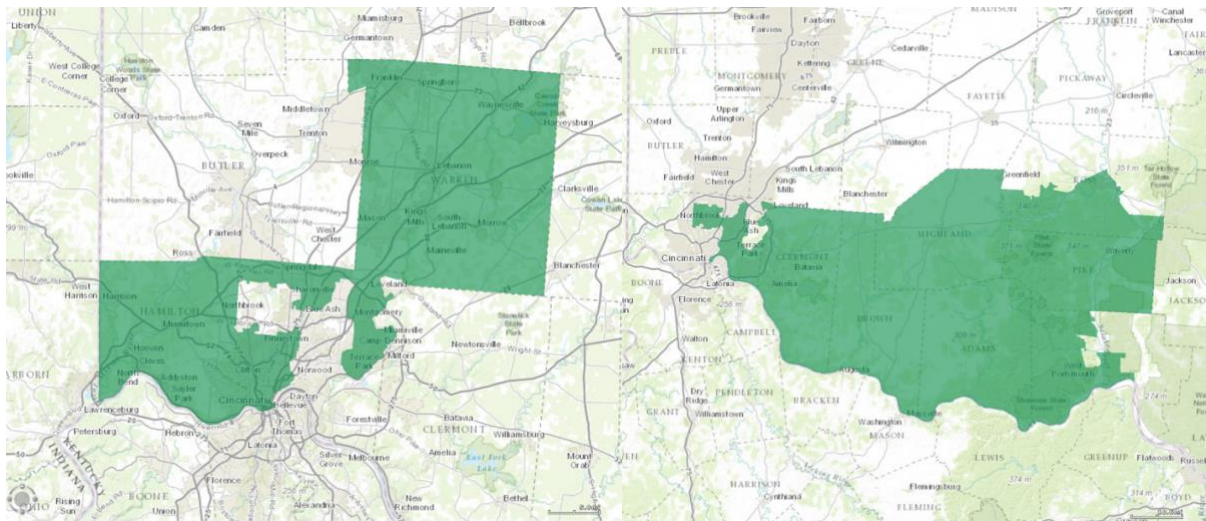


Written Testimony to the Ohio Redistricting Commission

August 24, 2021/Cincinnati

I am a resident of the City of Cincinnati and currently live in Ohio's 2nd Congressional district. Along with the 1st Congressional district, my district was clearly gerrymandered to ensure a Republican advantage in elections by splitting the urban population of Cincinnati into two districts. Citizens should choose their representatives; instead representatives have chosen their constituents through a nakedly partisan process.

Frankly, the current map is an insult to Cincinnati voters and to all Ohioans committed to representative democracy:



Ohio's 1st and 2nd Congressional districts

As a result of this partisan gerrymandering, Cincinnatians lack representation in Congress that reflects our shared interests and beliefs. Our Congressional representatives continue to vote for legislation that reflects the preferences of suburban and rural voters while ignoring the needs and preferences of the urban population of Cincinnati. Cities have distinct infrastructural needs, unique social policy challenges, and diverse constituents that are neglected when politicians know their election is dependent on catering to voters who were drawn into the district for the express purpose of undercutting the impact of urban votes.

Fair districting would not seek to artificially split populations that are otherwise governed through common city and county boundaries. We must revise Congressional districts to ensure that Cincinnati and Hamilton County are not counterintuitively split to enhance the partisan advantage of the majority party in the Statehouse.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Sanders
Cincinnati, Ohio