

To the Ohio Redistricting Commission and Concerned Citizens:

I am writing you to voice my concerns about the process of drawing districts in Ohio. As a citizen of this state and of the United States, my representation in government is determined by how you draw the lines. I want to share my experience living in Ohio, where the election is predetermined by party and not by the candidate.

1. When I call my representatives office and ask for a meeting, I am asked about what topic I would like to discuss and have been declined a meeting.
2. Most every time when I want to meet in person with my representative (at any level in government), I must take time off of work. I work a 9-5 M-F job, and this forces me to take vacation time in order to be heard.
3. I have had a representative say to me, "I do not need to listen to you, I only need to win my primary"
4. I wanted to participate personally in this process, but the commission has decided to schedule these meetings only during the week, during working hours, with no virtual option.

In a system where the lines are drawn to guarantee a win by party, our elected officials need not feel accountable to the people.

Ohioans voted overwhelmingly for redistricting reform. We want fairness, accountability, and transparency.

If you do not listen to the people, then you will have made my point.

Sincerely,

Mike Oliver

Wadsworth, Ohio