



229 of 619 DOCUMENTS

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Some are left guessing where their district is

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**BODY:**

When the governor released his new General Assembly map, Del. Shirley Nathan-Pulliam was dismayed to learn that her longtime home in Baltimore was no longer in the district she had represented for two terms. So she decided to move.

Now the 10th District Democrat has a new place to live in Baltimore County, a new phone number, a new voter registration card - and no idea whether her move was a waste.

The Maryland Court of Appeals struck down Gov. Parris N. Glendening's redistricting plan yesterday and said it will draw a new map. Nathan-Pulliam could be cut out of her district again. She just doesn't know.

"I'm hoping one of my homes is still in my district," the 63-year-old Jamaican-born nurse said. "That's all I can hope. I'm very much in limbo.

"I may have to cease knocking on doors and cease talking to people because I don't know who (I represent)," she said. "You're at a standstill."

For some incumbents, the court's decision is a new lease on political life. Sen. Norman R. Stone Jr., for example, saw his Dundalk district diced up in the governor's plan and the precinct where he lives attached to the Anne Arundel County district of his friend, Sen. Philip C. Jimeno.

Stone, a Democrat, wasn't going to seek re-election. Now, depending on what the new map looks like, he might.

He and the three delegates from Dundalk, the source of some of the loudest opposition to the governor's plan, focused on the effects of the court ruling on the community.

They acknowledged, though, that it opens new political possibilities for them.

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Del. Jacob J. Mohorovic Jr., a Dundalk Democrat, said that if the court puts Dundalk in one district again, he might run for Senate if Stone doesn't.

But the effects are great, also, for newcomers to politics, many of whom have been working for months - in some cases years - to get their names out in districts where they hope to run.

At the least, the court's ruling means they might have to scramble to knock on doors and mail literature to homes they've never looked twice at before.

At the worst, candidates said, the court could render their entire campaigns a waste of time.

Jim Brochin, a Timonium Democrat, has been going door to door for 2 1/2 years in his effort to unseat Republican Sen. Andrew P. Harris. He knew redistricting was coming and concentrated his efforts on what he figured would be the center of the district, knocking on, by his count, about 8,000 doors.

Now his worst nightmare has come true.

"I understand why the court did what they did," Brochin said. "I truly thought the governor's redistricting plan was a disgrace. He ought to be ashamed of himself. But the courts have got to be more sensitive time-wise to challengers and incumbents."

The maps based on the governor's plan were finalized in February. The primary is Sept. 10, less than three months away. The short time is inherently unfair to challengers, Brochin said. "At least incumbents have gotten to work a portion of their district over the last four years," he said. "The challengers are rolling in the wind."

Brochin said he had been planning to campaign in the Harford County portion of the district last night but decided to stay closer to home. A brochure he had been drafting is on hold.

"We were just putting on the brochure, 'The 7th District consists of ... ' " Brochin said. "It's very timely that we didn't go to print."

Robert L. Tabler Jr., a Republican running in a new single-member district in southern Carroll County, said that as soon as he found out about the ruling, he canceled appointments to order campaign supplies today and tomorrow.

"That stuff I was going to order costs \$3,000. I'm not putting \$3,000 on a maybe," he said. "Maybe I'll have a district. Maybe I won't. If it's redrawn, I might be up against all incumbents or I might be somewhere else."

Fred Maxey, a firefighter who served as a legislative aide to Sen. Alex X. Mooney of Frederick during the last session, filed in December to run for the State House.

He didn't want to run in the Washington County district that included his Keedysville apartment. Under the governor's plan, that would have meant running against incumbents.

Instead, the 38-year-old Republican planned to move to southwestern Frederick County to run for an open seat in the new District 3B.

Yesterday, he learned 3B - like all districts statewide - no longer exists. He said he's just happy he hadn't already moved.

"I might have saved myself all kinds of money," Maxey said.

Sun staff writer Joe Nawrozki contributed to this article.

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**GRAPHIC:** Photo(s), Del. Shirley Nathan-Pulliam moved when the governor's General Assembly map put her home outside her district.

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