

Written Testimony of Martha Grodrian, Dayton Ohio
Submitted to testimony@redistricting.ohio.gov

To: Ohio Redistricting Commission

RE: Submitted Proposed Redistricting Maps

Submitted on Sunday, September 12, 2021.

I reject both maps that were submitted by the Ohio Redistricting Commission in favor of those that won the Fair Districts Mapping Competition (Pranav and Geoff Wise's maps, attached to this document). Both of those winning maps are far superior to those that were submitted and adopted by the Ohio Redistricting Commission on September 9, a full 9 days late. Ohioans deserve a **transparent, timely, fair and representative process** resulting in **fair electoral maps**. I'm not clear how the members of the Ohio Redistricting Commission were chosen, but it appears that since Ohio is 54% R and 46% D, that the proportional membership should have been 4 Republicans and 3 Democrats, rather than 5-2 as it currently exists. An even better breakdown would be 3 Republicans, 3 Democrats and 1 Independent.

The maps were supposed to be released on September 1. So that deadline was missed. Suddenly, the deadline of September 15, for ending all hearings on the submitted maps (which were a closely guarded secret to be revealed 9 days late) must be strictly adhered to. Why? It reeks of underhanded power plays.

The *Cincinnati Enquirer* published a story on 9/10/2021¹ detailing how the submitted maps from both the Republicans and Democrats would change the nature of the districts. It is clear that the maps submitted by the Republicans are designed to increase their share of the representation by even further gerrymandering the districts. The Redistricting Maps submitted by Pranav and Wise show that it is possible to much more closely achieve the criteria set forth in the 2015 law, and they are superior in every way to those the Commission has submitted.

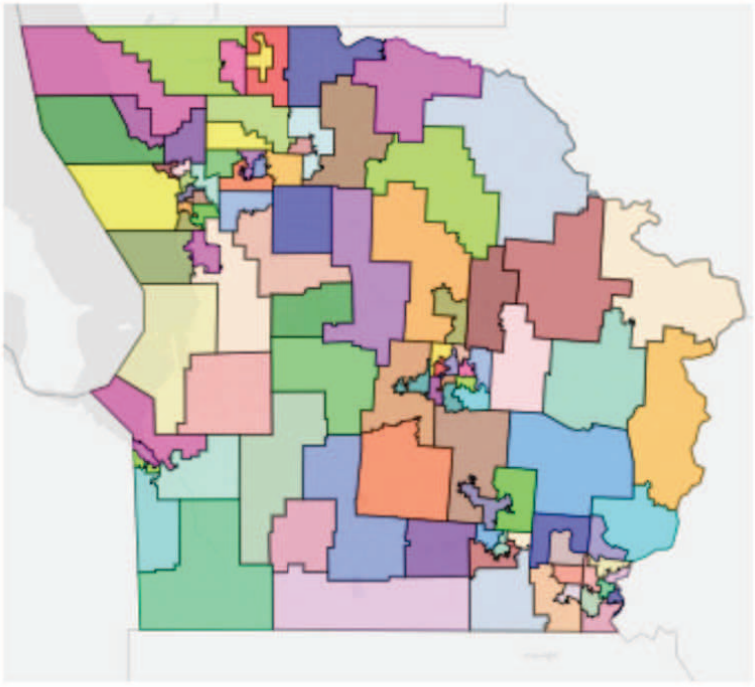
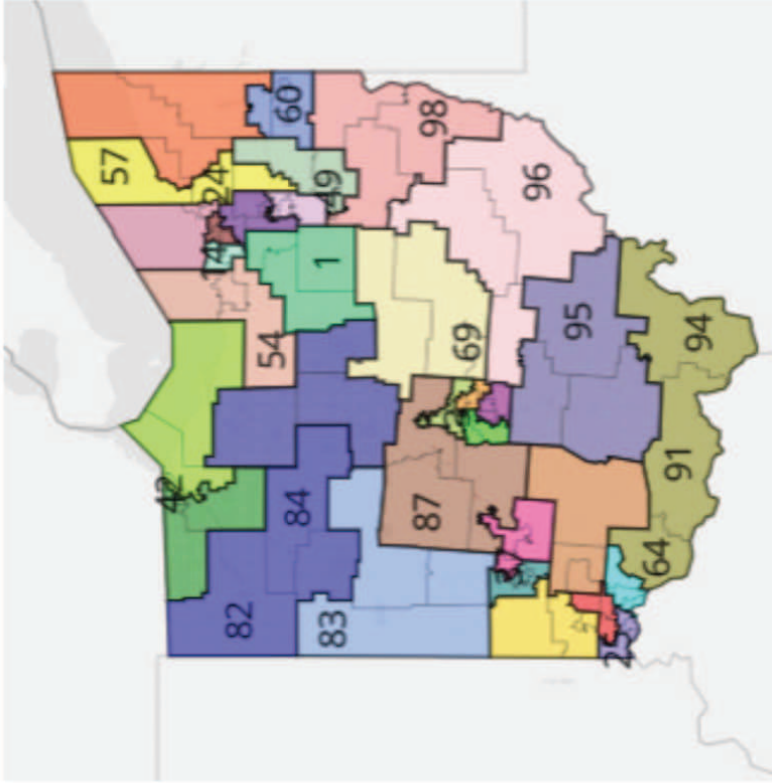
One of the most sacred rights in a Constitutional Democracy is the Right to Vote. Ohioans voted to reform the state legislative redistricting process in 2015. The clear expectation was that the Ohio Redistricting Commission would draw district maps that **served the interests of everyday Ohioans rather than partisan politicians**. In a Constitutional Democracy, the Electorate is supposed to elect

representatives. The last-minute submissions of highly gerrymandered districts by the Republicans on the Ohio Redistricting Commission appear to indicate that the elected officials are making sure that the Elected are continuing to choose their Electorate. In this dystopian political calculation, many elections are decided during primaries in “Safe” Districts. Elected officials in Ohio feel no need to respond to, interact with, or otherwise represent the views of their electorate. Believe me, I know from first-hand experience.

I’m asking the Commission to look closely at the will of the Ohio Electorate and choose competitive, fair maps that will enable elections to truly reflect the will of the electorate. Elected Officials choosing their electorate is another step in a steady march away from democracy toward an authoritarian future. I want to preserve our democracy for not only myself, but also our children and grandchildren.

¹ Article from Cincinnati Enquirer https://www.dispatch.com/story/news/politics/2021/09/11/ohio-redistricting-map-2021-favors-republicans-gop/8263744002/?link_id=18&can_id=90c8d458f43f280e7f94944b7db01883&source=email-analysis-of-proposed-maps-and-prepping-for-hearings&email_referrer=email_1287255&email_subject=analysis-of-proposed-maps-and-prepping-for-hearings

Ohio House & Senate Maps Created by Winner of the Fair Districts' Mapping Competition Geoff Wise



Ohio House & Senate Maps Created by Winner of the Fair Districts' Mapping Competition Pranav Padmanabhan

