IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

| SANDRA LITTLE COVINGTON, et |) | |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------|
| al., |) | |
| |) | |
| Plaintiffs, |) | |
| |) | |
| V. |) | 1:15-Cv-399 |
| |) | |
| STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, et |) | |
| al., |) | |
| |) | |
| Defendants. |) | |

<u>ORDER</u>

This matter is before the Court on the Legislative Defendants' motion to expedite ruling on the plaintiffs' objections to the 2017 House and Senate redistricting plans. Doc. 225. The Legislative Defendants ask for a hearing on December 22 and seek to impose their own expedited schedule on the Court, the Special Master, and other parties at virtually the last moment. The motion is **DENIED**.

The Court anticipates that the January 5 hearing will begin with a short presentation by the Special Master as to his recommendations. Thereafter, each side will have one hour to present oral argument in support of their position. The Court will then hear from the Special Master again, to the extent those arguments raise matters not previously addressed.

If either side wishes to call witnesses or proffer other evidence during its presentation, the party shall, no later than December 15, 2017, file a motion seeking permission to present evidence, which motion shall identify the witnesses and/or

evidence and explain the need for such evidence. If such a motion is filed, responses are due December 20, 2017, and replies are due December 22, 2017.

This the 12th day of December, 2017.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE