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TRAILBLAZERS

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What was the genesis of the idea/path that has made you a trailblazer?

Technology cuts both ways in partisan gerrymandering. It can be used to create gerrymandered maps—but also to fight them. We forged a new path, suing on behalf of a group of mathematicians and computer scientists, as well as the North Carolina League of Conservation Voters, and working with the world's leading experts to show it's possible to draw maps that excel on traditional redistricting principles – like compactness and county preservation – while also treating both voters of both political parties and minority voters fairly.

What sort of change has resulted from the concept?

This fall, North Carolinians will vote under maps—for both state legislature and Congress—that are the fairest in decades. All citizens, regardless of party, race, or region, have an equal chance to band with others to translate votes into government power.

What bearing will this have on the future?

We've assured that, when North Carolinians go to the polls in November, they'll vote under fair maps. And looking forward, the North Carolina Supreme Court has set stringent standards for future maps drawn by the legislature.

The exact scope of these standards depends somewhat on how the U.S. Supreme Court resolves *Moore v. Harper*, which it agreed to hear earlier this month. The North Carolina legislature has argued that, as to maps for U.S. Congress, the federal Elections Clause disables state courts from enforcing the constraints that the people wrote into their state constitutions to prevent politicians from abusing their power. We hope the U.S. Supreme Court will see that those arguments are unfounded. But whatever the result in *Moore*, the precedent we set will continue to govern maps for state legislative districts.