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LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

Federal court strikes down Ohio congressional map as unconstitutional

By Ariane de Vogue, CNN Supreme Court Reporter - May 3, 2019

CNN) A federal court in Ohio found Friday that the state's congressional map is unconstitutional, striking down the map as a partisan gerrymander and ordering that a new map be drawn for the 2020 election.

"We are convinced by the evidence that this partisan gerrymander was intentional and effective and that no legitimate justification accounts for its extremity," Judges Karen Moore, Timothy Black and Michael Watson wrote in their 300-page opinion.

The judges found that a 2012 map "dilutes the votes of Democratic voters by packing and cracking them into districts that are so skewed

toward one party that the electoral outcome is predetermined."

They declared that map cannot be used in 2020, and that a "constitutionally viable replacement" map must be enacted for that election.

The Ohio court's ruling follows a federal court on Thursday ordering Michigan to redraw its congressional and state legislative districts on the grounds that they were unconstitutionally gerrymandered to favor Republicans.

The US Supreme Court is currently considering two other gerrymander cases out of North Carolina and Maryland.