

Defining, delivering, and measuring a fair Ohio Congressional map

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Cincinnati, OH

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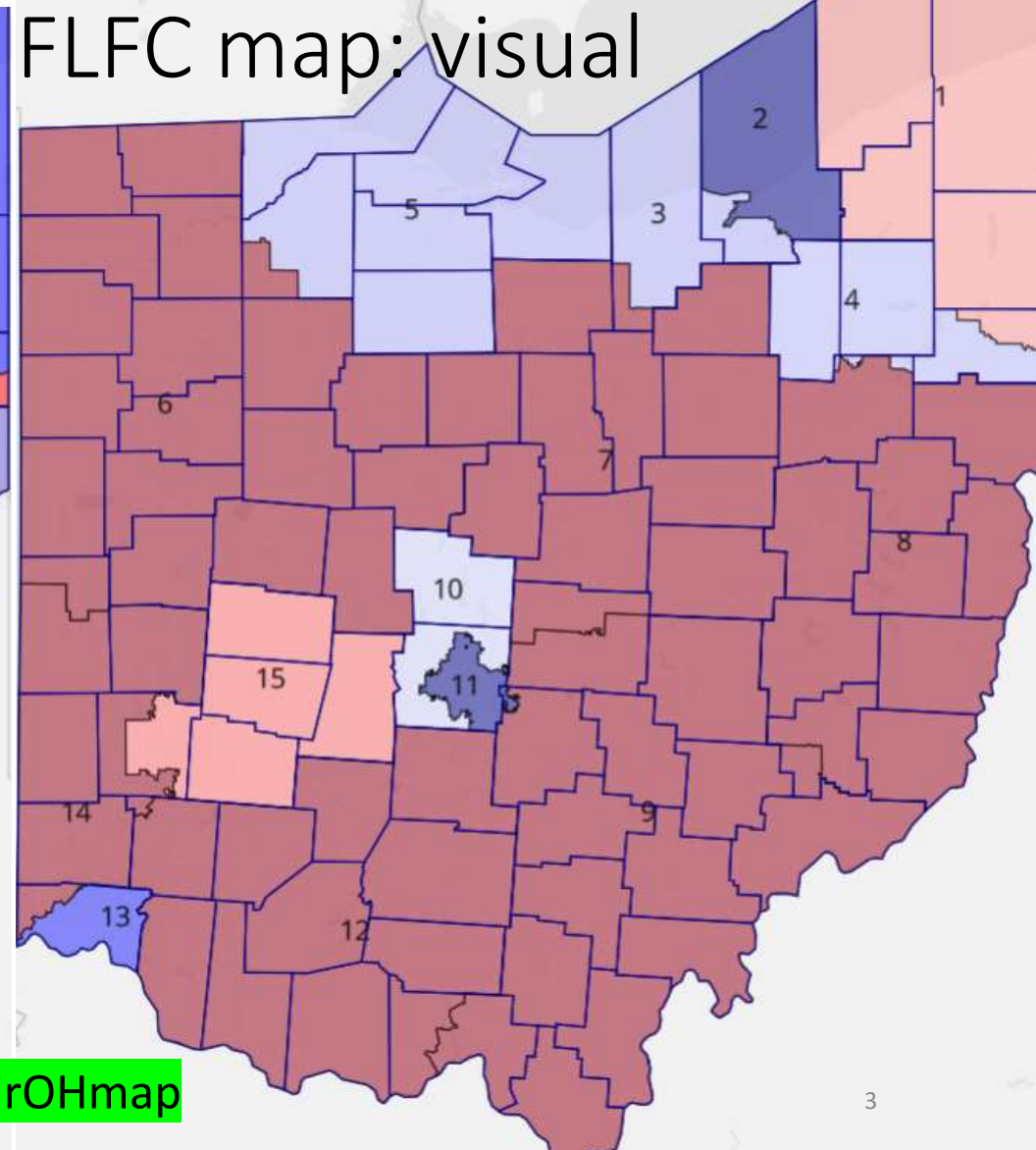
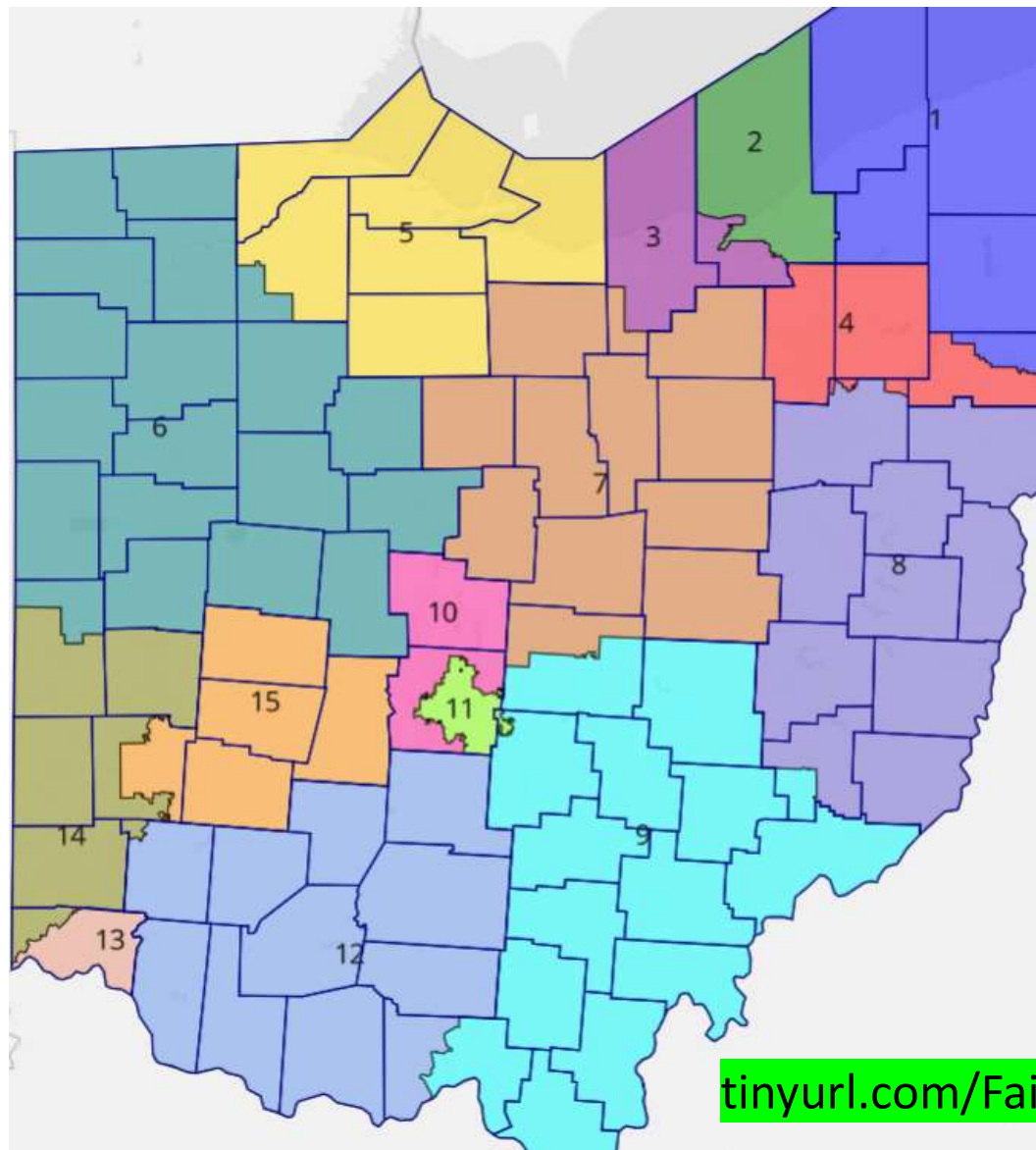


Success Criteria for a fair map

Met by our map?	Criterion
Yes	Equal population (within 0.5%, 2020 Census)
Yes	<u>Community integrity:</u> Akron, Cincy, Cleveland, Dayton, Toledo each in single districts Columbus split only once No county split twice Most cities & townships kept whole
Yes	Compact, especially for large rural districts
Yes	VRA-compliant (ideally two districts with >40% nonwhite voting power)
Yes	Symmetric* (50% votes = 50% seats)
Yes	Responsive (4 to 6 competitive districts)

** The predicted GOP/Dem two-party vote splits are a composite of the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections, the 2016 and 2018 U.S. Senate elections, and the 2018 Governor + Attorney General election, via davesredistricting.org*

See Grofman and King, Election Law Journal 6(1), 2007 DOI: 10.1089/elj.2006.0000 for background on the uniform swing approach for assessing partisan symmetry in modestly unbalanced states like Ohio. Consult political science and legal experts for further understanding.



FLFC map: visual

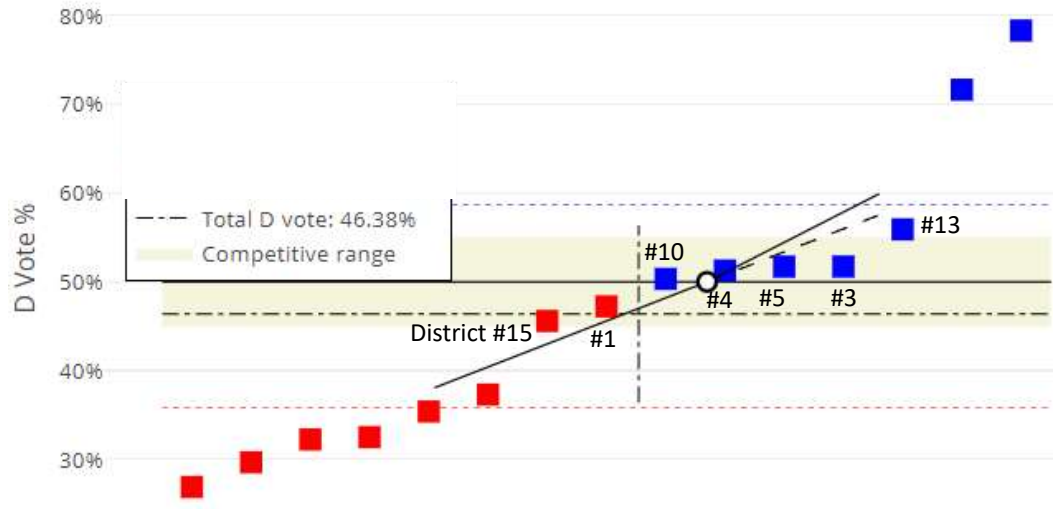
tinyurl.com/FairOHmap

FLFC map: demographics by district

Population			Partisan Lean			Demographics (VAP)							DOW
ID	Total	+/-	Dem	Rep	Oth	Total	White	Minority	Hispanic	Black	Asian	Native	
Un	0		0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1	787,326	0.09%	46.09%	51.49%	2.43%	626,946	84.34%	15.66%	3.44%	8.86%	1.16%	1.71%	
2	785,879	-0.10%	76.81%	21.28%	1.91%	618,881	43.37%	56.63%	6.91%	45.08%	4.04%	1.48%	
3	787,386	0.10%	50.47%	47.11%	2.42%	631,610	83.74%	16.26%	5.68%	5.80%	3.06%	1.55%	
4	786,735	0.01%	50.00%	47.52%	2.47%	628,673	80.64%	19.36%	1.94%	11.44%	3.61%	1.84%	
5	786,313	-0.04%	50.23%	46.89%	2.88%	616,885	77.59%	22.41%	5.59%	12.92%	1.86%	1.94%	
6	786,243	-0.05%	26.14%	71.05%	2.81%	601,645	89.46%	10.54%	3.41%	3.64%	1.34%	1.70%	
7	786,784	0.02%	31.37%	65.91%	2.73%	604,939	91.83%	8.17%	1.92%	2.86%	0.95%	1.83%	
8	786,650	0.00%	36.32%	61.05%	2.63%	621,824	89.13%	10.87%	1.88%	5.48%	0.84%	2.06%	
9	785,847	-0.10%	34.54%	63.05%	2.41%	614,937	90.95%	9.05%	1.26%	3.73%	1.36%	2.17%	
10	786,156	-0.06%	49.25%	48.60%	2.15%	598,961	78.35%	21.65%	4.14%	7.29%	8.33%	1.60%	
11	787,356	0.09%	69.95%	27.69%	2.36%	605,604	53.97%	46.03%	6.59%	32.86%	5.11%	2.05%	
12	786,958	0.04%	28.98%	68.69%	2.33%	603,007	89.43%	10.57%	1.76%	3.28%	2.84%	2.14%	
13	786,250	-0.05%	54.66%	43.10%	2.24%	611,364	65.03%	34.97%	3.63%	25.84%	3.82%	1.63%	
14	786,169	-0.06%	31.76%	65.93%	2.30%	605,997	83.59%	16.41%	3.43%	7.13%	3.44%	2.08%	
15	787,384	0.10%	44.42%	53.02%	2.56%	616,278	74.70%	25.30%	3.13%	17.26%	2.56%	2.19%	
	786,629	0.20%	45.25%	52.31%	2.44%	613,837	78.40%	21.60%	3.65%	12.91%	2.94%	1.86%	

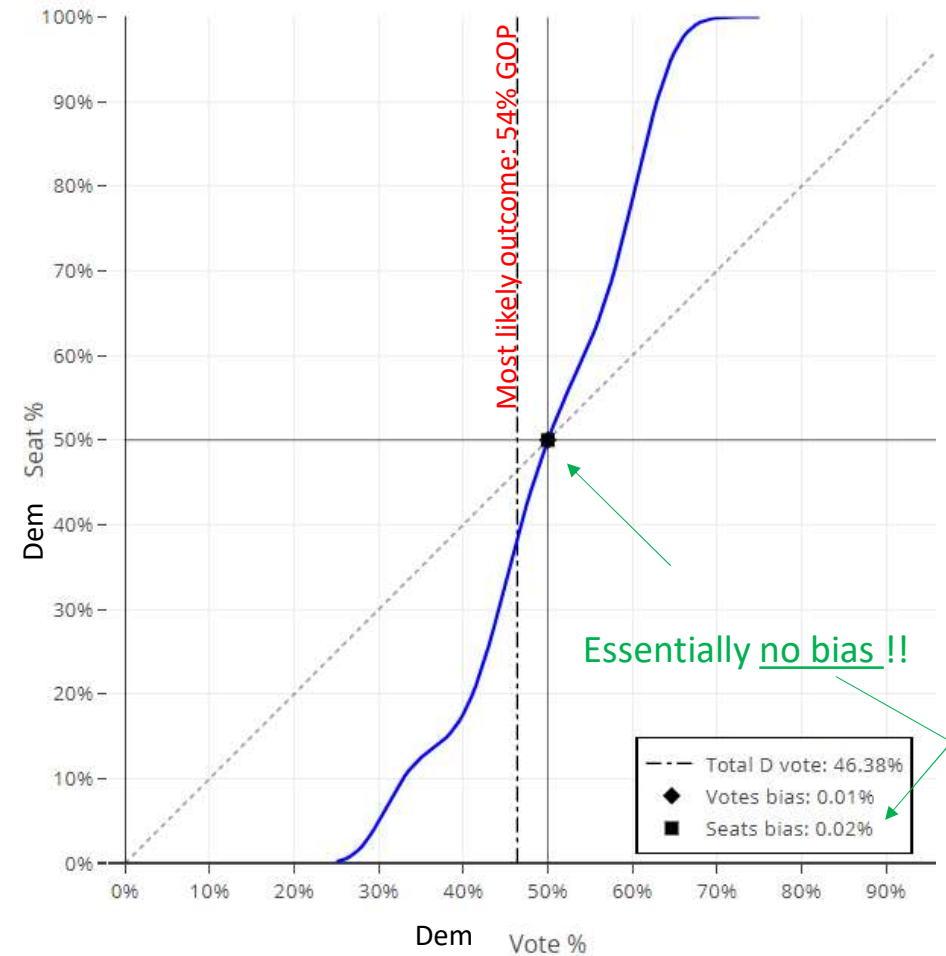
✓ Blacks should be strongly represented in 2 districts 12.91% * 15 districts = 2

FLFC map competitiveness, partisan bias



Landscape	GOP seats	Dem seats
"Red wave" (~60% GOP)	12 to 13	2 to 3
Typical year (~54% GOP)	7 to 12	3 to 8
"Blue wave" (~48% GOP)	6 to 7	8 to 9

The seat split depends on the quality of the candidates,
NOT on how we draw the lines !!



Our assessment: comparing the leading maps

Dem	GOP*	OCRC	FDO1	FDO2	FDO3	FLFC	Criterion
							Equal population
							Community integrity, minimal county splits
							Compactness, especially in large rural areas
							VRA-compliant
							Partisan symmetry
							Responsive (4 to 6 competitive districts)

*The ORC website does not have any GOP-sponsored maps posted as of 10/18/21

This is worrisome, given that Article XIX.1.B states:

If a congressional district plan is not passed not later than the last day of September of a year ending in the numeral one and filed with the secretary of state in accordance with Section 16 of Article II of this constitution, then the **Ohio redistricting commission described in Article XI of this constitution shall adopt a congressional district plan not later than the last day of October** of that year by the affirmative vote of four members of the commission, including at least two members of the commission who represent each of the two largest political parties represented in the general assembly.

Unclear why the GOP leaders are neglecting their duties here.

Issues with other leading maps vs. tinyurl.com/fairOHmap

Map	Link to map	Concerns
Dem / Sykes / Yuko	tinyurl.com/DemOHmap	Non-compact rural areas Mild (<1%) partisan bias toward Dems
OCRC	tinyurl.com/ocrcOHmap	Non-compact rural areas Mild (<1%) Dem bias Population variation as high as 0.38%
GOP	???	Has not been published as of 10/18/21 (???) Running out of time to benefit from public input on a GOP plan.
FDO Winner #1	bit.ly/OhioMapA	4 most competitive seats shifted toward Dems
FDO 2 nd place	bit.ly/OhioMapO	Population variation as high as 0.32%
FDO 3 rd place	bit.ly/OhioMapH	~1% Dem bias. (8 th GOP seat is too close to toss-up in an average year)

FDO = Fair Districts Ohio public contest
OCRC = Ohio Citizens' Redistricting Commission

Easy to remedy if needed with minor precinct adjustments.

Conclusions:

- Our map or any of the three Fair District Ohio maps is a strong starting point
 - Compact, competitive
 - 2 minority-strong districts
 - Reasonably unbiased
 - Of the 3 FDO maps, Paul Nieves's (2nd-place winner) seems fairest here. bit.ly/OhioMapO
- The Dem caucus and OCRC maps are not optimal due to some sprawling rural districts and a mild Dem bias
- There is a puzzling absence of map proposals from GOP legislature leaders
- Most reasonable maps will have 6 GOP strongholds and 3 Dem strongholds. Fairness should focus on the remaining 6 districts:
 - When these districts are strongly competitive, the outcome will be fairly decided by the voters, not pre-destined by our mapmaking choices.
 - That said, in a normal year the 8th (middle) seat should mildly lean GOP, such that the GOP wins a majority of the seats unless Dems win more than 50% of vote (which is unusual but possible)

Areas for improvement on FLFC's map

- We assigned precincts, not blocks. Smoother boundaries and more exact population boundaries could be achieved by slicing up precincts, which is beyond our mapmaking capabilities. The boundary between districts 4 and 8 needs the most polishing.
- To maintain near-equal population, we sometimes divvied up irregular townships. Again, more precise mapmakers could clean this up.
- The most opportunity for niggling district boundaries is around Columbus. The ORC may wish to push district 11's minority population a little higher, or make it more compact, or horse-trade blue vs. red districts with district 10 to tweak district 10's lean.