

## Testimony

Thank you for coming to Dayton and allowing me to speak this morning.

My name is Jerry Sutton. I live in the Village of Yellow Springs; consequently, I am in the OH-73<sup>rd</sup> House district, the OH-10<sup>th</sup> Senate District & the 10<sup>th</sup> US Congressional District.

I wish to emphasize the issue of one person one vote – Why? A few years ago, while at a public forum, my OH state representative pointed at me and said – *“Jerry, your vote doesn’t count! You live in Yellow Springs a very liberal village in a very conservative County. It will never count.”*

I was chagrined; however, upon reflection, I knew he was right. My vote did not have weight within Ohio locally or at the state or national levels. This outcome was assured by those who drew the legislative maps in 2011. Now I am not proposing that Yellow Springs, as truly unique as it is, should be a separate district, but I cite it as an example of the larger issue.

I will use the current Ohio Congressional delegation as an example. The current 16 US Representatives each are in a safe district – there has been no ‘flip’ in any of the districts in the last 5-election cycles. Neither the four default Democratic districts nor the 12 Republican districts changed. None are competitive, so how can voters feel their ballot counts?

As you know OH lost a congressional seat in the 2020 Census Apportionment; Ohio will have 15 US congressional districts this cycle, which presents a conundrum and an opportunity.

Analysis of the results of the last Presidential election shows that President Biden carried the seven Counties containing the most populous cities of our state; he carried none of the other 81-counties. One may ask themselves, if that result indicates the inclination of voters in this state, ***why don’t we have more Democrats representing us in the US Congress or in the Ohio General Assembly?*** Instead of 25%, why not 33% or 40%, which is much closer to the State wide voter mix. The reason, of course, is Gerrymandering.

In the 2011 redistricting maps, none of the four Democratic districts contained a **whole** county; each of the four Democratic districts was composed of one or more, even **up to five**, fragments of counties. This is insulting, as if to imply an Ohio Democratic US Representative does not have the moxie to represent an entire OH county – they have to have a Republican ‘wingman’, or two, in their county, to assure competent representation.

I am therefore asking that the ORC apply the criteria set forth in the 2015 & 2018 Amendments to the OH Constitution and assure each Congressional district contains a minimum of one entire county and, should the populations support it, that the counties containing our largest cities be separate Congressional districts – and not packed & cracked to further nefarious ends.

Thank you for your time & consideration.

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