

August 22, 2021

Adverse Effects of Gerrymandering

Had enough of the Ohio General Assembly?

You know, these are the folks from extremely gerrymandered districts. So they are less responsive to their communities and less willing to compromise, because they have no need to do so in order to get elected. Gerrymandering breeds extremism, corruption and catering to special interests, which usually means acting contrary to the will of most Ohioans. A few choice examples:

- House Speaker charged with racketeering and removed from House membership.
- Catering to fossil fuel industry with multi-million dollar bailout of Indiana coal plant and prohibiting bans on natural gas hookups.
- Hostility to renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- Evisceration of home rule.
- No action on gun violence after massacre in Dayton (90% of Ohioans support sensible gun registration).
- Diminished legal protections for Ohio citizens against spread of Covid 19.
- Voter suppression.
- Income tax breaks mostly for the rich.
- Most extreme abortion law in the country (51.3% of Ohioans think abortion should be legal, and 38.4% think it should be illegal. [Great Lakes Poll Survey, Sept-October 2020.]
- Stealth tax break for Hunting Valley residents (vetoed by Governor).
- Not acting to reduce agricultural pollution of Lake Erie.
- And on and on and on

Thanks in no small part to the poorly performing and gerrymandered General Assembly, Ohio ranks a pitiful 36th of all 50 states in the *U.S. News and World Report* state ranking, which takes into account healthcare, education, economy, infrastructure, opportunity, fiscal stability, crime and corrections, and natural environment. And it ranks 44 in the category of natural environment, which is comprised of air/water quality and pollution.

Enough. Ohio deserves better. Gerrymandered districts have been harmful to Ohio, and the practice should be discontinued.

Mark Hennessey

32355 Creekside Drive

Pepper Pike, Ohio 44124

Email: MarkHennessey28@gmail.com

