

Redistricting Elbert County

Brown v. Elbert County
(Hugh Lawson, M.D. Ga. 3:02-cv-45)

In May 2002, voters filed an action in federal court to have the district lines for two county boards redrawn to reflect the 2000 census. The district judge appointed the state reapportionment office to assist him in ordering new district lines and awarded the plaintiffs attorney fees.

Subject: District lines. *Topics:* Malapportionment; attorney fees.

Four voters filed a federal action in the Middle District of Georgia on May 17, 2002, complaining that the district lines for the boards of commissioners and education in Elbert County had not been redrawn to reflect the results of the 2000 census.¹ The plaintiffs sought a temporary restraining order, among other relief.²

Judge Hugh Lawson held a hearing on May 31, and the parties agreed to his appointing the director of Georgia's reapportionment office as an expert to assist the court in drawing new district lines.³ On June 4, Judge Lawson adopted new district lines.⁴ The parties agreed to an award to the plaintiffs of \$8,000 in attorney fees and expenses.⁵

1. Complaint, *Brown v. Elbert County*, No. 3:02-cv-45 (M.D. Ga. May 17, 2002), D.E. 1.

2. Docket Sheet, *id.* (May 17, 2002).

3. Redistricting Order, *id.* (June 4, 2002), D.E. 15; Consent Order, *id.* (May 31, 2002), D.E. 14; Minutes, *id.* (May 31, 2002), D.E. 13.

4. Redistricting Opinion, *id.* (June 12, 2002), D.E. 19; Redistricting Order, *supra* note 3.

5. Consent Order, *Brown*, No. 3:02-cv-45 (M.D. Ga. July 18, 2002), D.E. 21.