As a lifelong Ohio resident currently living in historically swingy Stark County, I am pleased to have the opportunity to submit a proposed congressional district map for consideration. This short narrative is meant to be paired with the map I previously submitted, which I have included again in this zip file.

Most of the submitted maps are targeting either proportional representation (8R-7D) or a Republican gerrymander (up to 13R-2D). None will yield a 10 year map. The gerrymandered maps are antithetical to the purpose of the redistricting committee, but the Republican Party is clearly not going to surrender all power over the process. Given that the GOP currently has 12 representatives in congress and the state is losing a seat, the Democratic Party should not expect more than three safe D districts. My proposed map is an attempt at legitimate compromise that keeps communities whole and creates several competitive districts.

My proposal includes three safe D seats and three swing districts, with the other nine districts safe or lean R. Although that would be considered a moderate loss for the GOP, it is still well short of a truly representative fair map. Any fair practices will reduce the gains from the heavily gerrymandered 2010 map. The GOP can still win 12 seats in a good election for them.

The proposed map follows rules regarding county and municipality splitting outlined in the constitution and has a population balance of 0.22%. (I am unsure if the rules allow the district including Cleveland to spread into another county. I added several cities in western Lake County to improve minority representation). The map also keeps pairs of cities with shared identities together as much as possible (Youngstown/Warren, Akron/Canton).

Safe R (R+20)

* Southern portion of state from Clermont County to Marietta
* Suburbs between Hamilton and Montgomery Counties
* Springfield, Lima, Marion
* Mansfield, Sandusky, Lorain, Elyria
* Eastern Columbus suburbs extending to Cambridge
* Wooster, Massillon, and south to Marietta

Lean R (R+4 to R+10)

* Dayton, Beavercreek, Xenia, most of Miami County
* Toledo, Findlay, Defiance
* Youngstown, Warren, Ashtabula, Mentor

Swing R (R+2 to R+3)

* Northern, western, and southern Columbus suburbs
* Western and southern Cleveland suburbs, Medina

Swing D (D+3)

* Akron, Canton, Cuyahoga Falls, Kent

Safe D (D+20)

* Cincinnati, most of Hamilton County
* Columbus
* Cleveland, eastern Cleveland suburbs

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