

My name is Susan Kido  
I live in Berea, Ohio

I am new to the gerrymandering discussion, but from what I've read I've learned the following:

1. Ohio has a history of creating unfair/undemocratic district maps.

In 1981, Former Governor James A Rhodes wrote "I support the FAIR constitutional amendment. I believe this proposal integrates fair play and common sense into our election process. Gerrymandering is not a Republican or Democrat problem. It is a fundamental problem of government that must be corrected."

In 2011, there was the Ohio Redistricting Reform Competition, redistricting reform advocates joined forces to create the Ohio Campaign for Accountable Redistricting. Together, they held a real-time competition using census data and partisan information from Cleveland State University. This gave citizens the opportunity to draw state legislative and congressional districts. Criteria for the Redistricting Competition focused on the following: 1.) compactness, 2.) competitiveness, 3.) representational fairness (requiring maps to reflect the partisan makeup of Ohio as a whole), and 4.) respect for county and municipal boundaries.

The results of the Competition Scores for Congressional Plans were as follows:

1st place - 222.6

10th place - 194.7

53rd place - 84.1

HB 319 - 38.5

HB 319 was ultimately adopted by the Legislature with a score of 38.5!

In 2019 a federal panel of judges ruled that Ohio's congressional districts were unconstitutionally drawn by the Republicans for their political advantage.

The panel unanimously declared the current map an "unconstitutional partisan gerrymander," saying the GOP-controlled Ohio Legislature put the Democrats at a disadvantage by packing lots of them into four districts and scattering the rest across the remaining 12. The saying "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely" came to mind

2. Gerrymandering and my voice

a. SB 22 overturned the state law that conferred "ultimate authority in matters of quarantine and isolation" to the Ohio Department of Health

The Ohio Captial Journal's article on SB 22 included the following quotes:

...experts said in interviews the new law will tie the hands of health officials when they're needed most and slow down time-sensitive health decisions at the population level.

“If you’re dealing with an infectious disease, it gets harder and harder to deal with if you don’t deal with it initially,” said Micah Berman, a public health professor at the Ohio State University’s Moritz College of Law.

“That’s how infectious diseases work. The initial timeframe is incredibly important.”

I believe in science and I believed in Dr. Acton. I believe this vote, and the overridden veto, was partisan in nature.

The bill undermines public health and is for me a perfect example of overreach by the legislature, one that did not represent me.

b.SB 175 the stand your ground bill - and the proposed HB 178 that would eliminate required conceal carry license in Ohio

Polling commissioned by the gun violence prevention organizations Brady, Giffords and the Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence shows that an overwhelming majority of Ohio voters support lifesaving policies such as extreme risk protection orders and requiring carry permits.

I am against any bill that would expand gun rights in Ohio. After all the mass shootings in this country, not to mention the one in Dayton, I can't believe any rational person would vote to expand gun rights. This bill does not represent me or a majority of Ohioans

3.The reason I am here today

1. Voters in the state, myself included, passed the Ohio Bipartisan Redistricting Commission Amendment, Issue 1 by over 71% in 2015.

2. The amendment called to end the partisan process for drawing Ohio House and Senate districts, and replace it with a bipartisan process with the goal of having district boundaries that are more compact and politically competitive.

We in Ohio need representational fairness and a fair and transparent redistricting process, the Ohio constitution mandates this. (DOES IT??)

The residents of Ohio have spoken clearly, we want an end to gerrymandering!