

The willingness of our state government to draw districts for maximum partisan advantage has profound consequences. It will effectively determine control of our state politics, and the House of Representatives for another decade. It dilutes our vote, making election outcomes predetermined. This is not only undemocratic, it is dangerous. State governments rather than voters can determine the character of a state's congressional delegation, and challenges the Madisonian principle that at least one part of our government should be directly elected by the people. After the 2010 census, our state government pushed partisan advantage to the extreme, resulting in 12 Republican districts vs. 4 Democratic districts, with one district up for grabs since our state lost one seat due to mostly stagnant growth in our state's population. In the words of Governor Rhodes "Gerrymandering is not a Republican or Democrat problem. It is a fundamental problem of government that must be corrected."

We saw after the last census report back in 2010 how unfair the process was.

\*Decisions were not made in public

- Public input was ignored
- The public had limited opportunity to review proposed maps
- The public was not provided with relevant data for proposed districts
- Nonpartisan redistricting criteria was not used
- The criteria used to evaluate plans was never publicly identified

[https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/leagues/wysiwyg/%5Bcurrent-user%3Aog-user-node%3A1%3Atitle%5D/ohios\\_gerrymandering\\_problem.pdf](https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/leagues/wysiwyg/%5Bcurrent-user%3Aog-user-node%3A1%3Atitle%5D/ohios_gerrymandering_problem.pdf)

The League of Women's Voters details the corruption that went on with that redistricting process, the secret meetings, the secret payments, secret last minute changes. We must make sure this process is not repeated this time.

Redistricting reforms were passed via constitutional amendments in 2015 and 2018 by huge margins 72%/75% by voters across the state in all 88 counties . Redistricting must ensure fair and equal representation for all people, upholding the Fourteenth Amendment's guarantee of equal protection, complying with the requirements of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and promoting representational fairness as required in Section 6 of Ohio's constitutional process for drawing district lines.

The AP has called Ohio gerrymandering one of the worst in the nation. "In Ohio House races in 2018, Republicans got 52 percent of the vote but won 61 percent of the districts, allowing them to continue to hold a super-majority despite losing five seats. Based on data compiled by the Associated Press, Ohio's gerrymandered House districts allowed Republicans to win seven more seats than they otherwise should have, judging by vote totals. That means the House, according to the analysis, would be 54–46 Republican, instead of the current 61-38, if the map were drawn fairly. The GOP-drawn districts also protected Republicans in Ohio's U.S. House delegation. Republicans got 52 percent of the vote but won 75 percent of the seats — the same 12-4 margin that has existed since the current district maps were drawn in 2011. According to the AP analysis, Ohio's maps allowed Republicans to hold three more seats than they otherwise should have." <https://www.dispatch.com/news/20190321/bad-ohio-gerrymandering-is-among-nations-worst-good-it-should-get-better>

Gerrymandering, by "packing" and cracking, has led to inaccurate representation of the constituents' voting choices and creates an unfair advantage for the Republican Party to define the boundaries when redistricting. Ohioans voted to counter or prevent partisan gerrymandering, by a bipartisan redistricting commission, with open, transparent, bipartisan oversight. District boundaries cannot be determined by partisan legislators. Too much is at stake, it undermines our democracy, and disenfranchises voters. The Republican Party has weaponized gerrymandering into a precise and blunt force tool that entrenched GOP power in state legislatures and congressional delegations nationwide, it is a movement that must be countered to avoid radical political agendas and radical politicians.