

Ohio Redistricting Commission
Friday, August 27th, 2021
9:30AM - 12:30PM EST

Location:

University of Akron
120 East Mill Street
Quaker Station, Ballroom
Akron, OH 44308

[Agenda](#)

[Link to DistrictR map](#)

Must Complete the [Witness Form](#)

Draft Testimony:

Thank you Mr. / Madame Chairperson. My name is Hsa Win and I am here today on behalf of a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, based in Akron, Ohio, known as Asian Services in Action, or ASIA for short. ASIA strives to empower and advocate for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; and to provide AAPIs and other newly arrived immigrant and refugee communities access to culturally and linguistically centered information, health, and social services. I have lived and worked in Akron, Ohio for 6 years.

Today, I am urging you to do everything you can to keep Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities in the North Hill neighborhood together during this year's redistricting process. Our community is the fastest growing major racial group in the United States. The U.S. Census Bureau's new demographic data confirms what we already knew to be true. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are growing in size all across the nation and are driving our country's population growth. In Ohio, specifically, the Asian American population has grown by 55.3% since the 2010 Census, adding over 106,000 more people. Asian Americans now comprise almost 3% of the total population of the State of Ohio.

It is important to say that the Asian community in the North Hill neighborhood is diverse in terms of its culture and languages. In this district, the top countries of origin include Bhutan/Nepal, Burma/Myanmar, Afghanistan, and my community, the Ka'Ren community. Each of our languages and cultures is unique.

In the specific community of North Hill, where I live, Asian Americans comprise at least 26.2% of the total population of the area. The African American community comprises about 21.3% and the Hispanic community comprises about 6%. If the Commission would like, I have created a map in DistrictR that shows the geographic boundaries of this community and I can give you a copy.

It is also important to say how the Asian community ensured that essential food and supplies were available for all of us throughout the pandemic. Most of the Asian Americans that live in North Hill work in food production facilities and/or factories that produced a majority of the food and supplies that kept all of us safe and supported during the pandemic.

Our population growth means an opportunity to increase our political voice and power. The Asian Voting Age Population in this community is 23.1% so we need to make sure that this neighborhood stays together. Elected officials cannot afford to ignore us. They need to engage our communities to be able to address the policies and allocate the resources to dismantle systemic inequities to end anti-Asian hate.

Thank you for your time and thank you for considering the shared needs and interests of our community.