

August 22, 2021

I am submitting this testimony for the public hearing in Dayton, Ohio being held by the Ohio Redistricting Commission on August 23, 2021. I am calling on you to follow the Ohio constitution, which now requires highly compact congressional districts. While the congressional district for this area is fairly compact, the districts across the state are historically the least compact they have ever been. Though our votes state wide are fairly evenly split among Republicans and Democrats—42 to 40%--our representation has been consistently 75 to 25% due to the highly gerrymandered districts. When lawmakers are guaranteed their win in a general election, they are not accountable to the majority of voters in their district, but are elected in primaries, which get increasingly extreme. This is bad for everyone. Make compact, sensible districts and publicly release the digital shape files with enough time to get public input.