

## Ohio Redistricting Commission Testimony

Arrye Rosser, 3536 Homewood Ave, Stow

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I have owned my house for about 25 years. It's located in Ohio's 14<sup>th</sup> Congressional District near the borders of Stow, Cuyahoga Falls, and Hudson. It takes me about 15 minutes to drive to Akron or Kent, 30 minutes to Fairlawn/Montrose, and 45 minutes get to Cleveland. This radius is where my family spends most of its time.

Cuyahoga Falls (which is mostly in OH-13 except the Northampton section in OH-14) is 6 houses away, at the end of my street. My mail and electricity come through Cuyahoga Falls. I go there to grocery shop, walk the dog, use the library, see the doctor, visit parks, attend events, and eat out. My son ran cross-country at Stow-Munroe Falls High School and we'd have meets in Cuyahoga Falls. It's part of my family's daily life.

In contrast, Conneaut is 1.5 hours away. In a quarter of a century here, I have trouble recalling any visits to Ashtabula County other than passing through on the highway. I'm rarely east of Kirtland—an area that is the majority of OH-14. And yet I vote with these people and not the people across Graham Road. Representative Dave Joyce and perhaps a love of Lake Erie is about all we have in common.

My husband John Fitzpatrick and I are both involved in civic life. We're both board members of the League of Women Voters of the Akron Area. He's also on the board of Summit ArtSpace. I volunteer to write a park-related column for The Devil Strip newspaper. Although John works in Cleveland and I work in Brecksville, we're most oriented to the concerns of Greater Akron. We care about Summit County's economic prosperity, social justice, land use, water issues, hospitals, arts community, library systems, and culture. We pay special attention to things that impact the Cuyahoga River, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, and Summit Metro Parks.

I want to be part of a congressional district that represents all or most of Summit County and perhaps includes Kent and southern Cuyahoga County. (Lots of Stow students go to Kent State University.) It's nonsense to think that I drive through three Congressional districts just to go to the mall in Fairlawn. The only reason Summit County has been divided up is to dilute our political voice. It's offensive and wrong.

At the state level, I want to see US and Ohio House districts that are as competitive as possible. Politicians should have to work for our votes and be motivated to make compromises. I want to see districts that result in a ratio of Republican to Democratic seats that is proportional to how the electorate voted in the most recent presidential election. This is supposed to be a representative democracy. I want to be fairly represented.