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LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

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Federal judges rule in favor of Pennsylvania Republicans in gerrymandering case

by **Michaëlle Bond**, Staff Writer [@MichaëlleBond](https://twitter.com/MichaëlleBond) | mbond@phillynews.com January 10, 2018

An article posed in the Philadelphia Inquirer on “Philly.com” © states that a panel of federal judges Wednesday, January 10, 2018 effectively upheld [Pennsylvania’s often-criticized congressional district map](#), declining to take up a [novel challenge](#) that sought to have it declared unconstitutional as gerrymandered to favor the party in power.

In a 2-1 decision Wednesday, the judges said that specific challenge was not for them to decide.

Plaintiffs in *Agre v. Wolf*, led by a Democratic ward leader from Philadelphia, had hoped to use the Elections Clause of the U.S. Constitution to argue that any amount of partisanship in drawing the state’s congressional maps was illegal.

Lawyers for the plaintiffs said they would appeal the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court. It is one of several cases nationwide involving redistricting.

The day before the judges’ ruling in Philadelphia, a panel of federal judges in North Carolina [ruled that state’s congressional map unconstitutional](#) and ordered the legislature to redraw it this month. The judges said Republicans had drawn it to their advantage. It was the first time federal judges had ruled that a congressional map was unconstitutional because of gerrymandering.

The article concluded that the U.S. Supreme Court justices have said they will render a decision in gerrymandering cases out of Maryland and Wisconsin in the coming months.

Staff writers Jonathan Lai, Liz Navratil, and Jeremy Roebuck contributed to this article.

To view and read entire article go to:

<http://www.philly.com/philly/news/politics/state/gerrymander-congress-pennsylvania-decision-federal-map-redistricting-20180110.html>

