

TESTIMONY OF: Sherrie Weitzenhof

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Akron, OH 8/27/21 — *I am testifying because I have invested my time/energy in making Ohio's redistricting more fair - over a decade of advocacy.*

I live in Ohio district 38. My district is very stretched out, with a lot of rural areas that have far different concerns than we do. My district has been drawn to make sure it is heavily weighted with Republicans. My small community of Bath is split in representation.

Representative government/ our legislators should represent us & understand us. Communities should be held together to the extent possible. The result of redistricting should be a fairer representation politically & races should be competitive. When districts are gerrymandered to assure that one party or the other has a strong majority, that results in the polarization that we have - elected representatives don't have to compromise.

- I worry about women's rights/human rights/ racial equity/ voting rights/ gun violence (the proliferation of guns). My state legislators (representative and senator) don't seem to care about these issues.
- Gerrymandering makes me think that my vote doesn't matter because the districts are drawn to assure the outcome.
- I think that my state representative district should be drawn so that it includes urban/suburban jurisdictions of Summit County because these jurisdictions have more similar needs, than do rural areas.
- The constitutional amendment that we passed overwhelmingly on 2015, requires that the redistricting commission hold public hearings and allow public comment on proposed maps. It also requires that the public be able to submit their own map suggestions. We need a fair, transparent process that includes robust public engagement.