



231 of 619 DOCUMENTS

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HEADLINE: Court Finds Some Districts Not Compact

BODY:

In throwing out the legislative redistricting map drawn by Democratic state leaders, the Maryland Court of Appeals did not say which districts it found most offensive. But attorneys challenging the plan say the most likely candidates for remedial action are on the lower Eastern Shore, around Baltimore and in Anne Arundel County.

Districts under scrutiny include:

* District 27: Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr. (D-Prince George's).

Miller's new district combines parts of four counties -- Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles and Prince George's -- making it the first four-county district in state history outside the Eastern Shore. Prince George's County Executive Wayne K. Curry (D) filed suit, contending that the new district contributes to a pattern of discrimination against black voters. By shifting heavily black southern precincts, Miller's district prevents the county from creating a fifth majority-black Senate district, Curry's attorneys argued.

* District 38: Senate Minority Leader J. Lowell Stoltzfus (R-Somerset).

Stoltzfus filed suit complaining that his new district included parts of five counties and stretched 120 miles, from the Atlantic Ocean to Caroline County. A special master appointed by the court recommended that Stoltzfus's district be returned to its original form, which included three counties and covered about 60 miles.

* District 7: Sen. Norman R. Stone Jr. (D-Baltimore County).

Stone filed suit complaining that his Dundalk district was eliminated under the plan and divided up among four other districts, two shared with Baltimore and one with Anne Arundel County. The latter would cross the four-mile-wide Patapsco River for the first time in state history.

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-- Lori Montgomery

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