

## Bipartisan Coalition Calls For Independent Redistricting Commission As General Assembly Convenes

By Administrator

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A coalition of policy and advocacy groups have called on the General Assembly to set up an independent redistricting commission. The groups say an independent commission would reduce or end partisan gerrymandering.

Members of the coalition held a news conference as members of the General Assembly were sworn in for a new legislative session

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The Carolina Journal reports that Representative David Lewis, R-Harnett, who chairs the House Rules Committee and co-chairs the House Elections Committee made the following remarks at the news conference.

“I think a lot of the merits that are portrayed that the Iowa plan brings — reduce litigation, better product, more participation, more people running for office — frankly just don’t bear out,” Lewis said. “If you look at the number of unopposed seats in Iowa, the legislature, it was roughly comparable with what we had here.”

Members of the coalition include the John Locke Foundation, AARP North Carolina, NC Policy Watch, the League of Women Voters, Common Cause NC, the NC Sierra Club, the NC Conservation Network, NC Women United, and Democracy NC.