

**TESTIMONY OF:**

Mukarram A. Khan DO  
7836 Spring Garden Ct  
West Chester, OH 45069

**IN OPPOSITION OF:**

Proposed State Legislative Maps  
Ohio Redistricting Commission

**West Chester, OH, 09/10/2021**

*Dear Ohio Redistricting Commission,*

In August, I submitted testimony requesting that you please prevent gerrymandering. I am a resident of Butler County, Ohio since 2006 (16 years). I live in West Chester, OH and I have my own office in Anderson Township and a second location in Springboro. My community spans a large area of people of diverse cultures, religions, and backgrounds.

The current Ohio House and Senate maps are unfair and unacceptable, and your proposed maps present the same issues. The proposed maps do not reflect Ohio voting preferences, which are around 55 percent Republican and 45 percent Democrat. The constitutional reforms Ohioans overwhelmingly voted for direct you to draw districts that “correspond closely to the statewide preferences of the voters.”

These proposed maps were drawn to favor one political party, which goes against constitutional requirements. They crack apart communities of color, dividing Ohio neighborhoods and putting together parts of our state that don't belong in the same districts. I oppose these proposed maps and instead support maps that reflect the voting preferences of Ohioans, comply with the Voting Rights Act, and work to keep minority and marginalized communities together.

Additionally, citizens can't even tell where exactly they fall within these proposed districts because no good, detailed version of these maps have been made available to the public. The process itself must be fair and transparent to ensure fair maps.

Ten years ago, our state legislative maps were created by those in power only to keep the same parties in power or swing the electorate in Ohio to one side. You can cite many examples throughout the state where lines are drawn to minimize the voting power of certain groups. We are divided among arbitrary lines without our consent to isolate and disenfranchise voters. It is an institutionalized form of voter suppression.

As I wrote in my previous testimony, my main reason for this opinion is that my elected representatives do not share my same views or ideals. I have reached out to them in the past many times to raise concerns about national and local issues only to be ignored. Any responses from them have been rare and only been form letters totally dismissing the opinions and concerns of myself and my community members. For example, my current representative

is against wearing masks for COVID. I believe that is dangerous and misinformed. My current and previous representatives continue to give tax breaks to a minority of the population at the expense of funding for local projects in particular schools.

I believe an independent commission of diverse backgrounds and all the parties should be allowed to make modifications to the maps to make them fair. When those in power change the rules to stay in power that is not a democracy, it is a dictatorship.

I urge the Commission to redraw these maps and present fair and equal district maps to the people of Ohio.

***Sincerely,***

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mukarram A. Khan'.

***Mukarram A. Khan DO***