



## Georgia redistrict plan rejected, black-white battle seen as likely

*New York Times, January 22, 1992*

## Georgia tries to redraw voting map based on race

*New York Times, August 15, 1995*

“Somebody is off track...”

*Courtesy of Baldowski, Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

Redistricting is often one of the most divisive issues that a state legislature faces. Once a decade, following the U.S. Census, legislative and Congressional districts must be redrawn to reflect population changes. The results can mean political life or death for individual candidates, and can determine which party holds power in the state House.

Since the mid-1960s, race has been an additional complicating factor in Georgia redistricting. Districts can be crafted to be majority white, majority African-American, or more evenly split. Here again, the results can be controversial and can give political advantage to one party or the other.

Tom Murphy shrewdly used the powerful tool of redistricting to ensure continuing Democratic control of the Georgia legislature. Newspaper cartoonists frequently poked fun at the lengths to which Murphy would go to benefit his fellow Democrats and to hamper Republicans.



“Let’s see where we’ve got you now, Newt. O.K., here we are... go to Savannah and turn East...”

*Courtesy of the Boyd Collection at the University of West Georgia*

*“The speaker, by raising money and gerrymandering, has sincerely dedicated a part of his career to wiping me out.”*

*- Senator Newt Gingrich,  
addressing the Georgia  
Assembly in 1994*