has a defined and limited role, which includes making only non-binding recommendations and making the necessary appropriations for its members. *Id.* The AIRC is composed of five members, who each serve for one term. *Id.* Four of the five members are appointed by the ranking officer and minority leader of each chamber of the State Legislature. *Id.* However, they are chosen from a list compiled by Arizona’s Commission on Appellate Court Appointments. *Id.* Moreover, elected representatives or candidates for office may not serve on the AIRC, and no more than two members of the Commission may be members of the same political party. *Id.* Finally, the fifth member, who is chosen by the other four, “cannot be registered with any party already represented on the Commission. *Id.* Members may be removed by the Governor “for gross misconduct, substantial neglect of duty, or inability to discharge the duties of office,” but only upon concurrence of two-thirds of the Arizona Senate.” *Id.*

The Legislature argued that the AIRC deprives it of the “primary responsibility” for redistricting vested in it by the Elections Clause. *Id.* at 2663. After concluding that the Legislature, as a body, had standing, the Court turned to the merits. *Id.* at 2663–66. The Court first acknowledged the holdings in *Hildebrant* and *Smiley*: “our precedent teaches that redistricting is a legislative function, to be performed in accordance

with the State’s prescriptions for lawmaking, which may include the referendum and the Governor’s veto.” 135 S.Ct. at 2668. The Court discussed the meaning of “legislature” during the founding era, and concluded that it referred generally to “the power to make laws.” *Id.* at 2671.

The Court held that, because the Arizona Constitution put the people, through the initiative process, on the same footing as their representative body, “the people may delegate their legislative authority over redistricting to an independent commission just as the representative body may choose to do.” *Id.* The Court explained:

[T]he Elections Clause permits the people of Arizona to provide for redistricting by independent commission. To restate the key question in this case, the issue centrally debated by the parties: Absent congressional authorization, does the Elections Clause preclude the people of Arizona from creating a commission operating independently of the state legislature to establish congressional districts? The history and purpose of the Clause weigh heavily against such preclusion, as does the animating principle of our Constitution that the people themselves are the

originating source of all the powers of government.

\*11 135 S.Ct. at 2671. Turning to the history of the Elections Clause, the Court explained that “[t]he dominant purpose of the Elections Clause, the historical record bears out, was to empower Congress to override state election rules, not to restrict the way States enact legislation.” *Id.* at 2672. The Court recognized the concern of the Framers that politicians and factions within the States would “manipulate electoral rules ... to entrench themselves or place their interests over those of the electorate.” *Id.* And while those concerns have “hardly lessened over time,” remedies exist *in the hands of the people*: “[t]he Elections Clause ... is not reasonably read to disarm States from adopting modes of legislation that place the lead rein in the people's hands.” 135 S.Ct. at 2672 (internal citation omitted). Emphasizing the role of *the people* in addressing Madison's concerns, the Court concluded:

Both parts of the Elections Clause are in line with the fundamental premise that all political power flows from the people. *M'Culloch v. Maryland*, 4 Wheat. 316, 404–405, 4 L.Ed. 579 (1819). So comprehended, the Clause *doubly empowers the people*. They may control the State's lawmaking processes in the first instance, as Arizona voters have done, and they may seek Congress' correction of regulations prescribed by state legislatures.

The people of Arizona turned to the initiative to curb the practice

of gerrymandering and, thereby, to ensure that Members of Congress would have “an habitual recollection of their dependence on the people.” The Federalist No. 57, at 350 (J. Madison). In so acting, Arizona voters sought to restore “the core principle of republican government,” namely, “that the voters should choose their representatives, not the other way around.” Berman, *Managing Gerrymandering*, 83 Texas L.Rev. 781 (2005). *The Elections Clause does not hinder that endeavor.*

135 S.Ct. at 2677 (emphasis added).

In summary, the Supreme Court's decision in *Arizona State Legislature*, together with *Hildebrant* and *Smiley*, demonstrate the Supreme Court's role in defining the basic structural features of the Elections Clause. However, nothing in the opinions suggests a role for the courts in “restrict[ing] the way States enact legislation.” *Arizona State Legislature*, 135 S.Ct. at 2672. In fact, the Court recognized a limitation on how far it would go in considering Elections Clause challenges. In *Hildebrant*, the Court held that claims regarding Congress's ability to bless the state referendum system necessarily implicate the Guarantee Clause, and are therefore non-justiciable. 241 U.S. at 566, 36 S.Ct. 708.

## 2. Further Defining “Manner”

Beyond *Hildebrant*, *Smiley*, and *Arizona State Legislature*, the Supreme Court added important structural definition to

the Elections Clause in *U.S. Term Limits, Inc. v. Thornton*, 514 U.S. 779, 115 S.Ct. 1842, 131 L.Ed.2d 881 (1995), and *Cook v. Gralike*, 531 U.S. 510, 121 S.Ct. 1029, 149 L.Ed.2d 44 (2001). In these cases, the Court made clear that state and Congressional power under the clause was limited to *procedural* regulations. It thus declined to recognize power under the Clause for Arkansas and Missouri to effectuate term-limit regulations.

*U.S. Term Limits, Inc. v. Thornton* concerned Arkansas State constitutional Amendment 73, which prohibited “the name of an otherwise-eligible candidate for Congress from appearing on the general election ballot if that candidate has already served three terms in the House of Representatives or two terms in the Senate.” 514 U.S. at 783, 115 S.Ct. 1842. The Arkansas Supreme Court struck down the Amendment on federal constitutional grounds, holding that States possess “no authority to change, add to, or diminish the requirements for congressional service enumerated in the Qualifications Clauses.” *Id.* at 785, 115 S.Ct. 1842 (internal quotation marks omitted). The U.S. Supreme Court affirmed, focusing largely on the Qualifications Clause, *U.S. Const. Art. I, § 2, cl. 2*.

\*12 In addition to arguments raised under the Qualifications Clause, the Supreme Court considered the alternative argument that Amendment 73 was a permissible exercise of state power to regulate the “Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections.” 514 U.S. 779, 828, 115 S.Ct. 1842, 131 L.Ed.2d 881. The petitioners

argued that Amendment 73 “merely regulat[ed] the ‘Manner’ of elections, and that the amendment [was] therefore a permissible exercise of state power under Article I, § 4, cl. 1.” *Id.* at 832, 115 S.Ct. 1842.

This argument, the Supreme Court recognized, required that Congress, too, would be able to “make or alter” regulations such as Amendment 73. *Id.* The Court considered it “unfathomable” that the Framers would have given Congress such authority:

As our decision in *Powell [v. McCormack*, 395 U.S. 486, 89 S.Ct. 1944, 23 L.Ed.2d 491 (1969),] and our discussion above make clear, the Framers were particularly concerned that a grant to Congress of the authority to set its own qualifications would lead inevitably to congressional self-aggrandizement and the upsetting of the delicate constitutional balance.... We refuse to adopt an interpretation of the Elections Clause that would so cavalierly disregard what the Framers intended to be a fundamental constitutional safeguard.

Moreover, petitioners' broad construction of the Elections Clause is fundamentally inconsistent with the Framers' view of that Clause. The Framers intended the Elections Clause to grant States authority to create procedural regulations, not to provide States with license to exclude classes of candidates from federal office.

514 U.S. at 832–33, 115 S.Ct. 1842.

The Court went on to discuss historical evidence of the “procedural focus of the Elections Clause”:

During the Convention debates, for example, Madison illustrated the procedural focus of the Elections Clause by noting that it covered “[w]hether the electors should vote by ballot or vivâ voce, should assemble at this place or that place; should be divided into districts or all meet at one place, sh[oul]d all vote for all the representatives; or all in a district vote for a number allotted to the district.” 2 Farrand 240. Similarly, during the ratification debates, proponents of the Constitution noted: “[T]he power over the manner only enables them to determine *how* these electors shall elect—whether by ballot, or by vote, or by any other way.” 4 Elliot’s Debates 71 (Steele statement at North Carolina ratifying convention) (emphasis in original).

514 U.S. at 833, 115 S.Ct. 1842. According to the Court, “the Framers understood the Elections Clause as a grant of authority to issue procedural regulations, and not as a source of power to dictate electoral outcomes, to favor or disfavor a class of candidates, or to evade important constitutional restraints.” *Id.* at 833–34, 115 S.Ct. 1842. The Court proceeded to list numerous cases “interpreting state power under the Elections Clause” that reflected the same understanding:

The Elections Clause gives States authority “to enact the numerous requirements as to procedure and safeguards which experience shows are

necessary in order to enforce the fundamental right involved.” *Smiley v. Holm*, 285 U.S. at 366, 52 S.Ct. 397. However, “[t]he power to regulate the time, place, and manner of elections does not justify, without more, the abridgment of fundamental rights.” *Tashjian v. Republican Party of Conn.*, 479 U.S. 208, 217, 107 S.Ct. 544, 93 L.Ed.2d 514 (1986). States are thus entitled to adopt “generally applicable and evenhanded restrictions that protect the integrity and reliability of the electoral process itself.” *Anderson v. Celebrezze*, 460 U.S. 780, 788, n. 9, 103 S.Ct. 1564, 75 L.Ed.2d 547 (1983).... In short, we have approved of state regulations designed to ensure that elections are “ ‘fair and honest and ... [that] some sort of order, rather than chaos, ... accompan[ies] the democratic processes.’ ” *Burdick v. Takushi*, 504 U.S. [428, 433, 112 S.Ct. 2059, 119 L.Ed.2d 245 (1992) (quoting *Storer v. Brown*, 415 U.S. 724, 730, 94 S.Ct. 1274, 39 L.Ed.2d 714 (1974)) ].

\*13 514 U.S. at 834–35, 115 S.Ct. 1842. The Court then summarized:

The provisions at issue in *Storer* and our other Elections Clause cases were thus constitutional because they regulated election *procedures* and did not even arguably impose any substantive qualification rendering a class of potential candidates ineligible for ballot position. They

served the state interest in protecting the integrity and regularity of the election process, an interest independent of any attempt to evade the constitutional prohibition against the imposition of additional qualifications for service in Congress. And they did not involve measures that exclude candidates from the ballot without reference to the candidates' support in the electoral process. Our cases upholding state regulations of election procedures thus provide little support for the contention that a state-imposed ballot access restriction is constitutional when it is undertaken for the twin goals of disadvantaging a particular class of candidates and evading the dictates of the Qualifications Clauses.

*Id.* at 835, 115 S.Ct. 1842.

The Supreme Court emphasized in *Thornton* that regulations permissible under the Elections Clause are those meant to protect the integrity and regularity of the election process. Yet the cases cited in *Thornton* as “interpreting state power under the Elections Clause” were all decided on First Amendment or Equal Protection grounds. To be sure, the *Thornton* Court did not discuss those constitutional provisions.

Instead, it directly considered and rejected the argument that the Elections Clause gave Arkansas power to enact a regulation that could not fairly be characterized as procedural.

This procedural-substantive distinction establishes that where a new regulation is clearly not procedural, the Court may find it *ultra vires* under the Elections Clause. In so holding, the Court did not create a new avenue for policing the fairness of procedural regulations under the Elections Clause.

The second case to consider the constitutionality of a state regulation under the Elections Clause is *Cook v. Gralike*, 531 U.S. 510, 121 S.Ct. 1029, 149 L.Ed.2d 44 (2001). Responding to the Supreme Court's ruling in *Thornton*, “the voters of Missouri adopted in 1996 an amendment to Article VIII of their State Constitution designed to lead to the adoption of a specified ‘Congressional Term Limits Amendment’ to the Federal Constitution.” 531 U.S. at 513, 121 S.Ct. 1029. Apart from instructing members of the Missouri congressional delegation “ ‘to use all of [their] delegated powers to pass the Congressional Term Limits Amendment’ set forth in [Art. VIII, § 16, of the Missouri Constitution],” the amendment had three operative sections, meant to compel compliance:

Section 17 [required] that the statement “DISREGARDED VOTERS' INSTRUCTION ON TERM LIMITS” be printed on all primary and general [election] ballots adjacent to the name of a Senator or Representative who



fail[ed] to take any one of eight legislative acts in support of the proposed amendment. Section 18 provide[d] that the statement “DECLINED TO PLEDGE TO SUPPORT TERM LIMITS” be printed on all primary and general election ballots next to the name of every nonincumbent congressional candidate who refuse[d] to take a “Term Limit” pledge that commit[ed] the candidate, if elected, to performing the legislative acts enumerated in § 17. And § 19 direct[ed] the Missouri Secretary of State to determine and declare, pursuant to §§ 17 and 18, whether either statement should be printed alongside the name of each candidate for Congress.

**\*14** 531 U.S. at 514–15, 121 S.Ct. 1029 (citing Mo. Const., Art. VIII). Gralike, a candidate for Congress, brought suit to enjoin enactment of the law. The District Court held that Article VIII contravened the Qualifications Clause, that it burdened Gralike's First Amendment right against retaliation, and that it was an impermissible attempt by Missouri to contravene Article V of the Constitution. *Id.* at 516–17, 121 S.Ct. 1029. The Eighth Circuit affirmed, and the Supreme Court granted certiorari. *Id.* at 518, 121 S.Ct. 1029.

As discussed above, the Supreme Court first considered whether the States have a reserved right to instruct its representatives. The Court held that “the means employed to issue the instructions, ballots for congressional elections, are unacceptable unless Article VIII is a permissible exercise of the State's power to regulate the manner of holding elections for Senators and

Representatives.” 531 U.S. at 520, 121 S.Ct. 1029. Thus, the key question in *Gralike* was whether the Elections Clause permitted such ballot labels. The Court held it did not. While “the Elections Clause grants to the States ‘broad power’ to prescribe the procedural mechanisms for holding congressional elections,” 531 U.S. 510, 523, 121 S.Ct. 1029, 149 L.Ed.2d 44 (2001) (quoting *Tashjian v. Republican Party of Conn.*, 479 U.S. 208, 217, 107 S.Ct. 544, 93 L.Ed.2d 514 (1986)), the Court held that “Article VIII is not a procedural regulation.” *Id.* It explained:

It does not regulate the time of elections; it does not regulate the place of elections; nor, we believe, does it regulate the manner of elections. As to the last point, Article VIII bears no relation to the “manner” of elections as we understand it, for in our commonsense view that term encompasses matters like “notices, registration, supervision of voting, protection of voters, prevention of fraud and corrupt practices, counting of votes, duties of inspectors and canvassers, and making and publication of election returns.” *Smiley*, 285 U.S. at 366, 52 S.Ct. 397; see also *U.S. Term Limits, Inc. v. Thornton*, 514 U.S. at 833, 115 S.Ct. 1842. In short, Article VIII is not among “the numerous requirements as to procedure and safeguards which experience shows are necessary in order to enforce the fundamental right involved,” *Smiley*, 285 U.S. at 366, 52 S.Ct. 397, ensuring that elections are “fair and honest,” and that “some sort of order, rather than chaos, is to accompany the democratic process,”

*Storer v. Brown*, 415 U.S. 724, 730, 94 S.Ct. 1274, 39 L.Ed.2d 714 (1974).

531 U.S. at 523–24, 121 S.Ct. 1029.

Rather than regulate the manner of elections, the Court held that “Article VIII [was] plainly designed to favor candidates who are willing to support the particular form of a term limits amendment set forth in its text and to disfavor those who either oppose term limits entirely or would prefer a different proposal.” *Id.* at 524, 121 S.Ct. 1029.

The Supreme Court described the ballot labels as “the Scarlet Letter.” *Id.* at 525, 121 S.Ct. 1029. The pejorative label met voters’ eyes at a critical moment, which led to a clear impact on outcomes:

it seems clear that the adverse labels handicap candidates “at the most crucial stage in the election process—the instant before the vote is cast.” *Anderson v. Martin*, 375 U.S. 399, 402, 84 S.Ct. 454, 11 L.Ed.2d 430 (1964). At the same time, “by directing the citizen’s attention to the single consideration” of the candidates’ fidelity to term limits, the labels imply that the issue “is an important—perhaps paramount—consideration in the citizen’s choice, which may decisively influence the citizen to cast his ballot” against candidates branded as unfaithful. *Ibid.* While the precise damage the labels may exact on candidates is disputed between the parties, the labels surely place their targets at a political disadvantage to unmarked candidates for congressional office. Thus, far from regulating the

procedural mechanisms of elections, Article VIII attempts to “dictate electoral outcomes.” *U.S. Term Limits, Inc. v. Thornton*, 514 U.S., at 833–834, 115 S.Ct. 1842. Such “regulation” of congressional elections simply is not authorized by the Elections Clause.

\*15 531 U.S. at 525–26, 121 S.Ct. 1029.

Justice Kennedy filed a concurring opinion. He discussed the particular harm caused by regulations like the Missouri Amendment: “[i]f state enactments were allowed to condition or control certain actions of federal legislators, accountability would be blurred, with the legislators having the excuse of saying that they did not act in the exercise of their best judgment but simply in conformance with a state mandate.” 531 U.S. at 528, 121 S.Ct. 1029 (Kennedy, J., concurring). He continued:

if there are to be cases in which a close question exists regarding whether the State has exceeded its constitutional authority in attempting to influence congressional action, this case is not one of them. In today’s case the question is not close. Here the State attempts to intrude upon the relationship between the people and their congressional delegates by seeking to control or confine the discretion of those delegates, and

the interference is not permissible.

*Id.* at 530, 121 S.Ct. 1029.

Chief Justice Rehnquist, joined by Justice O'Connor, concurred in the judgment, stating that he would affirm on First Amendment grounds: "I believe that Article VIII violates the First Amendment right of a political candidate, once lawfully on the ballot, to have his name appear unaccompanied by pejorative language required by the State." 531 U.S. at 530–31, 121 S.Ct. 1029 (Rehnquist, C.J., concurring in the judgment).

The Supreme Court's language in *Gralike* is forceful regarding the limits of state power under the Elections Clause. The Court held in no uncertain terms that "Article VIII is not a procedural regulation." 531 U.S. at 523, 121 S.Ct. 1029. However, *Thornton* and *Gralike* both concerned newly enacted regulations that were *sui generis*. They bore little relation to other regulations, such as the regulations in *Storer* that, among other things, required party disaffiliation before a candidate could run as an independent. 415 U.S. at 726–27, 94 S.Ct. 1274. As discussed above, procedural regulations are subject to scrutiny under the First Amendment and the Equal Protection Clause. *See, e.g., Tashjian v. Republican Party of Connecticut*, 479 U.S. 208, 107 S.Ct. 544, 93 L.Ed.2d 514 (1986) (holding that Connecticut's closed primary statute impermissibly interfered with political party's First Amendment right to define its associational boundaries); *Storer*, 415 U.S. 724, 94 S.Ct. 1274, 39 L.Ed.2d 714 (upholding against an

Equal Protection challenge California's ballot access measures that, among other things, required party disaffiliation before a candidate could run as an independent); *Williams v. Rhodes*, 393 U.S. 23, 89 S.Ct. 5, 21 L.Ed.2d 24 (1968) (holding Ohio election law that virtually prohibited third party candidates from appearing on the ballot violated the Equal Protection Clause). However, the Supreme Court has never struck down necessary<sup>16</sup> procedural regulations under the Elections Clause.

<sup>16</sup> Redistricting schemes are necessary procedural regulations in that States with more than one representative are required by federal law to redistrict following every decennial census. *See* 2 U.S.C. § 2c (requiring single-member districts); *Reynolds v. Sims*, 377 U.S. 533, 568, 84 S.Ct. 1362, 12 L.Ed.2d 506 (1964) (requiring equipopulous legislative districts). State redistricting plans are thus necessary procedural regulations. *See Arizona State Legislature*, 135 S.Ct. at 2678 (Roberts, C.J., dissenting) ("The Elections Clause both imposes a duty on States and assigns that duty to a particular state actor: In the absence of a valid congressional directive to the contrary, States must draw district lines for their federal representatives.").

### c. Justiciability

\*16 I turn next to the question of justiciability, specifically the political question doctrine. The Supreme Court has struggled over the years to determine its role in regulating the inherently political business of elections, namely in the area of redistricting. A majority of the justices have found partisan gerrymandering claims under the First Amendment and/or the Equal Protection Clause to be justiciable, but have yet to agree on a standard. The caselaw demonstrates two things: the



Court has never suggested that the Elections Clause provides a workable standard for partisan gerrymandering challenges. Second, the standards proposed under the Equal Protection Clause and the First Amendment set a high bar for Court intervention. Plaintiffs' theory uses the Elections Clause in a new manner, and one that skirts the high bar otherwise contemplated for partisan gerrymandering claims.

*Colegrove v. Green*, 328 U.S. 549, 66 S.Ct. 1198, 90 L.Ed. 1432 (1946), is an early example of the Supreme Court staying its hand with respect to election regulations. Voters from Illinois brought suit alleging that the disparity in size of their congressional districts violated the Constitution as well as the Reapportionment Act of 1911. *Id.* at 550, 66 S.Ct. 1198. In denying relief, the Supreme Court cited its inability to “remap” the State of Illinois. It reasoned:

The petitioners urge with great zeal that the conditions of which they complain are grave evils and offend public morality. The Constitution of the United States gives ample power to provide against these evils. But due regard for the Constitution as a viable system precludes judicial correction. Authority for dealing with such problems resides elsewhere. [Article I, section 4 of the Constitution](#) provides that “The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for ... Representative[s], shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations ....” The short of it

is that the Constitution has conferred upon Congress exclusive authority to secure fair representation by the States in the popular House and left to that House determination whether States have fulfilled their responsibility. If Congress failed in exercising its powers, whereby standards of fairness are offended, the remedy ultimately lies with the people. Whether Congress faithfully discharges its duty or not, the subject has been committed to the exclusive control of Congress. An aspect of government from which the judiciary, in view of what is involved, has been excluded by the clear intention of the Constitution cannot be entered by the federal courts because Congress may have been in default in exacting from States obedience to its mandate.

*Id.* at 554, 66 S.Ct. 1198. The Court believed that “[t]o sustain th[e] action would cut very deep into the very being of Congress” and suggested that “[c]ourts ought not to enter this political thicket.” *Id.* The Court declared that the remedy for the voters' alleged harm was a political one: “[t]he remedy for unfairness in districting is to secure State legislatures that will apportion properly, or to invoke the ample powers of Congress. The Constitution has many commands that are not enforceable by courts because they clearly fall outside the conditions and purposes that circumscribe judicial action.” *Id.* The Court concluded by listing examples of other constitutional provisions that are without judicial remedy, including the demand to deliver a fugitive from a sister state, the duty to see that the laws are faithfully executed, and “[v]iolation

of the great guaranty of a republican form of government in States.” *Id.* at 556, 66 S.Ct. 1198.

The reasoning of *Colegrove*, however, was stripped of its import years later in *Baker v. Carr*, 369 U.S. 186, 82 S.Ct. 691, 7 L.Ed.2d 663 (1962). The plaintiffs in *Baker* brought an Equal Protection challenge to the apportionment<sup>17</sup> of the Tennessee General Assembly's districts. *Id.* at 188, 82 S.Ct. 691. The apportionment map, first enacted in 1901, remained in effect in 1961, despite “substantial growth and redistribution of [the State's population].” *Id.* at 192, 82 S.Ct. 691. Plaintiffs alleged that the state map “arbitrarily and capriciously apportioned representatives,” yet the District Court, relying on *Colegrove*, held that it lacked subject matter jurisdiction over the suit. *Id.* at 192, 197, 202, 82 S.Ct. 691. The Supreme Court distinguished the political question doctrine from subject matter jurisdiction. *Id.* at 202, 82 S.Ct. 691. It held that the District Court possessed subject matter jurisdiction, that the case was not a non-justiciable political question, and remanded. *Id.* at 237, 82 S.Ct. 691.

<sup>17</sup> It bears noting that the term “apportionment” is used interchangeably to refer to both the allotment of congressional representatives among the states and the allotment of population among congressional districts within a state (also termed “reapportionment” or more appropriately, “redistricting.”). See Apportionment, Black's Law Dictionary (10th ed. 2014) (using term interchangeably); Reapportionment, Black's Law Dictionary (10th ed. 2014) (defining term as “[r]ealignment of a legislative district's boundaries to reflect changes in population and ensure proportionate representation by elected officials ... [a]lso termed redistricting.”).

The Supreme Court has used the term “apportionment” with reference to both the allotment of congressional representatives among the states, see *Franklin v. Massachusetts*, 505 U.S. 788, 801, 112 S.Ct. 2767, 120 L.Ed.2d 636 (1992) (challenge to Congress' method for tabulating state population, declaring that “[c]onstitutional challenges to apportionment are justiciable.”), the allotment of population among both state legislative and federal congressional districts, see *Wesberry v. Sanders*, 376 U.S. 1, 4, 84 S.Ct. 526, 11 L.Ed.2d 481 (1964); *Reynolds*, 377 U.S. at 537, 84 S.Ct. 1362, and in the context of partisan gerrymandering claims, *Shapiro*, 136 S.Ct. at 454.

As discussed below, one must avoid concluding that general pronouncements about the justiciability of “apportionment” cases apply, *a fortiori*, to partisan gerrymandering claims. For example, Justice O'Connor in *Franklin* stated plainly that constitutional challenges to apportionment are justiciable, despite her belief to the contrary in *Bandemer* and *Vieth* regarding partisan gerrymandering claims.

\*17 In so ruling, the Supreme Court undertook to explain the political question doctrine, laying out the possible formulations as follows:

Prominent on the surface of any case held to involve a political question is found a textually demonstrable constitutional commitment of the issue to a coordinate political department; or a lack of judicially discoverable and manageable standards for resolving it; or the impossibility of deciding without an initial policy determination of a kind clearly for nonjudicial discretion; or the impossibility of a court's undertaking

independent resolution without expressing lack of the respect due coordinate branches of government; or an unusual need for unquestioning adherence to a political decision already made; or the potentiality of embarrassment from multifarious pronouncements by various departments on one question.

369 U.S. at 217, 82 S.Ct. 691.

The *Baker* Court suggested that *Smiley*, discussed *supra*, along with its companion cases *Koenig v. Flynn*, 285 U.S. 375, 52 S.Ct. 403, 76 L.Ed. 805 (1932), and *Carroll v. Becker*, 285 U.S. 380, 52 S.Ct. 402, 76 L.Ed. 807 (1932) “settled the issue in favor of justiciability of questions of congressional redistricting.” 369 U.S. at 232, 82 S.Ct. 691. However, *Baker* was not directly applicable to the Elections Clause. It involved a state apportionment scheme, meaning its language is only controlling so far as it was adopted by later cases dealing with congressional apportionment.

Two years after *Baker* was decided, the Supreme Court made clear that *Colegrove* was a dead letter in *Wesberry v. Sanders*, 376 U.S. 1, 7, 84 S.Ct. 526, 11 L.Ed.2d 481 (1964). *Wesberry* concerned the population equality of Georgia's congressional districts. The Court reasoned:

Th[e] statement in *Baker*, which referred to our past decisions holding congressional apportionment cases to be justiciable, we believe was wholly correct and we adhere to it. Mr. Justice Frankfurter's *Colegrove* opinion contended that Art. I, § 4, of the Constitution had given Congress ‘exclusive authority’ to protect the right of citizens to vote for Congressmen, but we made it clear in *Baker* that nothing in the language of that article gives support to a construction that would immunize state congressional apportionment laws which debase a citizen's right to vote from the power of courts to protect the constitutional rights of individuals from legislative destruction, a power recognized at least since our decision in *Marbury v. Madison*, 1 Cranch 137, 2 L.Ed. 60, in 1803. Cf. *Gibbons v. Ogden*, 9 Wheat. 1, 6 L.Ed. 23 [ (1824) ]. The right to vote is too important in our free society to be stripped of judicial protection by such an interpretation of Article

I. This dismissal can no more be justified on the ground of ‘want of equity’ than on the ground of ‘non-justiciability.’ We therefore hold that the District Court erred in dismissing the complaint.

376 U.S. at 6–7, 84 S.Ct. 526. Finding the case justiciable, the Court remanded in light of the population inequality among congressional districts, suggesting that “one person, one vote” was required. *Id.* at 18, 84 S.Ct. 526. Importantly, while *Wesberry* held that the Elections Clause does not immunize state congressional apportionment laws from judicial protection, it did not suggest that the Elections Clause was a source of the right. Instead, the Court read a “one person, one vote” requirement into Art. I, § 2, and remanded the case on that basis. *Id.* at 17–18, 84 S.Ct. 526.

\*18 The same year that *Wesberry* was decided, the Supreme Court cemented the one person, one vote principle, as a requirement under the Equal Protection Clause, for state legislative districts. The case, *Reynolds v. Sims*, 377 U.S. 533, 537, 84 S.Ct. 1362, 12 L.Ed.2d 506 (1964), was an action challenging the apportionment of the Alabama State Legislature. The Court explained that it had “indicated in *Baker* ... that the Equal Protection Clause provides discoverable and manageable standards for use by lower courts in determining the constitutionality of a state legislative apportionment scheme.” *Id.* at 557, 84 S.Ct. 1362. *Reynolds*, like *Baker* before it, has no direct bearing on the Elections Clause, as its

subject matter was the apportionment of a state legislature.

Despite the Supreme Court's pronouncements in *Baker* and *Reynolds* about the justiciability of state apportionment cases, the Court considered the issue anew when faced with a partisan gerrymandering claim in *Davis v. Bandemer*, 478 U.S. 109, 106 S.Ct. 2797, 92 L.Ed.2d 85 (1986). *Bandemer* was a challenge to Indiana's state legislative apportionment on partisan gerrymandering grounds rather than on population equality grounds. *Id.* at 113, 106 S.Ct. 2797. Democrats filed suit “alleging that the 1981 reapportionment plans constituted a political gerrymander intended to disadvantage Democrats.” *Id.* at 114, 106 S.Ct. 2797. The Court began by discussing justiciability. *Id.* at 118, 106 S.Ct. 2797.<sup>18</sup> It acknowledged *Baker* and *Reynolds* as establishing the justiciability of population equality cases, but proceeded to survey the Court's willingness to consider elections cases, including racial gerrymandering cases and those concerning multi-member legislative districts. *Id.* at 118–21, 106 S.Ct. 2797. The Court did not base its determination on these past cases, other than to hew towards the *Baker* analysis. It quoted *Baker*, noting that

[j]udicial standards under the Equal Protection Clause are well developed and familiar, and it has been open to courts since the enactment of the Fourteenth Amendment to determine, if on

the particular facts they must, that a discrimination reflects no policy, but simply arbitrary and capricious action.

478 U.S. at 122, 106 S.Ct. 2797 (1986) (quoting *Baker*, 369 U.S. at 226, 82 S.Ct. 691). The Court also held that “[d]isposition of this question *does not involve us in a matter more properly decided by a coequal branch of our Government*,” *id.* (emphasis added), that “[t]here is no risk of foreign or domestic disturbance” and “in light of our cases since *Baker* we are not persuaded that there are no judicially discernible and manageable standards by which political gerrymander cases are to be decided.” *Id.*

<sup>18</sup> While the lead opinion is a plurality opinion by Justice White, Section II, which discusses justiciability, is designated as the opinion of the Court. 478 U.S. at 113, 106 S.Ct. 2797.

Despite deciding that the claim was justiciable, the Court entered judgment against the plaintiffs. *Id.* at 143, 106 S.Ct. 2797. The test proposed by the plurality required a showing of both discriminatory intent and discriminatory effects. *Id.* at 127, 106 S.Ct. 2797 (“[I]n order to succeed the [plaintiffs are] required to prove both intentional discrimination against an identifiable political group and an actual discriminatory effect on that group.”). The plurality reasoned that the plaintiffs had not met the threshold showing of adverse effects, which they described as evidence that “the electoral system is arranged in a manner that will consistently degrade a voter’s or a group of voters’ influence on the political process as a whole.” *Id.* at 132, 106 S.Ct.

2797. The plaintiffs relied on the results of a single election, which the plurality said was “unsatisfactory.” *Id.* at 135, 106 S.Ct. 2797.

Chief Justice Burger, in a brief opinion concurring in the judgment, advocated for political solutions brought about by the will of the voters. He reasoned: “In my view, the Framers of the Constitution envisioned quite a different scheme. They placed responsibility for correction of such flaws in the people, relying on them to influence their elected representatives.” 478 U.S. at 144, 106 S.Ct. 2797 (Burger, C.J., concurring in the judgment). He continued with a quote from Justice Frankfurter’s *Baker* dissent, arguing that: “[i]n a democratic society like ours, relief must come through an aroused popular conscience that sears the conscience of the people’s representatives.” *Id.* (quoting *Baker*, 369 U.S. at 270, 82 S.Ct. 691 (Frankfurter, J., dissenting)).

\*<sup>19</sup> Justice O’Connor, joined by Chief Justice Burger and then-Justice Rehnquist, also disagreed with the plurality’s justiciability holding. According to Justice O’Connor, “[n]othing in [Supreme Court] precedents compels us to take this step, and there is every reason not to do so.” 478 U.S. at 144, 106 S.Ct. 2797 (O’Connor, J., concurring in the judgment). Justice O’Connor continued: “I do not believe, and the Court offers not a shred of evidence to suggest, that the Framers of the Constitution intended the judicial power to encompass the making of such fundamental choices about how this Nation is to be governed.” *Id.* at 145, 106 S.Ct. 2797. Justice O’Connor



warned of the dangers of opening the door to political gerrymandering claims:

Federal courts will have no alternative but to attempt to recreate the complex process of legislative apportionment in the context of adversary litigation in order to reconcile the competing claims of political, religious, ethnic, racial, occupational, and socioeconomic groups. Even if there were some way of limiting such claims to organized political parties, the fact remains that the losing party or the losing group of legislators in every reapportionment will now be invited to fight the battle anew in federal court. Apportionment is so important to legislators and political parties that the burden of proof the plurality places on political gerrymandering plaintiffs is unlikely to deter the routine lodging of such complaints. Notwithstanding the plurality's threshold requirement of discriminatory effects, the Court's holding that political gerrymandering claims are justiciable has opened the door to

pervasive and unwarranted judicial superintendence of the legislative task of apportionment. There is simply no clear stopping point to prevent the gradual evolution of a requirement of roughly proportional representation for every cohesive political group.

478 U.S. at 147, 106 S.Ct. 2797. Justice O'Connor also suggested that the Court's holding required initial policy determinations. For example, she believed the plurality's reasoning meant that "it is constitutionally acceptable for both parties to 'waste' the votes of individuals through a bipartisan gerrymander, so long as the parties themselves are not deprived of their group voting strength to an extent that will exceed the plurality's threshold requirement." *Id.* at 155, 106 S.Ct. 2797. Justice O'Connor believed that "[t]his choice confers greater rights on powerful political groups than on individuals; that cannot be the meaning of the Equal Protection Clause." *Id.* She also distinguished racial gerrymandering cases, noting that "[v]ote dilution analysis is far less manageable when extended to major political parties than if confined to racial minority groups" and that "while membership in a racial group is an immutable characteristic, voters can—and often do—move from one party to the other or support candidates from both parties." *Id.* at 156, 106 S.Ct. 2797.

Justice Powell filed an opinion concurring in part and dissenting in part, joined by

Justice Stevens. 478 U.S. at 161, 106 S.Ct. 2797. He agreed with the plurality “that a partisan political gerrymander violates the Equal Protection Clause only on proof of ‘both intentional discrimination against an identifiable political group and an actual discriminatory effect on that group.’” *Id.* at 161, 106 S.Ct. 2797 (quoting plurality opinion at 127). However, he criticized the plurality’s focus on vote dilution, specifically its reliance on the one person, one vote principle. *Id.* at 162, 106 S.Ct. 2797. Justice Powell proposed that a number of other relevant factors should be considered including “the shapes of voting districts and adherence to established political subdivision boundaries” as well as “the nature of the legislative procedures by which the apportionment law was adopted and legislative history reflecting contemporaneous legislative goals.” *Id.* at 173, 106 S.Ct. 2797. “To make out a case of unconstitutional partisan gerrymandering, the plaintiff should be required to offer proof concerning these factors, which bear directly on the fairness of a redistricting plan, as well as evidence concerning population disparities and statistics tending to show vote dilution. No one factor should be dispositive.” *Id.*

\*20 Reconsidering the issue eighteen years later, the Court splintered again in *Vieth v. Jubelirer*, 541 U.S. 267, 124 S.Ct. 1769, 158 L.Ed.2d 546 (2004). A four Justice plurality, led by Justice Scalia and including Justice O’Connor, believed that all partisan gerrymandering claims should be non-justiciable. *Vieth* involved a challenge to the 2002 Pennsylvania congressional map.

*Id.* at 272, 124 S.Ct. 1769. Justice Scalia suggested that “[p]olitical gerrymanders are not new to the American scene,” and that “[i]t is significant that the Framers provided a remedy for such practices in the Constitution.” *Id.* at 274, 124 S.Ct. 1769. He continued: “Article I, § 4, while leaving in state legislatures the initial power to draw districts for federal elections, permitted Congress to ‘make or alter’ those districts if it wished.” *Id.* at 275, 124 S.Ct. 1769. Justice Scalia surveyed the history of the Elections Clause and Congress’s action thereunder, and noted:

As Chief Justice Marshall proclaimed two centuries ago, “[i]t is emphatically the province and duty of the judicial department to say what the law is.” *Marbury v. Madison*, 1 Cranch 137, 177, 2 L.Ed. 60 (1803). Sometimes, however, the law is that the judicial department has no business entertaining the claim of unlawfulness—because the question is entrusted to one of the political branches or involves no judicially enforceable rights. See, e.g., *Nixon v. United States*, 506 U.S. 224, 113 S.Ct. 732, 122 L.Ed.2d 1 (1993) (challenge to procedures used in Senate impeachment proceedings); *Pacific States Telephone & Telegraph Co. v. Oregon*, 223 U.S. 118, 32 S.Ct. 224, 56 L.Ed. 377 (1912) (claims arising under the Guaranty Clause of Article IV, § 4). Such questions are said to be “nonjusticiable,” or “political questions.”

541 U.S. at 277, 124 S.Ct. 1769. Justice Scalia believed that the passage of eighteen years since *Bandemer*, “with nothing to show for it,” warranted revisiting the

question of justiciability. *Id.* at 281, 124 S.Ct. 1769. His plurality opinion concluded: “neither Article I, § 2, nor the Equal Protection Clause, nor (what appellants only fleetingly invoke) Article I, § 4, provides a judicially enforceable limit on the political considerations that the States and Congress may take into account when districting.” *Id.* at 305, 124 S.Ct. 1769.

Justice Kennedy, concurring in the judgment, counseled caution in entering the realm of political gerrymandering, but stated that he would not foreclose the possibility of a workable standard. “A decision ordering the correction of all election district lines drawn for partisan reasons would commit federal and state courts to unprecedented intervention in the American political process. The Court is correct to refrain from directing this substantial intrusion into the Nation's political life.” 541 U.S. at 306, 124 S.Ct. 1769 (Kennedy, J., concurring in the judgment).

According to Justice Kennedy:

When presented with a claim of injury from partisan gerrymandering, courts confront two obstacles. First is the lack of comprehensive and neutral principles for drawing electoral boundaries. No substantive definition of fairness in districting seems to command general assent. Second is the absence of rules to limit and confine

judicial intervention. With uncertain limits, intervening courts—even when proceeding with best intentions—would risk assuming political, not legal, responsibility for a process that often produces ill will and distrust.

541 U.S. at 306–07, 124 S.Ct. 1769. Justice Kennedy acknowledged that the goal of districting is “to establish fair and effective representation for all citizens” but that the lack of any “agreed upon model of fair and effective representation makes this analysis difficult to prove.” *Id.* at 307, 124 S.Ct. 1769. He stated that “manageable standards for measuring [the burden on representational rights] are critical to [the Court's] intervention.” *Id.* at 308, 124 S.Ct. 1769.

Notably, Justice Kennedy pointed to plaintiffs-appellants' fairness principle “that a majority of voters in the Commonwealth should be able to elect a majority of the Commonwealth's congressional delegation.” *Id.* According to him, “there is no authority for this precept.” *Id.* And with respect to “neutral” districting criteria, such as contiguity and compactness, Justice Kennedy noted that they “are not altogether sound as independent judicial standards for measuring the burden on representational rights.” *Id.* at 308, 124 S.Ct. 1769. These purportedly neutral criteria, Justice Kennedy recognized:

**\*21** cannot promise political neutrality when used as the basis for relief. Instead,



it seems, a decision under these standards would unavoidably have significant political effect, whether intended or not. For example, if we were to demand that congressional districts take a particular shape, we could not assure the parties that this criterion, neutral enough on its face, would not in fact benefit one political party over another. *See Gaffney [v. Cummings]*, 412 U.S. 735, 753, 93 S.Ct. 2321, 37 L.Ed.2d 298 (1973) (“District lines are rarely neutral phenomena. They can well determine what district will be predominantly Democratic or predominantly Republican, or make a close race likely”); *see also* R. Bork, *The Tempting of America: The Political Seduction of the Law* 88–89 (1990) (documenting the author's service as a special master responsible for redistricting Connecticut and noting that his final plan so benefited the Democratic Party, albeit unintentionally, that the party chairman personally congratulated him); M. Altman, *Modeling the Effect of Mandatory District Compactness on Partisan Gerrymanders*, 17 *Pol. Geography* 989, 1000–1006 (1998) (explaining that compactness standards help Republicans because Democrats are more likely to live in high density regions).

541 U.S. at 308–09, 124 S.Ct. 1769.

Justice Kennedy proceeded to counsel patience in the search for a manageable standard. *Id.* at 310, 124 S.Ct. 1769. He noted that the Fourteenth Amendment presently governs, but suggested that First Amendment principles may be better suited

for a manageable test. *Id.* at 313–16, 124 S.Ct. 1769.

Four justices dissented. They proposed narrow standards for partisan gerrymandering claims, meant to prevent the opening of a floodgate. *See, e.g., 541 U.S. at 318, 124 S.Ct. 1769* (Stevens, J., dissenting) (“I would decide this case on a narrow ground. Plaintiffs-appellants urge us to craft new rules that in effect would authorize judicial review of statewide election results to protect the democratic process from a transient majority's abuse of its power to define voting districts. I agree with the plurality's refusal to undertake that ambitious project.”); *541 U.S. at 347, 124 S.Ct. 1769* (Souter, J., dissenting, joined by Ginsburg, J.) (proposing single-district, five-element burden-shifting test); *541 U.S. at 356, 124 S.Ct. 1769* (Breyer, J, dissenting) (acknowledging that “pure politics often helps to secure constitutionally important democratic objectives” but suggesting that claims may proceed where a “purely political” plan “fail[s] to advance any plausible democratic objective”).

Specifically, Justice Stevens suggested adoption of the racial-gerrymandering rationale, permitting district-specific challenges wherein it can be shown that partisanship was the predominant factor in drawing a district line. *541 U.S. at 332–339, 124 S.Ct. 1769.* (Stevens, J., dissenting) (“In sum, in evaluating a challenge to a specific district, I would apply the standard set forth in the *Shaw* cases and ask whether the legislature allowed partisan considerations

to dominate and control the lines drawn, forsaking all neutral principles.”).

Justice Souter proposed “start[ing] anew” with a burden-shifting framework similar to that in the employment discrimination context. 541 U.S. at 346, 124 S.Ct. 1769 (Souter, J., dissenting) (citing *McDonnell Douglas Corp. v. Green*, 411 U.S. 792, 93 S.Ct. 1817, 36 L.Ed.2d 668 (1973)). His approach “would require the plaintiff to make out a *prima facie* case with five elements.” *Id.* at 347, 124 S.Ct. 1769. First, he would need to show that he belonged to a “cohesive political group.” *Id.* Second, “a plaintiff would need to show that the district of his residence ... paid little or no heed to those traditional districting principles whose disregard can be shown straightforwardly: contiguity, compactness, respect for political subdivisions, and conformity with geographic features like rivers and mountains.” *Id.* at 347–48, 124 S.Ct. 1769 (citation omitted). Third, “the plaintiff would need to establish specific correlations between the district's deviations from traditional districting principles and the distribution of the population of his group.” *Id.* at 349, 124 S.Ct. 1769. Fourth, “a plaintiff would need to present the court with a hypothetical district including his residence, one in which the proportion of the plaintiff's group was lower (in a packing claim) or higher (in a cracking one) and which at the same time deviated less from traditional districting principles than the actual district.” *Id.* Finally, “the plaintiff would have to show that the defendants acted intentionally to manipulate the shape

of the district in order to pack or crack his group.” *Id.* at 350, 124 S.Ct. 1769.

\*22 If a plaintiff could make the *prima facie* case, Justice Souter's approach would shift the burden to the defendants. They would then need to “justify their decision by reference to objectives other than naked partisan advantage.” *Id.* at 351, 124 S.Ct. 1769. For example, “[t]hey might show by rebuttal evidence that districting objectives could not be served by the plaintiff's hypothetical district better than by the district as drawn, or they might affirmatively establish legitimate objectives better served by the lines drawn than by the plaintiff's hypothetical.” *Id.*

Justice Breyer had a different view. He explained that “[t]he use of purely political boundary-drawing factors, even where harmful to the members of one party, will often nonetheless find justification in other desirable democratic ends, such as maintaining relatively stable legislatures in which a minority party retains significant representation.” 541 U.S. at 360, 124 S.Ct. 1769 (Breyer, J., dissenting). He proposed that relief would be warranted only where, for example, the “*unjustified* use of political factors to entrench a minority in power” could be shown. *Id.* Justice Breyer explained: “by entrenchment I mean a situation in which a party that enjoys only minority support among the populace has nonetheless contrived to take, and hold, legislative power. By *unjustified* entrenchment I mean that the minority's hold on power is purely the result of partisan manipulation and not other factors.” *Id.*

Justice Breyer concluded that, while the political process can often provide a remedy for abuse of the redistricting process, “where partisan considerations render the traditional district-drawing compromises irrelevant” and “where no justification other than party advantage can be found .... [t]he risk of harm to basic democratic principle[s] is serious; identification is possible; and remedies can be found.” *Id.* at 367, 124 S.Ct. 1769.

The justices in *Vieth* made virtually no mention of the Elections Clause as the textual source of a manageable standard. Plaintiffs-appellants provided only limited reference to the Clause in their briefing. *See, e.g., Brief for Appellants at 25–27, Vieth*, 541 U.S. 267 (No. 02–1580), 2003 WL 22070244 at \*25–\*27 (citing *Smiley*, *Thornton*, and *Gralike* as interpreting “Times, Places, and Manner” to permit only procedural regulations). And Justice Scalia termed plaintiffs-appellants invocation of the Clause “fleeting,” bluntly stating that the Clause contains no “judicially enforceable limit” for political considerations in redistricting. 541 U.S. at 305, 124 S.Ct. 1769 (plurality). Neither Justice Kennedy nor the dissenting justices stated otherwise. Justice Stevens mentioned in a footnote that the Court’s Elections Clause decisions in *Thornton* and *Gralike* “buttressed” the “requirement of governmental neutrality” in election regulations, but he went no further in discussing the Clause’s applicability to redistricting claims. 541 U.S. at 333 n.26, 124 S.Ct. 1769 (Stevens, J., dissenting).

Following *Bandemer* and *Vieth*, the Supreme Court was again presented with a partisan gerrymandering challenge in *League of United Latin American Citizens v. Perry* (“*LULAC*”), 548 U.S. 399, 126 S.Ct. 2594, 165 L.Ed.2d 609 (2006). *LULAC* was an amalgamation of four consolidated cases challenging Texas’ 2003 congressional apportionment statute. *Id.* at 409, 126 S.Ct. 2594. The plaintiffs alleged that the Texas Legislature’s sole intent in crafting the mid-decade plan was partisan advantage, thereby rendering the plan presumptively unconstitutional as a violation of the First Amendment. *Id.* at 416–17, 126 S.Ct. 2594. The Court rejected this theory. And the discussion of partisan gerrymandering within Section II A of Justice Kennedy’s opinion commanded a majority. It stated:

\*23 Based on two similar theories that address the mid-decade character of the 2003 redistricting, appellants now argue that Plan 1374C should be invalidated as an unconstitutional partisan gerrymander. In *Davis v. Bandemer*, 478 U.S. 109, 106 S.Ct. 2797, 92 L.Ed.2d 85 (1986), the Court held that an equal protection challenge to a political gerrymander presents a justiciable case or controversy, *id.*, at 118–127, 106 S.Ct. 2797, but there was disagreement over what substantive standard to

apply. Compare *id.*, at 127–137, 106 S.Ct. 2797 (plurality opinion), with *id.*, at 161–162, 106 S.Ct. 2797 (Powell, J., concurring in part and dissenting in part). That disagreement persists. A plurality of the Court in *Vieth* would have held such challenges to be nonjusticiable political questions, but a majority declined to do so.... We do not revisit the justiciability holding but do proceed to examine whether appellants' claims offer the Court a manageable, reliable measure of fairness for determining whether a partisan gerrymander violates the Constitution.

548 U.S. at 413–14, 126 S.Ct. 2594. Writing for himself, Justice Kennedy went on to recognize that Art. I, § 4, “leaves with the States primary responsibility for apportionment of their federal congressional ... districts.” *Id.* at 414, 126 S.Ct. 2594 (quoting *Grove v. Emison*, 507 U.S. 25, 34, 113 S.Ct. 1075, 122 L.Ed.2d 388 (1993)). He added that “Congress, as the text of the Constitution also provides, may set further requirements, and with respect to districting it has generally required single-member districts.” *Id.*

Justice Kennedy identified the limited but important role for the courts in protecting voting rights by stating that

the appellants' case for adopting their test “is not convincing.” *Id.* at 417, 126 S.Ct. 2594. He suggested that the simplicity of the proposed test was in part its downfall. “A successful claim attempting to identify unconstitutional acts of partisan gerrymandering must do what appellants' sole-motivation theory explicitly disavows: show a burden, as measured by a reliable standard, on the complainants' representational rights.” *Id.* at 418, 126 S.Ct. 2594.

In dissent, Justice Stevens proposed a narrow test for partisan gerrymandering claims, requiring both purpose and effect: “First, to have standing to challenge a district as an unconstitutional partisan gerrymander, a plaintiff would have to prove that he is either a candidate or a voter who resided in a district that was changed by a new districting plan.” 548 U.S. at 475, 126 S.Ct. 2594 (Stevens, J., dissenting). Second, regarding purpose, “if a plaintiff carried her burden of demonstrating that redistricters subordinated neutral districting principles to political considerations and that their predominant motive was to maximize one party's power, she would satisfy the intent prong of the constitutional inquiry.” *Id.* at 475–76, 126 S.Ct. 2594. Third, regarding effects, “a plaintiff would be required to demonstrate the following three facts: (1) her candidate of choice won election under the old plan; (2) her residence is now in a district that is a safe seat for the opposite party; and (3) her new district is less compact than the old district.” *Id.* at 476, 126 S.Ct. 2594. Justice Stevens explained:

[t]he first two prongs of this effects inquiry would be designed to measure whether or not the plaintiff has been harmed, whereas the third prong would be relevant because the shape of the gerrymander has always provided crucial evidence of its character.... Moreover, a safe harbor for more compact districts would allow a newly elected majority to eliminate a prior partisan gerrymander without fear of liability or even the need to devote resources to litigating whether or not the legislature had acted with an impermissible intent.

*Id.*

The foregoing cases, culminating with *LULAC*, are informative. Yet they fail to instruct on whether partisan gerrymandering claims are cognizable under the bare Elections Clause. What those cases do tell us is that the route the Court has established for partisan gerrymandering claims is a narrow one, and that route remains a work in progress. No precise test has been agreed upon. Plaintiffs wish to avoid that route. Rather than offer a narrow, workable test under the First Amendment or the Equal Protection Clause, Plaintiffs pursue a heretofore unexplored pathway: the Elections Clause. Moreover, they expect this new pathway will lead to what I consider an

extremely remote and perhaps unreachable destination: the complete elimination of partisan consideration in congressional redistricting. In my view, as explained below, the judiciary is ill-equipped and unqualified to tread this pathway. The sought after destination—structural change in the creation of electoral regulations—can be reached only through the legitimate functioning of the political process.

#### IV. Analysis

**\*24** The Constitution places the duty of crafting election regulations primarily in the hands of the people. The Supreme Court has expressed its intention to respect that prudent choice, especially when it comes to partisan gerrymandering. The Court has endeavored to find a manageable standard for such claims, one that will allow it to identify the extreme cases and act only where a clear showing is made that a citizen's right to vote has been intentionally and meaningfully infringed. No such standard is contained within the Elections Clause, as shown by its text, its history, and the Supreme Court's past reliance on other constitutional provisions to protect the right to vote.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>19</sup> The recent opinion of the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina reaches a different conclusion regarding the justiciability of partisan gerrymandering claims under the Elections Clause. *Rucho*, — F.Supp.3d at — — —, 2018 WL 341658 at \*70–71. Nothing in that opinion changes my view. The majority opinion does not rely primarily on the Elections Clause. In fact, it acknowledges that if Article I tolerates partisan consideration—which I believe it must in light of the assignment to political actors—then recourse for protecting the right to vote lies in the First



Amendment and the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause. Slip op. at 61. My opinion likewise acknowledges the recourse available to voters under those provisions.

Judge Osteen's separate opinion in *Rucho* prefers the Elections Clause as the basis for relief, and sets a very high bar: "objectively identifiable facts that ... partisan considerations dictated the outcome of an election." *Rucho*, — F.Supp.3d at — n. 43, 2018 WL 341658 at \*80 n.43 (Osteen, J., concurring in part and dissenting in part) (citing *Gralike*, 531 U.S. 510, 121 S.Ct. 1029, 149 L.Ed.2d 44, and *Thornton*, 514 U.S. 779, 115 S.Ct. 1842, 131 L.Ed.2d 881). Yet his conclusion is based on the admissions of the map drawers rather than the "complex factual analysis" that might otherwise be required under his test. *Id.* at —, —, 2018 WL 341658 at \*78–79, \*80–81.

#### **a. The Method of Creating Election Regulations is Textually Committed to Congress.**

As the jurisprudence demonstrates, the Supreme Court has assumed a limited role in protecting the right to vote. For example, in *Hildebrant*, the Supreme Court laid out the parameters of state power under the Elections Clause, but found that a claim necessarily relying on the Guarantee Clause was non-justiciable. 241 U.S. at 569, 36 S.Ct. 708 (citing *Pac. States Tel. & Tel. Co.*, 223 U.S. 118, 32 S.Ct. 224, 56 L.Ed. 377). The Supreme Court has long recognized that claims under Art. IV, §4, of the Constitution, which provides that "The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened), against domestic Violence," are "not cognizable by the judicial power, but solely committed by the Constitution to the

judgment of Congress." *Pac. States Tel. & Tel. Co.*, 223 U.S. at 133, 32 S.Ct. 224. The Court thus declined to consider challenges under the Elections Clause that necessarily relied on such a claim.

Aside from the Guarantee Clause, the Supreme Court has determined that the Senate's power to "try" all impeachments is committed entirely to the Senate's discretion. In *Nixon v. United States*, 506 U.S. 224, 226, 113 S.Ct. 732, 122 L.Ed.2d 1 (1993), the petitioner, a former Chief United States District Judge, challenged Senate Rule XI, which permitted a committee of Senators to hear evidence against an individual who has been impeached. The rule provided that the committee would issue a report on the evidence for consideration by the full Senate. *Id.* Nixon argued that Rule XI violated Art. I, § 3, cl. 6, of the Constitution, which provides in part that "[t]he Senate shall have the sole power to try impeachments." *Id.* at 226–29, 113 S.Ct. 732. He argued that the word "try" "impose[d]" by implication an additional requirement on the Senate in that the proceedings must be in the nature of a judicial trial... [which] precludes the Senate from delegating to a select committee the task of hearing the testimony of witnesses...." *Id.* at 229, 113 S.Ct. 732. The District Court, along with the Court of Appeals, held the matter to be a non-justiciable political question, and the Supreme Court agreed. *Id.* at 226, 228, 113 S.Ct. 732.

**\*25** Discussing the text, the Supreme Court noted the significance of the word "sole," which appears only twice in the

Constitution, with the other instance being the grant of impeachment power to the House of Representatives. *Id.* at 230–31, 113 S.Ct. 732. The Supreme Court noted that the impeachment power is the only check on the judiciary, and to allow judicial involvement, even for the limited purpose of judicial review, would “eviscerate the important constitutional check placed on the Judiciary by the Framers.” *Id.* at 235, 113 S.Ct. 732. The Court concluded that while “courts possess power to review either legislation or executive action that transgresses *identifiable textual limits*.... [T]he word ‘try’ in the Impeachment Trial Clause does not provide an identifiable textual limit on the authority which is committed to the Senate.” *Id.* at 237–38, 113 S.Ct. 732.

Such is the case here. The process for crafting procedural regulations is textually committed to state legislatures and to Congress. As the history discussed above demonstrates, the Framers decided that the States would have broad discretion in choosing the manner in which elections would be held. Yet, fearful of abuse, the Framers installed a check on that power. As the text of the Elections Clause makes clear, that check is action by Congress. “Prominent on the surface of any case held to involve a political question is found a textually demonstrable constitutional commitment of the issue to a coordinate political department ....” *Baker*, 369 U.S. at 217, 82 S.Ct. 691. There is no dispute that the Framers gave Congress direct authority to make or alter regulations for the manner of electing congressional representatives. “The dominant purpose of the Elections Clause,

the historical record bears out, was to empower Congress to override state election rules ....” *Arizona State Legislature*, 135 S.Ct. at 2672. The textual commitment to Congress is clear. While the States shall prescribe “[t]he Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives,” “the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing Senators.” U.S. Const. art. I, § 4, cl. 1. Moreover, “the lack of judicially manageable standards may strengthen the conclusion that there is a textually demonstrable commitment to a coordinate branch.” *Nixon*, 506 U.S. at 228–29, 113 S.Ct. 732. As discussed below, the Elections Clause itself contains no manageable standard for the Court to evaluate the procedures for drawing district lines or for policing the level of *political* consideration.

This does not mean that courts have no role in checking state and congressional enactments for compliance with other constitutional guarantees. There is no incongruence in holding that checking State electoral regulations for fairness under the Elections Clause is committed to Congress, but that the courts may define the structure of the Clause and may enforce limits on state action through other constitutional provisions.

*Powell v. McCormack*, 395 U.S. 486, 89 S.Ct. 1944, 23 L.Ed.2d 491 (1969), suggests such a derivation of duty. In *Powell*, the Supreme Court considered whether Congress's power to judge the qualifications of its own members as provided by Art. I, § 5, cl. 1,

vested in Congress the sole discretionary power to deny membership by a majority vote. Under Congress's theory, their power to deny membership by a majority vote was unreviewable by the Court—a political question. The Court disagreed. It held that the term “qualifications” referred to those set forth in Art. I, § 2, *id.* at 489, 89 S.Ct. 1944, and that the Clause, at most, represented “a ‘textually demonstrable commitment’ to Congress to judge only the qualifications expressly set forth in the Constitution.” *Id.* at 548, 89 S.Ct. 1944.

The Court in *Powell* did not leave to Congress the right to define the term “qualifications.” However, it did suggest that the actual judging of those qualifications was committed to Congress. In like manner, the Court may define “legislature” and “Times, Places, and Manner” but it leaves the actual mechanics of election regulations to the States, Congress, and the people, subject to the constraints of the First Amendment and the Equal Protection Clause.

**b. The Elections Clause Provides  
No Judicially Manageable Standard  
for Policing Procedural Fairness.**

\*26 Plaintiffs contend that the neutrality requirement that the Supreme Court has used to describe state power under the Elections Clause is a manageable standard for courts to use in scrutinizing redistricting schemes. Yet the Supreme Court has never said as much, and has indeed struggled to find a manageable standard even under

the Equal Protection Clause and the First Amendment.

The Court in *Nixon* recognized the lack of an “identifiable textual limit” in the Impeachment Trial Clause. 506 U.S. at 228, 113 S.Ct. 732. The same can be said of the Elections Clause. Vesting in political bodies the power to prescribe regulations as to “Times, Places and Manner” hardly suggests any inherent restraint, nor does it provide any guidance on what motivations are germane to the process. “Legislators are, after all, politicians; it is unrealistic to attempt to proscribe all political considerations in the essentially political process of redistricting.” *Karcher v. Daggett*, 462 U.S. 725, 753, 103 S.Ct. 2653, 77 L.Ed.2d 133 (1983) (Stevens, J., concurring). Moreover, redistricting is a zero-sum game. Every line drawn will inevitably be to the favor or disfavor of some group or some interest. As the plurality recognized in *Vieth*:

The Constitution clearly contemplates districting by political entities, *see* Article I, § 4, and unsurprisingly that turns out to be root-and-branch a matter of politics. *See Miller*, [515 U.S. 900, 914, 115 S.Ct. 2475, 132 L.Ed.2d 762 (1995)] (“[R]edistricting in most cases will implicate a political calculus in which various interests compete for recognition ...”); *Shaw*, [509 U.S. 630, 662, 113 S.Ct. 2816, 125 L.Ed.2d 511 (1993)] (White, J., dissenting) (“[D]istricting inevitably is the expression of interest group politics ...”); *Gaffney v. Cummings*, 412 U.S. 735, 753, 93 S.Ct. 2321, 37 L.Ed.2d 298 (1973) (“The reality is that districting inevitably has and is



intended to have substantial political consequences”).

541 U.S. at 285–86, 124 S.Ct. 1769. Neither the text nor the history of the Elections Clause provides a Rosetta Stone for separating the permissible from the impermissible. It is no surprise, then, that the *Vieth* plurality, considering the Elections Clause only in passing, concluded that it “provides [no] judicially enforceable limit on the political considerations that the States and Congress may take into account when districting.” *Id.* at 305, 124 S.Ct. 1769.

Moreover, the partisan-blind approach Plaintiffs ask us to enforce was rejected by the Supreme Court in *Gaffney v. Cummings*, 412 U.S. 735, 93 S.Ct. 2321, 37 L.Ed.2d 298 (1973). *Gaffney* was a challenge to Connecticut's redistricting process that attempted to achieve “fairness between the political parties.” *Id.* at 736, 93 S.Ct. 2321. Like Plaintiffs here, the challengers in *Gaffney* suggested that “those who redistrict and reapportion should work with census, not political, data and achieve population equality without regard for political impact.” *Id.* at 753, 93 S.Ct. 2321. The Supreme Court rejected that argument. It held that “this politically mindless approach may produce, whether intended or not, the most grossly gerrymandered results.” *Id.*

At least one other district court has recognized the lack of standards within the Elections Clause. In the early stages of the case that would later be decided by the Supreme Court as part of the *LULAC* decision, the District Court considered an

argument that there was a temporal limit inherent in the Elections Clause:

\*27 Plaintiffs would read an implicit, temporal limitation into the text of the Elections Clause, but the argument is empty. The argument is that the Elections Clause allows Congress to pass laws regulating elections “at any time,” but does not explicitly allow states to act at any time. Plaintiffs reason that, by failing to include the phrase “at any time” within the grant of power to states, the Elections Clause implicitly denies that power. Hence, they conclude, the Elections Clause allows states to draw districts only once, immediately after the release of each decennial census.

We are unpersuaded. The argument tortures the text of the Clause, which by its clear terms has no such limitation.

*Session v. Perry*, 298 F.Supp.2d 451, 459 (E.D. Tex.), *vacated sub nom. Henderson v. Perry*, 543 U.S. 941, 125 S.Ct. 351, 160 L.Ed.2d 252 (2004), *et al.* The District Court reasoned: “[t]he Elections Clause is a broad grant of authority to the states that is checked only by the power of Congress to make or alter voting regulations. Nowhere in the text of the Elections Clause or in judicial interpretations is there a limitation on the frequency with which states may exercise their power.” *Id.* at 462. In *LULAC*, Justice Kennedy suggested agreement. *See* 548 U.S. at 418–19, 126 S.Ct. 2594 (opinion of Kennedy, J.) (“The text and structure of the Constitution and our case law indicate there is nothing inherently suspect about a

legislature's decision to replace mid-decade a court-ordered plan with one of its own.”).

Neither does the language of *Thornton* or *Gralike* provide a judicially manageable standard for partisan gerrymandering cases. The principle that States may not attempt to “dictate electoral outcomes,” “favor or disfavor a class of candidates,” or “evade important constitutional restraints.” *Thornton*, 514 U.S. at 833–34, 115 S.Ct. 1842, is surely the animating spirit driving the Supreme Court's quest to find a standard under the Equal Protection Clause or the First Amendment to decide these cases. Yet the Court has never turned to the Elections Clause as the source of a manageable standard.

The Court's ability to categorize Arkansas's Amendment 73 term-limit requirements and Missouri's Article VIII ballot label requirements as substantive regulations, and thus *ultra vires*, does nothing to meaningfully assist a court in measuring the permissible degree of political or partisan consideration in redistricting plans. Those provisions were obviously intended to have an impact on electoral outcomes that disfavored certain candidates. Redistricting schemes, which are required by operation of federal statute and Supreme Court caselaw, have a substantial impact on electoral outcomes no matter how they are crafted. This reality makes it a much more difficult task to determine when the impact becomes *ultra vires*.

### c. Political Decisions

Another of the *Baker* factors of significance here is “the impossibility of deciding without an initial policy determination of a kind clearly for nonjudicial discretion.” *Baker*, 369 U.S. at 217, 82 S.Ct. 691. As Justice O'Connor discussed in her *Bandemer* decision, all partisan gerrymandering decisions require some initial determinations that are of a political nature. 478 U.S. at 155, 106 S.Ct. 2797.

Here, Plaintiffs ask the Court to mandate an order of operations for drawing congressional districts, whereby factors such as compactness and maintenance of communities of interest must be the priorities in map drawing. First, there is no guarantee that these factors are truly neutral. See 541 U.S. at 308–09, 124 S.Ct. 1769 (Kennedy, J., concurring in the judgment) (“[A] decision under these standards would unavoidably have significant political effect, whether intended or not.”) District lines, no matter how they are drawn, will inevitably be to the benefit or detriment of certain interests. See *id.* (citing Judge Bork's observation after his service as a special master responsible for redistricting Connecticut, among other sources in support of the proposition).

\*28 Second, as already discussed, the decision as to which factors will be prioritized is an inherently political decision and not one within the competency of the judicial branch. Priorities may shift in different parts of a given State to account for geography, regional interests, preservation of working relationships, and so forth. The decision to have single member

districts is itself a political decision, made by Congress under its Elections Clause power. As the Supreme Court recognized in *Gaffney*, 412 U.S. at 753, 93 S.Ct. 2321, “[t]he very essence of districting is to produce a different—a more ‘politically fair’—result than would be reached with elections at large, in which the winning party would take 100% of the legislative seats.” This could be read to suggest that the Pennsylvania Republicans’ alleged drawing of the 2011 map to “pack and crack” Democratic voters violates the spirit of single member districts. Indeed, it may. But the real point is that it was a *political* decision to require single-member districts. Congress made that decision. Were we to adopt Plaintiffs’ theory, all of these political decisions would be subject to scrutiny by the courts—a veritable command that the “most fair” method must always be used. Methods such as those used by the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission would be open to additional scrutiny, a kind of scrutiny that they are not subject to under the Equal Protection Clause or the First Amendment. *Gaffney* made clear that States enjoy greater leeway than Plaintiffs seek to impose.

**d. Plaintiffs Provide No  
Compelling Justification for  
Bypassing Existing Precedent.**

Permitting redistricting challenges under the Elections Clause does nothing to ameliorate the decades-long struggle to craft a judicially manageable standard under the Equal Protection Clause or First Amendment. If anything, it introduces further difficulty.

The justices who favor justiciability of partisan gerrymandering claims have consistently noted the importance of a high bar for judicial intervention. In *Karcher*, Justice Stevens suggested that “constitutional adjudication that is premised on a case-by-case appraisal of the subjective intent of local decisionmakers cannot possibly satisfy the requirement of impartial administration of the law that is embodied in the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.” 462 U.S. at 753–54, 103 S.Ct. 2653 (Stevens, J., concurring). However, “if a plan has a significant adverse impact *upon a defined political group*, an additional showing that it departs dramatically from neutral criteria should suffice to shift the task of justification to the state defendants. *For a number of reasons, this is a burden that plaintiffs can meet in relatively few cases.*” *Id.* (emphasis added). His belief that the standard for intervention should be one met only in relatively few cases is further reflected by his opinions in *Vieth* and *LULAC*, and those of his fellow dissenters in *Vieth*. Moreover, as Justice Kennedy recognized: “[a] decision ordering the correction of all election district lines drawn for partisan reasons would commit federal and state courts to unprecedented intervention in the American political process. The Court is correct to refrain from directing this substantial intrusion into the Nation’s political life.” 541 U.S. at 306, 124 S.Ct. 1769 (Kennedy, J., concurring in the judgment). Justice Kennedy sought a “limited and precise rationale.” *Id.*

Plaintiffs began this litigation by offering what they viewed as a workable standard under the Elections Clause: “none means none.” *See* Plaintiffs’ Response in Opposition to Legislative-Defendants’ Motion to Dismiss, ECF No. 53 at 3.<sup>20</sup> When pushed to propose a test for such a claim, Plaintiffs were true to their promise and proposed the following elements: “(1) the defendants used partisan election data to create the 2011 Plan; and (2) defendants did so to serve their political interest.” Plaintiffs’ Brief Regarding the Elements of Their Claims, ECF No. 157 at 1.

<sup>20</sup> As stated in their Memorandum opposing the first Motion to Dismiss:

*Vieth* and other cases try but fail to come up with a judicially manageable standard to distinguish between “some” gerrymandering and “too much.” Because this case draws no such inchoate line between “some” and “too much,” it does present a judicially manageable standard: none means none, at least in federal elections.

ECF No. 53 at 3.

Far from a “limited and precise rationale,” Plaintiffs’ initially-offered Elections Clause theory is expansive and seeks to do precisely what a majority of the Supreme Court has cautioned against: have the courts intrude significantly into the nation’s political life.

**\*29** The seeming simplicity of Plaintiffs’ original test is its downfall. In light of that deficiency, the panel gave Plaintiffs, on the eve of trial, another opportunity to propose elements for their claim. Order for Plaintiffs to Clarify Elements of Proof, ECF No. 169. Plaintiffs proposed, anew, a four part test, requiring: (1) “that those who created the map manipulated the district boundaries of one or more Congressional

districts, intending to generate an expected number of winning seats for the party controlling the process that is greater than the expected number of winning seats that would be determined by the voters if the districts were drawn using even-handed criteria;” (2) that the “discriminatory intent” be “a substantial motivating factor in the line drawing decisions;” (3) that the drafters of the map “achieved their intended goal;” and (4) that “the composition of the state’s [c]ongressional delegation as a whole resulted from the use of partisan data, such that the map itself, rather than the voters, solidified that composition.” Plaintiffs’ Statement of the Elements They Must Prove, ECF No. 173.

This new test is a far cry from Plaintiffs’ original “none means none,” intent-only standard. To be sure, the four-part test tracks more closely those tests proposed by members of the Supreme Court in *Vieth*: it requires a showing of both intent and effects. However, the Plaintiffs’ “expected number of winning seats” metric rings of proportional representation. Proportional representation as a constitutional requirement has been consistently rejected. *See LULAC*, 548 U.S. at 419, 126 S.Ct. 2594 (Opinion of Kennedy, J.) (“To be sure, there is no constitutional requirement of proportional representation ....”); *Vieth*, 541 U.S. at 288, 124 S.Ct. 1769 (plurality) (“Deny it as appellants may (and do), this standard rests upon the principle that groups (or at least political-action groups) have a right to proportional representation. But the Constitution contains no such principle.”); *Bandemer*, 478 U.S. at 130, 106 S.Ct.



2797 (plurality) (“Our cases ... clearly foreclose any claim that the Constitution requires proportional representation or that legislatures in reapportioning must draw district lines to come as near as possible to allocating seats to the contending parties in proportion to what their anticipated statewide vote will be.”).

Plaintiffs' effort on the eve of trial to fashion a more viable standard does not save their Elections Clause theory. It falls short of Plaintiffs' initial promise: to offer a cogent, workable theory that is unique to the Elections Clause. It also defies Plaintiffs' assertion that their Elections Clause test is *different* from the test adopted by the District Court in *Whitford v. Gill*, 218 F.Supp.3d 837 (W.D. Wis. 2016), because it does not rely on a measure of how “‘extreme’” the gerrymander is or on “maps that reflect ‘extreme and durable partisan bias.’” Plaintiffs' Response in Opposition to Motion to Intervene as Plaintiffs, ECF No. 68 at 5 (quoting proposed-Plaintiff-Intervenors' Complaint in Intervention, ECF No. 54–2 at 19).

In short, finding a judicially manageable standard under the Elections Clause is every bit as challenging as finding one under the First Amendment or the Equal Protection Clause. There is no compelling reason to accept Plaintiffs' invitation and journey down this new path.

#### **e. The Action and Inaction of Congress Does not Warrant Judicial Intervention.**

### **1. The History of the Three–Judge Court Act is not Suggestive of a Congressional Desire for Court Intervention.**

Plaintiffs argue that Congress's decision to require three-judge panels for reapportionment cases suggests its view on the justiciability of such claims.<sup>21</sup> However, Congress's decision to *retain* three judge panels for reapportionment cases suggests nothing about the justiciability of partisan gerrymandering cases, especially those brought under the Elections Clause.

<sup>21</sup> Closing Argument of Thomas Geoghegan, Counsel for Plaintiffs, Trial Tr. Dec. 7, 2017 PM 71:25, 72:1–9 (“And also Congress has delegated the power to keep watch over these states to this Court. That's exactly why three judges are on this panel. You're here because of 28 U.S.C. [§] 2284 where Congress says you are the people who are supposed to figure out whether or not these predations by the state are consistent with the structure of the United States Constitution. That's your role. You are here to hear constitutional challenges to redistricting. It's not something where you're usurping something that Congress doesn't want you to be involved in.”).

<sup>\*30</sup> The Three–Judge Court Act, passed in 1910, prohibited single federal district court judges from “issuing interlocutory injunctions against allegedly unconstitutional [s]tate statutes.” *S. Rep. No. 94–204*, at 4 (1978), as reprinted in 1976 U.S.C.C.A.N. 1988, 1989 (“S. Rep.”). According to a Senate Report released in advance of the repeal of significant portions of the Act, “[t]he provision for three-judge courts was enacted by Congress as a solution to a specific problem.” *Id.* That specific problem was federal judges' issuance of interlocutory injunctions against

the enforcement of state regulatory statutes in the wake of *Ex parte Young*, 209 U.S. 123, 28 S.Ct. 441, 52 L.Ed. 714 (1908). S. Rep. at 4, 1976 U.S.C.C.A.N. at 1988. The state statutes were meant to rein in abuses resulting from the “vigorous expansion of big business and the railroads” around the turn of the century. *Id.* Much to the frustration of the States, the interlocutory injunctions were granted “on the strength of affidavits alone” and the temporary restraining orders were granted *ex parte*. *Id.* Therefore, “[t]he rationale of the act was that three judges would be less likely than one to exercise the Federal injunctive power imprudently. It was felt that the act would relieve the fears of the States that they would have important regulatory programs precipitously enjoined.” *Id.*

The need for three-judge courts, however, was soon mitigated by other developments, including statutory and rule changes. See S. Rep. at 2, 1976 U.S.C.C.A.N. at 1989. By the 1970s, there was near unanimous agreement that the three-judge panel process was no longer required, and that it was a significant burden on the judiciary. Chief Justice Burger, in his annual report on the state of the Judiciary in 1972 called for “totally eliminat[ing]” three-judge district courts which he described as “disrupt[ing] district and circuit judges’ work.” S. Rep. at 3, 1976 U.S.C.C.A.N. at 1990 (quoting Remarks of Warren E. Burger, Chief Justice of the United States, before American Bar Association, San Francisco, Calif., August 14, 1972). Chief Justice Burger explained: “[t]he original reasons for establishing these

special courts, whatever their validity at the time, no longer exist.” *Id.*

Congress agreed to act. However, it chose to keep three-judge courts for “certain cases under the Civil Rights Act of 1964,” “cases under the Voting Rights Act of 1965,” and “cases involving congressional reapportionment or the reapportionment of a statewide legislative body.” S. Rep. at 9, 1976 U.S.C.C.A.N. at 1996. As to apportionment cases, the Senate Report explained that “it is the judgment of the committee that these issues are of such importance that they ought to be heard by a three-judge court and, in any event, they have never constituted a large number of cases.” *Id.*

There can be little doubt about the importance of voting-rights cases. By the time Congress considered abolishing the Three-Judge Court Act in the 1970s, cases involving one-person, one-vote and the protection of minority voting rights were being adjudicated by three-judge courts. The Senate Report specifically cites *Reynolds v. Sims*, 377 U.S. 533, 84 S.Ct. 1362, 12 L.Ed.2d 506 (1964). S. Rep. at 9, 1976 U.S.C.C.A.N. at 1996.

However, because the courts were already in the business of deciding reapportionment cases, Congress’s decision to retain three-judge panels for these cases suggests nothing about its views on justiciability. The Supreme Court had spoken, and Congress was reacting. Further, this legislative history predates *Bandemer* and *Vieth*, the first

partisan gerrymandering cases to consider justiciability in any detail.

Moreover, the fact of 28 U.S.C. § 2284 suggests nothing about Congress's view of the Elections Clause. Congress did not retain three-judge panels for cases invoking the Clause. *See, e.g., Gralike v. Cook*, 191 F.3d 911, 914 (8th Cir. 1999) (noting proper jurisdiction of Elections Clause case, unrelated to apportionment, adjudicated by single-judge district court). And because the words “apportionment” and “reapportionment” are general terms used in different contexts, *see* footnote 17, *supra*, we cannot presume that Congress contemplated partisan gerrymandering claims when it used those terms.

In short, Congress's decision to retain three-judge courts to decide reapportionment cases tells us nothing about Congress's view of partisan gerrymandering claims, nor does it suggest anything about whether Congress considered claims under the Elections Clause to be justiciable.

## 2. Congressional Inaction Does Not Warrant Interference.

### i. Congress has Acted, and Legislation is Pending.

\*31 “The power bestowed on Congress to regulate elections, and in particular to restrain the practice of political gerrymandering, has not lain dormant.” *Vieth*, 541 U.S. at 276, 124 S.Ct.

1769 (plurality). Federal law requires single-member districts. 2 U.S.C. § 2c. This requirement dates back to the Apportionment Act of 1842, which further mandated that the single-member districts be “composed of contiguous territory.” 5 Stat. 491.<sup>22</sup> In 1872, Congress added the requirement that districts “contai[n] as nearly as practicable an equal number of inhabitants,” 17 Stat. 28, § 2, and in 1901, imposed a compactness requirement. 31 Stat. 733. “The requirements of contiguity, compactness, and equality of population were repeated in the 1911 apportionment legislation, 37 Stat. 13, but were not thereafter continued.” *Vieth*, 541 U.S. at 276, 124 S.Ct. 1769 (plurality). However, numerous bills have been proposed in the area and many are currently pending. *See id.* (listing proposed bills to regulate gerrymandering); S. 1880, 115th Congress (2017) (requiring, *inter alia*, States to conduct congressional redistricting through independent commissions); H.R. 1102, 115th Congress (2017) (same); H.R. 713, 115th Congress (2017) (requiring States to adopt procedures for public comment on redistricting plans). Simply put, Congress has set stricter requirements for redistricting in the past, and nothing but political will prevents it from doing so again.

<sup>22</sup> The Act required, in part, that “in every case where a state is entitled to more than one Representative, the number to which each State shall be entitled under this apportionment shall be elected by districts composed of contiguous territory equal in number to the number of Representatives to which said State may be entitled, no one district electing more than one representative.”

## ii. Action by the Court Interferes with Political Accountability.

There is an argument to be made that extreme gerrymandering frustrates the ability of the people to hold their elected officials accountable. However, court interference with redistricting would only frustrate political accountability.

When state legislatures draw district lines, they do so in the public eye. If these legislatures draw district lines that are perceived to be unfair, they risk electoral pushback from citizens on both sides of the political aisle.<sup>23</sup> In the absence of court action, that pushback can be precisely focused on the state legislatures responsible for partisan gerrymandering. When federal courts step in, however, they do so at the risk of muddying the waters—potentially providing state legislatures with enough cover to argue that their hands are tied by the courts and that they are not responsible for a controversial map. Thus, court action in this area risks diffracting political pressure that would otherwise rest squarely on the shoulders of the responsible legislators.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>23</sup> See, e.g., *Arizona State Legislature*, 135 S.Ct. at 2658 (“In 2000, Arizona voters adopted an initiative, Proposition 106, aimed at ‘ending the practice of gerrymandering and improving voter and candidate participation in elections.’ ”); Jeffrey Toobin, *Saving Democracy in Florida*, THE NEW YORKER (July 22, 2014), <https://www.newyorker.com/news/daily-comment/saving-democracy-florida> (“The redistricting behavior of state legislators has become so craven that a modest political backlash has developed, and a few hopeful signs have emerged. One came last month, in Florida.... Florida voters passed

an amendment to the state constitution that banned the creation of legislative districts ‘with the intent to favor or disfavor a political party or an incumbent.’ ”).

<sup>24</sup> See *McDaniel v. Sanchez*, 452 U.S. 130, 150 n.30, 101 S.Ct. 2224, 68 L.Ed.2d 724 (1981) (“Moreover, even after a federal court has found a districting plan unconstitutional, ‘redistricting and reapportioning legislative bodies is a legislative task which the federal courts should make every effort not to pre-empt.’ ” (quoting *Wise v. Lipscomb*, 437 U.S. 535, 539, 98 S.Ct. 2493, 57 L.Ed.2d 411 (1978))).

In addition to shielding state legislatures, court intervention shields the federal Congress from political accountability. Here, it seems that Plaintiffs ask this Court to intervene on the basis that Congress' *decision* not to override particular state regulations reflects Congress' *inability* to override particular state regulations. Thus, the courts must step in to resolve the controversy. Congress, however, has proven itself quite capable of exercising its power under the Elections Clause. When Congress decides against exercising its power to remedy state regulations, it does so publicly—and with the risk that constituents will object to such inaction.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>25</sup> See Michael T. Morley, Essay, *The New Elections Clause*, 91 NOTRE DAME L. REV. ONLINE 79, 91 (2016) (“Allowing Congress to control and even determine the outcomes of federal elections creates a substantial risk of direct partisan manipulation. Yet the Constitution's structure embodies the Framers' repeated, deliberate decisions to entrust Congress with such responsibility.”).

\*32 Although Plaintiffs might argue that inaction presents Congress with no real political risk because gerrymandering ensures that their particular seats are safe, this ignores the fact that the Elections Clause places the power to alter state regulations in both houses of Congress. Federal Senators



—who must win statewide elections and for whom gerrymandering has no effect—are particularly vulnerable to organized political pushback from constituents who may be displeased with congressional inaction. Injecting the federal courts into line drawing decisions comes with the risk of permitting federal Congressmen to duck political accountability by placing the blame on the judiciary.

### iii. The Political Process is Available.

The argument that the political process is hopelessly broken, warranting court intervention, has proven before to be specious. Two years after the Supreme Court decided *Vieth*, the party that claimed it was the victim of a partisan gerrymander won an additional four seats in Pennsylvania—a greater than 20% swing in seats, giving the party 55% of the State's nineteen seats. *See* Joint Statement of Stipulated and Undisputed Facts, Exhibit E, ECF No. 150–3 at 5 (listing names and political affiliations of Pennsylvania's U.S. Representatives in the 109th and 110th Congresses). In a so-called “wave election,” Democratic candidates beat Republican incumbents in four districts. *See* AmericaVotes2006, CNN.COM, <http://www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2006/pages/results/states/PA/> (noting the loss of Republican incumbents in districts 4, 7, 8, and 10). This was not the first time election results ran counter to the expectations of those advancing partisan gerrymandering claims. *See Vieth*, 541 U.S. at 287 n.8, 124 S.Ct. 1769

(plurality) (discussing North Carolina case in which the allegedly disfavored candidates obtained electoral victory a mere five days after the District Court held they had been unconstitutionally excluded from the electoral process). And it is likely to happen again. Recent elections have bucked trends. *See, e.g.,* Michelle Bond, *In historic win, Delco Dems take council seats*, PHILLY.COM (Nov. 7, 2017, 10:50 PM), <http://www.philly.com/philly/news/pennsylvania/delaware-county-pa-council-election-result-2017-democrats-20171107.html>. Quite simply, the electorate can be unpredictable.

More fundamentally, I refuse to believe that voters in Pennsylvania have given up on the democratic process. Broad-based efforts to force political and governmental reform are hardly without precedent in our Nation's history. While Pennsylvania does not have a referendum system akin those in other states, its constitution can be amended.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>26</sup> *See* Referendum Handbook, PA Dep't of Cmty. and Econ. Dev., 8<sup>th</sup> Ed., January 1999, at 2 (“Pennsylvania, unlike many other states has never authorized placing amendments on the ballot by citizen initiative, limiting this prerogative to the legislature.”); Pa. Const. art. XI, § 1.

To be sure, national political parties as they are presently constituted did not exist at the time of the founding. Nor do I deny that periods of hyper-partisanship contribute to so-called “gridlock” and frustrate opportunities to effect legislative change. Yet I see no indication that the will of the people, asserting electoral and other pressure on directly elected members of the General Assembly, cannot provide the relief

Plaintiffs seek. There is no evidence in the record before this panel that Plaintiffs have even attempted to utilize the political process to bring about the change they seek. Even if gerrymandering frustrates accountability to some extent, Plaintiffs argue that their cause is a bipartisan one. If their cause is indeed bipartisan (or, perhaps more aptly, non-partisan), no partisan map can overcome the will of a broad electorate that seeks such fundamental change.

\*33 While Plaintiffs may argue that the pernicious effects of gerrymandering have made it difficult to get redistricting reform legislation enacted, I am not satisfied that a broad-based, grassroots reform effort is destined to fail. If both parties suffer from a lack of competitive districts, as Plaintiffs argue, they have a strong case to take to voters of all persuasions. In the end, the “[f]ailure of political will does not justify unconstitutional remedies.” *Arizona State Legislature*, 135 S.Ct. at 2690 (Roberts, C.J., dissenting) (quoting *Clinton v. City of New York*, 524 U.S. 417, 449, 118 S.Ct. 2091, 141 L.Ed.2d 393 (1998) (Kennedy, J., concurring)).

## V. Conclusion

Plaintiffs cite *Arizona State Legislature* to support their theory that the Elections Clause contains enforceable internal constraints. In doing so, they ignore *Arizona's* larger teaching: political power flows from the people. At the end of the day, it is the people who control the districting process.<sup>27</sup>

27 135 S.Ct. at 2677 (“Both parts of the Elections Clause are in line with the fundamental premise that all political power flows from the people. *McCulloch v. Maryland*, [17 U.S. (4 Wheat.) ] 316, 404–405, 4 L.Ed. 579 (1819). So comprehended, the Clause doubly empowers the people. They may control the State’s lawmaking processes in the first instance, as Arizona voters have done, and they may seek Congress’ correction of regulations prescribed by state legislatures.”). Justice Breyer, even while dissenting in *Vieth*, also recognized this power of the people. *Vieth*, 541 U.S. at 362–63, 124 S.Ct. 1769 (Breyer, J., dissenting) (“Where a State has improperly gerrymandered legislative or congressional districts to the majority’s disadvantage, the majority should be able to elect officials in statewide races—particularly the Governor—who may help to undo the harm that districting has caused the majority’s party, in the next round of districting if not sooner. And where a State has improperly gerrymandered congressional districts, Congress retains the power to revise the State’s districting determinations.... Moreover, voters in some States, perhaps tiring of the political boundary-drawing rivalry, have found a procedural solution, confiding the task to a commission that is limited in the extent to which it may base districts on partisan concerns. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 12 States currently give ‘first and final authority for [state] legislative redistricting to a group other than the legislature.’”).

Conceivably, were Congress to enact legislation requiring a specific process for drawing Congressional districts, citizens would have recourse to the courts to enforce those statutory requirements. Such a scenario would materially differ from what this case presents. It would require the courts to enforce a duly enacted law resulting from political determinations, something courts do routinely, rather than requiring the judiciary to make political determinations in the first instance. Nothing in *Arizona State Legislature* suggests that the people may choose to delegate redistricting in the first instance to the courts. Neither may Congress.<sup>28</sup>

28 See 135 S.Ct. at 2689 (Roberts, C.J., dissenting) (“It is a well-accepted principle ... that Congress may not delegate authority to one actor when the Constitution vests that authority in another actor.”).

\*34 The structural change Plaintiffs seek must come from the political branches or from the political process itself, not the courts. For these reasons, I would hold that the Elections Clause claim raises a non-justiciable political question.

SHWARTZ, Circuit Judge, concurring in the judgment.

Twenty-six Pennsylvania residents (collectively “Plaintiffs”) <sup>1</sup> representing all eighteen of Pennsylvania's congressional districts allege that the Commonwealth's congressional map is so politically gerrymandered <sup>2</sup> that it violates the Elections Clause, [Article I, Section 4 of the Constitution](#). <sup>3</sup> Although there may be a case in which a political gerrymandering claim may successfully be brought under the Elections Clause, this is not such a case. Plaintiffs lack standing to bring a statewide challenge to the map because they have not presented a plaintiff from each congressional district who has articulated a concrete and particularized injury in fact. Moreover, even if Plaintiffs established standing, or if Plaintiffs had raised district-specific challenges to the 2011 map, their claim would still fail because the legal test they propose for an Elections Clause claim is inconsistent with established law. For these reasons, I join Chief Judge Smith in entering

judgment <sup>4</sup> in favor of the Legislative and Executive Defendants. <sup>5</sup>

1 Plaintiffs are Louis Agre, William Ewing, Floyd Montgomery, Joy Montgomery, Rayman Solomon, John Gallagher, Ani Diakatos, Joseph Zebrowitz, Shawndra Holmberg, Cindy Harmon, Heather Turnage, Leigh Ann Congdon, Reagan Hauer, Jason Magidson, Joe Landis, James Davis, Ed Gragert, Ginny Mazzei, Dana Kellerman, Brian Burychka, Marina Kats, Douglas Graham, Jean Shenk, Kristin Polston, Tara Stephenson, and Barbara Shah. Am. Compl., ECF No. 88.

2 “The term ‘political gerrymander’ has been defined as ‘the practice of dividing a geographical area into electoral districts often of highly irregular shape, to give one political party an unfair advantage by diluting the opposition's voting strength.’ [Vieth v. Jubelirer](#), 541 U.S. 267, 271 n.1, 124 S.Ct. 1769, 158 L.Ed.2d 546 (2004) (quoting Black's Law Dictionary 696 (7th ed. 1999)) (internal brackets omitted). Similarly, the term “partisan gerrymandering” is used to describe “the drawing of legislative district lines to subordinate adherents of one political party and entrench a rival party in power.” [Ariz. State Legis. v. Ariz. Indep. Redistricting Comm'n](#), — U.S. —, 135 S.Ct. 2652, 2658, 192 L.Ed.2d 704 (2015). The terms political gerrymandering and partisan gerrymandering are used interchangeably.

3 The Complaint also alleged claims under the First Amendment and the Equal Protection Clause, which were dismissed before trial.

4 I would enter judgment in Defendants' favor pursuant to [Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 52](#), since my opinion is based on a factual finding. When evaluating a [Rule 52](#) motion, a court makes credibility determinations but “does not view the evidence through a particular lens or draw inferences favorable to either party.” [EBC, Inc. v. Clark Bldg. Sys., Inc.](#), 618 F.3d 253, 271–72 (3d Cir. 2010).

5 Defendants are Thomas W. Wolf, in his official capacity as Governor of Pennsylvania, Robert Torres, in his official capacity as Secretary of State of Pennsylvania, and Jonathan Marks, in his official capacity as Commissioner of the Bureau of Elections (“Executive Defendants”). Michael C. Turzai, in his official capacity as Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and Joseph B. Scarnati,

III, in his official capacity as Pennsylvania Senate President Pro Tempore, intervened as defendants (“Legislative Defendants”). Mot. to Intervene, ECF No. 45; Order granting Mot., ECF No. 47.

## I<sup>6</sup>

6 My colleague Judge Baylson has thoroughly summarized the trial testimony. During trial, we heard testimony either in-person or through depositions from Plaintiffs, legislative staffers who helped develop the districting map that became the 2011 Plan, legislators who witnessed the process surrounding the adoption of the 2011 Plan, and experts who explained, among other things, how the 2011 Plan incorporated or failed to comply with traditional redistricting criteria.

The 2010 census revealed that Pennsylvania's population had dropped and, as a result, the Commonwealth lost one seat in Congress. To address the reduction from nineteen to eighteen congressional seats, Pennsylvania had to redraw its congressional district lines, and in 2011, Pennsylvania adopted a new congressional map (the “2011 Plan”).

The creation of the 2011 Plan was tasked, in part, to Erik Arneson, the Communications and Policy Director for Republican State Senator Dominic Pileggi, and William Schaller, who worked for the Republican House Caucus of the Pennsylvania General Assembly.<sup>7</sup> Schaller admitted that the map-drawing process involved forming a map that was “[b]ased on consultations on how the districts should be put together from the negotiations and discussions with the stakeholders,” specifically “Republican stakeholders.” Schaller Dep. 75:24–76:22. He said that “the information [he] got about the discussions among the Republican stakeholders in that legislative process

was probably the most important factor that [he] used in drawing the maps.” Schaller Dep. 76:23–77:5. Arneson similarly testified that during the map-drawing process, he met with members of Congress, including Republican Representative Bill Shuster, whose preferences regarding the composition of his congressional district “were taken into account.” Trial Tr. Dec. 6, 2017 PM 96:10–14.

7 The testimony for these legislative staffers was presented via depositions. Although the panel was unable to observe their demeanor, the staffers' answers to certain questions caused all three of us to question how forthcoming those witnesses were in their testimony.

Democratic State Senator Daylin Leach testified that “Democrats were not invited to participate in any way” in the creation of the 2011 Plan, and thus neither he nor other Democrats had personal knowledge regarding the map's creation. Leach Dep. 19:22–20:14. Democratic Representative Greg Vitali provided a similar description of the process. The exclusion of Democrats and the lack of transparency concerning the map was also echoed in comments on the floor of the Pennsylvania State Senate and Pennsylvania House of Representatives. See Legis. Defs.' Ex. 21 at 2692, 2694, 2699; Legis. Defs.' Ex. 22 at 2728, 2730.

Arneson and Schaller relied upon data, referred to by the parties as the “Turzai dataset,” that included fields for, among other things, election results for all state (Executive, Senate, House) and national elections (President, Senate, U.S. House) for 2004 to 2010 in even-numbered years. The dataset also included demographic



data, partisan vote share at the precinct level, party registration for the 2004–2010 elections, and voter information at the county, municipal, precinct, and census block levels, with census blocks constituting the smallest statistical geographic unit. Anne C. Hanna, a Mechanical Engineering Ph.D. candidate at the Georgia Institute of Technology, reviewed the Turzai dataset and found that it included a large volume of partisan voting results and partisan voter registration data for each county for all thirty-three even-year statewide legislative and Congressional elections from 2004 to 2010. She also testified that partisan indices were constructed for each county. The data was available to all four caucuses of Pennsylvania's legislative bodies.

According to the testimony of the legislative staffers, the map drawing duties were split in half. The Senate staff drew the lines for the eastern part of the Commonwealth, and the House staff drew the lines for the western part. Arneson testified that numerous versions of the maps were drawn, but it appears that only one version, which became known as the 2011 Plan, was publicly shared.

The 2011 Plan, formally known as Senate Bill 1249, was first introduced in the Pennsylvania Senate's State Government committee as a “shell bill” with a printer number<sup>8</sup> of 1520 on September 14, 2011. See Exec. Defs. Ex. 1 at ¶ 1, Ex. A. As a “shell bill,” it contained no actual legislative content, an “unusual” feature that Senator Andrew Dinniman could not recall occurring with any other legislation.

In short, all the “shell bill” said for each of the eighteen congressional districts was that the particular district “is composed of a portion of this Commonwealth.” Exec. Defs. Ex. 1 at Ex. A. Thus, it did not identify the municipalities or counties that would comprise a particular district. Senate Bill 1249 was not actually given any legislative content concerning the municipalities or counties assigned to a particular district until the morning of December 14, 2011, when it came before the State Government committee with printer number 1862. After the bill with printer number 1862 was voted out of the State Government committee that morning, it was sent to the Appropriations committee. See Exec. Defs. Ex. 1 at ¶¶ 5–6 & Ex. B. Senator Dinniman testified that although Senate Rule 12 ordinarily requires at least six hours between a bill's referral from the Appropriations committee and a vote, that rule was suspended for this bill. The Appropriations committee approved the bill, and the bill was then sent to the floor of the State Senate with printer number 1869.

<sup>8</sup> Printer numbers are used to designate different versions of a bill.

The final vote on Senate Bill 1249, printer number 1869, required a suspension of another Senate rule. The normal Senate rules prohibit voting after 11:00 pm, but this rule was suspended because the Senate needed to vote on the bill before the end of the legislative year. The bill passed the State Senate, Exec. Defs.' Ex. 1 at ¶ 7, on a vote of 26–24,<sup>9</sup> and it was then reported to Pennsylvania's House of Representatives, which considered the bill on December 15,

2011 and December 19, 2011. Exec. Defs.' Ex. 1 at ¶¶ 8–10; see also Legis. Defs.' Ex. 20 at 2660; Legis. Defs.' Ex. 21 at 2679–2702. Following impassioned speeches from both sides of the aisle about the bill and the role of partisanship in its creation—including a concession from then-State Representative Turzai that “[p]olitics may be taken into account as a factor, although not the controlling factor,” Legis. Defs' Ex. 21 at 2735—the House passed the bill with a vote of 136 to 61 on December 20, 2011, Legis. Defs.' Ex. 22 at 2736. Governor Tom Corbett signed the bill into law on December 22, 2011. Exec. Defs.' Ex. 1 at ¶¶ 13–14.

9 Of the twenty-four votes against Senate Bill 1249, four votes were cast by Republicans. No Senate Democrats voted for the bill. See Pls.' Ex. 29 at 0809.

Since the 2011 Plan's passage, three congressional elections have occurred, and each resulted in the election of thirteen Republican and five Democratic congressmen, meaning Republicans have won 72 percent of the congressional seats, even though Republicans earned only 49 to 56 percent of the votes in those three elections. See Pls.' Ex. 31 at 6.

Plaintiffs' expert Daniel McGlone, a senior geographic information systems (“GIS”) analyst at Azavea, testified that the effect of the 2011 Plan was to “pack” and “crack” Democratic voters in certain districts. Packing refers to concentrating certain members of a political party in a single district, thereby allowing the other party to win the remainder of the districts. Cracking refers to splitting members of a political party among multiple districts to prevent them from forming a majority in a single

district. For example, McGlone explained that under the 2011 Plan, the Twelfth Congressional District in southwestern Pennsylvania was made safely Republican by moving certain Democratic areas from it to the Fourteenth Congressional District. The new Twelfth Congressional District then became the home of two incumbent Democratic congressmen, who had to run against each other for the nomination and then run against a Republican challenger in what had become a heavily Republican-populated district. This move simultaneously reduced the number of Democratic representatives and increased the number of Republican ones in Pennsylvania's congressional delegation. Similarly, McGlone explained how the Sixth District split Reading and its Democratic voting base from its suburbs and placed Reading into the Sixteenth District to pack more Democratic voters there. According to McGlone, the Sixth District thereby became more likely to elect a Republican representative. McGlone also concluded that the shape of the district boundaries in the 2011 map, which included boundaries that reached around municipal lines or split municipalities, demonstrated a deliberate effort to gather voters in specific districts based on their political preferences rather than applying traditional districting criteria, such as preservation of political subdivisions, compactness, contiguity, preservation of communities of interest, continuity, respect for geographic boundaries, and incumbency.<sup>10</sup> He also testified that the 2011 Plan's boundaries would consistently produce thirteen Republican representatives and five

Democratic representatives, Trial Tr. Dec. 4, 2017 PM 9:16–20, which, as stated before, has been the result of the 2012, 2014, and 2016 congressional elections.

<sup>10</sup> McGlone also described other districts, and Judge Baylson has provided detailed descriptions of five congressional districts in his very thorough opinion.

Plaintiffs testified about how the 2011 Plan impacted them. Plaintiffs are registered voters from Pennsylvania's eighteen congressional districts and represent different age groups, genders, educational backgrounds, and occupations. While many are registered Democrats, at least three are registered Republicans. Many plaintiffs asserted that the 2011 Plan diluted their votes<sup>11</sup> and prevented them from making a meaningful electoral choice.<sup>12</sup> Many Plaintiffs also said that, as a result of the 2011 Plan, their representatives were not responsive to their requests or inquiries.<sup>13</sup> Others testified that the 2011 Plan reduced their access to their representatives<sup>14</sup> and resulted in them being placed in a congressional district with other voters with whom they had “absolutely nothing in common.” Gallagher (CD 1) (Trial Tr. Dec. 6, 2017 AM 84:13–15); see also Kellerman (CD 12) (Kellerman Dep. 41:4–10) (testifying that “my district should be able to pick the representative who represents us”, but instead, her representative is chosen by “a very different community”).<sup>15</sup>

<sup>11</sup> See Diakotos (CD 1) (Trial Tr. Dec. 6, 2017 AM 94:2–3) (stating “I just feel like my voice isn't heard anymore”); Agre (CD 2) (Trial Tr. Dec. 5, 2017 AM 97:3) (testifying “my individual vote [is] affected...

[because] it's watered down”); Ewing (CD 2) (Trial Tr. Dec. 5, 2017 PM 100:4–5) (testifying that “the ability to effectively [support other candidates] has diminished” under the 2011 Plan); Holmberg (CD 3) (Holmberg Dep. 18:7–9) (testifying “that's another harm is to be heard”); Harmon (CD 5) (Harmon Dep. 44:21–22) (“I don't feel that my voice is being heard”); Magidson (CD 7) (Trial Tr. Dec. 5, 2017 PM 58:16–18) (testifying “I don't think my vote really counts for much at all...I don't think I can influence that district”); Landis (CD 8) (Trial Tr. Dec. 5, 2017 PM 82:17–19) (testifying that his “district is going to remain Republican regardless of [his] vote and [his] voice is squashed”); Mazzei (CD 11) (Mazzei Dep. 22:19–22) (stating “my vote has been diluted by the way that the district lines are drawn by political parties”); Kellerman (CD 12) (Kellerman Dep. 12:23–24, 13:3–6) (testifying “my vote does not count as much as it should” and that it “has purposely been diluted”); Kats (CD 13) (Kats Dep. 85:16) (testifying “my vote cannot make a difference”); Burychka (CD 13) (Trial Tr. Dec. 5, 2017 PM 67:11–12) (testifying “I sometimes feel that my voice is lost”); Shenk (CD 15) (Trial Tr. Dec. 5, 2017 PM 39:19–20, 40:4–6) (testifying that the “map makes [her] vote a waste” and her vote does not have any effect); Polston (CD 17) (Trial Tr. Dec. 5, 2017 AM 108:9–10) (stating “I am concerned that my vote is diluted in my area”).

<sup>12</sup> Solomon (CD 2) (Solomon Dep. 78:5–8) (noting that he is “harmed by the fact, maybe, that in some ways you believe that the congressional election...is predetermined”); Ewing (CD 2) (Trial Tr. Dec. 5, 2017 PM 98:21–23) (testifying that, as a result of partisan gerrymandering, “there's no contest” in his district because it is “very heavily democratic”); Gragert (CD 10) (Gragert Dep. 37:7–14) (noting that as to possible candidates for the Tenth Congressional District “the person [he] want[s] is not able to run or...the district is just too large, or you've got to have too much money, you've got to be on the other side, three hours away, in order to get elected”); Graham (CD 14) (Graham Dep. 28:15–17) (stating “it's harmed me having a democrat that many years that I don't have a choice”); Shenk (CD 15) (Trial Tr. Dec. 5, 2017 PM 47:6–9) (testifying that “other voices have given up hope in running against [the incumbent]” and “we don't have competitive elections”); Montgomery (CD 16) (Montgomery Dep. 29:7–11) (stating that “it [the 2011 Plan] stopped me from getting my choice.”); Shah (CD 18) (Shah Dep. 12:21–24) (noting that in the last two elections she “didn't have a chance to vote for any

Democrats because there were no Democrats on the ballot”).

13 See Agre (CD 2) (Trial Tr. Dec. 5, 2017 AM 97:21–22) (stating that “if we had fair districts, we would have more responsive congresspeople”); Holmberg (CD 3) (Holmberg Dep. 16:24–25, 17:1) (stating that “because the district is no longer competitive, Representative Kelly does not have to listen to his voters”); Hauer (CD 6) (Trial Tr. Dec. 5, 2017 AM 119:7–24) (testifying that her Congressman has not responded to her correspondence and that he “vot[es] along party lines rather than voting for his constituents”); Mazzei (CD 11) (Mazzei Dep. 25:6–11) (testifying “I don’t feel I have a responsive representative...because he doesn’t worry about my vote...because his seat is guaranteed...”); Shenk (CD 15) (Trial Tr. Dec. 5, 2017 PM 48:8–11) (testifying that members of Congress will “focus only on [those] who they know will help reelect them”); Shah (CD 18) (Shah Dep. 35:20–23) (noting that her representative “doesn’t care about what we [his constituents] think or what we want,” focusing instead on his donors).

14 See Gallagher (CD 1) (Trial Tr. Dec. 6, 2017 AM 84:25–85:2) (testifying that his Congressman has never visited his section of the congressional district); Diakatos (CD 1) (Trial Tr. Dec. 6, 2017 AM 94:3–5) (testifying that her Congressman has not visited her county because the gerrymandered district prioritizes Philadelphia); Harmon (CD 5) (Harmon Dep. 32:3–4) (noting that she no longer has a “local” representative, but would “have to drive several hours” for a conversation); Davis (CD 9) (Davis Dep. 28:7–13) (noting his congressman is “just so far away from us” based on the “configuration” of the district); Polston (CD 17) (Trial Tr. Dec. 5, 2017 AM 111:4–18) (testifying that the gerrymandering of her district reduced her access to her Congressman because he holds town halls in parts of the district that are far from her home and difficult to reach).

15 The only plaintiff from Pennsylvania’s Fourth District testified that the map as a whole seemed unfairly drawn, but her “particular district is not very gerrymandered”; it is “one of the more compact ones,” Turnage Dep. 47:4–18, 48:4–5, and she was unsure whether her particular district was fairly drawn, Turnage Dep. 48:11–12. She was also unsure how, if at all, the shape of her district harmed her. Turnage Dep. 50:15–23. When pressed on how the 2011 Plan specifically harmed her, she explained, “I can’t know without having the information basically that...the redistricting committee has...because I’m

not sure how things might change if districting [were] done differently.” Turnage Dep. 52:1–5. Thus, unlike the other Plaintiffs, she did not explain how the 2011 congressional districting specifically impacted her.

## II

Plaintiffs allege that the 2011 map violates the Elections Clause of the United States Constitution. The Elections Clause provides:

The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of ch[oo]sing Senators.

U.S. Const. art. I, § 4, cl. 1. “[T]hese comprehensive words embrace authority to provide a complete code for congressional elections, not only as to times and places,” but also as to “procedure and safeguards.” Smiley v. Holm, 285 U.S. 355, 366, 52 S.Ct. 397, 76 L.Ed. 795 (1932).

The Supreme Court has held, and the parties do not dispute, that the drawing of congressional district lines is among the “time, place, and manner” tasks given to the states. In League of United Latin American Citizens v. Perry, 548 U.S. 399, 126 S.Ct. 2594, 165 L.Ed.2d 609 (2006) (“LULAC”), for example, the Court explained that Section 2 of Article I and the Elections Clause “leave[ ]...the States



primary responsibility for apportionment of their federal congressional...districts.” 548 U.S. at 414, 126 S.Ct. 2594 (internal citations and quotation marks omitted); see also *id.* at 415, 126 S.Ct. 2594 (citing *Smiley*, 285 U.S. at 366–67, 52 S.Ct. 397, for the proposition that “reapportionment implicated [a] State’s powers under Art. 1, § 4”).

The Supreme Court’s conclusion that the power of state legislatures to draw congressional districts is based on the Elections Clause is also consistent with the Clause’s drafting history. During the Convention debates, James Madison noted that regulating the “manner of holding elections” provided States with “great latitude” that would include whether electors “should be divided into districts or all meet at one place.”<sup>16</sup> The drafting history also shows that the Elections Clause limits a state’s power when establishing congressional district lines. The Framers intended that the Elections Clause provide a means to ensure that congressional elections actually occurred and that states sent representatives to the federal government. The Elections Clause authorized Congress to intercede if a state adopted regulations that precluded congressional elections and thereby withheld sending representatives from the state to the federal government.<sup>17</sup> *Ariz. State Legis. v. Ariz. Indep. Redistricting Comm’n*, — U.S. —, 135 S.Ct. 2652, 2672, 192 L.Ed.2d 704 (2015) (“[T]he Clause was the Framers’ insurance against the possibility that a State would refuse to provide for the election of representatives to the Federal Congress.”).

<sup>16</sup> Max Farrand, *The Founders’ Constitution*, (The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787 ed., 1937), available at [http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/a1\\_4\\_1s1.html](http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/a1_4_1s1.html).

<sup>17</sup> E.g., The Federalist No. 59, 397–403 (Alexander Hamilton) available at [http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/a1\\_4\\_1s13.html](http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/a1_4_1s13.html) (“Nothing can be more evident, than that an exclusive power of regulating elections for the National Government, in the hands of the State Legislatures, would leave the existence of the Union entirely at their mercy. They could at any moment annihilate it, by neglecting to provide for the choice of persons to administer its affairs.”);

Several Framers also wanted to ensure that state regulations did not favor or disfavor a class of candidates or dictate election outcomes.<sup>18</sup> These Framers took seriously the possibility that states may use their grant of power under the Elections Clause to favor particular candidates by, among other things, holding elections in seaport towns to effectively “exclude the distant parts of the several States...from an equal share in th[eir] government....”<sup>19</sup> James Madison cautioned that “[w]henever the State Legislatures had a favorite measure to carry, they would take care so to mould their regulations as to favor the candidates they wished to succeed.”<sup>20</sup> It was partly in response to concerns about states passing measures favoring candidates that the Elections Clause was adopted. Indeed, a delegate at the Massachusetts ratifying convention supported the adoption of the Elections Clause specifically because it allowed Congress to override state election laws passed when “faction and party spirit run high[.]”<sup>21</sup>

<sup>18</sup> Alexander Hamilton, however, deemed the possibility that the power to issue election

related regulations “might be employed in such a manner as to promote the election of some [favorite] class of men in exclusion of others...chimerical.” The Federalist No. 60, 403-10, available at [http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/a1\\_4\\_1s14.html](http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/a1_4_1s14.html) (last visited Nov. 20, 2017).

- 19 Herbert J. Storing, *The Founders' Constitution*, (The Complete Anti-Federalist ed., 1981), available at [http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/a1\\_4\\_1s6.html](http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/a1_4_1s6.html) (last visited Nov. 20, 2017).
- 20 2 Records of the Federal Convention 241 (M. Farrand rev. 1966).
- 21 Debate in Massachusetts Ratifying Convention (16–17, 21 Jan. 1788), in 2 *The Founders' Constitution* 256 (P. Kurland & R. Lerner eds. 1987).

Consistent with the foregoing concerns, the Supreme Court has acknowledged that the Elections Clause was “intended to act as a safeguard against manipulation of electoral rules by politicians and factions in the States to entrench themselves or place their interests over those of the electorate.” [\*Ariz. State Legis.\*, 135 S.Ct. at 2672](#). As a result, the Court has interpreted the Elections Clause “as a grant of authority to issue procedural regulations, and not as a source of power to dictate electoral outcomes, to favor or disfavor a class of candidates, or to evade important constitutional restraints.” [\*U.S. Term Limits, Inc. v. Thornton\*, 514 U.S. 779, 833–834, 115 S.Ct. 1842, 131 L.Ed.2d 881 \(1995\)](#). This authority extends “to enact[ing] the numerous requirements as to procedure and safeguards which...are necessary...to enforce the fundamental right involved,” [\*Smiley\*, 285 U.S. at 366, 52 S.Ct. 397](#), by, among other things, ensuring orderly, fair, and honest elections, [\*Storer v. Brown\*, 415 U.S. 724, 724, 94 S.Ct. 1274, 39 L.Ed.2d 714 \(1974\)](#). The ability to adopt “evenhanded restrictions,” [\*U.S.\*](#)

[\*Term Limits, Inc.\*, 514 U.S. at 834, 115 S.Ct. 1842](#) (internal quotations and citations omitted), thus falls within the broad scope of the Elections Clause, [\*Ariz. v. Inter Tribal Council of Ariz., Inc.\*, 570 U.S. 1, 133 S.Ct. 2247, 2253, 186 L.Ed.2d 239 \(2013\)](#). Accordingly, the Elections Clause imposes some constraints on a state's power in setting electoral rules, which include establishing congressional district boundaries.

### III

Having determined that the Elections Clause limits a state's power in setting election rules, we next address whether an Article III court has the authority to review a claim that a state has abused its power in the drawing of congressional district lines.

Article III of the Constitution limits the jurisdiction of federal courts to “Cases” and “Controversies,” which ensures that courts only address justiciable matters. See [\*Flast v. Cohen\*, 392 U.S. 83, 94–95, 88 S.Ct. 1942, 20 L.Ed.2d 947 \(1968\)](#) (“Justiciability is the term of art employed to give expression to...limit[s] placed upon federal courts by the case-and-controversy doctrine.”). Cases may be non-justiciable because they are moot or not ripe, the plaintiff lacks standing or seeks an advisory opinion, or the case presents a “political question.” See [\*id.\* at 95, 88 S.Ct. 1942](#) (“[N]o justiciable controversy is presented when the parties seek adjudication of only a political question, when the parties are asking for an advisory opinion, when the question sought to be adjudicated has been

mooted by subsequent developments, and when there is no standing to maintain the action.”); [DaimlerChrysler Corp. v. Cuno](#), 547 U.S. 332, 352, 126 S.Ct. 1854, 164 L.Ed.2d 589 (2006) (“The doctrines of mootness, ripeness, and political question all originate in Article III’s ‘case’ or ‘controversy’ language, no less than standing does.”).

Here, there is no claim that the case is moot, not ripe, or seeks an advisory opinion, and it does not present a political question.<sup>22</sup> There are questions, however, whether the Plaintiffs have established standing to bring their claim and whether they have presented a legally cognizable standard for adjudicating a political gerrymandering claim.

<sup>22</sup> A case presents a nonjusticiable political question when it presents a matter that “is entrusted to one of the political branches or involves no judicially enforceable rights.” [Vieth](#), 541 U.S. at 277, 124 S.Ct. 1769 (internal citations omitted). In [Baker v. Carr](#), the Supreme Court provided six independent tests for deciding whether a question is entrusted to a political branch:

[1] a textually demonstrable constitutional commitment of the issue to a coordinate political department; or [2] a lack of judicially discoverable and manageable standards for resolving it; or [3] the impossibility of deciding without an initial policy determination of a kind clearly for nonjudicial discretion; or [4] the impossibility of a court’s undertaking independent resolution without expressing lack of the respect due coordinate branches of government; or [5] an unusual need for unquestioning adherence to a political decision already made; or [6] the potentiality of embarrassment from multifarious pronouncements by various departments on one question.

369 U.S. 186, 217, 82 S.Ct. 691, 7 L.Ed.2d 663 (1962). To determine whether the Elections Clause textually commits a matter to a coordinate branch of

government, we must “interpret the text in question and determine whether and to what extent the issue is textually committed.” [Nixon v. United States](#), 506 U.S. 224, 228, 113 S.Ct. 732, 122 L.Ed.2d 1 (1993). “[T]he concept of a textual commitment to a coordinate political department is not completely separate from the concept of a lack of judicially discoverable and manageable standards for resolving it; the lack of judicially manageable standards may strengthen the conclusion that there is a textually demonstrable commitment to a coordinate branch.” [Nixon](#), 506 U.S. at 228–29, 113 S.Ct. 732.

While there is no doubt that the Elections Clause textually commits certain tasks to Congress, it does not expressly commit to it the determination of whether a state regulation violates the Clause. Rather, the Elections Clause expressly permits Congress to “at any time by Law make or alter [state] Regulations [concerning the time, place, and manner of the election of members of the House of Representatives and the Senate], except as to the Places of ch[oo]sing Senators.” U.S. Const. art. I, § 4, cl. 1.

Thus, Congress plays a critical but nonexclusive role in reviewing state election laws. Indeed, the Supreme Court has rejected an interpretation of the Elections Clause that “give[s] Congress ‘exclusive authority’ to protect the right of citizens to vote for Congressmen,” and instead has observed that “nothing in the language of [the Elections Clause] gives support to a construction that would immunize state congressional apportionment laws that debase a citizen’s right to vote from the power of courts to protect the constitutional rights of individuals from legislative destruction[.]” [Wesberry v. Sanders](#), 376 U.S. 1, 6, 84 S.Ct. 526, 11 L.Ed.2d 481 (1964). Thus, the Elections Clause does not reflect a textual commitment to Congress to evaluate whether a state regulation violates the Constitution.

This view is consistent with the fact that the Supreme Court has itself determined whether a state regulation violates the Elections Clause. See, e.g., [Smiley](#), 285 U.S. at 373, 52 S.Ct. 397 (invalidating a congressional map for noncompliance with the Elections Clause); [Cook v. Gralike](#), 531 U.S. 510, 525, 121 S.Ct. 1029, 149 L.Ed.2d 44 (2001) (holding that an amendment to the Missouri state constitution violated the Elections Clause); [Wesberry](#), 376 U.S. at 6, 84 S.Ct. 526 (holding, in an Elections Clause case, congressional apportionment cases to be justiciable); [Ala. Legis. Black Caucus v. Alabama](#), — U.S. —, 135 S.Ct. 1257, 191 L.Ed.2d 314 (2015) (resolving dispute over whether redistricting plan violated the Equal Protection Clause). As such, the plain text of the

Elections Clause cannot be read to commit this issue in this case to a coordinate political branch. Furthermore, while Plaintiffs have not provided a legally sufficient standard to resolve their claim, a standard could be crafted that does not involve a policy determination better made by the political branches. Thus, a claim that a state regulation concerning congressional districting violates the Elections Clause does not present a nonjusticiable political question.

A

“A party has standing only if he shows that he has suffered an ‘injury in fact,’ that the injury is ‘fairly traceable’ to the conduct being challenged, and that the injury will likely be ‘redressed’ by a favorable decision.” Wittman v. Personhuballah, — U.S. —, 136 S.Ct. 1732, 1736, 195 L.Ed.2d 37 (2016) (quoting Lujan v. Defenders of Wildlife, 504 U.S. 555, 560–61, 112 S.Ct. 2130, 119 L.Ed.2d 351 (1992)). To satisfy the “injury in fact” requirement, a plaintiff must demonstrate “an invasion of a legally protected interest which is (a) concrete and particularized, and (b) actual or imminent, not conjectural or hypothetical.” Lujan, 504 U.S. at 560, 112 S.Ct. 2130 (internal quotations and alterations omitted). “[A] generally available grievance about government—claiming only harm to his and every citizen’s interest in proper application of the Constitution and laws”—does not confer standing. Id. at 573, 112 S.Ct. 2130.

Almost all of the plaintiffs testified that, as a result of the 2011 Plan, their votes are diluted, their options are restricted such that they cannot make meaningful electoral choices, they have reduced access to their

congressmen, their representatives are less responsive to them, and they have been placed in congressional districts that are not representative of their communities. Similar harms have been recognized as constitutional injuries in other challenges to state districting maps. See, e.g., United States v. Hays, 515 U.S. 737, 744, 115 S.Ct. 2431, 132 L.Ed.2d 635 (1995) (describing the representational injury in fact caused by racial gerrymandering as follows: “[w]hen a district obviously is created solely to effectuate the perceived common interests of one racial group, elected officials are more likely to believe that their primary obligation is to represent only the members of that group, rather than their constituency as a whole”) (citation omitted); Shaw v. Reno, 509 U.S. 630, 636–37, 640–42, 113 S.Ct. 2816, 125 L.Ed.2d 511 (1993) (concluding that a racial gerrymandering claim had been stated by North Carolina residents who alleged vote dilution and explaining that “[t]he right to vote can be affected by a dilution of voting power as well as by an absolute prohibition on casting a ballot” and that electoral schemes can “violate the Fourteenth Amendment when they are adopted with a discriminatory purpose and have the effect of diluting minority voting strength”) (quoting Allen v. State Bd. of Elections, 393 U.S. 544, 569, 89 S.Ct. 817, 22 L.Ed.2d 1 (1969)). Thus, these harms constitute concrete and particularized injuries in fact.

Defendants’ reliance on Lance v. Coffman, 549 U.S. 437, 127 S.Ct. 1194, 167 L.Ed.2d 29 (2007), for the proposition that Plaintiffs have asserted only generalized



grievances is unavailing. In Lance, four Colorado citizens alleged an Elections Clause violation because the Colorado Supreme Court gave effect to a judicially-created redistricting plan instead of a plan passed by the Colorado legislature. Id. at 437–38, 127 S.Ct. 1194. In dismissing the plaintiffs' claims for lack of standing, the Supreme Court concluded that “[t]he only injury plaintiffs allege is that the law—specifically the Elections Clause—has not been followed,” and therefore, plaintiffs alleged only an “undifferentiated, generalized grievance about the conduct of government.” Id. at 442, 127 S.Ct. 1194. Unlike Lance, Plaintiffs' challenge here is not about whether the legislature or a court can impose a redistricting plan under the Elections Clause, nor do Plaintiffs seek relief based upon an injury to an institution that lost its ability to adopt a redistricting plan. Instead, each plaintiff (except one) has identified personal harms caused by the 2011 Plan—vote dilution, absence of meaningful electoral choice, non-representative and non-responsive congressmen, and lack of access to their congressmen—which are distinguishable from the Lance plaintiffs' generalized grievance. The harm that the Lance plaintiffs alleged “is quite different from the sorts of injuries alleged by plaintiffs in voting rights cases” such as Baker, 369 U.S. at 207–08, 82 S.Ct. 691 (involving a malapportionment claim) “where [the Supreme Court] found standing,” Lance, 549 U.S. at 442, 127 S.Ct. 1194; see also Smiley, 285 U.S. at 372–73, 52 S.Ct. 397 (ruling on the merits of an Elections Clause claim by a Minnesota “citizen, elector, and taxpayer” seeking to invalidate

a reapportionment plan); Whitford v. Gill, 218 F. Supp. 3d 837, 930 (W.D. Wis. 2016) (finding standing of Wisconsin Democrats to bring a partisan gerrymandering claim based on the “personal” injury of vote dilution). Thus, the types of harms that all but one plaintiff have described constitute concrete and particularized injuries.

The question remains whether Plaintiffs have standing to pursue a claim that Pennsylvania's entire congressional map violates the Elections Clause, which is the approach they have selected rather than making district-specific challenges. See Pls.' Statement of the Elements They Must Prove at 1–2, (Dec. 3, 2017), ECF No. 173 (describing intent and effect in terms of statewide election results) (“Pls' Stmt. of the Elements”); Pls.' Br. Regarding the Elements of Their Claims at 8–9, (Nov. 30, 2017), ECF No. 157 (“A partisan gerrymander is necessarily on a statewide basis....It is an unnecessary hurdle to show intent district by district when all the districts are being shaped by state wide election data.”).

There is currently no binding precedent addressing whether a single plaintiff can challenge an entire map on partisan gerrymandering grounds or whether a plaintiff from every district is necessary. Among three-judge panels, there are split views on this subject. Compare Common Cause v. Rucho, Nos. 16–1026, 16–1164, — F.Supp.3d —, slip op. 1, 21–37, 2018 WL 341658 (M.D.N.C. Jan. 9, 2018) (analogizing to the malapportionment cases and holding that a single plaintiff can maintain a statewide challenge); Whitford,

218 F.Supp.3d at 927–30 (same); [Whitford v. Nichol](#), 151 F.Supp.3d 918, 925 (W.D. Wis. 2015) (“In each of the three cases in which the Supreme Court considered partisan gerrymandering claims, the plaintiffs were challenging the plan statewide, yet only one Justice (Justice Stevens) questioned the plaintiffs' standing.”) with [Ala. Legis. Black Caucus v. Alabama](#), Nos. 12–cv–691 & 12–cv–1081, 2017 WL 4563868, at \*4–5 (M.D. Ala. Oct. 12, 2017) (explicitly disagreeing with [Whitford](#) and stating that plaintiffs bringing a partisan gerrymandering claim “lack standing to challenge districts in which they do not live,” thereby implying that a statewide challenge requires a plaintiff from each district); [Comm. for a Fair and Balanced Map v. Ill. Bd. of Elections](#), No. 1:11–cv–5065, 2011 WL 5185567, at \*1 n.1 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 1, 2011) (“To demonstrate injury in fact, a vote dilution plaintiff must show that he or she (1) is registered to vote and resides in the district where the discriminatory dilution occurred; and (2) is a member of the minority group whose voting strength was diluted.”); see also [Radogno v. Ill. State Bd. of Elections](#), No. 1:11–cv–04884, 2011 WL 5025251, at \*4 (N.D. Ill. Oct. 21, 2011) (stating that “standing analysis for political gerrymandering claims...is not particularly clear”). The racial gerrymandering cases, and their requirement that a plaintiff may only challenge racial gerrymandering in the district in which he or she resides, however, support a requirement that a statewide partisan gerrymandering challenge can be brought only if there is a plaintiff from each district who sustained an injury in fact. See [Hays](#), 515 U.S. at 744–45, 115

S.Ct. 2431 (holding that plaintiffs asserting a racial gerrymander can demonstrate injury for standing purposes only where the “plaintiff resides in a racially gerrymandered district” because individuals not in the challenged districts do not suffer “the special representational harms racial classifications can cause in the voting context,” with the representational harm being that an elected official “believe[s] that their primary obligation is to represent only the members of [a favored] group, rather than their constituency as a whole”).<sup>23</sup>

23 In contrast, plaintiffs from any district challenging malapportionment caused by a districting plan may bring statewide challenges. See [Baker](#), 369 U.S. 186 at 187, 204–08, 82 S.Ct. 691 (concluding that a malapportionment claim brought by residents of five out of Tennessee's ninety-five counties had standing and describing the vote dilution that results from malapportionment); [Reynolds v. Sims](#), 377 U.S. 533, 537, 84 S.Ct. 1362, 12 L.Ed.2d 506 (1964) (noting that “residents, taxpayers, and voters of Jefferson County, Alabama” brought a malapportionment case “in their own behalf and on behalf of all similarly situated Alabama voters”); [Wesberry](#), 376 U.S. at 2, 84 S.Ct. 526 (noting that the plaintiffs who brought the malapportionment claims “are citizens and qualified voters of Fulton County, Georgia...entitled to vote in congressional elections in Georgia's Fifth Congressional District...[which is] one of ten” congressional districts).

Applying the same requirement in both partisan and racial gerrymandering cases makes sense. First, both racial and political gerrymandering involve harms relating to diminished representation of a particular group rather than the unequal representation of a specific individual. See [Ala. Legis. Black Caucus](#), 2017 WL 4563868, at \*4 (“Like racial gerrymandering, partisan gerrymandering has the effect of muting the voices of certain voters within a given

district.”). Second, the representational injury articulated in racial gerrymandering claims—that “elected officials are more likely to believe that their primary obligation is to represent only the members of [the favored] group, rather than their constituency as a whole,” [Hays](#), 515 U.S. at 744, 115 S.Ct. 2431—is the same type of injury that occurs in partisan gerrymandering cases. A person living in a non-gerrymandered district does not suffer this representational harm, but a person who resides in such a district does.<sup>24</sup> [Id.](#) at 745, 115 S.Ct. 2431. Third, if a statewide partisan gerrymandering claim were permitted without requiring a plaintiff from every district, then partisan gerrymanders would be easier to challenge than racial gerrymanders. This would be inconsistent with our complete intolerance for race-based gerrymanders, which should never be harder to bring than a partisan gerrymander, where some consideration of politics is tolerable. Therefore, Plaintiffs have standing to bring their statewide challenge only if they can demonstrate an injury to at least one plaintiff in each of Pennsylvania's eighteen districts.

<sup>24</sup> Notably, three of the five Justices who found partisan gerrymandering is justiciable have said that such claims require a district-by-district approach. See [Vieth](#), 541 U.S. at 271–81, 124 S.Ct. 1769 (plurality of four Justices finding political gerrymandering to be nonjusticiable without referencing standing), [id.](#) at 306–17, 124 S.Ct. 1769 (Kennedy, J., concurring) (concluding that partisan gerrymandering claims may be justiciable in the future; no discussion of standing), [id.](#) at 317–19, 327, 124 S.Ct. 1769 (Stevens, J., dissenting) (suggesting that a plaintiff only has standing to challenge his or her own district because “racial and political gerrymanders are species of the same constitutional concern”), [id.](#) at 353, 124

[S.Ct. 1769](#) (Souter & Ginsberg, JJ., dissenting) (“I would limit consideration of a statewide claim to one built upon a number of district-specific ones.”). In a later decision, Justice Stevens reiterated his view that a district-by-district approach is required. See [LULAC](#), 548 U.S. at 475, 126 S.Ct. 2594 (Stevens, J., concurring in part and dissenting in part) (“[T]o have standing to challenge a district as an unconstitutional partisan gerrymander, a plaintiff would have to prove that he is either a candidate or a voter who resided in a district that was changed by a new districting plan.”) These Justices therefore would seem to require a plaintiff from each district to challenge a state's entire map.

Plaintiffs have adduced evidence that plaintiffs from seventeen of the eighteen districts suffered an injury in fact. They, however, failed to present facts to show that the plaintiff from the Fourth Congressional District sustained an injury sufficient to confer standing. Although this plaintiff testified (by deposition) that the state map as a whole seemed unfairly drawn, she said that “her particular district is not very gerrymandered” because it is “one of the more compact ones,” and she was unsure how, if at all, the shape of her district harmed her. Turnage Dep. 47:4–18, 48:4–5, 50:13–23.<sup>25</sup> Unlike the other plaintiffs, she has not asserted that her vote is diluted, that she experienced decreased choice, non-representative or non-responsive congressmen, lack of access to the district's representative, or otherwise explained how the 2011 Plan impacted her. Thus, she has asserted only a generalized grievance that does not establish injury in fact. Accordingly, because Plaintiffs have not presented a plaintiff from each congressional district who sustained an injury in fact, Plaintiffs' statewide challenge fails for lack of standing.<sup>26</sup>

25 To be clear, this plaintiff's failure to demonstrate standing is not because she did not invoke any talismanic words. A party asking a court to "exercise...jurisdiction in his favor" has the burden to "clearly...allege facts demonstrating that he is a proper party to invoke judicial resolution of the dispute. And when a case has proceeded to final judgment after a trial, as this case has, those facts (if controverted) must be supported adequately by the evidence adduced at trial to avoid dismissal on standing grounds." [Hays](#), 515 U.S. at 743, 115 S.Ct. 2431 (internal quotations and citations omitted). Here, Plaintiffs have failed to present facts showing that this plaintiff suffered an Article III injury in fact.

26 The Legislative Defendants also asserted that Plaintiffs lack standing because their claim is not redressable, Legis. Defs.' Br. in Supp. [Rule 52\(c\)](#) Mot. (ECF 185) at 4–6, but this argument is meritless because courts have authority to invalidate unconstitutional redistricting plans and order defendants to redraw maps, which could provide a remedy for Plaintiffs' injuries, *See, e.g., Bush v. Vera*, 517 U.S. 952, 956–57, 116 S.Ct. 1941, 135 L.Ed.2d 248 (1996) (affirming the district court's holding that three districts in Texas's redistricting plan were unconstitutional racial gerrymanders); *Miller v. Johnson*, 515 U.S. 900, 903–04, 917–28, 115 S.Ct. 2475, 132 L.Ed.2d 762 (1995) (affirming the district court's conclusion that one district in Georgia's congressional redistricting plan was an unconstitutional racial gerrymander).

## B

Even if Plaintiffs had standing, they have failed to present a legally supported standard for resolving their claim that the 2011 Plan violates the Elections Clause. Before examining Plaintiffs' standard, it is important to recognize that the Supreme Court has held partisan gerrymandering as a general matter can be justiciable. In [Davis v. Bandemer](#), 478 U.S. 109, 117, 106 S.Ct. 2797, 92 L.Ed.2d 85 (1986), a majority of the Supreme Court held that partisan gerrymandering claims are justiciable

under the Equal Protection Clause. Subsequent Supreme Court precedent has not disturbed this conclusion. Although a four-Justice plurality in [Vieth](#)—where the Court reviewed an earlier Pennsylvania congressional district map alleged to have been politically gerrymandered in violation of the Equal Protection Clause—held that because “no judicially discernible and manageable standards for adjudicating political gerrymandering have emerged...we must conclude that political gerrymandering claims are nonjusticiable....” 541 U.S. at 281, 124 S.Ct. 1769, a majority of the Court disagreed. Four Justices opined that such a claim was justiciable and offered possible standards for proving a claim under the Equal Protection Clause. *Id.* at 340, 346, 368, 124 S.Ct. 1769. The fifth Justice, Justice Kennedy, stated that he “would not foreclose all possibility of judicial relief if some limited and precise rationale were found to correct an established violation of the Constitution in some redistricting cases.” *Id.* at 306, 124 S.Ct. 1769 (Kennedy, J., concurring).

While the Supreme Court has not yet been asked to decide if judicially manageable standards could be devised to evaluate a claim of partisan gerrymandering under the Elections Clause, it has applied a judicially manageable standard to Elections Clause claims in other contexts. For instance, in [Cook](#), the Supreme Court examined whether a Missouri constitutional amendment that, among other things, sought to include on the ballot a candidate's position on a specific term limits provision, “dictate[d] electoral outcomes...favor[ed] or disfavor[ed] a class



of candidates, or...evade[d] important constitutional restraints” in violation of the Elections Clause and concluded that it was “plainly designed to favor [certain] candidates[.]” 531 U.S. at 523–24, 121 S.Ct. 1029. The Court relied on the “intended effect” of the Missouri provision in “handicap[ping] candidates” who fail to support the term limits amendment, *id.* at 525, 121 S.Ct. 1029, as well as the fact that the provision could not be justified as “necessary in order to enforce the fundamental right involved,” *id.* at 524, 121 S.Ct. 1029 (quoting *Smiley*, 285 U.S. at 366, 52 S.Ct. 397), or to ensure orderly, fair, and honest elections “rather than chaos,” *id.* (quoting *Storer*, 415 U.S. at 730, 94 S.Ct. 1274).

In his concurrence, Justice Kennedy noted that the “limited power” given to states under the Elections Clause allows them to enact “neutral provisions as to the time, place, and manner of elections....” *Id.* at 527, 121 S.Ct. 1029 (Kennedy, J., concurring). He also observed that non-neutral provisions that favor or disfavor a class of candidates “interfere with the direct line of accountability between the National Legislature and the people who elect it,” and that such interference is not consistent with “the design of the Constitution [ ]or sound principles of representative government[.]” *Id.* at 528, 121 S.Ct. 1029, 121 S.Ct. 1029 (Kennedy, J., concurring). Thus, a judicially manageable standard could be devised to bring a claim under the Elections Clause. *Rucho*, — F.Supp.3d at —, slip op. at 175–87, 2018 WL 341658 (concluding that a partisan gerrymandered

congressional districting plan violates the Elections Clause).

## C

In the context of partisan gerrymandering, plaintiffs must present a judicially manageable standard. See *Shapiro*, 136 S.Ct. at 456 (suggesting that a political gerrymandering claim may proceed where the plaintiff presented “a plea for relief based on a legal theory put forward by a Justice of this Court and uncontradicted by the majority in any of our cases”); *Ala. Legis. Black Caucus v. Alabama*, 988 F.Supp.2d 1285, 1295–96 (M.D. Ala. 2013) (dismissing partisan gerrymandering claim because the plaintiffs “failed to provide...‘a judicial standard by which we can adjudicate the claim’ ”); *Perez v. Perry*, 26 F.Supp.3d 612, 622–24 (W.D. Tex. 2014) (same); *Comm. for a Fair and Balanced Map v. Ill. Bd. of Elections*, No. 1:11-cv-5065, 2011 WL 5185567 at \*11–12 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 1, 2011) (same). As a result, I will next examine Plaintiffs' proposed standard to determine if it is legally sound and workable.

At the outset of this case, Plaintiffs suggested a standard that barred any consideration of partisanship in drawing congressional district lines. Our panel informed Plaintiffs that such a standard was likely inconsistent with both the Elections Clause and the Supreme Court's comments about the role of politics in this area. See Order for Pls. to Clarify Elements of Proof, (Dec. 1, 2017), ECF No. 169. We specifically noted that this standard ignored both

that the political branches are usually the entities involved in the creation of election procedures and the Supreme Court's observation, albeit in gerrymandering cases under other constitutional provisions, that politics is part of the districting process. See, e.g., [Gaffney v. Cummings](#), 412 U.S. 735, 753, 93 S.Ct. 2321, 37 L.Ed.2d 298 (1973) (observing that “[p]olitics and political considerations are inseparable from districting and apportionment”).

Plaintiffs responded with the following standard:

To find a violation of the Elections Clause in a redistricting case, Plaintiffs must prove that those who created the map manipulated the district boundaries of one or more Congressional districts, intending to generate an expected number of winning seats for the party controlling the process that is greater than the expected number of winning seats that would be determined by the voters if the districts were drawn using even-handed criteria.

Plaintiffs must prove that the map-drawers' discriminatory intent was a substantial motivating factor in their line-drawing decisions, even if they also considered other factors.

Plaintiffs must prove that the drafters of the map achieved their intended goal, in that the map resulted in a Congressional delegation composition that even a majority of the people could not substantially change.

Plaintiffs may prevail by showing that the composition of the state's Congressional delegation as a whole resulted from the use of partisan data, such that the map itself, rather than the voters, solidified that composition. It is no defense that a few districts remained competitive, or that some districts were designed to protect incumbents of the disfavored party.

Pls' Stmt. of the Elements (subheadings omitted).<sup>27</sup> This standard is legally flawed. For example, part of the standard seems to rest on an assumption that there is a guarantee of proportional representation among political parties. This view has been rejected. See [LULAC](#), 548 U.S. at 419, 126 S.Ct. 2594 (opinion of Kennedy, J.) (“To be sure, there is no constitutional requirement of proportional representation....”); [Vieth](#), 541 U.S. at 288, 124 S.Ct. 1769 (plurality opinion of four justices) (stating that “the Constitution contains no such principle” that “political-action groups[ ] have a right to proportional representation” and “nowhere says that farmers or urban dwellers, Christian fundamentalists or Jews, Republicans or Democrats, must be accorded political strength proportionate to their numbers”), [id.](#) at 338, 124 S.Ct. 1769 (Stevens, J., dissenting) (“The Constitution does not, of course, require proportional representation of racial, ethnic, or political groups. In that I agree with the plurality. We have held however, that proportional representation of political groups is a permissible objective....”), [id.](#) at 352 n.7, 124 S.Ct. 1769 (Souter & Ginsburg, JJ., dissenting) (“agree[ing] with this Court's earlier statements that the Constitution

guarantees no right to proportional representation” but stating that it “does not follow that the Constitution permits every state action intended to achieve any extreme form of disproportionate representation”); [Bandemer](#), 478 U.S. at 130, 106 S.Ct. 2797 (plurality opinion) (“Our cases...clearly foreclose any claim that the Constitution requires proportional representation or that legislatures in reapportioning must draw district lines to come as near as possible to allocating seats to the contending parties in proportion to what their anticipated statewide vote will be.”).

27 Plaintiffs also assert that the 2011 Plan violates the Elections Clause and, as a result, deprives Plaintiffs of their Privileges and Immunities under the Fourteenth Amendment. Compl. ¶ 33. In their [Rule 52](#) motion, the Legislative Defendants do not challenge Plaintiffs' reliance on the Privilege and Immunities Clause. This is for good reason. A state's unconstitutional interference with the right to vote violates that Clause. As the Supreme Court observed in [United States v. Classic](#), 313 U.S. 299, 325, 61 S.Ct. 1031, 85 L.Ed. 1368 (1941), the right to vote is “a right or privilege secured by the Constitution.” See also [Wesberry](#), 376 U.S. at 6–7, 84 S.Ct. 526 (“The right to vote is too important in our free society to be stripped of judicial protection.”). As Justice Kennedy has noted, “national citizenship has privileges and immunities protected from state abridgement by the force of the Constitution itself.” [Thornton](#), 514 U.S. at 842, 115 S.Ct. 1842. Thus, a regulation issued under the Elections Clause that interferes with the right to vote is a violation of a citizen's privilege and immunities.

In addition, Plaintiffs' standard's effect element is inconsistent with Supreme Court precedent. Plaintiffs' assertion that they “must prove...that the map resulted in a Congressional delegation composition that even a majority of the people could not substantially change,” Pls' Stmt. of the Elements at 2, was rejected in [Vieth](#). See [Vieth](#), 541 U.S. at 286, 124 S.Ct. 1769

(rejecting an effects prong that tests whether “the ‘totality of circumstances’ confirms that the map can thwart the plaintiff's ability to translate a majority of votes into a majority of seats”). In fact, Plaintiffs' assertion that they must prove effects at all in an Elections Clause challenge appears to conflict with [Cook](#), where the Supreme Court invalidated the challenged election regulation based solely on an analysis of the Missouri legislature's intent. See [Cook](#), 531 U.S. at 524, 121 S.Ct. 1029 (holding that the challenged election regulation is “plainly designed” to favor certain candidates and its “intended effect” was to “handicap” certain candidates).

Moreover, even if Plaintiffs' proposed standard were not in tension with the foregoing Supreme Court precedent, its focus on the conduct of the “party controlling the process” renders the test inapplicable to situations where the two political parties equally control the process, i.e., when the two houses of the state legislature are of differing parties. For these reasons, Plaintiffs have not presented a legally supported standard.

Furthermore, even if Plaintiffs' standard was legally sufficient, they still would not prevail. While they have adduced considerable evidence demonstrating that partisanship played a major role in drawing congressional district lines,<sup>28</sup> they did not show how what they have labeled (but did not define) as “even handed-criteria” would generate “the expected number of winning seats” and how a map drawn applying such criteria would still comply with the

equal populations requirements set forth in [Reynolds v. Sims](#), 377 U.S. 533, 577, 84 S.Ct. 1362, 12 L.Ed.2d 506 (1964) (construing the Equal Protection Clause to require the construction of districts “as nearly of equal population as is practicable”), and the Voting Rights Act. For this additional reason, Plaintiffs are not entitled to relief.

28 This evidence included: (1) Turzai's statement on the floor of the House, in which he said “[p]olitics may be taken into account as a factor, although not the controlling factor,” Legis. Defs.' Ex. 22 at 2735, (2) the mapmakers reliance on largely partisan data, including voter registration and election returns information at the most granular geographic levels, (3) the apparent packing and cracking of Democratic voters in a few districts, including packing two Democratic incumbents into a newly drawn Twelfth Congressional District that was Republican-leaning, which was clearly designed to replace two Democratic seats with one republican seat, (4) the process used to create the 2011 map, which included (a) not disclosing the municipalities and counties assigned to each district until less than twenty-four hours before the map was presented for a vote, and (b) the staffers' focus on implementing the desires of Republican “stakeholders” and securing the required votes to pass the plan, (5) the fact that in each of the three congressional elections since the 2011 Plan took effect have resulted in electing thirteen Republicans and five Democratic congressman, showing that 72 percent of the seats going to Republicans despite the fact Republicans won only 49 to 56 percent of the vote in those elections, and (6) the highly unusual shape of several districts, with no evidence showing they were designed based on neutral criteria. *See, e.g., Cooper v. Harris*, — U.S. —, 137 S.Ct. 1455, 1463–64, 197 L.Ed.2d 837 (2017) (stating that a claim of racial gerrymandering requires proof that the legislature “subordinated” other redistricting factors to racial considerations, which may be established “through direct evidence of legislative intent, circumstantial evidence of a district's shape and demographics, or a mix of both”); *Hunt v. Cromartie*, 526 U.S. 541, 547–49 & n.3, 119 S.Ct. 1545, 143 L.Ed.2d 731 (1999) (stating that circumstantial evidence of “a district's unusual shape can give rise to an inference of political motivation” and that some districts are “so highly irregular that [they] rationally cannot

be understood as anything other than an effort to segregate...voters on the basis of race” (quoting *Shaw v. Reno*, 509 U.S. 630, 646–47, 113 S.Ct. 2816, 125 L.Ed.2d 511 (1993)); *Bush v. Vera*, 517 U.S. 952, 979, 116 S.Ct. 1941, 135 L.Ed.2d 248 (1996) (plurality opinion) (stating that the court has found that “three districts are bizarrely shaped and far from compact” primarily due to racially motivated gerrymandering); *Miller v. Johnson*, 515 U.S. 900, 913, 115 S.Ct. 2475, 132 L.Ed.2d 762 (1995) (“Shape is relevant...because it may be persuasive circumstantial evidence that race for its own sake, and not other districting principles, was the legislature's dominant and controlling rationale in drawing its district[ ]lines.”).

#### IV

Our colleague has proposed a different standard. That standard, however, focuses on the perspective of the voter and whether the regulation will discourage voting, rather than on whether the regulation favors or disfavors a candidate or dictates electoral outcomes, as prohibited by the Elections Clause.<sup>29</sup> While his concern about voter alienation is very well-taken and may be a consequence of an improper election regulation, it is not the focus of the Elections Clause. Rather, a gerrymandering claim under the Elections Clause requires a plaintiff to prove that the challenged regulation was “plainly designed” to favor or disfavor a candidate or dictate electoral outcomes. *Cook*, 531 U.S. at 523–24, 121 S.Ct. 1029. Furthermore, a defendant confronted with an accusation that a regulation violates the Elections Clause in this way would be required to show that non-partisan traditional districting criteria<sup>30</sup> would have resulted in the same regulation, even in the absence of partisan considerations that favor or disfavor a



candidate or dictate electoral outcomes.<sup>31</sup> A standard that requires a plaintiff to prove that the challenged regulation was plainly designed to favor or disfavor a candidate or dictate electoral outcomes and which provides the defendant with an opportunity to pursue a defense that justifies its districting decisions is both consistent with the Elections Clause and recognizes that politics may play a role in the process so long as it does not dictate outcomes or favor candidates. Plaintiffs, however, did not present such a standard.

29 Our colleague also concludes that a plaintiff challenging a congressional districting plan based on partisan gerrymandering must prove that such a plan violates the Elections Clause by clear and convincing evidence. While he makes an excellent point that courts should only intervene in the most exceptional circumstances and that such a proof requirement helps to ensure that judicial intervention will occur in limited circumstances, I would apply a preponderance of the evidence burden of proof in such cases because that is the standard the Supreme Court applies in resolving racial gerrymandering cases, which involve similar claims and seek the same relief as partisan gerrymandering cases. See, e.g., Cooper v. Harris, — U.S. —, 137 S. Ct. 1455, 1479–80 & n.15, 197 L.Ed.2d 837 (2017) (stating that proving a racial gerrymander in violation of the Equal Protection Clause does not require a specific type of evidence: “if the plaintiffs have already proved by a preponderance of the evidence that race predominated in drawing district lines, then we have no warrant to demand that they jump through additional evidentiary hoops”).

30 The Supreme Court has made clear that one person, one vote is a mandatory requirement for each map, meaning districts must be “as nearly of equal population as practicable,” Reynolds, 377 U.S. at 577, 84 S.Ct. 1362, and deviations of less than one percent have been deemed unconstitutional, see Karcher v. Daggett, 462 U.S. 725, 727, 103 S.Ct. 2653, 77 L.Ed.2d 133 (1983) (affirming the District Court’s finding that New Jersey’s redistricting plan violated equal population requirements where the population deviation among districts was less than

one percent). In addition, the Court has recognized the obligation to comply with the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1973, and identified other traditional neutral facts used to draw district lines such as contiguity, compactness, political subdivisions, geography, history, and incumbency. See, e.g., Harris, 136 S.Ct. at 1306 (recognizing “traditional districting principles such as compactness and contiguity...a state interest in maintaining the integrity of political subdivisions...or the competitive balance among political parties” (internal brackets, quotation marks, and citations omitted)); Ala. Legis. Black Caucus, 135 S.Ct. at 1270 (identifying “traditional race-neutral districting principles” such as “compactness, contiguity, respect for political subdivisions or communities defined by actual shared interests, incumbency protection, and political affiliation”); Vieth, 541 U.S. at 284, 124 S.Ct. 1769 (plurality opinion) (listing the following potential goals that a districting map might seek to pursue besides partisan advantage: “contiguity of districts, compactness of districts, observance of the lines of political subdivision, protection of incumbents of all parties, cohesion of natural racial and ethnic neighborhoods, compliance with requirements of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 regarding racial distribution, etc.”); id. at 300, 124 S.Ct. 1769 (plurality opinion) (noting “the time-honored criterion of incumbent protection” as the “neutral explanation” for when the party receiving the majority of votes fails to acquire a majority of seats in two successive elections); id. at 348, 124 S.Ct. 1769 (Souter, J., dissenting) (identifying “traditional districting factors...[of] contiguity, compactness, respect for political subdivisions, and conformity with geographic features like rivers and mountains”); Bandemer, 478 U.S. at 167–68, 106 S.Ct. 2797 (1986) (recognizing that “districts should be compact and cover contiguous territory” and “[a]dher[e] to community boundaries” in order to “allow communities to have a voice in the legislature that directly controls their local interests”); Sims, 377 U.S. at 578–79, 84 S.Ct. 1362 (majority opinion) (“A State may legitimately desire to maintain the integrity of various political subdivisions, insofar as possible, and provide for compact districts of contiguous territory in designing a legislative apportionment scheme. Indiscriminate districting, without any regard for political subdivision or natural or historical boundary lines, may be little more than an open invitation to partisan gerrymandering.”); Shapiro v. McManus, 203 F.Supp.3d 579 (D. Md. 2016) (majority opinion) (identifying “legitimate districting considerations,

including the maintenance of communities of interest, and even the protection of incumbents of all parties”).

31 Political considerations are part of the redistricting process, see [Gaffney](#), 412 U.S. at 753, 93 S.Ct. 2321 (observing that “[p]olitics and political considerations are inseparable from districting and apportionment”), but such considerations become impermissible under the Elections Clause when they amount to dictating electoral outcomes.

\* \* \* \*

When elected officials concoct a system whereby they choose the representative for the voter rather than the other way around, [Ariz. State Legis.](#), 135 S.Ct. at 2677, they undermine our system of representative government. The Elections Clause, its history, and precedent show that Congress has the authority to address this issue. Under some circumstances, the Elections Clause also provides an avenue for the courts to ensure that the right to vote is untrammelled. Indeed, when a regulation so disrupts the voting process that a citizen's vote is rendered meaningless, and all requirements for Article III are met, that regulation is not immune from judicial review, [Wesberry](#), 376 U.S. at 6, 84 S.Ct. 526.

\* \* \* \*

V.

For these reasons, I would grant the Legislative Defendants' [Rule 52](#) motion.

[MICHAEL M. BAYLSON](#), District Judge, dissenting.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Introduction...—

II. Procedural History...—

III. Brief Statement of the Issues...—

IV. Stipulated Facts...—

V. Testimony...—

A. Plaintiffs' Testimony...—

B. Testimony by Senator Andrew Dinniman...—

C. Testimony by Representative Vitali...—

D. Testimony by Senator Daylin Leach...—

E. Plaintiff's Expert Witnesses...—

1. Anne Hanna...—

2. Daniel McGlone...—

F. Testimony by William Schaller—Introduced by Plaintiffs and Defendants...—

G. Testimony by Erik Arneson—Introduced by Plaintiffs and Defendants...—

H. Testimony by Defense Experts...—

1. Nolan McCarty...—

2. James G. Gimpel...—

VI. Findings of Fact...—

A. Credibility of Witnesses...—

B. Intent...—

VII. Supreme Court Case Summary—Non-Election Clause Decisions...—

A. [Baker v. Carr](#), 369 U.S. 186, 82 S.Ct. 691, 7 L.Ed.2d 663 (1962)...—

B. [Gaffney v. Cummings](#), 412 U.S. 735, 93 S.Ct. 2321, 37 L.Ed.2d 298 (1973)...—

C. [Davis v. Bandemer](#), 478 U.S. 109, 106 S.Ct. 2797, 92 L.Ed.2d 85 (1986)...—

D. [Burdick v. Takushi](#), 504 U.S. 428, 112 S.Ct. 2059, 119 L.Ed.2d 245 (1992)...—

E. [League of United Latin Am. Citizens v. Perry](#), 548 U.S. 399, 126 S.Ct. 2594, 165 L.Ed.2d 609 (2006)...—

F. [Harris v. Arizona Indep. Redistricting Comm'n](#), — U.S. —, 136 S.Ct. 1301, 194 L.Ed.2d 497 (2016)...—

G. [Vieth v. Jubelirer](#), 541 U.S. 267, 124 S.Ct. 1769, 158 L.Ed.2d 546 (2004)...—

VIII. History and Decisions Under the Elections Clause...—

A. History of the Elections Clause: Constitutional Convention and Related Materials...—

1. The Risk of State Legislatures Seeking to Manipulate Congressional Elections Through the Regulatory Power...—

2. State Legislatures as a Threat to the Continued Existence of the Federal Government...—

3. The Risk of Congress Seeking to Manipulate Congressional Election Outcomes Through the Regulatory Power...—

B. Case Law Discussion...—

1. [Smiley v. Holm](#), 285 U.S. 355, 52 S.Ct. 397, 76 L.Ed. 795 (1932)...—

2. [U.S. Term Limits, Inc. v. Thornton](#), 514 U.S. 779, 115 S.Ct. 1842, 131 L.Ed.2d 881 (1995)...—

3. [Cook v. Gralike](#), 531 U.S. 510, 121 S.Ct. 1029, 149 L.Ed.2d 44 (2001)...—

4. [Arizona State Legislature v. Arizona Indep. Redistricting Comm'n](#), — U.S. —, 135 S.Ct. 2652, 192 L.Ed.2d 704 (2015)...—

IX. Standing...—

A. Injury...—

B. District-by-District Injury-in-Fact Requirements...—

C. Statewide Challenge Injury-in-Fact Requirements...——

D. Conclusion Re Standing and Injury...——

X. Privileges or Immunities Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and Relationship to This Case...——

A. The [Slaughter-House Cases](#), 83 U.S. 36, 16 Wall. 36, 21 L.Ed. 394 (1872)...——

B. [Colgate v. Harvey](#), 296 U.S. 404, 56 S.Ct. 252, 80 L.Ed. 299 (1935)...——

C. [Madden v. Commonwealth of Kentucky](#), 309 U.S. 83, 60 S.Ct. 406, 84 L.Ed. 590 (1940)...——

D. [Saenz v. Roe](#), 526 U.S. 489, 119 S.Ct. 1518, 143 L.Ed.2d 689 (1999)...——

XI. Burden of Proof—Clear and Convincing Evidence...——

XII. The Voting Rights Act and Racial Gerrymandering...——

A. Voting Rights Act...——

B. Racial Gerrymandering Cases...——

C. Prior Racial Gerrymandering Cases Involving Appearance...——

XIII. Justiciability...——

A. Court Decisions...——

B. The Statute Authorizing this Three-Judge Court...——

C. Precedent Regarding Justiciability—Cases Involving Politics...——

D. Technology and Public Policy...——

E. Justiciability is Not a Concept Frozen in Time...——

F. Let's Forget About Politics...——

XIV. Standards...——

A. Looking at this Case from the Viewpoint of the Voter...——

B. Adopting a Standard—Visual Analysis, Neutral Principles, and Absence of Usual Process...——

1. Plaintiffs' Allegations...——

2. Use of Traditional Neutral Standards...——

3. Application of Neutral Principles...——

4. Partisan Gerrymandering Decisions Discussing Appearance...——

C. Visual Map Review Proves Unconstitutional Gerrymandering in Five Districts...——

D. Absence of Process...——

XV. Declaratory Judgment and Remedy...——



## XVI. Conclusion...—

### I. Introduction

Gerrymandering is a wrong in search of a remedy. This case is brought under the Elections Clause of Article I of the United States Constitution, which is a novel legal claim, asserting the 2011 map redistricting Pennsylvania's congressional districts was in violation of the United States Constitution. There are no Supreme Court decisions addressing a gerrymandering claim under the Elections Clause.

This memorandum will develop the reasons why Plaintiffs' claim finds support in the Elections Clause, and in Supreme Court decisions interpreting the Elections Clause in other contexts. Prior precedents under the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment can provide some background but do not preclude the granting of relief to the Plaintiffs under the Elections Clause.

Plaintiffs have proven their claim by clear and convincing evidence, which is the appropriate burden of proof. The analysis in this memorandum relies completely on the shape of the map and other objective criteria.

### II. Procedural History

After the Complaint in this case was filed on October 2, 2017, this Court decided to expedite pretrial proceedings and commence a trial on December 4, 2017. This memorandum reviews in some detail the

factual testimony presented at the trial and will make credibility determinations.

Although “partisan intent” is not part of the analysis leading to a verdict in favor of the Plaintiffs, I will make some findings on intent in case a reviewing court believes it is relevant.

The procedural history in this case is very brief and can be summarized succinctly. Both parties desired discovery, which was handled with professional skill and courtesy by all counsel, which the Court appreciates. The Court notes that there were two categories of defendants. Original defendants, the Governor of Pennsylvania and several subordinates who supervised elections, referred to as “Executive Defendants.” The leaders of the Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives intervened as defendants and are referred to as “Legislative Defendants.” The claim of executive privilege and deliberative privilege asserted by the Legislative Defendants was overruled by this Court.

### III. Brief Statement of the Issues

Have Plaintiffs proved, by the applicable burden of proof, clear and convincing evidence, that the 2011 map adopted by the Pennsylvania Legislature and signed by Governor Corbett, determines congressional districts in Pennsylvania without regard to neutral and traditional reapportionment principles, considered together with the unusual process by which the legislation was

approved, and violates the Elections Clause of the United States Constitution?

(a) Can this Court determine this issue without consideration of partisan intent or any political considerations?

#### IV. Stipulated Facts

The parties submitted a “Joint Statement of Stipulated Facts” (ECF 150) which largely documented the events leading up to the 2011 map and the facts relating to political registration and official positions of the parties. These facts are discussed in the Memorandum.

#### V. Testimony

##### A. Plaintiffs' Testimony

###### *Louis Agre*

Louis Agre testified that he resides in Philadelphia, in the Second Congressional District, and that his representative is Dwight Evans, a Democrat. He has been the ward leader of the Twenty-First Ward of Philadelphia for sixteen years. He is also counsel to the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 542, a union consisting of heavy equipment operators and repairmen. Mr. Agre testified that he has been a registered Democrat for forty-five years. He feels that his vote has been “watered down” by virtue of the fact that he lives in a highly Democratic district, and noted that Philadelphia voters might have more representatives if the City had “fair districts,” as Philadelphia would in such an

instance, he testified, have more districts entirely within City lines. He also expressed his view that “fair districts” would lead to views in “the middle” that solve problems, instead of allowing representatives to be re-elected while catering only to the views of voters to one side of the political spectrum.

###### *Kristin Polston*

Kristin Polston testified that she lives in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, which is located in Schuylkill County. Her address falls within the Seventeenth District, and she is represented by Congressman Matt Cartwright. Ms. Polston testified that she has been a registered Democrat since she was 18 years old. She is originally from Sacramento, California, and she moved to the Philadelphia area when she was 19 years old. Ms. Polston is a registered nurse with her advanced certification in lactation, and she works at Redding Hospital as a lactation specialist. She has two children. Ms. Polston explained that when she first moved to Schuylkill County, she was surprised that while most of the people she was meeting were Republican, and yet she had a Democratic Representative.

Ms. Polston expressed concern that her vote “is diluted” in her area. She stated that “we,” referring to Pennsylvania voters, would have more Democratic representatives in Congress if the districting map were not drawn the way it is. She also testified that her access to her Representative is “not as great as I wish it were,” and that “the shape of my district influences that.” She testified that her representative had never held a town

hall in Pottsville, and that town halls at one end of the district would be hard for voters who lived at the far end to attend.

#### *Reagan Hauer*

Reagan Hauer testified that she lives in Chester County, part of the Sixth Congressional District, and that her representative is Ryan Costello. She stated that her party registration is currently Democrat but she previously has been unaffiliated and independent. Ms. Hauer stated that Chester County is split with a slight Republican advantage but the Sixth District is more Republican. She asserted that the 2011 Plan harmed her as a moderate because competition for moderate voters has dropped. She also asserted that she has heard Representative Costello is hard to meet and that he has not responded to any of her letters or faxes. In sum, she contended, she does not feel it matters what she says because of the way the district's lines have been drawn.

#### *Jean Shenk*

Jean Shenk, a resident of Bethlehem, has been a registered Democrat her entire adult life. She lives in the Fifteenth Congressional District, and has as her representative Charlie Dent, who she feels does not reflect her values and views. She suffers from a [connective tissue disorder](#) and feels passionately (and worries daily) about affording healthcare in light of the potential for Congress to repeal the Affordable Care Act. She stated that the 2011 Plan “makes

[her] vote a waste” and she feels that her “vote does not have any effect” because the Lehigh Valley had been divided, and Republicans from Central Pennsylvania had been added to her district.

#### *Jason Magidson*

Jason Magidson lives in Haverford Township, which is located within the Seventh District, which is represented by Republican Patrick Meehan. He is 53 years old, and has been a registered Democrat for somewhere between 15–20 years. Prior to that, he was briefly registered as a Republican, and was unaffiliated. He has worked in management consulting and then at GlaxoSmith Kline before opening his own business.

Mr. Magidson testified that he has been very politically active since Donald Trump was elected President. He is a member of the Haverford Area Community Action Network. He stated that the issues he cares most about are the environment, racial justice, women's rights, fair districting, and encouraging voter registration. Representative Meehan, he explained, does not reflect Mr. Magidson's values. For example, on issues affecting the environment, Representative Meehan has consistently voted in a way that Mr. Magidson did not approve of. This is particularly troublesome to Mr. Magidson because his daughter suffers with [asthma](#), and the EPA published evidence on its website that suggests that a bill that Representative Meehan voted in favor of would make the air quality worse over time.

Asked about the lines of the Seventh District, Mr. Magidson stated that the design was problematic. He went on to assert that the design of the 2011 map was “very disturbing to me because I don't think my vote counts for much.” He added that the system “feels rigged, the way the district is stretched out.” When asked why he became involved now and not before, Mr. Magidson explained that he became more knowledgeable on this issue after the 2016 election.

#### *Brian Burychka*

Plaintiff Brian Burychka, a resident of Conshohocken, is a registered Democrat who votes in the Thirteenth Congressional district, which, in Burychka's words, “winds all the way down into Philadelphia” and is currently represented by Democrat Brendan Boyle. (12/5/17, AM, 67:8–9) He has founded two political groups, Indivisible Conshy and Pennsylvania Together. Burychka, a high school teacher and self-described “avid hunter,” identifies as a moderate Democrat who identifies with Democrats on social issues but supports gun rights. (*Id.* 67:13) He testified that because the Thirteenth Congressional includes parts of the City of Philadelphia, his views on gun control were “lost” in a “heavily Democratic area,” and that the “culture” “all the way down in the Philadelphia part of the district is way different than what [he] grew up in.” (*Id.* 67:13–18) Invoking Reynolds v. Sims, he argued that because of the 2011 map his vote “d[idn't] really matter because it's so heavily one-sided” he was “not really getting the same one vote that someone in a ... competitive district is.” (*Id.* 67:25–68:4)

On cross-examination, Burychka testified that prior to May 2015, he had previously voted in the Seventh Congressional District, where he was represented by Pat Meehan. Meehan, he testified, “didn't share [his] values,” but clarified that on some issues he was happy with Meehan's representation, such as Meehan's stances on the Second Amendment. (*Id.* 71:18–24) Burychka testified that the election of Donald Trump had spurred him to become politically active, but expressed concern that Republican representatives were “falling in line ... including Pat Meehan.” (*Id.* 73:16)

#### *Joseph Landis*

Joseph Landis is a resident of the Eighth Congressional District, represented by Republican Brian Fitzpatrick. He lives in Montgomery County and has a degree and career focused on the provision of services to individuals with intellectual disabilities and [autism](#). He stated that he is a registered Democrat but identifies as an Independent. He also testified that he does not feel his representative matches his values and views, in particular due to Representative Fitzpatrick's vote on the recent tax bill, which may “gut services to individuals with intellectual disabilities and [autism](#).” He feels that his district will continue to elect Republicans regardless of his vote, as a result of which his “voice is squashed.”

#### *Bill Ewing*

Bill Ewing testified that he is 78 years old and he is from Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. After attending Princeton University where he earned his Bachelor's in Public and International Affairs, he attended law school at the University of Pennsylvania. During his legal career, he clerked for then-Judge Warren Burger when he was a Judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, he worked as a professor, and he worked in private practice. Mr. Ewing has been a registered Democrat since 1970; prior to that he was a registered Republican. He lives in the Mt. Airy section of Philadelphia, which falls in the Second District, represented by Democrat Dwight Evans. Mr. Ewing stated that he is politically active. In 1978 he ran for state Senate and lost in the Democratic primary, but that he has since continued to remain engaged by volunteering his time, engaging with campaigns, and making donations.

When asked how the Pennsylvania districting map affects his civil rights, he explained that in general elections it does not matter whether he votes or not, as there is no contest in his District because it leans so heavily Democratic. He feels that under both the 2002 and the 2011 maps he “lost any meaningful voice in the general election.” He stated that he has continued to support candidates in other districts, but that “the ability to elect a Democrat in many districts has diminished substantially.” Despite this state of affairs, though, he “remains hopeful” and “keeps participating.”

### *John Gallagher*

Plaintiff John Gallagher testified that he lives in Media, part of Delaware County located in the First District. Mr. Gallagher testified that he registered as a Republican at the age of eighteen, then became a registered Democrat in 1971, switched back to Republican at some point thereafter, and then switched again to become a Democrat ten weeks before testifying. He is represented by Robert Brady, a Democrat based in Philadelphia, who Mr. Gallagher asserted has never visited his part of the district. Mr. Gallagher stated that as a result of the 2011 Map, he became part of the First District, with whose constituents he had previously had nothing to do. In fact, Mr. Gallagher was “shocked” to show up to the polling place to vote, and seeing Rep. Brady on the ballot; Mr. Gallagher had “worked for some time” to “get [Representative Patrick Meehan] out of office” in the Seventh District, and was disappointed that he could not vote for Rep. Meehan's opponent. In fact, Mr. Gallagher stated that he had “no idea what issues” faced voters in the First District when he entered to vote and realized that Rep. Brady was on the ballot.

### *Ani Diakatos*

Plaintiff Ani Diakatos testified that she is a resident of Wallingford, which is located in Delaware County, and votes in Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, which is represented by Democrat Bob Brady. She has been a registered Republican since she turned 18. She testified that



became a Republican because of her father's admiration for President Eisenhower, who was president when her father came to the United States, and her own experience listening to Ronald Reagan speak at Upper Darby High School, an experience she testified gave her “goosebumps.” When asked about her core values as a Republican, she said that the party, when she joined, was “fiscally conservative but inclusive” but she did not know if she “felt that way anymore.”

When asked whether her civil rights had been violated, she complained that her “voice [wasn't] heard anymore.” She asserted that Representative Brady, to whom she referred as “some guy in Philly,” never came to Wallingford or Delaware County, and that he presumably never would. Although she acknowledged that lines would necessarily have to be drawn somewhere, she testified that she lived just a mile away from a district represented by Pat Meehan, who represents Delaware County. She testified to assuming that Representative Brady would put the interests of Philadelphia first, to the extent that the interests of Philadelphia were in competition with those of Delaware County, such as over a potential Amazon headquarters. She testified that she had never attempted to contact his office because she assumed that Representative Brady would not respond.

### **Plaintiff Testimony Submitted via Deposition**

*Edwin Gragert*

Plaintiffs' counsel proffered the deposition of Edwin Gragert, a Democratic voter in Milford. He votes in the Tenth District. He testified that he had been deeply involved in an unsuccessful Democratic congressional campaign, but that it was hard to campaign effectively in a district as spread out as the Tenth.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Gragert's deposition was taken telephonically while he was traveling in Argentina, and he was sworn in telephonically by the courtroom deputy in open court.

### *Marina Kats*

Plaintiffs' counsel proffered the deposition of Marina Kats, a lawyer, mother of two and an immigrant from the Ukraine who is a registered Republican. She lives in Meadowbrook and votes in the Thirteenth Congressional District. At her deposition, she testified that she had run for Congress in 2008 and lost, and believed that it would be fruitless to run again “because the way the district is drawn, there is complete unfairness to our Republican representative.” (Kats Dep. 69:12–14)<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> The deposition was taken telephonically while Ms. Kats was traveling in Egypt, but she was sworn in by the court reporter.

### *James Davis*

Plaintiffs' counsel proffered the deposition of James Davis, an attorney and registered Democrat. He lives in Brownsville, in Fayette County, and votes in Ninth Congressional District, which he described as looking like a “snake.” (Davis Dep.

35:11–12) At his deposition, Mr. Davis testified that his congressman's office was three hours away, and complained that his county had been split from with Greene and Washington counties, which he said had “the same issues, natural gas, coal.” (*Id.* 31:24–32:3) He testified to his belief that “this progression of the way we draw our districts in Pennsylvania ... has made people apathetic, it's made people disengaged, it's made people not vote, it's made people feel that ... the politicians are above the law,” although he himself had remained politically active. (*Id.* 37:5–11)

#### *Cindy Harmon*

Plaintiffs also presented Cindy Harmon's deposition testimony. Ms. Harmon is a Democrat who resides in the Third District. She stated that she has been harmed by the fact that her Congressman is located far away from where she lives, and that the values her Congressman has are different because of where they focus their attention. Specifically, she stated that she feels that she does not “really have a chance when I'm voting.”

#### *Leigh–Anne Congdon*

Plaintiffs also presented Leigh–Anne Congdon's deposition testimony. Ms. Congdon is a Democrat who resides in the Fifth District. She stated that Pennsylvania is “not really fairly represented by our Congressional delegation in DC.”

#### *Douglas Graham*

Plaintiffs also presented Douglas Graham's deposition testimony. Mr. Graham is a Democrat who resides in the Fourteenth District. He testified that he has been harmed by “having a Democrat that many years that I don't have a choice,” and that he is “not entirely happy with the fact that my district has no strong opposition party.” He stated that he thinks “it's fair to say that [the shape of his district] has not caused [him] harm.” However, he believes the other congressional districts in which he cannot vote have caused harm to people he is “involved with [such as] family and friends.” He also stated that “poorly drawn districts” in other States affect him “on a national level because the issues that affect [him] aren't just local issues.”

#### *Rayman Solomon*

Plaintiffs also presented deposition testimony from Rayman Solomon, formerly the Dean of Rutgers Law School. Mr. Solomon is a Democrat from the Second District. He testified that he does not believe he was harmed either as a Federal or a Pennsylvania citizen by having Representative Dwight Evans as his Congressman. He stated, however, that he was harmed in the sense that he did not feel as involved in the election as he would have felt in a “competitive race, as opposed to one that's outcome is determined.” He also stated that he was harmed by the belief that the congressional election in the Second District is “predetermined,” although he

acknowledged that sometimes there are “big surprises” in electoral outcomes, which can be “very remote” possibilities in some circumstances.

### *Joy Montgomery*

Joy Montgomery is a resident of Lititz, Pennsylvania,<sup>3</sup> which is in Pennsylvania's Sixteenth Congressional District. Before moving to Lititz earlier in 2017, Ms. Montgomery lived in Lancaster, Pennsylvania for forty-seven years. Joy Montgomery is a registered Democrat and is currently represented by Congressman Smucker, a Republican. Ms. Montgomery asserts that the 2011 Plan has prevented her “from getting [her] choice.” (Montgomery Dep. 29:10–11)

<sup>3</sup> Ms. Montgomery's husband, Floyd Montgomery, is also a plaintiff in this action (Am. Compl. ¶ 12), but he was not separately deposed and there is no testimony from him to summarize. It appears, however, that he was present for Ms. Montgomery's deposition and did interject at times.

### *Virginia Mazzei*

Virginia Mazzei lives in Benton, Pennsylvania, which is located in Pennsylvania's Eleventh Congressional District and represented by Congressman Barletta, a Republican. Mazzei, who is self-employed as a massage therapist, yoga teacher and Ayurveda counselor, is a registered Democrat. Mazzei asserts that, under the 2011 Plan, her vote does not count “because of the way that the districts have been drawn with ... [a] political advantage for one party over

another.” (Mazzei Dep. 22:23–23:2) She also asserts Congressman Barletta is “not responsive [to her concerns] ... because he doesn't worry about [winning her] vote.” (*Id.* 25:8–10)

### *Heather Turnage*

Heather Turnage is a registered Democrat and resident of Spring Garden, Pennsylvania, located in Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, which is represented by Congressman Scott Perry, a Republican. Turnage testified that her “particular district is not very gerrymandered” and that it is “one of the more compact ones[.]” (Turnage Dep. 48:4–5) She was unsure whether her particular district was fairly drawn. (*Id.* 48:11–12) She was also unsure how, if at all, the shape of her district harmed her. (*Id.* 50:15–23) When pressed on how specifically she was harmed by the 2011 Plan, she explained, “I can't know without having the information basically that ... the redistricting committee has ... because I'm not sure how things might change if districting [were] done differently.” (*Id.* 52:1–5)

### *Dana Kellerman*

Dana Kellerman testified that she lives in Fox Chapel Borough in the Twelfth Congressional District. Her congressman is Keith Rothfus, a Republican. She has been a registered Democrat since she was eighteen years old. She testified that she has been harmed by the current redistricting map because her “vote does not count as much as



it should” and “has been purposely diluted by the addition of a whole bunch of other barely contiguous communities that don't belong in [the] district.” (Kellerman Dep. 12:23–24; 13:3–6) She further testified that, “[b]ecause [her] vote has been diluted, [her] representation has been diluted.” (*Id.* 13:7–8) She stated that her district “shouldn't have these little fingers that reach out to grab another clump of Republicans, and it should not have these little carve-outs ... leaving this bizarre hole in [the] district” and that it should not be the case that when she drives down a single road, she “cross[es] in and out of [the] district four times in five miles.” (*Id.* 14:6–15) She testified further that her “district should be able to pick the representative who represents [them]” and that her district “should be about 50–50 [Democrats to Republicans] because that's who lives in the area,” but because of vote dilution, the district's representative is instead “chosen by a bunch of people ... who are in a community very different than [her] community.” (*Id.* 41:1–10)

#### *Shawndra Holmberg*

Shawndra Holmberg testified that since 2015 she has lived in the City of Butler, which is part of the Third Congressional District. She explained that prior to the 2011 map, her district was competitive but now it is not, meaning that the district's representative, Mike Kelly, “does not have to listen to his voters,” resulting in “another harm” of not being “heard.” (Holmberg Dep. 16:24–17:1; 18:7) She is a registered Republican and testified that she changed from Democrat to Republican “for [her] vote to count” because

she “was tired of being told, oh you're just a democrat[.] [that's why] [y]ou're unhappy with the [electoral] race [results].” (*Id.* 18:1–9)

#### *Barbara Shah*

Barbara Shah testified that she lives in Bethel Park, which is in the Eighteenth Congressional District. She is a Democrat Committeewoman. She stated that “in the last two elections [she] didn't have a chance to vote for any Democrats because there were no Democrats on the ballot.” (Shah Dep. 12:21–24) She attributed that lack of choice to the 2011 redistricting map because previously there had been Democrat representatives in her district but then since 2012, her understanding is that the district has been “gerrymandered” and “manufactured” for Tim Murphy, the Republican congressman. Additionally, when asked why she did not run for Congress as a Democrat in her district, she answered that her district “was so gerrymandered it is even difficult to get enough signatures on petitions.” (*Id.* 19:21–20:6) She testified that the redistricting map restricted choices of representatives because gerrymandering makes it “very difficult to get campaign contributions” and “party support.” (*Id.* 30:7–22) She also described a lack of responsiveness from her representative, Murphy, who “refused to attend” town hall meetings involving Shah's community and has “refused to respond” or “acknowledge in any way” her community. (*Id.* 35:15–23)

## **B. Testimony by Senator Andrew Dinniman**

Senator Andrew Dinniman testified that he has represented Chester County in the Pennsylvania State Senate for twelve years. Chester County is split into three congressional districts, the Sixth, Seventh, and Sixteenth. He is a member of the Senate State Government Committee. Senator Dinniman is also a tenured professor at West Chester University where he teaches history, globalization, and public management.

Senator Dinniman testified about the first version of the 2011 redistricting bill, which was submitted to the State Government Committee on September 14, 2011. He referred to the bill as a “shell bill,” that is, “a placeholder.” The bill came into the Committee in connection with the committee's statutory responsibility for redistricting. The bill listed the 18 congressional districts without any description. The introduction of an empty bill like this, Senator Dinniman explained, is unusual. Typically bills come filled with information, and after meetings regarding the substance, changes are made by stripping the existing content and replacing it with new content, or modifying the existing content in some other way. In this case, the shell bill was completely empty other than the districts being listed. The committee voted it out in this form, however, merely as a “procedural matter,” to allow the bill to proceed at the pace necessary to be completed by the end of the year.

Senator Dinniman also testified about the second version of the bill, introduced on

December 14, 2011. Until that morning, minority (i.e., Democratic) members of the committee had not seen amended versions of the bill after the “shell bill” had been introduced three months prior. This second version, printer number 1862, was voted on by the State Government Committee the same day that it was introduced, December 14. Senator Dinniman expressed opposition to 1862 in front of the State Government Committee, and voted against it. However, the bill was “voted out of” the State Government Committee and moved on to the Appropriations Committee. There it was further amended. Then it was voted out of the Appropriations Committee. The Appropriations Committee suspended a Senate rule requiring a delay of six hours between the proposal of a particular bill and a vote on it, in order to take a vote before six hours had passed. The bill made it to the Senate floor for a final vote the same day it was introduced, December 14.

Senator Dinniman again expressed opposition to the bill, this time on the Senate floor. He urged to his fellow Senators that the partisan manner in which it was developed was “an inappropriate way to do business.” One amendment to the bill was proposed on the Senate floor—Democratic Senator Costa proposed an alternate map, one that “would have significantly lessened” the number of split districts. This amendment failed, largely along party lines. Senator Dinniman clarified that while he believed that the map proposed by Senator Costa was an improvement over the Republican sponsored map, he emphasized that there were only about ten hours in

which to develop it in response to the Republican plan because details of that plan were withheld until late on the evening of December 13.

Senator Dinniman testified that that day the Senate suspended the rule that requires sessions to end at 11 p.m., an unusual move, and the Senate continued debating the bill past 11 p.m. Several Republican senators objected on the Senate record that the bill had harmed their districts because counties in their district were divided into three and in some cases four districts. The bill, presented as printer number 1869, passed that night on a 26–24 vote.

Senator Dinniman expressed serious disapproval of the way in which this bill was passed. He stated that usually the Senate tries to be deliberative, and that a rule requiring three considerations of any bill is designed to ensure this deliberative approach. He commented that it was very unusual “to proceed in such a rapid manner” on a bill that deals with this subject matter. He compared this process to the process that was used when a voter identification law was considered—the consideration and passage of that bill, which similarly addresses the issue of suffrage, took place over a much longer period of time. Senator Dinniman also pointed out that citizens and relevant advocacy groups did not have time to review the bill because of the rushed manner in which it was proposed and passed.

Senator Dinniman testified that there was no time to conduct hearings on the bill that ultimately passed as the 2011 redistricting

map, and that as a result he was denied the opportunity to hear from advocacy groups, his constituents, and in general to “go about this in a thoughtful way.”

He explained that the sophisticated nature of software that has been developed to create these maps has given legislators “the ability to deprive voters of their influence in the voting process” by manipulating data to achieve partisan advantage. He explained that between September 14 and December 14, he had personally approached the Chairman of the State Government Committee, Senator McIlhenny, in or near the floor of the Senate, and asked him, with regard to a map proposal, what the committee was “waiting for” because his constituents were asking.

Senator Dinniman stated that he believes that the software used to create districting maps has become far more sophisticated in the past several years, and that we now have the capacity to utilize voter data in a different way. He referred to Federalist Paper 52 in which James Madison speaks to the threat of suffrage by potential state interference to identify why he believes this type of data manipulation is so dangerous. Senator Dinniman noted that “Madison can only speak to his time, and could never have imagined” the scope of the threat that he identified as it exists today. Senator Dinniman said that he is concerned about any kind of challenges to suffrage, including partisan gerrymandering done by either party.

Senator Dinniman, when asked on cross, agreed that he was not involved in drawing the map proposed on December 14 to the Senate floor and passed as the 2011 redistricting plan, and objected to his lack of involvement. He testified that he was “denied the opportunity” to participate in the drafting process and therefore he had no opportunity to know how the lines were drawn. He agreed that both Senate caucuses had access to the census data, voter registration data, and voter history data used in drawing the map. He also stated that the Democrats, like the Republicans, had a map drawing room in advance of the legislation passing, and that the Senate Democratic caucus was involved in drawing up its own maps. When asked why one Democrat, Tina Tartaglione, voted in favor of the bill he explained that she did so to help her congressional delegation in Philadelphia because the map made the First and Second Districts heavily Democratic. Senator Dinniman explained that some Republicans voted against the bill on the Senate floor, leading to the 26–24 result.

### C. Testimony by Representative Vitali

Representative Vitali's deposition testimony was also presented to the Court. Rep. Vitali is a Democratic State Representative for Pennsylvania's 166<sup>th</sup> Legislative District, and he is a resident of the Seventh Congressional District. He testified, among other things, that in caucus, Democrat William Keller indicated that Congressman Brady wanted his district to be a “safe” Democratic district. Thus, Congressman

Brady supported the 2011 Plan out of “political self-interest.”

Rep. Vitali also stated that he did not have personal knowledge about how the specific contours of the 2011 Plan were made, because “they were made behind closed doors” and he was not “party to any of those discussions.” He believed the introduction of the 2011 Plan bill as a “shell bill” was unique. (Vitali Dep. 40:7–64:9) He also testified that there was “no good policy reason to break up” so many counties to form the Seventh District. He believes the new shape of the Seventh District creates problems because “we don't have competitive elections.... [I]f an elected official knows he can lose an election, he's much more likely to be responsive to the voice” of voters, but if “he has no chance of losing, he really can be more influenced by the powers, his own party, which may differ from the views of his constituents.” (Id. 79:20–80:6)

### D. Testimony by Senator Daylin Leach

Plaintiffs entered the deposition testimony of Senator Daylin Leach into evidence. Senator Leach testified that he lives in Wayne, Pennsylvania, and he is a Senator in the 17<sup>th</sup> State District. The 17<sup>th</sup> District encompasses 11 municipalities throughout Northern Delaware County and Southern Montgomery County. He has been a state senator since 2008; prior to that he represented the 149<sup>th</sup> District in the State House from 2002–2008. He is currently running for Congress in the

Seventh Congressional District, and would face incumbent Pat Meehan in the general election, if he makes it through the primary. Senator Leach has run once prior for Congress, in 2014 in the Thirteenth District, which he stated “was one of the five Democrat seats that are not competitive for Republicans.” (Leach Dep. 11:9–10) He lost in the primary.

Senator Leach testified that he is very active on the issue of gerrymandering, having introduced legislation to try to combat it, and speaking out publicly against it. During his first term in the State House Senator Leach introduced and sponsored “a reapportioning and redistricting reform bill.” (Id. 15:11–12) He has reintroduced such a bill as a Senator several times. (Id. 16:10–21) With respect to gerrymandering reform, Senator Leach stated that he would like to see “the focus [ ] on keeping communities of interest together, keeping municipal boundaries intact to the extent possible and ensuring that the voters have a legitimate opportunity to express their views in a meaningful way.” (Id. 24:1–5) He stated that he does not believe that partisan factors should come into play at all in redistricting efforts.

With respect to the 2011 plan, Senator Leach stated that “Democrats were not invited to participate in any way” in the processing of creating the map, thus he has no “eyeball observation of how the map was drawn.” (Id. 19:23–24; 20:1) When the bill was passed, he said he remembered it occurred very quickly, and that the proposal of the bill “took until the very end

because of what we were told by Democratic and Republican members and the media were internal fights in the Republican congressional caucus as to whose district would be more Republican.” (Id. 26:10–15) There was only a short period of debate regarding the 2011 map, occurring on one day. (Id. 35:20–21) The day before the 2011 map passed Senator Leach was provided with “an analysis” of it, though not the actual map, for the first time. He voted against the 2011 map. (Id. 33:2) No Democratic Senator voted in favor of the map, and the Democratic alternative proposal was “voted down on largely a party line vote.” (Id. 33:12–13; 34:21–22) Senator Leach described the Seventh Congressional District in the 2011 map as including “a series of very thin land bridges from one part of the district to another ... technically contiguous, but essentially a series of islands.” (Leach Dep. 42:3–6) He added that “it is made up of portions of many municipalities,” and that “[t]here's very little or no effort to keep them together.” (Leach 42:7–10) He offered as an example that “[t]here is a parking lot in my township, Upper Merion Township, of a restaurant which is where three congressional districts converge.” (Leach 42:13–16)

## **E. Plaintiff's Expert Witnesses**

### **1. Anne Hanna**

Ms. Hanna completed her undergraduate degree in physics at the California Institute of Technology, and her Masters in Physics at the University of Illinois Urbana



Champaign. She is currently working towards her Ph.D. as a mechanical engineer at Georgia Institute of Technology, having transferred there from Drexel University. Ms. Hanna described her experience in image analysis and processing, which she explained serves as an important basis for her work analyzing redistricting maps. She described her experience further with data and statistical analysis in general, regression methodology, and multiple computer software languages. She described the purpose of data analytics as reviewing a possibly novel data set in order to discover what is interesting about it.

With respect to congressional districting in particular, Ms. Hanna has worked on a volunteer basis for at least ten hours per week for the past nine months with a group called Concerned Citizens for Democracy that is studying gerrymandering, including by developing data sets to analyze districting maps. She described redistricting as “an engineering problem,” in that it reflects conflicting stakeholder needs, and resolutions must take multiple perspectives into account. Her experience as an engineer, her knowledge of computational and statistical analytics, and of computer programming languages, enabled her to address these issues. Ms. Hanna has also studied the literature on gerrymandering, including historical sources for traditional neutral districting criteria, in order to refer to these features in analyzing redistricting maps. In her work on redistricting she has developed data sets for the Pennsylvania redistricting map. Ms. Hanna has not published any materials on politics or

redistricting, has not drawn detailed state or local redistricting maps, and has limited overall experience in the political science field. She was admitted by the Court as an expert in engineering, mathematics, computer science, and data analytics, to the extent that they enabled her to comment on the subject matter at hand.

Ms. Hanna reviewed a set of data (“Turzai data set”), provided in discovery, that was used by Defendant Turzai and his staff in creating the 2011 Pennsylvania districting map. Ms. Hanna described the Turzai data set as “a challenging set” because the file names were “garbled,” likely the result of the addition of Bates numbers to each file, as is standard practice in discovery. She explained that she consulted with two other GIS researchers upon receiving the data to confirm that she was interpreting it correctly. Ms. Hanna was able to “unscramble” most of the data, however, and identified the files in the Turzai data set as GIS shape files, that is, the lines of maps, and attribute data, that is, information about the map lines. The “attribute” was in the form of tables, and included, among other information, population data, voting age data, and partisan voting results and voter registration data from 2004–2010. Results from 33 different elections—all statewide and district specific elections from 2004–2010, broken down by party identifier—as well as voter registration, is included in this information set. In particular the data set included partisan voting indices (“PVI”) which identify whether Republicans or Democrats won in each area across the map. (N.T. 12/5/17, AM, 24–28)

Ms. Hanna analyzed the data at each level that it was provided, from the municipality level, down to the “census block” level, that is, a block within a particular voting precinct. She created several different maps for comparison purposes. For example, using information from a particularly strong Democratic performance year (2008) she plotted a color-coded map with census block level information, using red to represent Republican support, and blue to represent Democratic support. She then compared this map to the 2011 Pennsylvania redistricting plan. She produced one map using that 2008 data, onto which she overlaid the district lines set out in the 2011 plan, as well as green stars to represent home address locations of each of the 19 incumbents from the 2010 Pennsylvania election. She reproduced this same map however replaced the 2011 plan district lines with the district lines from the 2002 reapportionment plan. She created more detailed maps for selected sections of Pennsylvania, for example one series of maps which detailed the area around Pittsburgh. She indicated in her testimony that the 2011 map did not comply with the neutral districting criteria that she is familiar with, including have non-compact districts and multiple unnecessary splits of municipalities. Ms. Hanna explained that she used two different, well accepted “compactness measures”—the Schwartzberg measurement, and the Polsby-Popper—in reaching her conclusions. These measurement techniques are simple formulas, used across many areas of mathematics.

Ms. Hanna reviewed all of the communications that were provided with the Turzai data set. No communications of substance had been written to or were sent by a Democrat. One map included in the Turzai data set, labeled Bates 01364, was a close up map of the southwestern corner of Pennsylvania, including the Pittsburgh area, and was labeled at the top of the page “CD18 Maximized.” (N.T. 12/5/17, AM, 9–11) Ms. Hanna believed this label to be a reference to Congressional District 18. She testified that she believes this map represented a potential proposal for how to draw the district boundary lines in this region. Stars included on the map, she determined, represented the home address locations of then-incumbent Representatives, including Representative Doyle in the Fourteenth District, Representative Murphy in the Eighteenth District, Representative Kritz in the Twelfth District, Representative Shuster in the Ninth District, and Jason Altmeyer, who was then the incumbent in the Fourth District. This map included Republican incumbent Altmeyer in the same district as Democratic incumbent Murphy.

Ms. Hanna believed there were three possibilities to explain a table of numbers following either a D or R, in the upper left hand corner, each of which was a different form of vote prediction: first, that these numbers reflected the Cook Partisan Voting Index; second, that they represented a raw dominance metric, that is, how much higher in percentage points Republicans will likely perform; or third, the net difference between Republican and Democratic performance, that is, how far off from 50% Republicans



will likely perform. Ms. Hanna concluded from her observations of this map that it was likely intended to “maximize” the performance of Democrats in the Eighteenth District specifically.

Ms. Hanna indicated that she has studied map drawing with traditional, neutral districting criteria. She has drawn maps (crude hand drawings, without the benefit of software), and engaged in literature review of traditional districting criteria. Specifically, she cited the 1911 Federal Reapportionment Act, and Article Two, Section 16 of the Pennsylvania Constitution as important sources. She identified as important traditional districting criteria contiguity, compactness, population equality, and the goal of avoiding splitting counties, cities, incorporated towns, and townships unless absolutely necessary. Ms. Hanna offered the 1972 and 1982 Pennsylvania districting maps as examples of maps which incorporated these themes. (*Id.* 32–33) She pointed to two important features of these maps that are missing from subsequent Pennsylvania maps. First, compactness: where districts needed to add more population, they added directly contiguous counties, rather than reaching out with narrow “tentacles” to “grab” territory further away. Second, respect for communities of interest: very few counties on the 1972 map are divided, and they are only divided where it appears that it was needed to add population to neighboring districts. She commented that, from an engineer’s perspective, a rule requiring a districting map to incorporate abutting territory to add population is both feasible and desirable.

Ms. Hanna did note that the 1982 map was not as successful on this front, and also made clear that on both maps counties that are larger than the target population of an individual district were obviously divided as many times as necessary to create a proper district size.

With regard to the goal of breaking apart the fewest counties and maintaining compactness as best possible when drawing a districting map, Ms. Hanna explained that map makers should start with the largest building blocks—counties. Then, map makers should add in the next largest building blocks, municipalities, along the edges, with the goal of maintaining smooth boundaries. They should continue this process with smaller and smaller building blocks, down to voting precincts and voting blocks, until the proper population is achieved. She indicated that it would be technically possible to draw such maps by hand, but that it would be very challenging and time consuming. With computer software, however, it is very feasible.

Ms. Hanna then read the five rules she proposed in her report for achieving the best possible districting outcomes into the record. She stated that this was not intended as an exhaustive list. Those five rules, roughly stated, are:

- (1) No county shall be divided unless absolutely necessary to achieve equal population;

- (2) No precinct, borough, or township shall be divided unless absolutely necessary to achieve equal population;
- (3) Where additional territory is needed for additional population in a district, it shall be added from the border of a contiguous County to the extent possible;
- (4) If a county's population is greater than the average Congressional district size, any additional population may not be added to adjoining counties that have a population greater than that of an average district. Such additional population must instead be added to adjoining Counties whose population is smaller than the average district, where possible;
- (5) Districts shall be “reasonably compact.”

(N.T. 12/5/17, AM, 58:21–62:8)

On cross-examination, defense counsel pointed out some notable absences from Ms. Hanna's proposed rules. First, there was no mention or consideration of the Voting Rights Act in her rules. Second, there was no mention of two other factors that the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has identified as important—maintaining cores of existing districts and avoiding pairings of incumbents (the court also highlighted the Voting Rights Act). She clarified that after creating a map according to her rules, it would be possible to make slight modifications to the resulting map in order

to take both incumbents and the Voting Rights Act into account. Ms. Hanna also stated that if redistricting were to be done pursuant to her five guidelines, it should not include considerations of partisan intent at all. Though she did not rule out considerations of incumbency in districting in accordance with her rules, she noted that it certainly should not be a key factor.

## 2. Daniel McGlone

Plaintiffs' first witness at trial was Daniel McGlone. Mr. McGlone was qualified as an expert witness in the fields of data analytics, Geographic Imaging Software (GIS),<sup>4</sup> and redistricting. (N.T. 12/4/17, AM, 86) He testified that he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Geography and Geospatial Imaging from Harrisburg University of Science and Technology and a Master's Degree in Urban Spatial Analytics from the University of Pennsylvania. He also testified that he works at Azavea, a geospatial software company, and that he has worked in the field of spatial analysis and GIS for over ten years. His work has included dozens of projects involving geospatial mapping as well as political and legislative districting, and he has managed and maintained a database called Cicero for several years, which contains GIS data for nine counties, including the fifty United States. In 2011, for example, he worked on Amanda Holt's appeal to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court of the Final Plan for the Pennsylvania Legislative Districts. (*Id.* 58)

4 GIS software creates digital maps and manages the attributes associated with each point on the map. The software can be used to combine thousands of “layers” of information, where each layer displays a different geographical component. For example, one layer could display highways and roads, another could display where U.S. congressmen live, and a third could display county lines, with another 900 displaying other pieces of spacial data (rivers, landmarks, stores, violent crime locations, churches, etc.). Then by mapping census or other public data, the GIS software can display population concentration, registered political party concentration, prior voting information for each voting precinct, racial demographic concentrations, educational levels in each area, and other highly detailed information. Thus, when paired with this public-available information, GIS software becomes a particularly powerful tool, particularly for the redistricting purposes. Moreover, as “big data” becomes even more ubiquitous (2.5 quintillion bytes of data are created every day), GIS layers can be added to GIS software to make it even more “powerful.” (The preceding information is derived from trial and deposition testimony in this case, as well as from “A Tutorial on Geographic Information Systems: A Ten-year Update,” (Daniel Farkas, et al., 2016).)

GIS software played a major role in preparing the 2011 map. Based on the Hanna and McGlone testimony about the Turzai dataset, supra, it is clear that the underlying information used to draw the 2011 map was organized into GIS data files. (Id. 162) The testimony established that the availability of sophisticated technologies, many if not all of which involve GIS data, present a greater risk of gerrymandering than ever before.

Mr. McGlone testified about the effects of “cracking and packing” in Pennsylvania. He defined “cracking” as the splitting of a voting bloc amongst multiple districts to prevent them from forming a majority. “Packing,” on the other hand, involves concentrating members of a certain group

into a single district to provide a super-majority, thereby reducing the numbers of that group in surrounding districts. (Id.) Using publicly available data from the “Harvard Election Dataset,”<sup>5</sup> and then later, data gleaned from the “Turzai Data,” Mr. McGlone utilized “cracking and packing” to explain the effects of the 2011 Plan on likely voting results. He also compared the 2011 Plan to the 2002 plan, on a virtually district-by-district basis.

5 Stephen Ansolabehere; Jonathan Rodden, 2011, “Pennsylvania Data Files,” [hdl:1902.1/16389](https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7927/H4T9-9K6R), Harvard Dataverse, V1. This dataset includes information for all elections from 2004 to 2008 in Pennsylvania.

With respect to the First District in Pennsylvania, Mr. McGlone testified that, due to “packing,” the district contains the borough of Swarthmore, creating an even more pronounced super-majority Democratic district. (Id. 119)

According to Mr. McGlone, the Second District also demonstrates packing of Democrats, most notably due to the fact that it grouped Lower Merion Township with other parts of Philadelphia. (Id. 126)

According to Mr. McGlone, the Third District demonstrates cracking, as it includes Erie's suburbs but not Erie itself, creating a narrow Republican majority. (Id. 128)

The Fourth District also involved cracking according to Mr. McGlone, as it created a narrow Republican majority by including part of Harrisburg and its suburbs but also extensive Republican representation from far outside the Harrisburg area. (Id. 132)

According to Mr. McGlone, the Sixth District was also an example of cracking to create a narrow Republican majority, as the County was redrawn to extend northward and westward, and as a result, it incorporates a substantial number of Republican voters from Berks and Lebanon Counties. (Id. 133–36)

According to Mr. McGlone, the Seventh District has a narrow Republican majority because it connects Republican areas of central Montgomery County with Republican areas of Delaware County by a narrow strip of land at times only 170 meters wide. (Id. 138–140)

According to Mr. McGlone, the Eighth District narrowly favors the Democrats, which would appear to undermine Plaintiffs' assertions somewhat. However, Mr. McGlone stated that he still views it as an example of a district redrawn to take in more heavily Republican areas, such as northeastern Montgomery County. (Id. 141–43)

According to Mr. McGlone, the Ninth District narrowly favors the Republicans, as its redrawn lines add the Monongahela Valley and include more Democrats in what is otherwise a heavily Republican district. (Id. 143–44)

The Eleventh District, which also narrowly favors Republicans, is according to Mr. McGlone a district that became more Republican by packing of Democratic areas into the Seventeenth District. (Id. 144–46)

According to Mr. McGlone, the Twelfth District is narrowly favorable to Republicans as a result of cracking heavily Democratic areas in nearby Monongahela Valley and Cambria County areas into other districts. (Id. 149)

The Thirteenth District is another example of a Democratic super-majority created by packing, according to Mr. McGlone, as it encompasses part of Philadelphia as well as suburbs to its north and northwest, extending out in three appendages to pick up Democratic areas in Ambler, Upper Dublin, Conshohocken, Norristown, and Upper Merion. (Id. 150–52)

The Fourteenth District is, according to Mr. McGlone, another “packed” Democratic district, and it includes Pittsburgh along with most of its most Democrat-heavy suburbs. (Id. 152–53)

The Fifteenth District “cracks” Bethlehem, says Mr. McGlone, such that there is a narrow Republican advantage. (Id. 153–54)

The Sixteenth District, on the other hand, includes heavily Republican voting areas, such that, according to Mr. McGlone, it tempers what would otherwise be an extensive Republican advantage by including the heavily Democratic cities of Reading and Coatesville. (Id. 154–55)

The Seventeenth District, asserts Mr. McGlone, also maintains a narrow Republican advantage in what would otherwise be an overwhelmingly Republican

district by pulling out of other districts Democratic areas in Scranton and Wilkes-Barre. (Id. 147–49)

Lastly, Mr. McGlone noted a narrow Republican advantage in the Eighteenth District, due to the fact that it “cracks” the Democrat-heavy Monongahela Valley between it and the Ninth District. (Id. 155–56)

The end result, testified Mr. McGlone, is that the 2011 Plan “consistently” confers 13 out of 18 Pennsylvania congressional seats to Republicans.

#### **F. Testimony by William Schaller— Introduced by Plaintiffs and Defendants**

Designated portions of the deposition of William Schaller were read into the record. At his deposition, Mr. Schaller testified that he has worked for the Republican caucus of the Pennsylvania General Assembly since 1995. He worked Pennsylvania congressional maps in 2001 and 2011 as “Director of Apportionment Services.” He was responsible for creating the congressional map for the western part of the state.

Mr. Schaller testified that he used software called Autobound to construct the map. He testified that adding municipalities to particular districts was a “manual” process of clicking and adding municipalities to an overlay of the 2002 map, which had contained 19 districts; because of the loss of a seat, he and his colleagues “ha[d] to work out how [they] addressed that

geography that [was] left behind with that lost seat.” (Schaller Dep. 30:4–5)

He testified that population equality was “the leading factor for compiling congressional districts.” (Id. 31:14–15) He testified that partisan data, including voter registration and voter performance in past elections, was “one of many factors” used in developing the maps (Id. 12:3), and that partisan data was “information that elected officials,” both state and federal, “were interested in seeing.” (Id. 13:9–10) When asked to list the other factors that he considered in creating the map, he mentioned population, “[w]hat the districts looked like previously,” “[v]oting rights,” “incumbent residency,” and “standard factors of split geography and contiguity.” (Id. 18:2–19) He denied that compactness was a factor. (Id. 19:2–3)

Mr. Schaller testified that when drawing the map, he had precinct-level election results by party, which he had obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State and which he believed were publicly available. (Id. 19:8–20:5) These election results by party, available at the county, municipal, and precinct levels, and census population by race, were included in a Republican caucus database that was used for state and congressional redistricting. (Id. 37:3–39:2)

When asked about how the map took shape, Mr. Schaller repeatedly referenced “consultations” and “discussions”—and, at one point, “conversations and discussions of consultations”—“stakeholders,” a group that he testified consisted of state legislators,



congressmen, leadership staff, and those negotiating on behalf of the state senate. (Id. 49:18–24) He testified that he never met with any Democratic legislators in connection with drawing the map. (Id. 16:19–22) He testified that “in many instances” the composition of districts as he devised them in Autobound was the result of “agreements that were reached.” (Id. 50:8–17) He also acknowledged submitting a reimbursement for travel to Washington, DC to meet with Republican congressmen to discuss redistricting. (Id. 61:1–20)

Eventually, the following colloquy occurred:

Q [H]ow did you decide what map to come out with? Given all of the factors to consider.

A Based on consultation on how the districts should be put together from the negotiations and discussions with the stakeholders.

Q With the Republican stakeholders, am I right?

A Republican stakeholders.

Q Is it fair for me to say that the information you got about the discussions among the Republican stakeholders in that legislative process was probably the most important factor that you used in drawing the maps?

A Yes. I would say so.

(Id. 76:16–77:5)

### **G. Testimony by Erik Arneson—Introduced by Plaintiffs and Defendants**

Plaintiffs and Defendants both read into the record designated portions of the sworn deposition testimony of Erik Arneson, who worked as Senator Dominic Pileggi's Communication and Policy Director during the relevant time period.

During Plaintiffs' questioning, Mr. Arneson stated that his involvement with the 2011 Plan was fairly limited, but that he knew during the lead-up to the passage of the 2011 Plan that the Plan needed to comply with equal population principles, the Constitution, and the Voting Rights Act. He also asserted that the Plan had to account for the population shift from west-to-east in the State, had to receive twenty-six state senate votes (to pass and be presented to the Governor to sign into law) and had to reduce the prior plan by one seat as a result of the new census count. However, Mr. Arneson stated that the person most involved as the “granular level” with the 2011 Plan was Dr. John Memmi, who performed the “technical work” on the map.

Mr. Arneson stated that, at some point in the redistricting process, as predecessor drafts of what in later, final form was the 2011 Plan were considered, he changed district boundary lines on a draft map. However, he was not sure that the changes were ultimately incorporated into the final Plan.

Mr. Arneson also testified that Congressmen from both the Republican and Democratic Parties, including Congressmen Brady and

Shuster, expressed preferences on the outline of congressional districts, and at least some of the input was “taken into account when drawing the map.”

He further testified that, in making the map, the redistricting team of Mr. Arneson and Dr. Memmi used “publicly available, historical voting data from previous elections that had taken place.” They “intended to respect incumbency,” but did not have the “kind of prognostication powers” required to establish a “fixed outcome” for the election results. They used software known as Autbound to save draft maps, and in drawing such maps, “partisan voting tendencies was one of the factors used.”

During Defendants' question, Mr. Arneson provided more detailed responses regarding the above topics. Mr. Arneson stated that he had “some” involvement in the creation of the 2011 Plan, but that he did not “draw the map.” He testified that there were two sets of data available to him at the time that the map was drawn: census data from the United States Census Bureau and historic election data from the Pennsylvania Department of State. He also testified that, among the questions asked by State Senators about the maps that were being drawn were questions about historic voting data. With respect to John Memmi, who did the actual, technical map-drawing, he testified that Senator Pileggi, Dave Woods, and Mr. Arneson were the only ones who provided instruction on how to draw boundary lines.

Mr. Arneson further testified, among other things, that Democratic Senator Tina Tartaglione voted to report the 2011 Plan out of committee to the Senate Floor, and that an Amendment to the bill by Democratic Senator Jay Costa failed to gather enough votes to pass on the Floor. He testified that the 2011 Plan later passed the Senate with 26 votes, with three Republican Senators voting against it. He also testified that, to the best of his knowledge, Senator Scarnati has never denied that the 2011 Plan was a partisan gerrymander. Lastly, he testified that the shape of some congressional districts looks “odd” but that odd shapes can be explained by the fact that districts must “comply” with “mandatory requirements” such as the Voting Rights Act and equal apportionment. “Odd” shapes can at times be explained, he suggested, by “very good mutual objective[s].”

## **H. Testimony by Defense Experts**

### **1. Nolan McCarty**

Nolan McCarty, Ph.D., a professor of politics at Princeton University, testified for the defense in response to the McGlone report. After Professor McCarty testified that he taught and worked on legislative polarization, electoral and bureaucratic politics, elections, and voting behavior, he was proffered, and accepted, as an expert in the areas of electoral analysis, elections, redistricting, and voting behavior.

Professor McCarty, who testified that the 2011 map was not significantly more



gerrymandered than the 2002 map, had several criticisms of the methodology employed in the McGlone report. First, he expressed “concerns” about the Harvard data that McGlone had employed, which he testified undercounted votes compared to the number of votes cast according to the Secretary of State’s website, and which therefore suggested “underlying measurement error.” (N.T. 12/5/17, AM, 131:2–21)

McCarty described for the court how he had calculated the expected number of Democratic seats in Pennsylvania by using the nationwide probability of a Democratic win from 2004 to 2014 in districts with a similar partisan lean—known as the Cook Partisan Voter Index, or PVI. According to Professor McCarty, the PVI is a measure of how many percentage points more Republican or Democratic than the nation as a whole, averaged over the last two election cycles, which for the 2011 map were 2004 and 2008; thus, a district that was R+1 was one that was one percentage point more Republican than the country as a whole. He testified that his calculations showed a 60.3% chance of a Republican win in an R+1 district, and a 54.5% chance of a Republican win in an R–1 district. At various points in his testimony, he defined a competitive district as having a PVI of +/- 5 or +/- 9. (*Id.* 132:21–136:21)

He explained that in Table 1 of his expert report, he calculated the probabilities of a Democratic win in each of the districts (each of which was based on the district’s PVI), averaged them, and then multiplied

that percentage by the number of seats in the Pennsylvania delegation. His expected probability of Democratic wins for the 2002 map, when Pennsylvania had 19 seats, was .503, which he testified yielded an expected value of 9.555 Democratic seats in a 19–seat delegation. His expected probability for the 2011 map was .453, which he testified yielded an expected value of 8.15 seats out of the 18 seats Pennsylvania had in the wake of the 2010 census. In his table, 9 out of 19 districts in the 2002 map had more than a 50% chance of Democratic victory, whereas under the 2011 map, only 6 out of 18 seats had more than a 50% chance of Democratic victory. When asked about the discrepancy between his expected numbers of Democrats and the only 5 seats won by Democrats in Pennsylvania, Professor McCarty testified that Democrats had underperformed due to any of a variety of factors, such as national party funding or the individual candidate. (*Id.* 136:22–139:23)

Professor McCarty then testified to his “many reservations” about McGlone’s visual analysis. He had three main criticisms: (1) McGlone’s visual methods were “necessarily selective” in that they ignored boundary lines that did not support his narrative; (2) were insufficiently quantified; and (3) insufficiently considered the performance of the entire map. (*Id.* 141:8–142:2) Before he moved into his specific criticisms, he added that McGlone overstated the efficacy of packing and cracking in the examples in his report; in particular, if boundary lines are moved so as to increase the PVI in one district in one direction, that change is offset in a

neighboring district with a decrease in PVI. Moving a solidly Democratic district to solidly Republican would require change in PVI of some 18 points, which he said was unlikely; rather, the advantages for the parties would cancel out overall.

Professor McCarty then testified that in his view, the 2011 map showed a “lot of deference” to the 2002 map, and the two would have performed very similarly, although the district boundaries would necessarily have had to change with the loss of a seat. As one example of what he described as the selective focus on the boundary lines McGlone did not like, Professor McCarty described how line-drawers could have tried to crack Democratic voters in the Seventh District, but did not. Professor McCarty concluded that McGlone's unquantified visual analysis “lack[ed] rigor.” (*Id.* 146:23–149:12)

On cross-examination, Professor McCarty explained that his task was to respond to the McGlone report. He made no claim as to whether the 2002 map itself was gerrymandered, only that the 2011 map was not more gerrymandered. He admitted that he had not looked at the data that the legislature had used in making the 2011 report. He acknowledged rounding some of his numbers. (*Id.* 149:18–154:9)

Plaintiffs' counsel thereafter pointed Professor McCarty to a passage in his expert report that, Plaintiffs' counsel implied, overstated or even double-counted the effect of Pennsylvania's loss of one congressional seat. He was then questioned about a

particular passage in his expert report, which stated as follows:

Based on my calculations, the number of expected Democratic seats fell by about 1.4 (from 9.55 to 8.15). If the 2011 map performed similarly to the old map in partisan terms, Democratic candidates would have been expected to win about 9 seats. And, the rest of the decline in expected Democratic seats (.85) is therefore due to the state's loss of a congressional district following the 2010 Census. In short, the estimated increase Republican advantage [sic] is much smaller than that implied by Mr. McGlone's analysis.

(Leg. Def. Ex. 12)<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> This portion of the expert report was not admitted into evidence, and is presented here for explanatory purposes only.

He acknowledged that his report stated under the 2011 map, Pennsylvania had 18 seats and Democrats had a 45.3% average probability of winning, for an expected number of 8.15 seats, and under the 2002 map, Pennsylvania had 19 seats and a 50.3% average probability of winning, for an expected value of 9.55 seats. Plaintiff's counsel then asked whether if the Democrats' probability of winning seats in an 18–

seat map had stayed constant at 50.3%, the expected number of seats would be 9.05, which he said “sound[ed] right.” (N.T. 12/5/17, PM, 7:14) He then agreed that if the 2011 map were equally favorable to Republicans as the 2002 map, Democrats would be expected to win approximately nine seats. (*Id.* 7:23–8:1) He was then confronted with the potential error in how much of the 1.4 decline in seats was due to the loss of a seat in the Census and how much was due to other factors:

Q But with your calculation of the expectations for the 2011 map, Democrats are only expected to win about 8.15 seats?

A That's correct.

Q Now, you then say the rest of the decline in expected Democratic seats, that I assume, meaning from nine to 8.15—because you quantify that as .85—is, therefore, due to the state's loss of a congressional district following the 2010 census, right?

A Yes.

Q Now, I'm confused by that statement because, to me, when you've multiplied .503 times the 18 congressional districts, you've already accounted for the loss of one seat, have you not?

(*Id.* 8:2–8:17) After some pauses and repetition of the calculations, Professor McCarty acknowledged that he was “mistaken.” (*Id.* 10:16) He then testified that he “believe[d] .55 should be the

amount that's attributable to a loss” of a congressional seat. (*Id.* 10:15–19) He then testified that the decline from 9 to 8.15 was attributable to “some other factors.” (*Id.* 10:24–11:1)

He acknowledged that his expected values were far off from the only 5 seats that Democrats had won in the three congressional elections since the map was drawn; when asked why he might have been so far off, and whether Democrats might have underperformed to the very same degree on three occasions, he asserted that his numbers were probabilities, and such underperformance was consistent with the data. He testified that he had not taken into account incumbent advantage in his analysis, but did not disagree with Plaintiffs' counsel that in 2010, immediately prior to the redrawing of the map, the Pennsylvania delegation consisted of 12 Republicans and 7 Democrats. (*Id.* 13:13–17:2)

He admitted that he did not believe that gerrymandering was “intrinsically” good, but in some cases could actually create more competitive districts. When asked about the work of the scholar Nicholas Stephanopoulos and the professional literature asserting that Pennsylvania was one of the most gerrymandered states in the nation, he said that he did not agree with the measures employed, namely the “efficiency gap.” (*Id.* 17:22–26:7)

In response to a question from the panel regarding turnout, Professor McCarty explained that voting is less frequent in midterm elections, and the composition of

the midterm electorate is different than in presidential election years. He testified that he was currently studying voting patterns among low-income voters, whose participation dropped off substantially in midterm elections. (*Id.* 30:19–32:16)

## 2. James G. Gimpel

Professor James G. Gimpel, a political scientist, earned his bachelor's degree at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. He attended graduate school at the University of Toronto before earning his PhD in political science at the University of Chicago. He is a tenured professor at the University of Maryland in College Park, where he has worked for 26 years. His teaching specialties include political behavior and political geography of political behavior. Asked to expand on the areas that he focuses on, he explained that it includes forms of political participation, public opinion attitudes, the distribution of party identification and voters across space, and movement patterns of voters. He added that his work involves GIS, or “geographic informational systems” software, and that he has taught courses in GIS for seven years, and that he is currently teaching a class called “Introduction to GIS” and a class called “GIS for Redistricting.” He stated that he has published several books as well as over 50 shorter publications on these topics. Professor Gimpel was certified by the Court as an expert in election analysis and probability, voting behavior, redistricting, election performance, GIS, and statistics.

Professor Gimpel explained that the U.S. House of Representatives is apportioned by population, with each Representative representing a district made up of approximately 710,000 constituents. After each decennial census the districts are reapportioned based on any population changes, in order to comply with a “pretty strict equal population” requirement. (N.T. 12/6/17, PM, 5:20–6:2) He explained that the reapportionment task has “traditionally fallen in the hands of state legislatures.” The 2010 census revealed that the western part of Pennsylvania had experienced a population loss, and thus Pennsylvania as a whole needed to transition from 19 to 18 districts. Professor Gimpel noted that this was the case even though the population loss was much less than the size of a district. The loss was of about 100,000 people around the Allegheny County area, leaving about 500–600,000 people from the lost district that had to be “parceled out across the state.” (*Id.* 6:2–7:13)

Asked about what ought to guide reapportionment efforts, Professor Gimpel stated that the criteria identified by Plaintiffs' expert Daniel McGlone in the report he submitted were important, but McGlone had omitted other important criteria. He highlighted consistency with past districts, equal population, communities of interest, political balance between parties, and incumbency protection in particular. With regard to communities of interest, Professor Gimpel noted that this is not simply a matter of avoiding splitting counties, but also keeping together other types of communities. (*Id.* 7:14–

8:13) Because apportionment requires equal population, political geography is central to how the lines must be drawn—“because we must draw the lines around people, not rocks and trees, population settlement is critical,” he said. (Id. 8:20–21)

With regard to the goal of drawing “compact” district lines, Professor Gimpel commented that achieving “territorial density of the district” and “a small perimeter” are “desirable.” He explained that this “enhances accessibility” and might help maintain communities of interest.” (Id. 9:5–10) However, he emphasized that any measure of compactness “must be judged with other criteria in mind,” and that it is “not helpful on its own.” He did not see how “compactness alone [could] tell you another about the intent of the mapmaker,” because it “depends on how population has settled.” (Id. 10:10–13) A very compact shape—such as a circle—could be moved around the map to create a major partisan advantage, for example. He pointed to Defense Exhibit 10 to illustrate this point—this figure shows a map of a part of Western Pennsylvania with hypothetical districts marked out as spheres, demonstrating that by taking the most compact shape possible and shifting it around the map can create very different partisan outcomes. The shape of the district, he emphasized over and over, “does not tell you much,” rather, “you must look at the population underlying the shape.” (Id. 12:19–21) Asked about the relationship between compactness and competitiveness of a district, Professor Gimpel said, “I’m not sure there is a relationship.” (Id. 17:2) It is

entirely possible to use a compact shape to obtain a competitive result, but might also be necessary to draw an odd looking district to achieve competitiveness.

Professor Gimpel explained that the primary reason for the traditional redistricting criteria of minimizing split municipalities and counties is that they have governments of their own, and it is best not to split the government units among districts. He noted that the 2011 map had a “modest reduction” in county splits and a “more noticeable reduction” in municipality splits, as compared with the 2002 map. (Id. 14:11–13) He said that the equal population requirement creates a lot of difficulty in avoiding split municipalities and counties, especially when dealing with a loss of a district, and a statewide “ripple effect” of moving boundaries. (Id. 7:8) Overall, redistricting after losing a seat is a “complicated balancing act.” (Id. 15:12)

Asked about the impact of the equal population requirement on map drawing, Professor Gimpel explained this as a “very strict” and “preeminent” criterion, and thus it is where the map makers “have to start.” (Id. 17:20–25) It is not easy to achieve, he said, especially in the fact of a lost district. Because Pennsylvania lost a district between the 2002 and the 2011 map, and only lost 100,000 people, all of the other district boundaries had to be adjusted with all of the leftover individuals from the lost district being parceled out. This is why we see southward modification of the boundaries on the 2011 map. He described this whole process as “a chain reaction,”



that is, “an extremely complicated series of adjustments.” (*Id.* 19:14–16) Adding to the complexity, map makers must shift people “in chunks,” such as voting precincts, blocks, or cells, not just individuals. Because they end up moving sometimes 1,000 people at a time, this makes it even more complicated, as each move seriously alters the population of both districts impacted by the move. (*Id.* 19:21–20:10)

Professor Gimpel said that past district lines play an important role in redistricting efforts. “No map maker that I’ve ever seen starts with a clean slate,” he said; “[e]very map maker starts with the prior districts in place.” (*Id.* 20:14–17) The presumption, he explained, is to move people as little as possible from the prior district formulations. The reason for this is to promote continuity. Continuity is very good, in Professor Gimpel’s view, and moving people out of their prior districts can be bad—in particular, evidence shows that when voters are moved, they are less likely to participate in elections. (*Id.* 20:19–21:4)

With respect to incumbency protection, Professor Gimpel cited to a long history of these efforts, noting that incumbency is a very important part of representation. In particular, incumbents develop expertise in certain areas of representation over time, which is a serious benefit to their districts. In addition, seniority in Congress is very important to the congressional committee system. Senior members have acquired a good deal of knowledge in various areas, they are likely to have earned respect within the congressional chamber, and they are

likely to be have a chance to become a leader in the congressional chamber. All of these features of incumbency “redound to the benefit of constituents back home in Pennsylvania.” (*Id.* 21:7–22:13)

Professor Gimpel then discussed the political geography of Pennsylvania. There are two major concentrations population, he explained, around Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. There are also some additional significant population centers throughout the middle of the state. It is often easier to draw more compact districts in denser areas. Population density, he explained, “seems to be associated with a Democratic voting bloc, and increasingly so with time.” (*Id.* 23:2–3) Thus Allegheny county and Southeastern Pennsylvania—the areas around Pittsburgh and Philadelphia—are the most Democratic-leaning areas in the state. (*Id.* 23:14–17) He added that in Pennsylvania, people register by political party, and there is a “pretty strong correlation” between party registration and election performance, though there remains substantial deviation at times. (*Id.* 24:7–15) This deviation exists because “voters are thoughtful,” and are “not prisoners of their party ID.” (*Id.* 24:15–22) Professor Gimpel observed that based on available data, it appears that if every voter voted in accordance with his or her party registration, Democrats would win nine seats across Pennsylvania. (*Id.* 28:6–10)

Commenting on Plaintiff’s Expert Witness Daniel McGlone’s “visual test,” Professor Gimpel stated that McGlone was “hasty” in reaching the conclusion that partisan intent was used in creating the 2011 map;

he observed that if partisan intent was in fact used, it was not used well—that the 2011 map is “incompetent” as a partisan gerrymander in that it does not achieve nearly as strong partisan results as might have been possible. (*Id.* 31:22–32–8) Mr. McGlone, he said, did not consider the alternative explanations for how the map was drawn, and reached a hasty and unreasonable conclusion that it was the result of partisan intent. (*Id.* 32:15–33:7)

## VI. Findings of Fact

### A. Credibility of Witnesses

I found all of the Plaintiffs who gave live testimony at the trial to be completely credible. They identified their voting history and their political preferences in a mature way and did not attempt to exaggerate and embellish their testimony.

As to the Plaintiffs whose testimony was presented by deposition, they were of course not observed in the Courtroom, but I accept their testimony as well as being consistent with the Plaintiffs who testified at the trial. There was no cross examination requiring any reduced weight to their testimony.

Senator Dinniman was completely creditable. His recollection was very good about the circumstances of the adoption of the 2011 map, which is the principal fact issue in this case. He testified in significant detail about the events that took place and his recollection, including on cross examination, was strong. Indeed, on cross examination he continued his same

consistent narrative. Although this Court need not consider any political intent in its primary legal analysis, Senator Dinniman's testimony about the process that was used, without regard to political affiliations or parties' intent, is accurate and is entitled to significant weight in the analysis of this case.

As to the other two state congressmen who presented testimony by deposition, Representative Vitali and Senator Leach, I do not have any reason to disbelieve their testimony from the deposition transcripts. I find them credible and give weight to their testimony on issues other than dealing with political affiliation or intent.

The testimony of the three state legislators was not contradicted by any other witness. Their testimony established that the 2011 map was enacted by the state Senate without any hearings, without public notice, without advance publication, and as a result the public had no input, and no opportunity for input.

Plaintiffs' expert witness Hanna accurately described her experience in the nascent discipline of image analysis and processing, which provided an appropriate fit for the issues in this case. For the most part she answered questions directly, although on a few occasions she tended to expand her answer beyond what was necessary. She made clear that her sympathies rested with the Plaintiffs, as a matter of political philosophy, over and above the fact that she was to testify as an expert for the Plaintiffs. However, I found her general testimony, in terms of how the maps of the different



congressional districts were drawn, to be of value. She testified truthfully about the facts of which she had knowledge, despite her interest in the outcome of the case.

Plaintiffs' expert Daniel McGlone has significant expertise in the topic of Geographic Imaging Software (GIS), which is a relatively new discipline. He testified accurately about his review of the "mapping" of the Pennsylvania congressional districts following the 2010 census. Although Mr. McGlone does not have a Ph.D., and has no prior experience as an expert, this is a brand new field and I doubt that there are very many people in the United States who have similar expertise. Also, this is not a scientific field for which advanced degrees and peer publications are necessary. Mr. McGlone testified with candor, he recognized areas where he could give opinions based on experience and personal knowledge, and was respectful of political traditions, the contentions of the defendants, and generally came across as an outstanding expert witness. His testimony about the redistricting of the map itself, without any consideration of intent, deserves great weight.

As to the testimony of William Schaller and Erik Arneson, their testimony was taken by depositions and portions were introduced by both Plaintiffs and Defendants. I have summarized their testimony without significant indication whether the testimony was introduced by the Plaintiffs or the Defendants. However, I note that both witnesses seemed to give much more detailed answers to the questions posed

by Legislative Defendants' counsel than those posed by Plaintiffs' counsel. Although I have no reason to find that either witness testified untruthfully, the relative lack of responsiveness to questions by Plaintiffs warrants caution with respect to their testimony in response to Legislative Defendants' questions. Nevertheless, Mr. Schaller made a notable admission that the redistricting process was highly influenced by the Republican legislators. (Schaller Dep. 76:16; 77:5)

Mr. Arneson expanded his factual recollection significantly when questioned by Defendants' counsel compared to the very sparse testimony he gave to Plaintiffs' counsel. For this reason, I am inclined to give very low weight to his testimony.

Concerning Defendants' expert Dr. Nolan McCarty, he has outstanding credentials and his demeanor and responsiveness to questions was exceptional. Nonetheless, as he himself stated, his retention in this case was solely to express criticism of the methodology employed in the McGlone report. As noted in the summary of Dr. McCarty's testimony above, Plaintiffs' counsel demonstrated significant inaccuracy in Dr. McCarty's report during his cross-examination. Furthermore, some of the reasons and explanations he gave for the 2011 redistricting results are at odds with the "plain view" of the Pennsylvania map, which is described in this memorandum. For these reasons, I give low weight to Dr. McCarty's testimony.

As to Defendants' expert Professor James Gimpel, he also brought to the Court significant expertise in the districting practices, significant publications and prior experience testifying as an expert. Nonetheless, his criticism of the Plaintiffs' factual evidence, and particularly his testimony regarding Ms. Hanna and Mr. McGlone, has failed to persuade me that the weight which I ascribe to those witnesses should be changed. Professor Gimpel was very general in a lot of his answers. Further, as the recorded testimony will show, but the written testimony will not, he raised his voice and started shouting on a number of occasions when his conclusions were under attack during cross examination. This is highly unusual behavior by an experienced expert, and warrants the Court's giving low weight to all of his testimony.

## **B. Intent**

Although I do not believe that “intent” should be a relevant or necessary element of a claim of alleged gerrymandering, for reasons stated in this memorandum, it is quite possible that the other members of this Court, or a reviewing Court, will conclude that intent is relevant. For these reasons, I will set forth below my findings on this issue in the event intent is to be considered.

As a general matter, Plaintiffs have shown, by clear and convincing evidence, that the intent of the majority of the Pennsylvania legislature—i.e. members of the Republican Party in control, in particular Speaker Turzai, and President Scarnati, and the staff under their direction who were preparing the

maps—was to draw congressional districts, as much as possible, by the “packing and cracking” techniques, to ensure the districts that were created were highly likely, if not virtually guaranteed, to result in a larger number of Republican congressmen being elected than Democratic congressmen.

This intent, and purpose, was admitted by Mr. Schaller, who had significant responsibilities to act on behalf of the Republican leadership in the Republican Caucus. He admitted that the “Republican stakeholders,” i.e., Republican state senators and Republican state representatives, made clear their desire that districts be created so that more Republicans than Democrats would be elected. See supra, (Schaller Dep. 49:18–24; 16:19–22; 76:16–77:5)

It appears from the testimony that Mr. John Memmi added significant input into this process. Plaintiffs clearly knew of Mr. Memmi's involvement because he, and his role in making the map, are specifically mentioned in the Legislative Journal for December 14, 2011. (Pl.'s Exh. 29, 1406; 1410). Plaintiffs moved this exhibit into evidence at the close of the testimony. Chief Judge Smith requested Plaintiffs' counsel to supply detailed page numbers for the “relevant” parts of this lengthy exhibit, but as far as the trial record shows, Plaintiffs never did so. It is inexplicable that with this information about Mr. Memmi's involvement, Plaintiffs did not take his deposition. Plaintiffs do not mention Exhibit P–29 in their post-trial brief; they do note the “irony” of Mr.

Memmi being retained by defense counsel as a “consultant,” and highlight defendants' collective failure to present his perspective on how the map was drawn. Although Legislative Defendants obviously knew of Mr. Memmi's involvement, they did not list him on their witness list, ECF 164, but Mr. Arneson did mention him at times. In view of these facts concerning Mr. Memmi, I cannot draw any inferences from either party's failure to introduce any testimony by him.

Mr. McGlone's testimony established partisan intent by clear and convincing evidence. He detailed, for nearly every congressional district in Pennsylvania, significant, undisputed, and accurate data showing that the “packing and cracking” technique was effectuated in the 2011 map. This itself is sufficient for the showing of intent by clear and convincing evidence.

One item of very persuasive proof of intent from Mr. McGlone's direct testimony bears particular emphasis: while he was on the witness stand, he drew on the computer screen facing him, for all the courtroom to see, two instances where the redistricting map strictly followed the division of voters between the Republican and Democrats in the Seventh and Thirteenth Congressional Districts. (N.T. 12/4/17, AM, 185:16–197:12)

McGlone's “block-by-block” tracing of the redistricting of both of these congressional districts, from actual election data, showed specific results of votes split between Republicans and Democrats. This testimony proved the ability of contemporary

digital technology, including proprietary but available GIS software, to compose congressional districts which will give a high degree of probability along with a high degree of reliability of results favoring voters of one political persuasion versus the other in specific congressional districts.

The intent to favor Republican leaning districts was also shown by the testimony of the three state legislators: Senator Dinniman, Representative Vitali, and Senator Leach.

In addition, Plaintiffs introduced into evidence a number of documents which tend to prove the intent or purpose of a Republican-dominated congressional delegation from Pennsylvania.

Although it can be argued that Plaintiffs may have been able to secure some of the testimony from the depositions of speaker Turzai and President Scarnati, they did not do so. The record shows the Plaintiffs did not have the highly incriminating exhibits until they were made available just before trial. Mr. McGlone was able to review these documents and he relied on them in his testimony.

Notwithstanding this, after the Plaintiffs had rested, Legislative Defendants certainly had the opportunity to call Speaker Turzai and President Scarnati as their own witnesses, to refute this evidence, but they did not do so. Thus, I rely to some extent on adverse inferences available from this omission.

## VII. Supreme Court Case Summary—Non-Election Clause Decisions

### A. Baker v. Carr, 369 U.S. 186, 82 S.Ct. 691, 7 L.Ed.2d 663 (1962)

Baker v. Carr addressed a 1901 Tennessee apportionment statute that continued in operation into 1961, without any redistricting being undertaken, despite the fact that the population of eligible voters in the state more than quadrupled over that six decade span. Baker v. Carr, 369 U.S. 186, 82 S.Ct. 691, 7 L.Ed.2d 663 (1962). As a result, the statute permitted drastic differences in the numbers of constituents represented by each of the state's elected officials. Plaintiffs challenged the statute as violating their Fourteenth Amendment equal protection rights “by virtue of the debasement of their votes.” Id. at 194, 82 S.Ct. 691. The three-judge district court dismissed the case as non-justiciable. Id. at 197, 82 S.Ct. 691. The Supreme Court reversed, holding that the Plaintiffs had pled a justiciable cause of action upon which they would be entitled to relief; that the district court had subject matter jurisdiction; and that Plaintiffs had standing to bring the suit. The case was remanded for a trial. Id. at 197–98, 82 S.Ct. 691. Justices Frankfurter and Harlan dissented.

The Court articulated Plaintiffs' Constitutional claim as follows: “Their constitutional claim is, in substance, that the 1901 statute constitutes arbitrary and capricious state action, offensive to the Fourteenth Amendment in its irrational disregard of the standard of apportionment

prescribed by the State's Constitution or of any standard, effecting a gross disproportion of representation to voting population.” Id. at 705, 82 S.Ct. 691. While the Court did not address the merits of this claim, it did provide a very careful analysis of the justiciability of Plaintiffs' theory. The Court explained that the District Court had wrongly understood Supreme Court precedent as requiring any Constitutional challenge to a legislative apportionment plan to be classified as a nonjusticiable political question. The Court rejected that interpretation of its precedent, and ultimately held “that this challenge to an apportionment presents no nonjusticiable ‘political question.’” Id. at 209, 82 S.Ct. 691.

The Court engaged in a lengthy review of case law addressing nonjusticiable political questions in order to demonstrate that the issue presented here did not implicate that doctrine. The Court articulated six categories of political questions, each of which “has one or more elements which identify it as essentially a function of the separation of powers”:

Prominent on the surface of any case held to involve a political question is found a textually demonstrable constitutional commitment of the issue to a coordinate political department; or a lack of judicially discoverable and manageable standards for resolving it; or the impossibility of deciding without an

initial policy determination of a kind clearly for nonjudicial discretion; or the impossibility of a court's undertaking independent resolution without expressing lack of the respect due coordinate branches of government; or an unusual need for unquestioning adherence to a political decision already made; or the potentiality of embarrassment from multifarious pronouncements by various departments on one question.

Id. at 217, 82 S.Ct. 691. The opinion identifies several areas of law that have been found to implicate the political question doctrine, including foreign relations, “[d]ates of duration of hostilities,” “[v]alidity of enactments,” “[t]he status of Indian tribes,” and the Guaranty Clause. Id. at 210, 211–225, 82 S.Ct. 691. The Court concluded that the Equal Protection challenge brought by Plaintiffs did not implicate any of the defining features of claims which have been determined to present political questions:

The question here is the consistency of state action with the Federal Constitution. We have no question decided, or to be decided, by a political branch of government coequal with

this Court. Nor do we risk embarrassment of our government abroad, or grave disturbance at home if we take issue with Tennessee as to the constitutionality of her action here challenged. Nor need the appellants, in order to succeed in this action, ask the Court to enter upon policy determinations for which judicially manageable standards are lacking. Judicial standards under the Equal Protection Clause are well developed and familiar, and it has been open to courts since the enactment of the Fourteenth Amendment to determine, if on the particular facts they must, that discrimination reflects no policy, but simply arbitrary and capricious action.

Id. at 226, 82 S.Ct. 691. The Court gave special and separate attention to the potential that the claim before the Court was nonjusticiable in the same way as claims brought under the Guaranty Clause. This contention was rejected given the distinctiveness of the Equal Protection claim as compared with a hypothetical similar claim that might have been brought under the Guaranty Clause. Id. at 227–29, 82 S.Ct. 691.



**B. Gaffney v. Cummings, 412 U.S. 735, 93 S.Ct. 2321, 37 L.Ed.2d 298 (1973)**

In Gaffney, the Supreme Court considered whether a Connecticut districting plan for its own state legislature was unconstitutional for two reasons: first, whether it violated the Equal Protection Clause because the state house and senate districts varied too greatly in population, and second, whether it was unconstitutional under the Fourteenth Amendment “where its purpose [was] to provide districts that would achieve ‘political fairness’ between the political parties.” Gaffney v. Cummings, 412 U.S. 735, 736, 93 S.Ct. 2321. The maximum population deviation of the state Senate map—a measure of the population difference of the largest and smallest districts—was 1.81%, whereas the state house map had a maximum population deviation of 7.83%. Id. at 737, 93 S.Ct. 2321. After a trial, a three-judge panel of the district court invalidated the map.

A six-justice majority of the Supreme Court held that this showing of numerical deviations from population equality “failed to make out a prima facie violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.” Id. at 741, 93 S.Ct. 2321. The majority acknowledged that those creating district maps had to consider other factors besides perfect numerical equality, and warned that the goal “of fair and effective representation” would not be “furthered by making the standards of reapportionment so difficult to satisfy that the reapportionment task is recurrently removed from legislative hands and performed by federal courts

which themselves must make the political decisions necessary to formulate a plan or accept those made by reapportionment plaintiffs.” Id. at 749, 93 S.Ct. 2321.

The final section of the majority opinion addressed the “political fairness principle” whereby the drawers of the map had attempted to approximate “the statewide political strengths of the Democratic and Republican Parties.” Id. at 752, 93 S.Ct. 2321. The Supreme Court held that this did not violate the Fourteenth Amendment, and added in a footnote that “compactness” and “attractiveness” were not constitutionally required of districts. Id. at 752 n.18, 93 S.Ct. 2321. The majority concluded that “[p]olitics and political considerations are inseparable from districting and apportionment ... [t]he reality is that districting inevitably has and is intended to have substantial political consequences.” Id. at 753, 93 S.Ct. 2321.

**C. Davis v. Bandemer, 478 U.S. 109, 106 S.Ct. 2797, 92 L.Ed.2d 85 (1986)**

In Davis v. Bandemer, the Supreme Court reviewed a decision by a three-judge district court in the Southern District of Indiana which held unconstitutional Indiana reapportionment plans from 1981. 478 U.S. 109, 115–118, 106 S.Ct. 2797, 92 L.Ed.2d 85 (1986). The three-judge district court had stated that any reapportionment statute “which purposely inhibits or prevents proportional representation cannot be tolerated,” and held that because the Indiana plans were intentionally designed to disproportionately favor Republicans they violated the Equal Protection Clause of

the Fourteenth Amendment. [Id.](#) at 117, 106 S.Ct. 2797. Although the decision was reversed, a majority of the Court agreed that partisan gerrymandering claims are indeed justiciable under the Equal Protection Clause. There was, however, no majority agreement on what the standard should be for evaluating such a claim. [Bandemer](#), 478 U.S. at 121–126, 106 S.Ct. 2797.

Justice White, writing for a six-Justice majority, relied heavily on the [Baker v. Carr](#) justiciability holding. He applied the same principles of analysis that were applied there in reaching the same conclusion reached with respect to the subject of numeric proportionality of voting districts: the legitimacy of partisan gerrymandering under the Equal Protection Clause represents a justiciable issue.

Disposition of this question does not involve us in a matter more properly decided by a coequal branch of our Government. There is no risk of foreign or domestic disturbance, and in light of our cases since [Baker](#) we are not persuaded that there are no judicially discernible and manageable standards by which political gerrymander cases are to be decided.

[Id.](#) at 123, 106 S.Ct. 2797.

The Court explained that substantive distinctions between these types of claims and other types of gerrymandering claims arising under the Equal Protection Clause that have been approved of, may weigh on how the claim should be evaluated, but not on the threshold issue of whether it can be evaluated at all: “[t]hat the characteristics of the complaining group are not immutable or that the group has not been subject to the same historical stigma may be relevant to the manner in which the case is adjudicated, but these differences do not justify a refusal to entertain such a case.” [Id.](#) at 125, 106 S.Ct. 2797.

Four Justices agreed on the specific reasoning to reverse the district court that “a threshold showing of discriminatory vote dilution is required for a prima facie case of an equal protection violation,” and that showing was not made in this case. [Id.](#) at 143, 106 S.Ct. 2797. Justice O'Connor, joined by Chief Justice Burger and Justice Rehnquist, dissented. This group would have held partisan gerrymandering claims to raise nonjusticiable political questions. [Id.](#) at 144, 106 S.Ct. 2797. She wrote that “the legislative business of apportionment is fundamentally a political affair,” and that “[t]o turn these matters over to the federal judiciary is to inject the courts into the most heated partisan issues.” [Id.](#) at 145, 106 S.Ct. 2797. Justice O'Connor was persuaded that recognizing a justiciable cause of action for partisan gerrymandering claims under the Equal Protection Clause was both impractical and inappropriate: “The Equal Protection Clause does not supply judicially manageable standards for



resolving purely political gerrymandering claims, and no group right to an equal share of political power was ever intended by the Framers of the Fourteenth Amendment.” Id. at 147, 106 S.Ct. 2797. She explained that the standard proposed by the plurality reflected her general prediction that any attempt to develop standards by which to judge a partisan gerrymander would inevitably result in “a drift towards proportional representation.” Id. at 158, 106 S.Ct. 2797. “This preference for proportionality is in serious tension with essential features of state legislative elections,” and actually undermines “the legitimacy of districting itself” as compared with an at-large election scheme. Id. at 159, 106 S.Ct. 2797. Ultimately, because the Fourteenth Amendment was not intended to protect against partisan intent in districting, because of the difficulty in developing standards to evaluate claims of partisan gerrymandering, and because of the impropriety of the judiciary meddling in this heavily political realm, the dissenting three Justices would have held these claims to be nonjusticiable.

The members of the Court who joined the justiciability majority splintered when it came to defining the standard by which partisan gerrymandering claims should be evaluated. Justice White wrote for a four-Justice plurality, joined by Justices Brennan, Marshall, and Blackmun. This group would have held that intent to discriminate, along with discriminatory effect, must be proven. Id. at 127, 106 S.Ct. 2797. They would have permitted some amount of partisan intent, and required a showing of a substantial disadvantage to a particular group of voters,

in terms of their opportunity to influence the political process, in order to establish an Equal Protection Violation:

“[A]n equal protection violation may be found only where the electoral system substantially disadvantages certain voters in their opportunity to influence the political process effectively. In this context, such a finding of unconstitutionality must be supported by evidence of continued frustration of the will of a majority of the voters or effective denial to a minority of voters of a fair chance to influence the political process.”

Id. at 133, 106 S.Ct. 2797.

Justice Powell, joined by Justice Stevens, joined in the justiciability holding, however dissented, and proposed a separate and distinct standard from that proposed by the four Justice plurality. Justice Powell's opinion endorsed the plurality's requirement that a plaintiff should be required to prove discriminatory intent and effect. However, he would have added a “totality-of-the-circumstances” test evaluating the following factors: the shapes of voting districts; adherence to established political subdivision boundaries; the nature of the legislative procedures by which the apportionment law was adopted; and legislative history reflecting contemporaneous legislative goals. Id. at 162, 173, 106 S.Ct. 2797. Under this proposal, “[t]o make out a case of unconstitutional partisan gerrymandering, the plaintiff should be required to offer proof concerning these factors ... as well as evidence concerning population disparities

and statistics tending to show vote dilution. No one factor should be dispositive.” [Id.](#) at 173, 106 S.Ct. 2797. Ultimately, unconstitutional gerrymandering would be found to exist where “the boundaries of the voting districts have been distorted deliberately and arbitrarily to achieve illegitimate ends.” [Id.](#) at 165, 106 S.Ct. 2797.

Justice Powell's opinion attached maps of the state showing what he characterized as irregular district shapes. [Id.](#) at 184, 106 S.Ct. 2797. Looking at those maps compared to the maps of the present case, those attached by Justice Powell look quite normal.

**[D. \*Burdick v. Takushi\*, 504 U.S. 428, 112 S.Ct. 2059, 119 L.Ed.2d 245 \(1992\)](#)**

[Burdick](#), which was an appeal from the Ninth Circuit rather than a three-judge panel, concerned whether Hawaii's ban on write-in candidates violated the First and Fourteenth Amendment rights of voters. A six-justice majority upheld the ban.

The majority mentioned the Elections Clause in passing as a source of authority for states to regulate election procedures for their congressional representatives: “[t]he Constitution provides that States may prescribe ‘[t]he Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives,’ [Art. I, § 4, cl. 1](#), and the Court therefore has recognized that States retain the power to regulate their own elections.” [Burdick](#), 504 U.S. at 433, 112 S.Ct. 2059. Accordingly, constitutional law “compel[led] the conclusion that government must play an active role in

structuring elections” so that elections are to be “fair and honest” and “some sort of order, rather than chaos, is to accompany the democratic processes.” [Id.](#) (quotations and citations omitted)

The majority specifically rejected the petitioner's argument that any law burdening the right to vote must necessarily be subject to strict scrutiny. [Id.](#) at 432, 112 S.Ct. 2059. Building on the earlier analysis contained in [Anderson v. Celebrezze](#), 460 U.S. 780, 103 S.Ct. 1564, 75 L.Ed.2d 547 (1983), the majority developed a balancing test that was “more flexible” than strict scrutiny, whereby a court must weigh

the character and magnitude of the asserted injury to the rights protected by the First and Fourteenth Amendments that the plaintiff seeks to vindicate against the precise interests put forward by the State as justifications for the burden imposed by its rule, taking into consideration the extent to which those interests make it necessary to burden the plaintiff's rights.... When those rights are subjected to “severe” restrictions, the regulation must be narrowly drawn to advance a state interest of compelling importance. But when a state election law provision imposes only reasonable,

nondiscriminatory restrictions upon the First and Fourteenth Amendment rights of voters, the State's important regulatory interests are generally sufficient to justify the restrictions.

Id. at 434, 112 S.Ct. 2059 (internal quotations and citations omitted).

Justice Kennedy, joined by two other dissenting justices, accused the majority of “ignor[ing] the inevitable and significant burden a write-in ban imposes upon some individual voters by preventing them from exercising their right to vote in a meaningful manner.” Burdick v. Takushi, 504 U.S. 428, 448, 112 S.Ct. 2059, 119 L.Ed.2d 245 (1992) (Kennedy, J., dissenting). Because the write-in ban, considered alongside Hawaii's ballot access laws, imposed a significant burden on those seeking to write in candidates, the dissent would have required a state to “put forward the state interests which justify the burden” for a court then to assess. Id. However, the dissent declined to specify the necessary level of scrutiny because, in its view, Hawaii had “failed to justify the write-in ban under any level of scrutiny.” Id.

**E. League of United Latin Am. Citizens v. Perry, 548 U.S. 399, 126 S.Ct. 2594, 165 L.Ed.2d 609 (2006)**

League of United Latin Am. Citizens v. Perry (“LULAC”) affirmed most holdings of a decision from a three-judge district

court, rejecting Plaintiffs' theory that a mid-decade legislative redrawing of the district lines in Texas necessarily constituted an unconstitutional partisan gerrymander under the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.<sup>7</sup> 548 U.S. 399, 126 S.Ct. 2594, 165 L.Ed.2d 609 (2006). Justice Kennedy, writing for the Court, reflected on the impact of Vieth, noting that “[a] plurality of the Court ... would have held [political gerrymandering] challenges to be nonjusticiable political questions, but a majority declined to do so,” and a majority of the Court in LULAC chose not to “revisit the justiciability holding [from Vieth].” Id. at 414, 126 S.Ct. 2594. Justice Kennedy, writing alone, expressed that he was unpersuaded that the Texas legislature's decision to replace a court-drawn redistricting plan mid-decade, when it was not required to do so, was sufficient evidence to conclude that the resulting plan must be an unconstitutional partisan gerrymander under the First Amendment or the Equal Protection Clause. Id. at 416–20, 126 S.Ct. 2594.

<sup>7</sup> LULAC also considered challenges to the 2003 Texas redistricting under the Voting Rights Act, and as an unconstitutional racial gerrymander.

Justice Kennedy took issue with the Plaintiffs' theory about the necessary implications of a mid-decade legislative action redrawing Texas's district lines, as well as with Plaintiffs' suggestion that the Court focus exclusively on this one piece of evidence. On the first point, he expressed skepticism of Plaintiffs' claim that a court could conclude, based on the timing of the changes to the map, that the sole intent

in making those changes was necessarily to gain partisan advantage. He further observed that “[t]he legislature does seem to have decided to redistrict with the sole purpose of achieving a Republican congressional majority, but partisan aims did not guide every line it drew,” noting that “the contours of some contested district lines were drawn based on more mundane and local interests,” and “a number of line-drawing requests by Democratic state legislators were honored.” *Id.* at 417–18, 126 S.Ct. 2594. He went on to emphasize that “[e]valuating the legality of acts arising out of mixed motives can be complex, and affixing a single label to those acts can be hazardous, even when the actor is an individual performing a discrete act. When the actor is a legislature and the act is a composite of manifold choices, the task can be even more daunting.” *Id.* at 418, 126 S.Ct. 2594.

With respect to Plaintiffs' narrowing of the perspective to this singular point—the timing of the redraw—Justice Kennedy criticized this theory for obscuring the most important feature of an unconstitutional partisan gerrymander: “[the] burden, as measured by a reliable standard, on the complainants' representational rights.” *Id.* He cited to precedent endorsing the point of view that some partisan intent is permitted in the act of drawing district lines, so long as it does not predominate or dictate the outcome. *Id.* Justice Kennedy also highlighted the fact that the proposed test would surely capture some constitutionally legitimate redistricting plans, while leaving out some clearly suspect ones. *Id.* at 419.

Justice Stevens, writing also on behalf of Justice Breyer, concurred in part and dissented in part. He would hold that where there is sufficient evidence to conclude that a redistricting plan was designed for the sole purpose of advantaging a particular political group, the plan is unconstitutional under both the Fourteenth Amendment's prohibition against invidious discrimination, and the First Amendment's protection of citizens from official retaliation based on their political affiliation, which taken together “reflect the fundamental duty of the sovereign to govern impartially.” *Id.* at 461–62, 126 S.Ct. 2594.

Justice Stevens, writing alone on this point, articulated a complete standard for evaluating partisan gerrymandering claims. He would have held that a plaintiff should have to prove that he is either a candidate or a voter who resided in the challenged district, and should be required to prove both improper purpose and effect. *Id.* at 475, 126 S.Ct. 2594. The standard for evaluating purpose, he would have held, should be imported from the racial gerrymandering context: a plaintiff must show that neutral districting criteria was subordinated to political considerations and that the predominant motive of the redistricting was to maximize one party's power. *Id.* The standard for evaluating effects would require a plaintiff to demonstrate three facts: (1) her candidate of choice was elected under the old plan; (2) her residence is now in a district where it can be safely assumed that the opposite party will win; (3) her new



district is less compact than the old district.  
[Id.](#) at 475–76, 126 S.Ct. 2594.

**F. [Harris v. Arizona Indep. Redistricting Comm'n](#), — U.S. —, 136 S.Ct. 1301, 194 L.Ed.2d 497 (2016)**

Plaintiffs, Arizona voters, attacked a state districting map adopted by an independent redistricting commission on the grounds that the districts created were “insufficiently equal in population” in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment. [Harris v. Arizona Indep. Redistricting Comm'n](#), — U.S. —, 136 S.Ct. 1301, 1306, 194 L.Ed.2d 497 (2016). The initial grid-like plan considered by the commission “produced a maximum population deviation (calculated as the difference between the most populated and least populated district) of 4.07%.” [Id.](#) After altering some district lines to account for factors like geographic features and locality boundaries—and, critically, to comply with the Voting Rights Act—the commission produced a map, the subject of the lawsuit, with an 8.8% population deviation. [Id.](#) A split three-judge district court panel entered judgment for the defendants.

The Supreme Court unanimously held that “those attacking a state-approved plan must show that it is more probable than not that a deviation of less than 10% reflects the predominance of illegitimate reapportionment factors rather than ... legitimate considerations.” [Id.](#) at 1307 (quotation omitted). The Court spent substantial time reviewing the record evidence, particularly with respect to attempts to comply with the Voting Rights

Act, which supported the district court majority's finding that “the population deviations were primarily a result of good-faith efforts to comply with the Voting Rights Act [ ] even though partisanship played some role.” [Id.](#) at 1309 (quoting [Harris v. Arizona Indep. Redistricting Comm'n](#), 993 F.Supp.2d 1042, 1046 (D. Ariz. 2014)). Accordingly, because the plaintiffs “ha[d] not shown that it was more probable than not that illegitimate considerations were the predominant motivation behind the plan's deviations from mathematically equal district populations,” which were under 10%, their Equal Protection challenge failed. [Id.](#) The Court rejected a number of other arguments, including that the boundaries reflected “unreasonable use of partisan considerations” for lack of record evidence that partisan considerations, rather than the need to comply with the Voting Rights Act, might have left Democratic-leaning districts underpopulated. [Id.](#)

**G. [Vieth v. Jubelirer](#), 541 U.S. 267, 124 S.Ct. 1769, 158 L.Ed.2d 546 (2004)**

The Scalia plurality opinion in [Vieth](#) acknowledged that in [Davis v. Bandemer](#), [supra](#), a six justice majority held that gerrymandering claims were justiciable. As demonstrated by [Bandemer](#) itself, and subsequent decisions, in the intervening 18 years, no judicially-discoverable and manageable standard had been found controlling by a majority of the Supreme Court. As Justice Scalia noted, “Laws promulgated by the Legislative Branch can be inconsistent, illogical, and ad

hoc; law pronounced by the courts must be principled, rational, and based upon reasoned distinctions.” [Id.](#) at 278, 124 S.Ct. 1769.

The Scalia plurality characterized the [Bandemer](#) plurality, which attempted to articulate a standard as follows:

The plurality concluded that a political gerrymandering claim could succeed only where plaintiff showed “both intentional discrimination against an identifiable political group and actual discriminatory effect on that group.”

The Plaintiffs in [Vieth](#) articulated a somewhat different standard which Justice Scalia, quoting from the Plaintiffs' brief, summarized as:

[a] plaintiff must “show that the mapmakers acted with a predominant intent to achieve partisan advantage” which can be shown “by direct evidence or by circumstantial evidence that other neutral and legitimate redistricting criteria were subordinated to the goal of achieving partisan advantage.”

[Id.](#) at 285, 124 S.Ct. 1769.

Justice Scalia went on to criticize the concepts of “partisan intent” and “predominant intent” as being inherently impossible for judicial review.

He then noted that an alternative standard would focus on the “effect” of the gerrymander and whether that analysis would lead to a better and more justiciable

result, as had been suggested by the plurality in [Bandemer](#), which Justice Scalia summarized as follows:

The requisite effect is established when “(1) the plaintiffs shows that the district systematically ‘pack’ and ‘crack’ the rival party's voters, and (2) the court's examination of the ‘totality of circumstances’ confirms that the map can thwart the plaintiffs' ability to translate a majority of votes into a majority of seats.”

[541 U.S. at 287, 124 S.Ct. 1769](#) (footnote omitted).

Justice Scalia described this test as “loosely based” on cases applying Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Justice Scalia was very critical of the use of the “pack and crack” theory of gerrymandering as a general proposition.<sup>8</sup> He went on to state why the [Vieth](#) plurality rejected the plurality of [Bandemer](#) including looking at “the shapes of voting districts and adherence to established political subdivision boundaries ... nature of legislative procedures ... legislative history...” He also criticized what he characterized “essentially a totality of the circumstances analysis, where all conceivable factors, none of which is dispositive, are weighed with an eye to ascertaining whether the particular gerrymander has gone too far—or in Justice Powell's terminology, whether it is ‘fair.’ ” He concluded that “ ‘Fairness’ does not seem to us a judicially manageable standard.” [541 U.S. at 292, 124 S.Ct. 1769.](#)

8 Query whether, if the Hanna/McGlone details about modern “pack and crack” methodology was part of the record in the *Vieth* case, Justice Scalia would not have been able to dismiss this theory so quickly? See “Rat F\* \*ked, The True Story Behind the Secret Plan to Steal America's Democracy” (David Daley, 2016).

Justice Stevens, dissenting, would have held that if the predominant purpose of creating a particular district's shape is to increase partisan strength, and there is no other rational explanation for the bizarre shape of a particular district, then the equal protection rights of disadvantaged voters in that district have been violated.

The standard applied in the *Shaw* cases (racial gerrymandering) should be applied to partisan gerrymandering: “in evaluating a district-specific political gerrymander, courts should ask whether the legislature allowed partisan considerations to dominate and control the lines drawn, forsaking all neutral principles ... if no neutral criterion can be identified to justify the lines drawn, and if the only possible explanation for a district's bizarre shape is a naked desire to increase partisan strength, then no rational basis exists to save the district from an equal protection challenge.

[Id. at 339, 124 S.Ct. 1769.](#)

[T]he critical issue in both racial and political gerrymandering cases is the same: whether a single nonneutral criterion controlled the districting process to such an extent that the Constitution was offended.

[Id. at 327, 124 S.Ct. 1769](#)

Political gerrymandering challenges should be district-specific and focus on the representational harm that occurs when an individual voter is situated within a district which has been drawn to disproportionately advantage members of another identifiable group—namely, the risk that “the winner of an election in a gerrymandered district inevitably will infer that her success is primarily attributable to the architect of the district rather than to a constituency defined by neutral principles.

[Id. at 330, 124 S.Ct. 1769.](#)

Justice Souter, joined by Justice Ginsburg, dissenting, would have held that partisan gerrymandering claims should be district-specific, and a statewide claim should be based on an amalgamation of district-specific claims. [Id. at 353, 124 S.Ct. 1769.](#) They would have required plaintiffs to provide evidence to satisfy a prima facie cause of action with five elements designed to prove that the state acted intentionally to dilute plaintiff's vote, despite the existence of reasonable alternatives consistent with traditional districting criteria; if done successfully, the burden would shift to defendants to justify their decision on grounds other than intent to gain political advantage. [Id. at 346, 351–52, 124 S.Ct. 1769.](#) The five elements of the prima facie case proposed were:

1. Identify a cohesive political group to which the plaintiff belongs;



2. Demonstrate that the district of plaintiff's residence "paid little or no heed to [ ] traditional districting principles": contiguity, compactness, respect for political subdivisions, and conformity with geographic features like rivers and mountains";
3. Establish specific correlations between the district's deviations from traditional districting principles and the distribution of the population of plaintiff's group;
4. Present the court with a hypothetical district including plaintiff's residence, in which the proportion of plaintiff's group was lower (in a packing claim) or higher (in a cracking claim) and which deviated less from traditional districting principles than the actual district;
5. Show that the defendants acted intentionally to manipulate the shape of the district in order to pack or crack plaintiff's group, at which point the burden shifts to the State to rebut the evidence and/or offer an affirmative justification.

[Id. at 347–350, 124 S.Ct. 1769.](#)

In Justice Breyer's dissent, he proposed the following standard: "the unjustified use of political factors [in districting] to entrench a minority in power" constitutes an unconstitutional partisan gerrymander. [Id. at 361, 124 S.Ct. 1769.](#) Unjustified use of political factors refers to a situation in which "the minority's hold on power is purely

the result of partisan manipulation and not other factors" such as happenstance, the existence of more than two major parties, reliance on traditional criteria, etc. [Id. at 360–61, 124 S.Ct. 1769.](#)

[W]here the risk of entrenchment is demonstrated, where partisan considerations render the traditional district-drawing compromises irrelevant, where no justification other than party advantage can be found," courts should invalidate such a scheme as unconstitutional.

[Id. at 367, 124 S.Ct. 1769.](#)

Justice Kennedy concurred separately, and although he saw "weighty arguments for holding cases like these to be nonjusticiable" he was unwilling to bar all future partisan gerrymandering claims. [Id. at 309, 124 S.Ct. 1769.](#)

Kennedy's comment about the rise of "political classifications" bears quoting:

Because, in the case before us, we have no standard by which to measure the burden appellants claim has been imposed on their representational rights, appellants cannot establish that the alleged political classifications burden those same rights. Failing to show that the alleged classifications are unrelated to the aims of apportionment, appellants' evidence at best demonstrates only that the legislature

adopted political classifications. That describes no constitutional flaw, at least under the governing Fourteenth Amendment standard. See [Gaffney](#), 412 U.S. at 752, 93 S.Ct. 2321. As a consequence, appellants' complaint alleges no impermissible use of political classifications and so states no valid claim on which relief may be granted. It must be dismissed as a result. See [Fed. Rule Civ. Proc. 12\(b\)\(6\)](#); see also [Davis v. Bandemer](#), 478 U.S. at 134, 106 S.Ct. 2797.

The plurality thinks I resolve this case with reference to no standard, see [ante](#), at 1790, but that is wrong. The Fourteenth Amendment standard governs; and there is no doubt of that. My analysis only notes that if a subsidiary standard could show how an otherwise permissible classification, as applied, burdens representational rights, we could conclude that appellants' evidence states a provable claim under the Fourteenth Amendment standard.

He also suggested that the “First Amendment m[ight] offer a sounder and more prudential basis for intervention than does the Equal Protection Clause” because the “First Amendment analysis concentrates on whether the legislation burdens the representational rights of the complaining party's voters for reasons of ideology, beliefs, or political association.” [Id.](#) at 315, 61 S.Ct. 1031.

## VIII. History and Decisions Under the Elections Clause

### A. History of the Elections Clause: Constitutional Convention and Related Materials

In the records of the Constitutional Convention, several state Ratifying Conventions, and the Federalist Papers, different perspectives are expressed on the choice of who should be tasked with regulating congressional elections. A common theme that runs through these records is the great threat of placing that power to regulate entirely in the hands of one group, either state legislatures on the one hand, or Congress on the other hand. Specifically, many writers highlight the potential to regulate in ways designed to manipulate the outcome of congressional elections. While they disagreed over which group was more likely to engage in such abuse, and what checks would most effectively combat this type of behavior, all of the commentary on this topic is essentially unified in viewing these threats to fair elections as a potential injury to the people.

#### 1. The Risk of State Legislatures Seeking to Manipulate Congressional Elections Through the Regulatory Power

At the Constitutional Convention, Madison expressed a view in favor of the congressional override built into the Elections Clause. He saw it as necessary to mitigate the risk that state legislatures

would abuse their power over regulating federal congressional elections in order to manipulate election outcomes. He emphasized the significance of the structure of House elections—that is, enabling the people to directly elect their Representatives rather than leaving it to the state Legislatures—noting that this approach “seems to decide that the Legislatures of the States ought not to have the uncontrolled right of regulating the times places & manner of holding elections.” Max Farrand ed., The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787, 2:239; Madison, 9 Aug. Rev. ed. 4 vols. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1937. If state legislatures were given the power to regulate congressional elections without any oversight, “[i]t was impossible to foresee all the abuses that might be made of the discretionary power ... Whenever the State Legislatures had a favorite measure to carry, they would take care so to mould their regulations as to favor the candidates they wished to succeed.” *Id.* While Madison does not consider the implications of partisan intent, his general point is applicable here: if state legislatures were given an unchecked power to regulate congressional elections, it would permit them to control the outcomes of those elections, regardless of their precise motivation in exercising that control.

Timothy Pickering, writing to Charles Tillinghast, espoused a similar sentiment. He viewed the Elections Clause as creating an appropriate balance of power between state and congressional actors in regulating congressional elections, specifically in light of what he viewed as the crucial check on state legislatures' power: the congressional

override. Charles W. Upham, The Life of Timothy Pickering. 2 vols. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1873, Timothy Pickering to Charles Tillinghast, 24 Dec. 1787, Life 2:356–57. He urged that congressional oversight is necessary to avoid abuse of power by the state actors: “if any particular State government should be refractory, and, in the pride of sovereignty, or influenced by any other motive, should either make no such regulations or improper ones, then the Congress will have power to make such regulations as will ensure to the people their rights of election and establish a uniformity in the mode of constituting the members of the Senate and House of Representatives.” *Id.* (emphasis added). Pickering was not concerned with the possibility that Congress would abuse this power, however, because that would likely put their own positions in jeopardy: “does any man of common sense, really believe that the Congress will ever be guilty of so wanton an exercise of power? Will the immediate Representatives of the people, in Congress, ever consent to so oppressive a regulation? For whose benefit would they do it? Would not the first attempt certainly exclude themselves? And would not the State legislatures, at their next election of Senators, as certainly reject every one who should give his assent to such a law?” *Id.*

Theophilus Parsons, in a Debate in the Massachusetts Ratifying Convention, argued that while the congressional override power was unlikely to be abused, given the check that the Senate and the House would have on one another, it would be an enormous risk to vest the power absolutely with the state legislatures. Jonathan Elliot

ed. The Debates in the Several State Conventions on the Adoption of the Federal Constitution as Recommended by the General Convention at Philadelphia in 1787, 5 vols. 2d ed. 1888. New York: Burt Franklin, Debate in Massachusetts Ratifying Convention, 16–17, 21 Jan. 1788, 2:22–35. He identified the state legislatures as the constituents of the Senate, and the people as the constituents of the House. The Senate and the House, he said, would be engaged in a near constant power struggle. As such,

The Senate will call upon their constituents, the legislatures, for aid; the Representatives will look up to the people for support. If, therefore, the power of making and altering the regulations [for congressional elections], is vested absolutely in the legislature, the Representatives will very soon be reduced to an undue dependence upon the Senate, because the power of influencing and controlling the election of the representatives of the people, will be exerted without control by the constituents of the senators.

Id.

He described the particular harm that could result, in part, as the danger that “in times of

popular commotion, and when faction and party spirit run high, [the state legislature] would introduce such regulations as would render the rights of the people insecure and of little value.” Id.

There was further concern that the power to regulate elections would be exercised in favor of voters living in areas of concentrated wealth or power, by holding the elections in those locations and nowhere else, thereby making it extremely inconvenient for voters who lived in other parts of the state to participate, and ultimately excluding their influence. “Supposing Congress should direct, that the representatives of this commonwealth should be chosen all in one town, (Boston for instance) ... Would not there be at least nine-tenths of the landed interest of this commonwealth intirely unrepresented?” J. Herbert Storing ed., The Complete Anti-Federalist, 7 vols. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1981, Vox Populi, No. 1, 29 Oct. 1787.

## **2. State Legislatures as a Threat to the Continued Existence of the Federal Government**

Alexander Hamilton very strongly approved of the Elections Clause—“I am greatly mistaken [ ] if there be any article in the whole plan more completely defensible than this”—most specifically in light of the built in congressional override. Jacob E. Cooke ed., The Federalist, Middletown, Connecticut: Wesleyan University Press, 1961, Alexander Hamilton, Federalist Number 59, 397, 22 Feb. 1788. He urged that

“[i]ts propriety rests upon the evidence of this plain proposition, that every government ought to contain in itself the means of its own preservation,” and observed that “[n]othing can be more evident, than that an exclusive power of regulating elections for the National Government, in the hands of the State Legislatures, would leave the existence of the Union entirely at their mercy.” *Id.* (emphasis added). Several members of the New York Ratifying Convention likewise focused on the importance of the congressional override as a power of self-preservation for Congress, including John Jay and Richard Morris.

Vox Populi Number One explored the significance of this consideration—the importance of the self-preservation power inherent in giving Congress a congressional check on state legislatures’ power to regulate congressional elections. If the regulation of national elections is left to state representatives, they may abdicate their duty altogether “in which case there could be no election, and consequently the federal government weakened.” Vox Populi, No. 1, 29 Oct. 1787. Following on this theme James Wilson, in a debate in the Pennsylvania Ratifying Convention, highlighted the “self-preserving power” that Congress retains as a result of its oversight role in regulating congressional elections, per the Elections Clause. Elliot, Debate in Pennsylvania Ratifying Convention, 28 Oct. 11 Nov. 1787. Taking this idea to its logical conclusion, Luther Martin wrote that the congressional override power built into the Elections Clause is “a provision, expressly looking forward to, and I have no doubt designed

for the utter extinction and abolition of all State governments.” Storing, *The Complete Anti-Federalist*, Luther Martin, Genuine Information, 1788, Storing 2.4.43.

Mr. Cabot of Beverly, Massachusetts, speaking in the course of the Massachusetts Ratifying Convention, also emphasized the danger of giving state legislatures the exclusive control to regulate House elections: “if the state legislatures are suffered to regulate conclusively the elections of the democratic branch, they may, by such an interference, first weaken, and at last destroy, that check; they may at first diminish, and finally annihilate, that control of the general government, which the people ought always to have through their immediate representatives.” Elliot, Debate in Massachusetts Ratifying Convention, 16 Jan. 1788, 2:22–35, 1888. On the 21<sup>st</sup> of January, as this debate continued, Mr. King likewise argued that it would be too dangerous to give state legislatures complete power to regulate congressional elections. He used South Carolina as an example. The City of Charleston initially had been given a large number of seats in the state legislature initially, and despite the growth in population in “the back parts of Carolina,” individuals from this part of the state were unsuccessful in gaining additional representation to match this growth. *Id.* He explained that “the members from Charleston, having the balance so much in their favor, will not consent to an alteration,” and as a result, “the delegates from Carolina in Congress have always been chosen by the delegates of the city.” Elliot, Debate in Massachusetts Ratifying



Convention, 21 Jan. 1788, 2:22–35. Mr. King observed that “[t]he representatives, therefore, from that state, will not be chosen by the people, but will be the representatives of a faction of that state,” and emphasized the harm to the people: “[i]f the general government cannot control in this case, how are the people secure?” *Id.*

### **3. The Risk of Congress Seeking to Manipulate Congressional Election Outcomes Through the Regulatory Power**

Many writers and commentators expressed the flip side of Madison's view, namely that the real threat is that Congress would abuse their grant of power to override the state legislatures' regulations. As the Historians' Amici Brief in support of Appellees in *Gill v. Whitford* aptly points out, both sides of this debate operated under the assumption that, inherent in the power to regulate elections is the likelihood of abusing that power: “delegates arguing against Madison did not claim that such entrenchment was a state's right or somehow acceptable—rather, they countered that the greater fear was that Congress might abuse its power to entrench itself.” Brief of Amici Curiae Historians in Support of Appellees, *Gill v. Whitford*, No. 16–1161.

Federal Farmer Number Three picks up on this theme. Rather than looking at the potential that state legislatures will abuse their power if their regulatory power under the Elections Clause is not cabined, however, this document urges that giving the national legislature an oversight power would enable

this same type of abuse by members of Congress: “[Pursuant to] Art. 1 Sect. 4, the general legislature ... may evidently so regulate elections as to secure the choice of any particular description of men ... it is easy to perceive how the people who live scattered in the inland towns will bestow their votes on different men—and how a few men in a city, in any order or profession, may unite and place any five men they please highest among those that may be voted for—and all this may be done constitutionally, and by those silent operations, which are not immediately perceived by the people in general.” Federal Farmer Number Three, 10 Oct. 1787, Storing 2.8.25.

Brutus Number Four likewise takes the position that giving Congress power to override congressional election regulations promulgated by state legislatures is dangerous, because “the federal legislature may institute such rules respecting elections as to lead to the choice of one description of men,” namely, “the rich and well-born.” Brutus Number Four, 29 Nov. 1787, Storing 2.9.51–54. They would do this by “mak[ing] the whole state one district, and direct, that the capital ... shall be the place for holding the election; the consequence would be, that none but men of the most elevated rank in society would attend, and they would as certainly choose men of their own class.” *Id.* If the candidate with the majority of votes is declared the winner, “the people, who are dispersed in the interior parts of the state, would give their votes for a variety of candidates, while any order, or profession, residing in populous places, by uniting their interests, might procure

whom they pleased to be chosen—and by this means the representatives of the state may be elected by one tenth part of the people who actually vote.” *Id.* Moreover, “[t]his may be effected constitutionally, and by one of those silent operations which frequently takes place without being noticed, but which often produces such changes as entirely to alter a government.” *Id.* Tasking the state legislatures with the absolute power to regulate federal elections would have more likely secured the rights of the people, because in the state legislatures “the people are not only nominally but substantially represented” and so too are their interests. This document proposes voting across geographic districts across the state, for candidates who actually reside in each district, as a superior approach to congressional elections.

Speaking in a Debate in the Massachusetts Ratifying Convention, Mr. Pierce expressed concern with giving Congress the override power, given the threat that they could manipulate the place and manner of House elections to dictate the results. He summarized the harm as follows: “As the federal representatives, who are to form the democratical part of the general government, are to be a check on the representatives of the sovereignty, the senate, he thought the utmost caution ought to be used to have their elections as free as possible.” Elliot, Debate in Massachusetts Ratifying Convention, 16 Jan. 1788, 2:22–35, 1888.

“Cornelius” pursues the idea that Congress is certainly not more qualified than the

state legislatures to set out regulations for congressional elections that would be most convenient for individual voters. In fact, he argued, this would only empower Congress to deliberately leave certain voters out of the process:

This power being vested in the Congress may enable them, from time to time, to throw the elections into such particular parts of the several States where the dispositions of the people shall appear to be the most subservient to the wishes and views of that honourable body; or, where the interests of the major part of the members may be found to lie. Should it so happen (as it probably may) that the major part of the Members of Congress should be elected in, and near the seaport towns; there would, in that case, naturally arise strong inducements for fixing the places for holding elections in such towns, or within their vicinity. This would effectually exclude the distant parts of the several States, and the bulk of the landed interest, from an equal share in that government, in which they are deeply interested.



Herbert J. Storing ed., The Complete Anti-Federalist, Cornelius, 18 Dec. 1787, Storing 4.10.10, 7 vols. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1981.

## B. Case Law Discussion

### 1. Smiley v. Holm, 285 U.S. 355, 52 S.Ct. 397, 76 L.Ed. 795 (1932)

In Smiley v. Holm, the Supreme Court reviewed a decision by the Minnesota Supreme Court holding that the Elections Clause bestows an agency-like power upon state legislators to create districts within their state; when acting in this capacity, the Minnesota Supreme Court held, state legislators are not engaging in their normal lawmaking function, and the typical procedures attendant to lawmaking, including obtaining the Governor's final approval, therefore need not be followed. 285 U.S. 355, 52 S.Ct. 397, 76 L.Ed. 795 (1932).

The unanimous Court held that in fact, the Elections Clause confers to state legislators the specific authority to make laws governing federal elections, rather than the authority to engage in some other agency-like function. Id. at 366–67, 52 S.Ct. 397. In light of this conclusion, the Court went on to clarify “that the exercise of the authority must be in accordance with the method which the state has prescribed for legislative enactments,” whatever those might be: “We find no suggestion in the [Elections Clause] of an attempt to endow

the Legislature of the state with power to enact laws in any manner other than that in which the Constitution of the state has provided that laws shall be enacted.” Id. at 367–68, 52 S.Ct. 397. Thus, in Minnesota, where the state Constitution requires the Governor's participation in the lawmaking process (in the form of a veto power), the Elections Clause does not authorize the Minnesota Legislature to operate outside of this procedural requirement when enacting regulations regarding federal elections. Id. at 373, 52 S.Ct. 397. The authorization to make laws pursuant to the Elections Clause is in no way distinct from the state's generalized power to make laws.

### 2. U.S. Term Limits, Inc. v. Thornton, 514 U.S. 779, 115 S.Ct. 1842, 131 L.Ed.2d 881 (1995)

Thornton concerned an amendment to the Arkansas State Constitution prohibiting candidates, including to Congress, from appearing on the general election ballot if they had already served a specified number of terms. U.S. Term Limits, Inc. v. Thornton, 514 U.S. at 784, 115 S.Ct. 1842. A plurality of the Arkansas Supreme Court found that the provision pertaining to congressional candidates violated the Qualifications Clauses of the U.S. Constitution, Art. I, § 2, cl. 2 and § 3, cl. 3, which set forth the sole requirements for election to Congress.

A five-Justice majority of the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed, holding that “[a]llowing individual States to adopt their own

qualifications for congressional service would be inconsistent with the Framers' vision of a uniform National Legislature representing the people of the United States," and invalidating the Arkansas enactment. [Thornton](#), 514 U.S. at 783, 115 S.Ct. 1842 (Stevens, J.). The majority discussed the Elections Clause in two contexts: first, to bolster its conclusion that the power to add qualifications was not a power reserved to the states, and, later in the opinion, to rebut the petitioner's argument that the Elections Clause permitted the Arkansas enactment as simply a regulation of the "manner" of conducting elections.

Expanding on its conclusion that "the power to add qualifications is not part of the original powers of sovereignty that the Tenth Amendment reserved to the States" because no national government had existed prior to the Constitution, [id.](#) at 802, 115 S.Ct. 1842, the majority looked to the Elections Clause as an example of "the Framers' understanding that powers over the election of federal officers had to be delegated to, rather than reserved by, the States." [Id.](#) at 804, 115 S.Ct. 1842. Thus, the Elections Clause, which required that "[t]he Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives ... be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof," [Art. I, § 4, cl. 1](#), was an "express delegation[ ] of power to the States to act with respect to federal elections." [Id.](#) at 805, 115 S.Ct. 1842. The majority went on to discuss the Framers' "evident concern that States would try to undermine the National Government," which it sought to address, among other ways, by enacting the

Elections Clause. [Id.](#) at 810, 115 S.Ct. 1842. According to the majority, the Elections Clause was at once a delegation of power and a safeguard against abuses of power by states in conducting national elections; although the Elections Clause "g[ave] the States the freedom to regulate the 'Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections,' the Framers created a safeguard against state abuse by giving Congress the power to 'by Law make or alter such Regulations.'" [Id.](#) at 808, 115 S.Ct. 1842. Examining debates at the Constitutional Convention and the Federalist Papers, the majority concluded that "the Framers' overriding concern was the potential for States' abuse of the power to set the 'Times, Places and Manner' of elections." [Id.](#) at 808–09, 115 S.Ct. 1842. Alexander Hamilton, for instance, in Federalist 59, wrote that "[n]othing can be more evident than that an exclusive power of regulating elections for the national government, in the hands of the State legislatures, would leave the existence of the Union entirely at their mercy." [Id.](#) at 809, 115 S.Ct. 1842 (quoting Federalist 59 at 363).

The majority returned to the Elections Clause later in its opinion when it addressed, and quickly dispensed with, petitioners' argument that the Elections Clause permitted the Arkansas enactment as simply a regulation of the "manner" of conducting elections. [Id.](#) at 832, 115 S.Ct. 1842. Discussing convention and ratification debates, the majority asserted that the Framers "intended the Elections Clause to grant States authority to create procedural regulations, not to provide States with

license to exclude classes of candidates from federal office.” [Id.](#) at 832–33, 115 S.Ct. 1842. The majority noted Madison's statement that the Elections Clause applied to “[w]hether the electors should vote by ballot or vivâ voce, should assemble at this place or that place; should be divided into districts or all meet at one place, sh[oul]d all vote for all the representatives; or all in a district vote for a number allotted to the district.” [Id.](#) at 833, 115 S.Ct. 1842 (alterations original) (quoting Records of the Federal Convention of 1787 at 240 (M. Farrand ed. 1911)). It also quoted a statement from the North Carolina Ratifying Convention to the effect that “[t]he power over the manner only enables them to determine how these electors shall elect—whether by ballot, or by vote, or by any other way.” [Id.](#) at 833, 115 S.Ct. 1842.

Thus, according to the majority, “the Framers understood the Elections Clause as a grant of authority to issue procedural regulations, and not as a source of power to dictate electoral outcomes, to favor or disfavor a class of candidates, or to evade important constitutional restraints.” [Id.](#) at 833–34, 115 S.Ct. 1842. Such an understanding was also consistent with Supreme Court precedent: the Elections Clause “gives States authority “to enact the numerous requirements as to procedure and safeguards which experience shows are necessary in order to enforce the fundamental right involved.” [Id.](#) at 834, 115 S.Ct. 1842 (quoting [Smiley v. Holm](#), 285 U.S. 355, 366, 52 S.Ct. 397, 76 L.Ed. 795 (1932)). It continued:

However, [t]he power to regulate the time, place, and manner of elections does not justify, without more, the abridgment of fundamental rights.” States are thus entitled to adopt “generally applicable and evenhanded restrictions that protect the integrity and reliability of the electoral process itself. For example, in *Storer v. Brown* ... we emphasized the States' interest in having orderly, fair, and honest elections rather than chaos. We also recognized the States' strong interest in maintaining the integrity of the political process by preventing interparty raiding, and explained that the specific requirements applicable to independents were expressive of a general state policy aimed at maintaining the integrity of the various routes to the ballot. In other cases, we have approved the States' interests in avoiding voter confusion, ballot overcrowding, or the presence of frivolous candidacies, in seeking to assure that elections are operated equitably and efficiently and in guard[ing] against irregularity and error in the tabulation of votes. In short, we have approved of state regulations designed to ensure that elections are fair and honest and ... [that] some sort of order, rather than chaos, ... accompan[ies] the democratic processes.”

[Id.](#) at 834–35, 115 S.Ct. 1842 (internal quotations and citations omitted). Thus, the provisions upheld in prior Elections Clause cases were constitutional because “they regulated election procedures and ... served the state interest in protecting the integrity and regularity of the election process” and did not impose substantive qualifications or

disfavor a class of candidates. [Id.](#) at 835, 115 S.Ct. 1842.

Justice Kennedy, who had joined the majority opinion and provided its fifth vote, mentioned the Elections Clause only in passing in his separate concurrence.

Four justices dissented, on the grounds that “nothing in the Constitution deprives the people of each State of the power to prescribe eligibility requirements for the candidates who seek to represent them in Congress” and that because the Constitution was silent on that point, the power was reserved to the states. The dissent read the Elections Clause as being consistent with that power. [U.S. Term Limits, Inc. v. Thornton](#), 514 U.S. 779, 845, 115 S.Ct. 1842, 131 L.Ed.2d 881 (1995) (Thomas, J., dissenting).

### 3. [Cook v. Gralike](#), 531 U.S. 510, 121 S.Ct. 1029, 149 L.Ed.2d 44 (2001)

In response to the Supreme Court's decision in [Thornton](#), which had left open the possibility of amending the Qualifications Clause, Missouri voters adopted an amendment to the Missouri state constitution “‘instruct[ing]’ each Member of Missouri's congressional delegation ‘to use all of his or her delegated powers to pass the Congressional Term Limits Amendment’ ” to the U.S. Constitution. [Cook v. Gralike](#), 531 U.S. 510, 514, 121 S.Ct. 1029, 149 L.Ed.2d 44 (2001) (quoting [Mo. Const., Art. VIII, § 17\(1\)](#)). It also specified that ballots for Congress were to be marked with statements regarding the views and

actions of the candidates with respect to term limits: the words “DISREGARDED VOTERS' INSTRUCTION ON TERM LIMITS” were to be printed next to the names of Senators and Representatives who failed to take one of eight legislative actions in favor of the federal term limits amendment, while the names of non-incumbents who did not pledge to perform those acts were to be accompanied by the words “DECLINED TO PLEDGE TO SUPPORT TERM LIMITS.” [Id.](#) at 514–15, 121 S.Ct. 1029. A non-incumbent candidate challenged this enactment, and both the district court and the Eighth Circuit held this enactment unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court affirmed. The majority opinion, authored by Justice Stevens, held that the Missouri enactment was not a permissible “exercise of the right of the people to instruct their representatives reserved by the Tenth Amendment,” nor was it a permissible regulation of the “manner” of elections pursuant to the Elections Clause. [Id.](#) at 518, 121 S.Ct. 1029.

Following the majority opinion in [Thornton](#), seven justices reasoned that “regulat[ing] election to [congressional] offices could not precede their very creation by the Constitution” and therefore was not a reserved power. [Id.](#) at 522, 121 S.Ct. 1029. Because no other constitutional provision besides the Elections Clause granted states authority to regulate congressional elections, “States may regulate the incidents of such elections, including balloting, only within the exclusive delegation of power under the Elections Clause.” [Id.](#) at 523, 121 S.Ct. 1029.

The Court then turned to the Elections Clause itself, reiterating the holding of [Thornton](#) and prior cases that “the Elections Clause grants to the States broad power to prescribe the procedural mechanisms for holding congressional elections” but was not a “ ‘source of power to dictate electoral outcomes, to favor or disfavor a class of candidates, or to evade important constitutional restraints.’ ” *Id.* (quoting [Thornton](#), 514 U.S. at 833–34, 115 S.Ct. 1842). The ballot labels at issue did not constitute procedural regulations of time, place, or manner, in the majority's view; they “b[ore] no relation to the “manner” of elections ... for in our commonsense view that term encompasses matters like ‘notices, registration, supervision of voting, protection of voters, prevention of fraud and corrupt practices, counting of votes, duties of inspectors and canvassers, and making and publication of election returns.’ ” *Id.* at 523–24, 121 S.Ct. 1029 (quoting [Smiley](#), 285 U.S. at 366, 52 S.Ct. 397). Because the Missouri enactment was “plainly designed to favor candidates who are willing to support the particular form of a term limits amendment ... and to disfavor those who either oppose term limits entirely or would prefer a different proposal,” the ballot labels it mandated were not authorized by the Elections Clause.

Justice Kennedy joined the majority opinion, but authored a separate concurrence in which he discussed his view that the ability of citizens to elect representatives of Congress was incident to federal citizenship. [Cook v. Gralike](#),

531 U.S. 510, 527–30, 121 S.Ct. 1029, 149 L.Ed.2d 44 (2001) (Kennedy, J., concurring). Because the Elections Clause allowed only “neutral provisions as to the time, place, and manner of elections,” *id.* at 527, 121 S.Ct. 1029, “[n]either the design of the Constitution nor sound principles of representative government are consistent with the right or power of a State to interfere with the direct line of accountability between the National Legislature and the people who elect it.” *Id.* at 528, 121 S.Ct. 1029.

Justice Thomas joined the portion of the majority opinion discussing the Elections Clause, but authored a separate concurrence in which he repeated his prior assertion from [Thornton](#) that states could add qualifications to serving in Congress incident to their reserved powers, but acknowledged that the parties had accepted the proposition that states did not have authority to regulate elections except as delegated by the constitution. [Cook v. Gralike](#), 531 U.S. 510, 530, 121 S.Ct. 1029, 149 L.Ed.2d 44 (2001) (Thomas, J., concurring). Two other justices concurred in the judgment only, stating that the ballot labels violated the First Amendment. [Cook v. Gralike](#), 531 U.S. 510, 530–31, 121 S.Ct. 1029, 149 L.Ed.2d 44 (2001) (Rehnquist, J., concurring).

**4. [Arizona State Legislature v. Arizona Indep. Redistricting Comm'n](#), — U.S. —, 135 S.Ct. 2652, 192 L.Ed.2d 704 (2015)**

In [Arizona State Legislature v. Arizona Indep. Redistricting Comm'n](#), the Supreme Court considered a ballot initiative



intended to end partisan gerrymandering by establishing an independent redistricting body to draw congressional districts. — U.S. —, 135 S.Ct. 2652, 192 L.Ed.2d 704 (2015). The state legislature filed suit, asserting that the new procedure violated the text of the Elections Clause, which states in relevant part: “The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof.” U.S. Const. Art. I, § 4, cl. 1 (emphasis added). At issue in Arizona State Legislature was what constituted the “Legislature” for purposes of the Elections Clause. In its complaint, the state legislature alleged that “[t]he word ‘Legislature’ in the Elections Clause means [specifically and only] the representative body which makes the laws of the people,” rendering the redistricting commission unconstitutional. Arizona State Legislature, 135 S.Ct. 2652, 2659 (2015) (alteration original). The redistricting commission responded that the term “Legislature” in the Elections Clause included all sources of legislative power conferred by the Arizona state constitution, which included initiatives adopted by voters. Id. A three-judge panel of the district court found that the state legislature had standing, but dismissed the complaint.

A five-justice majority affirmed, holding that the state legislature had standing to sue and the Arizona Independent Commission did not violate the Elections Clause. Reviewing prior Elections Clause cases, the majority held that “redistricting is a legislative function, to be performed in accordance with the State's prescriptions for lawmaking,

which may include the referendum and the Governor's veto.” Arizona State Legislature, 135 S.Ct. at 2668. Because eighteenth-century dictionaries defined “legislature” as “the power that makes laws” and the people of Arizona had the power to make laws by initiative under the Arizona constitution, the majority reasoned that redistricting through a commission created by ballot initiative did not violate the Elections Clause. Id. at 2671.

The majority engaged in some historical discussion of the adoption of the Elections Clause, whose “dominant purpose” at the time of the Founding “was to empower Congress to override state election rules, not to restrict the way States enact legislation.” Id. at 2672. Examining convention and ratification debates, the majority argued that it “was also intended to act as a safeguard against manipulation of electoral rules by politicians and factions in the States to entrench themselves or place their interests over those of the electorate.” Id. The majority noted Madison's statement at the Constitutional Convention—made in response to a motion by delegates from South Carolina, who had apportioned their state legislature in favor of the coastal elite—that “[w]henver the State Legislatures had a favorite measure to carry, they would take care so to mould their regulations as to favor the candidates they wished to succeed.” Id. (quoting 2 Records of the Federal Convention 241 (M. Farrand rev. 1966)).

Similarly, statements made at the Massachusetts ratifying convention bolstered the majority's view, including

Theophilus Parsons' warning that a state legislature could make “an unequal and partial division of the states into districts for the election of representatives,” as well as statements warning of the potential for abuse of power by state legislatures. *Id.* (quoting Debate in Massachusetts Ratifying Convention (16–17, 21 Jan. 1788), in 2 *The Founders' Constitution* 256 (P. Kurland & R. Lerner eds. 1987)). Thus, the Framers focused their attention on “potential abuses by state-level politicians, and the consequent need for congressional oversight.” *Id.*

Ultimately, the majority concluded that the Elections Clause was

in line with the fundamental premise that all political power flows from the people ... The people of Arizona turned to the initiative to curb the practice of gerrymandering and, thereby, to ensure that Members of Congress would have “an habitual recollection of their dependence on the people.” *The Federalist* No. 57, at 350 (J. Madison). In so acting, Arizona voters sought to restore the core principle of republican government, namely, that the voters should choose their representatives, not the other way around. The Elections Clause does not hinder that endeavor.

*Id.* at 2677.

Four dissenting justices disagreed with such an expansive reading of the word “legislature,” arguing that “[u]nder the Elections Clause, ‘the Legislature’ is a representative body that, when it prescribes election regulations, may be required to do

so within the ordinary lawmaking process, but may not be cut out of that process.” [Arizona State Legislature v. Arizona Indep. Redistricting Comm'n](#), — U.S. —, 135 S.Ct. 2652, 2687, 192 L.Ed.2d 704 (2015) (Roberts, J., dissenting). Justices Thomas and Scalia joined Justice Roberts' dissent, but wrote separately to emphasize additional issues.

In summary, the history of the Elections Clause and the United States Supreme Court decisions, discussed above, establish that there are substantive restrictions on states when they determine the “manner” of apportioning voters into congressional districts.

## IX. Standing

To demonstrate a case or controversy, a party must demonstrate standing, which in turn has three familiar prerequisites: (1) concrete and particularized, actual or imminent “injury in fact”; (2) causation; and (3) redressability. [Lujan v. Defs. of Wildlife](#), 504 U.S. 555, 560–61, 112 S.Ct. 2130, 119 L.Ed.2d 351 (1992). A “generally available grievance about government” does not suffice to confer standing. *Id.* at 573, 112 S.Ct. 2130.

When a voter demonstrates that his or her congressional district has been gerrymandered, has the voter not already suffered enough?

Because the 2010 United States census required Pennsylvania to lose one of its congressional seats, it was necessary for the



Pennsylvania legislature to redistrict. The legislature had substantial discretion about how to go about this process—as long as it did not violate the constitutional rights of voters, Rutan, *supra*.

The legislature likely could not have limited the redistricting to just a few districts. Given prior Pennsylvania experience with the “one-person, one-vote” rule, and the need to have near perfect equalization of population among all congressional districts in Pennsylvania, redistricting efforts would certainly impact all congressional districts.

Pennsylvania is the “Keystone State.” Because individual congressional districts must be equally populated, each congressional district is like a “keystone.” The reduction of one seat in Congress causes removal of a “keystone.” The legislature then has to develop a reasonable redistricting for the entire state so that each “keystone” will be replaced and all districts will be in balance.

### A. Injury

Proving injury in the context of a violation of the Election Clause is not a monetary issue. No Plaintiff has lost anything of tangible pecuniary value. The injury from gerrymandering is an inchoate injury, which will be suffered over a period of time. Substantive rules about “injury” as of a specific point in time, as in the usual case, are not valid.

The harms of gerrymandering have been discussed at length elsewhere in this

opinion. That gerrymandering perverts the political process in a broad sense—for instance, by suppressing turnout—does not rob it of the capacity to inflict concrete and particularized harms on individual voters. The essence of gerrymandering is that districts have been constructed or manipulated with an eye not to neutral concepts but to the makeup of the electorate. This, in turn, reflects choices about whose votes are allowed to matter, and whose votes are made insignificant. The Supreme Court has allowed standing where voters assert that their votes were diluted in importance as a result of the drawing of district lines. Baker v. Carr, 369 U.S. 186, 207–08, 82 S.Ct. 691, 7 L.Ed.2d 663 (1962).<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Distinguishing Baker v. Carr, the Supreme Court denied standing in an Elections Clause case for lack of particularized harm where the plaintiffs alleged only that proper redistricting procedures were not followed. Lance v. Coffman, 549 U.S. 437, 442, 127 S.Ct. 1194, 167 L.Ed.2d 29 (2007).

Although the trial record is replete with references to vote dilution and the difficulties of engaging politically given Pennsylvania's gerrymandered reality, the law does not require that any individual plaintiff must necessarily show additional personal injury beyond gerrymandering itself, much less say magic words at trial. Many plaintiffs have no real concept of their injuries, in cases involving antitrust, medical malpractice, product liability, etc. Many plaintiffs have to rely on testimony of economists, physicians or engineers they have retained to satisfy the requirement of injury.

However, if Plaintiffs were legally required to show individualized injury through their

own testimony, they did so. Judge Shwartz has reviewed the testimony and prepared a concise summary of the injury described by every plaintiff, including Plaintiff Kellerman, whose deposition transcript was added to the record recently.

As to Plaintiff Turnage, she did not testify with the same specificity as the other plaintiffs as to her own subjective feelings about injury. She admitted that her district was not as “gerrymandered” as others. (Turnage Dep. 48) Ms. Turnage can rely on other plaintiffs' witnesses' testimony about the nature of the 2011 redistricting, across Pennsylvania, which established that all Pennsylvania voters, including residents of the Fourth Congressional District, were injured. She made very clear her belief that the redistricting of Pennsylvania was not fair:

Q. What would the political makeup composition of a fair district be, in your opinion?

A. A fair district wouldn't depend on the political makeup of the district.

Q. What would it depend on?

A. On where the communities are, geographic boundaries, natural boundaries.

(Id. 49)

When asked specifically whether she had been harmed as to her district, she testified as follows:

A. Let me get my wording here. I can't know without having the information basically that the district people have, that the redistricting committee has, I can't really say because I'm not sure how things might change if districting was done differently.

Q. If you were to draw the map, how would you draw it fairly?

A. I would not have legislators doing it. I would have people represented from different political affiliations.

Q. Non-legislators do you mean?

A. Yes.

(Id. 52)

Ms. Turnage was cautious about stating facts and opinions. However, it is clear that she objected to the 2011 map as not being “fair.” As a voter, that is enough.

The second and third standing requirements present no hurdle: Plaintiffs have shown that the 2011 map caused the harms they allege, and that those harms could be redressed through the creation of a new map.

## **B. District-by-District Injury-in-Fact Requirements**

In order to have standing to challenge a racial gerrymander, a plaintiff must reside in the district she seeks to challenge. See [United States v. Hays](#), 515 U.S. 737, 115 S.Ct. 2431, 132 L.Ed.2d 635

(1995). Although the Supreme Court has not specifically addressed this issue in the context of partisan gerrymandering, in Vieth v. Jubelirer, Justice Stevens distinguished in his dissenting opinion between statewide and district-by-district challenges. 541 U.S. 267, 327–28, 124 S.Ct. 1769, 158 L.Ed.2d 546 (2004). More specifically, Justice Stevens wrote that while the specific injured voter in Vieth should have standing to challenge her specific district, she should not have standing to challenge the redistricting scheme on a statewide basis. Id.

Although it did not involve exactly the same context, Wittman v. Personhuballah, — U.S. —, 136 S.Ct. 1732, 195 L.Ed.2d 37 (2016) implicated some of the same standing issues. It was a racial gerrymandering case that also involved incumbent congressional candidates who had been moved out of their prior districts. Ultimately, the Supreme Court dismissed the appeal for lack of standing because the incumbents did not live in or represent the challenged districts.

Notably, a few months ago, the three-judge panel in Ala. Legis. Black Caucus v. Alabama, 12–cv–691, 2017 WL 4563868, at \*5 (M.D. Ala. Oct. 12, 2017) decided to apply Hays in the partisan gerrymandering context because both forms of gerrymandering have “the effect of muting the voices of certain voters within a given district.”

Vieth provides no guidance on the issue of district-by-district standing in the context of political gerrymandering, as the four-judge plurality made no findings on standing

at all, and only Justice Stevens specifically addressed the idea of district-by-district standing. One is left to guess as to what the Justices will require in terms of district-by-district standing. Nonetheless, given the Court's prior jurisprudence, it appears likely that the Supreme Court requires an injured plaintiff from each challenged district in order to confer district-by-district standing.

### C. Statewide Challenge Injury-in-Fact Requirements

Justice Stevens wrote in his Vieth dissent that “racial and political gerrymanders are species of the same constitutional concern [such that] the Hays standing rule”—requiring a plaintiff to reside in each state district—should apply to statewide partisan gerrymandering challenges. Id. Justice Souter (joined by Justice Ginsburg) made similar contentions in a separate Vieth dissent. Id. at 353, 350, 124 S.Ct. 1769 (“I would limit consideration of a statewide claim to one built upon a number of district-specific ones”; “[P]laintiff would have to show that the defendants acted intentionally to manipulate the shape of [her] district.”).

Thus, all three Justices suggested they would require an injured plaintiff from each state district in order to confer standing for a statewide challenge. The other six Justices, as discussed above, made no findings as to whether the plaintiffs had standing, instead discussing the standard (or lack thereof) used in assessing the merits of such cases.

However, in Whitford v. Gill, 218 F.Supp.3d 837 (W.D. Wis. 2016) (pending Supreme

Court review) a three-judge panel held that a plaintiff could have standing to challenge a statewide districting scheme for political gerrymandering. This is a central question in the case, and one on which several Justices focused at the Court's oral argument.

In sum, there is no controlling precedent on the issue of whether an individual plaintiff has standing to lodge a statewide political gerrymandering challenge. In fact, most of the current justices on the Supreme Court have not taken a position on this issue.

#### D. Conclusion Re Standing and Injury

As discussed below, I limited my findings in favor of Plaintiffs as to five separate Congressional Districts. Although I would conclude that there is standing for a statewide challenge as a matter of law, I believe there is no issue as to the standing of the five plaintiffs in this case to assert that their rights under the Elections Clause were violated in this case, and there is no issue from the testimony of the five plaintiffs from these five districts, that they satisfied any requirement of “injury,” as follows:

##### District No.

6	Reagan Hauer
7	Jason Magidson
10	Edwin Gragert
11	Virginia Mazzei
15	Jean Shenk

#### X. Privileges or Immunities Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and Relationship to This Case

The Privileges or Immunities Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment<sup>10</sup> states: “No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States....” [U.S. Const. Am. XIV § 1, Cl. 2.](#)

<sup>10</sup> Not to be confused with the Privileges **and** Immunities Clause, [U.S. Const. Article IV, § 2, cl. 1](#), which was part of the original Constitution, the Privileges **or** Immunities Clause, [U.S. Const. Am. XIV, § 1, cl. 2](#), was added as part of the Fourteenth Amendment in 1868.

Plaintiffs allege that Defendants violated their rights under the Privileges or Immunities Clause by implementing a redistricting plan that exceeded the scope of their authority under the Elections Clause. However, Plaintiffs acknowledge that there is little precedent interpreting the Privileges or Immunities Clause. In fact, only four cases exist in which the Supreme Court's majority opinion relied on the Privileges or Immunities Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment: [The Slaughter–House Cases](#), 83 U.S. 36, 16 Wall. 36, 21 L.Ed. 394 (1872), [Colgate v. Harvey](#), 296 U.S. 404, 56 S.Ct. 252, 80 L.Ed. 299 (1935), [Madden v. Commonwealth of Kentucky](#), 309 U.S. 83, 60 S.Ct. 406, 84 L.Ed. 590 (1940), and [Saenz v. Roe](#), 526 U.S. 489, 119 S.Ct. 1518, 143 L.Ed.2d 689 (1999).

##### **A. [The Slaughter–House Cases](#), 83 U.S. 36, 16 Wall. 36, 21 L.Ed. 394 (1873)**

The [Slaughter–House Cases](#) involved a constitutional challenge by several butchers to a Louisiana public health law that incorporated a business, provided that

business with a monopoly on the issuance of permits to slaughter animals for food, and specified localities in which slaughtering would be permitted. The Supreme Court, in a 5–4 decision, held there was no violation of the Privileges or Immunities Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment because the labor rights cited by the butchers were not rights granted to them by virtue of their United States citizenship, but rather rights that the butchers had by virtue of their state citizenship. In the majority opinion, Justice Miller construed the text of the Clause as protecting only rights conferred by federal, rather than state, citizenship:

Having shown that the privileges and immunities relied on in the argument are those which belong to citizens of the States as such, and that they are left to the State governments for security and protection, and not by this article placed under the special care of the Federal government, we may hold ourselves excused from defining the privileges and immunities of citizens of the United States which no State can abridge, until some case involving those privileges may make it necessary to do so.

But lest it should be said that no such privileges and immunities are to be found if those we have been considering are excluded, we venture to suggest some which own their existence to the Federal government, its National character, its Constitution, or its laws....

[83 U.S. at 78–79, 21 L.Ed. 394.](#)

The Court then went on to provide several examples of rights that are protected under

the Privileges or Immunities Clause, based on cases in other courts. These “privileges or immunities” protected by virtue of national citizenship include the rights:

“[T]o come to the seat of government to assert any claim he may have upon that government, to transact any business he may have with it, to seek its protection, to share its offices, to engage in administering its functions”;

to “free access to its seaports ... to the subtreasuries, land offices, and courts of justice in the several states”;

“to demand the care and protection of the Federal government over his life, liberty, and property when on the high seas or within the jurisdiction of a foreign government”;

“to peaceably assemble and petition for redress of grievances, the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus*”;

“to use navigable waters of the united States, however they may penetrate the territory of the several States”;

those “rights secured to our citizens by treaties with foreign nations”;

to “become a citizen of any State of the Union by a *bona fide* residence therein”;

those “rights secured by the thirteenth and fifteenth articles of amendment, and by the other clause of the fourteenth [equal protection].”

[Id. at 79–80, 21 L.Ed. 394.](#)



**B. Colgate v. Harvey, 296 U.S. 404, 56 S.Ct. 252, 80 L.Ed. 299 (1935)**

In Colgate v. Harvey, the plaintiff challenged a Vermont tax statute on Equal Protection and Privileges or Immunities Clause ground. The act, among other things, provided disparate tax treatment to money loaned within the state versus money loaned outside the state. 296 U.S. 404, 56 S.Ct. 252, 80 L.Ed. 299 (1935). The Court first held that the Privileges or Immunities Clause was implicated because, “the right of a citizen of the United States to ... make a lawful loan of money in any state other than that in which the citizen resides is a privilege [ ] attributable to his national citizenship.” Id. at 430, 56 S.Ct. 252. The Court went on to describe the purpose of the Clause as “requir[ing] each state to accord equality of treatment to the citizens of other states in respect of the privileges and immunities of state citizenship.” Id. at 431, 56 S.Ct. 252. The Court then concluded that the tax act violated the Clause: “[I]t well cannot be doubted that legislation of one state denying the privilege or taxing the transaction when it occurs in another state, while leaving the transaction wholly free from taxation when it takes place in the former state, would abridge that privilege of citizenship.” Id. at 432, 56 S.Ct. 252.

**C. Madden v. Commonwealth of Kentucky, 309 U.S. 83, 60 S.Ct. 406, 84 L.Ed. 590 (1940)**

In Madden v. Commonwealth of Kentucky, Supreme Court took up the question of whether a state statute which imposed on its citizens an annual ad valorem tax on their deposits in banks within Kentucky at a rate of ten cents per hundred dollars, and outside of the state at a rate of fifty cents per hundred dollars, violated the Privileges or Immunities Clause. 309 U.S. 83, 60 S.Ct. 406, 84 L.Ed. 590 (1940) (emphasis added). Plaintiff claimed that his “right to carry on business beyond the lines of the State of his residence,” a right he contended pertained to his “national citizenship,” was abridged in violation of the Privileges or Immunities Clause. Id. at 90, 60 S.Ct. 406. The Court overruled Colgate, concluding as follows:

This Court declared in the Slaughter-House Cases that the Fourteenth Amendment as well as the Thirteenth and Fifteenth were adopted to protect the negroes in their freedom. This almost contemporaneous interpretation extended the benefits of the privileges and immunities clause to other rights which are inherent in national citizenship but denied it to those which spring from state citizenship.... The Court has consistently refused to list completely the rights which are covered by the clause, though it has pointed out the type of rights protected.



*We think it quite clear that the right to carry out an incident to a trade, business or calling such as the deposit of money in banks is not a privilege of national citizenship.*

[Id.](#) at 91–93, 60 S.Ct. 406 (emphasis added).

By overruling [Colgate](#), [Madden](#) appeared to complete what [Slaughter-House](#) had begun: the gutting of the Privileges or Immunities Clause to render it largely insignificant. From 1940 to 1999, no majority opinion at the Supreme Court relied on the Privileges or Immunities Clause, and litigants could point to no Supreme Court decision to assert a federal right under the Clause. Then, in [Saenz v. Roe](#), the Supreme Court breathed new life into the Privileges or Immunities Clause.

**[D. Saenz v. Roe, 526 U.S. 489, 119 S.Ct. 1518, 143 L.Ed.2d 689 \(1999\)](#)**

[Saenz](#) currently stands as the only Supreme Court case that remains good law, which found a federal right protected under the Privileges or Immunities Clause.

In [Saenz](#), the Court considered the constitutionality of a California statute limiting the welfare benefits of state residents, for the first year they live in California, to the benefits they would have received in the state of their prior residence. [526 U.S. 489, 119 S.Ct. 1518, 143 L.Ed.2d 689 \(1999\)](#). Because California typically provided more generous benefits

to needy families than other states, the statute was passed as a mechanism for preserving state resources. However, it was challenged on the ground that it created disparities between newcomers and those residing in the state for more than one year, in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment's Naturalization Clause and Privileges or Immunities Clause.

The Supreme Court held that the “constitutional right to travel from one State to another” is firmly embedded in jurisprudence, and, because it is a right incident to federal citizenship, it is protected by the Privileges or Immunities Clause. [Id.](#) at 498, 119 S.Ct. 1518. The Court then determined that California's classification of its welfare-eligible population by residency duration was justified by the purpose for the statute. The Court ultimately found,

these classifications may not be justified by a purpose to deter welfare applicants from migrating to California ... although it is reasonable to assume that some persons may be motivated to move for the purpose of obtaining higher benefits, the empirical evidence reviewed by the District Judge ... indicates that the number of such persons is quite small—surely not large enough to justify a burden on those who had no such motive.

[Id.](#) at 506, 119 S.Ct. 1518.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Note that the Supreme Court engaged in a form of balancing test, although it did not state that it was doing so (or explicitly lay out a step-by-step process). First, it determined whether the allegedly infringed right was constitutionally-protected. Second, it determined whether the right was federal in character. Third, it determined whether the state's infringement on the right was justified.

When [Saenz](#) held in 1999 that a federal right to travel was protected by the Fourteenth Amendment's Privileges or Immunities Clause, it opened the door to litigants seeking protection under the Clause of other constitutionally protected rights. Thus, this Court looks to [Saenz](#) as a guidepost for determining whether a constitutionally-protected right, in this case the right to vote, has been infringed. See also [McDonald v. City of Chicago](#), 561 U.S. 742, 805–858, 130 S.Ct. 3020, 177 L.Ed.2d 894 (2010) (Thomas, J., concurring).

## **XI. Burden of Proof—Clear and Convincing Evidence**

The burden of proof in this case on the plaintiffs should be clear and convincing evidence. Adopting a heightened burden of proof such as “clear and convincing evidence” is appropriate and defensible. If “mere preponderance” were the test, a judge would be able to upset a state legislature's determination as to congressional districts merely upon finding the evidence to support plaintiffs at 50.1% versus 49.9% for defendants. This would render judges very powerful on a very thin margin. Unelected federal judges must be

modest in asserting our power. A decision for plaintiffs should require something more than 50.1% evidentiary support before creating a “political earthquake” in requiring redistricting. If the clear and convincing test were adopted, a court would necessarily engage in a more searching analysis of the evidence propounded by the plaintiffs, thereby reducing the margin of error, and ensuring that decisions requiring redistricting rely on substantially more or “better” evidence than under the “preponderance” test.

The common law tradition of using preponderance as the appropriate test in most civil cases is wise. However, on a topic as sensitive as reapportionment, a higher burden of proof is justifiable, and would increase respect for the judicial decision, where the court has potential to apply a strong exercise of judicial power. Voiding a legislatively determined congressional district is much more intrusive, however defensible, than most judicial rulings, which usually only affect disputes between private parties, or disputes between an individual and the government. In a redistricting case, a judge is requiring a co-equal branch of government—the state legislature—to “do over” an apportionment of voters into congressional districts achieved through duly enacted legislation. This is much more serious business than other judicial adjudications.

While the concept of burden of proof at one time existed along a continuum,<sup>12</sup> U.S. law has apparently settled on three distinct formulations: preponderance of

the evidence being the lowest, clear and convincing evidence in the middle, and beyond a reasonable doubt the highest standard. See [Addington v. Texas](#), 441 U.S. 418, 423, 99 S.Ct. 1804, 60 L.Ed.2d 323 (1979) (“Generally speaking, the evolution of this area of the law has produced across a continuum three standards or levels of proof for different types of cases.”) The intermediate category, often articulated as “clear and convincing,” is arguably the most versatile, both in terms of its formulation and meaning, and in terms of when it is applied. On the first point, courts have articulated this intermediate standard in various manners<sup>13</sup>; courts also differ in how they define it.<sup>14</sup> On the second point, while “preponderance of the evidence” is the default burden in civil litigation, and “beyond a reasonable doubt” is the constitutionally required standard in criminal matters,<sup>15</sup> “clear and convincing” has been applied in various areas of the law in a somewhat piecemeal manner over time.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>12</sup> One publication cites to an 1826 treatise to make this point: “Even the most direct evidence can produce nothing more than such a high degree of probability as amounts to moral certainty. From the highest degree, it may decline by an infinite number of gradations, until it produce in the mind nothing more than a mere preponderance of assent in favour of the particular fact.” Kevin M. Clermont, [Procedure’s Magical Number Three: Psychological Bases for Standards of Decision](#), 72 Cornell L. Rev. 1115, 1120 n. 20 (1986–87) (quoting T. Starkie, A Practical Treatise on the Law of Evidence 449 (Boston 1826)).

<sup>13</sup> “The intermediate standard [ ] usually employs some combination of the words ‘clear,’ ‘cogent,’ ‘unequivocal,’ and ‘convincing.’ ” [Addington](#), 441 U.S. at 424, 99 S.Ct. 1804.

<sup>14</sup> See, e.g., [City of Gadsden v. Scott](#), 61 So. 3d 296, 301 (Ala. Civ. App. 2010) (“[F]irm conviction as to each essential element of the claim and a high probability as to the correctness.”); [Reid v. Estate of Sonder](#), 63 So. 3d 7, 10 (Fla. Dist. Ct. App. 3d Dist. 2011) (“[O]f such weight that it produces in the mind of the trier of fact a firm belief or conviction, without hesitancy” of the truth of the matter); [In re D.W.](#), 791 N.W.2d 703, 706 (Iowa 2010) (“[N]o serious or substantial doubts as to the correctness” of the conclusions drawn from the evidence).

<sup>15</sup> [In re Winship](#), 397 U.S. 358, 90 S.Ct. 1068, 25 L.Ed.2d 368 (1970).

<sup>16</sup> See, e.g., [Woodby v. INS](#), 385 U.S. 276, 87 S.Ct. 483, (deportation); [Chaunt v. United States](#), 364 U.S. 350, 81 S.Ct. 147, 5 L.Ed.2d 120 (1960) (denaturalization); [Addington v. Texas](#), 441 U.S. 418, 99 S.Ct. 1804, 60 L.Ed.2d 323 (1979) (civil commitment).

The Supreme Court has discussed the unifying theory of justification for these applications: “not only does the standard of proof reflect the importance of a particular adjudication, it also serves as ‘a societal judgment about how the risk of error should be distributed between the litigants.’ ” [Cruzan by Cruzan v. Dir., Missouri Dep’t of Health](#), 497 U.S. 261, 283, 110 S.Ct. 2841, 111 L.Ed.2d 224 (1990) (quoting [Santosky v. Kramer](#), 455 U.S. 745, 755, 102 S.Ct. 1388, 71 L.Ed.2d 599 (1982))

The Supreme Court has multiple times discussed the reasoning behind applying the “clear and convincing” standard. In [Addington v. Texas](#), 441 U.S. 418, 99 S.Ct. 1804, 60 L.Ed.2d 323 (1979), which set the floor for the burden of proof required in a state civil commitment proceeding at “clear and convincing,” the Court reviewed areas of law which have employed this standard:

The intermediate standard, which usually employs some combination of the words

“clear,” “cogent,” “unequivocal,” and “convincing,” is less commonly used, but nonetheless “is no stranger to the civil law.” [Woodby v. INS](#), 385 U.S. 276, 285, 87 S.Ct. 483, 17 L.Ed.2d 362 (1966). See also [McCormick](#), *Evidence* § 320 (1954); 9 J. Wigmore, *Evidence* § 2498 (3d ed. 1940). One typical use of the standard is in civil cases involving allegations of fraud or some other quasi-criminal wrongdoing by the defendant. The interests at stake in those cases are deemed to be more substantial than mere loss of money and some jurisdictions accordingly reduce the risk to the defendant of having his reputation tarnished erroneously by increasing the plaintiff's burden of proof. Similarly, this Court has used the “clear, unequivocal and convincing” standard of proof to protect particularly important individual interests in various civil cases. See, e.g., [Woodby v. INS](#), 385 U.S. at 285, 87 S.Ct. 483, (deportation); [Chaunt v. United States](#), 364 U.S. 350, 81 S.Ct. 147, 5 L.Ed.2d 120 (1960) (denaturalization); [Schneiderman v. United States](#), 320 U.S. 118, 63 S.Ct. 1333, 87 L.Ed. 1796 (1943) (denaturalization).

[Addington](#), 441 U.S. at 423–24, 99 S.Ct. 1804. The Court went on to apply the reasoning behind the “clear and convincing” standard to the rights at stake in a civil commitment proceeding:

In considering what standard should govern in a civil commitment proceeding, we must assess both the extent of the individual's interest in not being involuntarily confined indefinitely and the state's interest in committing the

emotionally disturbed under a particular standard of proof. Moreover, we must be mindful that the function of legal process is to minimize the risk of erroneous decisions ... This Court repeatedly has recognized that civil commitment for any purpose constitutes a significant deprivation of liberty that requires due process protection. Moreover, it is indisputable that involuntary commitment to a mental hospital after a finding of probable dangerousness to self or others can engender adverse social consequences to the individual ...

The state has a legitimate interest under its *parens patriae* powers in providing care to its citizens who are unable because of emotional disorders to care for themselves; the state also has authority under its police power to protect the community from the dangerous tendencies of some who are mentally ill. Under the Texas Mental Health Code, however, the State has no interest in confining individuals involuntarily if they are not mentally ill or if they do not pose some danger to themselves or others ... The individual should not be asked to share equally with society the risk of error when the possible injury to the individual is significantly greater than any possible harm to the state.

[Addington](#), 441 U.S. at 425–27, 99 S.Ct. 1804 (internal citations and quotations omitted). Ultimately, the Court concluded that “clear and convincing” “strikes a fair balance between the rights of the individual

and the legitimate concerns of the state.” Id. at 431, 99 S.Ct. 1804.

In Santosky v. Kramer the Court held the Constitution mandates, at a minimum, that courts employ a “clear and convincing” standard in parental rights termination proceedings. In reaching this conclusion, the Court expanded on its analysis from Addington:

Like civil commitment hearings, termination proceedings often require the factfinder to evaluate medical and psychiatric testimony, and to decide issues difficult to prove to a level of absolute certainty, such as lack of parental motive, absence of affection between parent and child, and failure of parental foresight and progress. The substantive standards applied vary from State to State. Although Congress found a “beyond a reasonable doubt” standard proper in one type of parental rights termination case, another legislative body might well conclude that a reasonable-doubt standard would erect an unreasonable barrier to state efforts to free permanently neglected children for adoption.

Santosky v. Kramer, 455 U.S. 745, 769, 102 S.Ct. 1388, 71 L.Ed.2d 599 (1982) (internal citations and quotations omitted). In light of the competing evidentiary interests and demands, the “clear and convincing evidence” standard “adequately conveys to the factfinder the level of subjective certainty about his factual conclusions necessary to satisfy due process.” Id.

In Cruzan by Cruzan v. Director, Missouri Dept. of Health, the Court held that the Constitution does not prevent a state from applying a “clear and convincing” burden of proof in evaluating an incompetent person's desire to end life-sustaining medical treatment. 497 U.S. 261, 110 S.Ct. 2841, 111 L.Ed.2d 224 (1990). The Court carefully considered the typical justifications for application of the “clear and convincing” standard, as applied to the facts at hand:

The function of a standard of proof, as that concept is embodied in the Due Process Clause and in the realm of factfinding, is to “instruct the factfinder concerning the degree of confidence our society thinks he should have in the correctness of factual conclusions for a particular type of adjudication.” Addington v. Texas, 441 U.S. 418, 423 [441 U.S. 418, 60 L.Ed.2d 323] (1979) (quoting In re Winship, 397 U.S. 358, 370 [90 S.Ct. 1068, 25 L.Ed.2d 368] (1970) (Harlan, J., concurring)). “This Court has mandated an intermediate standard of proof—‘clear and convincing evidence’—when the individual interests at stake in a state proceeding are both ‘particularly important’ and ‘more substantial than



mere loss of money.’ ” [Santosky v. Kramer](#), 455 U.S. 745, 756 [102 S.Ct. 1388, 71 L.Ed.2d 599] (1982) (quoting [Addington](#), 441 U.S. at 424 [99 S.Ct. 1804]).

We think it self-evident that the interests at stake in the instant proceedings are more substantial, both on an individual and societal level, than those involved in a run-of-the-mine civil dispute. But not only does the standard of proof reflect the importance of a particular adjudication, it also serves as “a societal judgment about how the risk of error should be distributed between the litigants.” [Santosky](#), 455 U.S. at 755 [102 S.Ct. 1388]; [Addington](#), 441 U.S. at 423 [99 S.Ct. 1804]. The more stringent the burden of proof a party must bear, the more that party bears the risk of an erroneous decision. We believe that Missouri may permissibly place an increased risk of an erroneous decision on those seeking to terminate an incompetent individual's life-sustaining treatment. An erroneous decision not to terminate results in a maintenance of the status quo; the possibility of subsequent developments such as advancements in medical science, the discovery of new evidence regarding the patient's intent, changes in the law, or simply the unexpected death of the patient despite the administration of life-sustaining treatment at least create the potential that a wrong decision will eventually be corrected or its impact mitigated. An erroneous decision to withdraw life-sustaining treatment, however, is not susceptible of correction. In [Santosky](#), one of the factors which led the Court to require proof by clear

and convincing evidence in a proceeding to terminate parental rights was that a decision in such a case was final and irrevocable. [Santosky](#), 455 U.S. at 759 [102 S.Ct. 1388]. The same must surely be said of the decision to discontinue hydration and nutrition of a patient such as Nancy Cruzan, which all agree will result in her death.

Notably, the Court in [Cruzan](#) addressed the significance of the government's position in the litigation—seeking to protect an individual's rights—on the determination of the proper burden:

We recognize that these cases involved instances where the government sought to take action against an individual. See [Price Waterhouse v. Hopkins](#), 490 U.S. 228, 253, 109 S.Ct. 1775, 1792, 104 L.Ed.2d 268 (1989) (plurality opinion). Here, by contrast, the government seeks to protect the interests of an individual, as well as its own institutional interests, in life. We do not see any reason why important individual interests should be afforded less protection simply because the government finds itself in the position of defending them. “[W]e find it significant that ... the defendant rather than the plaintiff” seeks the clear and convincing standard of proof—“suggesting that this standard ordinarily serves as a shield rather than ... a sword.” [Id.](#), at 253, 109 S.Ct., at 1792. That it is the government that has picked up the shield should be of no moment.”

[Cruzan](#), 497 U.S. at 282–83, 110 S.Ct. 2841.



The Third Circuit, in [Livingstone v. North Belle Vernon Borough](#), 91 F.3d 515 (3d Cir. 1996), analyzed the propriety of the “clear and convincing” burden of proof in the context of oral release-dismissal agreements. The Court echoed the themes articulated in [Addington](#) in reasoning that the “clear and convincing” standard, rather than “preponderance of the evidence” standard, must be employed in assessing whether an oral release-dismissal agreement was entered into voluntarily. The Court explained that “the enforcement of the oral release-dismissal agreement at issue in this case would indeed implicate important individual interests or rights” thereby justifying the higher standard. [Livingstone](#), 91 F.3d at 535 (internal quotation omitted). Moreover, the nature of the underlying claim implicates broader societal interests: “section 1983 actions, when successful, do more than compensate injured plaintiffs: they serve the important public purpose of exposing and deterring official misconduct, and thereby protecting the rights of the public at large.” *Id.* Finally, the Court highlighted the evidentiary difficulties in evaluating an oral agreement, and concluded that “[a] clear-and-convincing standard appropriately allocates more of the risk of error associated with oral release-dismissal agreements to those who seek to enforce them.” The Court expanded on this concept:

[O]ral release-dismissal agreements raise particularly significant questions of voluntariness, as the lack of a written document may inhibit negotiation as to an

agreement's terms and render it difficult for prospective parties to reflect on those terms ... an oral agreement ordinarily contains less evidence as to the course of the parties' negotiations than does a written agreement. As a result, there is a greater risk of error in a jury's evaluation of whether an oral release-dismissal agreement was concluded voluntarily.

[Livingstone](#), 91 F.3d at 535–36. This drew upon the Third Circuit's reasoning in [Batka v. Liberty Mutual Fire Insurance Co.](#), where the Court explained that “the clear and convincing standard was developed by the chancery courts to avoid too ready circumvention of the Statute of Frauds and the Statute of Wills.” [Batka v. Liberty Mut. Fire Ins. Co.](#), 704 F.2d 684, 689 (3d Cir. 1983) (holding that because the Defendant's fraudulent application defense was in essence an attempt to rescind the contract, “a classic example of equitable relief,” the defense must be established by “clear and convincing” evidence).

The above discussion supports the use of the clear and convincing evidentiary standard as the burden of proof in this case.

## **XII. The Voting Rights Act and Racial Gerrymandering**

## A. Voting Rights Act

A hallmark piece of civil rights legislation, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA) was adopted to allow all citizens, regardless of race, to exercise their right to vote, and took as its principal stated purpose “[t]o enforce the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States.” Voting Rights Act of 1965, Pub. L. 89–110, 79 Stat. 437 (1965). In its initial form, the VRA contained numerous provisions intended to ameliorate racialized voter suppression, including banning tests as prerequisites for voting and allowing election observers. *Id.* The VRA has since been amended several times, most recently in 2006. Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act. Pub. L. 109–246, 120 Stat. 577 (2006).

As amended, Section 2(a) reads in part, “No voting qualification or prerequisite to voting or standard, practice, or procedure shall be imposed or applied by any State or political subdivision in a manner which results in a denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color.” 52 U.S.C. § 10301(a). The VRA also protects the rights of minority citizens to elect their preferred candidates of choice. 52 U.S.C. § 10304.

While the text of the VRA itself does not require the creation of congressional districts in which racial minorities are a majority of the population, some states, including Pennsylvania, create one or more majority-minority districts as a means of complying

with the VRA. See, e.g., [Bush v. Vera](#), 517 U.S. 952, 957, 116 S.Ct. 1941, 135 L.Ed.2d 248 (1996) (districts at issue were created “with a view to complying with the Voting Rights Act of 1965”). It was uncontroverted at trial that the Second Congressional District is a majority-minority district.

## B. Racial Gerrymandering Cases

Racial gerrymandering cases, which generally assert Equal Protection Clause violations for racially motivated district maps, often involve some discussion of the Voting Rights Act. To challenge an improper racial gerrymander, a plaintiff must show that “race was the predominant factor motivating the legislature’s decision to place a significant number of voters within or without a particular district.” [Cooper v. Harris](#), — U.S. —, 137 S.Ct. 1455, 1463, 197 L.Ed.2d 837 (2017) (quoting [Miller v. Johnson](#), 515 U.S. 900, 916, 115 S.Ct. 2475, 132 L.Ed.2d 762 (1995)). Next, “if racial considerations predominated over others, the design of the district” is subject to strict scrutiny. [Cooper](#), 137 S.Ct. at 1463.

As Cooper acknowledged, and critically for purposes of this case, plaintiffs may make the required initial showing either through direct evidence of legislative intent and/or “circumstantial evidence of a district’s shape and demographics.” *Id.* at 1464 (quoting [Miller](#), 515 U.S. at 916, 115 S.Ct. 2475). The shape of districts is a recurring theme throughout racial gerrymandering cases; in one foundational case, the Supreme Court stated that “reapportionment is one area in which appearances do matter.” [Shaw v.](#)

[Reno](#), 509 U.S. 630, 647, 113 S.Ct. 2816, 125 L.Ed.2d 511 (1993).

### C. Prior Racial Gerrymandering Cases Involving Appearance

Shape as a consideration in racial gerrymandering even predates the VRA. In [Gomillion v. Lightfoot](#), 364 U.S. 339, 81 S.Ct. 125, 5 L.Ed.2d 110 (1960), which preceded the VRA, a group of African-American plaintiffs challenged an Alabama enactment changing the shape of the city of Tuskegee “from a square to an uncouth twenty-eight-sided figure,” which the plaintiffs asserted to been drawn to exclude nearly all potential African-American voters. [Id.](#) at 340, 81 S.Ct. 125. The Supreme Court found that the plaintiffs had stated a claim under the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments.

In [Shaw v. Reno](#), North Carolina had created a congressional district map that, to comply with the Voting Rights Act, included two majority-Black districts. 509 U.S. at 634, 113 S.Ct. 2816. A group of white voters challenged the plan, which contained “boundary lines of dramatically irregular shape,” as an unconstitutional racial gerrymander under the Equal Protection Clause. [Id.](#) at 633, 113 S.Ct. 2816. The irregular shape of the districts, one of which was described as “snakelike,” [id.](#) at 635, 113 S.Ct. 2816, was central to the majority's analysis: a “reapportionment plan that includes in one district individuals who belong to the same race, but who are otherwise widely separated by geographical and political boundaries, and who may have

little in common with one another but the color of their skin, bears an uncomfortable resemblance to political apartheid.” [Id.](#) at 647, 113 S.Ct. 2816. Ultimately, the majority held that the plaintiffs had stated a claim “by alleging that the North Carolina General Assembly adopted a reapportionment scheme so irrational on its face that it can be understood only as an effort to segregate voters into separate voting districts because of their race.” [Id.](#) at 658, 113 S.Ct. 2816.

Two years later, in [Miller v. Johnson](#), the Supreme Court clarified that although demonstrating irregular shape was not a “threshold showing,” the shape of a district was nonetheless relevant “because it may be persuasive circumstantial evidence that race for its own sake, and not other districting principles, was the legislature's dominant and controlling rationale in drawing its districtlines.” [Miller v. Johnson](#), 515 U.S. 900, 913, 115 S.Ct. 2475, 132 L.Ed.2d 762 (1995). As discussed above, this remains good law; plaintiffs may make out a case through “circumstantial evidence of a district's shape and demographics.” [Cooper](#), 137 S.Ct. at 1464 (citing [id.](#) at 916, 115 S.Ct. 2475); [Alabama Legislative Black Caucus v. Alabama](#), — U.S. —, 135 S.Ct. 1257, 1267, 191 L.Ed.2d 314 (2015).

As [Miller](#) indicated, the necessity of determining whether race was the predominant factor in developing district boundaries has naturally led to discussion of the other reasons why district boundaries might have been drawn in a particular way. See also [Bush v. Vera](#), 517 U.S. 952, 963,

116 S.Ct. 1941, 135 L.Ed.2d 248 (1996) (“[w]e must therefore consider what role other factors played in order to determine whether race predominated”). The majority opinion in Shaw opined that “a case in which a State concentrated a dispersed minority population in a single district by disregarding traditional districting principles such as compactness, contiguity, and respect for political subdivisions” could appear so irregular that, on its face, it could be understood only as “an effort to ‘segregat[e] ... voters’ on the basis of race.” 509 U.S. at 647, 113 S.Ct. 2816 (quoting Gomillion, 364 U.S. at 341, 81 S.Ct. 125) (alteration original). Shaw did not purport to present an exhaustive list, and nothing actually confines the application of traditional districting principles to racial gerrymandering cases alone; rather, the nature of the inquiry in such cases necessitates their discussion. Moreover, discussion of traditional districting criteria actually appears to originate in one-person, one-vote cases. See Reynolds v. Sims, 377 U.S. 533, 578, 84 S.Ct. 1362, 12 L.Ed.2d 506 (1964) (discussing contiguity, compactness and preservation of natural boundary lines and political subdivisions).

The above decisions provide authority for considering the “appearance” of the 2011 map, and the use of neutral redistricting principles, as factors in assessing gerrymandering claims.

### XIII. Justiciability

Legislative Defendants assert that this case is not “justiciable” because of the “political”

nature of reapportionment. However, I must conclude that this case is justiciable for several distinct reasons.

#### A. Court Decisions

1. Under Davis v. Bandemer, 478 U.S. 109, 106 S.Ct. 2797, 92 L.Ed.2d 85 (1986), a six-justice majority of the Supreme Court held that a gerrymandering dispute under the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment was justiciable, although no standard commanded a majority of votes. Despite later plurality opinions calling this conclusion into question, the holding of Davis—that partisan gerrymandering cases are justiciable—has never been overturned. Indeed, a five-justice majority of the Supreme Court recently acknowledged as much, and declined to “revisit the justiciability holding” of Davis. League of United Latin Am. Citizens v. Perry, 548 U.S. 399, 414, 126 S.Ct. 2594, 165 L.Ed.2d 609 (2006).

#### B. The Statute Authorizing this Three–Judge Court

The statute under which this three-judge court was created, 28 U.S.C. § 2284, supports a finding of justiciability. This three-judge court is one of the “inferior” courts which Article III of the Constitution empowered Congress to establish. The statute specifically mandates that “a district court of three judges shall be convened ... when an action is filed challenging the constitutionality of the apportionment of congressional districts.” 28 U.S.C. § 2284(a).



This clear recognition, by Congress, that courts are empowered to decide disputes over redistricting, reflects Congress's express view that courts should decide these disputes. While Congress may itself decide these issues under Article I, § 4, Clause 1, Congress has made it clear by enacting this statute that courts may decide such issues as well.

Our research shows that § 2284 apparently has not been judicially cited to support this type of argument for justiciability. This is surprising, given the fact that, as discussed above, § 2284 contains an implication that courts should adjudicate redistricting claims.

### C. Precedent Regarding Justiciability— Cases Involving Politics

Justiciability is also supported by a series of cases starting with Elrod v. Burns, which prove that the mere presence of “politics” in the background facts of the case, does not preclude justiciability. 427 U.S. 347, 96 S.Ct. 2673, 49 L.Ed.2d 547 (1976). In Elrod, the Supreme Court recognized the right of state employees who allege adverse employment action based on political affiliation or belief to assert a claim for violation of the First and Fourteenth Amendments. In Elrod, a newly elected Democratic sheriff fired several non-civil service employees who did not support the Democratic Party. 427 U.S. at 351, 96 S.Ct. 2673. Justice Brennan, writing for three justices, found that patronage dismissals for reasons of political affiliation were justiciable and judicial adjudication of the issue did not contravene the separation of powers. Id. at 351–53, 96 S.Ct. 2673.

The Elrod plurality began its analysis with the potential cost to protected freedoms that partisan dismissal posed: if the price of a job was political allegiance or affiliation, patronage could essentially compel such allegiance or affiliation—or force an employee to risk his job. The plurality found this deeply concerning because “political belief and association constitute the core of those activities protected by the First Amendment.” Id. at 356, 96 S.Ct. 2673. Thus, patronage “to the extent it compels or restrains belief and association is inimical to the process which undergirds our system of government and is at war with the deeper traditions of democracy embodied in the First Amendment.” Id. at 357, 96 S.Ct. 2673 (internal quotation omitted). In much the same way, the plurality saw political patronage as imposing unconstitutional conditions on public employment. Id. at 358–59, 96 S.Ct. 2673.

The plurality then rejected three arguments that the petitioners advanced to support partisan dismissals: “the need to insure effective government and the efficiency of public employees,” “the need for political loyalty,” and “the preservation of the democratic process.” Id. at 364–68, 96 S.Ct. 2673. As to the last, the plurality opined that patronage dismissals could “result in the entrenchment of one or a few parties to the exclusion of others” and act as “a very effective impediment to the associational and speech freedoms which are essential to a meaningful system of democratic government.” Id. at 369, 369–70, 96 S.Ct. 2673.

Two additional justices chided the plurality for issuing such a sweeping opinion but concurred in the judgment, stating that a “nonpolicymaking, nonconfidential government employee [cannot] be discharged or threatened with discharge from a job that he is satisfactorily performing upon the sole ground of his political beliefs.” [Elrod v. Burns](#), 427 U.S. 347, 375, 96 S.Ct. 2673, 49 L.Ed.2d 547 (1976) (Stewart, J., concurring). Three justices dissented. In total, five justices voted that the dismissed employees had stated a claim under the First and Fourteenth Amendments.

This doctrine was both expanded and endorsed by a majority of the Supreme Court. In [Branti v. Finkel](#), a six-justice majority affirmed an injunction against firing on “purely political grounds” for two assistant public defenders who were Republicans, and who had received termination notices. 445 U.S. 507, 520, 100 S.Ct. 1287, 63 L.Ed.2d 574 (1980). The assistant public defenders did not occupy policymaking positions, in the majority's view, and were therefore subject to the rule articulated in [Elrod](#). [Id.](#) at 519, 100 S.Ct. 1287.

This doctrine was later expanded to encompass “promotion, transfer, recall, and hiring decisions involving low-level public employees” on the basis of “party affiliation and support,” [Rutan v. Republican Party of Illinois](#), 497 U.S. 62, 65, 110 S.Ct. 2729, 111 L.Ed.2d 52 (1990), and politically retaliatory dismissals of government independent

contractors. [O'Hare Truck Serv., Inc. v. City of Northlake](#), 518 U.S. 712, 715, 116 S.Ct. 2353, 135 L.Ed.2d 874 (1996). Just last year, the Supreme Court held that a plaintiff stated a claim for deprivation of a constitutional right where he was demoted based on his employer's erroneous belief that he supported a particular mayoral candidate. [Heffernan v. City of Paterson, N.J.](#), — U.S. —, 136 S.Ct. 1412, 1416, 194 L.Ed.2d 508 (2016).

Some justices have dissented in these cases because the issues tend to involve “patronage.” In [Rutan](#), in particular, Justice Scalia criticized the majority holding as lacking clarity and described the “shambles [Branti](#) has produced”:

A city cannot fire a deputy sheriff because of his political affiliation, but then again perhaps it can, especially if he is called the “police captain.” A county cannot fire on that basis its attorney for the department of social services, nor its assistant attorney for family court, but a city can fire its solicitor and his assistants, or its assistant city attorney, or its assistant state's attorney, or its corporation counsel.

[Rutan v. Republican Party of Illinois](#), 497 U.S. 62, 111–12, 110 S.Ct. 2729, 111 L.Ed.2d 52 (1990) (Scalia, J., dissenting). Justice Scalia would also have committed the issue



of patronage to the political branches; the “whole point” of his dissent, Scalia wrote, “is that the desirability of patronage is a policy question to be decided by the people's representatives.” [Id.](#) at 104, 110 S.Ct. 2729.

In his concurrence in [Vieth](#), Justice Stevens stated that [Elrod](#) made clear that the fact that “politics” in a general sense are involved in the underlying facts of the case does not necessarily render a matter non-justiciable as a “political question,” much less prevent a court from overlooking a deprivation of constitutional rights.

In [Zivotofsky ex rel. Zivotofsky v. Clinton](#), the Supreme Court observed that the judiciary's duty to evaluate the constitutionality of federal statutes “will sometimes involve the ‘resolution of litigation challenging the constitutional authority of one of the three branches,’ but courts cannot avoid their responsibility merely ‘because the issues have political implications.’” [Zivotofsky ex rel. Zivotofsky v. Clinton](#), 566 U.S. 189, 196, 132 S.Ct. 1421, 182 L.Ed.2d 423 (2012) (quoting [INS v. Chadha](#), 462 U.S. 919, 943, 103 S.Ct. 2764, 77 L.Ed.2d 317 (1983)) (holding that the question of whether a federal statute allowing Americans born in Jerusalem to identify “Israel” as their place of birth listed on their passports is constitutional does not implicate the political question doctrine and is therefore justiciable).

The lesson that these cases teach is that the presence of “politics” in the background facts, does not make justiciability “verboden.” The above three

authorities, one a controlling United States Supreme Court decision, one a statute, and the third a persuasive line of cases, show a claim for violation of this constitutional right, including a claim under the Elections Clause, is cognizable under the Fourteenth Amendment Privileges or Immunities Clause, and is justiciable.

Justice Scalia, in [Vieth](#), and other commentators, have pointed out that the Constitution does contain at least one remedy for a state's violation of the “time, manner and place” requirement in Article I, Section 4: that Congress has the power to override the state legislature's regulations. Justice Scalia, in his [Vieth](#) plurality, states a clear preference and intimation that this should be the sole remedy for a gerrymander—that Congress has the sole power to remedy a state's gerrymandering, for whatever reason. However, the [Bandemer](#) majority rejected this argument and we are bound to follow that.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>17</sup> A snaking and complex legal history predates [Bandemer](#). In 1946, petitioners in [Colegrove v. Green](#) challenged the Illinois congressional districting scheme on the basis that the districts were insufficiently compact and were not approximately equal in population. [Colegrove v. Green](#), 328 U.S. 549, 66 S.Ct. 1198, 90 L.Ed. 1432 (1946). Writing for a plurality of four Justices, Justice Frankfurter concluded that the case presented a nonjusticiable political question. [Id.](#) at 556, 66 S.Ct. 1198. In [Baker v. Carr](#), the Court held justiciable the question of whether reapportionment plans are constitutional when they draw congressional districts of unequal population. [Baker v. Carr](#), 369 U.S. 186, 82 S.Ct. 691, 7 L.Ed.2d 663 (1962). The Court in [Baker](#) distinguished [Colegrove](#), holding that the “refusal to award relief in [Colegrove](#) resulted only from the controlling view of a want of equity,” [id.](#) at 234, 82 S.Ct. 691, and that the plaintiffs' Equal Protection challenge was justiciable. [Id.](#) at 204. A recent case

described [Baker](#) as “chang[ing] course” from earlier cases such as [Colgrove](#), [Evenwel v. Abbott](#), — U.S. —, 136 S.Ct. 1120, 1134, 194 L.Ed.2d 291 (2016). Since [Baker](#), many different kinds of challenges have been brought against gerrymandering, with varying levels of success.

As Justice Brennan stated at the beginning of his majority opinion in [Rutan](#), “To the victor go only those spoils that can be constitutionally obtained.” This Court can and should decide that the results of the Pennsylvania congressional redistricting process have not been “constitutionally obtained.”

#### D. Technology and Public Policy

New technologies, not available until recently, require judges to recognize the digital world of today differently and to recognize that computer-based technologies have allowed politicians, as well as businesses, nations, terrorists, and others, to effectuate strategies that were never available before. To the extent those strategies threaten individual liberties, or guarantees in the Constitution, in ways which the framers could not have envisioned, the judicial branch is the branch responsible for remedying the wrong.

Justiciability can be a fancy word for “judicial abstinence,” when a judge concludes the court should not decide a dispute. In deciding whether to abstain from ruling, Judges write their own rules. Judges must consider the nature of the wrong, the appropriateness of available remedies, and the consequences of abstaining.

Failure to act on gerrymandering of congressional districts is very likely to lead to further declines in voter turnout. Both defense experts agreed that voter turnout declines in non-competitive elections.<sup>18</sup> The average voter is likely to say, “Why bother?” Judges surely have a stake in assuring a vibrant democracy. This case presents a challenge to the constitutional imperatives behind the Elections Clause. Judicial overview of gerrymandering is important and necessary to secure the basic tenet of a democracy—that eligible voters will vote. Even a cursory review of the United States Supreme Court jurisprudence shows gerrymandering is a wrong in search of a remedy.

<sup>18</sup> See also Lipsitz, [Competitive Elections and the American Voter](#) (Univ. of Pa. Press 2011), pp. 119–123, collecting studies which show competitive elections increase voter turnout.

The Supreme Court has failed to reach a consensus about the use of partisan political criteria in setting congressional districts. I have adopted a visual approach, which completely avoids partisan evidence. This approach is based on objective facts, which support justiciability.

#### E. Justiciability is Not a Concept Frozen in Time

Justiciability must necessarily be a fluid concept. It seems clear that the justiciability of any particular subject could change over time as the underlying subject matter itself changes, with resulting implications on the standards by which it can be judged. As technology changes, judges may have to

decide issues previously considered non-justiciable. Public policy about the value of voting mandates new thinking about the justiciability of gerrymandering. It is exactly this idea that underscored Justice Kennedy's approach to the justiciability of political gerrymandering in [Vieth](#):

Technology is both a threat and a promise. On the one hand, if courts refuse to entertain any claims of partisan gerrymandering, the temptation to use partisan favoritism in districting in an unconstitutional manner will grow. On the other hand, these new technologies may produce new methods of analysis that make more evident the precise nature of the burdens gerrymanders impose on the representational rights of voters and parties. That would facilitate court efforts to identify and remedy the burdens, with judicial intervention limited by the derived standards. If suitable standards with which to measure the burden a gerrymander imposes on representational rights did emerge, hindsight would show that the Court prematurely abandoned

the field. That is a risk the Court should not take.

[Vieth](#), 541 U.S. at 312–13, 124 S.Ct. 1769. As the subject matter itself changes, in many cases so might courts' capacity to evaluate it. With respect to partisan gerrymandering, not only might technology enable courts to better analyze a challenge, it also raises the stakes of the challenge itself, thus increasing the need for judicial intervention. Advanced technology has made the problem of political gerrymandering much worse—partisan intent can be factored into a districting map much more precisely, with much greater effect. As technology changes the law must keep up. This must include longstanding and well-established constitutional principles, such as the Fourth Amendment expectation of privacy, for example. See [United States v. Jones](#), 565 U.S. 400, 132 S.Ct. 945, 181 L.Ed.2d 911 (2012); [Kyllo v. United States](#), 533 U.S. 27, 121 S.Ct. 2038, 150 L.Ed.2d 94 (2001).

As the Supreme Court clarified in [Baker v. Carr](#) and later cases, “there is a significant difference between determining whether a federal court has ‘jurisdiction of the subject matter’ and determining whether a cause over which a court has subject matter jurisdiction is ‘justiciable.’ ” [Powell v. McCormack](#), 395 U.S. 486, 89 S.Ct. 1944, 23 L.Ed.2d 491 (1969) (citing [Baker v. Carr](#), 369 U.S. 186, 82 S.Ct. 691, 7 L.Ed.2d 663 (1962)). In recent cases dealing with the political question doctrine, courts have reaffirmed this principle that jurisdiction is a separate question from justiciability. In [Oryszak v. Sullivan](#), the D.C. Circuit

Court distinguished between jurisdiction and justiciability:

That a plaintiff complains about an action that is committed to agency discretion by law does not mean his case is not a civil action arising under the Constitution, laws, or treaties of the United States. It does not mean, therefore, the court lacks subject matter jurisdiction. It does mean there is no law to apply, because the court has no meaningful standard against which to judge the agency's exercise of discretion.

Oryszak v. Sullivan, 576 F.3d 522, 526 (D.C. Cir. 2009) (internal quotations and citations omitted). Judge Douglas Ginsburg, concurring, echoed this sentiment, and added that “[b]ecause justiciability is not jurisdictional, a court need not necessarily resolve it before addressing the merits.” Id. at 527. He urged the importance of maintaining clear separation between the concepts of jurisdiction and justiciability, and issued a plea that the en banc court engage in efforts to better establish that clarity.

Importantly, 28 U.S.C. § 2284 is not the source of jurisdiction for constitutional challenges to apportionment statutes. The Constitution and § 1331 are the source of that jurisdiction. Nonetheless, Congress's determination that constitutional challenges

to congressional apportionment should be heard by three-judge panels supports this Court's jurisdiction over a political gerrymandering claim. But the primary significance of § 2284 goes beyond jurisdiction. It reflects a congressional judgment that courts can and should decide constitutional challenges to apportionment laws. With respect to the justiciability of political gerrymandering challenges in particular, the existence of § 2284 largely allays the concerns at the heart of three of the six elements of political questions identified in Baker v. Carr:

[T]he impossibility of a court's undertaking independent resolution without expressing lack of the respect due coordinate branches of government; or an unusual need for unquestioning adherence to a political decision already made; or the potentiality of embarrassment from multifarious pronouncements by various departments on one question.

Baker v. Carr, 369 U.S. 186, 217, 82 S.Ct. 691, 7 L.Ed.2d 663 (1962). In providing explicit instruction for the procedures by which apportionment challenges should be decided, section 2284 implicitly approves of judicial review over this area. Political gerrymandering challenges in particular are in no way exempt from this endorsement.

Certainly, in light of this specific and direct congressional delegation, deciding such questions runs little risk of “tread[ing] on legislative ground.” [M'Culloch v. Maryland](#), 17 U.S. 316, 423, 4 Wheat. 316, 4 L.Ed. 579 (1819).

## F. Let's Forget About Politics

To further prove justiciability, let us briefly depart totally from the allegations about politics or partisan intent. Suppose that a group of citizens alleged that the redistricting of Pennsylvania took place along economic lines—i.e. that rich people, defined perhaps as having an annual income of over \$100,000—controlled the legislature, and that the 2011 map was prepared to ensure that the “rich people” enjoyed a thirteen-to-five margin in Congress.

Would the result be different if the “poor people” had taken control of the process?

Alternatively, let us suppose the classifications took place over educational lines. Voters in Pennsylvania who did not graduate from college decided to band together and take control of the legislature, and to “pack and crack” the congressional districts so that the college graduates would be located mostly in, and could only control five of the eighteen congressional seats. Thus, voters who did not graduate from college would control thirteen seats.

As a third alternative, suppose the Pennsylvania legislators were able to determine which Pennsylvania citizens had ancestors that came to the United States

before 1900, and they were able to use this data to take control of the Pennsylvania legislature and gerrymander congressional districts to capture thirteen of the eighteen congressional seats.

Assume that all of these strategies result in congressional districts that have ignored traditional and neutral redistricting criteria. None of these has anything to do with politics or partisan intent.

Would a court rely on principles of non-justiciability to ignore, and allow, that kind of redistricting criteria?

What reasoning would support a court in abstaining from considering those criteria, if any of them were used to control Pennsylvania's congressional districts? Can the state legislature permissibly consider various traits of voters in crafting congressional districts? Is there any difference between use of those criteria, and using prior voting results, “politics” or political partisanship? We expect legislators to be partisan, but we do not expect them to classify people along economic or educational status lines, or ancestry, in creating congressional districts. The point is that, in this case, the Court can avoid any of these criteria, including politics, altogether and conclude, from the objective and visual observations of the map alone, that the 2011 redistricting was unacceptable, because of the huge variations from traditional redistricting principles, in a number of districts.



If the resulting map satisfies the “neutral” principles, a court would have no reason to inquire into politics, or the hypotheticals I set forth above. The legislature’s use of neutral criteria would be immune from court intervention. Thus, if the neutral factors were followed, then irrespective of the district’s votes on key issues or the district’s composition—the concentration of residents—based on politics, wealth, education, or length of citizenship—would be incidental results of these neutral criteria.

One inescapable lesson from this trial is that gerrymandering, if defined as ignoring the neutral and traditional principles, is wrong—and digging deep into the reasons is not necessary. The Court can exercise its fact-finding role and grant relief as a matter of equity, all while remaining well within the traditional boundaries of justiciability.

In summary, because courts are readily capable of assessing whether objective neutral criteria can explain district lines, the issue is justiciable.

#### **XIV. Standards**

##### **A. Looking at this Case from the Viewpoint of the Voter**

Most, if not all, of the gerrymandering cases in the past have looked at the situation from the point of the view of the legislature. The members of a state legislature are quite obviously politically involved; they have won elections, running under one party label against a member of the opposite party. It is impossible to divorce any concept of

“partisanship” from the electoral process as a necessary part of a democracy—and a Court should be mindful, tolerant, and indeed observant of these political traditions which, over two plus centuries, have served our country very well.

Largely because of revolutionary high technology, the use of algorithms and other digitally-based techniques, gerrymanders are more easily achieved than ever. This often leads to control over the legislative process. However, in Pennsylvania, registered voters are almost evenly split between parties. Thus, Plaintiffs assert a gerrymandered legislature is proof of some “artificially created” districts. The scientific basis of a gerrymandering in the digital world is markedly different from, and distinguishable from, the much more “human-tinkering” to apportionment that existed in the pre-digital world. In other words, the technological revolution in which we are now living, and enjoying for the most part, can and does have some arguably negative effects—and one of them may very well be the ability to construct gerrymandered congressional districts to a precision point never known before, and keep them in existence over many years—probably until there is a large demographic change in the makeup of a district—which may be never.

The history of the Elections Clause, as reviewed in detail above, shows that its origin was based in protecting the rights of voters at that time, because the House of Representatives was the only national branch of government to be directly elected by the voters. As far as history goes, the



Elections Clause looks exclusively at the rights of voters, and is not concerned with party partisanship or any other political factors.

Thus, in this case, based exclusively on the Elections Clause, we should look at the gerrymandering situation from the point of view of the voter and the right to vote. Judges reviewing gerrymandering cases should not be concerned with winners or losers. The analysis should focus on legal principles and the overriding policy factor of preserving and protecting the value of voting. If the legislature's actions discourage voting, such as causing a voter to abstain from voting at all because his or her vote will not matter, harm results. Thus, a public policy factor judges should consider—grounded in the Constitution—is, the extent to which voters (of both parties) are discouraged from going to the polls, in a gerrymandered district, because it is so unlikely that their vote will matter.

The testimony of the various party plaintiffs at the trial illustrated this point of view. I discount any “complaints” Plaintiffs may have registered about particular votes by particular Congressman representing them in Washington. No citizen can expect, in a congressional district of approximately 700,000 people, that their congressional representative will vote consistent with their personal views on every issue. However, many Plaintiffs made the point that the elongated and artificial borders, resulting from the 2011 reapportionment, put them out of touch with their congressman because the 2011 map had so distorted the prior

district, and had violated the concepts of contiguity and compactness. These plaintiffs gave specific examples and used adjectives such as “squashed” to vocalize their frustration at their districts having been so literally “bent out of shape” that they do not feel they are part of a community that has elected its own Congressperson.

## **B. Adopting a Standard—Visual Analysis, Neutral Principles, and Absence of Usual Process**

The Elections Clause states:

The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each state by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing Senators.

[U.S. Const. Art. I, § 4, Cl. 1.](#)

### **1. Plaintiffs' Allegations**

On November 11, 2017, Legislative Defendants filed a motion requesting that Plaintiffs be ordered to identify in their Amended Complaint the standard of proof applicable to their Elections Clause claim. (ECF 79) In opposition, Plaintiffs filed a brief stating that the complaint need not plead an evidentiary standard of proof.

(ECF 82) However, Plaintiffs then spent nine pages laying out a standard of proof and evidentiary burden. Ultimately, Legislative Defendants' motion requesting Plaintiffs' be ordered to identify a standard of proof was denied. (ECF 83) However, the Court ordered on November 21, 2017 that the parties submit proposed standards for establishing a violation of the Elections Clause, including an evidentiary standard, burden of proof, and any possible burden-shifting. (ECF 104) Plaintiffs, Executive Defendants, and Legislative Defendants all submitted proposed standards on November 30, 2017. (ECF 155–157) The Court then ordered Plaintiffs to clarify their elements of proof because they were insufficiently specific in their November 30 submission. (ECF 169)

Thus, on the first day of trial, Plaintiffs submitted a shorter statement of the elements they contended they must prove (ECF 173):

A. Intent

To find a violation of the Elections Clause in a redistricting case, Plaintiffs must prove that those who created the map manipulated the district boundaries of one or more Congressional districts, intending to generate an expected number of winning seats for the party controlling the process that is greater than the expected number of winning seats that would be determined by the voters if the districts were drawn using even-handed criteria.

B. Standard for Leave of Intent

Plaintiffs must prove that the map-drawers' discriminatory intent was a substantial motivating factor in their line-drawing decisions, even if they also considered other factors.

C. Effect

Plaintiffs must prove that the drafters of the map achieved their intended goal, in that the map resulted in a Congressional delegation composition that even a majority of the people could not substantially change.

D. Required Extent of the Effect

[Plaintiffs may prevail by showing that the composition of the state's Congressional delegation as a whole] resulted from the use of partisan data, [such that the map itself], rather than the voters, solidified that composition. [It is no defense that a few districts remained competitive,] or that some districts were designed to protect incumbents of the disfavored party.

Although I reject Plaintiffs' proposed standard as set forth above, I have excerpted from it, similar to the “lesser included offense” jurisprudence in criminal law, limited elements that depend exclusively on the 2011 map—particularly as compared to the prior 2002 map, and the absence of the usual legislative process. Thus, I do use certain factors stated by Plaintiffs, which I have restated as follows:

those who created the map  
manipulated the district

boundaries of one or more Congressional districts ... [and] the map resulted in a congressional delegation composition ... [observable from the map itself] and resulted in distortions of five congressional districts [where the court can objectively observe and conclude that neutral redistricting principles were ignored.]

I have declined to consider partisan intent a relevant factor. Although “effect” is certainly a relevant factor, I have confined the analysis to visual inspection of the 2011 redistricting map.

## 2. Use of Traditional Neutral Standards

I have used as guidelines what the record disclosed are the traditional factors for redistricting as follows:

- a) Preservation of government boundaries as much as possible (e.g. county, borough, township, town);
- b) Compactness;
- c) Contiguity (i.e., no parts of the district are “islands” apart from the rest of the district);
- d) Preservation of communities of interest;
- e) Continuity (i.e., maintaining voters in the same district over time);

f) Respect for geographic boundaries such as rivers or other natural boundaries;

g) Incumbency protection.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Plaintiffs have disputed the relevance of this element but I believe it deserves some consideration. There is testimony by Dr. Gimpel and also, the Court can take judicial notice, that experienced legislators, regardless of party, may be able to “deliver” better results for their home state while in Washington. See N.T. 12/13, 22:2–13. However, at the trial, Defendants did not present any evidence to justify the entirety of the 2011 map by reference to incumbency protection. Plaintiffs assert that if incumbency protection may be a valid consideration, because some members of Congress can “deliver,” it must be limited to those members who have seniority, and none of the present representatives who are allegedly being “protected” have seniority.

Apportionment cases dating back to Reynolds v. Sims have discussed traditional districting principles. 377 U.S. 533, 578, 84 S.Ct. 1362, 12 L.Ed.2d 506 (1964) (discussing contiguity, compactness, and preservation of natural boundary lines and political subdivisions). As discussed elsewhere in this Memorandum, Shaw v. Reno, a racial gerrymandering case, held that “disregarding traditional districting principles such as compactness, contiguity, and respect for political subdivisions” could raise an inference of segregating voters by race. 509 U.S. at 647, 113 S.Ct. 2816. The Court then stressed “that these criteria are important not because they are constitutionally required—they are not—but because they are objective factors that may serve to defeat a claim that a district has been gerrymandered on racial lines.” Id. (citing Gaffney v. Cummings, 412 U.S. 735, 752 n.18, 93 S.Ct. 2321, 37 L.Ed.2d 298 (1973)).

This passage from [Shaw](#) was later described as standing for the proposition that “[t]he Constitution does not mandate regularity of district shape.” [Bush v. Vera](#), 517 U.S. 952, 962, 116 S.Ct. 1941, 135 L.Ed.2d 248 (1996) (citing [Shaw](#), 509 U.S. at 647, 113 S.Ct. 2816). [Vera](#) held that a state's “substantial[ ] neglect[ ]” of “traditional districting criteria such as compactness,” coupled with its manipulation of district lines to exploit racial data, militated in favor of strict scrutiny, although the Court declined to hold that any one factor alone was sufficient to require strict scrutiny. [Vera](#), 517 U.S. at 962.

Footnote 18 in [Gaffney](#), on which [Shaw](#) relied, derived from a case regarding partisan gerrymandering in the Connecticut General Assembly. [Shaw](#), 509 U.S. at 647, 113 S.Ct. 2816. In that footnote, the Court discussed the difficulty of creating regularly shaped districts that would “follow Connecticut's oddly shaped town lines,” and further noted that “compactness or attractiveness has never been held to constitute an independent federal constitutional requirement for state legislative districts.” [Gaffney](#), 412 U.S. at n.18, 93 S.Ct. 2321. In support of this statement, [Gaffney](#) cited [White v. Weiser](#), 412 U.S. 783, 93 S.Ct. 2348, 37 L.Ed.2d 335 (1973), in which the Supreme Court reversed the district court's ruling because the state had not sufficiently adhered to the requirements of congressional districts equal in number. The Court noted that in order to achieve numerical equality, the state may have to ignore governmental boundaries and may consider preference for incumbents.

Thus, these cases together suggest that while the Constitution does not require any single districting criterion to be perfectly adhered to, ignoring traditional districting criteria altogether is deeply suspect.

In this case, decided under the Elections Clause, and deleting partisan politics from the Plaintiffs' theory of the case, the Court is charged with articulating a standard. The above-listed neutral and traditional factors provide the best grounding for an appropriate standard. Thus, I must determine, from the evidence, whether the Plaintiffs have shown by the appropriate burden of proof—i.e., clear and convincing evidence—that:

- (1) From the point of view of an individual voter,
- (2) Have objective, observable evidence (e.g. maps), and
- (3) Credible, document-corroborated testimony,

Shown:

- (4) Redistricting in which the Legislative Defendants ignored neutral factors,
- (5) Thereby exceeding its authority to prescribe the “time, place, and manner” for congressional elections, and which,
- (6) If not remedied, may discourage voters from voting on Election Day.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>20</sup> It is this impact on voting that implicates the Privileges or Immunities Clause. [See supra](#).

One might ask how a Court can determine, solely from a map, whether there has been a violation of the Elections Clause merely because some or even all of the traditional factors were not followed. How can a Court determine whether this evidence is “sufficient”?

My answer is that a Court can and should reach an informed and reasonable decision on this issue just as a Court reviews the quantum of evidence in any civil case. Whether a case involves a right angle collision, or complex principles of antitrust, on a post-trial motion for judgment notwithstanding the verdict, the Judge must determine whether the evidence, in the light most favorable to the verdict winner, satisfies the elements of the claim. There are many widely cited Third Circuit and Supreme Court cases in which a Court entered judgment based on this review, with precedent playing a major role. See, e.g., Weisgram v. Marley Co., 528 U.S. 440, 120 S.Ct. 1011, 145 L.Ed.2d 958 (2000); Parkway Garage, Inc. v. City of Philadelphia, 5 F.3d 685, 691 (3d Cir. 1993) (In granting judgment as a matter of law after a jury verdict, the district court must determine that the record does not contain “minimum quantum of evidence from which a jury might reasonably afford relief.”).

I rely substantially on my credibility determinations, which are more favorable to Plaintiffs than Legislative Defendants, in part because the latter offered very little evidence. Indeed, there are substantial public policy reasons for a judicial standard that focuses on adherence to traditional neutral

redistricting criteria, because the list of such criteria is largely agreed-upon as limited to the factors discussed above. Indeed, in this case, the trial record shows no dispute as to these criteria—with the possible, sole exception of “incumbency protection.”

Since there is no controlling precedent for an Elections Clause gerrymandering challenge, reaching the merits in this case requires venturing into unknown territory. The usual remark is, “we write on a clean slate.” As it is agreed that Plaintiffs' exclusive reliance on the Elections Clause is novel, I believe that we, as a Court, may and should, in the absence of specific precedent, apply general precedents and articulate our own standard. The Court is tasked with reaching a result, and I believe the best course of action is to review the evidence, principally the maps in evidence, and apply the above standard.

### 3. Application of Neutral Principles

The most persuasive evidence which Plaintiffs have presented in this case is the 2011 map itself—adopted by amendment to 2011 Pennsylvania Senate Bill 1249 (which was the focal point of this case)—particularly as compared to the 2002 map.

Attempting to base a claim on “partisan intent” is the most slippery of slippery slopes, and as United States Supreme Court decisions have shown, fails to allow for an appropriate standard.

However, visualization of the 2011 map, particularly when compared to the prior



map adopted in 2002, allows for me to draw conclusions regarding improper redistricting, at least as to five of the districts. Pennsylvania lost one congressional seat as a result of the 2010 census, and this “seat loss” caused a reduction in the expected number of congressional districts. The testimony showed that most of the population lost in Pennsylvania was in the western part of the state, and that as a result, the leaders of the legislature involved in this process concluded that area should be the geographic focal point of redistricting. Two western districts were largely combined into one. However, the evidence shows redistricting efforts were thoroughly statewide. The fact that the legislature ended up redistricting the entire state requires a visual approach to be taken on a statewide basis.

The visual approach finds its support in two famous, modern proverbs (albeit, reflecting non-legal principles): “A picture is worth ten thousand words,”<sup>21</sup> and “[w]hen I see a bird that walks like a duck and swims like a duck and quacks like a duck, I call that bird a duck.”<sup>22</sup>

<sup>21</sup> This proverb appears at least as far back as a New York Times real estate advertisement on May 16, 1914, according to the Yale Book of Quotations (Fred Shapiro Editor, 2006). Another possible source is Russian author Ivan Turgenev’s 1861 novel, Fathers and Sons: “A drawing shows me at one glance what might be spread over ten pages in a book.”

<sup>22</sup> This quotation is typically attributed to American poet James Whitcomb Riley.

Another concept, “which justifies the visual approach (and this one with legal support) is Justice Potter Stewart’s famous comment in a case involving adult pornography, “I shall

not today attempt further define [it] ... [b]ut I know it when I see it.” [Jacobellis v. Ohio](#), 378 U.S. 184, 84 S.Ct. 1676, 12 L.Ed.2d 793 (1964)

One of the most influential law review articles in the 20<sup>th</sup> century was written by Columbia Law Professor (and Director of the American Law Institute), Herbert Wechsler, “Toward Neutral Principles of Constitutional Law,” which included the following comments that I believe serve as a guiding light for the adoption of neutral principles in redistricting:

I put it to you that the main constituent of the judicial process is precisely that it must be genuinely principled, resting with respect to every step that is involved in reaching judgment on analysis and reasons quite transcending the immediate result that is achieved.

[I]t has become a commonplace to grant what many for so long denied: that courts in constitutional determinations face issues that are inescapably “political”—political in the third sense that I have used that word—in that they involve a choice among competing values or desires, a choice reflected in the legislative or executive action in question, which the court must either condemn or condone.

At all events, is not the relative compulsion of the language of the Constitution, of history and precedent—where they do not combine to make an answer clear—itself a matter to be judged, so far as possible, by neutral principles—



by standards that transcend the case at hand?

The answer, I suggest, inheres primarily in that they are—or are obliged to be—entirely principled. A principled decision, in the sense I have in mind, is one that rests on reasons with respect to all the issues in the case, reasons that in their generality and their neutrality transcend any immediate result that is involved.<sup>23</sup>

73 *Harvard Law Review* 1 (1959).

<sup>23</sup> Professor Wechsler expressed doubt whether courts should entertain apportionment disputes in view of language in the Elections Clause that appears to confine these disputes to the province of Congress. Query whether the subsequent passage of § 2284, and the digital revolution, would have changed his views.

The map itself has high evidentiary value in this case because it objectively documents, in a single glance, the distortion of neutral redistricting principles, especially when compared to the 2002 map.

#### 4. Partisan Gerrymandering Decisions Discussing Appearance

“[B]izarre configuration is the traditional hallmark of the political gerrymander.” *Hunt v. Cromartie*, 526 U.S. 541, 555, 119 S.Ct. 1545 (1999) (Stevens, J., concurring in the judgment). The four-justice plurality in *Davis v. Bandemer*, suggested that the shapes of districts was evidence of partisan intent. *Davis v. Bandemer*, 478 U.S. 109, 128, 106 S.Ct. 2797, 92 L.Ed.2d 85 (1986). Two dissenting justices would have found “the shapes of voting

districts and adherence to established political subdivision boundaries” to be the “most important [ ] factors” in assessing partisan gerrymandering challenges. *Davis v. Bandemer*, 478 U.S. 109, 173, 106 S.Ct. 2797, 92 L.Ed.2d 85 (1986) (Powell, J., dissenting). Moreover, in his dissent in *Vieth*, Justice Stevens—the only justice to include a map of the 2002 Pennsylvania congressional map at issue—invoked *Gomillion* to argue that it was a “well-settled principle[ ]” “that a district’s peculiar shape might be a symptom of an illicit purpose in the line-drawing process.” *Vieth v. Jubelirer*, 541 U.S. 267, 321, 124 S.Ct. 1769, 158 L.Ed.2d 546 (2004) (Stevens, J., dissenting). Justice Stevens also took the viability of the *Shaw* line of cases as essentially settling the question of justiciability in partisan gerrymandering cases. *Id.* at 323, 124 S.Ct. 1769.

### 1. Partisan Politics

We must recognize that individuals elected to a state legislature are almost always affiliated with, and often sponsored by, one of the two major political parties, Republican or Democrat. People who run for office are partisan by definition, regardless of the party to which they belong. Once elected, each party has an agenda and priorities. Individuals elected under that party’s sponsorship are expected to advance that party’s agenda. Partisanship cannot easily be avoided for an elected State Representative or Senator.

Thus, it is unrealistic to expect members of the legislature to completely forget that they are “partisan” when it comes to reapportionment. I doubt a legislature can legitimately divide its activity in the state legislature between “normal” legislation and apportionment, and forget about “partisanship” as to the latter.

As numerous Supreme Court cases have shown, there has been no agreement on assessing “partisan intent” in determining whether to find a violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteen Amendment. This is particularly true for the five justices in [Vieth](#) who asserted that these disputes are justiciable.

A judge can't set a “black line” to separate the “good” partisan voting of legislators on various important issues from the allegedly “bad” partisan voting on other issues.

However, I agree with Plaintiffs that legislators are bound under the Elections Clause to use neutral factors during the redistricting process.<sup>24</sup> Anything more violates the “time, place, and manner” limitations of the Elections Clause.

<sup>24</sup> If they cannot do that, they should adopt an independent commission—as exists under [Article XVII of the Pennsylvania Constitution](#), added by a 1968 Amendment—establishing a Reapportionment Commission for the Pennsylvania State Legislature.

A judge cannot make a value judgment on what is “good” or “bad” partisanship. No judicial decision can require legislators to forget that they were elected on a partisan basis. Likewise, the citizens who vote for legislators cannot expect their

elected representatives to forget that they were elected on a partisan basis.

However, citizens can expect a redistricting process that follows the traditional neutral factors. As long as the neutral factors are the primary consideration, and the results, as portrayed on the map, show equal population and application of neutral factors (perhaps with an explanation), a court should not inquire further.

I recognize some partisan politics, regardless of the party, may enter into the process. To the extent that use of traditional redistricting criteria can objectively explain redistricting decisions—even where partisan intent would also explain those decisions—a map should be upheld. Thus, the standard I employ does not completely forbid any partisanship, as long as neutral criteria have been primarily employed.

I have elected to ignore “partisan intent” and focus on the 2011 map as compared to the previous 2002 map, in determining that Plaintiffs have shown that traditional redistricting standards were not followed, and thus the Constitution has been violated.

This is a novel case. There is no precedent applying the Elections Clause in this context. I believe that as the triers of fact, this Court has an opportunity, and a duty, to determine from the evidence if the Elections Clause was violated. Applying the proposed standard, and the neutral principles credibly established at trial, I rely on the map, but also on the process—or better said, the lack

of regular legislative process—which was unusual to say the least (*see infra*).

I conclude Plaintiffs have proven that the 2011 map violates the Elections Clause. Essential to this is my complete reliance on objective evidence, as I have determined the credible facts as developed through trial, and applied the clear and convincing standard as the burden of proof. By law, judges, sitting without a jury and relying on the evidence, make judgment and credibility calls and conclusions about the sufficiency of evidence all the time.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>25</sup> I recognize that population numbers in each congressional district must be taken into account, and that all congressional districts in Pennsylvania must have essentially the same number of voters. The 2011 map did result, in part, from calculating the number of voters in each congressional district. Even so, the shape of the five districts (which I examine below) shows that assuming each has equal number of voters, their shape and also their “movement” of geographical area from 2002 to 2011, is quite obviously skewed or distorted, particularly when compared with 2002. There is no question that if one of the principal neutral factors, compactness, had been considered, none of these districts would look the way they do. In the future, population numbers must be considered along with the neutral factors.

As the discussion below shows, I find, by clear and convincing evidence, that five of the Pennsylvania congressional districts were drawn in a manner inconsistent with traditional redistricting factors, thereby violating the Elections Clause.

### C. Visual Map Review Proves Unconstitutional Gerrymandering in Five Districts

A comparison of the 2002 and 2011 maps reveals serious departures from neutral redistricting principles in Pennsylvania's Tenth, Eleventh, Fifteenth, Sixth, and Seventh Congressional Districts. This comparison takes into consideration the loss of a congressional seat, population changes in some regions of the state, and the increase in population per congressional district from approximately 646,400 to approximately 707,500.

A map and a chart showing difference from 2002 to 2011 for each congressional district will further prove the distortions.

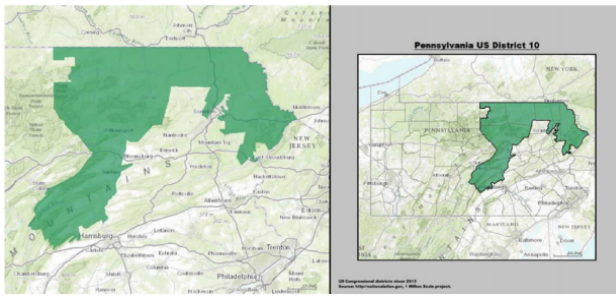
#### 1. Tenth District

##### 2002 Map<sup>26</sup>

<sup>26</sup> All maps in this section were downloaded from <http://nationalatlas.gov>.



##### 2011 Map



In the 2011 map, the Tenth Congressional District extends from Pike County at the far eastern tip of Pennsylvania along the Delaware River, up along the northern boundary counties of Wayne, Susquehanna, Bradford and (most of) Tioga, and then south to include the counties of Lycoming, Union, Snyder, Mifflin, Juniata, most of Perry, a portion of Northampton County and all of Sullivan County (which is entirely an “interior” county).

This is geographically a much longer extension, in terms of miles, than the 2002 Tenth Congressional District. The 2002 map for the Tenth Congressional District also included a broad swath of Northeastern Pennsylvania, plus portions of Lycoming County and all of Union, Snyder, Northumberland and Montour Counties. However, the 2011 map added almost all of Tioga County, deleted Wyoming County and also added three new counties in the central part of Pennsylvania: Mifflin, Juniata and most of Perry County. The last three listed counties are very far away from the eastern counties of Wayne and Pike. For reference, Pennsylvania is approximately 283 miles west-to-east at its widest point, and approximately 170 miles north-to-south at its longest point. The district now covers, from its point farthest east (Kistler) to its point farthest west (Matamoras),

approximately 180 miles “as the crow flies”; and approximately 120 miles from the northern boundary of Pennsylvania in Tioga County (Brookfield) to the southernmost tip of Perry County (Toboyne).

Geographical elements may be considered as valid traditional redistricting criteria, but the extensions of the Tenth Congressional District in the 2011 map cannot be explained by any one, or any combination of, the traditional factors. Obviously the weird shape of this district not only suggests, but requires, a conclusion that the traditional redistricting criteria were ignored.

Comparing the 2011 map of the Tenth District with other large geographical districts in Pennsylvania—including the Fifth and Ninth Congressional Districts—it is clear that large portions of rural Pennsylvania can be combined into logical congressional districts that generally respect the traditional redistricting criterion of compactness.

There appears to be no justification for failing to maintain compactness of the Tenth Congressional District. The Tenth District, like all other districts in Pennsylvania, needed to increase its number of residents by approximately 61,100. Nonetheless, it deleted Wyoming County entirely from the district (roughly 28,000 residents), and added counties as distant as Juniata (roughly 24,000 residents). Stretching west while also receding from the south made the district less compact on both fronts, which makes little sense in light of the fact that stretching south (to include, for example, the entirety of



Lackawanna County rather than only half of it) would increase—rather than decrease—compactness, while respecting county lines.

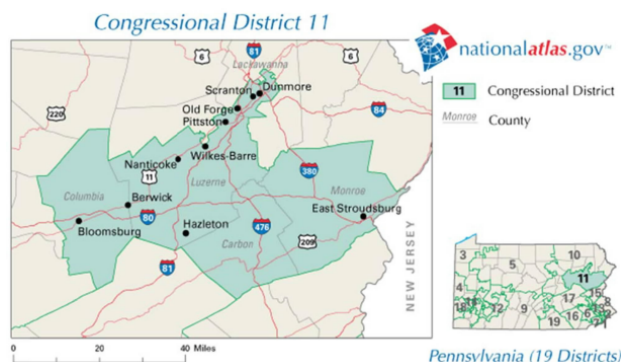
## Tenth Congressional District<sup>27</sup>

<sup>27</sup> All charts in this section expressing percentages are based on visual approximations. They are not intended to portray exact percentages of geographic coverage, nor are they intended to portray percentages based on population data.

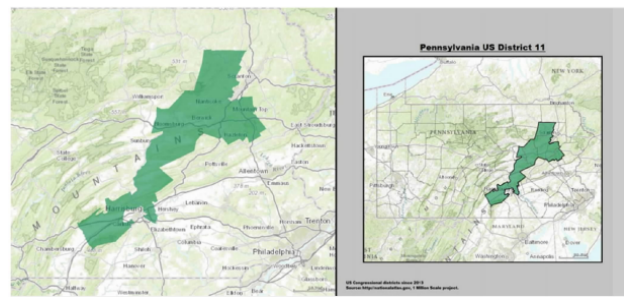
County	Approximate Geographic Proportion of County Contained Within:	
	2002 Map	2011 Map
Bradford	100%	100%
Juniata	0%	100%
Lackawanna	85%	65%
Lycoming	50%	100%
Mifflin	0%	100%
Monroe	0%	30%
Montour	100%	0%
Northumberland	100%	25%
Perry	0%	70%
Pike	100%	100%
Snyder	100%	100%
Sullivan	100%	100%
Susquehanna	100%	100%
Tioga	5%	90%
Union	100%	100%
Wayne	100%	100%

## 2. Eleventh District

### 2002 Map



### 2011 Map



Under similar scrutiny, the Eleventh Congressional District also fails. Comparing the district from the 2002 to the 2011 maps, the differences are obvious. The prior Eleventh District was very compact and geographically sensible, because it included the entirety of Monroe, Carbon, and Columbia Counties, most of Luzerne County, and a small portion of Lackawanna County.

The Eleventh District in the 2011 map now stretches north to include Wyoming County and southwest to include all of Northumberland County, most of Dolphin County, a portion of Perry County and most of Cumberland County.

This redistricting is also without respect for any of the traditional criteria.

The mileage distance from the southernmost town (Southampton Township) to the northernmost town (Nicholson) is approximately 140 miles, “as the crow flies.”

I again mention the mileage factors because of the obvious difficulty of any particular congressperson providing effective coverage and service over such a broad geographical area that is fractured in its formation—and the fact that drawing a much more compact district appears feasible.

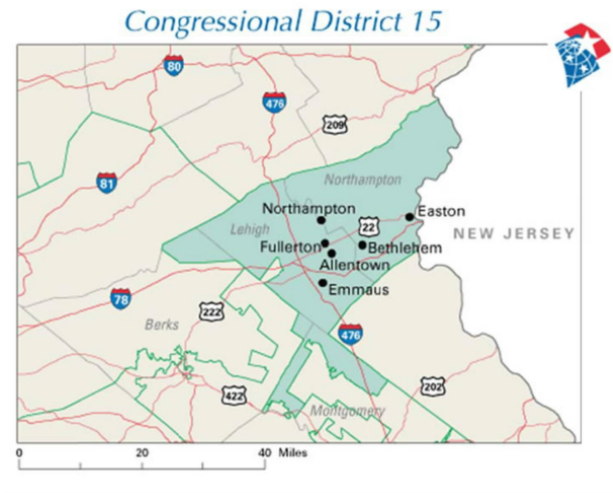
The 2011 map for this district is totally different from the 2002 map, in which it was very compact. The 2011 map adds portions of counties as far away as Perry (a county with a population of roughly 46,000) while removing half of Carbon County (roughly 65,000). Again, stretching southwest to become less compact makes even less sense when one considers that the county simultaneously receded from the south. Both decisions defy principles of compactness and continuity, as the district receded from Carbon County on its southern edge (thereby splitting it) while also adding portions of (and thereby splitting) Perry, Cumberland, Dauphin, and Northumberland Counties.

### Eleventh Congressional District

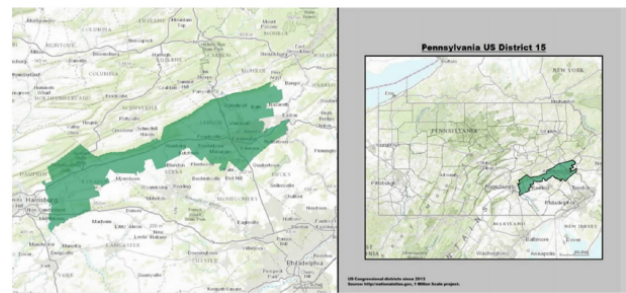
County	Approximate Geographic Proportion of County Contained Within:	
	2002 Map	2011 Map
Carbon	100%	50%
Columbia	100%	100%
Cumberland	0%	85%
Dauphin	0%	65%
Lackawanna	15%	0%
Luzerne	85%	90%
Monroe	100%	0%
Montour	0%	100%
Northumberland	0%	65%
Perry	0%	30%
Wyoming	0%	100%

### **3. Fifteenth District**

#### 2002 Map



#### 2011 Map



The newly constructed Fifteenth Congressional District now contains southern portions of Northampton County, touching the Delaware River, as well as the entirety of Lehigh County, only the northern third of Berks County, a part of Lebanon County and a small portion of Dolphin County. There is nothing similar to the former Fifteenth District which covered all of Northampton and Lehigh Counties and a very small portion of Montgomey and Berks Counties. The northeast (Wind Gap) to southwest (Londonderry Township) stretch of approximately 90 miles in the 2011 map is impossible to justify by reference to any traditional criteria.

As with the Tenth and Eleventh Districts, the Fifteenth was “stretched” westward



2018 WL 351603

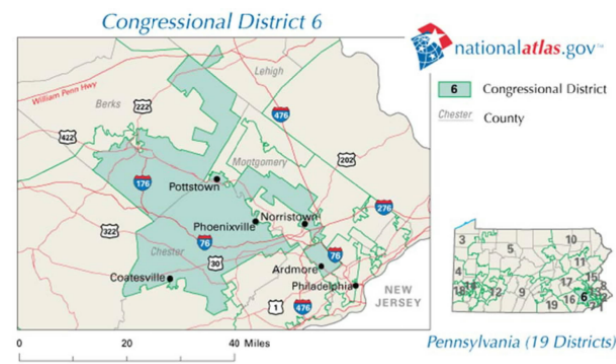
in the 2011 map. However, unlike the other two districts, the Fifteenth District was stretched substantially more “thin.” It receded from the east while expanding west, which shifts the entire district westward, splits Northampton County (approximately 297,000 people), and splits far-away counties such as Dauphin (approximately 268,000 people) and Lebanon (approximately 134,000 people), thus upsetting the principles of continuity and respect for county boundaries without any justification.

#### Fifteenth Congressional District

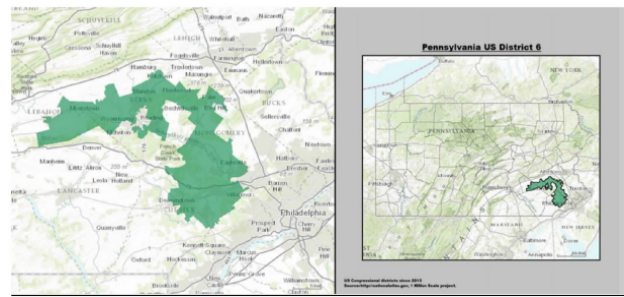
County	Approximate Geographic Proportion of County Contained Within:	
	2002 Map	2011 Map
Berks	4%	35%
Dauphin	0%	25%
Lebanon	0%	66%
Lehigh	98%	100%
Montgomery	10%	0%
Northampton	100%	50%

#### **4. Sixth District**

##### 2002 Map



##### 2011 Map



The Sixth Congressional District also shows a very unusual shape that is not compact, stretching to include large northern portions of Chester County and Montgomery County, a very small portion of Berks County, and a small southern portion of Lebanon County. It also violates traditional redistricting criteria.

Notably, the Sixth District's new enlargement to the west defies logic, as it extends to include only the middle of Berks County and then continues deep into Lebanon County (population of approximately 134,000). Although the shape of the Sixth District in the 2002 map is equally dubious, the 2011 Sixth District failed to maintain much continuity with that map and cannot be justified as simply maintaining the same counties. Most of the townships formerly included in the Sixth District (in the 2002 map) from both Berks and Montgomery Counties are no longer included, whereas many townships in each of those Counties were newly added. This makes little sense as a matter of continuity.

Then there is the obvious non-compactness of the district, which snakes north from its core in Chester County through part of Montgomery, then Berks, then Lebanon Counties, at a width of roughly two townships throughout.

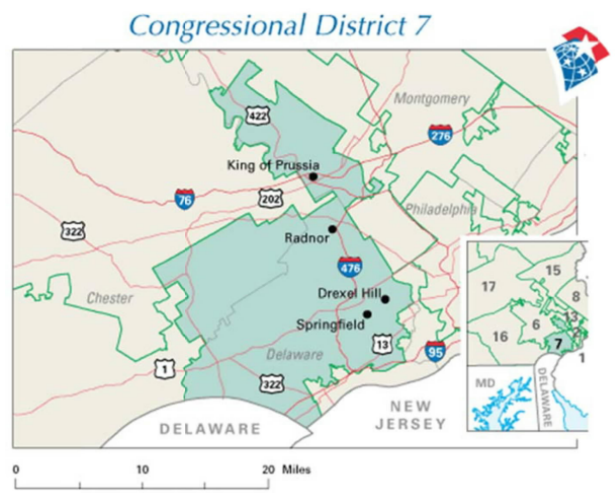
However, the most obvious strangeness to the shape of the Sixth District is the fact that it nearly “encircles” the city of Reading (approximately 88,000 people) without including it. When one considers the fact that the entirety of Reading could have been incorporated into the Sixth District—rather than having it expand to pick up far more than 88,000 people in western Berks and eastern Lebanon Counties—it becomes readily apparent that the district was not drawn in a manner that respects traditional redistricting principles.

### Sixth Congressional District

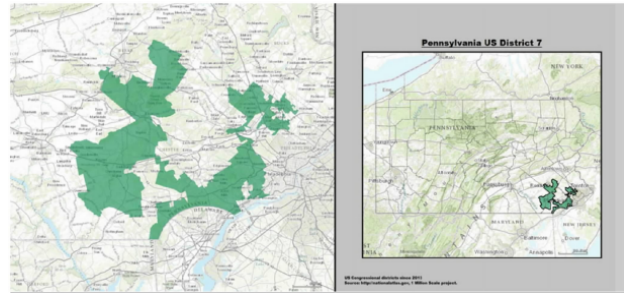
County	Approximate Geographic Proportion of County Contained Within:	
	2002 Map	2011 Map
Berks	33%	33%
Chester	50%	33%
Lebanon	0%	33%
Lehigh	2%	0%
Montgomery	20%	25%

## 5. Seventh District

### 2002 Map



### 2011 Map



The Seventh Congressional District presents the most unusual shape in Pennsylvania (and perhaps in the United States) which cannot be explained by any traditional factors. The Seventh District covers portions of Montgomery, Delaware, Chester, Lancaster and Berks Counties. The most unusual feature of this, aside from the shape itself, is that it has a “land-bridge” between two very divergent sections, where it is approximately 170 meters wide (only as wide as necessary to include a steakhouse there, named Creed's).

There are other portions of the Seventh District that are highly unusual as well, which cannot be justified by reference to traditional redistricting criteria. For example, all of the northwestern and southeastern townships in Chester County are included in the Seventh District, yet the center of Chester County is not included, such that a cluster of four townships (West Marlborough, East Marlborough, East Fallowfield, and Valley) in Chester County (in the Sixteenth District) are effectively surrounded by the Seventh District.

Also inexplicably, the 2011 map's Seventh District extends into the Lancaster County's eastern townships of Colerain, Sadsbury, Bart, Paradise,

Salisbury, Leacock (combined population: approximately 31,000) rather than, at the very least, incorporating the “engulfed” four townships discussed above (combined population: approximately 22,000).

### Seventh Congressional District

County	Approximate Geographic Proportion of County Contained Within:	
	2002 Map	2011 Map
Berks	0%	20%
Chester	10%	33%
Delaware	90%	80%
Lancaster	0%	15%
Montgomery	10%	20%

## 6. Other Districts

As visual review moves westward, there are very few adverse inferences that can be drawn from the 2011 map as compared to the 2002 map in terms of the violent departures in the traditional criteria that are described above. (In the 2002 map there were several instances of nontraditional configurations, particularly in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Congressional Districts, such that those districts in the 2011 map may be explained by reference to the traditional redistricting principle of continuity.)

None of the discussion above concerns politics. I have not taken into account any of the testimony about motivation, intent or purpose, as I am primarily comparing the 2011 map to the 2002 map for the above five districts, concluding that the 2011 map for these counties is a total departure from traditional criteria. I give some weight to the absence of the usual process. This raises in my mind a serious inference requiring an explanation, based on

traditional criteria, from the defendants. In this case, no satisfactory explanation ever came.

Although trial was often focused on alleged partisan politics, in reaching the above conclusions, I have not taken into account, in any way, shape, or form, any of the testimony about politics as pervaded the trial.

As I have noted elsewhere in this memorandum, judges have failed to reach a consensus about using partisan political criteria. A visual approach completely avoids wading into the waters of this disjointed jurisprudential quagmire based on political participation.

## D. Absence of Process

The parties presented witnesses who discussed, in detail, the process by which the 2011 Plan passed through the Pennsylvania Senate. These witnesses were: Senators Leach, Vitali, and Dinniman; and Eric Arneson and William Schaller. Their testimony was largely undisputed. See also Joint Stipulated Facts, ECF 150.

On September 14, 2011, redistricting legislation—with printer number 1520—was submitted to the State Government Committee. (Pl. Tr. Ex. 5) Number 1520 was a “shell bill” at that time, meaning that it was a placeholder without any description. (Leach Dep. 108:7–109:14) Given the timeframe for redistricting—required by the end of 2011—the State Government Committee voted unanimously to allow the

bill to proceed. (N.T. 12/6/17, AM, 21) This was largely “procedural,” as the bill contained no substance whatsoever at that time, aside from listing the congressional districts numerically. (*Id.*) In fact, prior to December 13, 2011, when details of the 2011 Plan were released, a large portion of the Senate was excluded entirely from the redistricting process. (Leach Dep. 19:22–20:14)

Then, on the morning of December 14, 2011, a near-final version of the map was introduced as printer number 1862. (Pl. Tr. Ex. 6) The State Government Committee voted on number 1862 on the same day that it was introduced, with several members of the committee expressing their opposition and voting against it. (N.T. 12/6/17, AM, 22:18–23) Nonetheless, the bill was “voted out of” the State Government Committee to the Appropriations Committee, where it was further amended to become printer number 1869, all on the same day. (*Id.* at 22:25–23:4) Also on the same day, it was voted out of the Appropriations Committee, after the Appropriations Committee suspended a Senate rule requiring six hours between the proposal of a bill and its final vote. (*Id.* 23:15–18) Again, that same day, December 14, 2011, the Senate approved the bill with a 26–24 vote tally, despite opposition on the floor of the Senate in the form of speeches and votes. (Leach Dep. 32:18–33:19) The Senate suspended the rule requiring sessions to end at 11 p.m. in order to continue debating the bill that night. (N.T. 12/6/17, AM, 25:4–7)

The two committees that voted on the bill were unable to hold any hearings, given the timeframe, and the suspension of various rules intended to slow the process meant there was sparse opportunity for public and legislative debate about the 2011 map. (N.T. 12/6/17, AM, 30:7–15)

Although little testimony was presented with respect to the passage of the 2011 Plan in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, the map passed the House six days later. (Pl. Tr. Ex. 12) Two days after that, Governor Corbett signed the 2011 map into law. (Joint Stipulated Facts, ECF 150 ¶ 14)

I conclude the unusual process is additional evidence, non-partisan in nature, which supports my conclusion of an unconstitutional gerrymander.

## **XV. Declaratory Judgment and Remedy**

The Declaratory Judgment Act grants federal district courts jurisdiction “to declare the rights and other legal relations of any interested party seeking such a declaration.” 28 U.S.C. § 2201(a). The Act is somewhat unique, however, in that district courts have discretion over whether or not to exercise that jurisdiction. *Id.* (providing that a court “may” declare such rights and legal relationships); [Brillhart v. Excess Ins. Co. of America](#), 316 U.S. 491, 494, 62 S.Ct. 1173, 86 L.Ed. 1620 (1942); [Wilton v. Seven Falls Co.](#), 515 U.S. 277, 287–88, 115 S.Ct. 2137, 132 L.Ed.2d 214 (1995) (“In the declaratory judgment context, the normal principle that federal courts should adjudicate claims within their jurisdiction



yields to considerations of practicality and wise judicial administration.”); State Auto. Ins. Cos. v. Summy, 234 F.3d 131, 133 (3d Cir. 2000) (“The [Supreme] Court [in Brillhart] emphasized that the jurisdiction conferred by the Act was discretionary, and district courts were under no compulsion to exercise it.” (citation omitted)).

If Plaintiffs are entitled to relief, the Court should require Executive and Legislative Defendants to coordinate in redrawing the redistricting map.

## XVI. Conclusion

The extensive factual review above requires my conclusion that Plaintiffs have prevailed in proving the Legislative Defendants violated the Elections Clause. I summarize the reasons briefly as follows:

1. Supreme Court decisions have referenced what I term “neutral” or “traditional” factors in redistricting. In the absence of any Supreme Court precedent under the Elections Clause, for any gerrymandering<sup>28</sup> case, I have adopted these factors, as detailed in the testimony, as the appropriate standard.

<sup>28</sup> On March 26, 1812, the *Boston Gazette* originally coined the word “gerrymander” (originally written “Gerry-mander”). The word itself was intended to reflect the “salamander-like” shape of a state senate election district redrawn in Massachusetts as part of a map intended to benefit Governor Elbridge Gerry’s own Democratic–Republican Party.

2. Plaintiffs’ evidence, principally the 2011 map, and the absence of usual legislative

process, proves these standards were violated as to five districts.

3. The Legislative Defendants produced no credible evidence of any explanation. Plaintiffs’ evidence has not been contradicted.

4. The facts require a conclusion that Plaintiffs have introduced clear and convincing evidence that they are entitled to relief.

Plaintiffs themselves described being alienated from the political process. Alienation as a human condition is as old as human existence itself, as reflected in the biblical Garden of Eden.<sup>29</sup>

<sup>29</sup> See Stephen Greenblatt, The Rise and Fall of Adam and Eve (2017), which traces the Biblical account of the Garden of Eden into modern times through the Christian theologian, Augustine, the English poet, John Milton, and Charles Darwin.

The concept of alienation is also exemplified in literature and opera. In the Trial, Kafka’s Joseph K wanders through an abstract courthouse, unable to learn the charges against him, or how he can defend against them; alienation is an important theme in Verdi’s Don Carlo. Betrothed to a French princess, Don Carlo watches helplessly as his father, King Phillip of Spain, takes the princess as his queen. Eventually, the King turns on his son and condemns Don Carlo to death, with the approval of the Grand Inquisitor.

With less drama, but similarly, the theme of alienation runs through the testimony of the Plaintiffs. Their malady is electoral

alienation. They are registered to vote, and they do vote, but they feel, with justification, that their vote does not count.

Electoral alienation is accentuated by gerrymandering. Voter turnout for mid-term Congressional elections in Pennsylvania is very low.<sup>30</sup> In my opinion, gerrymandering will only cause voter turnout to decline even further. This is a major public policy issue, which I believe supports both the justiciability of the case, as well as deciding this case from the viewpoint of the voter, not counting winners or losers, and requires that the 2011 map be redrawn.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>30</sup> Last Four Congressional Midterm Elections

Year	Votes Cast	Voting Age Population	Voter Turnout %
2014	3,323,533	9,964,367	33%
2010	3,956,401	9,798,250	40%
2006	4,011,205	9,650,724	42%
2002	3,309,075	9,487,003	35%

Source: [www.electionreturns.pa.gov](http://www.electionreturns.pa.gov)

<sup>31</sup> Yesterday, a three-judge court in the Middle District of North Carolina ordered the state legislature to enact a new redistricting plan, finding that the current district map violated the Equal Protection Clause, First Amendment, and the Elections Clause.

Common Cause v. Rucho, No. 16-CV-1026, — F.Supp.3d —, 2018 WL 341658 (M.D.N.C. Jan. 9, 2018), and reiterated its earlier ruling that partisan gerrymandering claims are justiciable. See *id.* at 45; Common Cause v. Rucho, 240 F.Supp.3d 376, 387 (M.D.N.C. 2017). In its Elections Clause analysis, the court noted that the Framers saw the Elections Clause as a grant of procedural power to regulate the time, place and manner of congressional elections, and that the debate over the scope of states' authority under the Clause reflected a conviction that “the Elections Clause should not empower legislative bodies—be they state or federal—to impose election regulations that would favor or disfavor a particular group of candidates or voters.” *Id.* at 179–80. The court concluded that the North Carolina district map violated the Elections Clause for three reasons: “(1) the Elections Clause did not empower State legislatures to disfavor the interests of supporters of a particular candidate or party in drawing congressional districts; (2) the Plan's pro-Republican bias violates other constitutional provisions, including the First Amendment, the Equal Protection Clause, and Article I, section 2; and (3) the Plan represents an impermissible effort to ‘dictate electoral outcomes’ and ‘disfavor a class of candidates.’” *Id.* at 178.

For these reasons, I respectfully dissent.

## All Citations

--- F.Supp.3d ----, 2018 WL 351603



No Shepard's Signal™  
As of: March 7, 2018 2:07 PM Z

## **Guy v. Miller**

First Judicial District Court of Nevada, Carson City

October 14, 2011, Decided; October 14, 2011, Filed

Case No. 11 OC 00042 1B

### **Reporter**

2011 Nev. Dist. LEXIS 32 \*

DORA J. GUY, an individual; LEONEL MURRIETA-SERNA, an individual; EDITH LOU BYRD, an individual; and SAMANTHA STEELMAN, an individual; Plaintiffs, and KEN KING, an individual; SANCY KING, an individual; ALLEN ROSOFF, an individual, and the NEVADA REPUBLICAN PARTY, and ALEX GARZA, an individual, and THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LAS VEGAS VALLEY, Plaintiff-Intervenors vs. ROSS MILLER, in his capacity as Secretary of State for the State of Nevada, Defendant.

## **Core Terms**

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redistricting, maps, issues, districts, hearings, agenda, deviation, Notice, congressional district, public comment, elected, parties, minority group, practicable, voting, posted, legislative district, endeavored, one-half, session, website

**Judges:** [\*1] JAMES T. RUSELL, District Court Judge.

**Opinion by:** JAMES T. RUSELL

## **Opinion**

---

### **ORDER DISCLOSING SPECIAL MASTERS' REPORT AND REDISTRICTING MAPS AND AMENDING ORDER ISSUED BY THE COURT ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2011**

Pursuant to this Court's Order dated September 21, 2011, and early receipt of the Special Masters' Report and Redistricting Maps on October 14, 2011, the Court does hereby amend its Order of September 21, 2011. Additionally, based on the hearings held before the Special Masters, the prior hearings held by this Court, and the need to expedite this matter and good cause appearing,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Special Masters' Report and the Redistricting Maps filed herewith, are hereby released to the parties and the general public. The Special Masters' Report and the Redistricting Maps will be available for review on the Nevada Legislative Website no later than the close of business on Monday, October 17, 2011; and

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that each party to this action shall have ten (10) days from the date of this Order, including weekends to file their opposition, if any, to the Redistricting Maps and/or the Special Masters' Report. Therefore, all opposition briefs are to be filed no later than October 24, [\*2] 2011. Based on the extensive briefing to date in this matter, this Court does not believe there is a need for any reply briefs to be filed. Any proposed orders are to be submitted with the parties opposition; and

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that a hearing will be held on the 27th day of October, 2011, at 9:00 a.m. in this matter.

Richard Wolf

Dated this 14th day of October, 2011.

/s/ James T. Russell

JAMES T. RUSELL

District Court Judge

## **REPORT OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

### **I. BACKGROUND**

The United States Constitution requires that representatives of Congress be apportioned among the several states according to their respective numbers. The Nevada Constitution assigns to the State Legislature the duty to establish redistricting plans for legislative districts. As a result of the 2010 census, the Legislature, during its 2011 session, considered these matters. The Legislature passed Senate Bill No. 497 and Assembly Bill No. 566 which provided for the redistricting of the state's U.S. congressional districts, including the need to add a fourth district, and to redistrict the state's Assembly and Senate districts to take into account, among other things, the state's population growth over the last decade. These bills [\*3] were vetoed by the Governor. The Legislature thereafter neither overrode the Governor's vetoes nor presented further redistricting plans. The 2011 regular session ended without redistricting being accomplished. Thereafter the Governor indicated that he would not call a special session of the Legislature for the purpose of the Legislature further considering redistricting issues. The district court case in which this report is being filed and other litigation in Federal and State courts ensued as a means to attempt to resolve the redistricting issues.

In this redistricting case in orders dated August 3rd and August 4th, 2011, and pursuant to [Rule 53 of the Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure](#) this court appointed Robert Erickson, Alan Glover and Thomas Sheets to serve as non-partisan Special Masters. In a September 21, 2011, order this court provided material guidance to the Special Masters as to specific items and legal issues to be given consideration in performing the redistricting work. In that order the court referenced the statewide significance of the redistricting issues and directed the Special Masters to hold hearings at which public input could be received.

The Special Master hearings in the first instance were judicial proceedings. [\*4] But the hearings also were in the nature of public comment sessions designed to allow interested individuals and entities the opportunity to share with the Special Masters their perspectives on the facts and law to be considered in redistricting deliberations. These hearings, which were held on October 10, 2011, in Las Vegas and on October 11, 2011, in Carson City, were noticed in a manner not dissimilar to that which would be required under the state's open meeting laws even though these hearings were part of a judicial process. Copies of the notices are attached hereto as Exhibits A and B.

Over the course of the two full day hearings, at least 35 members of the public appeared and offered advice, opinions and recommendations about redistricting efforts. Additionally, each of the parties to the litigation appeared at the hearings, represented by counsel, and each party provided the Special Masters with comments, reports, and materials.

It should be noted that this court outlined the Special Master procedure it intended to use and the Masters it intended to appoint in early August 2011. No objection by any party was made to the court about the judicial process to be employed or the Masters [\*5] who were to be appointed.

Prior to the October 10 and 11 hearings there were questions raised as to the whether the Special Master's activities should be placed on hold pending consideration by the Nevada Supreme Court of certain legal, jurisdictional and procedural issues. The Supreme Court concluded that the process should continue on a dual track with the Supreme Court's own activities for reason of the public good and toward a swift resolution of the

redistricting issues. The court said "Strong public policy reasons dictate that the parties concerns are subordinate to the general public's interest in having this redistricting matter resolved expediently so as to avoid continued and ongoing disruption to Nevada's election process." The Special Masters were mindful of the Supreme Court's direction as the Masters went about completing their redistricting activities in a timely and expeditious fashion.

Governor Sandoval reportedly commented on the ongoing judicial activities stating "I have confidence in the judicial process." He went on to further to say that he respected the specific process laid out by this district court. The Special Masters conducted their hearings and went about [\*6] their deliberations on the statewide redistricting issues employing that very process.

Governor Sandoval said in his State of the State address on January 24, 2011, that legislative and congressional districts should be drawn for a fair representation of all constituents and that they must be consistent with the law. In his May 14, 2011, veto message of Senate Bill 497, the Governor stated that fair representation of all Nevadans is the goal of redistricting rather than redistricting for the sake of partisan opportunity. The Special Masters were mindful of Governor Sandoval's reasoned comments as they went about their deliberations and constructed the nonpartisan recommendations on the statewide redistricting issues which are submitted in this report.

The Special Masters viewed the task which was assigned to them as exceptional, extraordinary and unique. The Masters were both honored and humbled to have been afforded the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to our state's election process. The Special Masters endeavored to act in a non-partisan fashion and took their overall responsibility very seriously. The Special Masters read all the pleadings submitted in this litigation including [\*7] all of the briefs submitted dealing with both legal and factual issues. The Special Masters reviewed all of the documents which were filed with the Nevada Supreme Court and the court's orders with respect thereto.

## **II. UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS**

The court ordered the Special Masters to create a map with four United States Congressional districts. The map along with accompanying schedules and materials is attached hereto as Exhibit C.

The congressional map which the Special Masters are submitting is drawn so that each district contains equal population other than one district which varies by only one person from the other three districts. In this map the Special Masters were able to create: a distinct northern Nevada district; a distinct central Nevada and northern Clark County district; a distinct Las Vegas valley urban core district; and a distinct southern Clark County district.

The districts are drawn to be contiguous and the Special Masters have endeavored to not irregularly shape by arbitrary distortion or non-arbitrary distortion any district. To the extent practicable the districts have been drawn with the goal of not dividing current political subdivisions with district [\*8] lines where it was not otherwise necessary to do so.

The Special Masters to the extent practicable have drawn the districts to avoid dividing groups of common social, economic, cultural, or language characteristics where it was not otherwise necessary to do so. To the extent practicable the districts have been drawn to be as compact and regularly shaped as possible. To the extent practicable the Special Masters have endeavored to avoid creating contests between incumbents.

The Special Masters in undertaking their efforts to create a map with four United States Congressional districts reviewed the last political map established and passed in 2001 by the Nevada State Legislature, and the maps approved and submitted to the Governor by the 2011 Nevada State Legislature with respect to Senate Bill 497 and Assembly Bill 566. The Special Masters reviewed maps submitted by Artie Blanco; Dwayne Chesnut, Forrest Darby and Mike Selvage (2 maps); Ed Gobel and Linda West Myers; Vicenta Montoya (2 maps); Jose Solorio (3 maps); Andres Ramirez; Alex Garza; and Mike Green; and all other maps and concepts submitted to the Masters by parties to the litigation and interested members of the public who participated [\*9] in the October 10th and 11th hearings or who otherwise submitted maps and concepts suggesting alternatives to be considered for congressional redistricting.

The Special Masters in creating a map with four United States Congressional districts carefully considered the issues associated with treatment of minority groups. The Special Masters considered the facts presented, testimony, argument and the law as they understood it. The Special Masters concluded that no particular minority group was sufficiently and geographically compact to constitute a majority in a single member district. The Special Masters concluded that there was evidence that a minority group or groups were "politically cohesive." The Special Masters concluded that bloc voting by the white majority was not shown to usually defeat a minority's preferred candidate. Because the Special Masters believed that all three preconditions under the Voting Rights Act of 1965 were not met they did not further examine the issue of vote dilution.

The Special Masters considered to the extent of available information any history of voting-related discrimination in the State and in its political subdivisions; the extent to which voting [\*10] in elections of the state and political subdivisions has been racially polarized; the extent to which the State or political subdivision has used voting practices or procedures that tend to enhance the opportunity for discrimination against the minority group such as unusually large election districts, majority vote requirements, and prohibitions against bullet voting; the exclusion of members of minority groups from candidate slating processes; the extent to which minority group members bear the effects of past discrimination in areas such as education, employment and health, which have hindered their ability to participate effectively in the political process; the use of overt or subtle racial appeals in political campaigns; the extent to which members of the minority group have been elected to public office in the jurisdiction; whether there has been a significant lack of responsiveness by elected officials to the needs of a minority group; and whether the policy underlying the use of the voting qualification, standard, practice or procedure has created a tenuous process.

The Special Masters reviewed the issue of representational fairness in drawing the map of the United States congressional [\*11] districts and gave that issue the weight which the Special Masters believed was appropriate.

The Special Masters reviewed citizen voting age population, voting age population, total population and 2010 census data, among other items, in examining the redistricting issues.

### III. NEVADA STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

The court ordered the Special Masters to create a state legislative map with 21 Senate districts and a state legislative map with 42 Assembly districts. Those maps and accompanying schedules and materials are attached hereto as Exhibits D and E.

The maps which the Special Masters are submitting are drawn so that each legislative district is as close to equal in population as is practicable, and any deviations from equal population are de minimus. The court instructed the Special Masters that there should be no more than two percent population deviation from the equal population for any particular legislative district, with a goal of one-half percent deviation or less. In Exhibit D, the Senate map which is being submitted, the population deviation for all Senate districts, other than Senate District 17, meets or exceeds the goal of no more than one-half percent population deviation [\*12] or less. In order to respect the boundaries of Storey, Churchill, Lyon and Douglas counties in their entirety, the population deviation for District 17 is 0.57 %, slightly more than the optimal one-half percent goal but significantly less than the two percent population deviation ceiling established by the court.

In Exhibit E, the Assembly map which is being submitted, the population deviation for all Assembly districts, other than Assembly District 38, meets or exceeds the goal of no more than one-half percent population deviation or less. In order to reasonably consider a boundary issue the population deviation for Assembly District 38 is 0.82 %. This is slightly more than the optimal one-half percent goal but significantly less than the two percent population deviation ceiling established by the court. To the extent practicable the Assembly districts have been nested within the State Senate districts which are being recommended.

The Special Masters in undertaking their efforts to create maps with state legislative districts reviewed the last political maps established and passed in 2001 by the Nevada State Legislature, and maps approved and submitted to the Governor by the 2011 Nevada [\*13] State Legislature with respect to Senate Bill 497 and Assembly Bill 566,

The Special Masters reviewed maps submitted by Alex Garza and all other maps and concepts submitted to the Masters by parties to the litigation and interested members of the public who participated in the October 10th and 11th hearings or who otherwise submitted maps and concepts suggesting alternatives considered for state legislative redistricting.

Pursuant to this court's order in drawing the State Senate and Assembly districts, the Special Masters considered the same or similar types of issues and criteria which the court directed be considered by the Special Masters with respect to Congressional redistricting and which has been previously referenced herein..

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

As was mentioned previously the Nevada Supreme Court referenced the paramount importance of considering the general public's interest in seeing that the redistricting issues were expediently considered. When as in this instance our elected officials are unable, for whatever reason, to complete duties of material import to the constituents who elected them, the result is often to look to the courts for an answer. In Nevada those State courts [\*14] from which guidance is sought are presided over by judges who are also duly elected public officials.

We Special Masters to the best of our abilities, relying upon our diverse qualifications and backgrounds, endeavored to consider all of the information presented to us by all litigating and interested parties and to fully consider redistricting materials developed and derived during the 2011 Legislative session. We considered and applied what we were instructed and what we understood the law to require. With that in mind we endeavored to develop for the benefit of all Nevada constituents what we consider to be the fair, impartial and representative congressional and legislative redistricting recommendations which we are now submitting to this court.

The State's Supreme Court will likely ultimately determine legal, jurisdictional and procedural requirements and whether the work that has been done by the Special Masters is of assistance in seeing that redistricting issues were expediently considered. Notwithstanding that, the Special Masters appreciate this district court's confidence in their ability to wade through a series of complex legal and factual issues on a comprehensive, impartial, [\*15] and non-partisan basis. It has been our privilege to contribute to the public good through our work on the redistricting issues that this court assigned to us. We hope that our submission and report has met the court's expectations. As three long time Nevada registered voters who care deeply about fairness in the electoral process, thank you for allowing us the honor to work on this matter.

Dated this 14th day of October, 2011.

#### **THE SPECIL MASTERS**

/s/ Thomas R. Sheets

Thomas R. Sheets, Chair

/s/ Robert E. Erickson

Robert E. Erickson

/s/ Alan H. Glover

Alan H. Glover

#### **MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA**

Name of Organization: Public Hearing by Special Masters to Receive Testimony Concerning Redistricting of Legislative and Congressional Districts

Date and Time of Meeting: Monday, October 10, 2011

9:30 a.m.

Place of Meeting: Grant Sawyer State Office Building, Room 4401

555 east Washington Avenue

Las Vegas, Nevada

*If you cannot attend the meeting, you can listen or view it live over the Internet. The address for the Nevada Legislature website is <http://www.leg.state.nv.us>. Click on the link "Live Meetings - Listen or View."*

Note: Minutes of this meeting will be produced in summary format. Please provide the secretary with electronic or written [\*16] copies of testimony and visual presentations if you wish to have complete versions included as exhibits with the minutes.

**Note: Items on this agenda may be taken in a different order than listed. Two or more agenda items may be combined for consideration. An item may be removed from this agenda or discussion relating to an item on this agenda may be delayed at any time.**

**Public comment will be allowed after discussion of each action item on the agenda before voting on the item. (Because of time considerations, the period for public comment by each speaker may be limited, and speakers are urged to avoid repetition of comments made by previous speakers.)**

I. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Thomas R. Sheets, Esquire, Chair

II. Outline of Proposed Schedule and Process to be Used by Special Masters

Thomas R. Sheets, Esquire, Chair

III. Presentation of Arguments and Evidence by Parties to Litigation

IV. Public Comment

**(Because of time considerations, the period for public comment by each speaker may be limited, and speakers are urged to avoid repetition of comments made by previous speakers.)**

V. Adjournment

Note: We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled [\*17] and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, please notify the Administrative Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, in writing, at the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747, or call the Administrative Division at (775) 684-6800 as soon as possible.

Notice of this meeting was posted to the following Carson City, Nevada, locations: Blasdel Building, 209 East Musser Street; Capitol Press Corps, Basement, Capitol Building; City Hall, 201 North Carson Street; Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street; and Nevada State Library, 100 North Stewart Street. Notice of this meeting was faxed and e-mailed for posting to the following Las Vegas, Nevada, locations: Clark County Government Center, 500 South Grand Central Parkway; and Capitol Police, Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue. Notice of this meeting was posted on the Internet through the Nevada Legislature's website at [www.state.nv.us](http://www.state.nv.us).

## **MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA**

Name of Organization: Public Hearing by Special Masters to Receive Testimony Concerning Redistricting of Legislative and Congressional Districts

Date and Time of Meeting: [\*18] Monday, October 11, 2011

Richard Wolf



9:30 a.m.

Place of Meeting: Legislative Building, Room 4100

401 South Carson Street

Carson City, Nevada

*If you cannot attend the meeting, you can listen or view it live over the Internet. The address for the Nevada Legislature website is <http://www.leg.state.nv.us>. Click on the link "Live Meetings - Listen or View."*

Note: Minutes of this meeting will be produced in summary format. Please provide the secretary with electronic or written copies of testimony and visual presentations if you wish to have complete versions included as exhibits with the minutes.

**Note: Items on this agenda may be taken in a different order than listed. Two or more agenda items may be combined for consideration. An item may be removed from this agenda or discussion relating to an item on this agenda may be delayed at any time.**

**Public comment will be allowed after discussion of each action item on the agenda before voting on the item. (Because of time considerations, the period for public comment by each speaker may be limited, and speakers are urged to avoid repetition of comments made by previous speakers.)**

I. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Thomas R. Sheets, Esquire, Chair

II. Outline of Proposed Schedule and Process **[\*19]** to be Used by Special Masters

Thomas R. Sheets, Esquire, Chair

III. Presentation of Arguments and Evidence by Parties to Litigation

IV. Public Comment

**(Because of time considerations, the period for public comment by each speaker may be limited, and speakers are urged to avoid repetition of comments made by previous speakers.)**

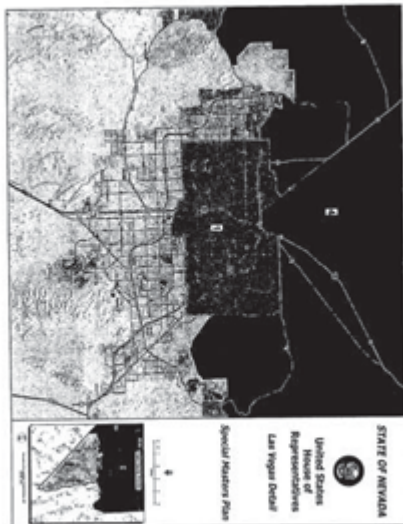
V. Adjournment

Note: We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, please notify the Administrative Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, in writing, at the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747, or call the Administrative Division at (775) 684-6800 as soon as possible.

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EXHIBIT C

EXHIBIT C



United States House of Representatives Page: Special Materials: October 14, 2019

Actual Sales Report

Sales by Product		Sales by Region		Sales by Month		Sales by Quarter		Sales by Year		Sales by Total	
Product	Region	Month	Quarter	Year	Month	Quarter	Year	Month	Quarter	Year	Total
Product 1	Region 1	10/1/2019	Q3 2019	2019	10/1/2019	Q3 2019	2019	10/1/2019	Q3 2019	2019	2019
Product 2	Region 2	10/1/2019	Q3 2019	2019	10/1/2019	Q3 2019	2019	10/1/2019	Q3 2019	2019	2019
Product 3	Region 3	10/1/2019	Q3 2019	2019	10/1/2019	Q3 2019	2019	10/1/2019	Q3 2019	2019	2019
Product 4	Region 4	10/1/2019	Q3 2019	2019	10/1/2019	Q3 2019	2019	10/1/2019	Q3 2019	2019	2019
Product 5	Region 5	10/1/2019	Q3 2019	2019	10/1/2019	Q3 2019	2019	10/1/2019	Q3 2019	2019	2019
Product 6	Region 6	10/1/2019	Q3 2019	2019	10/1/2019	Q3 2019	2019	10/1/2019	Q3 2019	2019	2019
Product 7	Region 7	10/1/2019	Q3 2019	2019	10/1/2019	Q3 2019	2019	10/1/2019	Q3 2019	2019	2019
Product 8	Region 8	10/1/2019	Q3 2019	2019	10/1/2019	Q3 2019	2019	10/1/2019	Q3 2019	2019	2019
Product 9	Region 9	10/1/2019	Q3 2019	2019	10/1/2019	Q3 2019	2019	10/1/2019	Q3 2019	2019	2019
Product 10	Region 10	10/1/2019	Q3 2019	2019	10/1/2019	Q3 2019	2019	10/1/2019	Q3 2019	2019	2019

Report generated on 10/14/2019 at 10:00 AM. Data as of 10/13/2019.

[illegible]

Richard Wolf







[illegible]

Source: Fitch - September 14, 2011

Using Age-Related Data Report

		2010 Population									
		Total		Male		Female		White		Black	
Age Group	Sex	Population	Percentage	Population	Percentage	Population	Percentage	Population	Percentage	Population	Percentage
0-4	Male	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01
0-4	Female	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01
5-9	Male	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01
5-9	Female	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01
10-14	Male	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01
10-14	Female	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01
15-19	Male	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01
15-19	Female	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01
20-24	Male	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01
20-24	Female	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01
25-29	Male	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01
25-29	Female	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01
30-34	Male	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01
30-34	Female	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01
35-39	Male	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01
35-39	Female	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01
40-44	Male	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01
40-44	Female	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01
45-49	Male	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01
45-49	Female	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01
50-54	Male	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01
50-54	Female	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01
55-59	Male	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01
55-59	Female	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01
60-64	Male	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01
60-64	Female	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01
65-69	Male	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01
65-69	Female	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01
70-74	Male	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01
70-74	Female	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01	1,125	0.01

## EXHIBIT B

**STATE OF NEVADA**

**Assembly Districts**

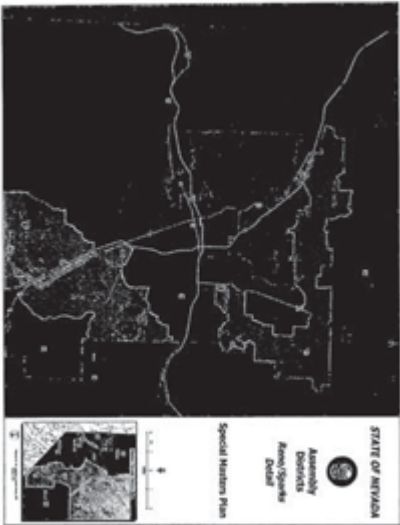
**Special Western Plan**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

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2011 WL 1547473

Only the Westlaw citation  
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NOT FOR PUBLICATION

United States District  
Court, D. New Jersey.

LOCAL 194, INTERNATIONAL  
FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL  
AND TECHNICAL ENGINEERS,  
AFL–CIO, et al., Plaintiffs,

v.

THE NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE  
AUTHORITY, et al., Defendants.

Civil Action No. 11–1653 (JLL).

|

April 21, 2011.

#### Attorneys and Law Firms

[Annmarie Pinarski](#), Weissman & Mintz,  
LLC, Somerset, NJ, for Plaintiffs.

[John James Peirano, Jr.](#), [Thomas P. Scrivo](#),  
McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter  
LLP, Morristown, NJ, for Defendants.

#### Opinion

### OPINION

[LINARES](#), District Judge.

\*1 This matter comes before the Court by way of Plaintiffs' application for a preliminary injunction, filed on March 24, 2011. Oral argument was held on April

6, 2011, and at its conclusion the Court granted the parties one week to submit supplementary briefing regarding certain questions raised by the Court. The Court has considered the arguments of counsel and the submissions of the parties in support of and in opposition to the present application, and for the reasons set forth below, Plaintiffs' Complaint will be dismissed, and Plaintiffs' application for a preliminary injunction will be denied as moot.

#### I. BACKGROUND

Plaintiff Local 194, International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers, AFL–CIO (“Local 194”) is a labor union that is party to a collective bargaining agreement with Defendant the New Jersey Turnpike Authority (the “NJTA”), a public agency within the New Jersey Department of Transportation. Local 194 represents full- and part-time toll collectors currently employed by the NJTA.

In March 2010, the Governor of New Jersey created the New Jersey Privatization Task Force (the “Task Force”). A few months later, the Task Force issued a report to the Governor identifying manual toll collection jobs within the NJTA as candidates for privatization. Approximately 300 full-time and 380 part-time NJTA toll collectors are currently represented by Local 194. On November 10, the NJTA informed Local 194 of its intent to pursue the Task Force's privatization recommendation, and on or about January 19, 2011, the NJTA issued a Request for Proposal for Toll Attendant Services (the “RFP”) to be provided to potential bidders. The RFP



contained the following “Right of First Refusal” provision:

As a result of this contract Toll Attendants that are currently employed by NJTA will be separated from employment. Additionally, due to Collective Bargaining Agreement language, Roadway Maintenance Personnel on the Parkway may also be separated from employment. The Contractor must give each employee separated from employment as a result of this contract with NJTA the right of first refusal to accept a Toll Attendant position under the contract. This includes all toll attendants covered under Local 194 & Local 196 collective bargaining agreements ....

(Br. in Supp. of Pls.' Order to Show Cause and Prelim. Inj., Certif. of Franceline Ehret (“Ehret Certif.”), Ex. H.)

During the period of time leading up to the issuance of the RFP and continuing thereafter, members of Local 194 attended public meetings held by the NJTA and voiced their opposition to the privatization plan. Local 194's President, Plaintiff Franceline Ehret, expressed concern that the plan would cause union members to lose

their jobs and that privatization would both weaken security along the heavily traveled turnpike corridor and impair the State's ability to respond to snow and ice events. On February 7, the NJTA held a mandatory pre-proposal meeting, which was attended by approximately twenty-three potential bidders, along with approximately sixty picketing union members. The following day, Ehret sent a letter to the members of Local 194 urging them to attend the next NJTA Board of Commissioners meeting, which was to be held on February 23. Ehret's letter further urged Local 194 members to create résumés and cover letters, which the union would then forward to the potential bidders. Ehret's letter stated that many bidders “WILL NOT want to come here when they see all the UNION MEMBERS who want these jobs.” (Ehret Certif., Ex. J.) On February 18, Local 194 gathered the résumés and cover letters and submitted them to the potential bidders.

**\*2** On February 22, 2011, bidders began notifying the NJTA that they had received numerous résumés and cover letters from and that as a result they would not submit a response to the RFP. At oral argument, counsel for Defendants stated that three potential bidders, each of whom had attended the mandatory pre-proposal meeting on February 7, advised the NJTA that they would not be submitting bids, and that two other companies “submitted withdrawals.” (Tr. of Proceedings, Apr. 6, 2011 (“Hr'g Tr.”), 51:7–19, 52:12–19.)

On February 25, the NJTA issued an addendum to the RFP that removed the

union members' Right of First Refusal. The addendum revised the RFP to state that every toll collector would be given an “equal opportunity” for employment with the winning contractor. (Defs.' Br. in Opp'n to Pls.' Appl. for Prelim. Inj. Relief at 7.) The Right of First Refusal was removed as to both Local 194 and Local 196, another labor union subject to a collective bargaining agreement with the NJTA. Local 196 is not a party to this action. The amended RFP indicates that the closing date for submission of proposals was March 14, 2011. (Decl. of Veronique Hakim (“Hakim Decl.”), Ex. E.) At oral argument, counsel for Defendants stated that, of the twenty-three companies that had attended the mandatory pre-proposal meeting, only four had submitted bids. (Hr'g Tr. 51:24–55:11.)

On March 15, 2011, Local 196 filed an “Unfair Practice Charge” with the New Jersey Public Employment Relations Commission (“PERC”) against the NJTA. The charge alleges violations of the New Jersey Employer–Employee Relations Act, [N.J. Stat. Ann. § 34:13A–1 et seq.](#), claiming that the NJTA's removal of the Right of First Refusal was made “in retaliation for [the union's] protected activity.” (Hakim Decl., Ex. N.)

On March 24, Plaintiffs filed the instant federal action asserting claims under [42 U.S.C. § 1983](#) and state law. Their Complaint alleges that the NJTA retaliated against Local 194 and its members as a result of their engaging in conduct protected under the First Amendment and under analogous

provisions of the New Jersey Constitution. On March 25, this Court issued an Order to Show Cause why a preliminary injunction should not issue to restrain the NJTA from awarding the toll collection contract without the Right of First Refusal, setting oral argument for April 6. (Docket Entry No. 2.)

On March 30, the NJTA filed a “Scope of Negotiations Petition and Unfair Practice Charge” with PERC against Local 194. (Hakim Decl., Ex. O.) The NJTA seeks “(1) a determination that the decision to subcontract the toll collectors' work is not mandatorily negotiable, and (2) issuance of unfair practice Complaint alleging the Union has violated the New Jersey EmployerEmployee Relations Act ... by its conduct in attempting to force the [NJTA] to negotiate about a subcontracting decision.” (*Id.*)

On April 6, 2011, the Court heard oral argument on Plaintiff's application for a preliminary injunction. At that hearing, issues were raised that had not been addressed in detail in the parties' briefs. The Court therefore ordered that the record be held open for an additional seven days to allow the parties to submit supplemental briefing on those issues.

## II. JURISDICTION

\*3 The Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to [28 U.S.C. § 1331](#), as Plaintiffs state claims arising under [42 U.S.C. § 1983](#), and supplemental jurisdiction pursuant to [28 U.S.C. § 1367](#) over Plaintiffs' state law claims.

### III. DISCUSSION

Plaintiffs seek a preliminary injunction restraining the NJTA from awarding the toll collection subcontract without Local 194 members being granted a right of first refusal to accept positions with the incoming private subcontractor. Defendants respond that this Court should abstain from exercising its jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' claims in light of the doctrine developed under *Younger v. Harris*, 401 U.S. 37 (1971), to avoid interfering with actions currently pending before PERC.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Defendants also argue that abstention is appropriate under *Burford v. Sun Oil Co.*, 319 U.S. 315, 63 S.Ct. 1098, 87 L.Ed. 1424 (1943), and its progeny and that, in the alternative, a preliminary injunction is not warranted in this case.

District courts have “discretion to abstain from exercising jurisdiction over a particular claim where resolution of that claim in federal court would offend principles of comity by interfering with an ongoing state proceeding.” *Addiction Specialists, Inc. v. Twp. of Hampton*, 411 F.3d 399, 408 (3d Cir.2005). However, “abstention rarely should be invoked, and is only appropriate in a few carefully defined situations.” *Id.* (citations and quotations omitted). Three requirements must be met before *Younger* abstention is appropriate: “(1) there must be pending or ongoing state proceedings which are judicial in nature; (2) the state proceedings must implicate important state interests; and (3) the state proceedings must afford an adequate opportunity to raise any constitutional issues.” *O'Neill v. City of Philadelphia*, 32 F.3d 785, 789 (3d Cir.1994) (citing *Middlesex County*

*Ethics Comm. v. Garden State Bar Ass'n*, 457 U.S. 423, 432, 102 S.Ct. 2515, 73 L.Ed.2d 116 (1982)). However, even if these three elements are satisfied, abstention is not appropriate where the federal claimant makes a showing of bad faith, harassment, or some other extraordinary circumstance, “such as proceedings pursuant to a flagrantly unconstitutional statute, such that deference to the state proceeding will present a significant and immediate potential for irreparable harm to the federal interests asserted.” *Schall v. Joyce*, 885 F.2d 101, 106 (3d Cir.1989).

#### A. Pending or Ongoing Proceeding That is Judicial in Nature

Under the first element of the *Younger* analysis, administrative proceedings are “judicial in nature” if they “rise to the level of adjudication.” *Zahl v. Harper*, 282 F.3d 204, 209 (3d Cir.2002). The parties do not dispute that actions brought before PERC are adjudicatory in nature. However, a court may only abstain when state proceedings are “pending or ongoing.” Here, Defendants argue that two actions currently before PERC are pending or ongoing for purposes of *Younger* abstention.

The first PERC action was filed on March 15, 2011, by Local 196 against the NJTA. Local 196 is not a party to this federal action, and Local 194 was not named as a party to Local 196's PERC action. Generally, “where the plaintiff in a federal action is not a party to the state proceeding, *Younger* concerns about federal adjudication do not arise.” *Sullivan v. City of Pittsburgh*, 811 F.2d 171, 177 (3d Cir.1987). But, parties that

are “too closely related should be treated as one party for *Younger* purposes.” *Id.* Unitary treatment, however, is limited to “an employer's federal suit when its employees assert identical interests in state court” and “cases in which federal plaintiffs are closely related to state defendants ‘in terms of ownership, control and management.’ ” *Id.* at 178 (quoting *Doran v. Salem Inn, Inc.*, 422 U.S. 922, 929, 95 S.Ct. 2561, 45 L.Ed.2d 648 (1975)). Defendants argue for a more expansive definition of this exception, contending that a mere alignment of economic interests between Local 194 and Local 196 is sufficient to warrant unitary treatment under *Younger*. (Hr'g Tr. 32:20–33:5.) While the Third Circuit in *Sullivan* did note that the unitary treatment inquiry looks for “an identity of economic activities and interests,” 811 F.2d at 178, Defendants have provided no precedent to support their contention that a more vague interest analysis should supplant the two narrow exceptions identified in that case.<sup>2</sup> Rather, courts in this Circuit have explicitly recognized the limited scope of the *Sullivan* exceptions. See *Kessler Inst. for Rehab., Inc. v. Mayor & Council of Borough of Essex Falls*, 876 F.Supp. 641, 660–61 (D.N.J.1995) (stating that identity of economic activities and interests “is present only in two types of cases,” those described in *Sullivan* ). As Defendants do not contend that an employer-employee relationship or an ownership, control, or management relationship exists between Local 196 and Local 194, the Court concludes that the PERC action filed by Local 196 does not satisfy the first prong of the *Younger* analysis.

2 Defendants instead rely on *Spargo v. New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct*, 351 F.3d 65 (2d Cir.2003), a decision that is not binding on this Court. *Spargo* involved a claim that certain non-parties' First Amendment rights were derivative of a party's First Amendment rights and thus warranted unitary treatment. No such derivative claim is asserted here.

\*4 The second PERC action was filed on March 30, 2011, by the NJTA against Local 194, both of which are parties to this action.<sup>3</sup> Plaintiffs' Complaint here was filed on March 24. The NJTA's claims against Local 194, therefore, were filed six days after this action was filed, but one week before this Court's April 6 hearing regarding Plaintiffs' application for a preliminary injunction. Where state proceedings are initiated after the federal complaint is filed, “but before any proceedings of substance on the merits have taken place in federal court, the principles of *Younger v. Harris* should apply in full force.” *Middlesex*, 457 U.S. at 436–37 (citing *Hicks v. Miranda*, 422 U.S. 332, 349, 95 S.Ct. 2281, 45 L.Ed.2d 223 (1975)). But, where a preliminary injunction has been granted, “considerations of economy, equity, and federalism counsel against *Younger* abstention at that point.” *Hawaii Housing Authority v. Midkiff*, 467 U.S. 229, 238, 104 S.Ct. 2321, 81 L.Ed.2d 186 (1984); cf. *Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Ass'n of United Methodist Church v. Vespa-Papaleo*, 339 F. App'x 232, 240 (3d Cir.2009) (holding that a court's denial of a preliminary injunction motion is not a proceeding of substance on the merits). In *Doran v. Salem Inn*, the Supreme Court held that *Younger* abstention was necessary even though, before the state action was initiated, the federal district court had denied



a temporary restraining order and set a hearing date for a preliminary injunction motion. 422 U.S. at 924–25. Similarly, the Court here had only scheduled a preliminary injunction hearing at the time the NJTA filed its PERC action. Thus, as in *Doran*, no “proceedings of substance on the merits” had yet occurred in this case. The NJTA’s PERC action against Local 194 is therefore “pending or ongoing” for the purposes of *Younger* abstention. As such, the first element of the *Younger* analysis is satisfied. The remaining elements will be analyzed with respect to this second PERC action only.

3 It is undisputed that plaintiffs to this federal action who were not specifically named as parties to the PERC action—such as Ms. Ehret, President of Local 194, and various Local 194 members—satisfy the unitary treatment criteria under *Sullivan*.

## B. State Proceedings Implicating Important State Interests

As to the second element of the *Younger* analysis, abstention is appropriate in matters in which “the State’s interests in the proceeding are so important that exercise of the federal judicial power would disregard the comity between the States and the National Government.” *Pennzoil Co. v. Texaco, Inc.*, 481 U.S. 1, 11, 107 S.Ct. 1519, 95 L.Ed.2d 1 (1987). This consideration of comity necessarily includes “a proper respect for state functions, a recognition of the fact that the entire country is made up of a Union of separate state governments, and a continuance of the belief that the National Government will fare best if the States and their institutions are left free to perform their separate functions in their separate ways.”

*Younger*, 401 U.S. at 44. However, the Court must examine the “importance of the generic proceedings to the State,” rather than the State’s narrow interest in the outcome of the particular case. *O’Neill*, 32 F.3d at 791–92.

\*5 New Jersey has established a comprehensive statutory and regulatory scheme to govern labor and personnel matters for public employees. See N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 34:13A–1 *et seq.* The New Jersey Employer–Employee Relations Act (the “Act”) authorizes PERC to “make policy and establish rules and regulations concerning employer–employee relations in public employment relating to dispute settlement, grievance procedures and administration including enforcement of statutory provisions concerning representative elections and related matters and to implement fully all the provisions of” the Act. *Id.* at § 34:13A–5.2. Section 5.4(c) of the Act grants PERC the adjudicatory power to prevent unfair practices specified in §§ 5.4(a) and (b), and § 5.4(d) gives PERC the authority to determine whether a contract proposal lies within the scope of collective negotiations. This framework evidences New Jersey’s substantial interest in labor-management relations, particularly in matters involving public employees, like the plaintiffs in this case. See *Local 54 Patrolman’s Benevolent Association v. Fontoura*, No. 06–6278, 2007 WL 4165158, at \*4 (D.N.J. Nov.19, 2007) (recognizing the State’s interest in using PERC to adjudicate labor disputes involving state law enforcement). Federal involvement in this case would clearly interfere with the State’s interest in regulating public

employment matters, as while the federal courts have a continuing obligation to protect the speech and association rights of all citizens, the states share this obligation, and our federalism counsels that the states should be free to oversee matters of uniquely local concern. To interfere with the State's operation in this area "would be to engage in the sort of judicial action that *Younger* and its progeny explicitly prohibit." *Id.* Thus, considering the generic importance of the proceedings to the State of New Jersey in light of the considerations of comity that underlie the *Younger* doctrine, the Court concludes that the PERC proceedings implicate important state interests and that Defendants have therefore satisfied the second element of the analysis.

### C. Opportunity to Raise Constitutional Issues

The third element of the *Younger* analysis "is satisfied in the context of a state administrative proceeding when the federal claimant can assert his constitutional claims during state-court judicial review of the administrative determination." *O'Neill*, 32 F.3d at 792. The plaintiff has the burden of establishing that "state procedural law barred presentation of [its] claims" in an administrative action or before the state courts. *Schall*, 885 F.2d at 107 (quoting *Pennzoil*, 481 U.S. at 14) (alteration in original); see *Middlesex*, 457 U.S. at 432 ("Where vital state interests are involved, a federal court should abstain unless state law clearly bars the interposition of the constitutional claims") (internal quotation and citation omitted). Moreover, "when a litigant has not attempted to present

his federal claims in related state-court proceedings, a federal court should assume that state procedures will afford an adequate remedy, in the absence of unambiguous authority to the contrary." *O'Neill*, 32 F.3d at 792 (quoting *Pennzoil*, 481 U.S. at 15).

\*6 In *Hunterdon Central High School Board of Education v. Hunterdon Central High School Teachers' Association*, 174 N.J.Super. 468, 416 A.2d 980 (N.J.Super.Ct.App.Div.1980), *aff'd o.b.*, 86 N.J. 43, 429 A.2d 354 (N.J.1981), the Appellate Division considered a ruling by PERC which stated that if a school board were to grant its teachers paid leaves of absence for religious purposes, such action would violate the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. The matter came before PERC by way of a scope of negotiations petition filed by the school board to determine whether certain teachers' requests for paid leaves of absence on religious holidays fell within the scope of collective negotiations. In reviewing the agency's decision, the Appellate Division affirmed that "PERC's delegated authority is broad enough to enable it to apply laws other than that which it administers, and should be construed 'so as to permit the fullest accomplishment of the legislative intent.'" *Id.* at 983 (quoting *Plainfield Bd. of Ed. v. Plainfield Ed. Ass'n*, 144 N.J.Super. 521, 366 A.2d 703, 705 (N.J.Super.Ct.App.Div.1976)). The court reasoned that while administrative agencies are typically barred from passing on the constitutionality of legislation, PERC acted within its power in adjudicating a constitutional issue that was necessary



to deciding matters within the agency's statutory authority and thus “germane” to the proceedings before it. *Id.* Since *Hunterdon*, it has become well settled that PERC may decide constitutional questions that are necessary to adjudicate the statutory questions before it. *See Todaro v. Township of Union*, 27 F.Supp.2d 517, 527 (D.N.J.1998) (“PERC has jurisdiction to interpret and apply laws outside the Act only to the extent that those laws are necessary to resolve a statutory claim under the Act”); *Fioriglio v. City of Atlantic City*, 963 F.Supp. 415, 424 (D.N.J.1997); *Christian Bros. Inst. of New Jersey v. N. New Jersey Interscholastic League*, 86 N.J. 409, 432 A.2d 26, 29 (N.J.1981); *see also Kelly v. Borough of Sayreville*, 107 F.3d 1073, 1079 (3d Cir.1997) (McKee, J., concurring).<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> In *Kelly*, the Third Circuit affirmed the district court's Rule 12(b)(6) dismissal a § 1983 claim alleging First Amendment violations, but expressed “significant reservations” as to the district court's alternative holding that the entire controversy doctrine barred the constitutional claim in light of a parallel action that the plaintiff had filed with PERC. 107 F.3d at 1075. The district court had held, in part, that the plaintiff had a “full and fair opportunity” to raise his First Amendment claims before PERC and was thus barred from raising them in federal court. *Kelly v. Borough of Sayreville*, 927 F.Supp. 797, 803 (D.N.J.1996). In a concurring opinion, then Judge McKee elaborated on the court's “reservations” regarding the district court's entire controversy ruling, stating that “PERC has a well-established practice of refusing to hear constitutional claims except insofar as they relate to statutory claims properly before it under the Act,” and that the agency's refusal to hear the plaintiff's constitutional claim was proper “because that claim was not integral to the resolution of the labor dispute which was properly before the administrative body.” *Kelly*, 107 F.3d at 1079–80 (citing *Hunterdon*). Judge McKee relied in part on an amicus brief filed by PERC explaining its authority to hear such matters, which argued that

PERC's jurisdiction is limited to resolving statutory claims and “does not extend to resolving federal constitutional claims unless necessary to resolve such statutory claims.” *Id.* (quoting Brief of Amicus Curiae at 6).

The NJTA's action before PERC first seeks a determination as to the scope of its required negotiations with Local 194 and further alleges unfair labor practices by the union in demanding such negotiations. The scope petition asks PERC “to make a determination as to whether the [NJTA's] decision to subcontract work performed by toll collectors is within the scope of collective negotiations.” (Hakim Decl., Ex. O.) The NJTA argues that “[t]he decision to subcontract said work is a matter of inherent managerial prerogative and, therefore, not within the scope of negotiations.” (*Id.*) The NJTA's unfair practice charge alleges that Local 194 “continues to demand and insist that [the NJTA] negotiate over its decision to subcontract the work of toll collectors. The decision to subcontract is a non-negotiable matter of inherent managerial prerogative.” (*Id.*) The NJTA argues that Local 194's “negotiations demands are in bad faith and contrary to established [PERC] precedent.” (*Id.*)

\*7 Defendants argue that the NJTA's scope of negotiations petition affords Plaintiffs ample opportunity to raise their constitutional claims. Plaintiffs respond that Local 194's litigation strategy with respect to the scope petition obviates any need for it to raise a First Amendment defense before PERC. On April 1, 2011, counsel for Local 194 filed a letter with PERC indicating its agreement as to the nonnegotiability of the matter in question. (*See Reply Br. in*

Supp. of Pls.' Order to Show Cause and Prelim. Inj. ("Pls.' Reply Br."), Certif. of Ira Mintz, Ex. 1.) The letter states, "Local 194 agrees that the New Jersey Turnpike Authority has the managerial prerogative to subcontract and that the ultimate decision to subcontract is not within the scope of negotiations." (*Id.*) Plaintiffs contend that this stipulation renders its First Amendment retaliation claims "irrelevant" to the PERC action, thus making *Younger* abstention inapplicable. (Pls.' Letter to this Court dated Apr. 13, 2011 ("Pls.' Letter Br."), at 5.)

The relevant inquiry under *Younger*, however, is not whether a plaintiff in fact presents his constitutional claims to the state agency, but whether state procedural law bars presentation of such claims. Simply because Plaintiffs do not intend to raise a constitutional issue does not imply that one could not be raised, and under *Younger* Plaintiffs bear the burden of demonstrating that the latter, not the former, is true. While Plaintiffs recognize that PERC has the authority to decide constitutional questions that are necessary to adjudicating statutory claims (Pls.' Letter Br. at 4), Plaintiffs argue that because they agree that the NJTA has the "managerial prerogative" to subcontract, no constitutional issue need be raised. Plaintiffs have nonetheless filed this federal lawsuit to enjoin, on constitutional grounds, the ultimate award of that subcontract. Plaintiffs have complained to this Court that because the NJTA has committed constitutional violations against the union, it should not be permitted to award the toll collections subcontract until those violations are remedied. Put

another way, Plaintiffs have alleged that the NJTA has no "managerial prerogative" to subcontract under such circumstances. The Court thus fails to see how the proceedings before PERC do not fundamentally address the same issues as those here.

While, as Plaintiffs suggest, constitutional objections to a scope petition would ordinarily be raised by the party seeking to avoid collective negotiations—like the school board in *Hunterdon*—Plaintiffs point to no authority that restricts PERC from holding that a constitutional violation defeats an employer's claim of managerial prerogative. Cf. N.J. Stat. Ann. § 34:13A–5.3 ("public employees shall have, and shall be protected in the exercise of, the right, freely and without fear of penalty or reprisal, to form, join and assist any employee organization or to refrain from any such activity"); *Warren Hills Reg'l Bd. of Educ. v. Warren Hills Reg'l High Sch. Educ. Ass'n*, 2005 WL 3487979, at \*1 (N.J.Super.Ct.App.Div.2005) (holding on state law grounds that while "[a] public employer has the managerial prerogative to contract with private companies for work previously performed by public employees ... the decision to contract out work may not be motivated by a desire to retaliate for, or discourage, union activity") (citing *In re Twp. of Bridgewater*, 95 N.J. 235, 471 A.2d 1 (1984)). Instead, Plaintiffs cite to cases holding that matters which would otherwise be negotiable may be rendered nonnegotiable by a preempting statute or regulation. See, e.g., *Local 195, IFPTE, AFL–CIO v. State*, 88 N.J. 393, 443 A.2d 187, 192 (N.J.1982). These cases, however,

do not address constitutional challenges and do not purport to limit *Hunterdon*'s basic principle that “PERC's delegated authority is broad enough to enable it to apply laws other than that which it administers, and should be construed so as to permit the fullest accomplishment of the legislative intent.” 416 A.2d at 983 (quotation omitted). Plaintiffs point to no “unambiguous authority” that restricts PERC's broad power to decide constitutional questions that are germane to the proceedings before it and whose resolution is necessary to adjudicate a party's statutory claims.

\*8 Here, Plaintiffs' constitutional claims not only bear on the statutory matters that PERC is charged with administering, but PERC must necessarily resolve those claims in order to determine whether the NJTA has a managerial prerogative to award the instant subcontract. Once Plaintiffs' First Amendment defense is raised, PERC could not adjudicate the scope of negotiations petition without first deciding, as in *Hunterdon*, whether the employer's decision would violate the employees' constitutional rights. Should PERC hold that the subcontracting dispute lies within the scope of collective negotiations, the matter could then proceed through the appropriate dispute resolution process, a remedy that Plaintiffs have not argued to be inadequate. See *O'Neill*, 32 F.3d at 792 (“a federal court should assume that state procedures will afford an adequate remedy, in the absence of unambiguous authority to the contrary”). If PERC were to refuse to entertain Plaintiffs' constitutional claim on

the grounds that it is not competent to hear such matters, it is undisputed that Plaintiffs may still appeal the matter to the Appellate Division, and beyond. See N.J. Stat. Ann. § 34:13A–5.4(d) (providing for appellate review of “[a]ny determination” made by PERC pursuant to the subsection of the Act regarding scope petitions); *Zahl*, 282 F.3d at 210 (holding that the third prong of the *Younger* analysis is satisfied if the plaintiff could “assert his preemption claim in the administrative proceeding itself and ... have it reviewed by the New Jersey Appellate Division”); *Christian Bros.*, 432 A.2d at 29 (noting that even if the plaintiff were not able to raise his constitutional claims before the administrative agency, the “proper procedure was to raise these claims before the Appellate Division upon appeal from [the] adverse decision”). As such, Plaintiffs have failed to carry their burden of establishing that state procedural law bars presentation of their constitutional claims to PERC.

Plaintiff raises similar nonnegotiability arguments with respect to the NJTA's unfair practice charge, again pointing to the stipulation filed by the Local 194 with PERC. (See Pls.' Letter Br. at 3.) The Court, however, declines to address whether that charge would provide an independent basis for *Younger* abstention, except to note that the overlap of issues between the unfair practice charge and the scope petition bolsters Defendants' argument that Plaintiffs' constitutional claims are “germane” to the ongoing proceedings before PERC. As that forum provides an adequate opportunity for Plaintiffs to

raise such claims, the Court concludes that Defendants have satisfied the third prong of the *Younger* analysis. Plaintiffs do not argue that any of the narrow exceptions to *Younger* abstention apply, and the exceptional circumstances warranting such an exception are not apparent from the record. The Court therefore concludes that it would “offend principles of comity” to interfere with the ongoing PERC proceedings and abstains from exercising its jurisdiction over this matter.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Having so ruled, the Court declines to address Defendant's arguments regarding *Burford* abstention and does not reach the merits of Plaintiffs' application for a preliminary injunction.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

\*9 For the foregoing reasons, the Court concludes that *Younger* abstention is appropriate in this case. Plaintiffs' Complaint will be dismissed with prejudice, see *Lui v. Comm'n on Adult Entm't of Del.*, 369 F.3d 319, 327 (3d Cir.2004) (holding that “a *Younger* abstention stay requires a dismissal with prejudice of the federal suit”), and Plaintiffs' application for a preliminary injunction will be denied as moot. An appropriate Order accompanies this Opinion.

#### All Citations

Not Reported in F.Supp.2d, 2011 WL 1547473

2007 WL 951450  
Only the Westlaw citation  
is currently available.  
United States District Court,  
M.D. Pennsylvania.

William D. MORRIS, Plaintiff  
v.  
Donald H. RUMSFELD, Defendant.

Civil Action No. 1:01-CV-1729.  
|  
March 27, 2007.

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#### Opinion

### MEMORANDUM

CHRISTOPHER C. CONNER, United  
States District Judge.

\*1 Presently before the court is plaintiff's motion in limine (Doc. 51) to determine the admissibility of his favorable Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC") decisions. Plaintiff seeks to admit the Bench Decision of the EEOC Administrative Judge ("Bench Decision") and the decision of the Office of Federal Operations ("OFO Decision"). For the

reasons that follow, the court will deny plaintiff's motion.

#### I. Background

At all relevant times, plaintiff was employed as a WG-5 Warehouse Worker (Forklift Operator) by the Defense Logistics Agency ("DLA"), an agency of the Department of Defense. (See Doc. 5 ¶¶ 3-4.) On August 25, 1992, plaintiff filed an EEO discrimination complaint against the DLA alleging that the DLA discriminated against him by failing to accommodate his medical restrictions. (See Doc. 5 ¶ 12 & Ex. A.) After a hearing, an EEOC Administrative Judge ("AJ") issued the Bench Decision, finding that plaintiff was a qualified individual with a disability and that the DLA intentionally discriminated against him between February 27 and April 11, 1992<sup>1</sup> by failing to make any attempts to accommodate plaintiff's medical restrictions. The AJ recommended that plaintiff receive compensatory damages. (See Doc. 5 ¶ 13 & Ex. B.) On February 5, 1995, the DLA rejected the AJ's finding of discrimination between February 27 and April 11, 1992. (See Doc. 5 ¶ 15 & Ex. C.) Plaintiff appealed the DLA's decision and, on October 1, 1998, the EEOC issued the OFO Decision, which agreed with the AJ's findings.<sup>2</sup> (See Doc. 5 ¶¶ 16-17 & Ex. D.) On June 11, 2001, the DLA awarded plaintiff \$12,500.00 in compensatory damages. (See Doc. 5 ¶ 21 & Ex. F.)

<sup>1</sup> The AJ also found that the DLA did not discriminate against plaintiff after April 11, 1992. (See Doc. 5 ¶ 13 & Ex. B.)



<sup>2</sup> On September 13, 2000, the EEOC denied the DLA's request for reconsideration. (See Doc. 5 ¶¶ 18-19 & Ex. E.)

Disagreeing with the amount awarded, plaintiff instituted the instant action regarding his failure-to-accommodate claim. (See Doc. 1.) He subsequently amended the complaint to add a disparate treatment claim. (See Doc. 5.) The order of court dated September 9, 2003 (Doc. 23) granted plaintiff's motion for partial summary judgment. The court determined that a plaintiff is entitled to seek *de novo* review of a final agency decision on damages without risking *de novo* review of liability from a separate final agency decision. (See Doc. 23.) Defendant sought and was granted a certificate of appealability. (See Doc. 28.) On October 11, 2005, the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit issued a mandate reversing this court's decision and holding that a *de novo* trial is required on all issues, regardless of whether the issues were determined in separate final agency decisions (i.e., trial in the instant matter cannot be limited solely to the issue of damages on plaintiff's failure-to-accommodate claim). (See Doc. 35.)

Following the Third Circuit's mandate, the court scheduled a jury trial on all issues for May 7, 2007.<sup>3</sup> (See Doc. 50.) Plaintiff filed the instant motion in limine (Doc. 52), seeking a ruling that the Bench Decision and OFO Decision are admissible at trial. The motion has been fully briefed and is ripe for disposition.

<sup>3</sup> Prior to scheduling trial in the instant matter, plaintiff's petition for a writ of certiorari was denied

by the United States Supreme Court and the parties attempted mediation. (See Docs. 40, 42, 44, 48.)

## II. Discussion

\*2 The parties do not dispute that the Bench Decision and OFO Decision are hearsay.<sup>4</sup> They dispute, however, whether an exception-Rule 803(8)(C) of the Federal Rules of Evidence-to the rule excluding hearsay<sup>5</sup> applies to these decisions.<sup>6</sup> If the exception applies, defendants argue in the alternative that the decisions are inadmissible because they are irrelevant or substantially more prejudicial than probative. See [FED.R.EVID. 401](#), [402](#), [403](#). Assuming, *arguendo*, that the hearsay exception in Rule 803(8)(C) applies,<sup>7</sup> the court finds that the decisions are substantially more prejudicial than probative and will deny plaintiff's motion.

<sup>4</sup> See [FED.R.EVID. 801\(c\)](#) (defining hearsay as "a statement, other than one made by the declarant while testifying at the trial or hearing, offered in evidence to prove the truth of the matter asserted").

<sup>5</sup> See [FED.R.EVID. 802](#) ("Hearsay is not admissible except as provided by these rules or by other rules prescribed by the Supreme Court pursuant to statutory authority or by Act of Congress.").

<sup>6</sup> Rule 803(8)(C) of the Federal Rules of Evidence states:

The following are not excluded by the hearsay rule, even though the declarant is available as a witness:

(8) Public records and reports. Records, reports, statements, or data compilations, in any form, of public offices or agencies, setting forth ... (C) in civil actions and proceedings and against the Government in criminal cases, factual findings resulting from an investigation made pursuant to authority granted by law, unless the sources of information or other circumstances indicate lack of trustworthiness.

[FED.R.EVID. 803\(8\)\(C\)](#).



7 Citing [Rule 803\(8\)\(C\)](#), the United States Supreme Court, in *dictum*, stated that “[p]rior administrative findings made with respect to an employment discrimination claim *may*, of course, be admitted as evidence at a federal-sector trial de novo.” [Chandler v. Roudebush](#), 425 U.S. 840, 863 n. 39 (1976) (emphasis added); *see also* [Coleman v. Home Depot, Inc.](#), 306 F.3d 1333, 1339 (3d Cir.2002) (discussing *Chandler* and noting that the Third Circuit previously “held that it is within the discretion of the District Court to admit or to refuse to admit the EEOC’s findings of fact and its determination on the merits of the charges”).

[Rule 403 of the Federal Rules of Evidence](#) states:

Although relevant, evidence may be excluded if its probative value is substantially outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice, confusion of the issues, or misleading the jury, or by considerations of undue delay, waste of time, or needless presentation of cumulative evidence.

[FED.R.EVID. 403](#). This rule is an “umbrella rule” encompassing all federal rules of evidence, and, therefore, is applied to evidence otherwise admissible under hearsay exceptions, including [Rule 803\(8\)\(C\)](#). *See* [Coleman v. Home Depot, Inc.](#), 306 F.3d 1333, 1343 (3d Cir.2002). The Third Circuit has described analysis under [Rule 403](#) as a “cost/benefit analysis” that should exclude evidence “if its probative value is not worth the problems that its admission may cause.” *Id.* Deciding whether to exclude an EEOC report under [Rule 403](#) is within the discretion of the trial court. *Id.* at 1344. In the

matter *sub judice*, the court finds, given the information presented in the motion in limine and corresponding briefs, that the Bench Decision and OFO Decision should be excluded under [Rule 403](#) for three reasons.<sup>8</sup>

8 Even assuming, *arguendo*, that the Bench Decision was admissible, the court would exclude the OFO Decision under [Rule 403](#) because it is needlessly cumulative. The OFO Decision offers no new factual findings or conclusions from the Bench Decision; it merely recounts the procedural history of the case and the findings of the AJ and affirms the AJ’s findings. (*See* Doc. 5, Ex. D.)

First, the court finds that the EEOC decisions at issue have minimal probative value. These decisions do not contain a complete account of the evidence presented during the administrative proceedings. In the Bench Decision, the AJ set forth only those facts and testimony that she found relevant and probative. (*See* Doc. 5, Ex. B at 27 (“While all other matters appearing in the record of the complaint and hearing testimony were considered, they played no part in these recommended findings and conclusions because they could not be adequately established as fact, or were irrelevant to the issue, or lacked probative value.”)).

Second, the court finds that admitting the EEOC decisions would be a needless presentation of cumulative evidence. These decisions merely repeat facts and testimony that plaintiff will attempt to prove at trial, through witnesses with personal knowledge, to establish a *prima facie* case of failure to accommodate a disability. *See* [Kovacs v. Conmed Corp.](#), No. 04-1667, 2006 WL

1340767, at \*1 (E.D.Pa. May 11, 2006); *Cambra v. Restaurant Sch.*, No. Civ. A. 04-2688, 2005 WL 2886220, at \*4 (E.D.Pa. Nov. 2, 2005). Plaintiff argues that because it has been twelve years since the EEOC hearing, “[i]t is *possible* that some of the witnesses who testified at the hearing are no longer available.” (Doc. 57 at 9 (emphasis added)). Plaintiff’s claim of unavailable witnesses is clearly speculation and, therefore, cannot alter the court’s [Rule 403](#) analysis.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> This ruling does not affect plaintiff’s ability to seek the admission of hearing transcripts for unavailable witnesses by complying with Rule 804(b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Evidence—an exception to the rule excluding hearsay. See [FED.R.EVID. 804\(b\)\(1\)](#) (“The following are not excluded by the hearsay rule if the declarant is unavailable as a witness: ... Testimony given as a witness at another hearing of the same or a different proceeding, or in a deposition taken in compliance with law in the course of the same or another proceeding, if the party against whom the testimony is now offered, or, in a civil action or proceeding, a predecessor in interest, had an opportunity and similar motive to develop the testimony by direct, cross, or redirect examination.”).

\*3 Third, the court finds that there is a substantial danger of unfair prejudice and misleading the jury. The jury, unlike the court in a bench trial, may give undue weight to the decisions of the EEOC, a government agency. See [Kovacs](#), 2006 WL 1340767, at \*2 (“Unlike a bench trial, ‘a strong argument can be made that the jury would attach undue weight to this type of agency determination, viewing it as a finding of discrimination.’ “ (citing [Cambra](#), 2005 WL 2886220, at \*4)). The danger of unfair prejudice and misleading the jury is particularly great in this case because the EEOC decisions at issue come

to the definitive conclusion that the DLA intentionally discriminated against plaintiff. See *id.*; [Cambra](#), 2005 WL 2886220, at \*4 (“The difference between [an EEOC Letter of Probable Cause], which is ‘more tentative in its conclusions,’ and [an EEOC Letter of Determination], which ‘states the categorical legal conclusion that a violation has taken place,’ is ‘significant.’ “ (citation omitted)). Likewise, the AJ in the Bench Decision states what evidence persuaded her in making her determinations.<sup>10</sup> Determining the credibility of witnesses and the weight of the evidence is clearly the jury’s responsibility. See KEVIN F. O’MALLEY, *FEDERAL JURY PRACTICE AND INSTRUCTIONS* § 101.10 (5th ed.2006). The court finds that exposing the jury to the AJ’s *ratio decidendi* would “unfairly influence the jury in this determination.” [Cambra](#), 2005 WL 2886220, at \*5.

<sup>10</sup> (See, e.g., Doc. 5, Ex. B at 24 (“In finding that the agency failed to reasonably accommodate [plaintiff] ... I am also persuaded by the testimony of management assistant Sandra Shope.”)).

The court also finds that these issues cannot be cured by a limiting instruction. The evidence at issue is simply too influential and too prejudicial. Accordingly, the court finds that the probative value of the EEOC decisions at issue are substantially outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice and misleading the jury.

Given the information presented in the motion in limine and corresponding briefs, the court finds that the danger of unfair prejudice and misleading the jury and considerations of needless presentation of cumulative evidence substantially outweigh

the minimal probative value of the Bench Decision and OFO Decision. Accordingly, the court will deny plaintiff's motion.<sup>11</sup> An appropriate order will issue.

court finds that defendant is not judicially estopped from seeking the exclusion of the EEOC decisions at issue.

### **ORDER**

<sup>11</sup> Plaintiff argues that defendant should be judicially estopped from opposing the instant motion because defendant argued a contrary position to the Third Circuit on interlocutory appeal. (See Doc. 52 at 7-10; Doc. 57 at 12-13); *New Hampshire v. Maine*, 532 U.S. 742, 750-51 (2001) (setting out “several factors [that] typically inform the decision whether to apply the doctrine” of judicial estoppel). The court is unpersuaded. On interlocutory appeal, defendant argued that its contention that trial in the instant matter must be *de novo* on all issues, not just damages, was bolstered by the Supreme Court's statement in *Chandler* that administrative findings may be admissible in judicial proceedings. (See Doc. 52, Ex. A.) In other words, defendant did not argue that the EEOC decisions *were* admissible at trial in the instant matter, only that they *may* be admissible at trial in general. Such a position is not “clearly inconsistent” with its current position that the Bench Decision and OFO Decision are inadmissible in the instant matter. See *New Hampshire*, 532 U.S. at 750 (stating that one factor is that “a party's later position must be ‘clearly inconsistent’ with its earlier position”). Therefore, the

AND NOW, this 27th day of March, 2007, upon consideration of plaintiff's motion in limine (Doc. 51), and for the reasons set forth in the accompanying memorandum, it is hereby ORDERED that the motion in limine (Doc. 51) is DENIED.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>12</sup> The court is reluctant to foreclose plaintiff from raising new grounds for admission of the EEOC decisions, and, therefore, will not now rule that they are excluded from trial. The court notes, however, that it is presently unaware of any circumstance that would cause it to alter its Rule 403 analysis.

\* \* \*

### **All Citations**

Not Reported in F.Supp.2d, 2007 WL 951450

700 Fed.Appx. 105

This case was not selected for publication in West's Federal Reporter. See Fed. Rule of Appellate Procedure 32.1 generally governing citation of judicial decisions issued on or after Jan. 1, 2007. See also U.S.Ct. of Appeals 3rd Cir. App. I, IOP 5.1, 5.3, and 5.7. United States Court of Appeals, Third Circuit.

R.S., a Minor, BY His Parents;  
R.D.S.; S.S., Appellants  
v.

**BUTLER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA;**

Amy Swigart, Individually and in Her Official as Juvenile Probation Officer, Butler County; **William Rumbaugh**, Individually and in His Official Capacity as Supervisor, Butler County Department of Community Corrections and Juvenile Court Services; Thomas Doerr, Individually and in His Official Capacity as President Judge for the Butler County Juvenile Court; Victor E. Vouga, Individually and in His Official Capacity as Juvenile Court Master for the Butler County Juvenile Court; **Russell Karl**, Individually and in His Official Capacity as Assistant District Attorney for Butler County Juvenile Courts

No. 16–3194

Submitted May 25, 2017

(Filed: June 27, 2017)

## Synopsis

**Background:** Parents and child brought action against, inter alia, county involved in child's juvenile delinquency proceeding, alleging claims under the Fourteenth Amendment, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act. The United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, No. 2–15–cv–00339, **Cathy Bissoon, J.**, 2016 WL 3406093, granted county's motions to dismiss, arising out of, inter alia, the *Rooker-Feldman* doctrine and for failure to state a claim. Parents and child appealed.

**Holdings:** The Court of Appeals, **Fisher**, Circuit Judge, held that:

[1] federal court was deprived of jurisdiction under the *Rooker-Feldman* doctrine to review child's claims against county, and

[2] parents failed to state an associational disability claim against county under the ADA and the Rehabilitation Act.

Affirmed.

West Headnotes (4)

## [1] Courts

🔑 Constitutional questions, civil rights, and discrimination in general

Federal court was deprived of jurisdiction under the *Rooker-Feldman* doctrine to review child's claims against county, arising out of county's juvenile delinquency proceeding against him, in action alleging county violated the ADA and the Rehabilitation Act; child lost in state court delinquency proceeding, child complained of injuries caused directly by state court judgment against him, which was entered before initiation of child's action against county, and child's claims would have required appellate review of delinquency judgment by the district court. Rehabilitation Act of 1973, § 2 et seq., 29 U.S.C.A. § 701 et seq.; Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, § 2 et seq., 42 U.S.C.A. § 12101 et seq.

#### Cases that cite this headnote

### [2] Courts

🔑 Constitutional questions, civil rights, and discrimination in general

Federal court was not deprived of jurisdiction under the *Rooker-Feldman* doctrine to review parents' claims against county, arising out of their child's juvenile delinquency proceeding, in action alleging county violated the ADA and the Rehabilitation Act; while child lost in delinquency proceeding, parents were not

parties to child's case in juvenile court, and even if parents were in privity with child for preclusion purposes, that did not bar their action under *Rooker-Feldman*, since parents did not lose in state court. Rehabilitation Act of 1973, § 2 et seq., 29 U.S.C.A. § 701 et seq.; Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, § 2 et seq., 42 U.S.C.A. § 12101 et seq.

#### Cases that cite this headnote

### [3] Civil Rights

🔑 Association or relationship with the disabled

Parents of child, diagnosed with mood, anxiety, and attention-deficit hyperactivity disorders, who was subject to juvenile delinquency proceeding, failed to sufficiently allege that they were excluded from participation in or denied the benefits of a covered activity or subjected to discrimination because of their son's disability, as required to state an associational disability claim under the ADA and the Rehabilitation Act against county that pursued delinquency proceeding; parents' allegations regarding their experience focused on their “emotional distress” and family therapy in which they participated, and most of their allegations focused on discrimination allegedly suffered by child, rather



than his nondisabled parents. Rehabilitation Act of 1973, § 2 et seq., 29 U.S.C.A. § 701 et seq.; Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, § 2 et seq., 42 U.S.C.A. § 12101 et seq.

Cases that cite this headnote

#### [4] Federal Civil Procedure

##### 🔑 Pleading over

District court did not abuse its discretion in dismissing parents and child's complaint with prejudice for failure to state a claim without granting them leave to amend, in their action alleging county violated the ADA and the Rehabilitation Act in child's juvenile delinquency proceeding; parents and child never filed a motion in district court for leave to amend their complaint, instead filing a notice of appeal immediately after district court issued opinion dismissing their claims. Rehabilitation Act of 1973, § 2 et seq., 29 U.S.C.A. § 701 et seq.; Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, § 2 et seq., 42 U.S.C.A. § 12101 et seq.

Cases that cite this headnote

cv-00339) U.S. District Judge: Honorable Cathy Bissoon

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Before: HARDIMAN, ROTH, and FISHER, Circuit Judges.

#### Opinion

### OPINION\*

\*106 On Appeal from the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania (W.D. Pa. No. 2-15-

\* This disposition is not an opinion of the full Court and pursuant to I.O.P. 5.7 does not constitute binding precedent.



**FISHER**, Circuit Judge.

Two parents sued a host of defendants involved in their child's juvenile delinquency \*107 proceedings. They allege violations of the Fourteenth Amendment, the Rehabilitation Act (RA), and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The District Court dismissed their claims on various grounds, including judicial immunity, Eleventh Amendment immunity, prosecutorial immunity, the *Rooker–Feldman* doctrine, and failure to state a claim. We will affirm.

## I.

R.S., a minor child with mood, anxiety, and **attention deficit hyperactivity disorders**, received delinquency charges for two incidents at school. He entered a consent decree under which he agreed to a term of probation in exchange for suspension of his charges.

The child's juvenile probation officer, Amy Swigart, later received word that the child was involved in three other incidents at school. She visited him there where he “began yelling and screaming” and “fell upon the floor crying and flailing his arms and legs,” kicking her in the process.<sup>1</sup> Swigart informed the child's parent, S.S., that the child would be punished.

<sup>1</sup> J.A. 22.

With little notice, a detention hearing was held for the child before juvenile court

master Victor Vouga. Vouga recommended that the child serve five days in a juvenile detention facility pending a consent decree revocation hearing. President Judge Thomas Doerr of the Butler County Court of Common Pleas adopted that recommendation, ordered the child detained, and denied the child's motion for reconsideration. After the child was released from detention, his consent decree was revoked and a new one was entered adding an additional term of probation.

The child and his parents, S.S. and R.D.S., sued Swigart, Vouga, Judge Doerr, William Rumbaugh (Swigart's supervisor), Russell Karl (the assistant district attorney who prosecuted the child), and Butler County in the District Court, seeking damages and equitable relief for their constitutional, RA, and ADA claims. The District Court dismissed their claims on the grounds listed above.

The family filed this timely appeal challenging only the dismissal of their RA and ADA claims against Butler County.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> See R.S. Br. 4. As the family expressly “decline[s] to appeal the dismissal of all other claims,” *id.*, we need not and do not address them.

## II.

[1] [2] We address jurisdiction first. Ours comes from **28 U.S.C. § 1291**. The District Court's arose under **28 U.S.C. § 1331**. But the County argues that the *Rooker–Feldman* doctrine strips the District Court of jurisdiction over the family's RA and

ADA claims against the County. Exercising plenary review,<sup>3</sup> we conclude that *Rooker–Feldman* indeed applies but only with respect to the child's claims.

<sup>3</sup> *Turner v. Crawford Square Apartments III, L.P.*, 449 F.3d 542, 547 (3d Cir. 2006).

In certain circumstances, *Rooker–Feldman* deprives federal district courts of jurisdiction to review state-court judgments. In *Exxon Mobil Corp. v. Saudi Basic Industries Corp.*, the Supreme Court emphasized the doctrine's narrow scope, holding that it is confined to cases “brought by state-court losers complaining of injuries caused by state-court judgments rendered before the district court proceedings commenced and inviting district court review and rejection of those judgments.”<sup>4</sup> In *\*108 Great Western Mining & Mineral Co. v. Fox Rothschild LLP*, we broke down *Exxon Mobil's* holding into four requirements: (1) the federal plaintiff must have lost in state court, (2) the plaintiff must complain of injuries caused by the state-court judgment, (3) that judgment must have issued before the federal suit was filed, and (4) the plaintiff must be inviting the district court to review and reject the state-court judgment.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> 544 U.S. 280, 284, 125 S.Ct. 1517, 161 L.Ed.2d 454 (2005); see *Lance v. Dennis*, 546 U.S. 459, 464, 126 S.Ct. 1198, 163 L.Ed.2d 1059 (2006).

<sup>5</sup> 615 F.3d 159, 166 (3d Cir. 2010).

On *Rooker–Feldman's* first requirement, we find that the child lost in state court. Over his appointed counsel's objection, he was ordered detained for five days and lost on his reconsideration motion. However, we

cannot say the same for the child's parents. As the Supreme Court held in *Lance v. Dennis*, the *Rooker–Feldman* doctrine does not apply “where the party against whom [it] is invoked was not a party to the underlying state-court proceeding.”<sup>6</sup> The parents were not parties to the child's juvenile case. The complaint does not suggest they were. Even if it did, Pennsylvania's Rules of Juvenile Court Procedure make plain that the parties to a juvenile delinquency proceeding are the “juvenile and the Commonwealth.”<sup>7</sup> Attempting to leap this hurdle, the County argues that the parents are in privity with the child. That may be. But *Lance* says *Rooker–Feldman* does not bar “actions by nonparties to the earlier state-court judgment simply because, for purposes of preclusion law, they could be considered in privity with a party to the judgment.”<sup>8</sup> We therefore reject the County's privity argument and decline its invitation to forge new ground under the hypothetical left open in *Lance*.<sup>9</sup> *Rooker–Feldman* does not apply to the parents' claims, as the parents did not lose in state court.

<sup>6</sup> 546 U.S. at 464, 126 S.Ct. 1198.

<sup>7</sup> 237 Pa. Code § 120 (“PARTIES are the juvenile and the Commonwealth.”).

<sup>8</sup> 546 U.S. at 466, 126 S.Ct. 1198.

<sup>9</sup> See Butler Cty. Br. 13 (citing *Lance*, 546 U.S. at 466 n.2, 126 S.Ct. 1198).

Returning to the child's RA and ADA claims, we find that *Rooker–Feldman's* second requirement is satisfied. In support of his RA and ADA claims, the child complains of injuries caused directly by state-court judgments: Judge Doerr's detention and

consent decree revocation orders. In the complaint, the child alleges discrimination in violation of the RA and ADA caused by, for instance, the “ultimate[ ] order[ ]” that he be detained, the failure to consider “reasonable accommodations” that would have “prevented” his detention, and the “revo[cation]” of his consent decree.<sup>10</sup> These allegations, we hold, meet *Rooker–Feldman*’s second requirement. We note that the child also alleges injuries arising from the County’s failure to train its employees and from the inadequate notice he received before his detention hearing. But these allegations were pleaded in support of his constitutional claims,<sup>11</sup> which he abandoned on appeal.

<sup>10</sup> J.A. 28–31.

<sup>11</sup> See J.A. 32–33.

*Rooker–Feldman*’s third requirement is also satisfied with respect to the child’s RA and ADA claims against the County. Judge Doerr’s March 2013 orders issued well before this case began in the District Court in March 2015.

Finally, we hold that the child’s RA and ADA claims satisfy *Rooker–Feldman*’s fourth requirement, which is “closely related” to the second.<sup>12</sup> We ask if the plaintiff’s \*109 claims would require appellate review of a state-court decision by the district court.<sup>13</sup> They would in this case. The child invited the District Court to review and reject Judge Doerr’s detention and revocation orders for their failure to incorporate reasonable accommodations accounting for his disabilities. These failures,

the child alleges, violated the RA and ADA. The child’s claims are thus a request for “[p]rohibited appellate review,” which “consists of a review of the proceedings already conducted by the [state court] to determine whether it reached its result in accordance with law.”<sup>14</sup>

<sup>12</sup> *Great W. Mining*, 615 F.3d at 168.

<sup>13</sup> *Id.* at 169.

<sup>14</sup> *Id.* (internal quotation marks and citation omitted).

Because *Rooker–Feldman*’s four requirements are satisfied, the District Court lacked jurisdiction over the child’s RA and ADA claims against the County. We will affirm the District Court’s order dismissing these claims.

### III.

#### A.

[3] We turn now to whether the parents set out plausible RA or ADA claims against the County.<sup>15</sup> We agree with the County that they did not. We will therefore affirm dismissal of these claims under [Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12\(b\)\(6\)](#).

<sup>15</sup> “We exercise plenary review of a [Rule 12\(b\)\(6\)](#) dismissal, affirming if the plaintiff failed to allege plausible claims.” *Doe v. Mercy Catholic Med. Ctr.*, 850 F.3d 545, 552 (3d Cir. 2017) (citations omitted).

The provision of the RA that the plaintiffs relied on in their complaint says, “No otherwise qualified individual with a disability” shall, “solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from the

participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”<sup>16</sup> The provision of the ADA they relied on similarly says, “no qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any such entity.”<sup>17</sup>

<sup>16</sup> 29 U.S.C. § 794; *see* J.A. 28.

<sup>17</sup> 42 U.S.C. § 12132; *see* J.A. 29.

On appeal, the parents argue that, although they are not disabled, they too suffered disability discrimination because of their association with their disabled son. This contention is not without some support in the law: We've recognized that nondisabled persons may sue under the RA and ADA when they've suffered discrimination because of their association with a disabled person.<sup>18</sup> But assuming the RA and ADA apply to juvenile proceedings—a question we need not and do not address—the complaint does not support the parents' arguments on appeal.

<sup>18</sup> *See Addiction Specialists, Inc. v. Twp. of Hampton*, 411 F.3d 399, 405 (3d Cir. 2005).

The complaint is devoid of factual allegations from which we may plausibly infer that the parents were personally excluded from participation in or denied the benefits of a covered activity or subjected to discrimination because of their son's disability.<sup>19</sup> The complaint references only the \*110 parents' “continued ...

emotional distress,” the “family therapy” they've engaged in, and their difficulties “work[ing] through the anxiety and trauma” that their child's “removal from the home and detention caused.”<sup>20</sup> These allegations fail to show plausible associational-disability discrimination. As for the rest of the complaint, it focuses solely on the discrimination the disabled child suffered, not on any discrimination his nondisabled parents suffered. For example, in support of the plaintiffs' RA claim, the complaint states: “This is an action by Plaintiffs against Defendants *for violations of R.S.'s rights*” under the RA; “*R.S. was entitled to be free from discrimination based on his disability*”; “Defendants discriminated *against R.S.*” in violation of the RA; “Defendants *denied R.S.* an equal opportunity” under the RA; and defendants acted with “deliberate indifference to *R.S.'s* disabilities.”<sup>21</sup> Likewise, in support of the ADA claim, the complaint provides: “*R.S. was entitled to be free from discrimination*” based on his disability; “Defendants discriminated *against R.S.*” in violation of the ADA; “Defendants *denied R.S.* an equal opportunity” under the ADA; and defendants acted with “deliberate indifference to *R.S.'s* disabilities.”<sup>22</sup> In the absence of plausible factual allegations of associational-disability discrimination, the District Court's dismissal of the parents' RA and ADA claims was appropriate.

<sup>19</sup> *See McCullum v. Orlando Reg'l Healthcare Sys., Inc.*, 768 F.3d 1135, 1142 (11th Cir. 2014) (A nondisabled person “has standing to bring suit under the ADA only if she was personally discriminated against or denied some benefit because of her association with a disabled person.”).

- 20 J.A. 27–28.  
21 J.A. 28–29 (emphases added).  
22 J.A. 29–30 (emphases added).

## B.

[4] We end with the family's contention that the District Court abused its discretion in dismissing their complaint with prejudice without granting them leave to amend. We find no abuse of discretion here.

Unlike a district court, we do not directly grant or deny parties leave to amend their pleadings under Rules 15 and 16. Thus, a litigant seeking another chance to amend her pleadings on appeal must convince us—a court of review—that the district court abused its discretion in granting or denying her *request* for leave to amend. Where a litigant never requests leave to amend in the district court, we “can hardly fault” a district court for not granting it.<sup>23</sup>

- 23 *Fletcher–Harlee Corp. v. Pote Concrete Contractors, Inc.*, 482 F.3d 247, 253 (3d Cir. 2007); *accord Alaska v. United States*, 201 F.3d 1154, 1163–64 (9th Cir. 2000).

That's what happened here. The record shows that the family never filed a motion

in the District Court for leave to amend their complaint that referenced the new allegations they set out in their brief on appeal. Instead, immediately after the District Court issued its opinion and order dismissing their claims with prejudice, the plaintiffs filed their notice of appeal. The District Court thus never had the opportunity to exercise, let alone abuse, its discretion to grant or deny their request for leave to amend. No abuse of discretion occurred here. While leave to amend “is freely granted, no court can be said to have erred in failing to grant a request that was not made.”<sup>24</sup>

- 24 *Wilson v. Merrill Lynch & Co.*, 671 F.3d 120, 139–40 (2d Cir. 2011) (internal quotation marks and citation omitted).

## IV.

For these reasons, we will affirm the District Court's order.

## All Citations

700 Fed.Appx. 105, 55 NDLR P 100