

**SPONSOR TESTIMONY OF:**

Greg Moore

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**IN SUPPORT OF:**

Maps proposed by the Ohio Citizens’ Redistricting Commission

submitted to the Ohio Redistricting Commission

**[Cleveland, Ohio]** Greg Moore, Co-Chair Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission President & CEO of Promise for Democracy

Good afternoon Co-Chair Sykes, Co-Chair Cupp and members of the Ohio Redistricting Commission thank you for the opportunity to be here today. I am President of Promise for Democracy and the Ohio Voter Fund, and served 17 years as the Executive Director of the NAACP National Voter Fund. This testimony is offered on behalf of the Ohio *Citizens* Redistricting Commission, (or OCRC) which is an independent, diverse, non-partisan commission made up of 16 volunteer members, including academics, community leaders, current and former elected officials, attorneys, and more.

I had the pleasure of serving as Co-Chair of this citizens commission which was sponsored by the Ohio Organizing Collaborative, the Ohio Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and the A. Philip Randolph Institute of Ohio.

Our commission members were invited to apply by representatives of the sponsor organizations and were deliberately chosen to reflect the diversity of Ohio, including people from diverse ages, races, regions, and backgrounds. Some members of the Commission helped to write and pass the constitutional amendment that Ohio voters approved in 2015 that spells out the criteria upon which the OCRC's unity maps are based. Many of them are here today and will be offering sponsor testimony.



The OCRC was announced to the public on May 12th 2021 and has three main goals: to [1] model a thorough and robust engagement process for developing legislative districts, including reaching out specifically to minority and underrepresented communities. [2] to develop and demonstrate citizen-derived principles of redistricting, and [3] to draw “unity maps”, displayed here today, based on the Ohio constitutional requirements, our citizen-derived principles of redistricting, and an aggregation of a wide variety of preferences that came out of public input. In addition to our maps, we have submitted a thorough report outlining the work and process of our Citizen’s Commission and the maps we produced.

The OCRC held nine public hearings and numerous work group meetings. Every effort was made to make hearings safe and accessible including holding them after business hours and virtually. A total of 494 Ohio citizens registered to attend these public hearings. Many of these citizens came representing diverse communities and large membership organizations. Attendees offered testimony about what they would like to see happen in the 2021 redistricting process as it relates to their communities or region of the state.

We partnered with academic institutions including the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at The Ohio State University and MGGG Redistricting Lab at Tufts University for data collection, analysis, and community of interest (or COI) mapping. There were 2,350 submissions received through our online portal.

On August 25, our Commission released proposed unity maps for the Ohio House and Ohio Senate via statewide media and social media for public comment and input. These unity maps incorporated the 2020 Census data released two weeks earlier on August 12. Further input on these proposed maps was requested at two scheduled public hearings or via email to our commission.

We submitted our final report and unity maps to you all at the Ohio Redistricting Commission on September 1, 2021.



I am incredibly proud of the historic work this citizens commission undertook to make sure everyone's voice is heard. Government should always be by and for the people, and our process modeled what this Commission should have been doing -- providing a thorough, accessible and transparent process that meets the requirements and timelines laid out in the Ohio constitution.

My colleague Dr. Richard Gunther will continue at this time, explaining in more detail about the maps themselves and their compliance with the Ohio Constitution.