



**To: Interested parties**

**From: Chairman Robin Hayes**

**Date: February 13, 2017**

**Re: 12th Congressional District Organization**

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I want to update you on some developments regarding the 12th Congressional District organization and leadership, and how we plan to resolve some difficult issues.

As you may recall, our Congressional District organizational structure was thrown into disarray when the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ordered new Congressional District maps drawn last year going into the 2016 Congressional elections. Because the Party had no way of knowing whether the new districts would stand, and to avoid a chaotic restructuring of our congressional district organization during an election year, the North Carolina Republican Party Central Committee voted, for organizational purposes, to remain in the 2011 drawn Congressional maps through the November 2016 election with new District Chairs being elected under the new maps under the April 2017 district conventions. One of the issues not fully anticipated is the scenario recently faced in the 12th Congressional District where we had a post-election vacancy of a district chair.

As you may be aware, Charlotte resident Rob Watson was selected by the 12th District Executive Committee on January 13, 2017 to fill the remainder of the term until the April District Convention is held. Several people have voiced concerns regarding Mr. Watson's eligibility to serve in this role because he resides in the new 12th Congressional District, but just outside the old. We are confident he was not aware of this at the time. However, we are also aware of other activists who declined to seek the interim position, who have the same residency issues, and did not believe they were eligible. This is clearly an unusual situation, and I asked the Party's attorney and Executive Director to try and find a solution that was best for the 12th Congressional District and fair to all parties involved.

As of now the 12th Congressional District is on an official hiatus from conducting official business, until the election of a duly elected eligible chair at the 12th Congressional District Convention.

The NCGOP will, as was outlined in a previous letter to the 12th District Executive Committee, plan and call the 12th District Convention in coordination with Mr. Watson, the current Mecklenburg chair and other activists.

The District Convention will be conducted by NCGOP legal counsel.

We plan on keeping Mr. Watson and other interested parties aware of any relevant business that takes place through the NCGOP Central Committee.

I, as Chairman of the party, will take requests for positions on the District Convention Committees and will assign them in due order. If you are interested in serving on a District Convention Committee or have a nomination, please send it to Katie Kouba at [katie.kouba@ncgop.org](mailto:katie.kouba@ncgop.org).

I would like to thank Mr. Watson for his cooperation in this matter. We are fortunate that this is a very brief temporary pause in the operations of the 12th district that come at a somewhat slow time for our party.

I am confident while this solution will not please everyone, it is a workable solution that will help the 12<sup>th</sup> District continue to help Republicans get elected.