

August 27, 2021
Akron, Ohio

Dear Ohio Redistricting Commission:

In 2015 more than 70% of Ohioans voted to make our state redistricting process fair (and again in 2018 even more Ohioans voted to make congressional districts fair). I am asking that you respect those results, and challenge yourselves to make our state districts as fair as you possibly can. You are required to follow four basic rules, and I am here to ask you to do just that. The districts must be contiguous, with no islands, they must have continuous borders, so there are no doughnut districts. Each district must be compact, that is, it must have a minimal distance between all parts of its territory. Finally, you must keep communities as whole as much as possible.

These are details of the goal of the voters in 2015 and 2018 that no plan shall be drawn primarily to favor or disfavor a political party. The districts you draw must correspond closely to the statewide preferences of the voters of Ohio.

Based on the most recent presidential, governor, and senate votes, Ohio is 52% Republican and 46% Democratic. But, unfortunately, the Ohio Statehouse is 71% Republican and 29% Democratic. That is a direct result of our current unfair districts. If you follow the spirit of the 2015 and 2018 referendum votes, and if you honestly follow the rules you are required to follow, we will end up with a Statehouse of 52% Republican and 46% Democratic. I am here to ask you to do just that. Republicans on this commission, please do not try to have more than 52% of the Statehouse, and Democrats, please do not try to have more than 46% of the Statehouse.

And if this commission is called upon to help create Ohio's congressional districts, please follow these same goals. Currently Ohio's US Representatives are 75% Republican and 25% Democratic, though our population is 52% Republican and 46% Democrat. Your goal should be to draw congressional districts that enable a 52-46% split between our 15 congressional districts in the next election.

Do not try to circumvent the rules. Do not try to cram through an unfair map that will be valid for only four years. Take to heart what Ohioans made clear they want in 2015 and 2018, and make Ohio great by having the fairest district map in the country.

Thank you.

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