

CARMA Members: – As a follow-up, I'm sharing with you my comments concerning the recent Supreme Court judgment concerning using racial preferences in creating congressional voting districts:

Some time ago, how I was personally and professionally impacted by racial and minority set-asides when my NJ consulting engineering firm was virtually prevented from being considered for engineering sub-contracts because its majority owner was a white male - me. At the time, NJ required 23% DBE, MBE, and WBE set-asides for state consulting engineering contracts, and I wasn't able to secure any such set-aside contracts because of my race and gender. I confess that it pissed me off at the time.

This past Wednesday, the Supreme Court voted to end the distorted use of race to carve up Congressional districts that are unconstitutional by striking down the distortion of the Voting Rights Act to use race in drawing Congressional districts in ways that amount to proportional representation. While the law's aim was to guarantee equal opportunity to participate in the political process, yet courts wrongly interpreted the law to require states to draw majority-minority districts to prevent what it termed "vote dilution." Liberals wanted the state's Congressional maps to follow the racial makeup. The Supreme Court agreed that such violates the Constitution's Equal Protection Clause and as such is an illegal use of race in drawing maps. The Court found that drawing maps with racial intent is an illegal use of gerrymandering, something that those of us who live in VA are now familiar with.

Well, at the end of 2025, the NJ Department of Transportation paused race- and gender-conscious DBE goals due to a federal court determination that they violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Constitution. In much the same way, the Supreme Court has ruled that race-conscious goals used in drawing Congressional maps violate the Equal Protection Clause and thereby has restored the VRA's original purpose of ending the partisan abuse of race in carving up Congressional districts.

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