

## SCOTUS Snapshot

*Your weekly window into the Court that shapes the nation.*

### ***Scott v. McDougle (Virginia Redistricting)***

#### **What's At Stake**

- What is the case about?

Virginia Democrats attempted to push through a blatantly partisan redistricting scheme, which would have reshaped the state's congressional map from its current 6–5 Democratic edge to a 10–1 Democratic advantage in the U.S. House of Representatives. In a 4-3 ruling, the Virginia Supreme Court struck down the unconstitutional redistricting scheme, holding that the General Assembly failed to comply with the constitutional requirements necessary to place the measure on the ballot, rendering the effort “null and void.” The Virginia Attorney General filed an emergency application to the United States Supreme Court, asking the Court to block the Virginia Supreme Court's ruling invalidating the new congressional map. Shortly after the filing was submitted, SCOTUS denied the request without comment.

- Who is affected and how?

Not only does this decision affect all Virginians and their representation in Congress, it affects the entire country. If Virginia had moved from a competitive 6-5 delegation to 10-1 Democratic, that alone could have affected the national balance of power in Congress.

- Why does it matter?

This case has significant implications that extend far beyond Virginia. Control of the U.S. House in 2026 is expected to be decided by only a handful of seats. The ruling, therefore, became nationally important because it may have prevented one of the largest single-state congressional realignments before a pivotal federal election cycle.

#### **Our Take**

Both the Virginia Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court got this right. The Constitution is not optional. Democrats attempted to rewrite the rules for partisan gain, and the Courts rejected their abuse of power. This is a resounding victory for Virginia and for America.