

**Written testimony for the Ohio Redistricting Commission
Public Hearing in Cleveland, August 23, 2021**

My name is Lynn Lilly. I live in Shaker Heights and I vote in Ohio Senate District 21 and Ohio House District 9. I am an active member of the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland, but today I speak simply as a voter and Ohioan, a voter concerned about the effects of gerrymandering.

The districts we have in Ohio now are rarely competitive, which means lawmakers have little incentive to listen to all voices and points of view. That affects how the government serves – or fails to serve -- the whole state in crucial issues: schools, transportation, healthcare, environment. Minority points of view can be ignored. Voters with minority points of view can become marginalized.

Let's look at some statistics. Ohio is the seventh largest state economy according to the Ohio Department of Development. Yet, according to recent research by U.S. News and World Reports, Ohio ranks 37th in healthcare, 29th in infrastructure, and 44th for our environment, as measured by air and water quality and pollution. Fair districts are the foundation that assures the needs and concerns of all Ohioans around these issues will be heard. Fair districts are the means for all ideas and solutions to address them will be heard.

The recent passing of the Fair Education Funding plan is an example of how fair districts could help Ohio can move ahead. The plan had bipartisan support and was shaped by voices across the aisle and across the state. The legislature not only created a funding program that's constitutionally valid, but also one that gives all Ohio students the education they deserve. And, I believe, it will be key to helping Ohio jump up more than a few notches from our current state education ranking of #31.

Please remember that in the May 2018 election Issue 1 for fair districts won in all 88 counties with 74+% of the vote. This is not a partisan issue. Ohioans have spoken. I urge you to follow through on their unequivocal mandate: fair districts for Ohio.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
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