

PROPONENT TESTIMONY OF
CHUCK SCHIERLOH
800 S. PEARS AVE. LIMA, OH

IN SUPPORT OF REDISTRICTING
TO BE DELIVERED TO THE 2021 OHIO REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
REGIONAL HEARING AT THE LIMA CAMPUS OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY ON AUGUST 26, 2021

My name is Chuck Schierloh and I have lived in the city of Lima since 1975, currently at 800 South Pears Ave. and have worked in the 4th congressional district since 1971.

On November 27 The Ohio State University will play the University of Michigan in a football game. If Ohio State scores three touchdowns and three PATS and Michigan scores two touchdowns and two PATS the score will be 21 to 14 in Ohio State's favor. But let's assume football games are scored as congressional maps are gerrymandered. In that case the score could be seven to twenty-eight or nineteen to three or some other numbers determined by a group of people.

It is my deeply held conviction that the makeup of a legislative body should be reflective of the election results. Ohio's current delegation to the United States Congress is 75% Republican and 25% Democrat, despite the fact that in the 2020 election Democrats won 43% of the vote and Republicans won 57% of the vote. There is a clear and glaring inconsistency between the intent of the voters and the election outcome.

I believe that constitutional scholars have concluded that the founding fathers intended our three branches of government to each represent a certain constituency. The president represents the entire nation. The Supreme Court represents the U.S. Constitution. The U.S. Senate represents the states. The House of Representatives represents people in individual communities.

In order for a community of people to be represented in congress their representative must be of their community. As it is currently drawn the 4th congressional district looks like a fish hook stretching and twisting from west of Cleveland to east of Toledo hooking down to northwest of Columbus then meandering west to within hiking distance of Indiana. I believe we all know why the 4th congressional district was so drawn.

In order to represent a community a district must be compact and contiguous. The 4th congressional district is neither compact or contiguous, it is rambling and roaming. A congressional district map should not look like a Jackson Pollock painting, it should look like images from a 10th grade geometry text.

Congressional maps must be drawn to represent communities of people and not drawn to satisfy the desire of political parties for power.