

My name is Joanne Gerson,

I have lived in Montgomery, Ohio, a residential community northeast of Cincinnati. I have lived here for 42 years, served on the Montgomery Planning Commission for 13 years and the Hamilton County Regional Planning Partnership for 10 years. Our children attended Sycamore Public Schools, one of the most diverse school communities in Southwest Ohio. The Sycamore student minority enrollment is 36% of the student body (majority Asian), which is more than the Ohio public school average of 30% (majority Black).

Due to Gerrymandering, I am in US District 1 that includes the Warren County School District communities that are very different in population needs and lack the racial and religious diversity we have in our community. The following school district communities are rural and far away from us in Montgomery:

- Carlisle Local School District
- Franklin City School District
- Springboro Community City School District
- Wayne Local Schools

My next door neighbors live in Blue Ash and are also in the Sycamore School District. But they are in voting district #2 along with these school districts in Clermont County and Brown County, some a two hour drive from Blue Ash:

- Batavia School District
- Bethel-Tate School District
- CNE School District
- Felicity-Franklin School District
- Goshen School District
- New Richmond School District
- West Clermont School District
- Williamsburg

these school districts in Brown County

- Eastern Local School District. Website
- Fayetteville-Perry Local School District.
- Georgetown Exempted Village Schools.
- Ripley-Union-Lewis-Huntington Schools.
- Western Brown Local School District.

The people in Montgomery, Blue Ash and Symmes Township should be in the same voting district. Sycamore School District and residents therein also have much more in common with the various school districts in Hamilton County than in the rural counties east and north of Hamilton County. The Hamilton County student population is more diverse than the rural school districts, have a higher percent of college bound students than the rural school districts, and live a completely a different lifestyle than families living in rural communities resulting in different priorities. The rural community has just as much of a right to fair representation as the urban and suburban communities.

Currently, it is nearly impossible for democratic candidates to win in our urban and suburban districts. The 2010 gerrymandering system was designed to keep Republican representatives in power even though the majority of voters in Hamilton County are democratic. This gerrymandering is creating a one party system empowering an authoritarian government. This is not how democracies work. We need balance and fairness to maintain our democracy and you hold the key.

I am asking you uphold our constitution and bring back fair voting districts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joanne Gerson

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# THE DISTRICT: ELEMENTARY NEIGHBORHOOD ROADMAP

elementary neighborhood map

